

# MPs Briefing

CPI Briefing to MPs on the UK's Paper-based Industries

**cpi** confederation of paper industries

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This Briefing informs MPs about the range of issues currently affecting the competitiveness of CPI Members. For further details about CPI or its activities, please visit [www.paper.org.uk](http://www.paper.org.uk).

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## The UK's Paper-based Industries

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| <br><b>£11.5 billion</b><br>annual turnover | <br><b>56,000</b><br>direct employees | <br><b>86,000</b><br>indirect employees |
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| <br><b>79</b><br>Member Companies | <br><b>47</b><br>Paper Mills |
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| <br><b>8.0 million tonnes</b><br>Recovered Paper Collection | <br><b>3.7 million tonnes</b><br>Paper & Board Production | <br><b>5.1 million ksm</b><br>Corrugated Board Production | <br><b>734k tonnes</b><br>Tissue Parent Reel Production |
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**The Voice and Face of the UK's Paper-based Industries**

*Paper - the sustainable, renewable choice*

   [www.paper.org.uk](http://www.paper.org.uk)



CPI Director General,  
Andrew Large

### Brexit – Time for You to Choose

It has now been more than two years since the Brexit Referendum. In that time, while some progress has been made in negotiations with the EU, businesses in the UK are no closer to knowing what their future trading relationship will be with the EU27. This is unacceptable. The UK's Paper-based industries cannot continue with this degree of uncertainty and it is time for you, as an MP, to choose.

The ambiguity of Brexit is already harming UK businesses. It is stifling much needed investment and driving production offshore. The UK is the world's largest net importer of paper and in the first quarter of 2018, paper imports are up by a further 4.5%. This threatens thousands of UK jobs. UK Paper-based businesses have supply and customer chains across the EU and any potential disruption add to the risks of UK investment.

It is no surprise that these businesses are investing elsewhere. 90% of the large volume papermakers in the UK are headquartered outside the UK. 75% of the large volume corrugated packaging manufacturers are also headquartered outside the UK. These businesses take a global view of investment opportunities to provide the best returns to their shareholders. **Do you really think that global businesses are going to load up on Brexit related risk when they can invest in the EU27 and export freely to the UK?**

## Our Brexit Key Asks

The UK's Paper-based businesses seek the following Brexit deal to secure investment and jobs in the UK.

1. We are pleased that there is Political Agreement to a Transitional Period to the end of 2020. This must be confirmed in the final Withdrawal Treaty. No Deal and a consequent "Cliff Edge" Brexit cannot be an option
2. The Brexit deal must enable the existing EU supply chains of the UK's Paper-based industries to continue to be competitive
3. The UK's Paper-based industries must be able to supply their customers competitively across Europe post-Brexit
4. There must be access to skilled and talented people from the EU27 post-Brexit without immigration and visa barriers
5. There must continue to be a common standards regime for paper, paper products, manufacturing and production machinery post-Brexit.



Andrew Large  
**Director General**

Tel: 01793 889601  
Mobile: 07392 091864  
Email: [alarge@paper.org.uk](mailto:alarge@paper.org.uk)

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the UK Paper Industry visit:  
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