



# Influence, advocacy and thought leadership across the UK

IMPACT REPORT 2024





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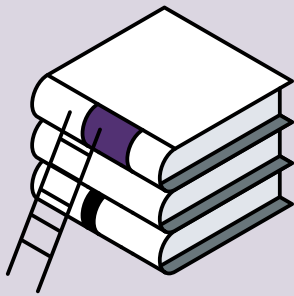
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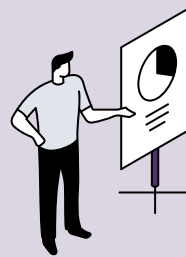
# A natural and built environment that is sustainable, resilient and inclusive for all

In this election year, our mission has been to ensure that the surveying profession's voice is heard on critical issues impacting both the built and natural environments. Through strategic engagement with senior stakeholders at Westminster and across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, we have been promoting the profession's essential role in sustainable development and environmental stewardship – highlighting our crucial contributions to the economy and society.

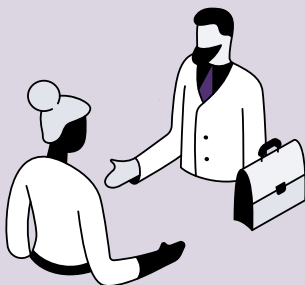
## Our advocacy focus



Strengthening trust in the profession



Leading and influencing on sustainability



Attracting a diverse next generation



Enhancing member engagement and policy shaping

## Thought leadership

We are positioning RICS as a thought leader for positive change in the built environment, with a focus on:

- **housing and planning:** advancing solutions for affordable, safe, high-quality, energy-efficient low-carbon homes
- **community regeneration:** revitalising high streets and delivering major infrastructure projects
- **sustainability:** driving decarbonisation through retrofitting and carbon assessment
- **future skills:** building a skilled workforce to meet the demands of tomorrow's sector and
- **enhancing engagement** with members on policy shaping.

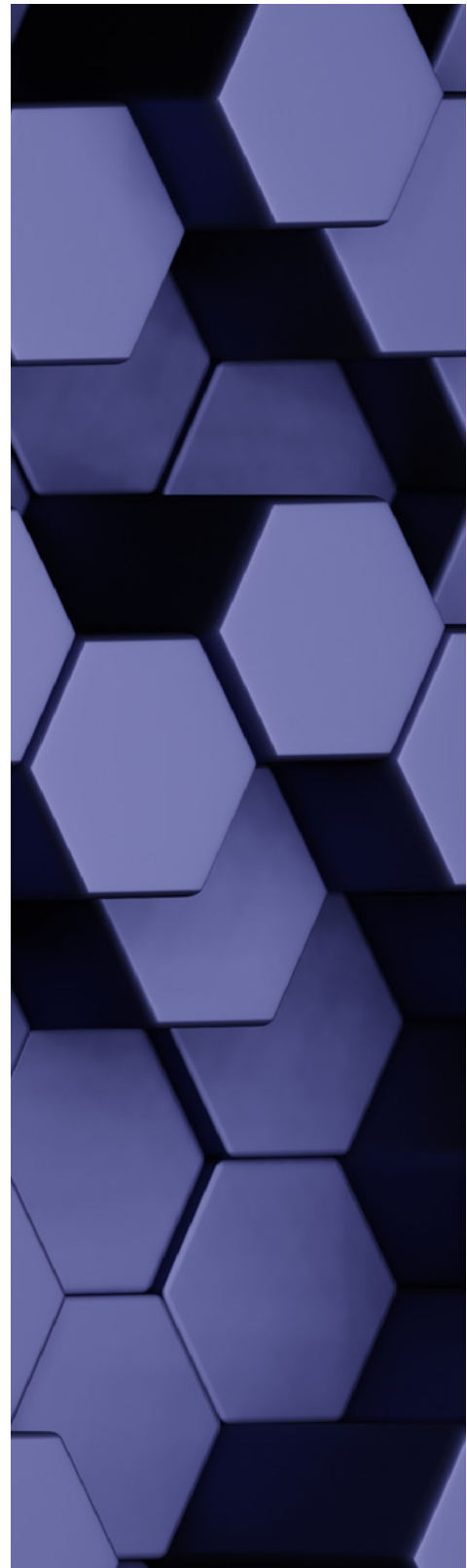
## Our programme of work

RICS' work included:

- meeting with ministers, MPs and sector bodies
- responding to policy consultations
- representation on government and industry working groups
- convening members and stakeholders to influence policy matters and
- hosting webinars on policy issues.

