

CLC Connect

April 2024

Bi-Monthly update

In this issue we hear from Richard Robinson, UK & Ireland President
AtkinsRéalis

Short Term Priorities and Actions

Priority progress

Get the latest updates from our four priority areas:

[Net Zero + Biodiversity](#)

[Next Generation Delivery](#)

[Building Safety](#)

[People + Skills](#)



Construction
Leadership
Council



Department for
Business & Trade

Welcome to CLC Connect, the Construction Leadership Council's Bi-Monthly newsletter which will keep you up to date with all things CLC.

Construction is a busy and fast changing industry. From new government policies and game-changing private sector initiatives to emerging technologies and innovative ways of working, there's a lot going on as we strive to grow, improve productivity, attract and retain talent, and successfully transition to Net Zero.

CLC Connect will keep you informed, celebrate success, and help bring us closer together.

We're keen to hear your feedback and story ideas so please get in touch via:

construction.enquiries@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Enjoy and thank you for reading.



Construction
Leadership
Council



Department for
Business & Trade





Bi- Monthly Update

Richard Robinson

UK & Ireland President, AtkinsRéalis

Welcome to the first CLC Connect of 2024, which – incredibly - we’re already a third of the way through.

The first three months of the year have been very busy. We’ve made lots of progress across our four priority areas, not to mention the publication of our Bi-annual Report and 2024 plan.

We’ve also seen several significant government announcements and the publication of the long-awaited National Infrastructure and Construction Pipeline – a document we’ve pushing really hard for over the last couple of years. While the pipeline provides our industry with a welcome view of planned investment in the short-term, we’ve fed back that the longer-term view needs more clarity.

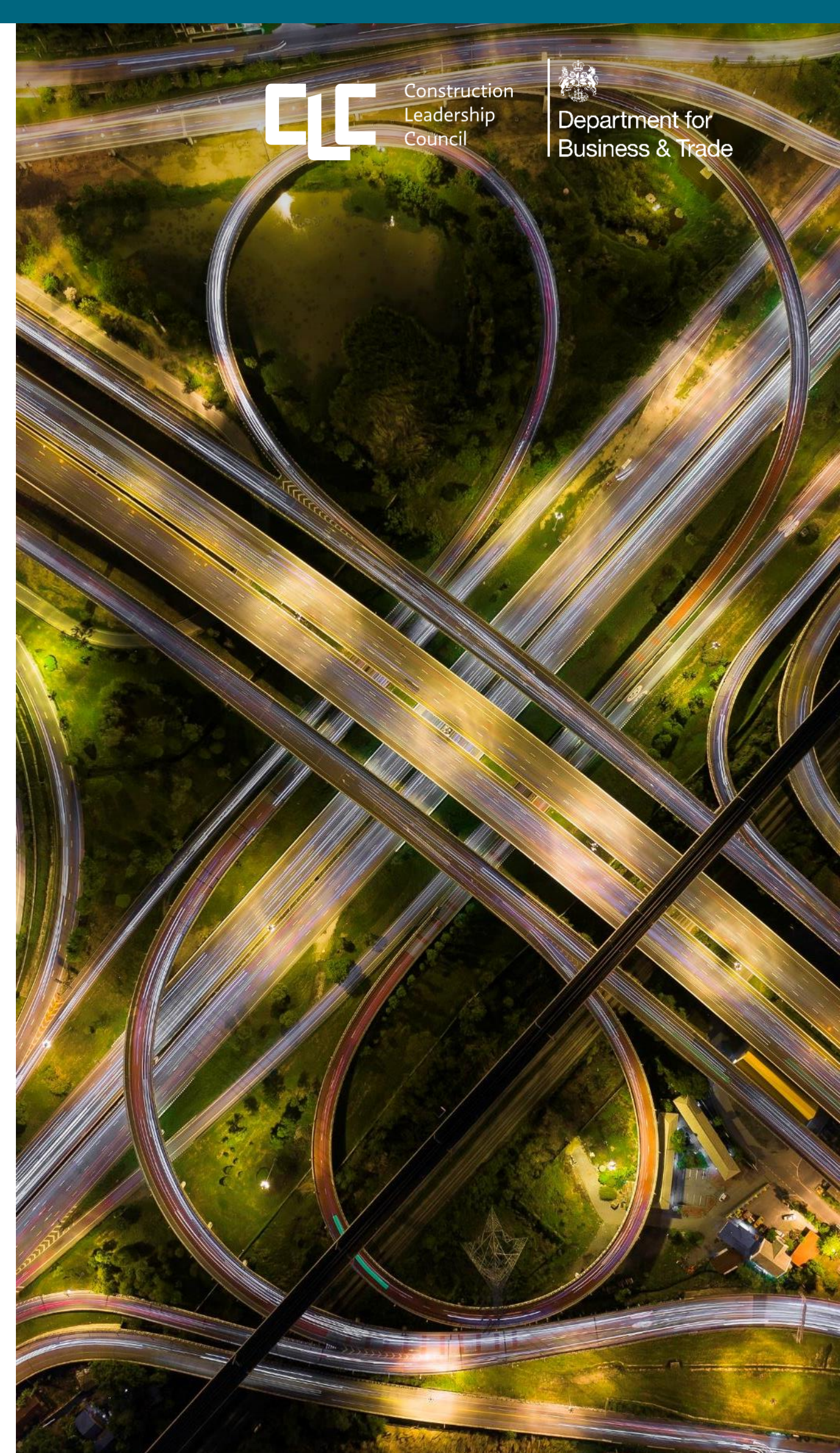
That said, our industry has a responsibility to demonstrate that we can deliver planned infrastructure programmes as efficiently as possible. We must increase productivity, boost investor confidence, and deliver growth across the UK's regions, alongside the skills and jobs required to achieve this.

