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Our Ref: LJD/TTA

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HM Revenue and Customs
Balance of Competences Review, 3E10
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

Dear Sirs,

Review of the Balance of Competences

The Tile Association is the trade association that represents manufacturers, suppliers and contractors in the wall and floor tile industry. The Association has just under 900 members, the vast majority of whom are either micro businesses or SME's whose total turnover represents just under £1billion per annum.

Following the reduction in tile manufacturing in the United Kingdom to a level which does not accommodate the size of the sector (66m sqm in 2012), the tile industry is reliant on imported wall and floor tiles. The vast majority (38m sqm) of wall and floor tiles are imported from countries within the European Union and other European nations.

The Tile Association considers it essential to continue with the free movement of goods within Europe, and more importantly that the UK consumer should not be disadvantaged by any restriction on the movement of goods.

As you are no doubt aware, an anti-dumping levy is currently enforced on ceramic tiles from China. It is interesting to note that research carried out by The Tile Association based on intrastat reports indicate that there has been a drop in imports from China, but an increase from Malaysia, see the table below:

	2012	2010
China	3.27m sqm	6.2m sqm
Malaysia	2.34m sqm	1.68m sqm

Given the current economic climate it is becoming obvious that product formerly imported from China is now being sourced from Asia in general.

I should be grateful if you would keep The Tile Association informed on any future research work that may be undertaken that affects our industry.

Yours faithfully,

Lesley Day
Executive Officer