Thank you to all members who gave their time and expertise throughout the year, delivering real benefits for the profession, sector and public.

Members who wish to participate in future RICS thought leadership and advocacy should contact Sam Rees, Interim Head of Public Affairs UK & Ireland, at [srees@rics.org](mailto:srees@rics.org)







2024 at a glance



Member and industry engagement

## 400 meetings and events

with members, policymakers and industry leaders to discuss challenges and solutions for the built and natural environments. These conversations helped guide our recommendations to government on issues such as new town development, major infrastructure projects and investment in next-generation education and skills.

Influencing policy

## 38 responses submitted to policy consultations

on critical issues such as housing, planning, building safety, sustainability, high street revitalisation, major infrastructure delivery, land policy and future skills.

Media voice

## Over 1,000 mentions in UK media

spotlighting our thought leadership, public-interest work and members' expertise. This coverage included insights from our UK Residential Property Monitors, commercial and construction reports and commentary on government policy.

Influencing policy

## Having our say

Presenting oral evidence in various parliamentary sessions including on the Arbitration Act, Regulation of Property Agents and Improving Homebuying and Selling.







## 2024 UK general election

Before the election, we published the RICS UK Manifesto: Empowering a sustainable future, outlining ten key policy recommendations for the incoming government. These focused on critical areas including housing, planning reform, sustainable community regeneration, and addressing the skills shortage.

Our Election Hub provided the profession with comprehensive analysis of party manifestoes, highlighting policies that impact the built and natural environments. The day after the election, RICS CEO Justin Young appeared on Bloomberg News to spotlight our policy priorities. We submitted proposals for business rates reform for the Autumn Budget and hosted a highly attended member webinar to evaluate the new government's potential impact on the sector.

# Party conferences



## Labour conference

With 411 MPs, the Labour Party formed the new government and held its first conference since the general election. Key issues included housing delivery, with a pledge to build 1.5m homes in five years, and expanded devolved powers in England. RICS activities included the following.

- **Delivering a major infrastructure roundtable.** This roundtable was attended by RICS members, newly elected Labour MP Mike Reader, Lord Hunt, the Minister for Energy Security and Net Zero, and Howard Dawber, London's Deputy Mayor for Business. Discussions focused on the role of infrastructure in sustainable growth and energy security.
- **Reinvigorating T-Levels.** A second roundtable explored revitalising T-Levels to attract young talent into the profession. Attendees included RICS members, Matrics, skills providers, industry representatives, and local councils. Insights from this session are guiding RICS' long-term skills strategy to develop a modern curriculum and inspire the next generation.
- **Ministerial discussions.** Justin Sullivan FRICS, RICS President Elect, joined a roundtable with Matthew Pennycook MP, Minister for Housing and Planning, to discuss how strategic planning can deliver more homes and infrastructure. RICS also attended a private roundtable on the construction skills shortage with Sarah Jones MP, Minister for Industry at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).
- **Panel debates.** RICS leaders participated in two high-profile panels. The first, alongside Liverpool City Region Mayor Steve Rotheram, discussed how surveyors are revitalising town centres and repurposing high streets. In the second, RICS CEO Justin Young joined the New Statesman and Baroness Taylor, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Housing, to discuss how Labour can achieve high-quality, sustainable housing through early education, upskilling and planning reform.





## Conservative conference

This year's Conservative conference primarily focused on the party's future leadership, with candidates presenting their visions and priorities to appeal to party members. RICS activities included the following.



- **Delivering a major housing roundtable.** RICS hosted a roundtable on Conservative housing policy, examining priorities and solutions for the UK's housing challenges. Attendees included Lord Banner KC, RICS West Midlands Board members and key industry stakeholders.
- **Joint institutes reception.** RICS brought other professional bodies together to host a member and parliamentary reception at the Birmingham office. The reception focused on highlights from each profession on their priorities for investing in the built environment and the support we need from government and opposition to deliver meaningful change in the industry.
- **'In conversation' with the West Midlands Mayor.** RICS attended an in-conversation session with Richard Parker, Mayor of the West Midlands. The Mayor discussed how he uses his time in office to focus on his priorities, including net-zero, addressing unemployment in the region and improving transport connectivity and housing.