I genuinely believe we’re on the cusp of a wholesale transformation: a new era for delivery that will help shape our country’s economic success and growth over the next decade. The CLC’s [report](#) on *Creating a Productive Environment for UK Construction* helped to dispel some myths regarding industry performance over the last decade. For example, in the infrastructure sub sector which show demonstrably higher productivity, as well as exposing some fabulous opportunities for improvement.

If you haven’t yet had the opportunity, I’d encourage you to look at CLC’s Bi-annual Report. This provides a snapshot of an industry that is making huge progress while recognising that there is still much to do, working in partnership with government.

A great example is the Biodiversity Roadmap - recently published by CLC’s Green Construction Board – which sets out a vision that’ll now be taken forward working with government and industry partners.

/..cont.





Bi- Monthly Update (continued)

Richard Robinson

UK & Ireland President, AtkinsRéalis

As we look ahead, please keep an eye out for the publication of our 8th Performance Framework. This provides a sector level dashboard on our progress towards Net Zero – and the launch of our Five Point Plan, a client led approach to creating clear demand for transition to Net Zero within the construction industry.

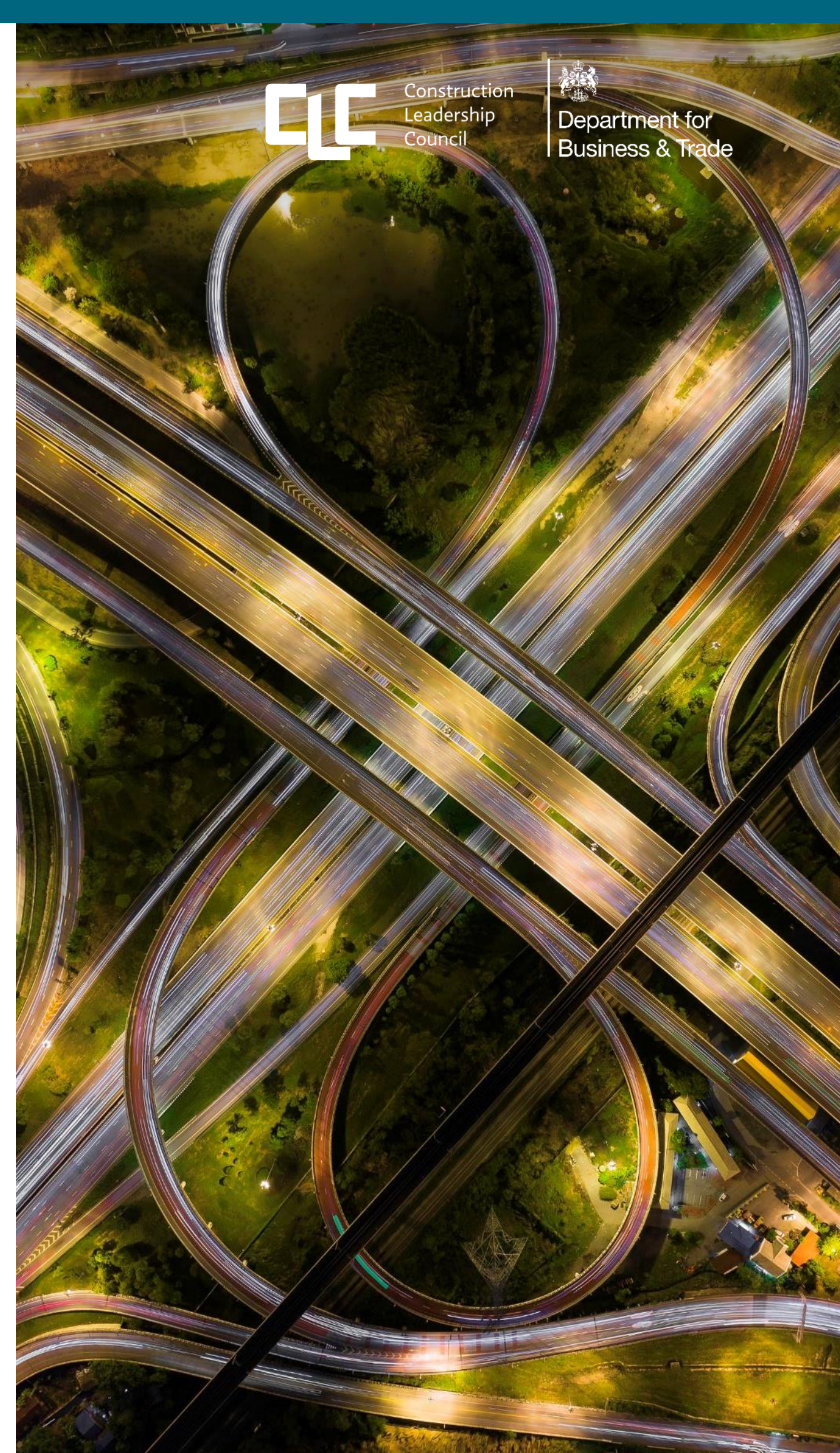
Elsewhere, government set out a package of reforms to support businesses to deliver more apprenticeship places. Under the new government-backed reforms, businesses of all sizes will be incentivized to bolster intake in their apprenticeship programs.

