

LOBBYING UPDATE
June 2014

Priority	Issues lobbied on in 2013 and 2014	Outcome
Supporting print manufacturing	Work with other leading trade associations to influence government policy	<p>Meeting of CEOs of Manufacturing Alliance trade associations with Michael Fallon MP, Minister of State BIS on 22 May 2013. Michael Fallon has responsibility for Low Carbon Economy/Energy, Small Business and Enterprise, Access to Finance, Competitiveness and Economic Growth, Deregulation, Regional and Economic Development. We raise with him our concerns re the Heseltine 'Single Funding Pot' proposals, challenged any proposals to introduce loans for level 2 qualifications, and continuing the battle to have government scrap the Carbon Price Support Scheme</p> <p>Together with the CEOs of ten other leading manufacturing trade associations, Kathy Woodward writes to the Chancellor on 4 June 2013 urging continued investment in areas need to deliver growth, specifically skills, science and innovation, support for exporters, and the UK road network</p> <p>Associate Parliamentary Manufacturing Group (APMG) roundtable on 3 July 2013 chaired by John Stevenson MP (APMG vice-chair). This discussion provides an opportunity to critique current thinking around Government's engagement with SME manufacturers, and to try and move the debate forward from simply 'Government needs to talk more to SMEs'.</p> <p>APMG Associate Members' meetings on 11 October 2013 and 8 May 2014 to plan forward programme of activities</p> <p>Meeting with Business Secretary Vince Cable MP on 17 July 2013 to discuss access to funding, skills and government spending</p> <p>Trade Association Forum lunch with Brooks Newmark MP on 12 September 2013</p> <p>CBI Development Breakfast on <i>Future strategies for business</i> on 5 July 2013</p> <p>Lunch with Civil Society Minister Nick Hurd MP on 17 October 2013</p> <p>Associate Parliamentary Manufacturing Group annual dinner on 10 December. Eight MPs present. Met with Steven Barr, new Head of the Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) at BIS and stressed the importance of MAS ensuring that they make referrals to organisations that have expertise relevant to companies in specialist sectors, and of monitoring external consultants post-referral to ensure they are actually delivering quality support that meets clients' needs.</p> <p>Manufacturing Alliance CEOs meeting on 10 December 2013</p> <p>CBI Trade Association Council meeting on 25 March 2014.</p> <p>Meeting of CEOs of Manufacturing Alliance trade associations with Chuka Umunna, Shadow Business Secretary on 2 June 2014</p>

	<p>Contribute to policy on culture and competitiveness in UK manufacturing</p>	<p>Kathy Woodward gives evidence to the APMG's Parliamentary Inquiry into Industrial Culture and Competitiveness on 10 July 2013. The Inquiry runs from March to September 2013. BPIF attends a review meeting on the draft report on 13 November 2013 and subsequently submits written comments. Report published on 27 November entitled <i>Making Good</i> warns that UK manufacturing is being prevented from becoming 'wholly competitive' by a national industrial culture that discourages companies from investing in vital long-term business drivers such as skills development and technological innovation.</p>
	<p>Promote print as part of the creative industries</p>	<p>CBI Creative Industries Breakfast on 29 October. The CBI's work on the creative industries for 2013 centres on urging the government to champion these industries as an integral part of an Industrial Strategy for the UK. The government have identified 11 key sectors to support under its industrial strategy approach, but the creative industries were not identified as one of these. CBI is therefore seeking to ensure that the critical importance of the UK's creative firms is not lost at the top level of government. CBI will therefore be producing its own Strategy for the creative industries, looking at those policy areas we need to get right in order to maximise commercial opportunities in the future. This breakfast provided a platform for us to comment on policy ideas and feed in the priorities of our sector.</p>
	<p>Highlighting economic importance of UK printing industry to policy-makers</p>	<p>Meeting with Simon Caunt, Deputy Agent for Greater London at the Bank of England on 4 February 2014. Discussed the Q4 <i>Printing Outlook</i> results and trends through earlier quarterly surveys in 2013. BoE interested in the fact that we have ongoing under capacity in the industry despite the recent improvements we have experienced in demand, given that the Banks' forward planning is based on the assumption that there is still significant spare capacity in the economy.</p>
	<p>Stimulate growth in the regions</p>	<p><i>Yorkshire Day</i> held on 1 August 2013. Opportunity to present to local community including MPs and UKTI the concept of media market place and the progress towards the creative industries sector</p> <p>Working with CDi PrintYorkshire, local Bank of England Agent Juliette Healey arranges a meeting with David Miles, Member of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), on 26 February 2014. The meeting was hosted by Communisis in Leeds and the 12 strong panel included printers and the leading digital agencies in the region.</p> <p>CDi PrintYorkshire supports the Leeds City Region LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) in the promotion of Leeds' Business Growth Programme funded through the Regional Growth Fund from BIS. The programme is available across the region and this support is to ensure that the Creative and Digital Industries take full advantage. The sector is recognised as one of the Top 5 priorities and to date over 30 companies have investigated possible applications. Those which have been successful have resulted in £254,000 funding that has been used to support a total investment of over £2.5m. CDi PrintYorkshire has been instrumental in the identification of eligible companies, guiding them through the application process and will include monitoring of performance.</p> <p>As part of the collaboration with LCR LEP, CDi PrintYorkshire is asked to contribute to the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan.</p>

