

# CLC Connect

February 2025

## **Bi-Monthly update**

In this issue we hear from Mark Reynolds,  
Group Executive Chairman, Mace

## **Short Term Priorities and Actions**

Recent events 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 keeps you up to date with all things CLC.**

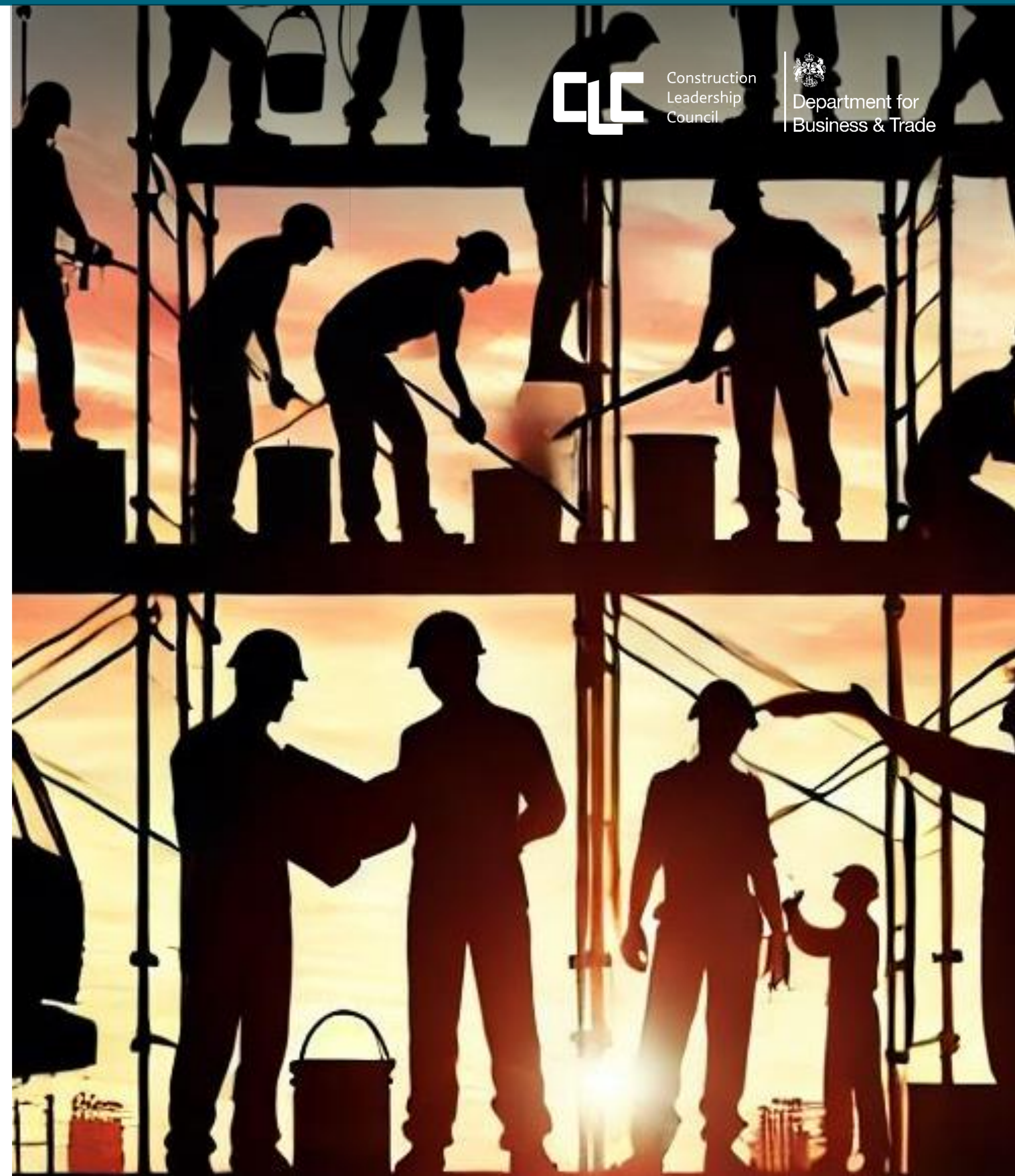
Construction is a busy and fast changing industry. From new government policies and game-changing private sector initiatives to emerging technologies and innovative ways of working, there's a lot going on as we strive to grow, improve productivity, attract and retain talent, and successfully transition 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](mailto:construction.enquiries@businessandtrade.gov.uk)

Enjoy and thank you for reading.