## Liberal Democrat conference

RICS attended the Liberal Democrat conference as observers to connect with new stakeholders and assess the organisation's potential role in future engagements. We engaged with several key MPs, including Wera Hobhouse, the Liberal Democrats' Spokesperson for Energy, Climate Change and Transport, and Helen Morgan, Spokesperson for Health and Social Care.

Discussions focused on how the built environment can contribute to creating healthy, sustainable communities.



# UK sector impact highlights





# Housing

Creating safe, sustainable and affordable housing remains a priority for RICS. In July we published a thought leadership paper recommending solutions to the UK's housing crisis, in order to advise the new government.

We developed strong relationships with the former Housing and Planning Minister Lee Rowley and the current Minister Matthew Pennycook, where we are advocating for improvements in the homebuying process, and the regulation of property agents to improve consumer protection and create an effective housing market.

## Social and affordable housing

We advised DLUHC (now MHCLG) on minimum qualifications for social housing managers to recognise RICS member competence. We called for local authorities to have more accountability in Section 106 funding and developer contributions, where several billion pounds remain unspent, and for stamp duty to be ring-fenced for affordable housing.

## Renter reform

RICS continues to work with MHCLG through the *Renters' Rights Bill* to update the Decent Homes Standard – with members helping shape the standard and support landlord compliance and advice. We are also engaging with policymakers to recognise ongoing reforms to give landlords and investors confidence to keep providing the PRS homes we vitally need.

## Leasehold reform

RICS presented evidence in the House of Lords, recommending stronger regulation in the Bill and emphasising the critical role of RICS registered valuers in the sector. We are pushing government to set out any future changes to ground rent and commonhold.

## Retrofit and energy efficiency

We launched the RICS Residential retrofit standard to support large-scale home retrofitting while also increasing demand for surveying services and helping to futureproof the profession. RICS members have worked with the government on the Future Homes Standard and will advise the government and landlords with future changes to energy efficiency measurements and minimum requirements.

# Planning

Planning reform has been at the centre of the new government's priority – proposing major shake-ups in housing targets and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). RICS participated in two roundtables with Matthew Pennycook MP, Minister for Housing and Planning, as part of the reforms. Members of the RICS Planning and Development Group formulated our response to the reforms looking at changes to the Standard Measure approach, newly created grey belt land designation and golden rules.

RICS also contributed to consultations on street vote development orders and strategies to strengthen planning policy for brownfield development.

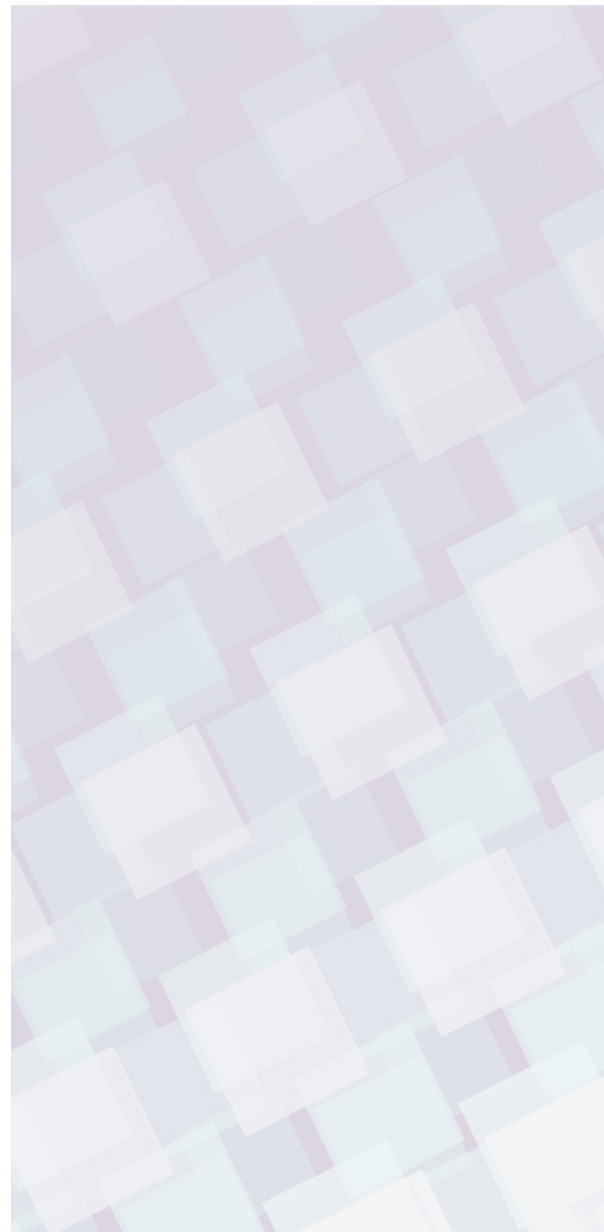
## Permitted development rights

RICS collaborated with House of Lords members to enhance permitted development rights (PDR) legislation, advocating for a stronger role for building surveyors in the process. We also met with several MPs to discuss the challenges and solutions when it comes to PDR in property conversions.