In the Building & Safety workstream, CLC, in partnership with Building Safety Regulator and government departments, has conducted a series of webinars on building safety. The content of these webinars will be discussed at the upcoming BSR conference in May, and future webinars are being considered.

Meanwhile, our Data & Digital team will be promoting the IM Mandate at UKREiiF, UK Construction Week and Digital Construction Week during May and June, as consultation work continues ahead of a planned Government-backed launch in Autumn of this year. If you'd like to be part of the consultation, please [click here](#).

Of course, there's a lot more going on, some of which is featured in this issue of CLC Connect. I'd like to thank everyone who has supported our work over the past couple of years. The progress we've made is testament to the dedicated support and hard work of volunteers and experts from across the industry. The Minister, Mark, and I are hugely thankful.

Thanks,
Richard



Construction
Leadership
Council



Department for
Business & Trade

Bi-Monthly Update

Short Term Priorities and Actions

CLC Bi-annual review

Highlighted key outcomes (across each of its workstreams) delivered by the CLC in 2023 and its plan for 2024. The report is available [here](#).

CLC Webinars – Building Safety

The CLC has collaborated with the Health and Safety Executive in its capacity as the Building Safety Regulator to deliver a series of webinars for the industry:

- [Building Safety Fundamentals](#)
- [The Higher-Risk Buildings Regime – Design and Construction](#)
- [Competence](#)
- [The Golden Thread of Information in Higher-Risk Buildings](#)
- [The Role of Construction Products in Building Safety](#)
- The Building Safety Regime - Ask Your Questions

CLC Webinars – SME engagement

- SME Townhall Meetings.

Materials Supply Chain Group

Continues to update the industry on the current pinch points in the supply chain.

Spring Budget Letter

Wrote a [Spring Budget representation](#) to the Chancellor with the biggest key opportunities to grow the UK economy- Housing, Confidence in Infrastructure and Green transition in the Built Environment.

Cash Retentions

CLC is working with Cranfield University in partnership with the “Get It Right Initiative” to run a [pilot project](#) which aims to establish a quality metric as a viable alternative to the withholding of cash retentions as a form of insurance against defects.

Housing

Submitted the CLC’s response to the Government’s consultation on the Future Homes Standards and Future Buildings Standards.



CLC Priority Progress

Net Zero and Biodiversity

CO₂nstruct Zero

The CLC's Construct Zero programme will be supporting The [Earthshot Prize](#), a global environmental prize and platform designed to discover, accelerate and scale ground-breaking solutions to repair and regenerate the planet.

The programme will feature a series of key announcements in the next month including i) next steps to reduce the use of diesel on sites, ii) the launch of our 8th Performance Framework, iii) our new Business Champions.

The programme is also working with specific partners to maximise the engagement opportunities across the sector. Further details will be published.

Green Construction Board

We recently published our Biodiversity route map setting out a path for how industry can respond to this mandatory requirement and plan ahead to achieve more challenging targets in order to halt biodiversity loss and deliver environmental net gain. We are now working with Defra and partners to take this forward. Please contact Olu Fasan at olu.fasan@businessandtrade.gov.uk

if you are interested in joining one of the delivery groups as an active member.