# Bi-Monthly Update

## Mark Reynolds

Group Executive Chairman, Mace  
CLC Co-chair

Welcome to the first edition of CLC Connect of 2025. It's been a busy start to the year across the entire industry, as I hope you'll see from this bumper edition of the newsletter.

On Building Safety, you will no doubt have seen the Government's publication of its [response to the Grenfell Inquiry](#) recommendations, which I have welcomed on behalf of the CLC. We have already discussed how we develop and implement many of the reforms with the MHCLG. The industry has raised several concerns regarding the performance of the Building Safety Regulator - the Regulator has also raised concerns regarding some parts of the industry understanding and compliance to the new regulations - we will continue to work with them to implement the new act with greater efficiency to reduce the current delays.

I would encourage everyone in the sector to consider the [published consultation](#) on construction product reform and consider responding - it is a dense publication, but a hugely important issue for the future of the sector.

In the short-term, we have been working closely with the Building Safety Regulator, and providing detailed feedback on how the process around Gateway 2 approvals can be improved; both from an industry perspective and on behalf of the regulator.

On planning, industry delivery and capacity, we've also seen very positive engagement and conversations as the Government continues to push towards the publication of a number of major strategies, the new infrastructure and construction pipeline and the Infrastructure and Planning Bill over the next few months; all of which will support the Comprehensive Spending Review in June.

These measures collectively represent a huge transformation of visibility and predictability for demand for our industry, and in return for Government's engagement on this area, which I believe will have a beneficial impact, we must do what we can to position ourselves to deliver their ambitions.

To make that a reality, one key area of focus has been skills. The People and Skills workstream has been developing a new

proposal to share with DfE and Skills England to unlock an additional 100,000 workers for per annum for our sector - at pace by improving the current system and adopting the ITB recommendations led by Mark Farmer - I look forward to sharing some the detail of this effort with you soon.

Finally, there are two important events coming up - the first is the CLC Client Carbon Commitment launch event next Tuesday, which is sold out, which my Co-Chair Minister Jones will be speaking at, recementing the importance of this vital effort to drive change via our industry's largest client bodies.

Secondly is the first CLC Sector Call of the year, on Wednesday 4 March, where we will be joined by the Building Safety workstream, for an update on progress and the Grenfell Inquiry recommendations, and the IPA on their work to improve the upcoming Infrastructure and Construction Pipeline. You can sign up for that [here](#).



# Bi-Monthly Update

## Short Term Priorities and Actions

### CLC Sector Call

[Register](#) for our upcoming Sector Council call. Featuring HMG updates, Building Safety and the Government's Pipeline.

### Secretary of State/Minister of State for Housing and Planning

A number of the CLC and sector leaders attended the latest broadcast call with the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, together with the Minister for Housing and Planning. Whilst its fair to say there were a number of issues raised on the call, it was refreshing to hear first hand of the Government's ambitions for the sector, and a clear desire to move the various challenges forward.

### Government's plans to reform the infrastructure planning ecosystem

A number of CLC and sector leaders joined a roundtable with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Darren Jones MP, and the Minister for Housing and Planning at a roundtable hosted in February by the Institute of Civil Engineering to

discuss the Government's plans to reform the infrastructure planning ecosystem and improve the transparency of pipeline data shared with the industry. Engagement on this topic continues as officials at the IPA and NIC work towards the formation of NISTA and the publication of a new pipeline this summer.



# CLC Priority Progress

## Net Zero and Biodiversity

- **CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero Performance Framework** - Finalising publication for the next edition of the Performance Framework, which will include announcing our next set of Business Champions. You can catch up on previous reports [here](#). If you're not yet part of the 270+ programme members (and growing) and would like to be (no cost), please contact [Stuart Young](#) for further details.
- **[Five Carbon Commitment](#)** - Detailed planning is underway for this event on 4<sup>th</sup> March, which builds on the success of last year's event. The 4<sup>th</sup> March will see the next wave of companies publicly signing up to five simple, practical steps to showcase how they are collectively reducing their carbon emissions. Many thanks to the Lower Thames Crossing team for their leadership of this programme.
- **CO<sub>2</sub>nstructZero Autumn Event** – We have commenced early planning for an Autumn Event to mark the exclusive work and achievements of our [Business Champions](#) and [Partners](#). Please watch the [CLC website](#) for further exciting news!
- **Committee for Climate Change 7<sup>th</sup> Carbon Budget:** This was [published on 26<sup>th</sup> February](#) and provides an important reflection moment for our collective work in the Net Zero space. Construct Zero will be leading a piece of work on the 7<sup>th</sup> Carbon Budget to ensure mutual alignment with the CLC's work in the Net Zero space, and identifying further challenges we need to be aware of. Our DBT colleagues continue to work closely with DESNZ colleagues on this
- Continued close working with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero on the Government's [Net Zero Council](#).



