

CBI FAQ

What is the CBI?

The CBI is the Confederation of British Industry. We are a Royal Charter, non-profit, apolitical organisation. Our purpose is to represent the views of business in the United Kingdom and we exist to help business create prosperity for all. The CBI was founded on 3 July 1965 when the British Employers' Confederation, the Federation of British Industries and the National Association of British Manufacturers joined together to form the Confederation of British Industry.

You can find more about what we do and how we do it here: <https://www.cbi.org.uk/what-we-do/>

Who are the CBI's members?

The CBI is a confederation. This means we represent like-minded groups and businesses. There are 150 trade associations who represent lots of smaller and medium sized firms in our membership. We also have businesses who join us directly. In total this means we speak for around 190,000 businesses who employ nearly 7 million people. That is one third of private sector employees. The CBI attracts a range of members with over 80% of the CBI Council being from outside the FTSE 350.

The CBI does not disclose its full membership list.

How is policy formed at the CBI?

Our mandate comes from our members who have a direct say in what we do and how we do it. The CBI Council is the main governance body of the CBI and is made up of all the CBI Regional and National Councils and Standing Committees comprised of over 1,000 council and committee representatives from over 700 CBI member companies.

The chair of each Standing Committee and Regional and National Council sit on the CBI's Chairs' Committee which is ultimately responsible for setting and steering CBI policy positions. Each quarter we engage these councils and committees on our work for either a steer, for information or for sign off. This is supported by wider policy formation through member engagement from other committees, working groups, events and member meetings.

More information on our governance can be found here: <https://www.cbi.org.uk/media/2536/cbi-council-overview-april-2019.pdf>

How is the CBI internally governed?

The CBI Board is chaired by the CBI President and is ultimately responsible for operational, finance and strategic decisions at the CBI, the Board is supported by an Audit Committee and a Remuneration Committee made up of several Non-Executive Directors as well as the CBI Director-General and CBI Director of Finance and Corporate Services.

The CBI Executive Committee is chaired by the Director-General and is responsible for the day-to-day running of the CBI. This committee is made up of the CBI's most senior directors.

You can find more about who sits on each of these groups here: <https://www.cbi.org.uk/about-us/our-people/>

Do you have Trade Association members?

Yes. The CBI was founded on 3 July 1965 when the British Employers' Confederation, the Federation of British Industries and the National Association of British Manufacturers joined together to form the Confederation of British Industry. The strength of the CBI comes from the breadth of its membership, including 140 trade association members covering every sector of the UK economy. They include a diverse range of firms, from brewers to potters, engineers to creative industries, and agricultural businesses. In the CBI Council these organisations are represented through our Trade Association Council.

Does the CBI get money from the EU to promote it?

No. We are funded by subscriptions from our membership and are under no obligation to promote the EU. In fact, over the years our members have rightly expected us to speak out against harmful European legislation on business, as we have often done. We regularly represent our members in Brussels and occasionally cooperate with our equivalent sister federations in other European countries.

Why do you receive money from the European Commission?

The CBI receives a fee from the European Commission for our regular survey data via a competitive tender process. The CBI conducts a number of monthly and quarterly economic surveys of businesses - on manufacturing, retail and service sectors - which are an important bellwether of UK business and economic trends. CBI surveys are used by the European Commission to enable it to collect robust European-wide economic data - as it does from all EU member states. The CBI applies as part of a competitive tendering process (every 4 years) to provide data on the UK economy on a regular basis, and as a result the European Commission currently contributes to some of the financing costs for these economic surveys on an annual basis. The fee is strictly ring-fenced for this purpose. The last tender round led to three successful applications from UK organisations - including the CBI.

The sum for each year represents around 0.6% of the CBI's total annual income. You can find a breakdown of the CBI's income and expenditure in our [2018 Annual Report](#) on page 53 and 67.

The CBI's position on Brexit – as with all other policy areas – is determined by our membership, through regular consultation, policy committees, regional councils and conversations across our membership.

We also receive occasional, small reimbursements for travel to attend European Social Dialogue meetings arranged by the European Commission.

Did you support the UK joining the Euro?

In the late 1990s, when the UK was seriously considering joining the Euro, the CBI offered in principle support for the UK joining once key conditions were in place to make it a success. Many of these conditions – like the merging of economic cycles and price stability – were similar to the UK Government's at the time. However, as these criteria were never met, the CBI did not give unqualified support for UK joining the Euro.