A newsletter for employers



City & Guilds Construction

**December 2018**

A newsletter from City & Guilds on professional and technical education updates in construction for employers.

**In this issue:**

* Update on government reforms
  + Apprenticeship standards – England
  + T Levels - England
  + Qualifications Wales Review of Construction - Wales
* News and Policy Media round-up
* From Twitter

|  |
| --- |
| General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)  We take your privacy seriously and have updated [our privacy policy](https://email.cityandguilds.com/1LRT-5M5EB-BGF7WN-33ZYRV-1/c.aspx) with information on how your data is stored in line with GDPR.  We wanted to let you know that you will continue to receive this newsletter from us unless you tell us otherwise by contacting us at [construction@cityandguilds.com](mailto:construction@cityandguilds.com) |

|  |
| --- |
| If you are interested in supporting City & Guilds either as a writer, marker, assessor, or as an EQA please do get in touch with us at [construction@cityandguilds.com](mailto:construction@cityandguilds.com) |

For more information regarding the City & Guilds Construction offer, please refer to the *Construction – a Summary* document on our website:

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/construction/latest-news-in-construction>

**Update on government reforms**

Apprenticeship standards – England

City & Guilds are currently working with CITB and the employer groups on how best to support the new apprenticeship standards and in becoming an End-point Assessment Organisation.

To check the status of standards currently in development, please visit the government website:

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/>

**Standards approved by IfA for delivery so far:**

* Carpentry and Joinery
* Advanced Carpentry and Joinery
* Bricklayer
* Plasterer
* Painter and Decorator
* Steel Fixer
* Scaffolder
* Digital Engineering Technician
* Construction Site Engineering Technician
* Surveying technician
* Chartered surveyor (degree)
* Civil engineering technician
* Civil engineer (Degree)
* Civil engineering site management (Degree)
* Geospatial Mapping and Science (Degree)
* Geospatial Survey Technician
* Lifting Technician
* Tunnelling operative

We are closely working with employers and we want to hear from you. Please contact us at [construction@cityandguilds.com](mailto:construction@cityandguilds.com)

For information on how City & Guilds can support your apprentices, please visit:

[www.cityandguilds.com/apprenticeships](http://www.cityandguilds.com/apprenticeships)



T Levels – England

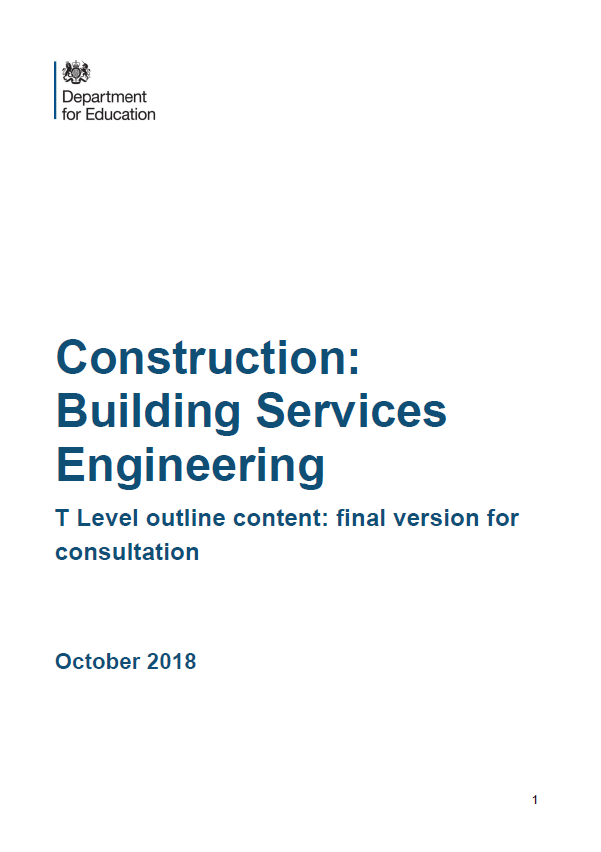
*Design, Surveying and Planning* pathway is now closed for tender. To see the proposed content for 2020 delivery please click on the link below:

