

PRESS NOTICE

Government to appoint Chief Adviser on Construction

Ministers today announced the government's response to the recent consultation exercise on the appointment of a Chief Construction Officer.

The Government plans to appoint a Chief Adviser to Government on Construction to equip Britain's construction industry with the skills and knowledge to become competitive in the 21st century. He/she will chair the Board responsible for securing value for money from the government's procurement of construction, promote innovation and sustainability in the industry, and be responsible for ensuring government takes full account of the impacts of the regulatory regime on the construction industry.

The Chief Construction Adviser will be independent and report to BIS and HM Treasury Ministers. The successful individual will:-

Chair a new Construction Category Board, which will build on the existing Public Sector Construction Clients Forum (PSCCF), to oversee the implementation and further development of best value Government construction procurement.

Chair an enhanced sustainable construction strategy delivery board to help ensure policy regarding the industry is effectively co-ordinated

Assess the key barriers to growth in the UK's Low Carbon construction sector to ensure the UK industry is well placed to serve developing needs and markets

Work with the industry, through the Strategic Forum for Construction, to deliver the industry improvement agenda, including the Construction Commitments

Promote innovation in the sector, working closely with the Technology Strategy Board and other funding bodies

Co-ordinate the Whitehall response to reports featuring construction

Ian Pearson, the Economic Secretary, said:

"This role will provide a central "focal point" for the construction sector acknowledging the value of this sector and the importance of delivering a sustainable and low carbon economy that remains competitive. The Chief Construction Adviser will help ensure that Government secures maximum value for money in its procurement of construction and thus support the aims of the Operational Efficiency Programme".

Ian Lucas, the Construction Minister, said:

"We have taken our time to get the role right to ensure that it fits well with a range of new and existing initiatives. But I have heard the calls from the Construction Industry loud and clear since my appointment in June. We are now pressing hard ahead with recruiting. I want to see a high quality individual in place by November".

Notes for editors:

1. The Operational Efficiency Programme was launched by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 3rd July 2008. It builds on the Efficiency Programme of the Spending Review Period for 2004, which successfully delivered over £26.5 billion in savings, and on plans to deliver another £35 billion in savings as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 value for money programme. The Operational Efficiency Programme is led by independent advisers who have taken a closer look at achieving greater efficiency in a number of cross-cutting areas: back office operations and IT; collaborative procurement; asset management and sales; property; and local incentives and empowerment. The advisers reported alongside the Budget and identified scope for £15 billion of savings a year by 2013-14, £9 billion of which are additional to those already in plans for the £35 billion current efficiency target.
2. The Low Carbon Industrial Strategy was launched in July. It sets out the action the Government is taking to ensure that British businesses and workers are equipped to maximise the economic opportunities and minimise the costs of the transition to a low carbon economy. A copy of the strategy can be found here: <http://www.hm.gov.uk/lowcarbon>
3. New Industry, New Jobs was launched in April. A copy can be found here: <http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file51023.pdf>
4. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is building a dynamic and competitive UK economy by: creating the conditions for business success; promoting innovation, enterprise and science; and giving everyone the skills and opportunities to succeed. To achieve this it will foster world-class universities and promote an open global economy. BIS - Investing in our future.