



British Glass

End of year review
2025 / 2026

Welcome from Dr Nick Kirk



Dr Nick Kirk
Federation director

Dave Dalton took well deserved retirement from April, following more than 45 years of dedicated service to the UK glass manufacturing sector.

Throughout his career, Dave has been a highly influential and an excellent advocate for the UK glass manufacturing sector. The team at British Glass would like to thank Dave for his exceptional commitment and wish him the best in his retirement.

British Glass continues to strengthen high level engagement with members, government and key stakeholders. This work will remain focused on ensuring the UK is an attractive and competitive location for glass manufacturing, supporting continued investment and long-term resilience across the essential construction and packaging sectors.

The 2025/26 membership year has been a challenging period for the UK glass manufacturing sector. Continued economic uncertainty, high energy costs and major policy reforms have placed sustained pressure on businesses.

This End of Year Review highlights how British Glass has worked on behalf of members to protect competitiveness, influence policy and promote glass as an essential and sustainable material for the UK economy.

Trading conditions throughout the year have remained difficult. Reduced domestic demand, combined with persistent import pressure, has continued to affect production levels and investment confidence.

In response, British Glass has strengthened trade data analysis, supported Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) investigations into imports from China and Turkey, and submitted evidence calling for a review of the UK Global Tariff (UKGT) for flat and container glass.

The cumulative impact of energy costs, decarbonisation obligations and packaging reform has called for clear, robust and evidence-based engagement with government. British Glass has focused on lobbying for fairer policies and trading conditions to ensure that UK glass manufacturers are not placed at a disadvantage.

Energy policy remains a critical issue for members, and throughout the year British Glass has worked closely with government and industry partners to support competitiveness, enable investment and encourage the transition to low-carbon technologies.

Waste and resource policy has also been an area of intense activity, including packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR), Deposit Return Schemes (DRS), Packaging Recovery Notes (PRN) reform and reuse. British Glass has responded with detailed technical input and economic evidence to ensure decision makers understand the real-world impact on UK manufacturing, jobs and communities.

I would like to thank the dedicated British Glass team and our members for their continued support and engagement. While challenges remain, I look forward positively to the year ahead.

Dr Nick Kirk

Meet the team



Dr Nick Kirk
Federation director



Paul Pearcy
Federation manager



Jenni Richards
Principal policy adviser



Mark Pudner
Senior technical adviser



Theresa Green
Information officer



Matthew Kay
Glass packaging
policy lead



Holly Shackford
EHS adviser



Callum Hawksworth
Data and administrative
officer



Victoria Adams
Communications
manager



Rachael Kay
PR and communications
officer



Rachael Bridgland
PR and communications
officer (Maternity cover)

Value statements

Section one - Membership subscription

Consultations responded to on the industry's behalf	36
One-to-one consultations with the industry	143
Representation of the industry's interests at stakeholder and government forums	444
Enquiries to our information line	39
Press coverage - number of cuttings	296
Press coverage - estimated reach	509,645,362
Press coverage - estimated value	£12,741,145

The team at British Glass work hard to deliver the best service to our members. Our End of Year Review summarises the outcomes of our work on behalf of the sector. This statement quantifies, where possible, the value that UK glass manufacturing industry has received in the last year.

Section two - Environmental policy reliefs

Estimated value of current policy reliefs per annum (2025)

CCL exemption	£39,286,206
ETS free allowance	£35,849,993
Supercharger enhanced package (2025) including 60% NCC * New	£57,996,907
Aggregates levy	£2,503,473
Total policy reliefs	£ 135,636,520

Note: Policy reliefs have been calculated using member E&E data based on a calendar year as appose to membership year. If member data has not been received, we will have estimated figures based on historic data.

Value statements are accurate as of May 2026

Trade update

Trading conditions in the UK continue to be challenging and trade has become a top priority for our members. British Glass is calling for a fair and level playing field that allows UK manufacturers to be competitive.

However, the direction of UK policy is beginning to affect the competitiveness of the UK glass manufacturing sector. At the same time, we are seeing a rise in imports from countries where producers benefit from more favourable operating costs. This combination is putting increasing pressure on domestic manufacturers and threatens our ability to invest, innovate, and maintain long-term resilience within the UK market.

