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# RIBA ETHICS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION: KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



28 November 2018

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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This paper comprises the key findings and recommendations of the RIBA Ethics and Sustainable Development Commission that was established by RIBA Council in July 2017 following a debate at which it resolved: *'To assert the fundamental importance of public interest, social purpose and sustainability as core values within the Profession'* and: *'To create a sustainable development and ethics commission to consider how the profession can best reflect its core values and engage with the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals'*<sup>1</sup>.

At its meeting on 28 September 2017, RIBA Council subsequently delegated responsibility for management of the Commission to the RIBA Practice and Profession Committee. Applications for membership were invited and the Commission<sup>2</sup> began its work on 12 March 2018.

This paper contains a summary of the Commission's findings together with recommendations for action that were unanimously approved at the final meetings of the Commission and the Consultative Group, which took place on 19 November 2018.

The recommendations are consistent with the 'Five Principles for the Future of the Profession'<sup>3</sup> agreed and endorsed by the five presidents of the architecture institutes of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, announced by RIBA President Ben Derbyshire in September 2018.

The report is being presented to RIBA Council at its meeting on 11 December 2018, in the same week that the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will be holding their 24<sup>th</sup> meeting (COP24<sup>4</sup>), in Katowice, Poland.

## **RIBA Ethics and Sustainable Development Commission**

28 November 2018

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1 <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

2 See Appendix 1 for membership of the Commission, the Consultative Group and the Youth Group

3 <https://www.architecture.com/knowledge-and-resources/knowledge-landing-page/uk-and-ireland-architecture-presidents-commit-to-five-principles>

4 <http://cop24.gov.pl/presidency/what-is-cop24/>

## 2 EXTERNAL CONTEXT

While it is not necessary for the Commission to make the case for engagement with the issues of sustainable development and professional ethics, it is important to consider the external context in which the Commission is working and to reflect on the rising expectations of members and others.

### A CHANGING WORLD

Humanity faces a range of unprecedented existential challenges, from the clear impacts of climate change to migration and displacement, the rapid rate of global urbanisation and natural resource depletion etc. In the UK, we continue to grapple with the lessons to be learnt from the Grenfell Tower tragedy, regional inequality, poor energy performance and still struggle to provide safe and affordable housing for all.

Faced with the scale and nature of these challenges, the international community has responded with a range of agreements aimed at tackling these issues, notably the Paris Climate Change Agreement<sup>5</sup> (which aims to keep global temperatures well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction<sup>6</sup> (recognising the state's role in reducing disaster risk), the Agenda for Humanity<sup>7</sup> (safeguarding people's safety, dignity and right to thrive) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>8</sup>.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It is an Agenda of unprecedented scope and significance. It is accepted by all countries and is applicable to all, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are universal and involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development.

In particular, Goal 11<sup>9</sup>, 'to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable', creates both an opportunity and a responsibility for built environment professionals to engage with these issues. The 'New Urban Agenda'<sup>10</sup>, adopted at Habitat III<sup>11</sup> in 2016, provides a framework for sustainable urban development and an opportunity for the Institute and its members to engage with policy makers, city leaders and local communities around a shared agenda. Goals 12 ('Responsible production and consumption'), 13 ('Climate Action') and 17 ('Partnerships for Goals') also provide obvious entry points for built environment professionals.

More recently, the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC<sup>12</sup>, has reinforced the urgent need for climate action if we are to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees centigrade, noting the need for buildings to be near-zero energy by 2020 together with ambitious mitigation and adaptation measures.

### WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING

Throughout the world, national governments, local authorities, corporations, professional bodies and civil society groups are aligning themselves with the principles of sustainable development<sup>13</sup> and adopting this as a framework for action. Examples include:

- **Government:** HM Governments commitment to implementation of the Goals<sup>14</sup> together with related legislation such as The Public Services (Social Value) Act<sup>15</sup>, Social Impact Bonds<sup>16</sup>, The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act<sup>17</sup>, the Industrial Strategy<sup>18</sup>, the Clean Growth Strategy<sup>19</sup> etc.
- **Business:** Grosvenor Group's approach to 'Living Cities'<sup>20</sup>, Legal & General Investment Managements 'Climate Impact Pledge'<sup>21</sup>, the Aldersgate Group<sup>22</sup> and Blackrock's Mission Statement on Sustainability<sup>23</sup> etc.