BSI have confirmed there have been 7,200 downloads of PAS2080 since the launch of the latest revision 12 months ago, which highlights the ongoing level of interest in the carbon management standard for the built environment. Now reviewing the opportunity and benefits of updating PAS2080 into an ISO standard.

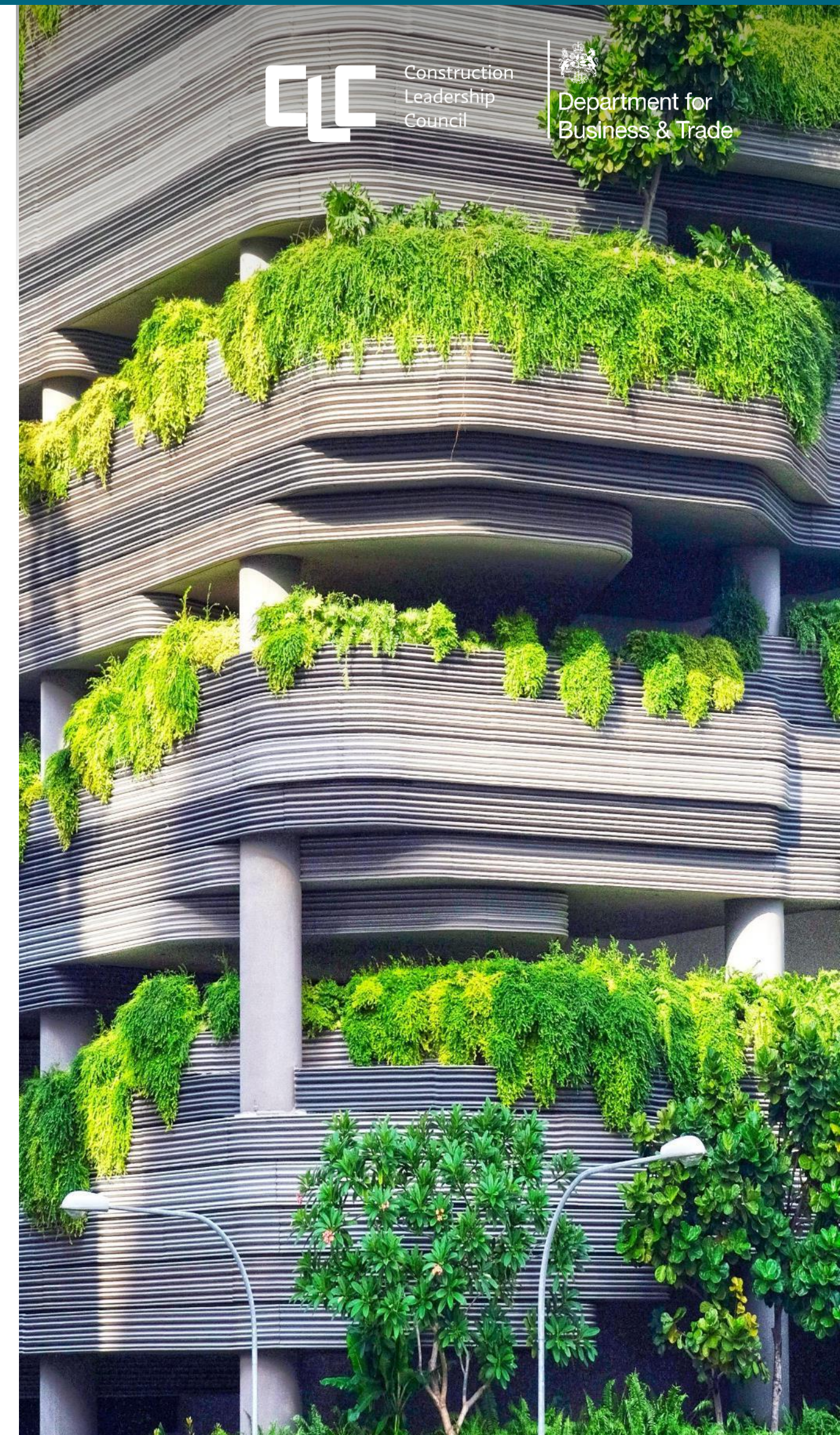
Reviewing progress across industry on the Zero Avoidable Waste Routemap in discussion with Defra and DESNZ since launch and examining the benefits from developing an industry standard for pre-demolition audits. Updating and publishing another publication in the Top Tips series – Circular Economy Thinking.

National Retrofit Hub

Each of the six industry working groups, together with an Advisory Panel, are now operational. We will also shortly sign an MoU with the CLC and Construct Zero to maximise joint collaboration.

Dates for the diary

- [UK Construction Week](#) - 7-9 May, London
- [London Climate Action Week](#) - 22-30 June



**Business
Champion**

CO₂nstructZERO
The Construction Industry's Zero carbon change programme

CLC Construction
Leadership
Council



Getting to know you...

