



**British Aggregates Association  
Press Release - Immediate.**

### **BAA Calls on Chancellor to Suspend Aggregates Levy**

Following the EU General Court judgment which annulled state aid approval for the Aggregates Levy on 7 March, the British Aggregates Association has written to the Treasury and HM Revenue & Customs demanding that the Levy be suspended with immediate effect.

**BAA Director Robert Durward;**

"The Aggregates Levy is now dead in the water and must be scrapped to avoid further commercial damage and confusion."

The BAA has been pointing out the problems of the Levy since its inception in 2002 and has called for it to be abandoned on many occasions. It has not reduced the need for virgin aggregate, it has not helped the environment and it has not increased genuine recycling. Quarry operators are now struggling to survive in light of the recession and a number have already closed down. As it enters its eleventh year, the BAA legal challenge has already set new records for longevity.

**Robert Durward;**

"I remain hopeful that Mr Osborne will call a halt to the whole sorry episode on Wednesday. However, if he fails to suspend the Levy, aggregate pricing and credit control will become chaotic as more and more people wake up to the fact that the Levy no longer has state aid approval."

The Levy was introduced despite widespread industry opposition 1 April 2002.

Ends:

Notes for Editors:

1. A copy of a letter dated 20 February 2009 to Yvette Cooper MP who was Chief Secretary to the Treasury at that time is attached.
2. The full text of the judgment is available [here](#)
3. HMRC do not have the power to stop collecting the Levy, this decision must come from the Treasury.

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