5 <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

6 <https://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework>

7 <https://www.agendaforhumanity.org/agendaforhumanity?referer=home>

8 [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)

9 <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cities/>

10 <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/10/newurbanagenda/>

11 <http://habitat3.org/>

12 <http://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>

13 For the purposes of this paper, 'Sustainable Development' is defined as: 'Meeting the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

14 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/implementing-the-sustainable-development-goals/implementing-the-sustainable-development-goals>

15 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/social-value-act-information-and-resources/social-value-act-information-and-resources>

16 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/social-impact-bonds>

17 <https://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/?lang=en>

18 [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/664563/industrial-strategy-white-paper-web-ready-version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/664563/industrial-strategy-white-paper-web-ready-version.pdf)

19 [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/700496/clean-growth-strategy-correction-april-2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/700496/clean-growth-strategy-correction-april-2018.pdf)

20 <http://www.grosvenor.com/about-grosvenor/our-purpose-and-living-cities/sustainability/>

21 <https://www.lgim.com/uk/ad/press/2018/legal---general-investment-management-takes-action-on-climate-change-risks.html>

22 <http://www.aldersgategroup.org.uk/>

23 <https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/responsibility>

## 2 EXTERNAL CONTEXT

- **Cities:** C40<sup>24</sup>, Rockefeller ‘100 Resilient Cities’<sup>25</sup> and the Global Covenant of Mayors<sup>26</sup> etc.

While many of the changes required to achieve the targets contained in the Sustainable Development Goals will be public sector and policy led, it is recognised that this is not a job for Government alone and that the built environment professions, led by their institutes, have a key role to play in helping to shape the policy agenda, working with industry, helping to build capacity while empowering their members and making sure they have the necessary skills to make an effective contribution and seize the opportunities presented in a rapidly changing world. Examples of the commitments of other professional institutes include:

- **Other professional institutes:** World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) MOU with UNESCO ‘Advancing the SDGs through Engineering’<sup>27</sup>, the ICE ‘Global Engineering Congress’<sup>28</sup>, RICS consultation on The Future of the Profession<sup>29</sup>, the AIA 2030 Commitment<sup>30</sup> and the AIA Committee on the Environment (COTE)<sup>31</sup> etc.

The Commission believes that the RIBA and its members should be in the vanguard on these issues.

### RISING EXPECTATIONS

In order to help inform its work, the Commission has undertaken a range of consultations. These include consultations with a larger Consultative Group, a Youth Group, an on-line consultation amongst members and non-members together with approaches to a range of leading industry figures. To date, the online consultation has received a total of 335 responses<sup>32</sup>, 33% of whom are female, 59% of whom are architects, 40% are non-members and 35% are from overseas (from 42 countries).

An overwhelming number of respondents consider that the RIBA should:

- Prioritise engagement with the issues of professional ethics and sustainable development (>80%)

- Help its members understand the relevance of the SDGs (81%)
- Create a roadmap to support delivery of the Goals in practice (76%)
- Promote building performance as a major policy area (83%)
- Demonstrate the profession’s engagement with the Goals (78%)
- Advance the profession in terms of sustainable development and ethical practice, particularly in the areas of policy development, public awareness and providing more effective guidance for members.

