

LEVY

The CITB NI Levy helps construction employers by funding training, developing skills, and ensuring the local construction industry has a strong, skilled workforce. Levy funds are used to provide grants, support training through partnerships, promote construction as a career, and carry out research on skills, standards, and qualifications.

If your total wages bill is £80,000 or more, you must pay levy on your gross emoluments at the current rate.

If your wages bill is below £80,000, you will not pay levy, but you are still required to complete the Annual Return Form — and you can still access CITB NI's services, grants, and support.

UNSURE IF YOU SHOULD BE REGISTERED

If you are not sure if you should be registered follow the link [here](#) and find out more.

IMPORTANT

Please bear in mind that whether or not you make use of CITB NI services and benefits, you are legally required to complete the Annual Levy Return Form. Failure to do so will lead to you being issued with an estimated levy assessment.

Contact: levy@citbni.org.uk



CITB NI GRANTS

CITB NI has allocated £2.2 million in direct grants to fund training within the Northern Ireland construction sector for the training year 1 Sept 2025 to 31 August 2026.

GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR:

- ▶ Employing apprentices
- ▶ Qualifying and upskilling your existing workforce
- ▶ Obtaining an initial Industry Registration Scheme Card
- ▶ Employing an Industrial Placement Student
- ▶ Travel & Accommodation for courses not available in N.I. (prior approval required)
- ▶ Download the complete guide to CITB NI grants for 2025/2026 [here](#)
- ▶ Terms and Conditions apply and can be downloaded [here](#)

CLAIM ONLINE

Claiming grants online is an easy process and employers are encouraged to claim online via the website [here](#)

Do not hesitate to contact a member of the grants team for assistance or log in details.



CITB NI GRANTS

APPRENTICESHIP GRANTS

The CITB NI enhanced apprentice grant of up to £6,500 is paid to employers who employ an apprentice on a formal apprenticeship training programme and is available for all apprenticeships including business support staff and on achievement of relevant qualifications.

Apprentices must be registered onto an Apprenticeship NI Programme and employed.

Submit your grant claim within three months of the apprentice starting. Please note that if the apprentice leaves, we can only pay grant for a minimum of 6 months.

APPRENTICE GRANTS - NO RESTRICTIONS

CITB NI has produced a Guide for Employers who are considering or are wanting to employ an apprentice [here](#)

For more information contact grants@citbni.org.uk



TRAINING IN PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

CITB NI has also allocated £100,000 to fund Training in Partnership programmes

CITB NI supports training that the industry has identified as being important to development, innovation and productivity. These Partnerships continue to target areas identified by the industry representative bodies or through employer engagement as critical in dealing with the current economic climate and for the future wellbeing of the industry.

DO YOU HAVE A PROJECT THAT IS BASED IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND SHARES CITB NI'S MISSION AND VISION?

It may be eligible for a Training in Partnership Funding.

If you are a construction employer and have a training need speak to your representative body so they can initially enquire and/or make an application on your behalf.

Alternatively, if you are a representative body with a training idea or need and you would like to find out more or to make an application contact, Gayle Beckett, Project Manager
email: gayle.beckett@citbni.org.uk



CITB NI TRAINING

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT EVENTS 2025 - 2026

Our series of Business Improvement Events provides awareness training on topical issues including Environmental Social & Governance Principles (ESG), Social Media Essentials, Supervisory Skills, AI, Public Sector Tendering, Data Protection and more. These events are free to CITB NI registered employers, and you get the opportunity to meet CITB NI representatives and hear about our products and services.

To see the full list of Business Improvement Events running throughout 2025-2026 log on to our collection page on EventBrite click [here](#)

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time	Where?	
23 Oct	Environmental, Social & Governance Principles (ESG)	9.15-1pm	CITB NI	Book Now
4 Nov	Social Media Essentials for Your Construction Business	9.15-1pm	CITB NI	Book Now
12 Nov	Supervisory Skills in Construction	9.15-1pm	CITB NI	Book Now
10 Dec	Business Continuity	9.15-1pm	CITB NI	Book Now



