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Pictured at the launch of the next phase of the 'Qualifying the Existing Workforce' project are (from left), Stacey Robinson, Bullivant Tarranto; Maurice Johnston, Chairman CITB NI; Minister for Employment and Learning Stephen Farry; and Niall Woods, Bullivant Tarranto

Second phase of 'upskilling' initiative for construction sector launched

The second phase of the 'Qualifying the Existing Workforce' initiative at Nutts Corner Training Centre has been launched by Minister for Employment & Learning, Dr Stephen Farry.

The 'Qualifying the Existing Workforce' project aims to qualify 1,000 currently unqualified, experienced, employed construction workers to NVQ Level 2, helping to increase productivity and meet the industry's skills challenge.

The project is a joint initiative by the Department for Employment and Learning

(DEL), CITB NI and the Joint Council for the Building & Civil Engineering Industry (NI). Tandragee firm, Bullivant Tarranto, qualified 48 candidates through the project and had the 500th candidate who achieved an NVQ through the first phase of the project since its launch in June 2012.

For a list of assessment centres and occupations available and to find out more about registering, log on to www.citbni.org.uk and follow the links to FREE NVQs or call us on 028 9082 5466.

Mobile Training Unit

The Mobile Training Unit (MTU) provides a convenient way of meeting training requirements with minimum disruption to site work. The unit travels to construction sites and locations across 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.



Free to all registered 'In Scope' employers, the MTU can be booked in advance.

For more information on available courses, log on to www.citbni.org.uk or telephone Des Hegarty on 07801 598520.

Scaffolding training

CISRS scaffolding training courses at Nutts Corner Training Centre include a five-day Basic Access Systems Erector Course (BASE) which is currently 100% funded for a limited period of time and a two-day Tube & Fitting Basic and an Advanced Scaffold Inspection course. On successful completion of these courses the relevant CISRS Scaffolding Card will be issued.

These new courses run alongside the existing CISRS programme of Scaffolding Part One, Part Two and Advanced courses, working towards achievement of an NVQ and obtaining a Scaffolding or Advanced Scaffolding Card.

For more information on courses, visit www.citbni.org.uk or telephone 028 9082 5466.

Construction training gets £1.1million boost

The new CITB NI Training Grant Scheme offers support for a wide range of training and qualifications, from apprentices through to the existing workforce, including management and administration. The scheme is structured into three tiers, focusing on employers, industry, and training that can be facilitated by the organisation. The grant application process for Tier 1 has been simplified and offers further flexibility to claim whilst you train. In a move to help employers maximise their grant claims, an additional 2.5% can be earned by claiming online. Grants will be paid within 10 working days, which will help employers' cash flow in these difficult economic times.

For further information, visit www.citbni.org.uk/grants, contact a member of the Grants team on 028 9082 5466 or e-mail info@citbni.org.uk.

Shared Apprenticeships

The Shared Apprenticeship Programme NI - a pilot scheme between CITB NI and GEL Ltd - allows apprentices to complete a full apprenticeship programme by working with a number of different employers to gain the skill sets they require to become qualified. Throughout the duration of the training the apprentices will also obtain their Level 3 vocational qualification through the normal college system.

If you are a construction employer and would be able to offer a short term placement contract for an apprentice to gain valuable experience, then contact Simon Eakin on 028 7134 7631.

Undergraduate Development Programme

CITB NI offers a free Undergraduate Development Programme for construction and built environment students currently on their placement year. CITB NI registered employers who enrol their placement students on this programme are eligible to receive a £1,000 employer grant. For more information contact, Gillian on 028 9082 4205.