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## Comment

# Looking for an industry champion



Penning this in the early days of a new decade, my mind turns to resolutions and a wish list for those who govern us – especially as we may well see a change of government in the months ahead.

On planning, let's have a speedier, more business-friendly approach for mineral applications, either through Brussels initiatives or from Westminster. Let's see managed aggregate supply, regional aggregates working parties and MPS1 retained and strengthened by a clear unambiguous

statement on national need. Let's source locally from the UK and keep imports to a minimum and by doing so keep our carbon footprint low.

A lighter regulatory touch is needed for good operators, the vast majority. Simple trust needs to be re-established. Let's soften the burden of bureaucracy that has grown almost exponentially in the last few years and threatens to throttle the spirit of enterprise, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises. Let's abandon the inappropriate and disastrous environmental permitting regime.

Let's get more clarity from

fewer ministries and put all minerals governance under one department. We need greater recognition by a wider public of the value and contribution of the minerals industry and its significant role in environmental enhancement, biodiversity and geodiversity.

Minerals are essential to our everyday lives and the UK's economic welfare. We need some real champions for the industry, whether they are politicians, public figures, leaders or perhaps even a celebrity.

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