As a global professional membership body, respondents felt that the RIBA should:

- Help strengthen built environment policy overseas by working in collaboration with agencies such as the FCO, DfID, UN Habitat, the World Bank etc (81%)
- Help build institutional capacity (81%)
- Help build capacity in schools of architecture (85%) and provide internationally accessible CPD (81%)
- Lobby for international mobility of the profession (69%)

In addition to the above, the Youth Consultative Group has expressed its concern that architectural education is failing to keep pace with a changing world and that both sustainability and professional ethics are not sufficiently prominent in the curriculum of many schools. The Group considers that the RIBA should be doing more to promote ethics within the profession, that it should lead by promoting sustainable design and start by ensuring this is adequately covered by Schools of Architecture. The construction industry, and the architectural profession in particular, also face more localised and specific existential challenges including: issues of equality, diversity and inclusion; low fees and poor salaries; the rising cost of education and access to the profession; unpaid work and unethical employment practices.

24 <https://www.c40.org/>

25 <https://www.100resilientcities.org/>

26 <https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/>

27 [http://www.wfeo.org/wp-content/uploads/stc-education/WFEO-IEA\\_signed\\_Agmt\\_121215.pdf](http://www.wfeo.org/wp-content/uploads/stc-education/WFEO-IEA_signed_Agmt_121215.pdf)

28 <https://www.ice.org.uk/events/global-engineering-congress>

29 <https://www.rics.org/en-hk/news-insight/latest-news/news-opinion/the-future-of-the-profession/>

30 <https://www.aiaa.org/resources/202041-the-2030-commitment>

31 <https://network.aiaa.org/committeetheenvironment/home>

32 See summary of responses received contained in Appendix III

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## 2 EXTERNAL CONTEXT

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In addition to its online consultation, the Commission has also received letters of support from the following:

- Rt Hon Lord McConnell, Co-Chair of the **All-Party parliamentary Group on the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development**, House of Lords
- Raf Tuts, Director, Programme Division, **UN Habitat**
- Dr Elizabeth Milsom, Future Cities Prosperity Fund Programme Lead, Prosperity Fund Department, **Foreign & Commonwealth Office**
- Peter Vernon, Group Director, **Grosvenor**
- Joan Walley, Chair, **the Aldersgate Group**
- Filiep Decorte, Steering group Chair, **Global Alliance for Urban Crises**
- Thomas Vonier, President, **International Union of Architects**
- Sir Stuart Lipton, **Lipton Rogers LLP**
- Edmund Nickless, Chair of the New Activities Strategic Implementation Committee, **International Union of Geological Sciences**
- John Alker, Director of Policy and Places and Anna Woodeson, Members Advisory Group, **UK Green Building Council**
- Lucy Bruzzone, Programme Director, Executive Programmes, **University of Cambridge, Institute for Sustainability leadership**
- Rumana Kabir, Principle Consultant, Urban Development and Disaster Risk Management, **IMC Worldwide Ltd**
- Robin Nicholson, Convenor, **The Edge**
- Sunand Prasad PPRIBA, Chair, **Article 25**
- Jeremy Cross, International Network Manager and Ben Bolgar, Executive Director, **The Prince's Foundation**
- Michael Pawlyn, Founder, **Exploration Architecture**
- Arome Agamah, Elisa Engel, Ralph Buschow, Kimmerly Lau, Cameo Musgrave and Alasdair Dixon, Trustees, **Architecture for Humanity UK**
- Dr Shaun Fitzgerald Director, and Professor Al Richardson, Chair of Science in Enterprise, **The Royal Institution of Great Britain**

A summary of the letters that have been received can be found in Appendix II.

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## 3 INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

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Bearing in mind the nature, extent and rate of change that is necessary to achieve the targets contained in the Sustainable Development Goals, the Commission has considered the Institute's ability to respond in the context of previous commitments and its current strategy.

### DELIVERING EXISTING COMMITMENTS

It is recognised that the RIBA is already engaged in a number of relevant initiatives such as the UN Global Compact (UNGC), the Global Alliance for Urban Crises and the Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority etc. The work being undertaken by the Sustainable Futures Group to encourage better building performance and the review of the Codes currently being undertaken by the Professional Standards group are also broadly consistent with the direction of travel that will be necessary if we are to deliver the SDGs.

