



# Performance Review 2007/2008

The current economic downturn in the construction industry has undoubtedly put financial constraints on many companies. It is important however for employers to retain skilled, qualified staff to win contracts and stay in business. Training can help employers survive the downturn and CITB grant can help to fund it. The CITB levy funds a wide range of activities in addition to the CITB Grant scheme.

## Key Highlights in 2007/08

### Services to Levy Payers

- £3.9m paid in services to levy payers including £2.3 million (46.5% levy income) in grants
- More employers claiming grant (12% increase on 06/07)
- More employers paying levy (3% increase on 06/07)
- £5m collected in levy (83% total income)

### Services to industry

- More than 1,000 achieved NVQ and other FE/HE qualifications
- More than 32,000 training days supported by CITB Levy-Grant
- 2,393 recruited onto construction apprenticeships
- 100 new training providers and 2,200 new courses approved for grant
- 1,024 attended Build Safely events across the Province to promote health and safety awareness in the areas that are the main causes of construction accidents; working at heights, working in and around excavations and slips, trips and falls.

### Direct Training

- 8,915 training days delivered by CITB's direct training unit, TASC
- 344 attended scaffolding training courses
- 164 undergraduates attended 10 day development programme, fully funded by CITB levy
- New Mobile Training Unit launched and almost 5,000 operatives trained in health and safety awareness
- 122 attended CIOB supervisory and management courses

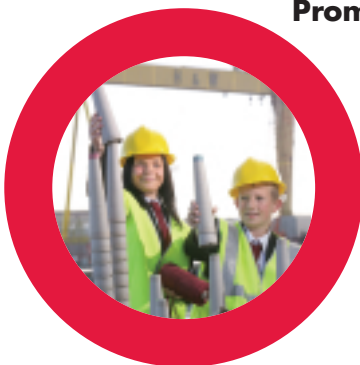
### Building Services Engineering Sector

- Employer Training Committee dedicated to advising the Board on training/skills needs of Building Services Engineering Sector.



### Promotion

- Multi media campaign to promote careers in construction with emphasis on web marketing
- 250 visits to schools to promote careers in construction
- 35 events to promote Women in Construction including annual conference, development of Network and job sampling.
- 99 careers visits made to training providers and job centres
- 20 National Construction Week events focusing on regeneration, sustainability, enterprise, skills and diversity.
- 204 press clippings generated PR worth £121,000 and 10 broadcasts



### New Horizons for 2009

The Departmental review of CITB initiated by the Minister for Employment and Learning is now underway. CITB is committed to the modernisation programme driven by the review and the need to be proactive regarding the short and long term needs of the industry. This includes the need to invest in excellence, offer flexibility and provide value for money.

- New Chairman and 5 new Board members appointed
- Levy Debt Payment Plan introduced to assist firms in financial difficulty
- New financial measures to help employer cash flow – increased grants, reduction in direct training courses
- Developing courses for redundant workers with colleges

### Simplified Administration

- New IT System to reduce administration processes and improve efficiency
- Online Grant Application via CITB website [www.citbni.org.uk](http://www.citbni.org.uk) to make applying for grant simpler, faster and easier.





## **Extra £¼ million in CITB Grant for Construction Industry**

**In an effort to help and support construction employers through the current economic downturn, the CITB Board has announced a number of measures, which it hopes will encourage employers to train and retain skilled, qualified staff.**

### **30% Increase in grant rates for construction-related and health & safety training**

From 1 March 2009, the maximum daily rate will increase from £50 to £65 per person per day for the following CITB training grant categories:

- construction-related CITB Approved Courses
- building services engineering training
- scaffolding training
- health & safety training
- Construction-related employer-based training will also increase from £20 to £26 per person per day.

This additional grant support will increase the total amount of CITB Grant available to employers by 12% to over £2.5 million.

### **Reduced prices for CITB TASC training programme**

At present employers pay a net cost fee for TASC training courses and are automatically paid CITB Grant for training attended. CITB will be reducing the published price to levy payers of all its TASC courses running from 1 March to 31 May 2009, in an effort to help businesses with cashflow. The CITB Levy-Grant discount will be shown on the sales invoice to employers.

### **Free SME training programme**

A series of free seminars will be held across Northern Ireland from March 2009 onwards to help small and medium sized construction businesses cope in the current economic climate. The seminars will cover topics including financial management, employment law and planning for the upturn, and will be fully funded from CITB Levy.

### **New Grant support for employed apprentices**

From 1 March 2009 a new short-term capped apprentice grant will replace the current apprentice achievement grants and will be paid to firms employing construction apprentices. Grant will not be paid for apprentices on work placement. Grant applications received from employers to end February 2009 will be honoured under the conditions of grant in place at that time. The apprentice grant will now be made up of:

- a weekly amount of £20 per apprentice for 26 weeks from 1 March to 31 August 2009
- a qualification achievement grant of £250 for NVQ level 2, NVQ level 3 and the full modern apprenticeship certificate respectively, which are achieved in the current training year to 31 August 2009.

### **CSR Health & Safety Grant Subsidy for unemployed construction operations**

CITB will be trying to reach an agreement with the CSR Scheme to help operatives, recently made redundant, who are due to renew their health and safety training and CSR cards. CITB will be proposing to make a grant subsidy available to the network of accredited CSR providers to offer unemployed operatives CSR health & safety awareness training at a reduced rate. CITB will also be recommending that the CSR Scheme reduces its card renewal fee for unemployed construction workers, to enable them to rejoin the industry when the opportunity arises.

**Call CITB's Training Support Team now on 028 9082 5466 for further information on training and grants available to you.**

CITB Nutts Corner Training Centre, 17 Dundrod Road, Crumlin, Co. Antrim, BT29 4SR  
Tel: 028 9082 5466 Fax: 028 9082 5693 Email: [info@citbni.org.uk](mailto:info@citbni.org.uk) [www.citbni.org.uk](http://www.citbni.org.uk)

CITB is a partner in ConstructionSkills, the Sector Skills Council for Construction. Part of the Skills for Business Network of 25 Employer led Sector Skills Councils.