



Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

cc Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP

1 March 2019

Dear Secretaries of State,

The Government has committed to an ambitious plan to build 300,000 homes a year until the mid-2020s, and there are many other commercial and public sector construction projects that are crucial to enabling communities and businesses to prosper. As leading members of Britain's property and construction sector, we stand ready to deliver this programme, but we believe that the natural environment must be put at the heart of it.

For too long nature has been struggling, which ultimately undermines our economy, and poses a serious threat to our health and wellbeing. The UK is ranked 189th out of 218 countries for nature depletion, posing a major challenge that requires a strong response.

We therefore look to the Government to establish the long-term legal framework needed to fulfil its pledge to "leave the environment in a better state than we found it" – and the proposed Environment Bill is the opportunity to do so. The Bill can provide the foundation for a shift from an economy in which business aims to limit its impact on the environment towards an economy that is restorative and regenerative by design.

We are calling on the Government to use the Bill to set legally binding targets for the achievement of environmental objectives – including tackling biodiversity loss, improving water and air quality and cutting down resource use and waste. By setting binding targets, the Government can give the construction and property sector the confidence and certainty we need to help drive nature's recovery, and set a level playing field that enables businesses who do the right thing to be rewarded.

Yours faithfully,

David Partridge	Managing Partner	Argent (Property Development) Services LLP
Patrick Bellew	Principal	Atelier Ten
James Wimpenny	CEO	BAM Construct UK
Stephen Fox	CEO	BAM Nuttall Ltd
David Thomas	Chief Executive	Barratt Developments Plc
Rab Bennetts OBE	Director	Bennetts Associates
Karl Whiteman	Main Board Director	Berkeley Group Holdings
Alan Somerville	Executive Director - Head of Building Performance Group	BRE
Cressida Curtis	Head of Corporate Affairs & Sustainability	British Land

UK Green Building Council
Together for a better built environment

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Will Ray	Head of Sustainability	Clarion Housing Group
Andres Guzman	Associate Director of Sustainability	Colliers International
Ben Spencer	Managing Director	GS8
Gary Tucker	Managing Partner	Hoare Lea
Nigel Stansfield	President (EAAA)	Interface
Andrew Renshaw	UK Board Member and Sponsor for Building a Better Tomorrow	JLL
Adrian Pargeter	Head of Technical & Marketing GB	Kingspan Insulation Ltd
Paul King	Managing Director Sustainability and Social Impact - Europe	Lendlease
Nicolas Guerin	Managing Director	Linkcity
John Tutte	Group Chief Executive	Redrow plc
John Fitzgerald	Group Managing Director	Telford Homes Plc
David Hodgkiss OBE	Chief Executive	William Hare Ltd
Rick Willmott	Group CEO	Willmott Dixon
David Symons	UK Director of Sustainability	WSP

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