

Reply from Professor Martin Parry - 4 June 2014

During the Environment Committee's discussion yesterday of how to embed the new CIBSE heat thresholds into revised building codes, I mentioned that this year's report (in early July) by the Adaptation Sub-Committee would touch upon , and that I would provide you with information concerning where previous recommendations had been made to UK government concerning revision of building codes in the UK to accommodate climate change.

These were by the CCIRG in 1991 and 1996, as follows:

Recommendations for the construction sector

Department of the Environment Climate Change Impacts Review, The Potential effects of climate Change in the United Kingdom, HMSO, 1990.

Recommendations for policy:

- (page 89) *'The British Standards Institution, in conjunction with the Meteorological office and BRE urgently need to review the procedures by which Code development and code revision for the construction industry can take better account of informed UK and European predictions concerning potential changes which affect Code preparation and revision.'*

Recommendations for policy

-(page 89) *'Special steps should be taken to strengthen research concerning hot weather cooling problems in buildings, giving particular attention to natural cooling techniques rather than placing excessive reliance on the expanded use of air conditioning systems.'*

Department of the Environment Climate Change Impacts Review, Review of the Potential Effects of Climate Change in the United Kingdom, HMSO, 1996.

Recommendation for policy in the construction sector:

- (page vi Summary Recommendations) *'vi) Present practices for the design, inspection and monitoring of building, minerals extraction, water and transport structures (which have a long lifetime) are based on an understanding of current levels of risk related to weather and coastal flooding. These may need to be revised in the context of climate change, in particular, design codes and standards may need to be revised to account for the effect of climate in altering levels of future risk.*

- (page 157) *'There should be a drive to translate climate change data into standard construction guides such as the CIBSE Guide and Specification.'*

Recommendations for research:

- (pages 155-7) *several recommendations on design for natural cooling and shading systems, and for adaptation to driving rain, wind loads, condensation, shrinking clays, etc.*

I hope this helps,

Martin

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