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/outline-content-for-first-new-t-levels/>

[](https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/outline-content-for-first-new-t-levels/)

*Building Services Engineering* and *On-site Construction* will follow, with first delivery expected in 2021. The draft outline content for these pathways can be found by clicking the link below:

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/consultation-launches-on-content-for-t-levels/>

[](https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/media/2326/construction-outline-content-osc-final.pdf) [](https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/media/2327/construction-outline-content-bse-final.pdf)

For information T Levels, please visit:

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/tlevels>

Qualifications Wales Review of Construction

The first stage of the Qualifications Wales tender for Construction is now closed.

In February 2018, Qualifications Wales published its sector review of qualifications and the qualification system in Construction and the Built Environment.

For the full *Building Futures* report please visit the Qualifications Wales website:

<http://qualificationswales.org/english/qualifications/vocational-qualifications/sector-reviews/construction-and-the-built-environment/>

The new qualification system will replace the existing VRQs and NVQs in Wales from September 2021.

[](http://qualificationswales.org/english/qualifications/vocational-qualifications/sector-reviews/construction-and-the-built-environment/)

**News and Policy media round-up**

|  |
| --- |
| **AoC - FE sector is essential to deliver the government's policy objectives** |

|  |
| --- |
| This week AoC director Julian Gravatt in his latest blog discussed the impact of the funding cuts on the college sector. He listed a number of the outcomes as a result  of the funding cuts:   * Although inspection grades have improved, there are fewer outstanding colleges * The rate of student outcomes improvement is starting to slow down * Courses are being taught with fewer teaching hours * Many colleges have reduced student support services or extra curricular activities * Many colleges have dropped courses in STEM as a result of funding pressures * College teachers are being paid about 20% less than teachers in schools with all the implications for recruitment and retention. |

|  |
| --- |
| [READ MORE ►](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/85b1CnZ27SpkGNcLmnuJ?domain=dmtrk.net) |

|  |
| --- |
| **Construction Manager - Outlook for UK construction weakest in six years** |

|  |
| --- |
| The outlook for UK construction has deteriorated to its weakest level in six years, according to a new survey of construction buyers. The IHS Markit / CIPS UK Construction PMI index reported a “sustained” increase in business during October at 53.2, up from 52.1 in September, where any score above 50 indicates a growth in activity. That was the second-highest level in 16 months, although it was still below the long-run survey average of 54.3. |