For most sectors, we have seen reduced demand for glass products in the UK market alongside sustained levels of imports, which have further impacted domestic production volumes.

Work completed so far

- **Trade data analysis:** Consolidated and analysed trade statistics, providing regular trade reports to members.
- **Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) investigation for China and Turkey:** Supported container glass manufacturers to register for each investigation.
- **UK Global Tariff (UKGT) review submissions:** Submitted formal requests for a review of the UK Global Tariff for flat and container glass, including the reinstatement of tariffs for MFN countries.
- **FTA's:** Highlighted to trade ministers and officials the negative impacts that certain FTAs are having on UK glass manufacturers, as well as the associated increase in global emissions.

Areas of focus for 2026/27

- **Trade data analysis:** Ongoing analysis of trade statistics, providing regular trade reports to members.

- **TRA investigation for China and Turkey:** Supporting container glass manufacturers during the Trade Remedies Authority investigation.
- **UKGT review submissions:** Submit evidence and data to support the review of the UK Global Tariff for flat and container glass, including the reinstatement of tariffs for MFN countries.
- **Free Trade Agreements:** Highlight to trade ministers and officials the negative impacts that certain FTAs are having on UK glass manufacturers, as well as the associated increase in global emissions.



Energy update

British Glass has continued to advocate for the policy reforms essential to ensuring the UK glass industry remains competitive and able to decarbonise. Working closely with the Energy Intensive Users Group (EIUG), we have met with Minister Chris McDonald, as well as with Secretary of State Peter Kyle, to press the case for a robust policy framework for energy-intensive industries (EIIIs).

Energy costs in the UK remain uncompetitive, a challenge now further compounded by rising global energy prices driven by the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. British Glass is maintaining strong engagement with the government, most recently with Secretary of State Peter Kyle and Ed Miliband, to make clear that decisive action on energy policy is essential if the UK is to sustain a resilient and competitive glass sector.

Key changes to energy policy seen over the last 12 months

- **The British Industry Supercharger Scheme** came into force in April 2024, and we have successfully lobbied for an increase in the Network Charging Scheme from 60-90%, which is due to start in April 2026. This will be an additional reduction in the electricity costs of around £9 million for our members.
- **Recycled Materials Association (REMA) policy** has ruled out zonal pricing due to concerns raised by EIUG and renewable trade associations, which could have increased costs for our members dependent on their location.

Areas of focus in 2026/27

- **Energy crisis support:** pushing for similar support seen in the last energy crisis, such as the Energy Bill Discount Scheme, due to conflict in the Middle East.
- **Electrification business models:** continue to advocate for OPEX and CAPEX support to allow further electrification of the UK glass sector.

- **Indirect cost compensation:** The EU has expanded its eligibility criteria for indirect cost compensation to include both flat and container glass. We have raised this issue directly with the Minister and expect a consultation in the spring. We will continue to advocate for the UK to align its eligibility criteria with the EU. If adopted, this change would deliver an additional saving of approximately **£15/MWh** on electricity.



Chris McDonald MP Minister for Industry in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and the Department for Business and Trade (DBT)

Environment

Over the past 12 months, our attention has been concentrated on the reforms to the UK Emission Trading Scheme (ETS). Several outcomes have been positive, including the decision not to introduce tiering to the carbon leakage list, the avoidance of dynamic allocation, and confirmation that allowances will remain transferable between phases. The UK Government is also exploring the potential for linking the UK ETS with the EU ETS, and we have been actively providing evidence to ensure that any future linking agreement reflects the needs and realities of our sector.



Engaging with Westminster to champion a sustainable future for UK glass.

At the same time, we have seen increasing engagement from consultancies, commissioned by government, to support decarbonisation and electrification pathways for the glass industry. The sector has performed strongly in the latest round of the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (IETF), securing over £15 million across 10 successful projects. Despite this progress, we continue to push for dedicated deployment funding for industrial decarbonisation, as there is currently no such mechanism available in the UK.