Partner

**Construct ZERO**  
The Construction Industry's Zero carbon change programme



## Getting to know you...

**Giles Bradford**  
Bradfords Building Supplies Ltd  
Head of Sustainability

Bradfords is a family-owned independent builders' merchant providing building materials across the South-West of England from 47 locations.

[www.bradfords.co.uk](http://www.bradfords.co.uk)

### **Tell us what your role is in a nutshell?**

I lead the application of the impact lens to Bradfords strategy.

### **Why did you become a CZ Business Partner?**

We became a CZ business champion to align with our wider industry around metrics, targets and best practice.

### **What is your proudest Net Zero moments so far this year?**

For me personally is seeing The Pallet Loop get across the line. I've worked closely with Paul, Nathan and the team from early on as an advocate so it's a joy to see that this disruptor decarbonisation scheme is now up and running. For Bradfords, I think that we committed to and are in the process of right now measuring our category 1 scope 3. I'm excited to see what insight it provides.

### **Tell us an interesting fact about you or the business you represent?**

Bradfords is the oldest merchant in the UK, celebrating its 255<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2025. The earliest records we have show that William Bradford was running a limestone quarry in 1770 on the Somerset levels to provide materials to both the construction industry and agriculture.

# CLC Priority Progress

## Next Generation Delivery

### Business Models and Fair Practices

**The Procurement Act 2023** – came into force 24 February 2025. A new [National Procurement Policy Statement](#) (NPPS) has also come into force alongside the new Act. The Cabinet Office is responsible for the legal framework for public sector procurement and leads on the development and implementation of [procurement policies](#) for government.

**CLC Public Procurement Guidance** – New [guidance](#) has been published on potential solutions to common evaluation issues faced by Clients in the Built Environment Sector. It explores ten issues that are common across the public sector experience, and seeks to set out best practice, offering practical and detailed advice around key aspects of the evaluation stage, including preliminary market engagement, evaluation methodology and ensuring that contractors deliver. A [webinar](#) was delivered to support the launch of the new guidance.

**Conflict Avoidance Week w/c 24 March** – Throughout the week, the [Conflict Avoidance Coalition](#) will be sharing expert insights, events, strategies, and real-world case studies that highlight the benefits of proactive conflict management. Join the launch event [here](#). Learn more on the Conflict Avoidance Pledge [here](#).

### Data & Digital

#### **IMI - nima Quarterly Forum**

The nima Quarterly Forum, held on 27 February 2025, provided attendees with the latest updates on developments within nima and the Information Management (IM) community. The forum offered valuable insights into the Information Management Initiative (IMI) and its impact, as well as opportunities for participants to get involved with Nima's activities.

During the forum, it was highlighted that Nima has been expanding, focusing on building stronger foundations and extending its reach internationally. The organization has been growing its team with new volunteers and enhancing engagement within its network. Financial support was emphasized as crucial to achieving the goals of the IMI, positioning nima as a leading organization in the IM field.

The event successfully provided a platform for attendees to learn more, share their insights, and contribute to shaping the future of Information Management.



# CLC Priority Progress

## Next Generation Delivery (continued)

### Data & Digital (continued)

#### **FAQs addition to the IMI Website**

Nima has added a comprehensive set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to help you better understand the intricacies of the IMI. These FAQs cover a wide range of topics, providing clear and concise answers to the most common queries.

Whether you're new to the IMI or looking for detailed information, this new resource is designed to enhance your experience and ensure you have all the information you need at your fingertips.

Visit the IMI FAQs page here to explore the new additions - [IMI – FAQs – nima](#)

Stay informed and connected with us as we continue to improve and expand our resources for the community.