Furthermore, in recent years the RIBA has made a number of explicit commitments, including pledges to:

- *"Assert the fundamental importance of public interest, social purpose and sustainability as core values within the Profession."* RIBA Council 2017
- *"Place social purpose, professional standards and ethics at the heart of action and debate about architecture and the profession."* RIBA 2016-20 Strategy
- *"Set and maintain the highest professional standards in collaboration with other national and international professional bodies."* RIBA 2016-20 Strategy.
- *"By 2020 ... [have] re-established itself as a leader in the design professions championing a sustainable, responsible,*

*resilient approach for the built environment, through: thought leadership and related research; leading edge skills and cross-disciplinary understanding; gaining insights through occupant and building performance feedback; a collaborative approach to performance-based procurement; and celebrating and promoting buildings and projects which are resource-efficient as well as uplifting and can demonstrate net positive benefits."* RIBA Council 2016

- *"make the UN Global Compact and its principles part of the strategy, culture and day-to-day operations of the institute, and to engage in collaborative projects which advance the broader development goals of the United Nations, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals".* UN Global Compact as signed by the RIBA 2015/6
- *"work in partnership with our Chartered Practices to contribute to the creation of a sustainable and inclusive global economy that delivers lasting benefits to all people, communities and markets".* RIBA 2015/6

The Commission believes that such commitments need to be addressed in a more systematic, coordinated and effective manner and that they should become central to the work of the Institute.

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## 4 ACHIEVING CLARITY OF PURPOSE

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During the course of its work, the Commission has considered the context created by the Institute's Charter, its Charitable Objectives and its current Strategic Plan, which state the following:

- The **RIBA Charter** of 1837 defines the Institute's purpose as being: *"for the general advancement of Civil Architecture and for promoting and facilitating the acquirement of the knowledge of the various Arts and Sciences connected therewith... to promote the domestic convenience of citizens, and the public improvement and embellishment of towns and cities."*
- The **Charitable Objectives** define the Institute's purpose as being for: *"...the Advancement of Architecture and the promotion of the acquiring of knowledge of the Arts and Sciences connected therewith. Its mission is to advance architecture by demonstrating public benefit and promoting excellence in the profession"*.
- The **RIBA Strategic Plan**, 2016-2020 defines the Institute's Vision as: *"a global professional membership body driving excellence in architecture, serving members and society in order to deliver better buildings and places, stronger communities and a sustainable environment, being inclusive, ethical, environmentally aware and collaborative."*

It will be seen from these three important documents that the Institute's purpose has progressively been reinterpreted in a subtle but significant manner from '*demonstrating public benefit*' to '*serving members and society*' and from '*promoting excellence in the profession*' to '*driving excellence in architecture*'. The Commission believes that this has unwittingly led to a progressive loss of focus and that by making an unequivocal commitment to work for public benefit and place the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals at the heart of its activities this will help to ensure relevance, achieve greater impact and restore clarity of purpose.

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## 5 OVERARCHING AIM AND KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

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### 1.0 OVERARCHING AIM

On the basis of its work, the Commission invites RIBA Council to formally reassert the Institute's unequivocal commitment to placing public interest, social purpose, ethical behaviour and sustainable development at the heart of the Institute's activities and to develop a plan of action based on the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

In order to deliver this objective, the Institute needs to:

- alongside other professional bodies, provide determined leadership on ethics and sustainable development,
- develop a strategy for driving standards and creating the demand for ethical and sustainable architectural practice both in the UK and internationally, and
- demonstrate publicly its own and its members' commitment to the public interest, social purpose and sustainable development in architecture.

