



# GRANT & LEVY

**CITB NI training grants scheme to help encourage the local construction industry to train. The £1.4m scheme offers direct grants to CITB NI registered employers for support in a wide range of training and qualifications for employees working in Northern Ireland.**

The Grant scheme is split into 3 Tiers to allow CITB NI to provide flexible and responsive support to the industry.

Our Tier 1 Grants Scheme offers our registered employers grants to support training and qualifications, from apprentices through to the existing workforce including management and administration. The grant support also covers short duration training courses including first aid, business courses and site safety courses. Our **Training Directory** can help also identify courses and training providers which can help with your training needs

## Claim your Grant Online

Claiming your Tier 1 grant online is easy, quick and efficient with 89% of employers who claimed grants last year very satisfied with the system.

Log on to **[www.citbni.org.uk/grants](http://www.citbni.org.uk/grants)** and click on the Apply for Grants Online Now button – remember to have your user name and log on details and the rest is easy. Don't delay claim online today.

**Tier 2 Grant** is directed at industry federations and/or representative bodies **only** who will be required to carry out research into the needs of their sector and identify the skills and training interventions for the sector they represent.

**Tier 3 Grant** is designed to help industry needs where training is not viable or available in Northern Ireland. This training **will be identified by CITB NI** and delivered to the industry.

**CLICK HERE**  
OR MORE INFORMATION ON  
TIER 2 AND TIER 3 GRANT

Training opportunities and courses are promoted through our website and social media channels.

# GRANT & LEVY

## Apprenticeship Grants

CITB NI have boosted the apprenticeship grants available to registered employers meaning that up to £4000 can be claimed for a fully employed apprentice over a 3 year period. There is also a £1500 grant available from the Department for the Economy for employers who take on an apprentice from the very start right through to completion of NVQ Level 2 and 3.

The Department for the Economy has launched a new free online system Connect to Success NI to promote and advertise apprenticeship and school work experience opportunities. Employers simply upload their opportunities on to the on line portal for people to search.

**CLICK HERE**

CONNECT TO  
SUCCESS

More information can be found at [www.citbni.org.uk/Apprenticeships.aspx](http://www.citbni.org.uk/Apprenticeships.aspx)

## Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLAs)

CITB NI have introduced an additional grant for HLA's find out **more information**.

For further information on CITB NI Grants please visit our web site at [www.citbni.org.uk/Grants.aspx](http://www.citbni.org.uk/Grants.aspx) or contact a member of our Grants team on 028 9082 5466 or email: [grants@citbni.org.uk](mailto:grants@citbni.org.uk)

## Levy

The levy funds which are collected from employers fund a wide range of activities including:

- Grants
- Training Advice
- Research and Development
- Provision of the Mobile Training Unit
- Careers Promotion
- Standards and Qualifications Development

This helps to drive up standards and ensures projects are completed safely, sustainably, on time and within budget. All construction industry employers are required by law to register with CITB NI. Registered CITB NI employers are also obliged by law to complete and return the levy Return form which is issued in July each year.



If your wages bill is greater or equal to £80,000 levy is payable on the gross emoluments at 0.65% and if below £80,000 you will not be liable to pay a levy but you must still complete the Annual Return Form and you can still benefit from CITB NI products and services.

# GRANT & LEVY

## Should I be Registered?

If you can answer YES to the following questions you should be registered with CITB NI

1. Are you working in the construction industry in Northern Ireland \*?
2. Are you an **employer**?
3. Are you working in Northern Ireland for 27 or more weeks in the relevant tax year?

\*activities of the construction industry are defined within Schedule 1 of the Industrial Training Board Order 1964.

Registered employers can claim training grants, access the Mobile Training Unit, Virtual Training Facility VET 360, scaffolding training and training support materials such as health and safety books and online training directory. Terms and conditions of grant apply.

**REGISTER NOW**  
AND DOWNLOAD  
THE RETURN FORM



# CITB NI TRAINING

## CITB NI adding value to employers via Additional Funding

CITB NI is primarily funded by a levy paid by the industry. The organisation is fully aware now more than ever that it is important to identify additional funding, that can be used to provide added benefits to construction employers in Northern Ireland.

Over recent years CITB NI has been successful in securing additional support funding, direct or in kind, to provide a number of benefits to local construction industry employers.

