

FIVE POLICY CHANGES TO BUILD A **SUSTAINED WORLD-CLASS CONSTRUCTIONAL STEELWORK INDUSTRY**

To encourage investment and create new business opportunities, new jobs, new skills and increase the resilience and capability of the UK constructional steelwork industry.

END CASH RETENTIONS

1

- Cash retentions are funds held by developers in case of a building defect. Sometimes these are not released until the end of the project, which could be years from when our members completed their element of the job
- They stifle cashflow for companies who could be investing in growth, increasing outputs and contributing further to the economy
- Retentions damage smaller businesses in the supply chain

Ensure all rules are followed and project bank accounts are used on all public projects

PUBLIC PROJECT PROCUREMENT

2

- Ensure UK companies are prioritised on all public funded contracts such as HS2, which will spur the economy and boost national social value chains
- Ensure social value assessments in the procurement process are cascaded down the entire supply chain, not just tier one contractors

Ensure the Government Procurement Policy is monitored throughout the supply chain

APPRENTICESHIPS TO MEET THE GROWING SKILLS GAP

3

- Jobs in the constructional steelwork industry are relatively highly paid but relatively low-skilled. Further education colleges and apprenticeship providers are given a financial incentive to prioritise level 3 over level 2 apprenticeships, even though there is more demand for the former

Work with the industry to develop a fit for purpose apprenticeship scheme, which is appropriately funded

ACCESS TO FINANCE TO INNOVATE

4

- For the UK Government to see an increase in productivity, companies need access to finance, to enable investment in the latest technology, manufacturing equipment and techniques

Encourage Government Departments and financial institutions to support steelwork contracting companies so that they can deliver the increase in productivity we need

SUPPORT FOR THE STEELMAKERS - UK FIRST

5

- Without Government support for steelmakers to decarbonise and invest in decarbonisation technologies, more steel will have to be procured from overseas to meet net-zero commitments
- Commitment to extend the national grid to provide the power for electric arc furnaces in the UK
- Subsidise electricity for steelmakers, so they can compete with overseas companies



The Register of
Qualified Steelwork
Contractor
Buildings & Bridgeworks

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British Constructional Steelwork Association

The British Constructional Steelwork Association (BCSA) has been representing the UK structural steel sector for over a century and the Republic of Ireland since 2006. BCSA operates on a local, national and international level raising the profile of the sector and members of the Association.

BCSA member companies undertake the design, fabrication and erection of steelwork for all forms of construction in building and civil engineering, as well as industry members who supply products and machinery into the sector.

The Association's aims are to influence the trading environment in which member companies operate, in order to improve their profitability and create a fair trading environment for the members who contribute a large amount to the economy and local areas, through the projects they undertake, the number of people employed and social value added via environmental and community work.

Our members and our industry deserve more recognition and support, to be able to increase their contribution to the UK economy, but this can only be done by sustained commitment from Government.

The Constructional Steelwork Industry in Numbers:

- The constructional steelwork market is worth approx. **£1.6 billion per year**
- Circa **60,000 people** are employed in the sector
- Demand for steel in the UK is **15 million tonnes a year**
- The UK generates **13 million tonnes of scrap metal** per year which is sold to companies abroad for reprocessing



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