The Commission has developed a series of key recommendations which are summarised below:

### 2.0 LEADERSHIP ON ETHICS, VALUES AND STANDARDS

- 2.1 Ensure that a commitment to the public interest, social purpose and sustainable development is a core requirement of Chartered and Chartered Practice membership
- 2.2 Establish the Institute, alongside other professional and industry bodies, as a thought leader in ethics and sustainable development
- 2.3 Create a new form of institutional accountability to the public for its public interest, social purpose and sustainable development objectives

### 3.0 COLLABORATION AND INFLUENCE

- 3.1 Work to increase demand for demonstrably sustainable architecture through engagement with outside bodies, including: co-professional, commissioning, funding, insurance and legislative organisations
- 3.2 Work to influence and strengthen the policy and regulatory environment, particularly through lobbying, to help deliver ethical and sustainable outcomes
- 3.3 Collaborate with key industry bodies to align the wider construction and property industries with jointly agreed standards for ethical and sustainable practice
- 3.4 Actively engage in knowledge exchange with those working beyond the boundaries of standard architectural practice

### 4.0 ETHICS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN PRACTICE

- 4.1 Establish a comprehensive plan to drive the advancement of professional ethics and sustainable architecture across the profession
- 4.2 Promote evidence-informed design to drive and enable continuous improvement in the standard and performance of the built environment
- 4.3 Facilitate and actively promote the routine use of Post Occupancy Evaluation with open reporting of outcomes and sharing of standardised data
- 4.4 Provide tools and guidance to make ethical practice (including employment standards, equality and diversity), and sustainable design central to the architecture profession

### 5.0 KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCE

- 5.1 Address the knowledge and engagement gap in respect of ethics and sustainable development and ensure that everyone entering the profession has adequate knowledge and understanding of ethics and sustainable development
- 5.2 Ensure that all teaching staff in validated schools of architecture have appropriate knowledge of ethics and sustainable development
- 5.3 Ensure that the Institute has appropriate systems in place, through validation and CPD, to confirm that new entrants to and existing members of the profession have appropriate up-to-date knowledge of ethics and sustainable development
- 5.4 Develop and promote tools and guidance that can assist architects and practices to respond effectively and robustly to ethical issues that are beyond the scope of legal and/or code of conduct definitions
- 5.5 Encourage and enable professional involvement with research methods and outcomes, and establish a programme to develop research literacy across the profession

### 6.0 INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

- 6.1 Develop programmes to build international capacity in the built environment sector, to help drive sustainable development and ethics in practice, ensuring that these are both culturally and environmentally appropriate, and socially responsible

## 5 OVERARCHING AIM AND KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.0 RIBA GOVERNANCE

- 7.1 Establish mechanisms to improve institutional transparency and accountability, including through alignment with the principles of the UN Global Compact and social responsibility, as per ISO26000<sup>33</sup>
- 7.2 Establish mechanisms to ensure more effective delivery of the Institute's commitments

The Commission also believes any meaningful transition towards more ethical practice and sustainable development needs to be grounded in greater public accountability and building recognition from both members and society that the Institute's and the profession's primary responsibility is the advancement of the public good.

The Commission recognises that driving demand for (as much as supply of) ethical practice and sustainable development is fundamental to achieving the transition proposed by this report. This will require collaborative leadership with fellow built environment institutions, investors, financiers, legislators and commissioners while simultaneously building and agreeing a viable policy framework.

Given the nature and scale of current challenges facing society and the planet, and the urgency with which they need to be addressed, this Commission believes that a determined transformation of the Institute and the profession as outlined in its findings is no longer simply desirable but is a necessity.



33 <https://www.iso.org/iso-26000-social-responsibility.html>

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# APPENDIX I

## MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AND CONSULTATIVE GROUPS

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The following individuals were appointed as members of the Commission in response to an open invitation that was published by RIBA:

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### MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION (15)

