

The Rt Hon David Cameron
PPC for Witney and Leader of the Conservative Party
Conservative Campaign HQ
30 Millbank
LONDON
SW1P 4DP

Date 20 April 2010

Dear David Cameron,

MORE HOMES, LESS CARBON: HOUSEBUILDING & HOME IMPROVEMENT MANIFESTO

With a General Election upon us, the Builders Merchants' Federation (BMF) and others in house building & home improvement offer a message to those like you who seek votes shortly.

I write to share with you the enclosed manifesto that calls for steps to be taken to revitalise the economy to allow our businesses to build more homes and help to reduce carbon emissions.

The logos displayed show **More Homes and Less Carbon** is a collaboration between 6 trade associations who together speak for over 50,000 firms, employing approx. 860,000 people, with combined annual sales of £75 billion. It is a heavyweight industry coalition: everything from raw materials, along the supply chain, to the housebuilders and general SME building firms.

Politicians at all levels simply must wake up to the worsening housing crisis. The dearth of available homes is fast approaching a million - yet fewer homes are now being built than at any time since 1945. Socio-economic imperatives will force those elected to the next Parliament to address the obstacles that are in the way as a matter of utmost urgency.

Doubtless you know energy & water use, waste and transport are important issues in the South East. Winter 2009/10 was the severest for 30 years. Voters endured sub-zero temperatures for weeks, at home and in struggling to travel. Efforts needed to help them complete 'whole house' or 'whole street' heat & energy-saving action to combat such extremes are incontrovertible.

Investment in housing to improve conditions and retrofitting heat & energy saving devices are central to our livelihoods. Builders' merchants sell heating & hot water systems, loft & solid wall insulation, modern glazing & lighting, and renewables. Most of what the Government and Opposition Parties sought industry advice about last year, we sell. The Boiler Scrappage Scheme is one such success. Investment in construction is a pre-requisite to achieve 80% of carbon reduction targets - irrespective of which party wins this Election.

"**More Homes and Less Carbon**" offers a blend of measures that industry wants candidates to adopt for the challenges ahead. I do hope you can find 5 minutes today to read our manifesto. Thank you.

You kindly visited Jewsons, in Reading West, who are one of our merchants. Thank you.

BRETT AMPHLETT
Head of Policy

*Yours truly,
Brett Amphlett*

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**Building a better
Supply Chain**