Last year our additional funding exceeded £200k and focused on activity to address training needs, employer engagement and

standards within the industry. The training initiatives included the completion of the final phase of the Qualifying the Experienced Workforce programme which provided nearly 1800 existing workers with a level 2 qualification for the first time. The completion of a heritage training programme whereby 12 apprentices received bespoke, structured training and assessment leading to the achievement of the Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Heritage Skills (Construction) – Wood Occupations. Other training initiatives addressed specialist sector training not available in Northern Ireland which included Damp Proofing, Leadwork and Safety Nets.

Additional funding was also added via engagement with employers

at business improvement events and ambassadors attending and facilitating careers fairs to support development within the industry and promote construction as a career choice.

Maintaining appropriate standards within the industry is very important for both health and safety and performance improvement. Additional funding was secured for CITB NI to undertake a series of projects which focused on standards which included reviewing apprentice frameworks, monitoring the standards of the CPCS scheme and developing standards and tests for the CSR plant card scheme.

The construction industry is changing and moving forward with more technological advances and innovative techniques. CITB NI is

developing as an organisation and processes are in place to make it easier to claim grants and gain the benefits that registered employers are entitled to. The NI Assembly budgetary constraints do not impact on CITB NI directly but some Government funded initiatives in the area of training have had to be closed down due to funding streams not being available. CITB NI will continue to support the local construction industry and provide added value to the registered employer by pursuing additional funding sources and training initiatives which provide benefits to employers.

# CITB NI TRAINING

## NVQ 4 Construction Site Supervisor Development Programme

Are you looking to develop your staff as a Site Supervisor and gain an NVQ 4 at the same time?

CITB NI have taken the Construction Site Supervisor qualification and built a developmental programme that will provide formal qualifications while improving both knowledge and performance.

The next programme begins in May and we are currently recruiting for places.



**DOWNLOAD**  
THE DETAILED FLYER

For more information  
contact Lorraine Fisher -  
[Lorraine.fisher@citbni.org.uk](mailto:Lorraine.fisher@citbni.org.uk)  
028 90824202

## Business Improvement Events

Our next Business Improvement Event is:

## Digital Marketing & Social Media Workshop

**Date:** Wed 23 May 2018  
**Time:** 08:45am-12:15pm  
**Venue:** Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh

This workshop will empower construction professionals to be able to begin effectively marketing their business online or take their marketing to the next level. The workshop will cover developing a digital strategy, tips on digital channels, content plan for social media and analytical tools.



**DOWNLOAD**  
THE DETAILED FLYER

**BOOK NOW**  
FOR DIGITAL MARKETING & SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHOP

## Forthcoming Workshops

Tendering in the - Public Sector Construction Market.	Friday 15th June & Monday 1 Oct 2018
Credit Control - & Cyber Security	Wednesday 20th June 2018

[www.citbni.org.uk/events](http://www.citbni.org.uk/events)



# CITB NI TRAINING

## Training on the Move with CITB NI's Mobile Training Unit -

CITB NI's Mobile Training Unit (MTU) travels across sites in Northern Ireland delivering short duration health and safety courses such as confined spaces, excavations, manual handling and working at heights, encouraging the industry to build safely.

The MTU provides training on site to all registered in-scope construction employers. It is a convenient way of meeting training requirements with minimum disruption to site work whilst also helping employers meet their legal responsibility.



Registered in-scope levy paying employers can book the Mobile Training Unit free of charge. A cost of £300/day will be applied to those who are registered but do not pay a levy.

Booking is easy, telephone 028 90 825466/ 07801 598 520 and we can facilitate your booking and answer any queries you have. Alternatively you can email: **Lorraine.fisher@citbni.org.uk**

# CITB NI TRAINING



## Virtual Environment Training - VET360

CITB NI's innovative VET360 provides a unique and memorable immersive experience which gives the user instant access to construction sites in a workplace environment. Used as a training tool VET360 allows the user to experience being onsite within a safe training environment. The

facility allows the user to see more, save time and stay safe as VET360 is the perfect bridge between theoretical classroom training and the reality of a busy construction site.

Interested in experiencing VET360 and seeing how it could transform your training? Contact **Lorraine Fisher 02890 824202** email: **lorraine.fisher@citbni.org.uk** for more information.