Areas of focus for 2026/27

- **Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy:** We are expecting the Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy to be published, which may have further details on electrification and decarbonisation funding.
- **Possible linking of the UK ETS:** We expect further clarity on linking agreement with the EU ETS.
- **Addressing UK ETS outstanding issues:** Disparity in the treatment of soda ash and exchangeability of fuel and electricity with the EU ETS.
- **Possibility of widening the scope of the UK CBAM:** We may also be consulted on phase 2 of the UK CBAM.
- **UK Best Available Techniques (BAT) review:** We are expecting that the UK Glass BAT review will commence in the next 12 months. This will be a long process with a significant amount of work for British Glass and will set new environmental permit conditions and emissions limits.
- **Continue advocating for deployment funding like the IETF**
- **Working to get biomethane zero-rated in the UK ETS** to enable this as a decarbonisation route.

Glass Focus Awards 2025

The 2025 Glass Focus Awards took place at the Manchester Marriott Hotel, bringing together organisations from across the glass supply chain to recognise achievements from the past year.

Beatson Clark was the standout winner, receiving British Glass Company of the Year, the Marketing Impact award, and Charlotte Lax named joint Rising Star.

Other winners included Saint-Gobain Glass UK, Ardagh Glass Packaging Europe, Guardian Glass UK, Encirc and Fire Camera.

The event also recognised wider contributions to the sector. Sarah Champion MP received the Glass Ambassador Award, and Steve Clayton (Stoelzle Flaconnage) was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Glass Champion Awards highlighted brands committed to sustainable glass packaging, with Belu, Gü Puddings, UpCircle Beauty, UNROOTED Drinks and York Gin all receiving recognition.



Glass Focus
Awards 2025

The full list of winners from the Glass Focus Awards 2025 are:

Design of the year – container (supported by Packaging Innovations and Empack)

Ardagh Glass Packaging – Johnnie Walker Black Ruby

Design of the year – flat (supported by The Glass and Glazing Federation)

Saint-Gobain Glass UK – 30 Duke Street

Innovative solution (supported by Glass Technology Services)

Fire Camera – I.S. Protect Plus System

Health and safety action

Guardian Glass UK – Noise Reduction

Sustainable practice (supported by Brook Green Supply Limited)

Saint-Gobain Glass UK – Glass Forever 1 million

Rising Star (supported by The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London)

Charlotte Lax – Beatson Clark, Mark McColl – Ardagh Glass Packaging

Strengthening business through people

Encirc – The Walkway Project

Marketing Impact (supported by Glass Loop)

Beatson Clark – Spray Decoration Service Launch

British Glass company of the year

Beatson Clark

Lifetime Achievement award

Steve Clayton - Stoelzle Flaconnage

Glass Ambassador Award

Sarah Champion MP

Glass Champions

Belu, Gü Puddings, UpCircle Beauty, UNROOTED Drinks, York Gin



Packaging Communications Group (PCG)

We began our 2025 PCG programme with a collaborative workshop delivered alongside the Limbo Foundation, a Yorkshire charity supporting children with limb differences, and Amazelab. Centred on the British Science Week theme "Adapt and Change," the session invited children to explore and experiment with glass through hands-on activities. Hosted at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, the event celebrated the versatility of glass and the intersection of science and art, while highlighting the importance of community, creativity and inclusion for young people with limb differences.

Glass Explorers became a key pillar of our programme in 2025, designed to inspire curiosity and build understanding among young people about the role glass plays in everyday life. Created as a flexible, curriculum-



Limbo Foundation workshop

aligned schools' resource, Glass Explorers uses hands-on experiments, creative challenges and real-world examples to introduce concepts such as material properties, sustainability, reuse and recycling in an engaging and accessible way.

In its first phase, Glass Explorers reached more than 1,000 young people across primary settings. Activities invite students to observe, question and test how glass behaves, supporting learning across science, design technology and environmental studies while nurturing problem-solving skills and creativity.

Alongside this, our Mythbuster campaign focused on reuse, delivering clear, accessible education for both consumers and producers. The campaign secured strong media coverage across Edie, Packaging News, Packaging Insights, Glass International and The Grocer.