## Green and grey belt

We hosted an event on green belt policy with experts from the [London School of Economics](#), [CPRE](#) (the Countryside Charity) and the [Country Land and Business Association](#).

A further key deliverable this year has been a land and resources policy paper, which makes recommendations shaped by extensive member engagement to inform Labour on unlocking growth for our towns and cities with a particular focus on housing delivery, and a roundtable on placemaking and value alongside the Office for Place. Following a parliamentary inquiry into grey belt, we submitted evidence on the viability and assessment processes to determine new land classification.





# Building safety

We successfully called for a change in government policy on building control registration following concerns about member well-being and the risk of them leaving the sector – with the government agreeing to extend the transition period.

As part of the *Leasehold and Freehold Reform Bill*, we briefed parliamentarians on the risk to leaseholders paying for remediation costs through a change to commonhold.

Following publication of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Report on 4 September 2024, led by Sir Martin Moore-Bick, we held several member webinars to talk through the findings.

We are in regular discussions with the government as they review and plan next steps with the recommendations.



# Energy efficient buildings

RICS has published a series of parliamentary briefing papers recommending policies on Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards and ESG-compliant buildings.

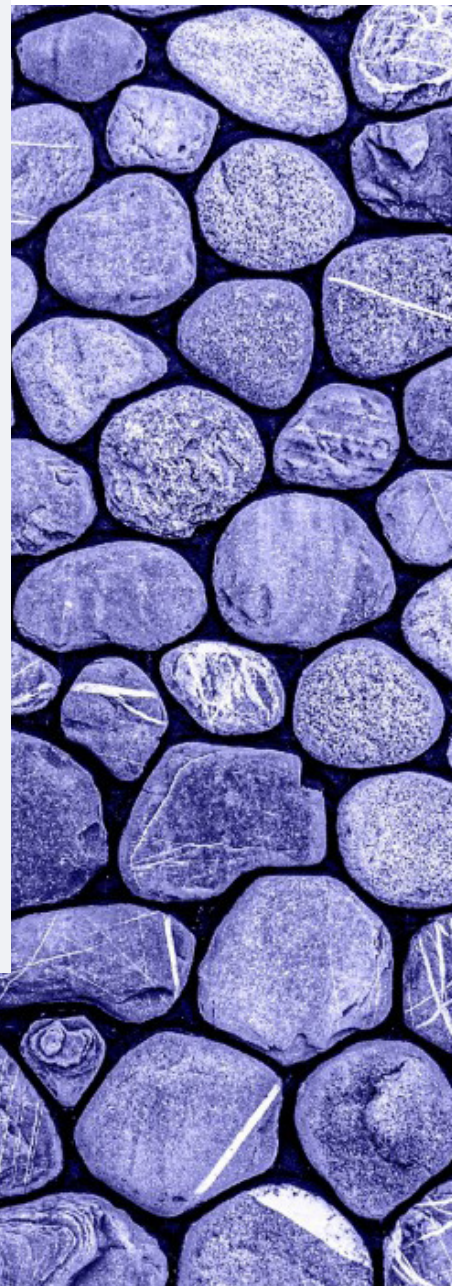
These briefings emphasise the risks of stranded assets and declining investment in UK commercial property if sustainability standards are not prioritised.

# Engagement with government and local leaders

RICS met with:

- Lord Moylan, Chair of the House of Lords Built Environment Committee, to discuss concerns with MEES implementation
- Andy Street, former Mayor of the West Midlands, who hosted an event at RICS' Birmingham office
- Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, who is collaborating with members of the North-West Board on key local initiatives
- Steve Rotheram, Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, is set to host an RICS event on 'The Way Ahead for Low-Carbon Cities', focusing on sustainable urban development
- Peter Aldous MP, who joined members of the RICS Occupier Group to explore how commercial property landlords can meet occupiers' growing demand for sustainable buildings, and
- Jack Brereton MP, who acknowledged RICS in the House of Commons for contributing to his Private Members' bill on high street revitalisation, which gained cross-party support.

