



The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP
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5th July 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to congratulate you on your electoral success and to highlight how planners and the Royal Town Planning Institute can contribute to the missions of your Government. We speak for 27,000 professional planners and are the only Institute to grant Chartered membership, the highest standard of professional and ethical achievement for planners. Across the UK we represent three quarters of UK planning officers with half our members working in public sector planning roles.

The planning profession stands ready to support and deliver the significant planning activity that your missions call for. Research we've commissioned by Public First has shown the huge economic potential of planning to kickstart economic growth and [generate more than £70bn in additional value](#) over the next 10 years. This is driven by our planning system's ability to stimulate local economic activity and because of the 'planning premium' that communities experience in well-planned places. The study also demonstrated that a properly resourced planning system has delivered more homes and at scale in the past and, with the right reforms, policy and support, can do so more consistently across the country.

Our '[Planifesto](#)' has previously suggested many of the steps you can take to help implement planning reforms that will help to 'Get Britain Building' quickly. These include funding councils to deliver high quality planning services, explaining where in the country your promises should be delivered, strengthening our plan-led system, working with local leaders to develop places coherently and plan for net zero.

It has been very positive to read that your Government intends to take forward our suggestions to increase the number of planners working in local planning authorities, strengthen provisions in the National Planning Policy Framework for onshore wind projects and for housing supply and to encourage reviews of local Green Belt policies in the short-term.

Looking ahead, we believe the success of your missions will also depend on aligning planning powers with changes to England's devolution framework and Industrial Strategy so that local leaders have the right set of strategic tools available to attract investment and maximise the value of public spending in their area.

However, few of these ambitions will be achievable without training for a new generation of planner and support to return [25% of planners who've left the public sector](#) over the last decade according to our analysis.

We trust you will agree that stronger planning capacity and skills are the best foundation for your reforms. We look forward to discussing these issues with you in person and to working with you closely to unleash planning's potential under your leadership.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Victoria Hills', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Victoria Hills MRTPI FICE FRSA
Chief Executive
Royal Town Planning Institute