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*CITB COVID -19 RESPONSE*

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*The Partnerships Team are continuing to offer help, advice and guidance to our customers. At present, we are not able to meet with you face to face but are available by SKYPE, email, telephone, social media. Our priority is to help construction business' through this challenging time with a clear focus upon how we can support the industry to retain skills*

Please continue to keep looking on our website for updates regarding our response to the current situation  
<https://www.citb.co.uk/urgent-messages/>

Our CEO Sarah Beale is emailing customers daily with CITB updates. You can also read a copy of those messages at  
<https://www.citb.co.uk/about-citb/news-events-and-blogs/>

We've also compiled a database of local and regional advice services that we've been using and signposting to employers across England, Scotland and Wales during this crisis. We've been asked to make the database more widely available and have uploaded it to the website – it's [available here](#)

GRANTS: CITB are making available advanced payment of apprenticeship attendance grants for 2nd and 3rd year apprentices **plus higher apprentices in their final year** where quarterly grant payments have already been set up to help ensure future skills are retained in the construction industry amid the coronavirus outbreak. The [online form](#) is to request the advance of attendance grant payments to the end of the apprentice's current year.

The Partnerships Team are currently contacting as many employers as possible to invite them to apply for this grant. We are also pro-actively contacting employers who may have unclaimed grants waiting to be authorised.

**CITB APPRENTICESHIPS:** A dedicated e-mail helpline for all apprentices and their employers providing advice and signposting during COVID-19 has been set-up by CITB. CITB urges all employers not to dismiss any apprentices without first speaking to our Apprenticeship team  
[Apprenticeships.COVID19@citb.co.uk](mailto:Apprenticeships.COVID19@citb.co.uk)

**HS&E TESTS:** In response we have developed some [free of charge products](#) that we hope will help employers run their own in house interim testing to give a level of local assurance to help the employer to determine if an employee is safe to work on their site. We have developed the following temporary LITE testing products as well as some internal [internal guidelines](#)

Please note: These LITE tests cannot be used to apply for a CSCS or CPC card. Permission to allow the employee on site is at the discretion of the employer. This is an interim measure only. The candidate must pass a HS&E test in a Test Centre once temporary restrictions on Test Centres have been lifted.

**SITE SAFETY PLUS:** Remote Training for Site Safety Plus Courses. We have introduced a remote learning and examination option for a selection of our Site Safety Plus Courses. Health and Safety Awareness course, SSSTS-R and SMSTS-R is available through remote learning and examination. Remote learning for is available through our Site Safety Plus training centres. To find out more contact your local SSP training centre or use the [SSP Course Locator](#)

REMOTE LEARNING: We're adapting courses for remote learning to help keep you working, or be ready to return to work as soon as the national situation improves. We're also keen to provide support and opportunities for training providers, who are obviously facing significant challenges at the moment.

We're reviewing training that meets CITB's Assured Standards and have identified 22 that can be delivered through remote learning, or online video links. The full list includes courses such as floor repair, effective snagging and pre-handover checks, and asbestos management. It is available [here](#)

A list of e-learning materials that we've funded industry to produce is also being developed.

Please find an introductory list of e learning courses which you might also find useful



CPD E-Learning

**Building with Blockchain** Funded through CITB, Willmott Dixon are developing an industry-first blockchain 'proof of concept'. The 12-month project is aiming to demonstrate how the technology could drive significant savings in procurement. As part of this project, a series of webinars will take place which you are invited to join

Event 1: Building with Blockchain - What's in it for me? 21st April, 10:00 – 13:00:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1733312317570924556>

Event 2: Building with Blockchain - How do you build a blockchain? 21st May, 10:00 – 13:00:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3520319978893810956>

Event 3: Building with Blockchain – What comes next? 17th June, 10:00 – 13:00:  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6311061909607930636>

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### MORE NEWS

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GO CONSTRUCT: Between April and June we'll be holding Go Construct Buildathon competitions across England, Scotland and Wales. This is part of a suite of support to attract children and young people into construction. Our partner Aspire 2Be will host live webinars to support parents and carers, providing instructions on how to access Minecraft at home for free and how to participate in the competition challenge. You can register on the [Buildathon webpage](#) for the Go Construct Minecraft Buildathon competitions. If you are interested in getting involved with judging the competitions, please contact [donna.griffiths@citb.co.uk](mailto:donna.griffiths@citb.co.uk).

S&T FUNDS: The extended [CITB Medium Sized Fund](#) aims to enable medium-sized construction companies that it meets the more complex needs of a developing business. This can include management and leadership training, unlocking growth through new technology or introducing new skills to improve productivity in your business. In response to COVID -19 we have expanded the funds to support business sustainability as well as business improvement. You can apply for funding if you are a CITB-registered employer, you have between 100 and 249 directly employed staff on the payroll. You can apply for funding once every 12 months. CITB-registered employers can apply for funding related to how many direct employees they have. The funding available, ranges from £15000 to £25000

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT FUNDS: We will be launching the Management and Leadership Training Fund w/c 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020. This fund of £5m will be awarded to large employers who wish to explore ways to develop management and

## Update from Laurence 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020

leadership practice in their own business. Employers can submit proposals to the fund with successful applicants detailing how they intend to implement training, qualification or other skills development to support management and leadership in their own business. Projects should last up to 12 months, maximum fund per project of £100k.

*END*

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