RICS also briefed HM Treasury on our business rates recommendations and engaged with the Law Commission on the upcoming reform of the *Landlord and Tenant Act*.







# Infrastructure

RICS members held a joint meeting with the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) to develop recommendations for improving the delivery of major infrastructure projects. The insights from this collaboration will shape our upcoming discussions with Lord Banner KC, appointed by the government to review key infrastructure initiatives.

To support the government's investment plans, including the creation of GB Energy and the expansion of renewable infrastructure, we developed a parliamentary briefing paper, [The Future of UK Major Infrastructure Projects](#), which explores solutions to some of the most common problems with delivering large schemes.

# Sustainability and decarbonisation

Our suite of solutions for carbon assessment and retrofit have been promoted to policymakers and clients, positioning the profession as sustainability leaders with expertise in calculating carbon and advising on strategies for retrofit and the net-zero transition.

To advance these efforts, RICS has engaged with policymakers in Westminster, Metro Mayor offices and the devolved governments of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. This work culminated in our attendance at the Buildings and Climate Global Forum in Paris, following the launch of the Buildings Breakthrough Initiative at COP28.

In Paris, we met with Lord Callanan, Minister for Energy Efficiency and Green Finance, and joined the DESNZ Whole Life Carbon Policy Coalition. This global initiative, which includes the World Green Building Council (WGBC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), aims to establish a unified framework for consistent carbon measurement across the built environment ahead of COP29.

In addition to promoting RICS' [Whole life carbon assessment \(WLCA\) for the built environment](#) as a tool for global harmonisation, we have secured endorsements from the Department for Transport, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Welsh government, and the Strategic Investment Board of Northern Ireland.



# Skills

A robust talent pipeline is essential for the future development and management of the built and natural environment.

To address this need, RICS is collaborating with key sector bodies, including RIBA, RTPI, CIOB and ICE, on a future skills taskforce established by the MHCLG Chief Planner, Joanna Averley. This follows a roundtable on built and natural environment skills hosted by RICS with government officials and professional bodies.

The taskforce's mission is to ensure an effective planning system and foster interconnectivity across the built and natural environments. It aims to achieve this through tailored entry routes and upskilling programmes to secure the future supply of skilled professionals for our sector.

At a regional level, we are collaborating with the Mayor of Greater Manchester on the development of the city region's skill strategy with a working group bringing together the RICS North-West Board and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

We also successfully influenced the Welsh government to create new built environment degree apprenticeships in Wales, giving parity for students with the rest of the UK.

In Scotland we are involved in the Construction Leadership Forum, a joint Scottish government and industry initiative. As part of this, we sit on the Skills and Workforce Group, where we are shaping access to the profession, green skills and community reform.

In Northern Ireland we are working with local stakeholders to promote the Built Environment GCSE.



# Land and rural

Recognising the vital role of the land and rural disciplines in the built and natural environment, RICS has actively engaged with the UK government on a range of strategic issues.



## Compulsory purchase

RICS collaborated with the MHCLG to update guidance on the compulsory purchase process, including the authority to remove 'hope value' when justified in the public interest.

We also released the second edition of our [Surveyors advising in respect of compulsory purchase and statutory compensation](#) professional standard.

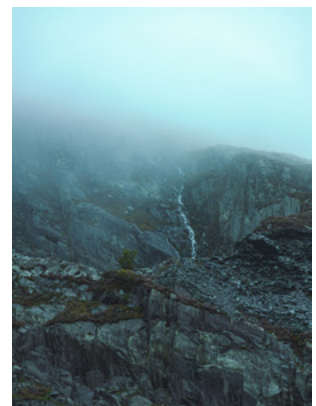
## Statutory payments and interest

RICS has partnered with the Law Commission to improve approaches to statutory payments and interest, with particular attention to challenges faced by agricultural occupiers.

## Minerals Advisory Forum

RICS established a Minerals Advisory Forum to gather member insights on the challenges and opportunities in the minerals sector, including critical minerals.

This forum supports our work with the UK government on critical minerals policy and promotes the role of chartered mineral surveyors in advancing sustainable construction across the UK.