1. Peter Oborn  
Chair of Commission and Sustainable Development Group
2. Chris McCann  
Commissioner for Sustainable Development, External Expert
3. Roger Burton  
Commissioner for Sustainable Development
4. Julie Gwilliam  
Commissioner for Sustainable Development
5. Mina Hasman  
Commissioner for Sustainable Development
6. Richard Parnaby  
Commissioner for Sustainable Development (ex RIBA Council)
7. Henry Pelly  
Youth Commissioner, Sustainable Development
8. Indy Johar  
Chair of Ethics Group (RIBA Council)
9. Stephen Hill  
Commissioner for Ethics, External Expert
10. Alasdair Ben Dixon  
Commissioner for Ethics
11. Cristina Cerulli  
Commissioner for Ethics
12. Simon Foxell  
Commissioner for Ethics
13. Sumita Singha  
Commissioner for Ethics
14. Alexandra Carausu  
Youth Commissioner, Ethics
15. Carys Rowlands  
RIBA Head of Professional Standards

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### MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP (16)

1. Richard Atkins  
Atkins Architecture
2. Paul Crosby  
Architectural Association
3. Philippa Foster-Back CBE  
The Institute of Business Ethics
4. Adrian Friend  
University of Central Lancashire
5. Chris Heuvel  
Nottingham Trent University
6. John Hickey  
DV Architecture/  
Manchester School of Architecture
7. Steve Kenzie  
UN Global Compact
8. Robin Nicholson CBE  
Cullinan Studio/The Edge
9. Lionel Real De Azúa  
Red Deer
10. Jane Rendell  
The Bartlett School of Architecture
11. David Roberts  
The Bartlett School of Architecture
12. James Soane  
Project Orange
13. Dhruv Sookhoo  
Metropolitan Workshop/  
Newcastle University
14. Chris Stewart  
Collective Architecture
15. Jeremy Till  
Central Saint Martins
16. Elanor Warwick  
Clarion Housing Group/The Edge

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### MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH CONSULTATIVE GROUP (12)

1. Nicholas Birchall  
Hawkins Brown
2. Eirini Gallou  
University College London,  
PhD Student
3. Jordan Green  
Allford Hall Monaghan Morris
4. Ruth Hynes  
Atkins
5. Michael Kennedy  
University of the Arts, Part II
6. Hestia Mailliet-Contoz  
Bere Architects
7. Pippa McLeod-Brown  
CZWG
8. Giovana Pullin  
Scitech Engineering
9. Niki Sole  
MAP Architecture
10. Richard Timmins  
David Morley Architects
11. Julie Waldron  
University of Nottingham,  
Research Fellow
12. Adara Wicaksono  
Peter Stewart Consultancy

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## APPENDIX II

# LETTERS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION

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The following letters have been received by the RIBA in response to the public consultation that has been undertaken. Letters have been received from a variety of sources including the House of Lords, international non-governmental organisations, the private sector and academia. A summary of the responses received is set out below:



**Rt Hon Lord McConnell, Co-Chair, All Party Parliamentary Group on the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development** (The aim of the group is to promote the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development and monitor their implementation):

*Acknowledges the fact that infrastructure and urbanisation and their relationship to climate change are uppermost in the mind of those engaged with this agenda and recognises the opportunity for architects and those in related professions to make a significant contribution to taking forward this agenda.*



**Raf Tuts, Director, Programme Division, UN Habitat** (The United Nations agency for human settlements and sustainable urban development):

*Offers support for the work of the Commission, acknowledges the vital role for the built environment professions to help translate policy into practice. Recognises how the RIBA's engagement with initiatives such as the FCO Global Future Cities Programme can help to have impact at scale and how, through its involvement with the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, it can help to realign international humanitarian and development actors in the response to urban crises.*



**Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office**

**Dr Elizabeth Milsom, Future Cities Prosperity Fund Programme Lead, Prosperity Fund Department, Foreign & Commonwealth Office** (The Prosperity Fund derives from the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review. It supports the UN SDGs as well as the 2015 UK Aid Strategy by promoting growth and prosperity in developing countries):

*Supports the work of the Commission and acknowledges the important role the Institute can play in helping to address the challenges being faced by rapidly urbanising cities around the world. Recognises the potential for the RIBA to promote the best of British expertise and that built environment professions have a vital role to play if we are to deliver of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 11, to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.*