|  |
| --- |
| [READ MORE ►](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/7CHKCqjg6i6VOjcP4u4C?domain=dmtrk.net) |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Education Select Committee - Report: Value for money in higher education** |  |  | | --- | | Please see below for key points from the report:   * Higher education must play a more significant role in meeting this country’s skills needs and preparing students for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. * Universities must offer more flexible learning, including credit transfer, work placements and a move away from the traditional three-year undergraduate approach * Degree apprenticeships are crucial to filling skills gaps and boosting this country’s productivity. We strongly urge the Department for Education and the Institute for Apprenticeships to fully support and champion the expansion of degree apprenticeships. * Universities should move away from a linear approach and embrace more flexible types of learning. Accelerated degrees should be made an option for more learners, alongside credit transfer, work placements and the ability to pause studying for periods of time. * The future of higher education should be more skills-based leading to appropriate professional graduate-level and skilled employment destinations. |  |  | | --- | | [READ MORE ►](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/LmIbCZ4AviO72PF6FuWE?domain=dmtrk.net) | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **FSB - One in three small firms held back by lack of skills** |  |  | | --- | | Responding to a fall in the unemployment rate from 4.3% to 4.1% over the last year and a flash productivity estimate indicating that output per hour decreased by 0.4% in Q3 2018, Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) National Chairman Mike Cherry said:  “More than one in three small firms now say lack of access to the right skills is holding back growth – up from roughly a quarter at this time last year.  “One in five small employers rely on staff from the EU. With net migration from Europe falling, it’s increasingly a challenge for firms to recruit from the vital pool of EU talent based here in the UK. If we don’t see a pro-business withdrawal agreement signed before the month is out, this challenge will become even more pronounced and entrenched. The Brexit clock is ticking.  “It’s critical to remember that 95 per cent of small firms have never made use of the UK’s points-based immigration system. If they’re lumbered with complex paperwork to bring in EU staff post-Brexit that will cause a significant drag on the billions they contribute to the economy each year.  “With the labour market so tight, we also need to look at bringing those furthest from the workplace into employment. The Government must deliver on its promise of a national insurance holiday for small businesses that hire society’s most vulnerable.  “Increasing productivity in the current climate is a tough ask. How are you supposed to invest for the future when you don’t know what the future looks like? More than two thirds of small firms are not planning to increase investment over the coming quarter, and it’s hard to blame them.  “Faced with a situation where trading arrangements could be turned on their head in four months’ time, a lot of business owners are understandably delaying big decisions. If we want to see firms devoting funds to training, R&D and new equipment – thereby increasing productivity – we need to see a Brexit deal that protects their interests. That starts with a meaningful transition period.” |  |  | | --- | | [READ MORE ►](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/P_sCCzmrQH9rOKclwRuc?domain=dmtrk.net) |  |  | | --- | | https://i.emlfiles4.com/cmpimg/t/s.gif | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Resolution Foundation - Apprenticeships have a starring role in the government’s technical education reforms. But are they delivering?** |  |  | | --- | | The central premise of Damian Hinds’ speech – that the UK’s technical education system should offer young people clear routes into specialist, well-paid careers – has particular relevance this week, as the final figures for apprenticeship starts during 2017/18 were published just minutes after his talk concluded. The ability of the apprenticeships system to underpin the Secretary’s vision for technical education remains unclear but important, even if it doesn’t make the front pages.  How do things look so far? First, the year-on-year fall in starts has been confirmed: the total number of starts during 2017/18 was 24% lower than 2016/17, and 26% lower than 2015/16, which was the final full year of the pre-levy apprenticeship system. In all, there were 133,000 fewer people starting an apprenticeship in 2017/18 than there were during 2015/16.  And yet the headline figure is just one part of the story: if you want to understand what is really happening in the system, you need to look beneath the lid. The fall in starts has not been equally distributed across apprenticeship levels and ages: as a share of all starts, those going to older apprentices at Level 2 fell most. Those going to older apprentices at Level 4+ grew most.  This equates to 66,000 fewer apprentices aged 25+ at Level 2, and 12,000 more at Levels 4+. On the one hand, there is little reason to bemoan a drop in programmes that have often in the past offered little actual training and development, and have in some cases served as a substitute for low-paid labour. On the other hand, the Education Secretary suggested that apprenticeships and T levels should serve as a ladder into ‘specialist’ and ‘well-paid’ work. Worryingly, the numbers of under 19’s– who presumably would benefit most from such a ladder – starting an apprenticeship has taken a 19% fall.  The area with the largest growth, both in absolute terms and as a share of all starts, is at Level 4 and higher. There are indeed acute areas of labour market demand for qualifications at this level, and as Damian Hinds’s speech highlighted, higher-level technical programmes provide an excellent pathway into well-paid work for those who opt not to follow the traditional A-level to university route.  And yet, the available data doesn’t allows us to analyse whom the growing number of starts at Levels 4+ are going to: are they being used as a ladder for people to move up and into skilled employment, or are they simply ‘rebadging’ work-related training and employer-sponsored courses for the already highly-qualified? The latter prospect is worrying: work-related training has long been the preserve of the already highly-skilled and highly-paid, so an apprenticeships system benefiting those at the top would of course reinforce pre-existing inequality.  Investing in human capital is increasingly important, particularly since our progress in bringing people up from lower-levels of attainment has stalled over recent years. However, lifting the lid and understanding where precisely that investment goes allows us to determine whether it will serve as a ladder for people wanting to move into skilled, well-paid employment or as a reward for the ‘already-haves.’ The Education Secretary has set out a vision for a technical system that achieves the former; we’ll be monitoring whether the apprenticeships system works with, or against, that aim. |  |  | | --- | | [READ MORE ►](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/MkcQCWnxpf8YEMs0LJ4b?domain=dmtrk.net) |  |  | | --- | | https://i.emlfiles4.com/cmpimg/t/s.gif | | | |  |  | | --- | | https://i.emlfiles4.com/cmpimg/t/s.gif | | | |