# Impact in England



Members who wish to participate in future RICS thought leadership and advocacy in England should contact Mahvesh Ibrar, Senior Public Affairs Officer, at [mibrar@rics.org](mailto:mibrar@rics.org)

# Highlights

## West Midlands Combined Authority

- **Meeting with the Deputy Mayor:** RICS met with Councillor Sharon Thompson, Deputy Mayor of the West Midlands and Deputy Leader of Birmingham City Council. Plans are underway to collaborate with the Deputy Mayor to promote surveying as a career choice for young people across the West Midlands.
- **Mayoral hustings:** RICS hosted the West Midlands mayoral hustings earlier this year, featuring Andy Street (former Mayor and Conservative candidate), Richard Parker (Labour candidate) and Sunny Virk (Liberal Democrat candidate), offering a platform for discussing key issues in the region.
- **Board meeting with WMCA:** The RICS West Midlands Board met with representatives from the WMCA to discuss strategies related to sustainable development, inclusive growth and addressing the skills shortage in the built environment.



## Greater Manchester Combined Authority

- **Meeting with the Mayor:** The RICS North-West Board met with Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, to discuss regional priorities and opportunities for collaboration. We are forming a skills working group with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and advocating for the adoption of RICS standards.
- **Roundtable on T-Levels:** Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, who oversees technical education and skills at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, attended an RICS-hosted roundtable on re-invigorating T-Levels at the Labour Party conference.



## Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

- **Enterprise Forum:**

RICS hosted an Enterprise Forum discussion with Mayor Steve Rotheram of the Liverpool City Region, focusing on strategies for building low-carbon cities.



- **Labour Conference Panel:** At the Labour Party conference, RICS joined Mayor Steve Rotheram to discuss strategies for revitalising and renewing high streets, and how the roles of those responsible for town planning and management need to adapt to changing work and living patterns and sustainability needs.

## Greater London Authority

- **Engagement with the London Assembly:** RICS has been actively engaging with Sem Moema, Labour Assembly Member and Chair of the Housing Committee, to promote our standards, including Whole life carbon assessment for the built environment.





## Impact in Wales



Members who wish to participate in future RICS thought leadership and advocacy should contact Sam Rees, Interim Head of Public Affairs UK & Ireland, at [srees@rics.org](mailto:srees@rics.org)

# Highlights

We are solidifying our role in Wales as a trusted authority on critical issues affecting the built and natural environments. Through strengthened partnerships with Welsh and local governments, RICS has become an essential adviser for decision-makers on housing, decarbonisation, building safety, and skills development – empowering surveyors and driving solutions for the sector’s most pressing challenges.

## Investing in skills

In 2024, we reached a milestone in built environment education for Wales, supporting the next generation of surveyors.

**Newly accredited RICS degrees in real estate and building surveying were launched** after years of collaborative development with education providers, members and industry.

**Degree apprenticeships in real estate and surveying were also launched**, backed by CITB and with RICS successfully calling for funding from the government, despite education budget constraints. This underscores government recognition of the importance of surveying and promotes equity across the UK.

The Built Environment GCSE is also gaining traction, with RICS working alongside government, education bodies and industry to support teachers and students.

## Advancing building safety

RICS continues to support the work of building safety in Wales, sitting on the Welsh government’s strategic Building Safety Group and advising on communication and engagement strategies to support leaseholders and residents.

We joined the steering group to shape the expansion of PAS 9980 assessments in Wales and develop a holistic building approach towards building safety remediation.

We also serve on the Welsh government’s Ystadau Cymru Building Safety Sub-Group.



## Delivering new homes

We raised the challenge of meeting the Welsh government's 20,000 new homes target with the First Minister of Wales and the lack of meaningful planning reform compared to other parts of the UK. We also serve on the Welsh government's Ystadau Cymru Building Safety Sub-Group, supporting the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government in assessing public sector risks like RAAC, asbestos and electrical safety.

## Welsh Zero Carbon Hwb

RICS became a founding member of the Welsh Zero Carbon Hwb, designed to share best practice, standards and case studies of net-zero and low-carbon homes.

We are working with the Hwb to promote the RICS Residential retrofit standard to provide consumers with impartial, professional retrofit advice, while creating new opportunities for RICS members to tackle some of the biggest climate risks facing Wales.

## Engagement with the Senedd

This year we provided evidence to several Senedd committees on the challenges facing the private rental sector and solutions for increasing social housing supply. We called for the introduction of a Welsh Housing Survey to improve demographic, social and economic data to shape policymaking and an annual review of housing conditions.

