

# The Construction Industry's General Election Agenda



The construction industry is at the heart of the UK economy, providing the fabric of our homes, schools, hospitals, factories, offices, roads and railways. As such, it plays a key role in increasing the quality of life for the UK's citizens and improving the infrastructure necessary to maintain the UK's global competitiveness. It is the UK's largest industry employing over 3 million people on-site, in material supply and professional services.

## What does the industry want from the newly elected Government?

- *An effective voice within government*

The construction industry needs a strong voice in government to champion its business needs. The full range of construction-related sponsorship issues need to be brought together within a more effective and supportive industry department, facilitated by a dedicated construction minister. Close inter-departmental coordination on a range of cross-cutting issues such as planning, transport, housing, skills and sustainable development is essential.

- *Invest in our country's future*

UK plc needs sustained investment and planned delivery of new and improved public services and infrastructure with a public procurement strategy that focuses on delivering long term value and supports best procurement practice.

To improve business competitiveness and the quality of people's lives, significant improvements to the transport infrastructure are needed, based on integrated land-use and transport facilities. Incentives such as a reduced rate of VAT on domestic repair maintenance and improvement need to be introduced to stimulate investment in the existing housing stock.

- *Reduce red tape*

Independent regulatory impact assessments must be undertaken on all new domestic and EU legislation and regulation with demonstrable enforcement of the findings. Existing regulations must be reviewed and simplified and there must be consistency of implementation, interpretation and enforcement across the UK and the EU.

- *Encourage sustainable development*

Environmental policies need to be developed which allow industry to use resources more efficiently. Incentives such as a reduction in stamp duty for domestic householders and businesses should be provided to encourage them to improve the energy efficiency of their properties.

**The organisations which have signed up to this manifesto are:**

***The Construction Industry Council*** representing over 500,000 professionals working for, and in association with, the construction industry and more than 25,000 construction firms.

***The Construction Products Association*** representing the manufacturers and suppliers of construction products, employing over 650,000 people in almost 30,000 companies.

***The Federation of Master Builders*** representing 13,000 small and medium sized building firms throughout the UK

***The Specialist Engineering Contractors Group*** representing a sector comprising over 60,000 companies, and a workforce of more than 300,000.

***The National Home Improvement Council*** with 80 members, including major trade bodies in the home improvement industry, the major representative bodies involved, and many of the manufacturers and local government organisations.

***The National Specialist Contractors Council***, the umbrella body for specialist contractors bringing together 29 specialist trade associations and federations, representing some 7,000 businesses.

***The Plumbing and Heating Industry Alliance*** bringing together manufacturers, wholesalers, professionals, research organisations and installers.