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Policy & representation**

**Our mandate comes from our members**

**Introduction**

Make UK is not a political organisation. It seeks to represent objectively the views of manufacturing businesses based on evidence to obtain outcomes which enable the sector to provide employment and growth.

Make UK enjoys significant profile amongst senior external stakeholders and our credibility is built on our strong membership base and the ability to understand its views and represent them effectively and accurately. The purpose of this policy is to document and formalise this approach.

Make UK’s extensive knowledge of UK manufacturing is the basis for our influence on policy-making at local, national and international levels. As the voice for million jobs in UK manufacturing we push for the policy changes that our members want to see and for the changes which will champion, help and support all UK manufacturers. We are committed to ensuring that our members have a direct say in what we do and how we do it.

**Talking to manufacturers**

Understanding our members is at the heart of our policy and representation. Make UK has a clear member engagement strategy which ensures that we regularly communicate with our members noth regionally and nationally and across all sectors.

Make UK has a number of councils and committees made up of member companies who advise and influence MAKE UK’s policy work. These include: Regional Advisory Boards representing all regions plus subject based policy committees; a Government Affairs Group representing Make UK’s larger member companies; the Manufacturing Alliance representing trade bodies across various manufacturing sectors; and our Affiliate Partners group encompasses smaller sector groups. MAKE UK also holds ad hoc roundtable dinners for members with senior politicians and other stakeholders.

Our governance is designed to ensure we hear from companies large and small. To support our key campaigns we run subject specific policy committees which members can join for focused debate and advice. It is crucial, of course, that we can represent the sector as a whole – going beyond our membership to advocate for the future of UK manufacturing. To achieve this we run a number of engagement events and surveys which seek the views of the wider manufacturing sector, as well as our members. We also have strong affiliate partnerships with a range of sector specific trade bodies to tap into their specialist sub-sector knowledge and expertise.

Make UK’s engagement with members– and the wider manufacturing sector – includes:

* National Membership Board
* Quarterly Regional Advisory Boards
* Subject specific Policy Committees
* Government Affairs Groups
* Manufacturing Alliance Group
* Monthly surveys
* Blogs, podcasts, media presence
* Regular written communications – such as Westminster Weekly
* Manufacturing Connect events
* Webinars
* Make UK’s annual conference
* Events, roadshows and trade missions which bring manufacturers, political leaders and policy makers together
* Making 1:1 visits to manufacturers

**Setting the direction**

The work of our Policy Unit is evidence-based, incorporating member views and experiences to drive our campaigns. Make UK draws in evidence from a wide range of sources, tests our thinking with members and campaigns for the future of manufacturing within the political, economic and social context. Regular contact with a diverse cross-section of our membership, including via formal surveys, plays an important role in informing our campaigns.

The National Membership Board (NMB) is Make UK’s most senior authority on steering the strategic direction of key Make UK policy positions. The NMB draws on the expertise of our Members Policy Committees. Its structure also ensures that it represents views from our regional representative groups: primarily the nine Regional Advisory Boards (and where relevant the four Regional Membership Boards: North, Midlands, South, Wales). Both tiers meet regularly, comprise a diverse and representative segment of our membership and receive regular, timely briefings from our Policy Unit on our campaigns.

**Making decisions**

Setting this broad range of member engagement in the wider political, social and economic context, Make UK’s Executive Director of Communications, Government and Policy secures NMB’s endorsement of Make UK’s policy and representation campaign priorities annually. Throughout the course of the year the NMB plays a key role in evaluating progress against these campaign priorities and reviewing them to ensure they remain current and appropriate.

The nature of politics means there are, on occasion exceptional instances, where a significant shift in an influential policy position is required. The NMB can be called upon in the course of the year, at the request of the Chief Executive and the Chair, to approve such shifts in position and to endorse a revised campaign strategy.

**A credible source**

Make UK has a unique combination of business services, government representation and industry intelligence. Our Government, Policy and Communications Directorate uses its knowledge, skills and understanding of manufacturing to provide the intelligence which drives Make UK’s representation to government and sets the direction for the services we provide to manufacturers.

Make UK delivers research-driven, evidence-based policy analysis. The Policy Unit comprises the key areas of expertise affecting UK manufacturing today including people and skills, technology and industrial sectors, the economy and finance as well as emerging issues and “futures”. Our team covers a range of professional skills including economics, technology, regulation and survey design and those skills are deployed flexibly across our policy campaigns as needed. Our work is highly respected in the sector and the integrity of our reputation and our credibility is firmly at the core of Make UK’s policy and advocacy work.