

Your bitesize construction bulletin

February 2025

Threefold increase in apprentices needed

Market conditions and challenges

What is it?

According to The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), the number of apprentices needs to triple to fill the skills shortage.

What should I know?

- There are currently approximately 82,000 construction apprentices in Great Britain.
- 21% of construction businesses employ apprentices, and only 10% employ more than one.
- The CITB says that employers need to do more for the cause.



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£100m housing project in Leeds

Housebuilding and regulations

What is it?

Main contractor Graham has been appointed to The Dyecoats scheme by the River Aire in Leeds.

What should I know?

- The sustainable mixed-use scheme on Kirkstall Road includes 434 homes, with multiple tenures including build to rent, student accommodation, shared ownership and private sale.
- There will also be facilities for a food hall and public realm, and it will prioritise pedestrians and cyclists over motorists.



Government support for the steel industry

Market conditions and challenges

What is it?

Multi-billion pound plans were announced by the government to boost the UK's steel industry and its future.

What should I know?

- This comes after the President of the United States' plans for import tariffs including UK steel.
- Help is available through the National Wealth Fund, and funding can be used on long-term initiatives such as electric arc furnaces.
- Up to £2.5bn will be put towards supporting the steel industry.



UK's biggest timber design conference returns

Events

What is it?

Timber Development UK (TDUK) has announced its annual design conference is returning on 3rd July in London.

What should I know?

- The UK Timber Design Conference focuses on how the industry can accelerate a low-carbon future.
- The programme will also include discussions around new financial models for sustainable development, innovative solutions in the UK timber sector, and renovation and retrofit projects.



You're all caught up!