

To whom it may concern,

I write to add my full support for the renewal of the exemption regarding lead in crystal glass.

I have worked with Waterford Crystal since 1995, when I became the first designer to work in lead crystal with the legendary crystal manufacturer.

From the outset, my aim was to work with light, the light that is inherent and exclusive to lead crystal.

I worked closely with the master craftsmen in Waterford to learn about lead crystal, its potential, its limitations and its unique qualities, constantly challenging them to help create modern pieces. I have always had a huge respect for traditional crafts, and the opportunity to work with such a historic skill, was hugely exciting for me, allowing us to meld old and new to create wonderful pieces.

When launched the John Rocha at Waterford Crystal collections quickly became a huge success, finding new audiences for lead crystal across the world.

Since that time, we have continued to work together and have launched numerous new collections over the years, including a range of contemporary crystal lighting, the black cut crystal collection and a range of finer crystal stems.

I have absolutely no doubt that the huge success of our collaboration would not have been achieved in any other medium. There is no other glass that reflects and refracts light in the same way as lead crystal. There is no other glass that has the weight of quality that is inherent in lead crystal.

It would be hugely sad and a not insignificant blow to our business if we were no longer allowed to work with lead crystal with Waterford.

I ask that you consider the value of this time honoured craft, and uphold the exemption.

Kind regards,

John Rocha.

John Rocha

CBE.

10 Ely Place. Dublin 2. Ireland

