



Working better together
to improve our industry
in Northern Ireland

INTRODUCING OUR NEW BRAND

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CITB-ConstructionSkills Northern Ireland

Working together to support you, your business and the construction industry in Northern Ireland.

Who are we?

Our new brand identity has been created to represent the amalgamated operations of the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and the Sector Skills Council for construction, ConstructionSkills in Northern Ireland.

The CITB has undergone significant change in the last 12 months. Following a full internal review of CITB's strategy in 2008, the external review of CITB was published by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) in July 2009.

A major change has involved merging CITB and ConstructionSkills in Northern Ireland, to create a leaner and more responsive organisation. The Belfast office has closed and the new business now operates solely from our Nutts Corner offices.

What is our role?

The role of the reshaped organisation will be to encourage the adequate training of those employed or intending to be employed in the construction industry and to improve the skills and productivity of the industry, to deliver a safe, professional and fully qualified workforce across the whole of the construction industry in Northern Ireland.

What are our aims?

- Understand and meet the training needs of the industry
- Value learning as the key tool for improving productivity
- Maximise our income from sources other than levy
- Improve accessibility of grants and services to the industry
- Maximise the proportion of levy returned to the industry in grants and services
- Seek out better ways of doing business.
- Become the recognised endorsement for construction training courses
- Exceed the expectations of our customers

What services will we provide to the construction industry in Northern Ireland?

By combining the operations of two divisions under one amalgamated brand, the construction industry in Northern Ireland will benefit from a wider variety of services than before. Major changes we have already made include;

Payment of grants

1,220 employers claimed grant in 2008/2009 at a total grant expenditure of £2.28m, which equates to 50% of levy income. We aim to increase this to 55% of levy paid out as grant, within the next 12 months.

Collection of levy

From September 2009 the levy threshold was increased from £15,000 to £80,000. This has reduced the number of levy payers from 2,667 in November 2008 down to 1,256 in November 2009. This represents a 53% reduction in the number of levy payers.

Labour market intelligence

We aim to become the definitive source of information on the Northern Ireland construction industry, its skills and its training needs.

Increased investment in IT and electronic media

This has included updates to our website and will enable employers to fill in annual levy returns and apply for grants online. This will also reduce the administrative burden on ourselves and employers.

Qualifications

We will support the development of standards and qualifications infrastructure in Northern Ireland.

Training and careers advice

We will engage with government, training providers and other stakeholders to ensure the needs of the industry are met.

Training course availability

We are continually developing our database of courses and training providers to give employers the most accurate information available.

Training provider accreditation

We aim to accredit training providers and to provide endorsement of external courses.

Publications

We will continue to produce a range of informative publications for employers, ranging from health and safety booklets, to grants and levy information leaflets.