## SCAFFOLDING

We provide the CISRS scaffolding training courses at Nutts Corner Training Centre. These courses include a five-day Basic Access Systems Erector Course (BASE) and a two-day Tube & Fitting Basic Scaffold Inspection course. On successful completion of these courses the relevant CISRS Scaffolding card will be issued.

These courses run alongside the existing CISRS programme of CISRS Operative Training Scheme (COTS), Scaffolding Part One, Part Two and Advanced courses working towards achievement of an NVQ and obtaining a Scaffolding or Advanced Scaffolding Card.

Since 1st July 2017 it has been a mandatory requirement to attend a two day CISRS CPD training course prior to Scaffolder of Advanced Scaffolder card renewal. For more information see link **<http://cisrs.org.uk/cpd-2017/>**

For more information on courses, contact **[gillian.watt@ctibni.org.uk](mailto:gillian.watt@ctibni.org.uk)**, Tel: 02890825466.



## OTHER NEWS

### Skillbuild NI Finals

#### Talented young construction Apprentices shine at Skillbuild NI 2018

Over 80 local construction apprentices gathered their tools to compete against each other in the annual Skillbuild NI National Finals which was held in North West Regional College, Greystone Campus, Limavady on 23rd March 2018.

Skillbuild NI is organised by CITB NI and supported by the Department for the Economy and helps to assist with maintaining and raising the status and standards of professional and technical education and training.

The competition is held annually each spring with many winners progressing further to represent Northern Ireland in the Skills Show UK and potentially at WorldSkills. It is also supported by local construction employers who sponsor each trade category.

The Skillbuild NI competition is designed to test skills, technique and ability within tight timeframes in order to win coveted titles in 10 different trades ranging from brickwork to wall and floor tiling.

Maurice Johnston, Chairman CITB NI said: "Skills competitions are a very positive news story for Northern Ireland. They are a great way to showcase our vocational skills and demonstrate to employers and future investors the high standard of training provision which exists in our colleges and training organisations.

CITB NI is proud to have been involved in construction skills competitions for over 40 years and we have a record of success at skills competitions not only on a local level but also on a regional, national and world level. The

Skillbuild NI competition allows our young apprentices to demonstrate that they have the high level of skills which our economy needs to stay competitive and gives all the competitors a chance to showcase their skills



## OTHER NEWS

### **CITB NI, along with six other Partners in European Collaboration win European Horizon 2020 Energy project - BIMcert Survey Now Open**

CITB NI in partnership with Belfast Met and other European project partners from Ireland, Portugal, Croatia and Macedonia have secured a €1.25M (£1.11m) Horizon 2020 grant to develop BIMcert - a training model and toolkit to help all levels of the industry take their first, or next, step to working with BIM. **B**uilding **I**nformation **M**odelling has become a key requirement in the built environment, where all relevant information is created and managed through the lifecycle of a construction project and where digital and virtual reality technology can be used to provide

information on every aspect of the project. It is a significant tool in the development of better energy efficiency in the construction and ongoing management of our built environment.

The partners working on BIMcert will develop a toolkit which will be used to enhance building modelling approaches to sustainable building design. CITB NI will be carrying out a survey of the industry to ascertain the current level of BIM maturity, knowledge and understanding within Built Environment practitioners and academia, to establish current levels of sustainable design and construction practice. To take part in the survey, which lasts 10 minutes, follow the web link [www.citbni.org.uk/News/BIMcert-Survey.aspx](http://www.citbni.org.uk/News/BIMcert-Survey.aspx)

Chief Executive, Barry Neilson stated, "This is a once in a

generation opportunity for the industry to take ownership of the development of qualifications in terms of both content and method of delivery to ensure the tools developed meet industry needs and encourage a step-change in the industry's engagement with a technology that could improve the way we create and manage our built environment and encouraged all sections of the industry to engage with the project by contributing to the survey. BIMcert's aim will be to build a suite of training tools that help all occupations within the industry across Europe take their first, or next, step in developing more energy efficient buildings through collaboration within BIM."



**Pictured are Barry Neilson & Gayle Beckett, CITB NI, Chris Corken & Paul McCormick, Belfast Met, Dr James Harty, Copenhagen School of Design & Technology.**

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant Agreement No 785155.

