Dear Candidate,

As your constituent, I am writing to you to highlight a number of issues which I believe should be considered by the next Government in the UK. I hope that you will raise awareness of these issues during your election campaign.

The construction industry and wider built environment is facing unprecedented challenges. The construction sector is often seen as a reliable indicator of economic health, yet growth in the sector has been stagnant in recent years as struggled with several key challenges. Some of these include attracting new skilled and competent workers, dealing with the rising costs of materials, labour and land, and the recent uncertainty in policy making and revolving door of industry related ministers.

As a member of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) I am keen to see policies to improve the built environment given primacy by any future government.

By way of background, the CIOB is the world’s largest professional body for construction management and leadership. They have a Royal Charter to promote the science and practice of building and construction for the benefit of society and have been doing so since 1834. At present, the CIOB has around 50,000 members worldwide, with the majority (80%) of those based in the UK.

Ahead of the general election on 4 July 2024, I thought it would be beneficial in your campaigning efforts to provide you with a copy of [CIOB’s manifesto for the built environment](https://www.ciob.org/media/2596/download). The manifesto covers some of CIOB’s key asks for the next government, broken down into their main policy areas – Sustainability, Quality & Safety, Future of Construction and Skills & People. Within each area, policy asks are broken down into the short term asks that could be achieved within the first 100 days of a new government as well as longer-terms asks that will need coordinated action across departments and in collaboration with industry. All these asks are designed with the public interest in mind.

**Sustainability** - With 19% of UK operational carbon emissions attributable to heating and powering buildings, the energy performance and water efficiency of the UK’s existing housing stock must be improved if we are to achieve our long-term emissions reductions target and protect natural resources. While progress has been made in understanding the true carbon output of construction there are still gaps in managing and therefore reducing the impact of new and existing buildings on the environment.

**Quality & Safety** - Quality, or rather the failure of quality, is arguably one of the most important issues facing the construction industry today. Whilst great strides have been made on improving building safety, more can be done to enhance quality and protect consumers. Simultaneously, while we understand the focus on providing more homes across the UK, the next government must ensure that this does not come at the expense of quality.

**Future of Construction** - There is a need to focus on developing and supporting new technologies to improve construction and review outdated, unsustainable functions of the sector. Furthermore, 'levelling up' presents a significant opportunity for the construction industry which cannot be overstated. It is not just a time for construction to play a crucial role in reducing the economic and social disparities between London and the rest of the UK, but also a time to reflect on current working practices within the industry.

**People & Skills** - The construction sector is facing a persistent struggle to recruit and retain a sufficient number of skilled workers. This skills gap creates significant challenge in meeting demand for construction work and delivering projects to a decent standard. With the current apprenticeship system proving ineffective in increasing the number of new construction entrants, and an ongoing lack of diversity in the construction workforce, a refreshed approach to bringing a wider range of workers into the construction sector is needed.

As a construction professional in the UK, I believe that the industry has the attitude and commitment needed to address these issues both now, and in the future. However, the nature and scale of these challenges means they can only be tackled with strong political will and collaboration with industry. If you could raise these points throughout the campaign and within your party, it would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Name

Address 1

Address 2

City

Postcode