



BMRA response to The Department for International Trade's investigation to determine whether to continue or revoke the EU tariff rate quota on certain categories of steel products.

The British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA) is the trade association representing the £7 billion UK metal recycling sector. With over 250 businesses, which between them handle over 90% of the metal recycled in the UK, we process over 11 million tonnes of metal annually into secondary raw material. Outside of BMRA membership, some 2,000 additional businesses also buy and sell scrap metal.

Including scrap metal merchants, we estimate that the wider metals recycling industry, which also comprises business such as equipment manufacturers and business support services, employs some 15,000 people.

BMRA members process a wide range of materials, including end-of-life vehicles (ELV); waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE); and packaging wastes, as well as household, business and industrial waste arisings. As such, the industry is a substantial contributor to the delivery of European and domestic targets on recycling and the sustainable use of resources.

In the UK, ferrous scrap metal is bought by companies such as Tata, Liberty and British Steel for use in their both blast oxygen furnaces and electric arc furnaces. The volume of scrap used by each company depends on the steel making technology used and the end product, but this can range from 13% to as much as 100%.

Ferrous scrap is traded on global commodities markets however, given the paucity of end users for scrap metal in the UK, over 80% of all scrap arisings are currently exported to countries such as Spain, Turkey and Pakistan.

Scrap steel can be used in a host of different products depending on the requirements of the finished product but it can range from a high-spec item used in aerospace to simple rebar used in construction.

BMRA supports any measure which protects and supports the UK-based steel industry. While the scrap industry at large would survive should the UK lose any or of its steel producers, it would impact the supply chain which would in turn impact the remaining end users with regards pricing.

BMRA firmly believes that the UK Government should be doing more to support domestic steel producers, not least by introducing green procurement policies for national infrastructure projects. These policies could mandate the use of steel which comprises set levels of recycled content, depending on the end use. Any green procurement policies should also look at the environmental cost of importing items from offshore producers.