

Rt. Hon. George Hollingbery MP
Minister of State for Trade
Department for International Trade
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Sent via email: george.hollingbery.mp@parliament.uk and hollingbery@trade.gov.uk

2 July 2018

Dear Minister

We are writing on behalf of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of State for Trade.

Our organisations help advance the thoughts of over 175,000 architects, planners, construction managers and chartered surveyors in the UK and across the world. Trade is of vital importance to the continued growth and success of the UK's built environment and as a sector. Our professions have been clear that they stand ready to further boost their export potential, and as a sector we have been encouraged by the focus on international trade in the Government's Industrial Strategy and the Brexit negotiations.

We have enclosed a copy of our published joint priorities on Brexit, which outlines primary areas the UK Government can act on to support our sector in growing international trade. This includes prioritising trade in service agreements, and continued membership to bodies such as CEN (European Committee for Standardisation) and CENELEC (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation), which has recently been highlighted as a priority of your colleague, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

We enjoyed working closely with your predecessor – Greg Hands MP – on a number of issues and engagement; most notably a breakfast roundtable with our respective Presidents. The discussions topics centred on trade post-Brexit and the challenges to global trade and how they can be addressed. We were able to share valuable insights with Mr Hands to inform his approach to the UK's current and future trade policies; and he also took great interest in the RICS School of Built Environment in India.

We would be delighted to host a similar roundtable with you to discuss how we can continue to ensure that the UK's built environment sector can not only continue to be successful across the world, but can thrive as one of the UK's greatest professional services exports.

We will follow up with your office to arrange a suitable time.

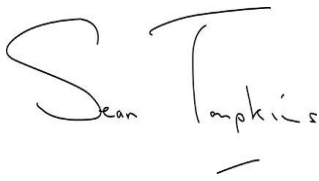
Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Chris Blythe in black ink.

Chris Blythe
CIOB Chief Executive

Handwritten signature of Alan Vallance in blue ink.

Alan Vallance
RIBA Chief Executive

Handwritten signature of Sean Tompkins in black ink.

Sean Tompkins
RICS Chief Executive

Handwritten signature of Victoria Hills in blue ink.

Victoria Hills
RTPI Chief Executive