**From Twitter**

#Construction industry to benefit from major skills boost <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/construction-industry-to-benefit-from-major-skills-boost>

The government has announced a £72m investment which will see virtual reality revolutionise the UK’s #construction sector <https://www.ukconstructionmedia.co.uk/news/the-future-is-virtual/>  [@constructionukm](https://twitter.com/constructionukm)

### Just 1% of workers on #constructions sites are women, according to new CIF report <https://amp.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/just-1-of-construction-workers-are-women-according-to-new-cif-report-870511.html>[**@**irishexaminer](https://twitter.com/irishexaminer)

Prison targets HS2 with inmate training facility <https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/best-practice/skills/prison-targets-hs2-with-inmate-training-facility/10036446.article?blocktitle=More-industry-news&contentID=20393> @CNPlus

Could #construction save the government £15bn? <https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/analysis/cn-briefing/could-construction-save-the-government-15bn/10036463.article?blocktitle=CN-Briefing&contentID=15900> @CNPlus

### #Apprenticeships for SMEs, busting some myths and using them to grow your business <http://www.smeclubmanchester.com/tips/apprenticeships-for-smes-busting-some-myths-and-using-them-to-grow-your-business/> [**@**TheSMEClub](https://twitter.com/TheSMEClub)

### **#Apprenticeships: the future of the industry** <https://www.worldcement.com/europe-cis/01112018/apprenticeships-the-future-of-the-industry/>[**@**World\_Cement](https://twitter.com/World_Cement)

New #construction T Levels offer welcome boost to the sector <http://constructionmaguk.co.uk/new-construction-t-levels-offer-welcome-boost-to-the-sector/> [@constructionukm](https://twitter.com/constructionukm)

**Tell us what you think**

*City & Guilds Construction* is a newsletter that brings together all of the key developments from City & Guilds relevant to Construction skills learning across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. It contains updates on public policy and other information we think you might be interested in.

Each edition is numbered, so we can refer back to previous issues or tell you when information has been superseded.

For specific queries and enquiries please contact our dedicated customer support team: [CentreSupport@cityandguilds.com](mailto:CentreSupport@cityandguilds.com)

**Meet the team:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Ed Shaw**  Industry Manager  edward.shaw@cityandguilds.com  02072943314 |
|  | **Ian Roberts**  Technical Advisor  Ianm.Roberts@cityandguilds.com  07826903967 |
|  | **Paul Brown**  Technical Advisor  Paul.brown@cityandguilds.com  07872463185 |

[](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwin78yC-cPaAhUERhQKHQCHBFwQjRx6BAgAEAU&url=https://www.techadvisor.co.uk/how-to/social-networks/use-twitter-3534616/&psig=AOvVaw2E9798K5zwUy8BrIJmnFHR&ust=1524145072384778)Please follow us on twitter @ConstructionCG

[cid:image001.png@01D495FE.6CAD8550](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13628606/) Please join our LinkedIn group for [**Construction and Utilities**](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13628606/)

Thank you for your continued support.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this publication is true and correct at time of going to press. However, City & Guilds’ products and services are subject to continuous development and improvement and the right is reserved to change products and services from time to time. City & Guilds cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of information in this publication.© 2018. The City and Guilds of London Institute. All rights reserved. City & Guilds is a trademark of The City and Guilds of London Institute, a charity established to promote education and training registered in England & Wales (312832) and Scotland (SC039576).