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I wanted to take the opportunity to set out what I will do on behalf of the Government to support the construction industry over the next parliamentary session.

I will champion the industry at the highest level, flagging up the huge contribution the whole sector makes to the UK GDP. I am also determined to support good low-carbon skills now, which will prove highly exportable in the future. On that theme, I met with the industry-led Low Carbon Construction Innovation and Growth Team last week, which I found immensely interesting and has assured me that the industry is taking appropriate steps in looking at the future.

Building's "Charter 284" was a welcome reminder of the value of the construction industry to the UK. Ideas such as reducing the regulatory burden in the housing sector and developing renewable energy through the private sector will help to future-proof the industry. I look forward to being the sector's representative and hope to be a stable and long-term partner to the industry's future.

MARK PRISK