



December 2017



The Executive Committee Wish our Members and their Families a very Happy

Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

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Leicester University New Halls of Residence



The Mary Gee student accommodation blocks in Ratcliffe Road on Leicester University campus are set for an £8m refurbishment. Main Contractor Stepnell's brief is to refurbish the site infrastructure, buildings, external works layouts, services plant layouts and BMS controls to deliver a minimum life expectancy of 20 years. Works are expected to complete by September 2018.

The CITB

The Construction Industry Training Board is Re-Structuring. It is leaving its historic home in remote Bircham Newton, quitting training delivery and outsourcing back office functions.



CITB chief executive Sarah Beale said the restructuring of the organisation would create "the strategic, forward-looking and agile skills body that the industry is seeking". In effect, CITB will exist simply to collect and redistribute levy money, as a commissioner, and to accredit courses.

Plans for reforming the Construction Industry Training Board are contained in the document *Vision 2020: The Future CITB*. The document is a three-year plan to slim down the organisation, turning it into 'a commissioner of outcomes'. CITB will no longer deliver training itself except where it is unavailable on the market, or not good enough. The National Construction College at Bircham Newton in rural Norfolk faces sale or closure.

CITB will also no longer administer the card schemes, including the Construction Skills Certification Scheme and the Construction Plant Competency Scheme.



These operations will now be privatised. The proposed plan includes a move for the organisation's head office from Bircham Newton, with Peterborough earmarked as the likely new base. In addition, there will be small co-located offices in London, Scotland and Wales. Around two-thirds of the workforce will remain 'mobile', as now.

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GF Tomlinson wins £16m Nottingham Uni biosciences job

Midlands contractor G F Tomlinson has beaten off competition from national players to build Nottingham University's planned phase 2 biomolecular sciences centre



The firm secured the design and build project with a £16m bid against an initial costing of around £19m for the project. Kier and Graham Construction were also in the chase for the project. Phase one of the Biomolecular Research Facility at the University Park Campus was completed back in 2003. Now work on the larger phase 2 building is due to start in early 2018. The 65,000 sq ft project will include two laboratories, offices and a 550-seat auditorium.

Health and safety statistics for the construction sector in Great Britain

80,000 workers suffering from work-related ill health each year (LFS)
30 fatal injuries to workers in 2016/17 (RIDDOR)
64,000 non-fatal injuries to workers each year (LFS)

Fatal injuries to workers Headline Figures A total of 137 workers were killed at work in Great Britain in 2016/17p. Although this represents a reduction of 10 fatalities from 2015/16, it is possible that this change can be explained by natural variation in the figures. It is the second lowest year on record after 2013/14. However, in statistical terms the number of fatalities has remained broadly level in recent years – the average annual number of workers killed at work over the five years 2012/13-2016/17p is 142.

The Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group has recently published a new safety guide called *Lifting operations with 180° and 360° excavators*.

It must be remembered however that lifting with excavators requires as much planning as lifting with cranes, new industry guidance stresses.

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