

29 July 2016

Sir,

The UK has always been a global leader in tackling climate change, both unilaterally and within the EU. Irrespective of the outcomes of exit negotiations over the next few years, it is vital that the UK retains its leadership position in driving the low carbon agenda.

As organisations representing the construction and property sector, we believe that the incentives remain strong for business to address climate change and other urgent sustainability challenges. The Paris Agreement has created a new global imperative for action and UK businesses can help to lead the world to achieve it. We welcome the confirmation of an ambitious fifth carbon budget which sends a strong signal about the positive direction of UK climate change policy.

The initial impacts of the EU referendum result have already been felt by the construction and property sector, so now more than ever we need to minimise future risk, reduce costs, add value for clients, generate new commercial opportunities and ensure we have the best people working as productively as possible. A sustainable built environment is fundamental to these objectives, and we are committed to collaborating across the industry and with the Government to achieve this.

A low carbon built environment can be a catalyst for innovation, investment and job creation. It can drive productivity and economic growth, and provide a platform for exporting British expertise, engineering and technology to a global market.

Your sincerely

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Chief Executive, Accessible Retail



Dr Joanne Wade
CEO, Association for the Conservation of Energy



Andrew Simmonds
Chief Executive Officer, Association of Environmentally Conscious Builders



Sarah Ratcliffe
Programme Director, Better Buildings Partnership



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