



HM Government

# Charter for the National Infrastructure Commission

The Charter articulates the government's commitment to the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC). It sets out the NIC's purpose and its principal outputs, accountabilities and duties. The Charter also sets out the balance of responsibility between the government and the NIC.

The government is fully committed to a National Infrastructure Commission which will make independent recommendations and provide the best possible advice on national infrastructure priorities. The NIC will be required to carry out its work in accordance with the remit and the terms of reference for specific studies set by the government. In all other respects, the NIC will have complete discretion to determine independently its work programme, methodologies and recommendations, as well as the content of its reports and public statements.

## Remit and purpose

The NIC is a permanent body which will provide the government with impartial, expert advice on major long-term infrastructure challenges. The objectives of the NIC are to: (i) support sustainable economic growth across all regions of the UK, (ii) improve competitiveness, (iii) improve quality of life and (iv) support climate resilience and the transition to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. It will do this by:

- assessing national infrastructure needs, carrying out in-depth studies into the UK's most pressing infrastructure challenges, and making recommendations to the government;
- monitoring the government's progress in delivering infrastructure projects and programmes recommended by the NIC.

The government will provide the NIC with clear guidance by issuing a public remit letter. This will include a binding fiscal remit to ensure that the NIC's recommendations would be affordable.

## Compact between the government and the NIC

The **government** commits to **supporting** the work of the NIC by:

- issuing a formal response to all the recommendations contained in the NIC's reports, stating clearly whether the government accepts or rejects the recommendations. The government will respond as soon as practicable, which should mean within 6 months in the vast majority of cases, and never longer than a year;
- giving reasons where it disagrees with the NIC's recommendations, and where appropriate presenting an alternative proposal for meeting the identified need;
- laying the NIC's reports and government's response before Parliament as soon after their publication as practicable;

- sharing relevant information with the NIC and responding to reasonable requests for new analysis to support the NIC's work in a timely manner, including information not in the public domain.

The **NIC** commits to **delivering** the following products and services:

- a National Infrastructure Assessment once in every Parliament, setting out the NIC's assessment of long-term infrastructure needs with recommendations to the government;
- specific studies on pressing infrastructure challenges as set by the government taking into account the views of the NIC and stakeholders. These studies will include recommendations to the government;
- an annual monitoring report, taking stock of the government's progress in areas where it has committed to taking forward recommendations of the NIC.

When **producing** these reports, the **NIC** commits to:

- including a transparent assessment of the impact on costs to businesses, consumers, government, public bodies and other end users of infrastructure that would arise from implementing the NIC's recommendations;
- engaging with the public, policy-makers, infrastructure experts and relevant bodies openly and transparently, drawing on a broad range of expertise and helping build consensus.

The NIC will operate independently, at arm's length from government, as an executive agency of HM Treasury. Further details of this working relationship will be set out formally in a mutually agreed Framework Document.