RICS' Residential Market Survey and UK Construction Monitors are regularly cited during First Minister's Questions as the leaders for market sentiment.







## Impact in Scotland



Any members who wish to participate in future RICS thought leadership and advocacy in Scotland should contact Robbie Toomey, Public Affairs Lead for Scotland, [rtoomey@rics.org](mailto:rtoomey@rics.org)

# Highlights

Addressing the challenging socioeconomic landscape has taken priority for the Scottish government, but there is also a clear appetite for reform across a range of built environment issues. We have positioned ourselves at the forefront of sustainability and decarbonisation, driving up quality and safety through building standards and transforming land use to address the needs of local communities and the national interest.

Our core aims are to be trusted by and influential to the government and industry, and connected with members.

## Decarbonisation and sustainability

RICS has been actively engaged with the Scottish government on sustainability and net-zero topics throughout the year. We held high-level meetings with Paul McLennan MSP, Minister for Housing, and Patrick Harvie, then Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights, to discuss RICS sustainability standards and their role in helping Scotland achieve its 2045 net-zero target.

In our engagement with MSPs, including Ben Macpherson, we advocated for incorporating the construction industry into the *Circular Economy Bill*. Following our discussions, we provided draft amendments and speech notes for Mr Macpherson's contribution to the Bill's second-stage debate. Our collaboration with the government also covered a broad spectrum of sustainability initiatives, including EPC reform, the Heat in Buildings Strategy, and the Scottish Passivhaus Equivalent Standard.

A major milestone was the release of our cross-industry Retrofit policy briefing, which outlines the challenges and opportunities in Scotland's retrofit sector. This document, shared with ministers and MSPs, highlights RICS' Whole life carbon assessment (WLCA) for the built environment and received strong interest from Dr Alasdair Allan, Acting Minister for Climate Action. A subsequent debate on retrofit, held on 11 September, offered an opportunity to present industry solutions, supported by our joint report *Meeting Scotland's Retrofit Challenge*.

The Green Home Festival – Building towards sustainable and low-carbon living took place in Charlotte Square Gardens on 12–16 August, opposite RICS' Edinburgh office. Dr Alasdair Allan MSP opened the festival and Justin Sullivan, RICS President Elect, welcomed the Minister to the event. Over 500 people attended, including three MSPs, with topics including 'Retrofit done the right way', Passivhaus, heat pump installation and heat networks.

## Residential

We are working closely with colleagues from the Scottish government to review the current iteration of the Home Report. Members of the RICS Residential Forum will be working on this programme throughout next year as we shape how the Home Report will operate in the future.

In addition to this, we met with the Scottish government's housing standards and quality team to discuss the regulatory and governance landscape in which EPCs are currently produced and how this relates to the Home Report.



## Building safety

In December 2023, RICS submitted a consultation response to the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee regarding the *Cladding Remediation (Scotland) Bill*. RICS received 11 references in the Committee report that followed, positioning RICS as a thought leader on a 'safer built environment'. Subsequently, we were asked to feed into the development of the Single Building Assessment, a key piece of legislation that we have been pushing for over the past year.

RICS is now at the centre of influencing the cladding remediation legislation. We are also engaging extensively with the Scottish government on their response to RAAC across the country. This includes providing advice on valuation, as well as highlighting the extensive FAQs we've developed in this space. Work is ongoing and we are currently in the process of developing a RAAC consumer guide.

Finally, work has continued in the tenement maintenance space, with amendments being made to the five-yearly Tenement Maintenance Report draft. We had the opportunity to present this work to MSPs in Parliament at the wider Tenement Maintenance Working Group in January and October.



## Land and rural

This year we gave evidence to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee on the *Land Reform Bill*, with Mhairi Robertson MRICS representing RICS.

We're now in the final stages of establishing a Land and Rural Members Group so that members from a wide range of backgrounds can feed into RICS policy work in this space.

We also delivered Scotland's first Rural Conference in Perth in five years, with policy updates on the Land Reform Bill and a keynote address from Jim Fairlie MSP, Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity. Over 150 members attended, with sponsorship from Saffery.



## Construction

In partnership with Scottish Futures Trust, we hosted a range of QS leaders in Scotland to discuss the opportunities and challenges for construction consultants when contributing to community benefit obligations which are often incorporated within public sector construction contracts.

We also held a roundtable with the Construction Quality Improvement Collaborative, to discuss how we are incorporating the Collaborative's pledge in the work that we do and what more can be done to cement quality throughout the industry.