Dr Nigel Griffiths
Ecofill, Chairman

Ecofill a CO₂nstruct Zero Business Champion since Round 13 of the programme, founded with the objective of bringing everyday groundworks and construction methodology into a modern era, Ecofill aims to be the new norm in all Construction & Civil Engineering projects including residential, commercial, Industrial, infrastructure and the renewable energy sector.

Based in Leeds, West Yorkshire, Ecofill is already embarking on large scale, nationwide projects offering clients significant cost reductions whilst also helping developers to engage in regenerative and responsible sustainability.



www.ecofillgroup.com/

As the Chairman of Ecofill, what personal passion or motivation drives your commitment to sustainable construction and innovation? I joined Friends of the Earth in the year it was founded, so my commitment to saving our environment runs deep. My personal commitment to sustainable construction stems from a deep-seated belief in our collective responsibility to safeguard the environment for future generations. At Ecofill, we're not just revolutionising construction practices by transforming onsite clays and subsoils into aggregate replacement products; we're reshaping the industry's approach to sustainability and innovation. Aligning closely with CLC's ethos, we're proud to lead by example and drive meaningful change. Additionally, as the founder of the Low Carbon Forum, I'm dedicated to fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among industry leaders to accelerate our transition to a low-carbon future.

Reflecting on Ecofill's journey, what milestone or achievement stands out to you as the proudest moment in terms of advancing sustainability and reducing environmental impact? Our proudest moments are ongoing! Since October and across five projects alone, The Ecofill technology has made significant contributions to reducing carbon emissions, lorry movements, and waste in construction processes. For instance, we've reduced material sent to landfill by 40,484 tonnes, imported aggregate by 45,953 tonnes, wagon movements by 9,508, and Carbon emissions by 315 tonnes. These achievements directly align with the priorities outlined by the Construction Leadership Council's CO₂nstructZero initiative, particularly Priority 2, which focuses on optimising construction methods and reducing waste and transport to sites. It's incredibly rewarding to see our efforts making a tangible difference and setting new standards for sustainability in the industry.

Can you share a personal anecdote or experience that highlights the impact of Ecofill's partnerships with your major clients? Working closely with major clients like Above, Redrow, Taylor Wimpey, Barratts & David Wilson Homes has been an enriching experience for us at Ecofill. Collaborating on these pivotal projects has allowed us to showcase our commitment to sustainability and innovation. By further aligning with the CO₂nstructZero's Nine Priorities like implementing carbon measurement (Priority 7) and designing out carbon (Priority 8), we've not only delivered exceptional results but also forged lasting partnerships built on trust and shared values accelerating our progress towards a low-carbon future.

As a CO₂nstructZero Business Champion, what message would you like to convey to other construction companies considering joining the initiative? To all of our forward-thinking colleagues considering joining CO₂nstructZero, I urge you to seize this unique opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the journey towards Net Zero. By becoming a Business Champion, you're not only committing to reducing your carbon footprint but also showcasing your leadership and dedication to sustainability. Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the CLC Bi-Annual Report Launch, where I engaged with stakeholders, including Minister Ghani, to discuss strategies for advancing sustainability in the construction sector. Moving forward, I plan to attend more events organized by the CLC and other industry bodies to contribute to the dialogue on achieving Net Zero by 2050. Together, we can drive positive change, promote innovation, and build a better future for generations to come."

CLC Priority Progress

Next Generation Delivery

Business Models and Fair Payment

- **Business Models and Fair Practices Workstream** – The CLC seeks to support the development of strong and resilient supply chains within the sector, and is committed to driving better behaviour, through ensuring payment performance is considered as a core part of procurement decision making by both public and private sector clients. The CLC [website page](#) has been updated to reflect current work including:
 - **Onerous Contract Clauses** - a resource section to share sectoral approaches to best practice with regard to fair risk apportionment in construction contracts. The aim is to develop an active and comprehensive industry-wide resource tool for the benefit of the whole industry.
 - **Prompt and Fair Payment** - a number of general fair payment requirements and initiatives for both public and private

sector contracts have been introduced and many of these apply to construction. There are also a number of construction specific measures. A summary of resources including legislation is provided.

- **The Reporting on Payment Practices and Performance (Amendment) Regulations 2024** – This [statutory instrument](#) came into force on 05th April 2024. The Regulations extend the 2017 Regulations beyond the sunset clause date of the 6th of April 2024 for up to 7 years. In addition, the Regulations introduce new reporting metrics including the total value of payments due in the reporting period that have not been paid within agreed terms.

As announced last year, firms will also be required to report information about their retention policies and payments, including key statistics relating to retentions withheld. The intention is to lay a further Statutory Instrument later this year.