CITB NI TRAINING

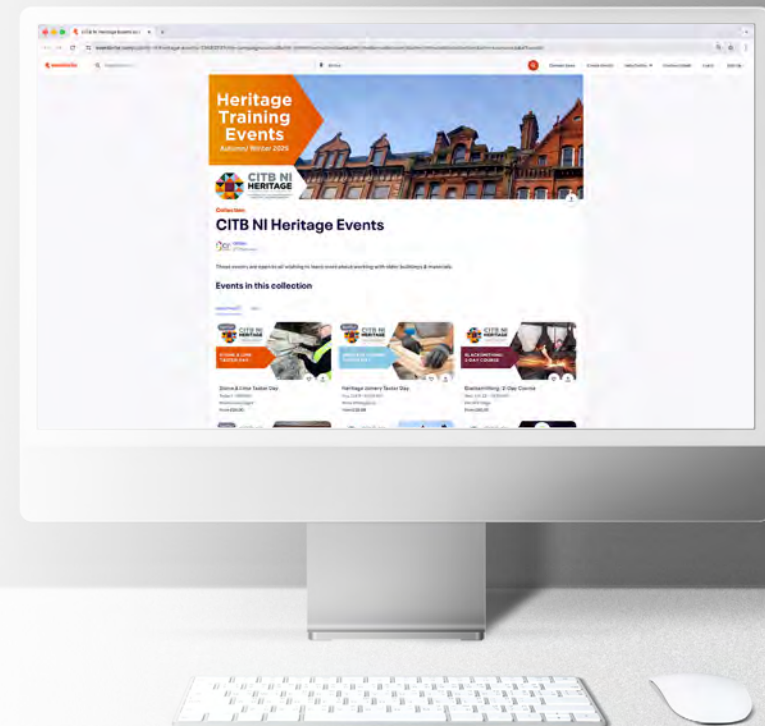
HERITAGE EVENTS

CITB NI has launched an Autum/Winter heritage programme, to encourage training and development within the heritage sector and help address skills shortages within the built heritage sector in Northern Ireland.

These training sessions are open to all wishing to learn more about working with older buildings and materials and cover topics such as Repair & Maintenance of Pre 1919 Buildings, Architectural Stone Carving and a series of taster days

Date	Event	Time	Where?	
4 Dec	Repair & Maintenance of Pre 1919 Buildings	10am-12pm	Online Event	Book Now
22 Jan – 26 Feb (weekly)	Architectural Stone Carving: Short Course	10am-4pm	Moirs Works Depot	Book Now

For full list of Autumn/Winter Heritage Events log on to our EventBrite collection page [here](#)



CITB NI TRAINING

SCAFFOLDING TRAINING

CITB NI continues to deliver scaffolding training at the scaffolding training facility at Nutts Corner and is approved to deliver the Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme (CISRS) enabling participants to achieve an industry recognised Scaffolders card.

Upcoming scaffolding courses for Oct/Nov

Date	Course
21/10/2025	Scaffolding Product Training – Cuplock
23/10/2025	NVQ Re-registration
03/11/2025	Scaffolding Part 2 Tube & Fitting
17/11/2025	Advanced Scaffolding Course
28/11/2025	CISRS Operative Training Scheme

Details on the full scaffolding programme on offer is available [here](#)

For bookings and more information contact scaffolding@citbni.org.uk

FREE WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING BROUGHT TO YOU WITH OUR MTU

CITB NI's Mobile Training Unit (MTU) can come to your offices or site and provide short duration health and safety courses such as asbestos awareness, confined spaces, dust, fumes and noise, manual handling and working at heights, encouraging the industry to build safely.



It is a convenient way of meeting training requirements with minimum disruption to site work whilst also helping employers meet their legal responsibility.

If you are a registered CITB NI construction employer based in NI this facility is free of charge.

Find out more on what courses are available by downloading our latest information [here](#)

Booking is easy, you can contact us by email mtubookings@citbni.org.uk or on 028 9082 5466 and we can facilitate your booking and answer any queries you have.

CITB NI – IN THE NEWS

BMHA - CITB NI CHIEF EXECUTIVE BARRY NEILSON CHARITY CYCLE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Barry Neilson OBE, Chief Executive of CITB NI, recently completed a six-day, 600km cycle around the perimeter of Northern Ireland, raising £5,000 in support of three leading mental health charities through the Building Mental Health Alliance (BMHA)

The **Building Mental Health Alliance (BMHA)** is a partnership of construction organisations committed to improving mental health in the construction industry across Northern Ireland. The funding raised through the cycle will be donated to charities supporting construction workers in Northern Ireland: The Lighthouse Club – The Construction Industry Charity, Samaritans and Lifeline.

With recent survey results from 2022* showing that 55% of construction workers feel they lack sufficient training or confidence to support someone with a mental health issue, BMHA continues to emphasise the urgent need for proactive and practical support in the workplace. This cycle ride not only highlights this message but directly supports BMHA's three pillars: awareness, signposting, and training—which are aligned with the Department of Health's Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031.

Building Mental Health Alliance chair Wilson Lambe said:

“The Building Mental Health Alliance represents a united commitment from across our industry to prioritise mental wellbeing. Through collaboration, training, and awareness, we are creating a culture where conversations about mental health are normalised, and support is accessible. From toolbox talks to training modules and instant access to help, BMHA is driving meaningful change. We congratulate and thank Barry Neilson for his fantastic fundraising efforts these funds will make a huge difference to the mental health charities and the work they do in Northern Ireland.”



