

Infrastructure Priorities for Government

The Institution of Civil Engineers – Scotland

Without our infrastructure our economy and society would cease to function. From the water we drink and the power we use, to the roads and railways we travel on and the buildings we occupy – infrastructure underpins every aspect of our lives. Good infrastructure can improve our places, productivity, health and wellbeing.

The Institution of Civil Engineers is the independent voice of infrastructure and the leading source of expertise in infrastructure and engineering policy. ICE has over 8500 members in Scotland drawn from public, private and academic sectors who design, build and maintain Scotland's vital transport, water, flooding, energy and waste infrastructure.

Audit Scotland's infrastructure resiliency

Large portions of Scotland's infrastructure lack resiliency, particularly in the face of increasing climate-driven extreme weather events. Our existing infrastructure will be the foundation of our economic recovery and future communities – it is vital that it is as durable as possible.

Scottish Government should conduct a strategic 'resiliency audit' – bringing together experts from across the public, private and academic sectors to map out areas of pressing challenge and the interventions which can deliver most socio-economic benefit.

Overhaul procurement practices

Public procurement is not working effectively. Smaller contractors are often disadvantaged, local supply chains under-utilised and transactional contract models are not sustainable. Scottish Government must create a more vibrant partnership-based procurement ecosystem, delivering infrastructure fit for Scotland's future.

Plan, deliver and regulate for the long-term

Infrastructure planning, investment and purposeful prioritisation is a long-term obligation and must move beyond short-term political cycles and be founded on a shared vision underpinned by cross-party commitment.

Galvanize expertise

Our highly skilled professionals meet exacting standards to become and remain ICE members. Their expertise in planning, designing, building, maintaining and managing our infrastructure needs to be recognised in policy development, delivery and procurement.

Civil Engineers have always worked to benefit. With decisive action, collaborative working and sound stewardship of our infrastructure assets, Scotland can deliver economic and social value through infrastructure that is fit for the future.