**BS EN ISO 19650-6:2025 - Organization and digitization of information about buildings and civil engineering works, including building information modelling (BIM). Information management using building information modelling - Health and Safety Information.**

The CLC is excited to share a valuable new resource available on the BSI knowledge platform. The latest addition to the BS EN ISO 19650 series focuses on the organization and digitization of information about buildings and civil engineering works, specifically addressing health and safety information within Building Information Modelling (BIM).

Explore the new standard [here](#) and stay ahead in the field of BIM and information management.

#### **CLC Digital Connect Ep 5 - IMI - Starting from the outside in**

Please take the time to listen to the new CLC Digital Connect podcast series, episode 5, featuring John Roberts and Dr. Bola Abisogun OBE. In this episode, the team has brought together two experts who are taking a different approach to information management. Rather than the traditional 'bottom-up' methodology, our guests promote starting from the outside in, placing more emphasis on leadership and exploring new incentives to encourage adoption.

Tune in to gain valuable insights and fresh perspectives on information management - [CLC Digital Connect EP5 - IMI – Starting from the outside in - YouTube](#)





# CLC Priority Progress

## Building Safety

**HMG response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Final report** – [published](#) on 26 February. The Government has accepted 49 of the 58 recommendations in full. The remaining 9 recommendations, are accepted in principle.

**Construction Products Green Paper** – published on 26 February and closing on 21 May 2025. A [consultation](#) on proposals for institutional and regulatory reform of the construction products regime.

**Building Safety Webinar Series** – The Building Safety Regulator (BSR) is hosting a series of [free webinars](#) over February and March designed to provide practical advice and guidance on a range of building safety topics. Recordings are available for the completed events.

**Approved Documents for Building Regulations** – The BSR is conducting [research](#) to understand how the Approved Documents for Building Regulations are being used and how they could be improved. This forms part of the wider official review of the Approved Documents (ADs).

**Call for Evidence on Approved Document A** – The BSR has launched a [call for evidence](#) on statutory guidance supporting Part A of the

Building Regulations on structural safety. It seeks views on areas of the guidance requiring increased clarity, research, or further development. Closing date is 21 April 2025.

**Building Assessment Certificates (BACs) for Higher Risk Buildings (HRBs)** – The Principal Accountable Person (PAP) for a HRB must apply for a BAC when told to do so by the BSR.

[Guidance](#) for preparing a BAC has been updated in a number of areas to integrate the criteria used by BSR’s multi-disciplinary teams when assessing applications. A [summary](#) of the assessment criteria is also available.

**The Home Builders Federation (HBF) Building Safety Webinars** – Two webinars were recently hosted by the HBF. Recordings are now available:

- [Practical Application of the High-Rise Buildings Regime – Design and Construction](#)
- [Understand the Changes within the Wider Built Environment from the Building Safety Act](#)

**Building  
Safety**

# CLC Priority Progress

## People and Skills

### Equity, Diversity and Inclusion across the Built Environment

The CLC's new EDI Community was officially launched on 29 January - a link to the recording of the launch is [here](#). The community is open to anyone with an interest in improving the inclusivity of construction and the built environment in the UK. The next meeting of the community will take place from 11am-12 noon on 2 April. To join the community and attend the meeting, please email [clc.edi.contact@gmail.com](mailto:clc.edi.contact@gmail.com). Please also forward this invitation to anyone in your networks that you think may be interested in joining.

### Apprenticeship Rules

The government has [announced changes](#) to apprenticeship rules aimed at boosting economic growth and providing employers more flexibility.

- **Maths & English** - employers can now decide if adult learners (over 19) need to complete a level 2 English and maths qualification to pass their apprenticeship. This change will help more apprentices qualify, especially in high-demand sectors like construction, potentially

increasing the number of apprentices by up to 10,000 per year.

- **Shorter Duration Apprenticeships** – as part of the government's more flexible growth and skills offer, from August 2025 the minimum length of an apprenticeship will be reduced from 12 to 8 months in cases where learners can achieve full competence more quickly.

The Industry Training Board (ITB) review has now been published and is available [online here](#). The report was conducted by Mark Farmer in 2023 and is a review into the role and effectiveness of the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB). The report stresses the vital need for the work of the Industrial Training Boards (ITBs) within the construction and engineering construction industries and concludes that the ITB levy-grant model should be retained.



Construction  
Leadership  
Council



Department for  
Business & Trade



# CLC Connect

February 2025

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

