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### **British Cement Association sees Climate Change as Pre-Budget Priority**

The British Cement Association (BCA) today urged the Government to use this year's Pre-Budget Statement to set out a clear path towards tackling greenhouse gas emissions through the taxation and regulatory systems whilst safeguarding national competitiveness.

BCA Chief Executive, Mike Gilbert, said: "Publication of the Stern Report emphasises the economic challenge presented by global warming. By taking action now, it may yet be possible to avert an environmental and economic catastrophe. We call on the Treasury to bring forward a package of financial and regulatory measures that encourage all parts of the economy to play its part. The Chancellor must, however, take care to balance the action that needs to be taken against the potential harm to UK industry competitiveness. A 100% Climate Change Levy rebate for energy intensive industries who are part of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme with strict emission reduction targets would help protect and encourage investment and jobs here in the UK.

The cement industry has put sustainable development at the heart of its operations and is actively working to tackle climate change, having saved over three millions tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> since 1990. With greater government support for innovative technologies, such as carbon capture and storage, we are confident that we can do a lot more.

**ENDS**

#### **For further information:**

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#### **Notes to editors:**

The British Cement Association (BCA) is the trade and research organisation that represents the interests of the United Kingdom's cement industry in its relations with Her Majesty's Government,

the European Union and relevant organisations in the United Kingdom. The members of the BCA (Buxton Lime Industries, Castle Cement, Cemex Cement UK and Lafarge Cement UK) are the major domestic manufacturers of Portland cement producing over 90% of the cement sold in the UK.

The cement industry has an annual turnover of £775 million and is a major supplier to the construction industry. It employs around 3,400 people directly with a further 15,000 jobs depending upon its operations.

The UK cement industry is responsible for 1.7% of UK CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Since 1990, the cement industry has saved three million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. The industry has reduced its direct emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> by 28% since 1990 and improved its energy efficiency by 25% over the same period. This has been achieved by the substitution of virgin raw materials with mineral by-products and waste materials and the use of alternative fuels, such as scrap tyres. The additional environmental benefit of these initiatives has been to divert materials that would otherwise have gone to landfill.