	<p>Reduce corporation tax</p> <p>Ensure level-playing field with overseas competitors</p> <p>Influence developments at European level though participation in Intergraf</p> <p>Seek support for exporting</p> <p>Influence paper industry policy</p> <p>Understand implications for business of threats to cyber security</p>	<p>Reduction in corporation tax from 26% to 24% from April 2012, with a further reduction to 21% taking effect in April 2014.</p> <p>On 20 June 2013 Kathy Woodward writes to the CEO of the Ethical Trading Initiative (to which a number of leading retailers are signed up to) challenging the provision included their Base Code that requires suppliers to ETI signatories to ensure that no employee should work more than 12 hours overtime in any <i>single</i> week (even though the UK Working Time Regulations require that no employee should work more than 12 hours overtime per week averaged over any 17-week rolling period). We believe that this requirement is unlikely to be complied with by many overseas suppliers. The ETI subsequently replies stating that the Base Code should be applied consistently wherever their members source from, so that UK suppliers are not disadvantaged, and that they are aware that the way this is currently phrased had had 'unintended consequences for workers' - part of this being the 12 hours overtime per week element. They are working on rewording the Code accordingly and we will be included on the circulation list for the revised clause.</p> <p>2013 Intergraf General Assembly in Amsterdam on 7 June. Matters discussed include developments in Intergraf activities, presentations by the Secretary-General on Intergraf's core business and security printing activities, the results of the EU Project on Socially Responsible Restructuring, and an update on social dialogue in the graphic industry at European level.</p> <p>Intergraf Directors' Conference – 2/3 September 2013</p> <p>BPIF represented on an Intergraf task group formed to develop a new structure of regular communications to member federations on Intergraf activities.</p> <p>BPIF attends meetings throughout 2013 and 2014 of the Intergraf Steering Committee, Environmental Working Group, Economic & Statistical Working Party, Social Affairs Committee and <i>Future Skills</i> project team</p> <p>Meeting with Alastair Gardner, UK Trade and Industry, at Northprint in May 2013 regarding support for industry exporting and interfacing with non-UK entities</p> <p>Paper Policy lunch with CEOs from National Association of Paper Merchants member companies on 19 June 2013 on risk and opportunities</p> <p>Cyber Security Briefing with General Michael Hayden, former Director of the CIA and National Security Agency on 1 October 2013 organised by BritishAmerican Business</p>
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	Contribute to work of Two Sides and PrintPower in promoting the sustainability and effectiveness of print and paper	<p>Two Sides Board Meeting - 13 May 2013. Estimates of free advertising worth £1.3m; Ratio of funds spent is 7% Print Power and 63% Two Sides; No <i>Wonder You Love Paper and Print</i> Campaigns reviewed; Print Power Campaign reviewed; 30k copies distributed (19k to Agencies); Autumn Seminar 2013 held on 4 November</p> <p>Meeting held with <i>Print Power</i> Magazine on 1 July 2013 to review future editorial content</p>
Energy and environment	<p>Curb rises in energy costs</p> <p>Retain discounts on climate change levy</p> <p>Curb escalating fuel costs</p> <p>Influence energy policy</p>	<p>Together with other leading trade associations, BPIF argues the case ahead of the 2014 Budget for curbing rises in the cost of energy. The Chancellor responds with a £7bn support package that includes a freezing of the Carbon Price Floor and an extension of the existing compensation scheme for energy intensive industries, which should help to curb rising energy costs and help level the playing field with overseas competitors</p> <p>BPIF successfully lobbies DECC to retain a climate change levy discount scheme for the printing industry Climate Change Agreements extended to 2023 and CCA levy discount for electricity increased from 65% to 90% for those who sign up from 2013</p> <p>Following representations made prior to Budget 2012 by BPIF, fuel duty rise scheduled for 1 August 2012 deferred until 1 January 2013 and then cancelled altogether. A subsequent increase planned for September 2014 is also cancelled in Budget 2014</p> <p>Meeting with CBI and key trade associations on 9 July 2013 to review progress of the Electricity Market Reform Bill</p>
Pre-pack administrations and insolvencies	<p>Seek reform to legislation on pre-pack administrations</p> <p>Protecting the interests of printing companies that become unsecured creditors in the event of client insolvencies</p>	<p>An independent review into insolvencies and pre-pack administrations announced by the Government on 12 March 2013 begins. BPIF is represented at a meeting with the review chairman on 18 September 2013 convened by the CBI</p> <p>Responding to new Insolvency Service proposals to strengthen the regulatory framework and fee structure for Insolvency Practitioners (IPs), BPIF welcomes plans to increase returns to creditors in insolvency situations by simplifying the fee structure and aligning the interests of IPs more closely to those of creditors. In a detailed written response to the IS consultation submitted on 21 March, we also reiterate our long-standing concerns regarding the impact of pre-packaged sales in administration on creditors and competitors alike.</p>
Skills	Influence developments in skills policy	<p><i>The Great Recovery</i> Meeting with Ministers to discuss skills agenda at House of Lords on 4 June 2013</p> <p>Meeting of CBI Trade Association Council with CBI Director General John Cridland on 18 June 2013 focusing European developments and the skills agenda.</p> <p>Meeting with Stephen Twigg MP on 8 July 2013</p> <p>Meeting with Skills Minister Matthew Hancock MP re skills agenda on 14 October 2013</p>

	Protecting the future of print apprenticeships	<p>Focus groups on skills and employment held in conjunction with The Printing Charity on 19 August and 13 September 2013</p> <p>Steering Committee for National Occupational Standards meeting on 7 August 2013</p> <p>BPIF responds to BIS technical consultation on future apprenticeship funding in April 2014 and meets with the Skills Funding Agency and the Association of Learning Providers. We were also in dialogue with Proskills and representatives from Scotland regarding National Standard setting.</p>
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