



11 January 2021

Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan
Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

APPOINTMENT AS CONSTRUCTION MINISTER – ECA AND ENGINEERING SERVICES

On behalf of the ECA, I am writing to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister with responsibility for Construction at this pivotal moment for the UK.

ECA is the leading trade body that represents and supports engineering services businesses. Our Members cover a broad range of engineering, design, installation and facilities management activity. This includes electrical, heating, energy management, micro-generation, fire and security and data communications.

Working in partnership

We are keen supporters of Government's policy development, including being members of the Construction Leadership Council Task Force, which is pursuing the new Industry Recovery Plan. We currently lead the CLC Business Models Group. In addition, we contribute on a range of other central issues, including safety, competence, skills and employment, and, 'low to no carbon'. One of my team also chairs the Cabinet Office SME Business Advisory Panel Payment Group.

The Engineering Services sector

Engineering services is a major part of the UK construction industry, comprising on average around 40% of the cost of construction. Even so, construction itself represents only around 10% of the whole-life cost of UK built assets (Capex). Engineering services firms are central to ongoing facilities management which accounts for 80% of the operational cost of the UK's built assets (Opex).

In all, construction and facilities management combined account for some £220bn of UK GDP and support and enable a further £540bn of GDP within the wider economy. ¹

Engineering services are therefore vitally important to achieve the ambitions of Government policy and industrial plans.

ECA priorities

As we head into the next phase of the Winter Economy Plan, our six priorities for the engineering services sector are:

- Ensuring a healthy and viable supply chain
- Implementing the (post-Hackitt review) recommendations in the *Setting the Bar* report²
- Ensuring safety during construction and maintenance, and throughout the lifetime of built assets.

¹ BEIS statistics

² Final report of the Competence Steering Group for Building a Safer Future

- Delivering engineering technology solutions for the green economy, including the further decarbonisations of the grid (in support of the Energy White Paper)
- Rebuilding the industry's diminished capacity for engineering training
- Increasing direct employment in the industry, as an essential enabler of apprenticeships, competence and upskilling.

I would keenly welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with you, and how our sector can help to achieve the economic, social and environmental objectives currently set out by Government and in the Industry Recovery Plan.

I wish you well in your new role and look forward to working with you, Government departments, including BEIS and MHCLG, and industry partners in 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bratt', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Steve Bratt

Chief Executive Officer

ECA