

PRESS RELEASE

10 May 2005



Responses to Construction Act Consultation welcomed

The Construction Umbrella Bodies' Adjudication Task Group¹ met recently to consider the Department for Productivity, Energy and Industry (DPEI) consultation on proposals to amend Part II of the Construction Act (entitled 'Improving Payment Practices in the Construction Industry'). The CUB Adjudication Task Group² acted as one of the two sub-groups advising Sir Michael Latham's main Review Panel which assisted the DPEI (formerly the DTI) in the processes leading up to this consultation exercise.

Speaking shortly after the CUB meeting, the Chairman of the Task Group, Graham Watts³, said:

"This is one of the most open consultation exercises I can recall in over 20 years of working with government. Most of us in the industry feel that the Construction Act has worked well since 1998 but that it can be improved to help facilitate even better payment and adjudication procedures. The consultation paper is the product of extensive and widespread discussions with experts from the industry and the legal and adjudication communities which serve construction. It is clearly very important that the industry gets behind this process and sends its views to the DPEI so that the government can come to a considered decision in relation to legislative reform.

In responding to the consultation document and its specific proposals it is also important for the industry to bear in mind that all is still to play for: nothing has yet been ruled out of bounds by the government. Responses to the consultation paper should not be constrained by any presumptions about what may happen.

It is essential that the industry gives its views so that we can build up a significant momentum in favour of change."

Copies of the consultation document are available from the Department for Productivity, Energy and Industry website at <http://www.dti.gov.uk/construction/> or to obtain a paper copy of the consultation paper please contact the DPEI publications orderline (telephone: 0845 015 0010 quoting URN 05/851). All responses must be received by **21 June 2005**.

Ends

Notes to the editor

1. The Construction Umbrella Bodies are the Construction Confederation, the Construction Industry Council, the Construction Products Association and the National Specialist Contractors Council and Specialist Engineering Contractors Group. The Construction Clients Group, the Technology and Construction Courts' Solicitors' Association and Adjudication Society also participate on this task group.
2. As a pre-existing group, the CUB Adjudication Task Group was invited to become the adjudication sub-group of the Latham Review Committee.
3. Graham Watts is also the Chief Executive of CIC and the Secretary of the Strategic Forum for Construction.