



NOTICE OF INITIATION

Creamy/White Limestone originating in Portugal

Investigation into alleged subsidisation

Investigation no. [AS0079]

The Trade Remedies Authority (TRA) makes the following Notice under paragraph 9(6)(c) of Schedule 4 to the Taxation (Cross-border Trade) Act 2018 (the Act) to initiate an investigation into alleged subsidisation.

The date of initiation of the investigation is **14 January 2026**.

The decision to initiate the investigation follows an Application lodged by Albion Stone PLC at Robert Denholm House, Bletchingley Road, Nutfield, Surrey, RH1 4HW with support from Portland Stone Firms Ltd at 99 Easton St, Easton, Portland, DT5 1BP (the Application).

The Application was made on behalf of the UK industry for Creamy/White limestone.

A non-confidential copy of the [Application](#) is available on our public file relating to this investigation.

HOW TO TAKE PART IN THE INVESTIGATION

Registration period

Anyone who wants to participate in the investigation can register their interest through the Trade Remedies Service at <https://www.trade-remedies.service.gov.uk/> by **29 January 2026**.

Please contact AS0079@traderemedies.gov.uk if you have any difficulties using this service.

Anyone registering their interest after **29 January 2026** may not be able to participate fully in the investigation process.

Interested parties and contributors

Once registered, interested parties and contributors can submit comments on any issues relevant to the investigation through the Trade Remedies Service.

Interested parties may include:

- the government of Portugal;
- any overseas exporter or importer of the Goods Concerned;
- any overseas producer of the Goods Concerned;



- any trade or business association of producers, overseas exporters or importers of the Goods Concerned;
- any producer of the Like Goods in the UK; and
- any trade or business association of UK producers of the Like Goods.

Contributors are those, other than interested parties, who have notified the TRA that they would like to participate in the investigation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION

The goods

The goods subject to investigation (the Goods Concerned) are:

Creamy/White limestone originating in Portugal in the form of slab and finished stone. Slab refers to natural stone that has been simply cut or sawn. Finished stone refers to natural stone that has been processed and worked in a factory, making it ready for installation. For these purposes, 'processed and worked' includes but is not limited to cutting, shaping, and surface finishing to meet the specifications required for its intended use.

The Goods Concerned are subject to the following commodity codes:

68010000, 68022100, 68022900, 68029100, 68029200

The Like Goods for the purposes of this investigation:

Creamy/White limestone in the form of slab and finished stone. Slab refers to natural stone that has been simply cut or sawn. Finished stone refers to natural stone that has been processed and worked in a factory, making it ready for installation. For these purposes, 'processed and worked' includes but is not limited to cutting, shaping, and surface finishing to meet the specifications required for its intended use.

The exporting country or territory

The investigation concerns the Goods Concerned originating in Portugal.

Allegations of subsidisation and injury

The Application alleges that Goods Concerned originating in Portugal are in receipt of countervailable subsidies. Details of the alleged subsidy practices are:

- direct or potential direct transfer of funds or liabilities;
- revenue otherwise due that is foregone or not collected;



- other subsidies provided in development zones.

The Application alleges that this alleged subsidisation has caused injury to the UK industry in the Like Goods through:

- a) actual and potential decline in: sales volume, profits, market share, return on investments, and capacity utilisation;
- b) actual and potential negative effects on: cash flow, growth; and
- c) factors affecting domestic prices of the goods.

SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION PROCESS

The period of investigation is **1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025**. In order to assess injury, we will examine the period from **1 January 2022 to 31 December 2025**.

The investigation will involve the following process:

- inviting parties to register their interest in the investigation;
- issuing questionnaires, where practicable, to:
 - all interested parties (including the Government of Portugal) who have registered an interest in the investigation;
 - all contributors who have registered an interest in the investigation;
 - all UK producers, importers, and overseas exporters and overseas producers identified in the Application; and
 - any trade or business association of UK producers, importers and overseas exporters identified in the Application.
- carrying out verification to further assess and examine information;
- analysing information gathered;
- determining whether subsidised goods are being imported into the UK and the importation of these goods is causing injury to the UK industry;
- determining an amount adequate to remove injury;
- considering whether applying a countervailing amount would be in the economic interests of the UK;
- publishing a Statement of Essential Facts. On publication, we will set a period of time, which will be no longer than 30 days, during which parties will be able to comment on the Statement of Essential Facts; and
- at the end of the investigation we will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business and Trade (the Secretary of State) which may include provision for a countervailing amount to be applied. The Secretary of State will



then decide whether to accept, reject or request that the TRA reassess the recommendation. If our recommendation is rejected, the Secretary of State may decide to apply an alternative remedy.

Our [Trade Remedies Guidance](#) provides more information about the investigations process.

Provisional affirmative determination

If, at any time during the investigation, we are satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for recommending imposition of a countervailing amount, we may make a provisional affirmative determination under paragraph 11 of Schedule 4 to the Act and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State under paragraph 13 of that Schedule that importers of the Goods Concerned are required to give a guarantee in respect of an estimated countervailing amount. We will only recommend the requirement to give a guarantee where we are satisfied that it is necessary to prevent injury being caused during the investigation to a UK industry in the relevant goods.

Parties are invited to comment on the issue of making a provisional affirmative determination and requiring a guarantee throughout the investigation.

Sampling

Depending on the number of parties registering an interest in the investigation, we may consider it appropriate to limit examination to a sample of:

- overseas exporters;
- importers;
- categories of goods;
- UK producers;
- transactions for the purchase of the Like Goods in the UK; or
- anything else we consider it appropriate to sample.

Hearings

Interested parties can request a hearing by using the Trade Remedies Service at <https://www.trade-remedies.service.gov.uk/>.

For further information about hearings during an investigation, please see our [Meetings, Hearings and Visits Guidance](#).

Confidential information



Trade Remedies
Authority

Information provided during an investigation may be treated as confidential. Anyone requesting that information be treated as confidential must demonstrate why, and provide:

- a non-confidential summary of that information;
or (in exceptional circumstances)
- a statement of reasons explaining why the information should be treated as confidential, and why it cannot be summarised.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Our [Trade Remedies Guidance](#) provides more information about the investigations process, including our requirements for [submitting and summarising confidential information](#).

Information video

We will be providing a video that contains general information for interested parties and contributors to learn about how they can engage with the investigation and provide an opportunity to ask the advisory service any general questions.

Please contact the case email AS0079@traderemedies.gov.uk and specify whether you would like to receive this informational video.

Jess Blakely & Carmen Suarez
Chief Executive Officers
Trade Remedies Authority

14 January 2026