



A new platform for championing British metalforming

You may have noticed a change in this edition of Metal Matters – and on the CBM website and email footers. We have a new logo that reflects Britain’s importance within the global metalforming industry – and our industry’s importance to the UK economy.

We’re at a critical juncture for British metalforming

The new logo is more than a cosmetic change. It reflects our strategic direction for the coming months and years – as our industry navigates the post-COVID, post-Brexit future.

As *the* voice representing interests specific to metalforming, we’ve stepped up our lobbying over the past 24 months. We’re continuing this momentum as Brexit trade negotiations accelerate and the Government makes crucial decisions on coronavirus recovery efforts.

“CBM’s COVID support has been brilliant – and we look forward to continued engagement”

That’s what one member said recently. Our comprehensive support included practical help with navigating the nuances of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the many loan packages on offer.

Thanks to members’ regular input on challenges, we’re ensuring stakeholders have a detailed and accurate picture of how COVID is affecting metalforming – and have been able to get positive responses to your many concerns. In fact, two new members have joined the CBM board as a result of these services.

Importantly, our COVID efforts have also involved collaboration with partner trade associations as well as with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

Trade credit insurance was a major victory

One big success story from our COVID support related to trade credit insurance. Several members raised concerns that trade credit insurance was being pulled in the wake of the pandemic. This issue is very specific to our tiers of the supply chain and was at risk of being neglected.

CBM President Steve Morley took up the cause. He marshalled support from partner trade associations, and he coordinated directly with the Treasury and Government advisers at the Association of British Insurers.

This input helped inform an effective trade credit support package. Not only has it been of immense benefit to CBM members, but we’ve also received thanks from our partners for leading an initiative that’s benefited their members, too. We’ve continued to engage with the relevant stakeholders as members report back to us with implementation hiccups.

Metalforming interests in coronavirus recovery

Metalforming and the supply chains in which it functions will be crucial to the UK’s post-pandemic recovery. We’ve been having twice-weekly calls with BEIS and regular contact with our partner trade associations. And as discussions move towards recovery packages, we’re making sure metalforming interests are taken into account. For example, we’re actively promoting:

- The importance of ongoing stimulus for automotive and aerospace
- Practical steps to support reshoring
- Metalforming-specific skills issues, from apprenticeships through to post-furlough training requirements
- Energy-related support – looking at everything from easing the regulatory burden through to managing costs

Please keep informing us of your business’ experience – what it’s like on the ground and what your challenges are. That way, we’ll continue having evidence for Government and can keep getting positive responses to your concerns.

Get your voice heard on Brexit trade negotiations

Brexit will shape our industry for years to come – so metalforming voices need to be heard now. BEIS have asked us to give input on Rules of Origin and other elements related to Brexit trade negotiations.

This process is important between now and the end of 2020, but will also be crucial as details get refined after the transition period ends. CBM’s new Policy Advisor, Phil Matten, will be playing an important role here – delving into legislation and homing in on areas that will affect metalforming. That way, we can get involved at earlier, more impactful stages of consultation.

Keep up to date with developments – and get even more value out of your CBM membership

There’s never been a more important time to engage with the CBM and ensure your interests are represented. Get the latest metalforming-specific COVID information from the Member’s Hub on our website. Give us your thoughts on recovery packages and trade deal considerations. Tell us what your issues are, so we can help resolve them.

Last year we hit new heights in terms of lobbying effectiveness, best practice sharing and savings on Climate Change Levy and ESOS assessments - we helped members save more than £4 million in CCL alone. This year we’re reaching even higher with the value we offer. After all, it’s a critical time for British metalforming. And as our new logo demonstrates, we’re proud to champion our vital industry.

Steve Morley,
**President of the
Confederation of British Metalforming**



• Steve Morley,
CBM President