CLC Priority Progress

Next Generation Delivery (continued)

Data & Digital

The CLC's Data & Digital team has been busy with the Information Management Mandate Task Group, hosting extensive consultation discussions with the support of Nima, to date, with more planned in the next couple of months.

This positive engagement illustrates the importance of this project and getting it right to enable the outcomes of a transformed built and managed environment. It also highlights the importance of the existing UK BIM Framework and what needs to be done to make its continuation sustainable. Work continues to prepare for the launch and ongoing implementation.

We have welcomed over 60 responses in less than 10 days following the CLC's [Opportunity to participate in the Information Management "Mandate" Review – Construction Leadership Council](#). To maintain momentum, the Data & Digital team has lined up presentations at UK Construction Week and Digital Construction Week - watch this space for further announcements.

Industrialized Construction

The IC workstream have set out three key objectives for 2024:

- To develop and socialise a clear definition and benefits case for Industrialised Construction;
- To drive a shift in policy direction from MMC (technology adoption) towards Industrialisation (delivery model transformation);
- To produce practical resources for government and industry to aid the development and deployment of IC approaches.

As announced in a recent [CLC press release](#), the workstream's primary output for 2024 will be an updated and expanded version of the Construction Innovation Hub's Product Platform Rulebook . The new 'Playbook' is intended to drive and support the development of industrialised approaches to delivery of government programmes and portfolios, providing clear guidance and maturity assessment criteria.

