



To Whom It May Concern:

January 2026

The large-pack container supply chain is extensive and complex. With increased reliance on the use of wholesalers, third-party distribution and logistics operators, visibility of containers within this supply chain is difficult to preserve. The brewing industry has therefore engaged with Kegwatch to help protect these key assets.

Whilst the legal owner of the container should always be the first point of contact to arrange repatriation, there are circumstances where this must be done via a third party. Keg Watch, directly and through their authorised agents, are alone authorised by the UK brewing industry to recover and repatriate beer kegs and casks on its behalf and which have become lost or abandoned outside of the regular supply chain, including from civic amenity sites and waste companies. In addition, Keg Watch administer a process of accreditation of scrap yards under the name of the British Beer and Pub Association, whose members are responsible for 90% of the beer volume produced in the UK, to help prevent the illegal destruction of beer kegs and casks, which remain the legal property of the owning brewer or container operator and who alone has any rights to their eventual destruction.

In addition to the service of recovering and repatriating containers as above, Kegwatch provides a sorting service for the industry to help clear backlogs of unsorted containers which have built up at the yards of brewers, wholesalers and third-party logistics providers. Kegwatch's third objective is to provide a security service to combat theft and misappropriation of casks and kegs, hence working with scrap yards per above.

As a direct consequence of providing these services for the industry Kegwatch will legitimately end up with some containers belonging to brewers who have decided not to be members of either the BBPA, SIBA or Kegwatch. The main activities leading to this situation are:


- Recoveries from closed premises – failure to clear all containers leads to an increase in theft and misappropriation hence Kegwatch recovers the containers to be held securely at one of its yards.
- Container Sorting – Kegwatch has no control over what is sent in but once sorted will advise brewers of their location and request the brewer to collect.
- Security related activity – again all containers would be recovered if part of an online sales investigation, police seizure of stolen containers and liaison with scrap yards etc.

The activities of Keg Watch with respect of beer container recovery and repatriation are coordinated and reviewed through the BBPA via a technical panel that is composed of relevant representatives from our membership, as well as SIBA, who represent the UK independent brewing sector.

The British Beer and Pub Association and SIBA would ask those who receive a copy of this letter to support the authorisation that has been extended to Keg Watch, and their nominated agents, to handle and recover brewers, owned assets on their behalf and so that they can be repatriated to their legal owners quickly and efficiently for re-use.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SL', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Livens,
British Beer and Pub Association
*Policy Manager, Product Assurance & Supply
Chain,*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andrew Slee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andy Slee
SIBA
Chief Executive