

Press Statement - Monday 15th January 2001

The British Aggregates Association does not support the Quarry Products Association's policy of seeking an 80% rebate on Aggregate Tax for "improved environmental performance"

This approach is counter productive and is not supported by the industry as a whole. The BAA have uncovered a raft of problems, associated with this levy, which make a cast iron case for having the tax dropped completely and we are confident that, if the industry stands united, we will succeed. The two biggest problems we face are a divided campaign and complacency.

Revenue from Aggregate Tax will be £385 million in 2002 but is projected at £550 million by 2004. It is naïve to believe that the Treasury would give some companies this reduction but still retain the enormous amount of additional bureaucracy needed to operate the tax.

In addition we have written to the cross party Environmental Audit Committee stressing that this tax will in fact have a negative environmental impact. The UK quarry industry is already the most highly regulated in the world and all aspects of our work are strictly controlled by the 1995 Environment Act

Copy of EAC letter and our assessment of problems associated with Aggregate Tax are attached.

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