

## From Contract Journal

### Cement cartel victory could boost UK claims

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Investigators collecting evidence into alleged price fixing in the UK cement market believe they have a stronger case after producers in Germany lost their bid to throw out a cartel lawsuit.

The lawsuit, filed by Cartel Damage Claims (CDC) against Heidelberg, Lafarge, Holcim, Cemex and three others, seeks £280m in damages for around 35 firms. It follows an investigation which found the company's had colluded in a cartel stretching back to the 1970s.

Seamus Maye, a director at CDC, told *CJ* that over 80 UK firms had come forward with evidence for its case. He believes more will follow suit after this decision and the possibility of similar action in Poland.

"It's a pincer movement across Europe and the same big four are involved," he said. "I have no doubt there are anti-competitive infringements in the UK including discriminatory pricing, markets sharing arrangements and co-ordinated price movements."