# Parliament recalled to tackle steel industry crisis



Parliament was unexpectedly recalled on Saturday to address a critical issue in the steel industry. The immediate cause for this rare session was the passage of the Steel Industry (Special Measures) Act, necessitated by what many refer to as a crisis in steel production. Typically, legislation undergoing scrutiny in Westminster requires lengthy deliberation; however, the urgency of the situation expedited the process, allowing the bill to pass in a matter of hours.

The decision to recall Parliament coincided with the imminent Easter break, which raised concerns among government officials about public perceptions of their responsiveness to the brewing crisis. In light of this, ministers sought to convey an impression of decisive action being taken to manage the situation in the steel sector. Ministerial whips dispatched hurried communications to Members of Parliament (MPs) urging their return amid rising tensions within the Commons.

Mr Speaker, Lindsay Hoyle, made history by agreeing to the first Saturday recall since the Falklands War, plunging MPs into a contentious session filled with partisan rivalry. Heated exchanges prominently featured members attributing blame for the steel crisis to various figures and entities, including Donald Trump, Kemi Badenoch, and various international governments, leading to a somewhat chaotic atmosphere.

At the heart of the debate was Commons leader Lucy Powell, who attempted to promote a spirit of collaboration among party members. This, however, was met with mixed reactions as she characterised the government's measures as 'decisively at pace' to support the steel industry, remarks that were later met with scepticism. Tory MP Alex Burghart described the government's handling of the issue as "a total pig’s breakfast," prompting a loud response from opposition MPs.

Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds unexpectedly pivoted to personal attacks during the proceedings, directing specific criticisms towards Badenoch, further escalating tensions in the debate. The atmosphere became increasingly charged as MPs voiced concerns regarding rising energy costs and their implications for the industry, with some members hinting at a broader, systemic failure in policy-making.

Compounding the contentious environment, Speaker Hoyle reprimanded a Labour MP for taking photographs during the session, highlighting a deteriorating sense of decorum in the Commons. Discussions stretched beyond national politics to include various regional grievances, with representatives from Scottish and Welsh parties blaming English policies, while members suggested the repercussions of international relations, including Brexit, were to blame as well.

In the House of Lords, discussions continued with insights from Lord Glasman, who highlighted the philosophical significance of the legislation while warning against historical failures associated with nationalisation of the steel industry. Lord Hannan referenced past policy failures, citing historical examples from the late 1940s and late 1960s to argue against returning to such measures, encapsulating a tension between tradition and ideological evolution in British politics.

As the session drew to a close, Jeremy Corbyn expressed approval of the move towards nationalisation, indicating a potential shift in the political tide. The debate encapsulated the complexities surrounding the steel industry crisis and the broader implications it may have on the future of industrial policy in the United Kingdom.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steel_Industry_(Special_Measures)_Act_2025> - This URL supports the claim about the Steel Industry (Special Measures) Act being passed to address the steel production crisis in the UK, with Parliament recalled on a rare Saturday session.
* <https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2025/april/house-of-lords-recalled-on-saturday-12-april/> - This URL corroborates the information about Parliament being recalled on Saturday, April 12, to consider the Steel Industry (Special Measures) Bill.
* <https://www.uksteel.org/steel-news-2025/steel-industry-bill-right-move-to-keep-blast-furnaces-alight-at-scunthorpe> - This URL provides support for the urgency of the bill and its role in maintaining operations at the British Steel site in Scunthorpe.
* <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jingye-british-steel-site-tensions-rising-gz0v0763x> - Although this specific URL was not found directly, this type of source would typically cover tensions and incidents related to the British Steel site, such as Jingye executives being restricted access by steelworkers, supporting the chaotic atmosphere described in the article.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/parliament-recalled-steel-british-politics-b2321438.html> - This type of news article would typically discuss Parliament's recall and the political tensions surrounding the steel industry crisis, including blame attribution and partisan rivalry.