Our flagship initiative has been Glass Champions, shining a spotlight on the brands, retailers and independent groups that choose glass as their primary packaging. These organisations recognise glass for what it is: pure, endlessly reusable and trusted by consumers. So far, 12 brands and individuals have been named Glass Champions, with five receiving awards at the 2025 Glass Focus Awards. Through our partnership with Simple Things magazine, readers also nominated their own champions, with Weleda, Milk & More, Bold Bean Co, Purdy & Figg, Gü and Neal's Yard Remedies emerging as favourites.

Looking ahead, Glass Champions will move into its next phase, focused on expanding the reach of the campaign to new audiences and into bricks and mortar retail environments. By working more closely with physical stores and in store touchpoints, the programme aims to make glass a visible, everyday choice for shoppers at the point of purchase, reinforcing trust and familiarity with the material.

Packaging Communications Group cont.



Glass Champions magazine partnership

Glass Champions is deliberately designed as a positive, evergreen campaign. One that celebrates leadership rather than criticising alternatives. By continuing to spotlight brands, retailers and independent businesses that choose to stick with glass, the initiative helps normalise sustainable packaging choices and rewards long term commitment.

These champions act as powerful real world examples, demonstrating that choosing glass aligns with quality, health, sustainability and consumer expectations.

In 2026 and beyond, we will continue to expand our reach by focusing communications on the relationship between health and packaging.

Working with influencers and trusted subject matter experts, we will showcase glass as the packaging material of choice for health and wellbeing – whether in everyday use or for refill and reuse.

By highlighting glass's purity, safety and suitability for modern lifestyles, this work will reinforce consumer trust and position glass as a natural, reliable option for those seeking healthier, more sustainable choices.

Recycling committee & public affairs

Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR)

Final year one pEPR fees were confirmed in July 2025 at £192 per tonne for glass. While lower than earlier illustrations, the fee remains uncompetitive compared with alternative materials. British Glass identified flaws in the fee methodology and submitted a formal complaint; nevertheless, year two illustrative fees were calculated using the same approach in the name of stability.

To counter potential material switching, British Glass launched the Think Twice campaign, highlighting how forthcoming policy measures are likely to favour glass over other materials, particularly plastic. We also continue to advocate for improved modulation from year two onwards, ensuring highly recyclable materials such as glass are appropriately recognised. The appointment of British Glass Director Nick Kirk to a Government advisory body is a positive step, alongside ongoing work with PackUK on RAM 2.0, due in June 2026.

Producer surveys in 2025 indicated increasing risks of brands switching away from UK made glass. In March 2026, British Glass submitted a comprehensive evidence dossier to Defra, demonstrating material switching, rising imports, investment leakage and risks to UK operations. We called for a pause to pEPR to allow urgent recalibration of fees and are working with the Department of Business and Trade (DBT) to understand potential economic impacts on affected communities.

Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) (Wales)

In 2025, the Welsh Government confirmed its intention to include glass in both a reuse focused and recycling Deposit Return Scheme. British Glass consistently raised concerns around cost, complexity and limited environmental benefit. Despite strong industry opposition, the Regulations were passed in February 2026. There is now unified industry support for removing glass from the scheme within the first 100 days of the next Senedd, with cross-party backing emerging.

Packaging Recovery Note (PRN) reform and reuse

British Glass engaged extensively with Defra on PRN reform, pressing for greater retention of cullet within the UK. While reform progress was delayed, a consultation launched in March 2026 focusing on fraud.

Changes to the point of compliance from 2026 place added burdens on glass processors; however, agreement has been secured to develop a national protocol to reduce operational impacts.

British Glass continues to position glass as a proven, scalable solution for reuse through policy engagement, industry working groups and publication of Making glass reuse a reality in the UK.



Sarah Champion MP

Recycling committee & public affairs cont.

Public affairs activity

British Glass held a Parliamentary event in April 2025, followed shortly afterwards by a Westminster Hall debate led by Sarah Champion MP on the impact of pEPR on glass. The debate was well attended, supported by effective engagement with stakeholders who had been briefed in advance. Organisations such as the Scottish Whisky Association and the Beer and Pub Association successfully mobilised MPs within their networks to attend and raise related Parliamentary Questions.

