

BSA REPORT BACK FROM PARLIAMENT JANUARY 2023

Chris J Smith, Mark Reeve and Matt Payne from the Batched on-Site Trade Association met the All Party Group members on behalf of the BSA.

23 MPs or their representatives attended, including former Cabinet Ministers Sir John Redwood (Matt Payne's MP), David Mundell and Alistair Carmichael.

The 8-page summary of our case for the VSO weights at 44 tonnes on 5 axles and 38.4 tonnes on 4 axles was put to the MPs. The MPs unanimously agreed to write to the present Transport Minister to press him to extend the VSO beyond the 2028 deadline and, in effect, make the 44T and 38.4T weight limits permanent.

The MPs heard the case for the application of GB rules instead of EU rules for drivers hours and they requested a further briefing on this.

Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP has written to the Speaker requesting a debate on the VSO weight issue and to the Transport Minister in the following terms:

"We, the members of the APPG for Lower Carbon Construction Vehicles urge the Department for Transport to reverse the impact of the changes to the Goods Plating Regulations, [SI 849 2017](#) and to extend the Vehicle Special Orders ([VSOs](#)). These VSOs currently permit the operation of our volumetric concrete mobile plants (VCMs) at 44 tonnes on 5 axles and 38.4 tonnes on 4 axles until 2028. Since during the five years since 2018, there is no evidence that these operating weights have caused harm to road infrastructure or to persons, we propose that the VSO should now apply for an indefinite period, rather than for only 5 years. We note that a VSO permitting VCMs to operate indefinitely at current weights in no way prevents an amendment to the VSO in future if evidence of harm should emerge.

As you know, this sector employs over 15,000 people in the UK, generates over £55 million in the manufacture and sales of VCMs and contributes around £386m annually to our economy.

We would be grateful to have your response which I shall report back to APPG members.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP

Chair, on behalf of the APPG.

Meeting Scottish office John Lamont MP Scottish office

Although John Lamont can only be involved as a constituency MP, he agreed to brief this Transport Minister colleague on our concerns and will delegate his staff to help us in any way possible.

Meeting Kevin Hollinrake MP Minister BEIS

Positive meeting with Mark Reeve's local constituency MP. Very sympathetic, and later that day, updated us to say he had personally raised our weight issue with the new Transport Minister Richard Holder MP.

Meeting Stephen Flynn MP SNP leader Westminster

The Scottish Nationalists are the third biggest group of MPs in Parliament. Stephen agreed to get their Transport Spokesman Gavin Newlands MP to address our concerns.

Meeting Mike Amesbury MP

Mike tabled the BSA's original Early Day Motion in Parliament supporting us. He is now on the Transport Select Committee and will speak to Iain Stewart MP (Transport Select Committee Chairman) on our behalf.

Meeting Navendu Mishra MP

Navendu is a strong supporter and agreed to visit to Bay-lynx Head office.

Louise Haigh MP and Gill Furniss MP

The BSA has a very positive meeting with the Shadow Roads Minister Gill Furniss MP last year. We are requesting a following-up meeting with her and Labour's Shadow Transport Secretary Louise Haigh. If Labour wins the next election, Louise will be the Secretary of State for Transport.

APPENDIX

Attendees that the meeting organised in Parliament by the BSA on Wednesday 18 January

BSA: Chris J Smith (Chair), Mark Reeve, Sales Manager BayLynx, Matthew Payne, owner Manormix, Nigel Griffiths, former MP and Construction Minister.

1. Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP (Chair)
2. Jackie Doyle Price MP
3. Flick Drummond MP
4. Holly Lynch MP
5. Rt Hon John McDonnell MP
6. Rt Hon David Mundell MP
7. Rt Hon John Redwood MP
8. Dean Russell MP
9. Rt Hon John Spellar MP
10. Sir Mark Tami MP
11. Holly Lynch MP
12. Rt Hon John McDonnell MP
13. Matthew Offord MP
14. Claudia Webbe MP
15. Philippa Whitford MP

16. David Johnson MP – represented

17. Robert Langan MP – represented

18. Maggie Throupe – represented

19. Lisa Cameron MP – represented.

20. Chris Clarkson MP – represented

21. Philip Davies MP – represented

22. Tan Dhesi MP – represented

23. Dean Russell MP – represented

Met separately:

24. Kevin Hollinrake MP, Business Minister (met for coffee afterwards)

25. John Lamont MP, Scotland Minister (briefed afterwards)

Apologies

1. Mike Amesbury MP (Tabled the EDM)

2. Kemi Badenoch MP sending Ella Fitzsimmons

3. Alun Cairns MP

4. Simon Fell MP in Bill Committee

5. Simon Hart MP apologies but wants briefing

6. Simon Hoare MP sending Sarah Manley

7. Kim Johnson MP wants briefing

8. Andrew Jones MP

9. David Jones MP apologies but wants to hear from locals.

10. Simon Jupp MP (Katherine Stagg)

11. Layla Moran MP

12. Johnny Mercer MP

13. Grahame Morris MP

14. Neil O'Brien OBE MP (Ali Douas)

15. Kate Osamer MP Edmonton (+great letter of concern)

16. Minister Mark Spencer MP - sends best wishes