

DRAFT RESPONSE

Alan O’Neile
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5 March 2021

Dear Alan

Consultation on Industry Placement Cards

Introduction

Build UK is the leading representative organisation for the UK construction industry. Bringing together Clients, Main Contractors, Trade Associations representing over 11,500 Specialist Contractors, and other organisations committed to industry collaboration, we represent in excess of 40% of UK construction.

Build UK members are significant users of cards carrying the CSCS logo and a number of our Trade Association members operate Partner Card schemes. Our members offer work experience on both a short-term basis and as part of longer-term formal arrangements and are particularly interested in this consultation.

Consultation

We understand that, since the launch of T Levels, the Department for Education (DfE) and colleges have requested an Industry Placement card for students undertaking formal work experience as part of a training or qualification programme. The aim is to be able to easily identify students on site that may be considered part of the site team due to the length of the placement being undertaken, but are not yet employed in a construction role.

Whilst Build UK’s [A Guide to Successful Work Experience](#) states that CSCS cards are not required for work experience and interns, this is in relation to short-term placements offering a ‘taste’ of construction. We believe this is very different to the 45 days’ work experience introduced in T Levels, or the longer placements included in some college and university courses, which would benefit from a different approach.

Response

Build UK supports the recommendation for the introduction of an Industry Placement card and the eligibility criteria which have been suggested.

We do have the following comments which we hope are helpful:

1. **BTEC and Degree courses:** Whilst students on BTEC or degree courses may currently be eligible for a Trainee or Undergraduate card, we understand that the majority don’t hold this card. Going forward, we would support the use of the Industry Placement card for these students.

2. **Health and Safety:** Construction T Level courses must deliver the necessary health and safety training to ensure that students have sufficient knowledge to pass the Health, Safety and Environment (HS&E) test (or equivalent) before any work experience elements of their course are undertaken on site and this point should be made to DfE.
3. **Preventing Fraud:** Industry Placement cards should only be available to students undertaking a recognised training or qualification programme with an expiry date aligned to the end of the programme. It would be extremely helpful if card schemes issuing the Industry Placement card were using smart technology, as this would allow the cards to be quickly and easily withdrawn when required. We would also suggest that Industry Placement cards are revalidated every 12 months.

Further Information

We would be happy to discuss or expand any of the issues raised in this response if required and please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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