



Andrea Jenkyns MP
Minister for Skills

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Peter Lauener, Chair
Construction Industry Training Board
Sand Martin House
Bittern Way
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25 October 2022

Dear Peter,

2023-24 Department for Education Priorities letter to the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)

This letter sets out the Government's priorities for the CITB for the coming financial year. It is issued annually before your annual business plan is finalised so that the CITB Board is clear on HMG priorities alongside the construction skills needs your research and industry engagement has identified. I ask that you consider how they may be incorporated into CITB objectives and delivery for FY 2023-24.

The Government has set out its clear focus on growth, leading to a stronger economy and better future for everyone. The Construction Playbook published in December 2020, and its recent update including annexes on Modern Methods of Construction and Promoting Net Zero Carbon and Sustainability in construction, highlight the need for the construction industry to be cognisant of different approaches and new skill requirements. This is in addition to the forthcoming Building Safety requirements and increased digitalisation to improve productivity within the sector. As a body responsible for improving the provision of skills in the construction industry, the CITB has an important role in supporting the success of the construction sector in delivering our current and future planned infrastructure and built environment. Your continued focus across the Construction Industry landscape will help to ensure that the technical skills needed are in place.

I would like to thank CITB for the work delivered on skills over the last year. For example, I am especially grateful for your support for construction T levels, bootcamps and the free courses for jobs. In particular your help in our work to find industrial placements, a key aspect of the T Level course. You have helped my officials develop the bootcamps initiative for the construction industry and you have helped promote the free courses offer. For the CITB's efforts to prioritise brickwork skills to support housebuilding was valuable.

The Government has five priorities for CITB in England in the next 12 months:

1. The overarching priority for CITB will always remain the same – **to make better provision of training to people aged over 16 years within the construction industry.**

2. I ask that the CITB continues to **lend its visible and proactive support to government policies** such as those below. It can make an important contribution by helping to shape these interventions and to communicate to employers how they fit together and to identify which of the specific measures will best help them meet their skill needs.
 - Apprenticeships: Helping to increase uptake of construction apprenticeships, including those related to green construction. Continue to support the reviewing of our flagship apprenticeships through the Green Advisory Panel (GAP) and providing support on the development, implementation, and progress of apprenticeship proposals through the Construction Skills Delivery Group.
 - Construction T Levels: Encouraging employers to get involved with and promote T Levels and offer industry placements as part of wider work to shape reforms to improve and grow technical education. Ensure efficiency in the system, by developing a mechanism for ensuring those working in Onsite construction can evidence full occupational competence within 12 months of completing a T Level and the mechanism has currency with employers.
 - Lifelong Loan Entitlement (LLE): Increasing the sector's understanding and interest in the LLE by feeding into specific engagement activities led by the department.
 - Construction Bootcamps: Supporting DfE to develop Skills Bootcamps in Construction, to better support industry and employers' skills needs. Increasing employer engagement at both a local and national level to encourage the successful delivery of positive outcomes based on the partnership with Government through our joint MoU.
 - Free Courses for Jobs Level 3 offer: Help increase the uptake of the free qualifications offer to adults without an existing Level 3 by continuing to raise awareness throughout the industry.
3. I ask that the CITB also continues to **support and champion skills development necessary for:**
 - Supporting the Government's objective to increase housing supply in England, and to help regenerate our towns and cities across the country to improve housing, living standards and pride of place.
 - The shift to increased construction delivery using Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), building on the government and the Construction Leadership Council's work through the Construction Playbook.
 - Preparing the workforce for the transition to net zero carbon emissions by 2050, helping providers of qualifications and training and those responsible for occupational standards such as IfATE understand the skills and knowledge needed to deliver decarbonisation.
4. While the CITB is not responsible for the construction workforce, it does have a role in facilitating skills opportunities to help the industry strive towards a workforce that is reflective of today's society. I would like you to ensure CITB's influence of the skills system continues to **promote diversity in the construction sector**. It's important that CITB helps ensure that training courses and products do not create barriers for workers from more diverse backgrounds, and deprived areas.
5. The CITB must urgently address **skills development** in relation to the **remediation and mitigation of unsafe cladding on mid-rise and high-rise residential buildings** in response to the Grenfell fire tragedy; by ensuring that appropriate training and development is available, clear access to that training and career pathways are established. The CITB should also continue to **raise awareness and**

enable relevant training interventions to assist the construction sector to adhere to regulatory building safety requirements and guidance.

I would ask that the CITB continues to strengthen its relationships across Government. This will support a strategic approach to developing construction skills in line with national priorities. Please continue to engage with DLUHC and the Building Safety Regulator, to assist in setting the competence requirements for tradespeople covering the core criteria for building safety. Your continued engagement with relevant industry bodies representing small, medium, and larger employers is welcomed and encouraged, as is your engagement with the Construction Skills Delivery Group, the Infrastructure and Projects Authority, procuring Departments and the Construction Leadership Council.

I ask that you continue to use your business plan or other official correspondence, to outline how the CITB plans to align its work with the priorities outlined above. I know that the CITB will keep my officials sighted on the CITB's progress against these priorities, via your Strategic Performance Review meetings. I ask that you continue to use your business plan or other official correspondence, to outline how the CITB plans to align its work with the priorities outlined above.

I have advised my office of my desire to have an introductory meeting with you to discuss opportunities and challenges in the construction sector as well as reflecting on CITB's achievements. You can expect my office to be in touch with yours, to arrange a suitable date.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Education, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Secretary of State for Education, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Scottish Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training, Welsh Minister for Local Government, and the FE Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A Jenkyns', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrea Jenkyns MP
Minister for Skills