## OTHER NEWS

### CITB NI award top GCSE Construction Success

CITB NI recognised those who got top accolades in GCSE Construction and the Built Environment in 2017 at the Annual Chartered Institute of Building Awards held at Nutts Corner Training Centre.

The GCSE in Construction and the Built Environment has been developed by CCEA to help students develop knowledge and understanding of the construction industry and have opportunities to apply their developing knowledge and skills in relevant, enjoyable and work-related contexts.

First place was awarded to Caoimhinn Gormley, St Louis Grammar, Ballymena second place Susanna Crabbe and third place James Dickey went to both Ballymena Academy.

The students were invited to the annual Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) Awards hosted by CITB NI which awarded those professionals who gained CIOB status throughout the year and included a presentation on the exceptional work carried out by GRAHAM-BAM Healthcare Partnership for the £85m Ulster Hospital Phase B2 Inpatient Ward Block which was awarded the overall winner at the Construction Excellence Awards 2017.

On presenting the awards, Barry Neilson, Chief Executive, CITB NI, said, "Congratulations to all the students who excelled in GCSE in Construction and the Built Environment. We are delighted that you chose to study a topic that reflects an ever changing construction industry."

Many other students are choosing this topic to study at GCSE. It is refreshing to see two young females achieving the top two places and hopefully this is a sign that perceptions are changing and construction is no longer considered an industry only suitable for men

We provide help and guidance on the GCSE Construction topic via our textbook and we hope that by studying and excelling at this level you may possibly consider a career in a dynamic industry with lots of opportunities to choose from."

"Construction is a rewarding industry with a variety of opportunities on offer from project management to onsite roles with prospects for career enhancement and good earning potential."



# INDUSTRY REPORTS

## The Construction Indicator

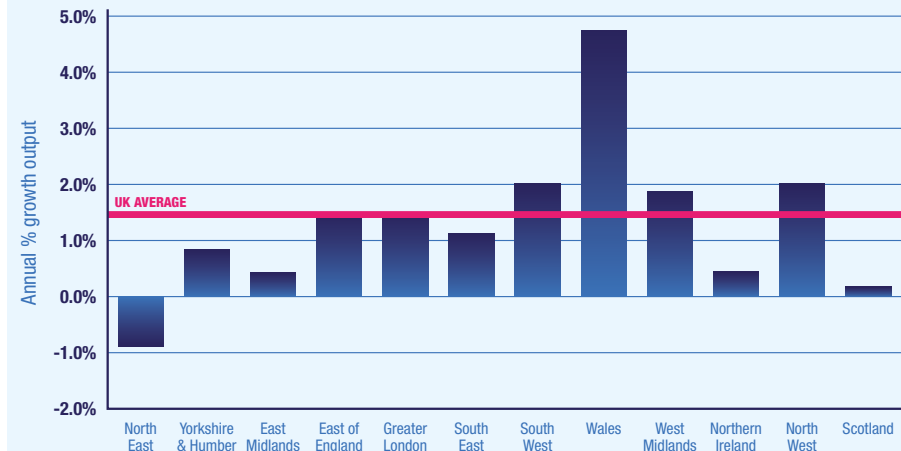
### An update of Northern Ireland (NI) Construction Industry Performance Indicators (Issue 12 - April 2018)

#### Construction Employment

- Construction employment in Northern Ireland is expected to decline at an annual average rate of -0.4% over the forecast period. The average annual UK rate remains positive at +0.5%. Employment is projected to reach around 61,770 in 2022, having peaked at 63,500 in 2019<sup>1</sup>.

- The NI industry will have to recruit an average of 310 new employees each year to realise forecasted construction output, with the annual requirement highest for bricklayers (80), other construction process managers (50) and other construction professionals and technical staff (50)<sup>2</sup>. Sixty percent of respondents in the RICS UK Construction and Infrastructure Survey Q4 2017, indicated that skills shortages were a constraint, as in previous quarters citing quantity surveyors and bricklayers as the main occupational areas where shortages were prevalent<sup>3</sup>.

Annual Average Output Growth by Region 2018-2022 - Northern Ireland



Source: CSN, Experian, Ref: CSN Explained.

