



FEDERATION OF
**MASTER
BUILDERS**

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Building for the Future

FMB Programme for Government 2019 – 2024

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The construction industry will be instrumental for building the homes we need and the vital infrastructure that will underpin the UK's success post-Brexit.

Building companies will also play a key role in helping the Government legislate towards a net zero carbon Britain, because they will be tasked with completing the suite of retrofit works that is necessary to upgrade and decarbonise our existing housing stock.

In the UK there are 8 million lofts that need insulating, 5 million uninsulated cavity walls and 20 million uninsulated floors that need upgrading if we are to reach net zero by 2050.

Builders across the UK stand ready to meet these challenges, but need support to do this.

The FMB is calling on the future Government to focus on 12 key areas of policy, to support this key sector to help the UK thrive post-Brexit.



UK-Wide Policy

- 1. Licence all UK construction companies** to create a minimum standard in a market where currently anyone can set themselves up as a builder.
- 2. Cut the VAT** on all home improvement works from 20% to 5% to encourage homeowners to upgrade the energy efficiency of their property.
- 3. Introduce a fair and balanced post-Brexit immigration system.** Post-Brexit we will still need to recruit from outside the UK for roles in shortage. Any future system should be based on the needs of industry and not an arbitrary skill or salary threshold.

English Policy

Housing

- 4. Make house building a national infrastructure priority post-Brexit.** Commit to building at least 1.5 million new homes of all tenures in England over the next parliament.
- 5. Free up more public land for house building** and break up into small plots to help SMEs.
- 6. Invest in local authority planning departments** to speed up the planning process.

Skills

- 7. Promote vocational education.** Invest in Further Education and set out a clear pathway for those wanting to pursue a vocational route.
- 8. Reform the Apprenticeship Levy in England.** Increase the proportion of Apprenticeship Levy vouchers which can be passed down the supply chain to non-Levy paying businesses to 100%.

Quality

- 9. Introduce mandatory warranties for Building Control-approved work** to provide an additional much-needed layer of consumer protection.
- 10. Create a new 'general builder' qualification** to improve professionalism in the industry, and or driving up understanding of regulatory change in the sector.

Net Zero

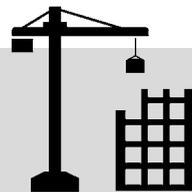
- 11. Create a National Retrofit Strategy** that sets out how to upgrade England's housing stock to the highest levels of energy efficiency.
- 12. Invest in upskilling** builders to ensure they have the skills to build low carbon homes and retrofit old homes to a good standard.

The value of construction



9% of GDP
employing
2.7 million
people

Almost one in five small and medium-sized (SME) enterprises in the UK are construction companies.



1 in 5
UK SMEs

For every **£1** invested in construction, **92p** stays in the UK

For every **£1** invested in construction, **£2.84** is generated in the wider economy



2/3 of UK
construction
apprentices
are trained
by SMEs





About the FMB

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.

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