



**Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy**

Brian Berry FRSA
Chief Executive's Office
David Croft House
25 Ely Place
London
EC1N 6TD

The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth
and Climate Change

**Department for Business, Energy &
Industrial Strategy**
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@beis.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk

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Dear Brian,

Thank you for your letters dated 2 June and 24 June, sent on behalf of the Federation of Master Builders, regarding the national shortage of building materials.

I very much enjoyed our introductory meeting on 17 May, and I am grateful for your ongoing engagement with me and my officials about issues that concern your members.

The Government recognises that small and medium-sized construction businesses like those you represent make a significant contribution to their local communities, as well as to the UK economy as a whole. These businesses have a crucial role to play in the success of the UK's economic recovery and we are entirely focused on supporting them and addressing any barriers to their growth.

The Government is aware of the current shortage of building materials and the related material price increases, and we fully recognise the particular impact that this is having on many SMEs. As I am sure you are aware, demand for products and materials is outstripping supply at present due to high levels of global construction activity. Manufacturers are working hard to maximise production, but lack of stock and Covid-related disruption to production facilities, shipping and logistics mean that they are struggling to keep pace with demand.

Please be assured that the Government is monitoring this critical situation closely, working with the Construction Leadership Council's Product Availability Group. I am grateful for your invitation to meet to discuss this matter further but, regrettably, I am unable to accept it on this occasion due to a heavily committed diary.

Thank you once again for taking the time to write. I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

THE RT HON ANNE-MARIE TREVELYAN MP
Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change