



Construction 2020

4th High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum

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Federation of Master Builders

Who is the FMB?



- **Voice of UK construction SMEs**
- **8,500 member firms**
- **Largest UK construction trade association**
- **Micro firms – very smallest SMEs**
- **Private domestic builders and local house builders**
- **Member of European Builders Confederation**

Does the construction industry have an image problem?



The evidence suggests that it does...

- **UK construction skills crisis**
- **35% of careers advisers would not recommend a career in construction**
- **Perception that construction is only for non-academic people**



A particular problem for construction SMEs?



- Sensational reality television highlighting dodgy builders
 - *Rogue Traders*
 - *“Bad Builders Bang to Rights”*
 - *Britain’s Horror Homes*
 - *Watchdog*
- No licensing system for domestic builders in the UK



What action is the FMB taking to improve our industry's image?



- **Vetting and independent inspections**
- **Apprenticeship research report**
- **Promoting women in construction**
- **Master Builder Awards**
- **Insurance-backed warranties for consumers**

Stricter vetting process and independent inspections

Making FMB membership mean more through:

- **New stricter vetting process**
- **Independent inspections from the British Board of Agreement**
- **All new members inspected since 2011**
- **Existing members being inspected from 2015 onwards**
- **All FMB members to have undergone inspection by 2018**



Apprenticeship research report



- **UK Government target to create three million new apprenticeships by 2020**
- **“Defusing the skills time bomb” research report (November 2015), which included 17 recommendations**
- **Apprenticeship “ambassador” programme – visiting schools**

Master Builder Awards

Celebrating the SME construction industry:

- Categories including: Apprentice of the Year; New Home of the Year; Heavenly Builder

Providing positive coverage for FMB members and the wider sector:

- Coverage on ITV news and in the Sunday Times, Sunday Telegraph



Insurance-backed warranties



- Exploring introducing insurance backed warranties for all consumers using FMB members
- Warranty would cover projects over £25,000
- Increase consumer protection
- Increase professionalism of construction SMEs
- Cost covered by minimal increase in membership fees

What is EBC doing to improve the image of construction?



To main areas of focus at present:

- 1) Women and young people
- 2) Apprenticeships

Women and young people

- Main focus of EBC Annual Congress in Geneva, 2015 – lots of female speakers
- Photo exhibition and 25th anniversary celebration in European Parliament
- Photo exhibition in the European Economic and Social Committee
- European video competition aimed at encouraging young talent



Apprenticeships pledge initiative



- **EBC signed apprenticeship pledge on behalf of the EU SME construction sector**
- **Encouraging national trade feds to also sign up**
- **Application for EU funding for best practise sharing project between different nations – FMB has volunteered to be a part of this**
- **Include visits to the German Construction Industry Training Centres**

Any questions?