<sup>1</sup> Industry Insights Report for NI 2018-2022, Construction Skills Network

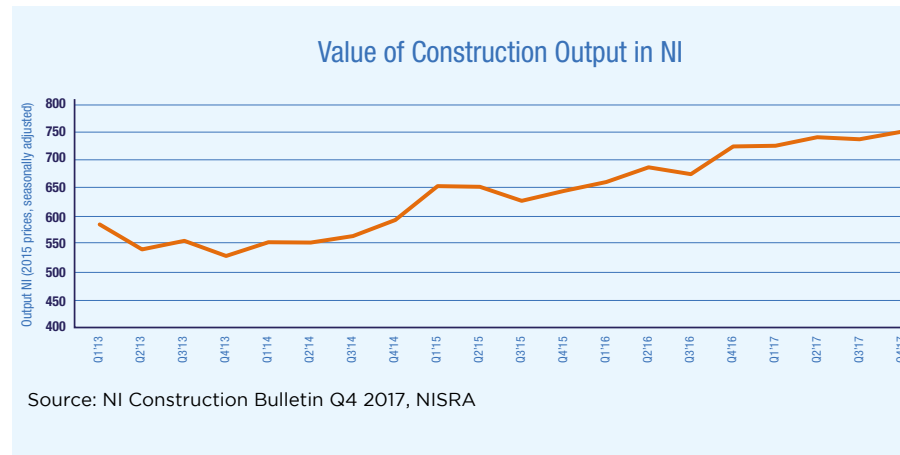
<sup>2</sup> Industry Insights Report for NI 2018-2022, Construction Skills Network

<sup>3</sup> RICS UK Construction and Infrastructure Survey Q4 2017, published Jan 2018

# INDUSTRY REPORTS

## Construction Output

The total volume of construction output in the fourth quarter of 2018 was 1.8% higher than Q3 2017 and 3.6% higher than the same quarter in the previous year. This was the highest level of output in the last seven years<sup>4</sup>. The increase can be explained by an increase in New Work (up 2.6%) and an increase in Repair and Maintenance (up 1.4%).



Construction output growth in Northern Ireland is projected to average 0.5% a year over the 2018 to 2022 period, a slower growth rate than across the UK as a whole (1.3%). However, output is expected to sustain a level not far short of £3bn (2015 prices) during the forecast period, not seen since the 2008/09 recession. The sectors expected to expand are the housing (public and private) and repair and maintenance (R&M)<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> NI Construction Bulletin, Q4 2017, Department of Finance, published 12/04/18

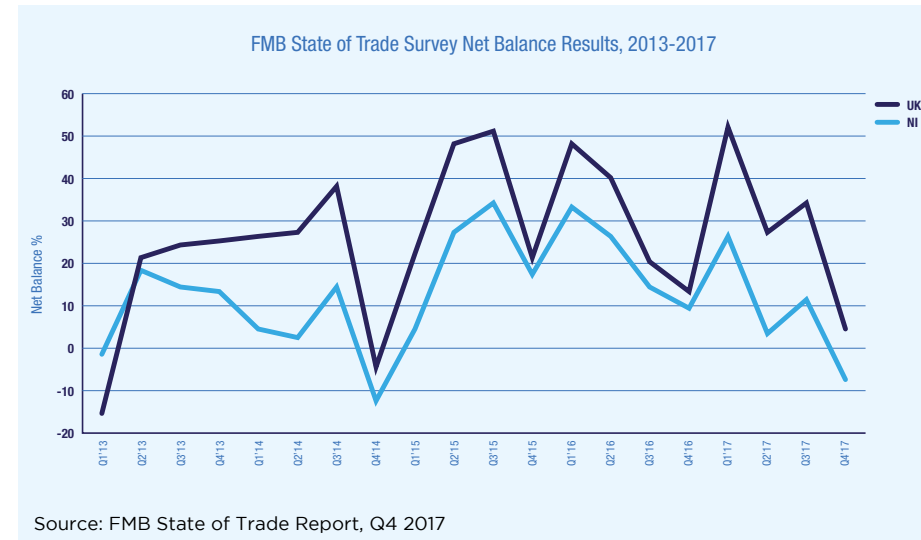
<sup>5</sup> Industry Insights Report for NI 2018-2022, Construction Skills Network

# INDUSTRY REPORTS

## State of Trade

- The FMB's State of Trade Survey for Q4 2017 confirmed that SME workloads across the UK continued to experience rising activity although at a slightly slower rate compared to the previous quarter. Eighty seven percent of builders expect material prices to rise in the next 6 months and 61% of SMEs envisage wage increases over the same period. The report also shows that NI's net balance<sup>6</sup> has decreased by 19 percentage points to -7 (from +12 in Q3 2017)<sup>7</sup>.

