

Your bitesize construction bulletin

September 2024

Grenfell Inquiry calls for new adviser

Housebuilding and regulations

What is it?

One recommendation from the Grenfell Inquiry is to bring back the role of chief construction adviser.

What should I know?

- The role was originally created in 2009, but abolished in 2015.
- The Inquiry wants the role to oversee the government's work relating to building regulations and statutory guidance, as well as advise and alert the secretary of state on issues affecting construction.



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Controversial plans for Manchester skyline

Housebuilding and regulations

What is it?

Planning has been secured for five new high-rise buildings in Manchester's city centre.

What should I know?

- One of the skyscrapers will be the tallest outside of London at 71 storeys and 213m tall.
- The buildings include 2,388 flats but have received criticism.
- Concerns include the pricing of flats when affordable housing is needed in the city's centre and the wider impact of rent costs across Manchester.



World's strongest land-based crane

Innovation, technology and trends

What is it?

Lifting specialist Mammoet has launched what it claims is the world's strongest land-based crane, the SK6000.

What should I know?

- It will be used on large infrastructure and energy projects that use modular pieces.
- Despite its size, it can be transported worldwide for any project using shipping containers.
- It can offer full electric power capabilities.



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Construction activity growth

Market conditions and challenges

What is it?

The industry has grown for a sixth consecutive month according to the Construction Manager's Index (PMI).

What should I know?

- PMI was 53.6 in August, which is down from 55.3 in July, but any number above 50 is considered a growth.
- The small reduction in August was due to a decrease in civil engineering growth.
- Housing activity however rose and saw its highest increase since September 2022.



Kier to noise-proof Heathrow homes

Housebuilding and regulations

What is it?

Kier Group is planning to install noise insulation measures in around 20,000 homes located near Heathrow Airport.

What should I know?

- It will be delivered by The Residential Insulation Scheme (RIS) which is part of Heathrow's Quieter Neighbourhood Support.
- Measures will include installing replacement doors and windows, secondary glazing, new ventilation, loft installation and ceiling upgrades.



You're all caught up!