



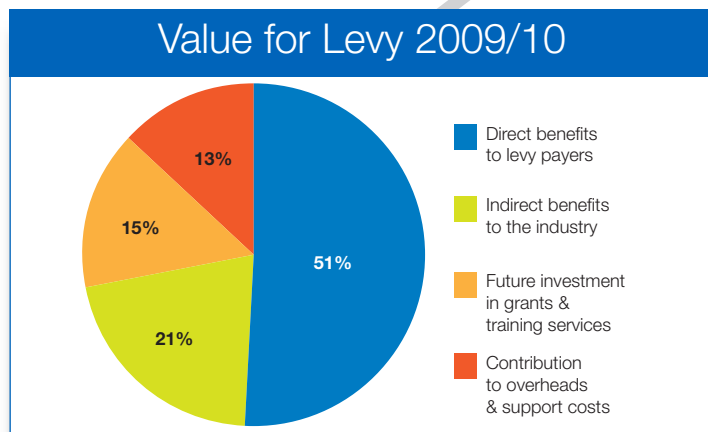
News from CITB-ConstructionSkills Northern Ireland

February 2011

Like many industries the past year has been difficult for construction. CITB-ConstructionSkills NI has faced challenges and made changes to help employers of all sizes recover from the effects of recession and improve their productivity.

1. Value for Money

- Last year we returned 87% in total of levy to registered employers. This was made up of direct benefits by way of grant and services such as the Mobile Training Unit, indirect benefits delivered through our work as a Sector Skills Council and delivery of the Sector Skills Agreement and future investment in grants and training by working with industry partners.



Direct Benefits	51%
Grant	36%
Employer Support	11%
Mobile Training Unit	3%
Undergraduate programme	1%
Future Investment in Grants & Training Services	15%
Indirect Benefits	21%
Delivery of SSA, Recruitment & Careers & Skillbuild	14%
Levy collection & auditing	6%
Marketing & Advertising	1%
Contribution to overheads & support costs	13%

2. Partnership Training

- We are working in partnership with industry bodies such as The Construction Employers Federation, Federation of Master Builders, NI Demolition Association and National Federation of Roofing Contractors and are identifying training needs of their members to help them survive in the current climate. By coming together and sharing our expertise we hope to work more effectively for the good of the industry by addressing training issues affecting their members.



3. Grants

- Last year we made £2.04m (55%) of levy income available in grant aid.
- A total of 879 employers claimed grant in 2009/2010 totalling £1.3m (36%) of levy income.
- Grants can be claimed online and must be made within 3 months of training.

4. Employer Engagement

- 6 employer information events were held between May and August last year and were attended by 120 people. A further set of 17 dates will be held in 2011 in venues across the Province to promote our services, what we can do for construction employers and featuring guest speaker Health & Safety Works NI. For further information log on to www.citbcnsni.org.uk/events.aspx
- The Employer Forum set up in Jan 2010, has consulted on all aspects of training, reviewed and agreed the current work programme and priorities and has been consulted on a wide range of training issues throughout the year.

5. IT

- Last year 21% of registered employers claimed grants online on our updated interactive website.
- We now pay grants by BACs which means grants are paid quicker.
- We are increasing our electronic contact with employers. Our target is for this to be at 80% by 2012.

6. Industry Training

- The Mobile Training Unit (MTU) is still a tried and tested way of training operatives without taking them away from the site.
- A total of 4664 individuals attended training by means of the MTU or via an onsite venue which represents an increase of 6% from last year.

- Last year 64 managers attended CIOB training and were successful, with results being above the national average.
- The scaffolding programme provided training and assessment for 115 individuals through the Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme (CISRS) Part 1, Part 2 and Advanced Scaffolders.
- Over 60 undergraduate construction students attended the 10 day Undergraduate Development Programme (UDP).
- The industry is continuing to train in the key areas of NVQ achievement, apprentices and short duration training.

7. Research & Development

- Throughout the year we continued to work as part of the Construction Skills Network (CSN) to produce accurate and up-to-date Labour Market Intelligence (LMI) for the Northern Ireland construction industry.
- Four surveys were completed during the year focusing on awareness, satisfaction, employer attitudes to training, Sustainable Construction review and training in the sector.
- The Sector Skills Agreement was refreshed in March 2010 and work continued throughout the year to deliver the key action points.

8. Essential Skills

- Construction tutor packs have been developed for Numeracy and Communication at Level 1 & Level 2 for New Entrants and the Existing workforce.

9. Health & Safety Booklets

- We have developed a suite of health and safety booklets for the industry focusing on Roofing, Bricklaying, Carpentry and Joinery, General Construction Operative, Painting & Decorating and Plastering.