- The Q4 2017 RICS UK Construction and Infrastructure Market Survey shows UK workloads maintaining a broadly steady pace with 21% of surveyors reporting a rise in activity rather than a fall over the previous three months. However there are still uncertainties over Brexit. The strongest rises are in private housing and private commercial workloads. An improvement in workloads in Northern Ireland has been noted<sup>8</sup>.



<sup>6</sup> Based on a composite indicator combining workload, expected workload & enquiries questions, weighted by the firms' size. The net balance shows the difference between those saying higher & those saying lower for the three questions.

<sup>7</sup> FMB State of Trade Survey Report, Q4 2017

<sup>8</sup> RICS UK Construction and Infrastructure Market Survey, Q4 2017, published Jan 2018



# INDUSTRY REPORTS

## New House Prices and Sales

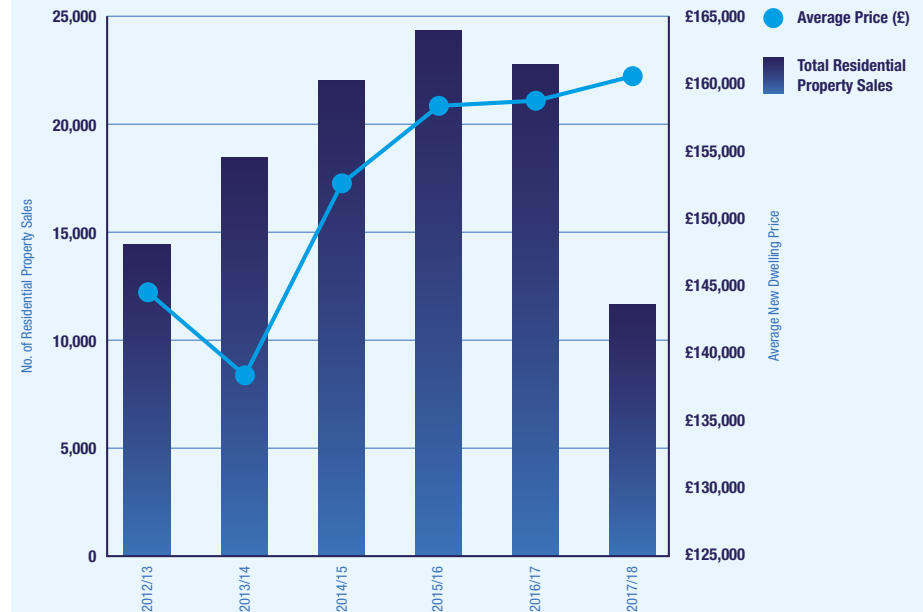
The total number of NI residential property sales in 2016-2017 (Q4 2016 – Q3 2017) stood at 22,328, a 4% decrease on the same period in 2015-16 (23,169). In terms of new house sales, for the period Oct 2016 – Sept 2017 there were 1,218 sales, a decrease of 2% on the same period in 2015-16<sup>9</sup>.

The trend of increasing numbers of new dwelling starts (both private and social) continued in 2016-17 (Oct 16 – Sept 17), with a 10% increase from 7,079 in 2015-16 to 7,816 in 2016-2017<sup>10</sup>.

The average price of a new dwelling in NI in 2016/17 stood at £157,700, almost the same as in 2015/16<sup>11</sup>.

For further information contact Karen Hunter at CITB NI via e-mail [karen.hunter@citbni.org.uk](mailto:karen.hunter@citbni.org.uk) or telephone 028 9082 4233.

NI Residential Property Sales & New Dwelling Prices April - March



Source: NI Housing Bulletin, NISRA, Jul - Sept 2017, published 06/02/18

<sup>9</sup> NI Housing Bulletin, NISRA, Jul - Sept 2017, published 06/02/18

<sup>10</sup> NI Housing Bulletin, NISRA, Jul - Sept 2017, published 06/02/18

<sup>11</sup> NI Housing Bulletin, NISRA, Jul - Sept 2017, published 06/02/18