

# PRESS RELEASE

27 October 2006



## Keith Clarke appointed Chairman of CIC Health & Safety Committee

The CIC Council, meeting on 18 October, has approved the formation of a high-level Health & Safety Committee, which is to be chaired by Keith Clarke, the Chief Executive of Atkins.

The new Committee, which will be representative of the leading professional bodies and professional services suppliers, will take on board the representation of the sector at the Health & Safety Executive and, in particular, through membership of the Construction Industry Advisory Committee (CONIAC); it will also act as the focal point for the thorough implementation of the revised CDM Regulations early next year and for providing guidance to the professions about effective compliance; it will take responsibility for embedding health & safety within the professions and in education, including the arrangements for the Professional Qualified Persons' CSCS card. In total, the new Committee will provide pan-professional, authoritative leadership of the vital importance of health & safety in every aspect of creating and maintaining the built environment.

Speaking of his appointment, Keith Clarke says: "I am delighted to chair the new Standing Committee and extremely pleased that CIC has taken the significant step of upgrading the profile of health and safety.

"Safety is not about policing but about behaviour and there must be a broad and deep consensus that unsafe sites or activities are unacceptable in any circumstances. This is the responsibility of all of us."

Earlier this month Atkins demonstrated its commitment to the health and safety agenda at its Group Conference, when 200 of its senior managers were among the first to sit the pilot CSCS test for Professionally Qualified Persons.

"By helping to raise knowledge and understanding, the new test should have enormous influence, not only on construction techniques used but also on the values and ethos of sites themselves," adds Clarke.

The CIC Chairman, the Rt Hon Nick Raynsford said "we are absolutely delighted to have secured Keith Clarke's commitment to chair the new CIC Standing Committee for Health & Safety and he will, no doubt, become a very visible champion for health & safety within the professions. All of us in CIC are greatly looking forward to working with Keith to firmly fix health & safety as the highest priority across all our activities"

**Ends**

**Notes to the editor**

1. Keith Clarke is a qualified architect with over 30 years' experience in construction and engineering. He joined Atkins as Chief Executive in 2003. He previously worked at Skanska AB where he was responsible for operations in the United Kingdom, Poland, the Czech Republic, India, Hong Kong, and China.
2. CIC is the representative forum for the professional bodies, research organisations and specialist trade associations in the construction industry. It provides a single voice for professionals in all sectors of the built environment through its collective membership of 500,000 individual professionals and 25,000 firms of construction consultants.

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