



PRESS RELEASE
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NSCC welcomes Government Bill to improve cash flow

NSCC was delighted to see that the Government's draft legislative programme published today includes the proposed amendments to the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act (the Construction Act).

The proposed Construction Contracts Bill, which is likely to become part of a Community Empowerment, Housing and Economic Regeneration Bill, aims to **improve the operation of construction contracts** and states that one of its main benefits will be to **improve cash flow through construction supply chains** and **where appropriate encourage parties to resolve disputes by adjudication rather than by litigation.**

After almost 5 years of consultation, the amendments are welcomed by NSCC. The NSCC President, Simon Bottomley, spoke on behalf of all 7,000 NSCC Specialist Contractors when he said:

"I am delighted to see a Bill aimed at improving payment within our industry included in the Government's 2008-09 programme of work."

"Specialist Contractors continue to provide NSCC with evidence of extended payment terms, unfair contract conditions and blatantly abusive payment practices, and we look forward to the detailed legislation which should achieve the certainty of payment so necessary for the construction industry to move forward and incorporate many of the changes sought by NSCC and the specialist sector."

The Bill adds real weight to the NSCC Fair Payment Campaign launched to improve payment practices within the construction industry. The campaign has 3 key objectives:

- Certainty of payment – agreeing how much should be paid and when
- 30-day payment – insisting on payment within 30 days
- Removal of retentions – striking out cash retentions in favour of more modern and practical alternatives.

NSCC is encouraging everyone within the industry committed to fair payment practices to support the Fair Payment Campaign by signing up at www.fairpaymentcampaign.co.uk.

~ Ends ~

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Notes to editors:

1. The National Specialist Contractors' Council (NSCC) brings together the common aims of 28 specialist trade organisations within the construction industry and is the authoritative voice of 7,000 Specialist Contractors in the UK.
2. Further information regarding the Fair Payment Campaign can be found at www.fairpaymentcampaign.co.uk.
3. Click on www.nsc.org.uk and visit the news page for a full copy of the Government's draft legislative programme 2008-09; relevant pages are 66, 67 and 73.