

RIBA

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RIBA response to Queen's Speech

The Royal Institute of British Architects President, Sunand Prasad, welcomed today's Queen's Speech setting out the Government's legislative programme for the coming year. The Speech contained references to a number of Bills which the RIBA will be following closely over the coming Parliamentary Session.

Of particular interest to the RIBA were:

- Climate Change Bill: introducing a statutory framework for a 60% reduction in UK carbon emissions by 2050 and five-year emission reduction targets, and establishing a new independent Climate Change Committee to advise and report on Government progress towards those targets;
- Planning Reform Bill: to implement the Planning White Paper: in particular to speed up the approval of major infrastructure projects and extend permitted development;
- Housing and Regeneration Bill: to set out the Government's plans to build 3 million new homes through regional housing targets, and completing the merger of English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation into a new Homes and Communities Agency;
- Draft Heritage Protection Bill: to unify the heritage protection consent regimes and to transfer listing and scheduling powers to English Heritage.

Commenting on the Queen's Speech, Sunand Prasad said:

“This Queen's Speech shows – through the inclusion of three major Bills – that the built environment is a crucial part of the Government's current agenda. Naturally we welcome that, but will be monitoring the progress of these Bills closely. The Government needs to show that they really can make a difference to society by creating the right conditions for a high-quality built environment and maximising its efforts to tackle the challenges of climate change.

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On housing, we want to see measures that will ensure that design is a key consideration when creating new homes. For planning, we would like to see a planning system adequately required and resourced to entrench design quality at every stage. And as the built environment is one of the main contributors to climate change, we want to see as ambitious a carbon reduction target as possible. We need to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050 make sure that the built environment is properly represented on the Climate Change Committee. As a profession, we're ready to rise to this challenge."

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Notes to editors:

1. For further information, please contact RIBA Head of Public Affairs Steven Harding on 020 7307 3728 or steven.harding@inst.riba.org