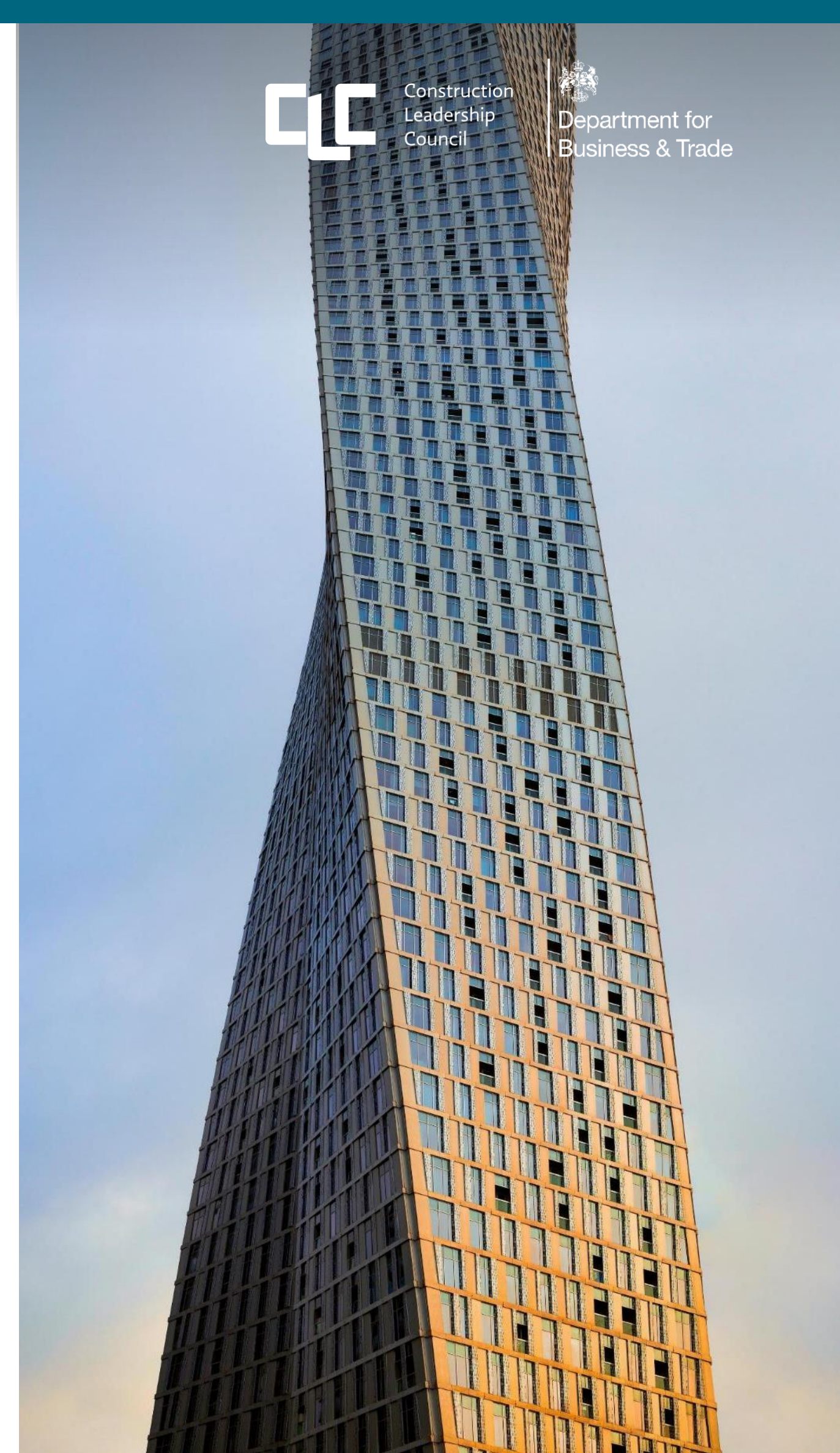


CLC Priority Progress

Building Safety

Building Safety

- **The New Regulated Building Control Profession** - Philip White, Director of Building Safety for the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) wrote to the Building Control industry outlining a competence assessment extension period for Registered Building Inspectors, who meet set criteria and had registered by 6 April 2024. The extension period is 13 weeks from 6 April to 6 July 2024. The CLC issued a press release in support.
- **Building Control Changes for Higher-Risk Buildings** - An additional Q&A document now accompanies the previously published building circular (published in October 2023 and updated in February 2024) on changes to the building control process for higher-risk buildings and wider changes to procedural building regulations applying to buildings in England.
- **The Building (Registered Building Control Approvers etc.) (England) Regulations 2024** - Part of the overall reforms to the building control profession to improve standards and ensure uniformity in professional conduct and competence for all building control professionals. The Regulations include provisions to replace existing approved inspectors with registered building control approvers.
- **Building Control Registers** – Find details in the following registers: Register of Building Control Approvers in England, Register of Building Control Approvers in Wales, Register of Building Inspectors in England and Register of Building Inspectors in Wales
- **Duties and Competence Requirements for Design and Building Work** - Summary of duties under The Building Regulations etc. (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023.



CLC Priority Progress

Building Safety (continued)

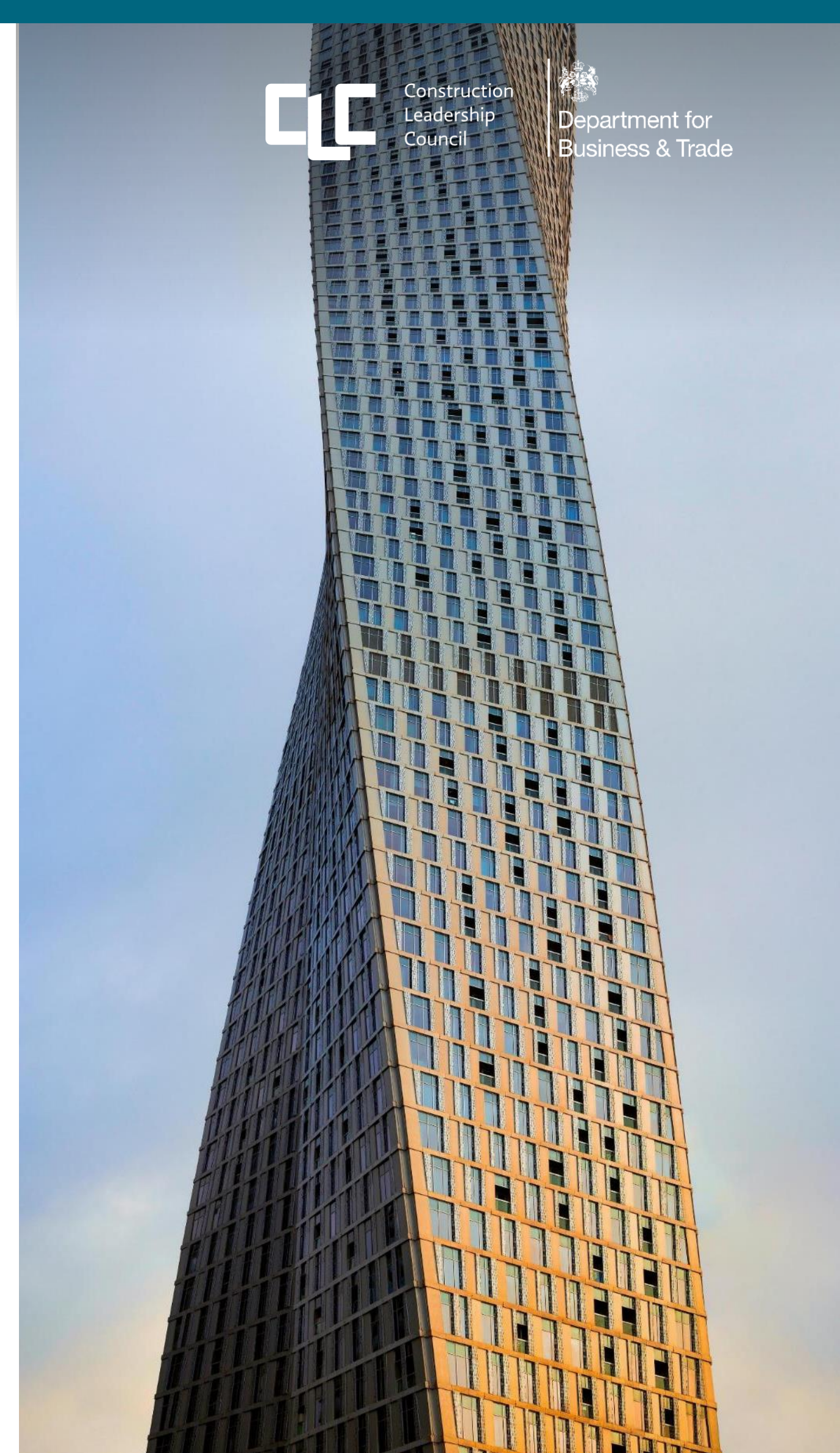
- **Competence** - The third and final report from the Competence Steering Group ([A Higher Bar](#)) was published in January. The report sets out the significant steps being made across the built environment and fire sectors in improving skills, knowledge, and behaviours to drive culture change and improve the safety of buildings.
- **Mandatory Occurrence Reporting** - [Guidance](#) was published for principal designers, principal contractors and accountable persons to report incidents or risks of structural failure, or the spread of fire.
- **Non-Determination Applications for Higher-Risk Buildings Procedures** - Where the BSR has not issued a building control decision within the statutory timescale, and no extension has been agreed with the applicant, a [non-determination application](#) can be made to the Secretary of State under section 30A of the Building Act 1984.
- **Industry Safety Steering Group** - The Group chaired by Dame Judith Hackitt has published its fourth [report](#) on the

