

## Customs Response Covering Letter

*HM Customs and Excise  
Excise Policy Group  
Ralli Quays  
Stanley Street  
SALFORD M60 9LA*

Attn: Gail Hendy

5th. October 2000

### **AGGREGATES LEVY- DRAFT LEGISLATION: British Aggregate Association Response**

Dear Ms. Hendy,

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation. The British Aggregates Association represents a substantial part of the country's independent quarry operators. We currently list 64 member companies operating well over 100 sites. I include a membership list for your information.

Our response was prepared after carrying out extensive consultation with our membership and it is obvious that many companies have now become greatly concerned about the future viability of their business. They are also concerned that any consultation process will not be able to mitigate the damaging effects of this tax as the entire process is transparently being driven by the Chancellor's desire to broaden his tax base. No scientific evidence has been submitted to justify this punitive tax. Although much mention is made of "noise, dust, visual intrusion and damage to the bio-diversity" these are in fact strictly controlled by statute with the British quarry industry being the most tightly regulated in Europe.

We must once more stress that we do not accept the London Economics research as being either appropriate or relevant and we would ask that the government urgently considers having more scientific research commissioned which also takes into account the benefits of quarrying.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Durward Director.