

## Apprenticeship Levy - Build UK Statement

Build UK and its members support the Government's ambition to grow apprenticeships, and are stepping-up to play their role in tackling skills shortages within construction. The Government has shown a strong commitment to investing in construction and infrastructure projects and it is vital the sector has the skilled workforce required to deliver them.

The Apprenticeship Levy will have a significant impact on the funding of training and apprenticeships across the construction sector. Whilst the information published by the Department for Education on the operation of the Apprenticeship Levy and the wider funding system is welcome, particularly the support for those employing 16-18 year olds, many questions remain unanswered.

More time and clarity is needed to ensure that the new levy effectively supports apprenticeships, and to enable employers to fully understand the implications of the changes for their business.

The system of funding caps also needs to reflect the higher costs of delivering construction apprenticeships. The proposed allocation of construction programmes to the new bands is concerning, as in many cases the costs have been underestimated. This could deter employers from offering much-needed programmes.

Therefore, Build UK is supporting the CBI in calling for a delay in the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy to provide employers with enough time to prepare, and to enable Government to work with business representatives, such as Build UK, to ensure the system works effectively from the outset.

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