



The voice of our sustainable
built environment

Date: 16/10/23

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, Prime Minister
10 Downing Street,
London,
SW10 2AA

Re. Government roll back of green policy

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you as leading businesses and professional organisations from across the UK construction, property, and financial sectors, committed to a more sustainable built environment.

We wish to express our serious concern regarding your decision to delay and weaken key green policies. This move is a blow to green investment and sustainable businesses, cutting carbon emissions and particularly to the high proportion of renters in fuel poverty with huge energy bills in cold, damp, un-insulated homes. We urge you to reconsider and to urgently put in place the investment and policies to make upgrading Britain's homes affordable.

The Climate Change Committee says we need to quadruple the pace of climate action outside of the energy sector. Our industry has been working hard to gear up for that acceleration, but your announcement signalled less, not more, action is required. To bring forward the much-needed big financial investments, to recruit and train hundreds of thousands of people and to bring the public along with us on this journey we need confidence in long-term active policy support from government. Your announcement has set that back.

We are disappointed at your narrative that delaying climate action would reduce costs to households. The longer we delay and the more we see stop-start piecemeal policy making, the harder and more expensive the task becomes.

Rapid action can still be made affordable if you were to bring forward a comprehensive national strategy to retrofit our homes and buildings including much higher sustained government investment and market drivers to stimulate private investment as well as regulation. This would pay dividends to the Treasury in tax returns. Setting a clear high standard for new builds, that ensures we aren't retrofitting them again in the decades to come, through the Future Homes and Buildings Standard will be key to driving innovation and the skills needed for the sector. And putting climate at the heart of the planning system would set a clear direction for thousands of operational decisions.

We want to work with your government and all political parties to rebuild the trust and confidence needed to accelerate climate action. We would welcome a meeting with you to discuss this.

Yours sincerely,



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Simon McWhirter, Deputy Chief Executive, UK Green Building Council

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