

WELSH BUILDERS GROUP SUPPORT IMPROVED TRAINING IN CONSTRUCTION

The National Federation of Builders (NFB), a leading construction trade body who represent around 2,000 builders and contractors across England and Wales, has joined the campaign to bridge the skills gap and improve training and qualifications in the building industry.

Simon Lovell-Jones, director for NFB Cymru (the Welsh division of the NFB), has been appointed vice chair of a standards validation group for ConstructionSkills - the UK-wide Sector Skills Council for the construction industry.

The group has been set up to approve all construction vocational qualifications for entry into the national qualifications framework. He will join representatives from other employer federations, professional institutions, further education and trade unions.

Simon Lovell-Jones, director at NFB Cymru says: "The NFB both recognises and supports the need to address the skills gap in the construction industry, to improve performance and productivity and to give our workforce greater opportunities for training and development.

ConstructionSkills has a huge influence over the supply of education, training and business support and I look forward to playing a role in its vital work."

ConstructionSkills represents professional consultancies, major contractors and SMEs and aims to provide a safe, professional and fully qualified construction workforce. The group is currently responsible for developing national occupational standards throughout the sector.

Nick Gooderson, head of standards and qualifications at ConstructionSkills, said:

"ConstructionSkills has been given the opportunity to help shape and modernise the content and structures for vocational qualifications at all levels. We want to help the industry by ensuring all qualifications are relevant and meet its requirements. We are delighted that Simon Lovell-Jones has come on board – his work with the NFB means he has a thorough understanding of what the industry really needs."

NFB Cymru, working out of its Cardiff office, supports over 100 members in Wales and works with local and national government to help move the industry's agenda forward – campaigning on behalf of construction firms across the country.

In addition to providing specialist legal, insurance and taxation support, the NFB, with a network of eight regional offices, lobbies local, national and European government on a range of issues to sustain positive trading conditions for members.

For more information visit www.builders.org

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