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### GROSVENOR

**Peter Vernon, Group Director, Grosvenor** (An internationally diversified property group, founded in 1677, headquartered in London and operating in 62 international cities):

*Recognises the need for the industry to look more closely at social benefit and the pivotal role which practices can play in challenging developers to think more broadly and be more innovative through all stages of the development process, from pushing the scope of the brief through to post-occupancy. Also recognises the role of the profession to help cities in less mature markets respond to rapid urbanisation, where they can have the biggest impact and deliver lasting social, environmental and economic benefit.*

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**Joan Walley, Chair of the Aldersgate Group** (An alliance of leaders from business, politics and civil society with a collective turnover of nearly £600bn, championing the role of business in moving the UK towards a sustainable economy):

*Encourages the RIBA to take a lead in promoting the SDGs and embedding them in every aspect of its strategic and operational activities both here in the UK and further afield. Recognises the importance of aligning social and environmental objectives as well as economic ones together with critical nature of investment decisions made now to address the scale of the long-term nature of the challenges ahead.*

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**Filiep Decorte, Chair, Steering Group, Global Alliance for Urban Crises** (A collaborative community of practice working for systemic change in the way in which we enable urban communities to prepare for, cope with and rapidly recover from humanitarian crises):

*Notes that the participation of the UK Built Environment Advisory Group (of which the RIBA was a founding member) and the broader built environment constituency are central to the success of the Alliance as evidenced most recently by its participation in the United Nations High Level Political Forum and Local 2030. Acknowledges the value of the work done to evidence the weak capacity of built environment professionals in fast urbanising and crises affected countries. Acknowledges that this presents a mammoth task requiring a collective effort and hoping that the RIBA and the UKBEAG can help lead the way.*

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# LETTERS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION

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**Thomas Vonier, President, International Union of Architects** (The only international non-governmental organisation that represents the world's architects, estimated at 3.2m):

*Encourages the Institute to produce: "concrete, specific examples of work that makes significant improvements in the lives of the populations in greatest need."*

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**Sir Stuart Lipton, Lipton Rogers Development LLP** (Lipton Rogers Developments LLP is a real estate development business focused on major projects in and around Central London):

*Invites the RIBA to help restore the relevance of architecture through a range of measures including, for example, considering the impact of good design on improving social conditions with the consequences of improved education, health and reduced crime while putting its weight behind retrofit strategies and design strategies which create buildings designed for a century not 25 years.*

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**Edmund Nickless, Chair of the New Activities Strategic Implementation Committee of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)**. (IUGS promotes and encourages the study of geological problems, especially those of world-wide significance, and supports and facilitates international and interdisciplinary cooperation in the earth sciences):

*Recognises the unrivalled opportunity for the Institute: "to provide leadership and guidance, nationally and internationally to architects as individuals and collectively as a profession, particularly towards Goal 12 'Sustainable consumption and production patterns'".*  
*Recognises that: "Architects have a vital role to play in ensuring that renewal of the existing urban environment and new construction is built in the most sustainable way, with minimum use of scarce resources; that attention is given at the design stage to sourcing materials that through the entire supply chain have been produced ethically and with the least possible environmental impact; and that those materials are used in a way that allows end of life reuse or re-cycling."*

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# LETTERS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION

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**John Alker, Director of Policy & Places and Anna Woodeson, Members Advisory Group, UK Green Building Council (UKGBC)**, (The UKGBC's mission is to radically improve the sustainability of the built environment, by transforming the way it is planned, designed, constructed, maintained and operated):

*Commends the Commission's recommendation to place the SDG's at the heart of everything the Institute does, recognises the importance of leadership and the need to change the way in which architects are educated, including life-long learning. Encourages the RIBA to collaborate with other industry bodies to lobby for change while engaging and empowering its membership. Challenges the Institute to reflect on what 'excellence in architecture' means in the context of sustainable development and recognises the impact the RIBA can have internationally.*



