

ConstructionSkills – What does it do?

Since our launch two years ago, ConstructionSkills has been working both to influence Government training policy and gain funding for the industry. The focus is squarely on getting the best for you, the UK construction industry. Our four key goals are:

- Reducing skills gaps and shortages
- Improving performance and productivity
- Increasing opportunities for all
- Improving learning supply

What's in it for you? We're striving to ensure you get:

The right people – By attracting and retaining staff in construction through initiatives such as the GCSE in Construction and the Built Environment, and the Positive Image Campaign.

The right training – By attracting funding to meet employers' training needs through innovative approaches.

The right format – By improving the quality of training and qualifications to meet employers' needs through the Construction Qualifications Strategy.

In the right place – By planning the future skills needs for every UK region.

Apprenticeships – they've started, now they can finish

One of the first SSA initiatives to bear fruit is an innovative approach that will increase the opportunities for on-site work experience and boost completion rates for apprentices by 400% by 2010. Traditionally it has been the smaller employer that has trained apprentices; now the whole supply chain will play its part. This approach means that apprentices are trained to an initial level of competence, acceptable to sub-contractors, to be able to work on site. The sub-contractor then manages their work practice to achieve a full apprenticeship framework and completion. Employers not able to support someone through a whole apprenticeship, or who need an apprentice to have a certain level of skills before taking trainees on site, will be able to offer training. We have secured LSC funding for a pilot.



Graduates – getting the best

April 2005 saw the launch of the Inspire Scholarships scheme. This £1million scheme will attract the 'brightest and best' undergraduates into construction by offering students up to £9,000 to support them through university. Sponsoring employers will also provide a 10-week summer placement and potential employment upon graduation. Nicola Thompson, of CITB-ConstructionSkills says: "An increasing number of school-leavers are opting for construction degree courses, but we need more, quickly. Almost half of employers say skills gaps are causing serious problems. The Inspire Scholarships scheme should help to address this. We had over 200 applications in the first year and will build on this next year."



ConstructionSkills Inspire Scholarship Programme

Build your future with up to £9000 for University

Want to do a degree in Construction or the Built Environment? Then we want to give you up to £9000 a year to help you do it. They've teamed up with us to create ConstructionSkills Inspire Scholarships. For your chance to be one of the first to apply visit constructionskills.co.uk/scholarship

This LSC top construction companies are on the look out for talented young people to be the building professionals of the future. Finding tomorrow's talent today

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Building goes back to school

ConstructionSkills has been working to develop the first ever GCSE in Construction and the Built Environment. The GCSE will engage many more young people earlier and prepare them for industry progression via apprenticeship, further or higher education. The new qualification will go live in September 2005 in 55 schools and colleges in England and Wales. If successful, it will be rolled out by 2008.

Sheila Hoile, of CITB-ConstructionSkills comments "For the first time, a high quality introduction to the range of careers in construction and the built environment will be available to young people. It will develop skills, knowledge and understanding of the industry and engage pupils in the built environment in a practical and positive way."

The Olympic challenge

ConstructionSkills welcomed the news that London had won the Olympic bid with a declaration of confidence in our industry. "There has never been a more exciting time for young people to join the construction industry," we told the world on 6 July.

The £10 billion investment in the Olympic village and a host of other projects will provide a high profile showcase for construction



jobs and skills. We are dedicated to ensuring that the industry has the right people, with the right skills, in the right place at the right time to meet this challenge.

Tomorrow's skills, today

We are committed to working with the construction industry to deliver the skills we need, but first we need to agree what those needs are.

Only an authoritative and unanimous understanding of what skills are available where and when, will ensure that the right recruitment and training and expenditure decisions are made throughout the industry. ConstructionSkills has the answer. We are creating a comprehensive model analysing capacity, productivity and skills across the entire UK industry. It will capture, co-ordinate and analyse information from around the sector, producing comprehensive and authoritative reports on current skill levels and tell us, unequivocally, what we need for the future.

These reports will combine analysis of existing employment and capacity and first-class forecasting, so that Government, regional agencies and individual companies can plan future skills needs – and target the necessary investment – with confidence.

Bring in the professionals...

CIC-ConstructionSkills' new Professional Services Employers Panel for London met for the first time in May. Members are drawn from a wide range of disciplines and both small and larger firms are represented.



The panel's main purpose is to help inform and guide the priority actions as part of CIC-ConstructionSkills input to the Sector Skills Agreement.

Mark Way, Director of Skills at CIC-ConstructionSkills said "It is important that newer and emergent firms are able to give their views as well as the more established names."

The panel meets on a regular basis with lively dialogue continuing between meetings.

Sisters are doing it for themselves



In April we launched a £1million recruitment campaign to communicate the benefits of a construction career to women and ethnic minorities. The Positive Image campaign is fronted by T4 youth programme presenter June Sarpong. We are working alongside other initiatives like Inspire Scholarships and the new GCSE to target graduate-level recruits.

Giving heritage skills a facelift

NHTG, a partnership between English Heritage and ConstructionSkills, have announced a Skills Action Plan to address skills shortages in heritage and conservation skills.

A joint research project found that 6,500 people are needed in the next 12 months. We will raise the profile of vocational heritage skills training to attract new recruits, develop new qualifications and secure funding. We will also 'Train the Trainers' and start to develop regional centres of excellence. We need these people to ensure we maintain our country's built heritage.



CIOB & ConstructionSkills working together



Allan McMullen, ConstructionSkills council member and Chief Executive of CITBNI, has been elected President of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB).

As President, Allan's objectives for the next 12 months are to:

- Empower members internationally to promote the science and practice of building.
- Strive to ensure that members have the competencies relevant to the needs of their respective industry's worldwide.

CIOB will play a leading role in establishing and facilitating the skills needs of the UK construction industry through their involvement with ConstructionSkills and the Sector Skills Agreement for construction and their support for work on qualifications, recruitment, education, training and development.

Qualifications – have **your** say

Our industry has an exciting opportunity to shape its own qualifications framework, ensuring they are fit for purpose for the construction industry now and in the future. Your input is vital so we will be consulting through workshops in October and November. To attend register at www.constructionskills.net

We're here for you

ConstructionSkills is a partnership between CITB-ConstructionSkills, the Construction Industry Council and CITB Northern Ireland.

If you would like to know more about ConstructionSkills log onto our website www.constructionskills.net



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