

Tuesday 7th December 2021

Dear Minister,

Industry support for essential net zero procurement legislation

Time is running out on climate change. With more than 300 local authorities across the country having already declared a climate emergency, and with the focus of the world heightened through COP26, now is the moment for urgent action.

The UK's construction industry must play a critical role in helping to achieve the ambitions of our government's Net Zero strategy.

I'm writing to you as chief executive of SCAPE – a leading public sector procurement authority used by 1,200 contracting local authorities and other organisations across the UK – and on behalf of the CEOs of 16 of the country's largest contractors and consultants, to ask that you consider stronger, statutory procurement legislation.

Specifically, we believe that whole lifecycle carbon assessments should be mandatory for all new-build and refurbishment projects across the UK's public sector, with design and build decisions based on the lifecycle carbon of the building or infrastructure project, not purely on cost.

Many of our country's leading contractors and consultants have made huge leaps with their own innovations and can now deliver projects that are not only sustainable during construction but continue to be sustainable throughout the lifetime of the completed buildings.

But we can and must go further.

As your department rightfully acknowledged in the first iteration of the Construction Playbook, central government is a hugely significant client to the sector and has an influential role to play in the way it specifies and commissions new work.

Project teams basing decisions on cost alone are inhibiting low carbon construction. This approach is also short-sighted. Our own data suggests that the payback period from the operational savings created by sustainable building design is as little as six years on average, with only a marginal increase in capital cost.

Collaboration to reduce carbon across the supply chain must be accelerated to ensure the next generation of public sector buildings and infrastructure sets new standards for achieving a sustainable future.



The businesses that have co-signed this have the capacity to deliver £18bn of public sector construction projects over the next five years through SCAPE's procurement frameworks alone.

We would welcome a meeting at your convenience to discuss these proposals. A delegation of the construction industry leader signatories and I would also be delighted to offer you a viewing of one of our flagship projects along with a showcase of the innovative solutions this sector can offer to help mitigate the climate crisis, at your earliest convenience.

We look forward to hearing your response,

Mark Robinson
Chief Executive
SCAPE

Rick Willmott
Group Chief Executive
Willmott Dixon

Mark Reynolds
Group CEO
Mace

Paul Brown
COO – UK Construction & Civil
Engineering
John Sisk & Son Holdings Limited

Paul Dennett
Managing Director
Highways & Aviation
Arcadis

Ron Bryson
Senior Partner
Fairhurst

Alistair Weir
Managing Director
Jeakins Weir

Patrick Boyle
Managing Director
Morgan Sindall

Phillip Cheevers
Group Chief Executive
McLaughlin & Harvey

Paul Griffen
Managing Director
McLaughlin & Harvey

Duncan Green
Chairman
Perfect Circle

Jon Sealy
Managing Director
Faithful & Gould

John Shannon
Divisional Director
Seddon Construction Ltd

Christopher Flint
Managing Director
G F Tomlinson

Freddie Chambers
Managing Director
Lindum Group

Robin Blake
Group Chief Executive
Ashe Group

Andy King
Director – Advisory & Planning
Sweco UK