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All Party Parliamentary Group for Excellence in the Built Environment
Construction Industry Council (CIC)
The Building Centre
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Sent by email to APPGInquiry@cic.org.uk

Dear Mr Watts,

Written evidence submitted by the British Standards Institution to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Excellence in the Built Environment Inquiry into the Quality of New Build Housing in England

The following comments are submitted to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Excellence in the Built Environment Inquiry into the Quality of New Build Housing in England by Richard Collin, National and European Policy Manager, BSI (British Standards Institution). This submission is made for BSI, the UK's National Standards Body (NSB).

We are submitting this response because BSI, as the UK's NSB, has a public function in support of the UK economy and society. BSI is appointed as NSB under its Royal Charter and its Memorandum of Understanding with the UK government.

Through the formal standards-making process managed by BSI, standards are subject to open public consultation and regular review. The process of standards development through this level of stakeholder involvement and governance by the European Standardization Organizations under the European regulatory framework (Regulation EU No. 1025/2012) gives voluntary business standards the legitimacy and degree of market acceptance to be used for public policy purposes across the Single Market and internationally. Standards can and do play a significant role in enabling government at national and European level to meet its policy challenges; they provide an alternative approach to policy delivery, through self- and co-regulatory means.

Standards are also key tools for the promotion of international trade. The reduction of technical barriers to trade by the use of standards enables cross-border trade and opens new markets.

Considering the value of standards to the UK economy, a study delivered for BSI in 2015 by independent econometric consultants CEBR showed that 37.4% of annual labour productivity growth and 28.4% of annual UK GDP growth can be attributed to standards and that the combined annual impact of standards on exports in the seven sectors surveyed totalled £6.1 billion (2014 prices).

British Standards and Publicly Available Specifications (PASs) are frequently used throughout the housing market supply chain, covering procurement, design, material efficiency, quality, environmental impact, fire safety, flood resilience, security and accessibility. **Annex A** provides some examples of ongoing standardization work relevant to the housing sector.

As a method of demonstrating compliance with UK legislation, British Standards and PASs are cited in some of the Approved Documents that support the fourteen technical Parts of the Building Regulations. British Standards that implement harmonized European standards can also be used to demonstrate that products, services or processes comply with relevant EU legislation.

BSI's Construction and Built Environment Sector Policy and Strategy Committee (CB/-), oversees standards development activities that are relevant to the construction and built environment sector. This committee comprises experts and thought leaders from industry and government, and enables BSI to meet current and future standardization needs.

BSI has a wider portfolio of 34,000 standards developed in 1,200 technical committees/sub committees, covering topics such as manufacturing, financial services and ICT. These committees gather stakeholder groups together to address the best practice challenges that different industries face. The breadth of topics covered has enabled BSI to bring together stakeholders to deliver innovative standardization programmes such as BIM, smart cities, offsite manufacturing, 3D printing, M2M, Smart Cities and IoT.

In conclusion, standards enable industry to deliver products and services consistently, as well as providing a platform to encourage innovation. BSI is actively engaged in bringing together stakeholders across the housing supply chain through our extensive network of committees and our partnership with European and international standards bodies such as CEN and ISO. This standardization infrastructure provides the perfect platform to deliver standards that support both industry and government policy objectives.

BSI recommends that the APPG considers the use of voluntary business standards as a means to support the delivery of government policy with regard to the quality of new build housing.

Background on BSI

BSI is the UK's National Standards Body (NSB), incorporated by Royal Charter and responsible independently for preparing British Standards and related publications and for coordinating the input of UK experts to European and international standards committees. BSI has 114 years of experience in serving the interest of a wide range of stakeholders including government, business and society.

BSI presents the UK view on standards in Europe (via the European Standards Organizations CEN and CENELEC) and internationally (via ISO and IEC). BSI has a globally recognized reputation for independence, integrity and innovation ensuring standards are useful, relevant and authoritative.

BSI, as the UK's NSB, is responsible for maintaining the integrity of the national standards-making system not only for the benefit of UK industry and society but also to ensure that standards developed by UK experts meet international expectations under the WTO principles of open consultation, stakeholder involvement and market relevance.

British Standards and UK implementations of CEN/CENELEC or ISO/IEC standards are documents defining best practice, established by consensus. Each standard is kept current through a process of maintenance and review whereby it is updated, revised or withdrawn as necessary.

Standards are designed to set out clear and unambiguous provisions and objectives. Although standards are voluntary and separate from legal and regulatory systems, they can be used to support or

complement legislation. Voluntary standards are used by HMG and at European level in this way to positive effect, becoming a cornerstone of the European Single Market.

Standards are developed when there is a defined market need through consultation with stakeholders and a rigorous development process. National committee members represent their communities in order to develop standards and related documents. They include representatives from a range of bodies, including government, business, consumers, academic institutions, social interests, regulators and trade unions.

I trust that the above information will be of value to the Group and encourage you to contact me if the Committee requires any further information or detail on any of the above points.

BSI would be happy to be attend the roundtable formal sessions, if invited.

Yours sincerely,



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Annex A – BSI standards development work programmes for housing in the UK

Below are examples of programmes of work that BSI is currently engaged in with representatives from industry, government, consumers and other stakeholders to develop and maintain standards for the housing sector.

Commission focus area	UK Committees	Examples of Standards
Design quality and spatial standards, both at the level of individual new homes and estates of new housing	CB/10, Design B/542, Roofing CB/501, Flood risk FSH/0, Fire safety strategy B/209, Building codes B/538, Windows and doors	Quality - ISO 9001 Environment – ISO 14001 Accessibility – BS 8300 Flood resilience – BS 85500 Fire safety – BS 9999 Material efficiency – BS 8895 Performance of doors/windows – BS 6375
Ensure better quality workmanship	B/209, Building codes	Workmanship - BS 8000 series
Ensure the effective control and implementation of regulations impacting on the construction of new homes	All committees, particularly: CB/-, Built environment strategy FSH/0, Fire safety strategy CB/30, Construction products	PAS 24 is cited in Approved Document Q around security of buildings, and the Eurocodes (BS EN 1990 series) are cited in various Approved Documents around design.
Have the potential for implementing smart housing with interoperable services and the provision of better and smarter information to new homeowners	B/555 Building Information Modelling (BIM) City Standards Institute (CSI)	BIM for capital/delivery phase – PAS 1192-2 Smart City framework – PAS 181
Bring forward the opportunities afforded by offsite manufacturing, 3D printing, BIM and other new technologies	B/555 Building Information Modelling (BIM) CB/10 Design CB/30 Construction products CB/60 Site operations	BIM principles – BS 1192 Segmental tunnel linings – PAS 8810 Modular co-ordination – ISO 2848
Provide new innovative ideas for design quality improvement	CB/10 Design	Design management systems – BS 7000 series
Cut operational and maintenance costs for the homeowner	B/540, Building performance CB/506, Water reuse B/538, Windows and doors	Energy use and ratings – BS EN 15603 Rainwater harvesting – BS 8515 Performance of doors/windows – BS 6375