



Rt Hon Anne Milton MP

Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills
Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Peter Lauener
Bircham Newton
Kings Lynn
Norfolk PE31 6RH

12th September 2018

Dear Peter,

Annual Priorities letter to the CITB, 2018-19

We said in the ITB review that we would issue an annual priorities letter to the industry training boards to inform and support your business planning processes. The announcements in that review, the Budget and the recently published Construction Sector Deal collectively set out the Government's ambitions for the construction sector in England, and inform the priorities in this letter.

As we have previously said, CITB has an important role to play in supporting the industry to meet the challenges ahead, working with the trade associations, the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) and others. CITB's priority should, of course, be the long-term needs of the construction industry, including small employers. I know that CITB's current business plans seek to meet these challenges, and I hope that setting out the Government's priorities at this point will enable you to continue to align your plans with the wider policy agenda, and help you and industry colleagues to see how the Government's objectives fit together.

The Government has four key priorities for CITB in England for 2018-19:

- Help the industry to develop the skills it will need to meet the Government's ambition to build 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s, in particular by: analysing future workforce needs (working with the skills advisory panels); strengthening the skills partnership with the Home Builders Federation; working more closely with Homes England, housing associations and small and medium-sized developers; and supporting delivery of the National Retraining Scheme Construction Skills Fund launched in June.
- Support and help to drive the modernisation of the industry: work with the Infrastructure and Projects Authority, procuring Departments, the CLC and industry bodies to plan and deliver the skills and progression routes that will be needed by the construction sector now and in the future. There should be a particular focus on the development of skills to

support the adoption by the industry of digital and offsite manufacturing technologies, including those developed through the Transforming Construction Programme.

- Help the industry to tackle current issues and adapt to changes in the supply of labour, with a primary focus on increasing apprenticeship numbers to 25,000 per year, developing apprenticeship standards, supporting the development of the new construction T levels and the provision of work placements, considering the implications of the Grenfell Tower disaster, and improving the industry's poor record on diversity.
- See through your reform programme, as set out in your Agenda for Change, so that CITB is efficient, focused and responsive.

You will also want to consider actions for future years, including whether to review CITB's scope, planning the arrangements for reporting to the industry on your achievements, and starting to prepare for the next consensus round.

As promised in the ITB review, we will continue to work closely with you to improve sponsorship arrangements, including doing what we can to remove any barriers preventing you meeting your objectives.

I should be grateful if, through your quarterly strategic performance reviews, you would keep my officials updated on the delivery of your 2018-19 business plan and wider reforms.

I am copying this letter to Kit Malthouse MP, Jo Johnson MP, Richard Harrington MP, Robert Jenrick MP, Jamie Hepburn MSP, Julie James AM, and the FE Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Anne Milton MP
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