

PRESS RELEASE
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NSCC Welcomes 'One Death Is Too Many' Inquiry Report

The 'One Death Is Too Many' inquiry report to the Secretary of State for Work and Pension has been welcomed by NSCC for its recognition that the way in which the construction industry operates is a key factor in its accident record.

The 28 recommendations made in the report are wide-ranging and a number of them build on previous industry reports including 'Constructing the Team' by Sir Michael Latham and 'Rethinking Construction' by Sir John Egan. NSCC is backing the implementation of the following requirements in particular:

- A full time Minister for Construction (recommendation 6)
- Applying the Office of Government Commerce Common Minimum Standards throughout all publicly funded construction projects, effectively monitored and enforced (recommendation 7)
- Standard agreed benchmarks so that sub-contractors do not have to acquire a host of pre-qualifications (recommendation 8)
- Identifying the reasons for the high drop out rate from apprenticeships (recommendation 10)
- The HSE having sufficient resources, particularly in London, to address its workload (recommendation 24).

A number of the recommendations support the NSCC agenda which is focussing on the three key issues of a solution to pre-qualification via the Builder's Profile, safeguarding the future of the industry by training the workforce and in particular apprentices, and ensuring fair payment throughout the supply chain. The report also addressed the need to encourage greater worker participation, joint working with the trade unions, individuals to accept responsibility for their own safety and construction companies to hold next of kin details for each of their workers

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For further information, contact Suzannah Nichol at NSCC:

T: 0844 249 5351

E: Suzannah.nichol@nsc.org.uk

Notes to editors:

1. The National Specialist Contractors Council (NSCC) brings together the common aims of 30 specialist trade organisations within the construction industry and is the authoritative voice of 7,000 Specialist Contractors in the UK – www.nsc.org.uk.
2. A full copy of the report, 'One Death Is Too Many', by Rita Donaghy can be downloaded from <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm76/7657/7657.pdf>.