

MP backs fairer procurement and a stronger UK steel sector during visit to Lancashire Steelwork Contractor

6 months ago



Phil Brickell MP, Member of Parliament for Bolton West, recently visited [Lancashire-based BD Structures](#), a leading steelwork contractor delivering high-quality steel fabrication and installation across the UK.

During the visit, Mr Brickell was given a tour of BD Structures' facility in Westhoughton, gaining insight into the firm's operations and its contribution to national infrastructure projects. The visit provided an opportunity to hear directly from the BD team about its continued growth and innovation, as well as the broader challenges facing the UK's steel construction industry.

Among the key issues raised was that of cash retentions affecting the sector and the need to improve payment practices across the construction supply chain. The BD Structures team also highlighted the burden of inconsistent procurement models for public contracts; a challenge echoed by many in the British Constructional Steelwork sector.

BD Structures, also a member of the [British Constructional Steelwork Association](#) (BCSA), recently joined 35 fellow members in signing an open letter to the government in support of the BCSA's "New Deal for Steel." During his visit, Mr Brickell voiced his support for the initiative, particularly its call for a comprehensive review of how public infrastructure contracts are awarded.

Phil Brickell MP said: "It was fantastic to look around BD Structures and see first hand the work they do. Following April's intervention by the government to save British steel production at Scunthorpe, I was keen to learn more about local fabrication which is crucial in supporting infrastructure development across the

country.

"BD Structures impressed me with their innovation and their strong, local roots. They're a pioneering example of Westhoughton's long manufacturing tradition and I look forward to supporting them as they go from strength to strength."

Chris Heys, managing director of BD Structures said: "We were pleased to welcome Phil to our site and discuss the key issues facing our sector. It's encouraging to see policymakers taking an active interest in how structural steel businesses like ours operate, and the steps needed to ensure a thriving and competitive UK supply chain."

Also in attendance, Deborah Harrison, legal director at the BCSA, added: "BD Structures is a fantastic example of the skill, innovation, and dedication found across our membership. Visits like this are vital for bridging the gap between policy and industrial reality, and it's great to see Phil Brickell lending his voice to the call for a stronger, fairer future for UK constructional steelwork"