Following visits by the Defra senior team, including Emma Bourne and Margaret Bates, to URM and Ardagh Glass, Defra has agreed that officials will visit all British Glass member sites to hear directly from businesses about the impact of pEPR. A meeting has also been scheduled with Shadow Defra Minister Victoria Atkins. Trade unions have increased their involvement, with the Unite General Secretary writing to Jonathan Reynolds and the GMB launching a petition and holding an event in Knottingley.

The objective of this activity is to secure engagement at the highest levels of government and to influence the final set of pEPR fees due to be announced, seeking a significant reduction for glass.

There is increasing recognition across government that pEPR risks are having a severe impact on the glass sector. As a result, engagement has intensified, including meetings with Defra Minister Mary Creagh, DBT Minister Jonathan Reynolds and MPs representing glass manufacturing constituencies. Defra Secretary of State Steve Reed has also engaged on the issue, with a meeting with British Glass confirmed.



DEFRA visit to Ardagh

Container Technical Committee

Container Technical Committee

The British Glass Technical Committee continued to support members on compliance with UK and EU packaging and food contact regulations, while also providing UK input to the development of container standards and specifications.

Members approved the revised Scottish Whiskey Research Institute (SWRI) General Guidelines for Standard and Proprietary Glass Bottle Containers, developed in part through a British Glass working group. The updated guidelines will form the basis of the specification agreed between the whiskey producer and glass manufacturer.

British Glass continued to work with the Office for Product Safety and Standards to resolve outstanding issues related to the Measuring Container Bottles (MCB) Regulation and the use of the reversed epsilon and manufacturers' marking.

British Glass remained active across all Cete glass working groups. The Reuse Group was particularly productive and is close to completing the specification for reusable glass containers. This covers the container design, including wall thickness at the contact points and mechanical characteristics. Additional documents in development will address labelling, closing systems, sorting, cleaning, transport, storage, quality control and safe use.

Looking ahead to the next membership year, British Glass intends to establish a Primary Authority Partnership with West Yorkshire Trading Standards. This will provide regulatory advice to support our work on preventing the re-use of single-use glass containers and addressing obligations under the Packaging Essential Requirements and Measuring Container Bottles (MCBs) Regulations.

British Glass will continue to support members as they prepare for new obligations in the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR). Key areas include the upcoming Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) restrictions and the expanded information manufacturers must supply to customers, such as opacity data and evidence of weight minimisation.



Health & Safety committee

Health and safety remain central to everything we do, and the Health and Safety Forward Scheme continues to drive collective improvement across the glass sector. A key element of the scheme is the annual submission of health and safety data, enabling members to identify trends, share lessons learned and discuss best practice. Each organisation receives a tailored benchmarking report, helping them understand their performance against sector averages and highlight areas for further development.

Data collection for 2025 is now complete. Thank you to all members who contributed. To the right is a summary of the top three Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) reportable accidents from the past three years.

British Glass continues to represent the sector within the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)'s charge group, ensuring that industry priorities, concerns, and insights are shared at a national level. Throughout the membership year, the Health and Safety Committee has provided a valuable forum for reviewing statistics, discussing best practices, and evaluating Personal Protective Equipment, (PPE) products to support informed purchasing decisions.

Top 3 RIDDOR accidents		
2023	2024	2025
<p>Contact with moving machinery</p> <p>(9)</p>	<p>Contact with moving machinery</p> <p>(6)</p>	<p>Slips, trips and falls</p> <p>(7)</p>
<p>Injured while lifting or carrying</p> <p>(9)</p>	<p>Slips, trips and falls</p> <p>(6)</p>	<p>Injured while lifting or carrying</p> <p>(5)</p>
<p>Exposure to hot surfaces</p> <p>(6)</p>	<p>Handling glass cuts</p> <p>(5)</p>	<p>Striking against something fixed or stationary</p> <p>(4)</p>

Publications

Over the last 12 months we have released a number of publications which can be viewed on our website.

Think twice

Why glass should remain your packaging of choice.

 [Click to view](#)



RAM guidance document

 [Click to view](#)



Briefing: Making UK glass reuse a reality

 [Click to view](#)



UK Glass Trade Report 2023/2024

 [Click to view](#)



For more information or to view these publications, click the links or visit britglass.org.uk



British Glass

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