



CLC News Release

17.05.2022 **Building Safety - First stage complete in journey towards fully competent installer workforce**

The construction and built environment sector must maintain momentum to ensure the competence of installation organisations and employees as a key report highlights 'red flags' amid wider progress on Building Safety.

The Construction Leadership Council has welcomed the publication today of a report setting out the current state of competence arrangements for those installing products and systems in buildings.

The report has been prepared by members of Working Group 2, set up as part of the post-Grenfell Competence Steering Group. Volunteers from Working Group 2 have worked with six pilot installer sectors – Domestic Plumbing and Heating, Dry Lining, Fire Detection and Alarms, Fire Stopping Specialist, Rainscreen Cladding, and Roofing – to benchmark existing competence arrangements.

This Pilot – Phase One stage sets a baseline to identify shortfalls and considers the changes needed to create competence frameworks that comply with the recommendations of Setting the Bar. In 2020, Setting the Bar outlined how industry must improve the competence of those procuring, designing, constructing, inspecting, assessing, managing, installing and maintaining higher risk residential buildings.

Today's report recognises that good practice exists in each of the six sectors that allows them to demonstrate elements of competence. Yet there are elements of each sectors' arrangements that the working group has red rated, showing that significant work is required to meet the requirements of Setting the Bar.

Each sector will now move to develop sector-specific competence frameworks that play to existing strengths and close off any red flag issues raised in the report. This process – which will also develop a timeline and implementation plan for each sector – is expected to take six to nine months.

The report also calls on other installer sectors to begin their own competence journey now, offering guidance to help them do so which Working Group 2 has developed during the pilots.

Mark Reynolds, Sponsor for the CLC's People and Skills Network, said:

"Publication of Working Group 2's latest report marks an important milestone in progress towards improved standards of installer competence in the built environment. The CLC will continue to do all we can to assist with the pilots and I would urge other installer sectors now to embark on their own competence journeys, drawing on the resources which Working Group 2 has provided."

Nick Jarman, Chair of Working Group 2, said:

"There has been much collaboration since the formation of Working Group 2, focussed on how we can learn from the lessons of the past and forge a new pathway of improvement for the future with the objective of providing a safer built environment overall. I would like to thank sector representatives and my Working Group 2 colleagues for getting the pilot process to the point this report can be published. Working Group 2 looks forward to further engagement and collaboration with the wider installer sector to continue progress on this crucial workstream."

Iain McIlwee, Chief Executive of the Finishes and Interiors Sector trade association (FIS), a participant in the Dry Lining pilot, said: *"FIS and its members are fully committed to raising standards of competence for organisations and individuals and we have found it immensely valuable to collaborate with and learn from colleagues through this work. We look forward to carrying on the work, further developing and embedding the Dry Lining competence framework into the core of our sector and beginning the dialogue about competence in other disciplines to ensure that we all work better together."*

Notes to editors

A copy of the report is available [here](#).

Other (non-pilot) installer sectors interested in starting to review their own current competence arrangements in the light of Setting the Bar, etc. should contact Louis Lyons at Build UK (louis.lyons@builduk.org).

About the Construction Leadership Council (CLC)

The CLC's mission is to provide sector leadership to the construction industry. The expanded CLC has twelve workstreams that operate collaboratively to address the biggest issues facing the sector. Workstreams include skills and inclusion, building safety, Net Zero and business models. The CLC is co-chaired by Lee Rowley MP, Minister for Business and Industry, and Andy Mitchell CBE, CEO of Thames Tideway.