Brian Shanks Lighthouse Club - The Construction Industry Charity, Wilson Lambe Building Mental Health Alliance chair, Barry Neilson OBE Chief Executive of Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) NI, Ken Bamford Volunteer Samaritans.

CITB NI – IN THE NEWS

HELP US ENCOURAGE THE NEXT GENERATION INTO CONSTRUCTION AND GET INVOLVED WITH ‘ADOPT A SCHOOL’

With over 90 schools already registered, we’re calling on more employers to join the CITB NI ‘Adopt a School’ Scheme. This initiative connects post-primary schools with construction companies, creating lasting relationships and promoting exciting careers in the construction industry. Let’s work together to inspire the next generation of builders, engineers, and innovators! Find out more [here](#)



CITB NI EVENT ROUND UP

Skills and Training in Action - CITB NI Chief Executive Barry Neilson OBE and Director Rachel Dorovatas visited the NHBC training centre in Litchfield (Birmingham) to get further insights into skills and training



Barry Neilson OBE and Rachel Dorovatas onsite at the NHBC training centre

CITB NI – IN THE NEWS

TRADITIONAL SKILLS DAY AT CULTRA

A Traditional Skills Day was held in partnership with Ulster Folk Museum Cultra on 16 August. There were live demos of amazing heritage crafts by skilled local craftspeople including stained glass, signwriting, dry stone walling, blacksmithing, joinery & more! There was lots of hands on activities for all ages and a CITB NI Skills Hub focusing on heritage buildings and skills.



SCAFFOLDING ENGAGEMENT EVENT

A CITB NI sector engagement session for the Scaffolding Sector was held on 5 Sept. The event focused on careers promotion, health and safety initiatives and training initiatives for the scaffolding sector and was well supported from representatives in the industry.



Representatives from industry at Scaffolding Engagement Event

CITB NI – IN THE NEWS

CAREERS PROMOTION

As it is the start of the academic year – careers fairs and careers promotion to schools and young people are in full swing. CITB NI were delighted to attend *CBS Omagh Careers Event* last month focusing on careers in construction

We also recently attended *St Columbanus College in Bangor* to talk specifically to year 14's on construction pathways and careers options prior to them submitting their UCAS applications within the next few months.

CITB NI supported *Ballyclare High School* in their *Mock Interview Day* with senior students helping them to prepare for the workplace.



RESEARCH REPORTS

CITB NI published its latest Construction Skills Statement in August 2025. The report provides an overview of the current and future skills and training needs across the construction industry, drawing on a range of data sources.

The findings are relevant to construction employers and employees, training providers, trade bodies, local councils, and MLAs. Given the dynamic nature of the construction sector, the Skills Statement reflects industry needs at the time of publication, offering a snapshot of both challenges and opportunities.

The report reviews key publications, including CITB NI's CWO Report, the Federation of Master Builders' State of Trade Survey, and NISRA's construction statistics, to identify industry trends, future forecasts, and potential barriers to growth.

Some of the main key takeaways from the Skills statement are as follows;

- ▶ **Record Output & Growth:** NI construction output grew 12.3% in 2024, reaching a 15-year high, with housing and non-housing repairs & maintenance driving the growth.
- ▶ **Housing Market Pressures:** Rising prices, long waiting lists, and stalled developments due to infrastructure constraints highlight an urgent need for planning and investment.
- ▶ **Persistent Skills Shortages:** Trades like joiners, bricklayers, and general labourers remain in high demand, causing job delays and cancellations despite a large skilled workforce relative to the UK.
- ▶ **Government Investment & Workforce Expansion:** The £600m UK initiative will aim to train up to 60,000 workers by 2029, targeting apprenticeships, upskilling, and green/digital construction skills.
- ▶ **Modern Methods of Construction (MMC):** Offsite timber frame and prefabrication are being increasingly adopted to address labour shortages, reduce build times, and improve sustainability.

A link to the 2025 Skills Statement can be found [here](#)

USEFUL INFORMATION

CONTACTING CITB NI

CITB NI Phone lines will be open from 9am - 4pm Monday - Thursday and 9am to 3pm on Friday. Phones will be closed daily between 1pm and 2pm.

If contacting CITB NI please do so by email to your usual contacts or via the following general email addresses:

General queries [here](#)

Accounts queries [here](#)

Levy queries [here](#)

Scaffolding queries [here](#)

Grant queries [here](#)

MTU queries [here](#)

CITB NI

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17 Dundrod Road
Crumlin
BT29 4SR

www.citbni.org.uk