## Skills and business

Work has continued in the skills and workforce space, with collaboration with professional bodies, including Historic Environment Scotland on their refresh of the Skills Investment Plan. We have also continued to engage with the work of the Construction Leadership Forum – Skills and Workforce Group, where we will be looking to set up a best practice event next year, alongside a repository of best practice information across the industry.

We hosted student cohorts from Northumbria University throughout the year, welcoming them to our Edinburgh office, where we gave talks on our policy work, as well as sharing insights from members of the board.

This year we also hosted Ian Blackford MP, SNP Business Ambassador and Enterprise Forum, for a roundtable on business policies for a future manifesto with the RICS Scotland Board Chair in Edinburgh. Our Vice President, Nick Maclean, also attended meetings with Kate Forbes, Deputy First Minister of Scotland, to discuss Scotland's trade and investment promotion.



## Impact in Northern Ireland



Any members who wish to participate in future RICS thought leadership and advocacy in Northern Ireland should contact Emmet McDonough-Brown, Public Affairs Lead for Northern Ireland, at [emcdonoughbrown@rics.org](mailto:emcdonoughbrown@rics.org)

# Highlights

In 2024, the Northern Ireland Executive was reformed following a two-year hiatus, opening new avenues for RICS to engage with government ministers and senior decision-makers. RICS has positioned itself as a trusted adviser, working closely with the Executive to address opportunities and challenges in the built and natural environment.

Throughout the year, RICS has underscored the critical role of chartered surveyors in delivering sustainable infrastructure, promoting RICS' Whole life carbon assessment (WLCA) for the built environment as an essential tool for meeting net-zero targets. RICS has actively engaged with a variety of government departments, education providers, healthcare authorities and housing bodies, achieving adoption and recognition of our standards across sectors.

RICS continues to engage with client bodies, decision-makers, public servants and institutions on the themes of sustainability, residential and commercial surveying, land and rural practice and the role that RICS members play in delivering a sustainable and resilient future for the built and natural environment.

## Northern Ireland Executive engagement

Since the return of the Northern Ireland Executive, RICS has been engaging with ministers and officials on the full range of issues facing the built and natural environment. RICS members met with the Minister for Infrastructure to discuss wastewater infrastructure, transport projects and more, and also highlighted members' concerns over the *Defective Premises Bill*.

RICS participates in three all-party parliamentary groups – housing, climate action and construction – to promote RICS' standards and thought leadership to industry and political stakeholders.

## Briefing the Education Authority

RICS has been working in partnership with the Education Authority as they develop their approach to sustainable construction and alternative dispute resolution. RICS engaged with the Education Authority to help them expand their knowledge of carbon measurement in construction and made the expertise of RICS available to them in improving their procurement process to avoid contractual conflicts.



## Working with the Department for Communities

RICS is supporting the Department for Communities as they develop policy to decarbonise residential housing supply in Northern Ireland. RICS provided member and technical insight to the Department and promoted the use of whole life carbon assessments to ensure that new homes are designed to reduce their environmental impact.



### Department of Finance promoting consumer guide

Thanks to RICS engagement with the Building Standards Branch, the Department cited RICS' Spray foam insulation consumer guide in their Information Note to advise homeowners on the potential risks of retrofitting spray foam insulation. The Department recommended the RICS guidance to the public and recognised the important role that chartered surveyors play in ensuring safe and healthy buildings.

## Reducing conflicts in public procurement

RICS is promoting the Conflict Avoidance Pledge in Northern Ireland as a method for construction clients to highlight their commitment to reducing conflict in the operation of construction contracts. Construction and Procurement Delivery (CPD) have referenced the Pledge in the NI Construction Playbook as a way the public sector can contract with the private sector to deliver public projects and resolve disputes in a timely and cost-effective manner.

## Helping decarbonise new healthcare projects

The Southern Health & Social Care Trust is adopting RICS' Whole life carbon assessment (WLCA) for the built environment and using it to deliver a project on their estate. The standard is helping the Trust create a new facility to deliver modern healthcare while still achieving net-zero targets.

## Delivering confidence

We are RICS. As a member-led chartered professional body working in the public interest, we uphold the highest technical and ethical standards.

We inspire professionalism, advance knowledge and support our members across global markets to make an effective contribution for the benefit of society. We independently regulate our members in the management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others supports their professional practice and pioneers a natural and built environment that is sustainable, resilient and inclusive for all.

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