



Baroness Barran

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System
Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe

House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

28 April 2022

My Lords,

Further to the points your lordships raised during the debate on to the Draft Industrial Training Levy (Construction Industry Training Board) Order 2022 on 25 April 2022, I am writing to respond to some of the specific points more fully than time permitted in the Delegated Legislation Committee.

Number of people employed in the construction industry

The figure for the number of people employed in the construction industry was mentioned on a few occasions during the debate. The Explanatory Memorandum we laid alongside the SI used a figure of 2.5m construction workers, this was thought to be much closer to the footprint of construction that is relevant to CITB. However, we have identified that figure to be incorrect, the estimate should be approximately 2.3m.

Having considered the matter further, for consistency, the Explanatory Memorandum and the Economic Impact Assessment will be updated to read approximately 3.1m. For industry context, it is more helpful to include the wider sector which includes contracting, associated manufacturing, and professional services (not all of which will be included within the scope of the CITB levy).

Membership of the CITB Levy Strategy Committee

The Levy Strategy Committee (LSC) represents the views of the construction industry across all three Great Britain nations on the development of the 2022-24 Levy proposals with specific reference to the anticipated cost of the funding strategy against the impact on all industry employers with a view to achieving a fair and sustainable outcome.

The members of the Committee at the start of the consensus process were:

- **Diana Garnham** - Chair of Skills East Sussex (CITB Trustee & Chair of LSC),
- **Yvonne Kelly** - Barking & Dagenham College (CITB Trustee),
- **Alison Lamplough** – Laing O’Rourke (English employer representative),
- **Liz Bridge** - Joint Taxation Committee (Independent member)
- **Rob Tansey** – retired HR director at Barratt Homes (Independent member),
- **Gareth Davies** - Knox & Wells (Welsh employer representative),
- **Andrew Harvey** - Harvey Shop Fitters (English employer representative),
- **Neil Rogers** - Scottish Decorators’ Federation (Independent member),
- **Craig Bruce** - Pert Bruce Construction (Scottish employer representative),
- **Vikki Skene** – Galliford Try (Scottish employer representative).

Biographies for current Committee members can be found here:

<https://www.citb.co.uk/about-citb/people-and-governance/our-board/levy-strategy-committee/>

Bricklayers

We need industry to ensure that it obtains the skills it needs in construction. In support of that government is working, in partnership with industry, through the Construction Skills Delivery Group (CSDG) to ensure that our skills offer meets the needs of employers in the sector.

Working together with CITB, British Association of Construction Heads, Association of Colleges, and the Home Builders Federation we have developed occupational traineeships in Bricklaying, Carpentry & Joinery, Dry Lining, Painting & Decorating and Steel Fixing. We have piloted the traineeship in bricklaying and are now seeking to make this available at scale.

Skills Bootcamps are another important example of working together with industry to ensure our overall skill offer meets the needs of the construction sector, including SMEs.

In the academic year 21/22 there are currently 2,600 Apprentices¹ on the level 2 bricklaying standard – this number has gone up from 540 in 2018/19 (although there would be some learners on frameworks during this time). The apprenticeship standard is currently being revised, with the view to adding a level 3 craft bricklayer. We expect this revision (to be available by autumn 2022) will encourage both strong take up and reduce the withdrawals which will result in more bricklayers entering the market.

¹ ['Subjects and levels - standards and frameworks' from 'Apprenticeships and traineeships', Permanent data table – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](#)

The Onsite Construction T Level was launched in September 2021 and includes an occupational specialism for Bricklaying. This is a two-year college-based programme, including a substantial 3-month industry placement. The first students taking the course will graduate Summer 2023.

Regarding CITB's contribution, my department has set out in the annual priority letter to the CITB that it should continue supporting and championing skills development necessary for meeting the Government's ambition to build 300,000 homes a year.

Technical colleges

Six of our 12 recently established Institutes of Technology (IoTs) are specialising in the delivery of higher-level technical skills in the construction sector, covering both apprenticeships and taught provision, helping provide employers with the skills they need in their local areas. Many of the next wave of nine IoTs announced last December will also specialise in construction sector skills.

University Technical Colleges play an important role in delivering high level technical education and supporting pupils to progress on to higher level apprenticeships. An assessment of the capacity and capability of the Academy Trust's UTC board would be made as part of the approvals process prior to ministers entering into a funding agreement. Regional Directors and their teams will then engage with trust boards as required as part of their oversight role of the academy system.

Industry Support for CITB levy proposals

There remains significant support for the levy from industry as demonstrated in the latest Consensus outcome. Taken against a backdrop of industry recovering from the impact of lockdown restrictions, one can be satisfied that this meets and exceeds the legislative requirement. However, it is clear that the level of support has fallen in comparison to the previous consensus.

The Minister for Skills is taking a keen interest in how the CITB engages with industry and what steps it is taking to ensure industry buy in ahead of the next consensus vote.

I will send a copy of this letter to all peers who spoke and place a copy of this letter in the libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,



BARONESS BARRAN

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE