

CLC Statement: Update on the Government Steel Tariffs and Quotas measures and CLC work in relation to impact on the construction industry

July 16th 2026

On the 1st July 2026, the Government implemented its new steel tariffs and quotas trade measure whereby tariff-free quotas have been halved and duties on steel UK imports increased to 50 per cent. The reduction in overall quota volumes was revised from 60% (the figure provisionally provided by the Government earlier this year) to 51% (the final figure). These revisions reflect some of the concerns raised by CLC representation.

However, CLC continues to raise ongoing concerns regarding the impact on the construction industry. Concerns remain regarding:

- Commercial impact in relation to price and market volatility.
- Project viability in relation to the outcome effects of increased project costs.
- Supply impact, specifically supply shortages for steel grades and section sizes where domestic mills are either at full capacity or do not manufacture the required products.
- Impact on business viability such as on manufacturers and fabricators affected by the quotas and fabrication loophole in the tariff measure.
- Carbon impact whereby sustainability and embodied carbon targets on projects may be affected by issues with procuring low-carbon steel from UK sources.

It is critical that any unintended consequences of the tariffs and quotas do not negatively impact on the construction industry or the delivery of Government priorities in relation to housebuilding and critical infrastructure.

Therefore, CLC is continuing to work with Ministers and the Department of Business and Trade, to keep Government informed of the key impacts being experienced by the construction industry. To this end, it has been agreed that:

- CLC and the Trade Minister's Office will agree a reporting framework to keep Government informed of the impacts on the construction industry of the steel tariffs and quotas.
- CLC will utilise the framework to report regularly (bi-monthly) to the Trade Minister's Office with regular engagement with the Trade Minister to update on the impacts on construction being experienced.

Additionally, the CLC has proposed to provide any technical support necessary to facilitate any consideration of a tariff on imports fabricated steel products. We will keep you updated with progress.