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**Association for the
Conservation of
Energy**

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National Infrastructure Commission call for evidence: Submission

About the Association for the Conservation of Energy

The Association for the Conservation of Energy was formed in 1981 by major companies active within the energy conservation industry, in order to encourage a positive national awareness of the needs for and benefits of energy conservation, to help establish a sensible and consistent national policy and programme, and to increase investment in all appropriate energy-saving measures.

We welcome this opportunity to provide a short submission to the National Infrastructure Commission's call for evidence.

Submission

We were delighted that, when the Chancellor launched the new National Infrastructure Commission on 30 October last year, he announced that one of the three key areas on which the Commission would initially focus was: 'energy, particularly exploring how the UK can better balance supply and demand'.

Improving our energy efficiency and thereby reducing demand is the most cost-effective way of delivering on the UK's energy policy objectives, and should therefore be at the heart of any serious appraisal of how better to balance supply and demand.

We were therefore somewhat disappointed that the Commission's full terms of reference appeared to exclude consideration of how to *reduce* overall demand, focusing instead solely on the *management* of existing and anticipated demand through storage, interconnection and demand side response. While

these are clearly very important issues to tackle, we would consider it a serious missed opportunity if the Commission did not, at an early stage of its existence, investigate fully the pressing case for making energy efficiency an infrastructure priority.

We are a long-standing member of the core steering group of the Energy Bill Revolution campaign, whose key ask is that energy efficiency be recognised as a UK infrastructure priority and have funding committed to it accordingly. We therefore have pleasure in attaching for the Commission's consideration the Energy Bill Revolution/UKGBC briefing paper, into which we have had considerable input.

It is not our intention to rehearse here again the content of that briefing, but we would echo wholeheartedly its central thesis – namely that the fabric of our existing housing stock is one of the most crucial elements of our infrastructure and that the Commission should therefore conduct a full consultation, similar to the current one, to investigate this huge, untapped infrastructure opportunity. While the Energy Bill Revolution ask is focused on residential energy efficiency, ACE also advocates that a similar investigation of non-domestic energy efficiency be undertaken.

Were such a consultation to take place, we would be keen to play the fullest possible part in it.