



Federation of Master Builders' Programme for Government

The General Election on 8th June is much more than a referendum on Brexit.

The next UK Government will face many challenges over and above negotiating Britain's departure from the European Union.

The Federation of Master Builders (FMB) wants all political parties to set out their proposals about how they would overcome some of the fundamental challenges we currently face, including how they will tackle the need to build more homes and address our growing skills crisis through an increase in quality apprenticeships.

The construction industry accounts for 7% of GDP and employs three million people across the UK. For every £1 invested in construction, £2.84 is generated in the wider economy and more importantly, for every £1 invested in construction, 92p stays within the UK.



Construction is therefore central to delivering the Government's economic objectives but is also key to delivering the country's social and environmental objectives. Overpage is the FMB's 'Five-point plan for the next Government' which we would like to see reflected in the manifestoes of the main political parties.

FIVE POINT PLAN FOR THE NEXT GOVERNMENT: 2017 TO 2022

1) Ensure that the construction industry has enough skilled workers

- Introduce a flexible system of immigration that allows key strategic industries like construction to draw upon adequate levels of skilled labour from the EU and beyond.
- Commit to increasing the quality, duration and thoroughness of apprenticeships and thus improve the image of vocational training so that we can attract more young people into our industry.

2) Increase the supply of new homes

- The UK Government should commit to building at least 200,000 new homes per year in England and encourage the delivery of 25,000 new homes in Scotland; 14,000 in Wales; and 11,000 in Northern Ireland.
- In England, continue to work with the house building industry to successfully implement key recommendations within the 2017 Housing White Paper that are designed to increase house building through SME builders.

3) Improve the quality of our new and existing homes

- Introduce a mandatory warranty requirement for all domestic building works that require Building Regulations approval and structural engineering calculations.
- Commission a thorough review of new homes warranties to establish whether the warranties currently provided are adequate.

4) Make our homes more energy efficient

- Reduce VAT on housing renovation and repair work from 20% to 5% to encourage refurbishment work, including energy efficiency measures.
- Ensure that any Government investment in reducing energy bills is targeted primarily at improving the energy efficiency of the UK's homes.

5) Boost growth among construction SMEs

- Ensure that the overall regulatory burden on small businesses is reduced as part of the Brexit process.
- Improve public procurement for construction SMEs and ensure local firms win a higher proportion of local authority contracts post-Brexit.

KEY FACTS

- The UK construction industry accounts for 7% of GDP and employs three million people
- For every £1 invested in construction, £2.84 is generated in the wider economy
- Construction SMEs train two-thirds of all apprentices in our industry
- 60% of construction SMEs were struggling to hire bricklayers, 58% are struggling to hire carpenters and 48% are struggling to hire plumbers
- The UK construction sector has an aging workforce with 400,000 individuals expected to retire from the industry within the next five to ten years
- In addition to the above, 179,000 new roles will be created in the construction industry by 2022
- 12% of UK construction workers are of non-UK origin – people born overseas account for 45% of London's construction workforce, including 27% who come from the EU
- The proportion of new homes built by SME house builders has fallen from two thirds in 1988 to just less than a quarter in 2016
- In England, we are currently building around 150,000 new homes per year and this figure needs to increase by around 100,000 per year to meet demand and address the legacy of undersupply
- 27% of CO² emissions emanate from the UK's 26 million homes and 85% of these will still be standing in 2050

About the Federation of Master Builders

The Federation of Master Builders (FMB) is the largest trade association in the UK construction industry representing thousands of firms in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Established in 1941 to protect the interests of small and medium-sized (SME) construction firms, the FMB is independent and non-profit making, lobbying for members' interests at both the national and local level. The FMB is a source of knowledge, professional advice and support for its members, providing a range of modern and relevant business building services to help them succeed. The FMB is committed to raising quality in the construction industry and offers a free service to consumers called 'Find a Builder'. Please visit www.fmb.org.uk

