ALFED ALUMINIUM FEDERATION

alupro THE ALUMINIUM PACKAGING RECYCLING ORGANISATION

MAKE uk The Manufacturers' Organisation

ALUMINIUM: NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS

A Christmas material. A critical material. A UK industrial opportunity.

Parliamentary drop-in | Wednesday 25 November 2026 | 13:00–15:00 | Room R, Portcullis House

Joint briefing: Aluminium Federation (ALFED) • Aluminium Packaging Recycling Organisation (Alupro) • Make UK

THE MESSAGE IN A MINUTE

From mince pie cases, roasting trays and drinks cans to the cars bringing families home and the electricity powering Christmas lights, aluminium is part of everyday life at Christmas. It is also essential to defence, transport, clean energy, infrastructure and advanced manufacturing.

Aluminium is part of our everyday, but also a key part of the UK's national defences – from airframes to naval superstructures and fast craft – and our industrial communities, supporting 17,000 jobs.

ALFED's latest economic modelling estimates that the UK aluminium industry supports a wider economic footprint of £8.18bn GVA and 104,800 jobs, demonstrating the scale of the industry's contribution to the UK economy.

With the right commercial, regulatory and investment conditions we believe the UK aluminium supply chain can create 340,000 new jobs and £34bn annual contribution to the economy, enabling defence, aerospace, automotive, clean energy, infrastructure, digital technologies and advanced manufacturing

Aluminium can be recycled repeatedly while retaining its inherent properties. But collecting more material is only part of the answer: the UK also needs the sorting, processing, remelting and manufacturing capability - and competitive conditions - to turn recovered aluminium into new products here to support national reindustrialisation.

Our ask: help Britain collect aluminium effectively, retain more of its economic value and invest in competitive domestic capability.

CHRISTMAS ➜ CIRCULARITY ➜ CRITICALITY

- **At home for Christmas:** Foil cases, roasting trays, cans, closures and aerosols show how widely aluminium is used - and why clear recycling information and effective collection matter.
- **In the recycling loop:** Properly collected and sorted aluminium can become feedstock for new products, from the everyday to the national critical. Recycling aluminium can use up to 95% less energy than producing primary aluminium, reducing energy dependence and supporting decarbonisation.
- **Across the economy:** Aluminium is used across the automotive, aerospace and defence sectors for delivering electricity networks as well as other strategically important supply chains. Its value goes well beyond packaging.

WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

Government recognises aluminium as both a critical and a growth mineral. The UK already has expertise across recycling, remelting, rolling, extrusion, finishing and manufacturing. The challenge is to protect and strengthen that capability while creating a viable route for further private investment.

International scrap markets are important, and not every exported tonne can be processed economically in the UK. The goal is to retain material when we need it. We need better evidence on material grades and flows, more effective collection and sorting, and commercially competitive domestic processing where the case stacks up.

THREE THINGS MPS CAN TAKE AWAY

- **Keep valuable material in circulation.** Support clear recycling rules and practical systems that improve the quantity and quality of aluminium recovered.
- **Make UK production investable.** Address industrial electricity costs and barriers to modernising recycling and manufacturing facilities.
- **Join up policy.** Ensure waste, packaging, trade, carbon and industrial policies reinforce rather than undermine UK capability.









FROM CHRISTMAS RECYCLING TO UK INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

Practical policy priorities for Government and Parliament towards reindustrialisation

1. Treat recovered aluminium as a strategic resource

Design Extended Producer Responsibility and Deposit Return Schemes to improve collection, quality and traceability—not simply collection tonnage. Ensure the systems support effective sorting and a clear route to high-value recycling, including domestic use where commercially viable so that these systems are the engine of the circular economy.

2. Build the conditions for UK recycling and remanufacturing

Work with industry to identify gaps in sorting, alloy separation, remelting and downstream processing. Support evidence-led investment and remove barriers to viable projects rather than assuming all scrap grades can be processed interchangeably or that every tonne should remain in the UK.

3. Make industrial electricity internationally competitive

High electricity prices weaken the case for investing in energy-intensive aluminium operations. Review policy and network charges, improve long-term cost certainty and ensure support reaches relevant sites across the value chain. Make UK has called for policy levies to be moved from electricity bills to general taxation.

4. Coordinate decisions that affect the sector

Assess the combined impact of packaging and waste rules, trade policy, carbon measures and industrial strategy before changes are introduced. Use the Government's Metals Circularity Group and direct engagement with industry to test practical effects and avoid unintended consequences.

WHAT MPS CAN DO

- **Raise the issue with Ministers:** Ask how Government will link aluminium recycling, industrial energy competitiveness and strategic supply-chain resilience.
- **Champion local capability:** Engage with aluminium manufacturers, recyclers and processors in your constituency about investment, skills and barriers to growth.
- **Support joined-up delivery:** Encourage relevant departments, including BIST, Defra and DESNZ to work with ALFED, Alupro and Make UK on a focused set of practical actions.

A QUESTION TO TAKE BACK TO WESTMINSTER

How can the UK ensure that more of the aluminium we collect becomes the next generation of British-made products?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

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