



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

**Lord Duncan of Springbank PhD FGS**  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
and Minister for Climate Change

**Department for Business, Energy &  
Industrial Strategy**  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Lord Mendelsohn  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000  
E [enquiries@beis.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@beis.gov.uk)  
W [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Jonathan,

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER HL17670**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 you asked the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy the following Question for Written Answer:

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the manufacturing purchasing managers' index falling to a 7-year low of 47.4; and what assessment they have made of the statement by Capital Economics that the sector is "on track for recession". (HL17670)

Please find my response below:

The Purchasing Managers Indices (PMIs), are a useful and timely barometer of economic activity but our assessment is that there is a trade-off between speed of publication and data quality. In addition, while the PMIs are mainly focused on changes in objective measures such as sales, evidence suggests they are still affected by business sentiment.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Libraries of the House.

**Lord Duncan of Springbank**