**Lucy Bruzzone, Programme Director, Executive Programmes, University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL)**, (The CISL is a globally influential Institute for sustainability leadership and solutions for a sustainable economy):

*Recognises that the world is experiencing a fourth industrial revolution and that there are pressing social and environmental challenges, from climate change to wealth inequality, which pose fundamental risks for the stability and wellbeing of our society. Highlights the important role for architects to orient the early design stage towards delivering a sustainable future aligned with the SDGs and offering support in driving change that will design a future that harnesses the creativity of the profession with the targets established by the UN SDGs.*



**Rumana Kabir, Principal Consultant, Housing, Urban development and Disaster Risk Management, IMC Worldwide Ltd** (IMC Worldwide's purpose is to empower the poor and disadvantaged in low- and middle-income countries

*Invites engagement from the RIBA with graduates of architecture who may not be ARB registered but are working in areas of humanitarian and development practice, many of whom are recognised as leaders in their field and would enrich the work of the RIBA.*

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## APPENDIX II

# LETTERS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION

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**Robin Nicholson CBE RIBA, FStructE, Hon FCIBSE, Convenor for the Edge**

(The Edge is a campaigning built-environment think tank):

*Supports the work of the Commission and encourages the RIBA and its members to “recognise its primary obligation to serve the public interest, take responsibility for the outcomes and performance of their work, rebuild and share knowledge and expertise, pledge to make collaboration the norm, value, promote and defend professional independence and deliver institutional change.”*

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### Article 25

**Sunand Prasad PPRIBA, Chair Article 25**, (Architectural charity providing the skills and knowledge needed to make safe and appropriate building projects possible for those in need):

*Supports the position that the architectural profession “can better position, enact and communicate its commitment to the public interest, social purpose and sustainability, through a proactive and coordinated effort to engage with the United Nations’ 2030 Sustainable Development Goals”, and offers to convene a cross disciplinary group focused on international development.*



**Jeremy Cross, International Network Manager, The Prince's Foundation**, (The Prince's Foundation is about supporting people to make the most of their community):

*Welcomes the initiative to place public benefit and the Sustainable Development Goals at the heart of the Institute's activity. Recognises the work done by the RIBA to demonstrate the magnitude of the challenges to be addressed, its ability to convene around these critical issues and the many opportunities for it to engage globally. Notes that “there can be few, if any, organisations better equipped to engage with these issues than the RIBA with its global footprint and reputation.”*

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**Michael Pawlyn, Founder, Exploration Architecture,** (Exploration is a design innovation and strategy company focussed on biomimicry which works with organisations that go beyond standard approaches to sustainability):

*Recognises the important role of the Institutions to maximise the collective agency of their members and expresses particular concern regarding the near silence from the architectural profession to the latest findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Concerned about examples of unethical behaviour and supportive of a more robust code of ethics.*

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**Arome Agamah, Elisa Engel, Ralph Buschow, Kimmerly Lau, Cameo Musgrave and Alasdair Dixon, Trustees, Architecture for Humanity UK,** (Architecture for Humanity UK is a charity devoted to building a better world):

*Believes there is a need for the profession as a whole to engage more effectively with the increasing impacts of economic and spatial inequality. Encourages the Institute to create a new paradigm where the public interest and social responsibility are intrinsic to everyday practice.*

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**Dr Shaun Fitzgerald Director, and Professor Al Richardson, Chair of Science in Enterprise, The Royal Institution of Great Britain,** (The Royal Institution is an independent charity dedicated to connecting people with the world of science):

*Congratulates RIBA Council for establishing the Commission and endorses the need for institutions such as the RIBA and the Ri to engage with the findings of the IPCC; working collaboratively and providing leadership to help achieve the Goals.*

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Royal Institute of British Architects  
66 Portland Place  
London  
W1B 1AD

Charity No. 210566  
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7580 5533  
[info@riba.org](mailto:info@riba.org)

RIBA   
[Architecture.com](http://Architecture.com)