progress in encouraging culture change among groups within the built environment sector.

- **Approved Document B: Fire Safety** - Amendments to Approved Document B: Fire Safety Volume 1 – Dwellings and Volume 2 – Buildings other than dwellings has been published. Relevant documents include a [press release](#), [March 2024 amendments](#) and [consultation response](#). The main update to the guidance introduces a new height threshold for the provision of a second staircase in residential buildings with a story 18 metres or more in height.

Links to recent Building Safety resources

- [Building Safety Regime Guide](#) - Build UK
- [Building Safety Regime Timeline](#) - Build UK
- Sign up to the [Building Safety Regulator's Ebulletin](#)
- Contact the [Building Safety Regulator](#)
- [Find](#) a high-rise residential building
- The Construction Leadership Council [Building Safety Workstream](#)



CLC Priority Progress

People and Skills

Industry Card Schemes - CLC Updates

Recommendation on Industry Card Schemes:

- Following the introduction of the Building Safety Act, the Construction Leadership Council has updated its [Industry Card Schemes recommendation](#) which has been adopted across the industry as a consistent means of recognising that an individual has achieved the agreed standard of qualification.

UK Government sets out a [package of reforms](#) to support businesses to deliver more apprenticeship places:

- The Government will increase the amount of funding that employers who are paying the apprenticeship levy can pass onto other businesses. Under the new measures, large employers who pay the apprenticeship levy will be able to transfer up to 50% of their funds to support other businesses, including smaller firms, to take on apprentices.
- The Government will fully fund apprenticeships in small businesses by paying the full cost of training for anyone up to the age of 21. This will remove the need for small employers to meet some of the cost of training and saves time and costs for providers such as further education colleges who currently need to

source funding separately from the government and businesses.

Culture Group – As part of the CLC’s Culture Group, we are looking to develop a broader community of those who are interested in and want to engage on EDI issues. Please contact the CLC at the usual address if you want to get involved.

Skills for a Modernised Industry (SMI) - Part of the CLC’s P&S Network it is planning publication of the report ‘*Roadmap of Skills for Net Zero: Competencies for Domestic Retrofit*’. It has been produced to deliver on the commitments outlined in the [CLC Industry Skills Plan 2021-2025](#). The group are reviewing feedback and plan to publish in early May.

It aims to present a consistent framework of the core knowledge, skills and behaviours required to deliver effective retrofit at scale, both in retrofit-specific roles and associated roles in industry, for retrofit of residential buildings.

The competence statements can be used to develop competence frameworks for specific jobs and roles involved in retrofit work. They also support the development of training and education that equips the future workforce, both in training new entrants and upskilling existing personnel.



CLC Connect

April 2024

Thank you for reading this issue of CLC Connect. If you would like to provide feedback then please email construction.enquiries@businessandtrade.gov.uk

For more information about the Construction Leadership Council, please visit [Construction Leadership Council](https://www.constructionleadershipcouncil.org.uk).



Construction
Leadership
Council



Department for
Business & Trade

