



scottish **construction** forum

An Industry Manifesto

Building a Modern
Construction Industry

www.scottishconstructionforum.com

Scottish Construction Forum – Industry Manifesto

The Scottish construction industry contributes more than £12 billion to the Scottish economy every year or nearly 10% of Scotland's total economic output.

This is larger than the agriculture, fisheries and public administration sectors combined. Latest statistics show that 200,000 people work in construction meaning the industry accounts for one in every 11 jobs across the country.

The Scottish Construction Forum believes the importance of the industry to the wider economy has been at best undervalued and at worst taken for granted for too long.

As the voice of the industry the Forum is now calling on parties across the political spectrum to sign up to a series of measures that will help:

- Build a more professional reputation for the industry
- Simplify and clarify public sector procurement
- Improve health and safety
- Make training more relevant
- Improve the industry's green credentials

1 Health and safety – 'Target ZERO'

- The SCF wants a commitment by the new Scottish Executive to look into running a 'Target ZERO' campaign, in partnership with the Health and Safety Executive, to improve fatality rates within the Scottish construction industry.

Current figures show that deaths in the Scottish construction industry are 15% higher than the UK average and historically have been consistently higher.

The SCF believes a sustained and integrated advertising, marketing and PR campaign targeted directly at the industry would reverse this.

As a reserved matter, the SCF would like the new Executive to progress this with colleagues in Westminster.

- The SCF wants the Executive to look into how access to ESOL – English as a second language – training could be made easier for foreign construction workers. Anecdotal evidence suggests that a lack of basic English among workers increases risk on site.

The SCF believes it is not an option to continue to accept a second best health and safety record if a modern professional industry is to be developed.

2 Public contracts – A workforce qualified for the job

- All contractors working on public sector contracts should have a workforce qualified for the job.

To tackle the 'black market' of bogus self employed the SCF wants new criteria to be set for public sector procurement contracts linked to the incoming CIS workers classification system.

- All contractors appointed to work in the public sector should be registered with the Construction Licensing Executive (or equivalent body outside Scotland). A commitment from the Executive to this will improve the quality of work being carried out in the public sector. It will also further establish the CLE as the quality 'kite mark' organisation for the industry.

- All workers on public sector contracts must carry a CSCS/SCORE or other appropriate card proving an appropriate level of competence for the job.

3 Procurement – A consistent public procurement policy

- A commitment by the new Executive to overcome the variations in public sector procurement practices that currently result in confusion and inefficiency.

The new Executive must take action to promote and encourage the use of standardised guidelines that simplify the procurement process across the public sector.

- All public contracts should follow the STUC/Scottish Executive contract protocol. The SCF wants the new Executive to do more to highlight the existence of this protocol within the industry.

4 Education and training – Teaching relevant skills

- The SCF wants a commitment by the new Executive to review the way skills and training are funded through the existing university and college system.

The Scottish Construction Industry invests heavily in education and training with support from the Scottish Executive. 45% of all Construction apprentices are trained in Scotland.

In partnership with Sector Skills Councils and the Industry, Scotland's colleges and universities provide training opportunities from foundation level to higher technician, degree and postgraduate levels.

The SCF believes such a review will encourage an increase in higher level provision to meet the future needs of the industry.

5 Climate change and the Environment – A responsible industry

- The Scottish Construction Forum accepts that the industry has a key role to play in reducing energy consumption and adopting improved environmentally friendly ways of working.

The SCF wants greater direct engagement with the new Executive and its environmental agencies to ensure work being done is sustainable.

The construction business in the UK is responsible for nearly a third of all industry-related pollution incidents. Construction and demolition waste alone represent 19% of total UK waste. Too many buildings are environmentally inefficient and do not make best use of limited resources such as energy and water. The energy used in constructing, occupying and operating buildings represents approximately 50% of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK.

The Forum pledges to promote environmental best practise within the industry and seeks a commitment of support from the new Executive to help achieve this.

6 Educating the public – Building public confidence

The SCF urges the new Scottish Executive to launch a public information campaign which will provide every household in the country with a simple construction check-list of do's and don'ts when employing tradesman.

The Scottish Construction Forum

The Scottish Construction Forum is an industry led initiative which aims to drive forward improvements in Scotland's construction sector. With members drawn from both the public and private sectors the Forum seeks to encourage best practice, improve research, and increase communication across the construction sector. By providing strategic advice to the industry, the Scottish Executive and the Scottish Parliament, the Forum will work to boost productivity and improve standards within the sector.

The Forum was established in February 2004, following a recommendation made by the Modernising Construction Strategic Group in their report 'Achieving Construction Innovation and Excellence in Scotland' (August 2003).

The other two primary recommendations were to:

- Create a Construction Innovation and Excellence Centre;
- Facilitate workload continuity via a plan of public sector construction projects.

Specific areas of focus by the Forum have included procurement, image and awareness, workforce development and best practice.

Information:

For more information about the Forum, or to view a calendar of meetings and notes of past meetings, visit www.scottishconstructionforum.com or contact the Forum secretariat at:

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Scottish Construction Forum Membership:

The Scottish Construction Forum is made up of senior representatives and individuals from across the Scottish construction industry, clients, government and enterprise agencies. These include:

- The Scottish Construction Clients' Forum (SCCF)
- The Health & Safety Executive
- Communities Scotland
- Scottish Higher and Further Education
- The Scottish Construction Industry Group (SCIG) with representatives from each of its five colleges: Professionals, Contractors, Specialist Contractors, Trade Unions and Suppliers
- Constructing Excellence
- The Scottish Decorators Federation
- Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)
- CITB–ConstructionSkills
- Construction Licensing Executive
- Scottish Consumer Council
- Borders Construction Industry Forum
- Scottish Enterprise
- Highland and Islands Enterprise
- Scottish Executive