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CITB NI: Improving training and skills within the local construction industry



CITB NI Chief Executive Barry Neilson.

The last year has been like no other in our history and construction like all sectors has experienced unprecedented upheaval. Throughout the pandemic CITB NI continued to provide support, help and guidance to the construction industry in relation to levy, grant and training initiatives.

Despite the restrictions the construction industry kept moving albeit at a slower rate but also continued to invest in their people. CITB NI finished the 2019-2020 year having delivered a further £244,000 in direct grant support to industry, an 85 per cent increase in support since 2017. In addition, our Training-in-Partnership interventions invested a further £244,000 in delivering training and support funded "up front" and delivered at no or low cost to the sector. A total of £1.75 million in support to train and develop the existing Northern Ireland construction industry.

Training is important in every sector but particularly in construction. Well-trained construction workers are safer, better skilled, work faster and make fewer mistakes. They are better motivated and are more efficient and effective. They

also produce a better quality of product for our clients. We have encouraged our industry to continue to train during the difficult times to develop the skills of their workforce to help overcome challenges, learn more and be altogether better and stronger.

Our grant scheme and training programmes are widely recognised within the industry and we continue to provide both training and financial support for employers. We also support the Government Apprenticeship Recovery Package which gives employers the chance to retain and recruit apprentices and help to protect and improve this talent pipeline to sustain the future of construction.

CITB NI will continue to promote

construction to the younger generation to help them consider the varied pathways within the industry as career options for the future. Despite the hurdles over recent years including the downturn and the pandemic construction work continued and the demand for skills has never been greater.

Looking towards the future, CITB NI will continue to follow the strategic road map published in recent years, under our themes to benefit the Industry – Training Hub, Quality Standards, Partnership Work, Commercial Opportunities and Embracing Innovation, as well as continuing to focus on supporting training to rebuild and recover.

We will continue to work with contractors, professional and trade bodies to support training and skills development for the overall benefit of the industry. Through a mix of grant funding, careers promotion, direct training interventions, employer engagement and online training, CITB NI will help progress the NI construction industry to meet client needs and grow their business.

For further information on what we can do to help you and your construction training log on to www.citbni.org.uk, like us on Facebook

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