



**Construction 2020**

**4th High Level Tripartite Strategic Forum**

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***Federation of Master Builders***

# Who is the FMB?



- **Voice of UK construction SMEs**
- **8,500 member firms**
- **Largest UK construction trade association**
- **Micro firms – very smallest SMEs**
- **Private domestic builders and local house builders**
- **Member of European Builders Confederation**

# Does the construction industry have an image problem?



*The evidence suggests that it does...*

- **UK construction skills crisis**
- **35% of careers advisers would not recommend a career in construction**
- **Perception that construction is only for non-academic people**



# A particular problem for construction SMEs?

- Sensational reality television highlighting dodgy builders
  - *Rogue Traders*
  - *“Bad Builders Bang to Rights”*
  - *Britain’s Horror Homes*
  - *Watchdog*
- No licensing system for domestic builders in the UK



# What action is the FMB taking to improve our industry's image?



- Vetting and independent inspections
- Apprenticeship research report
- Promoting women in construction
- Master Builder Awards
- Insurance-backed warranties for consumers

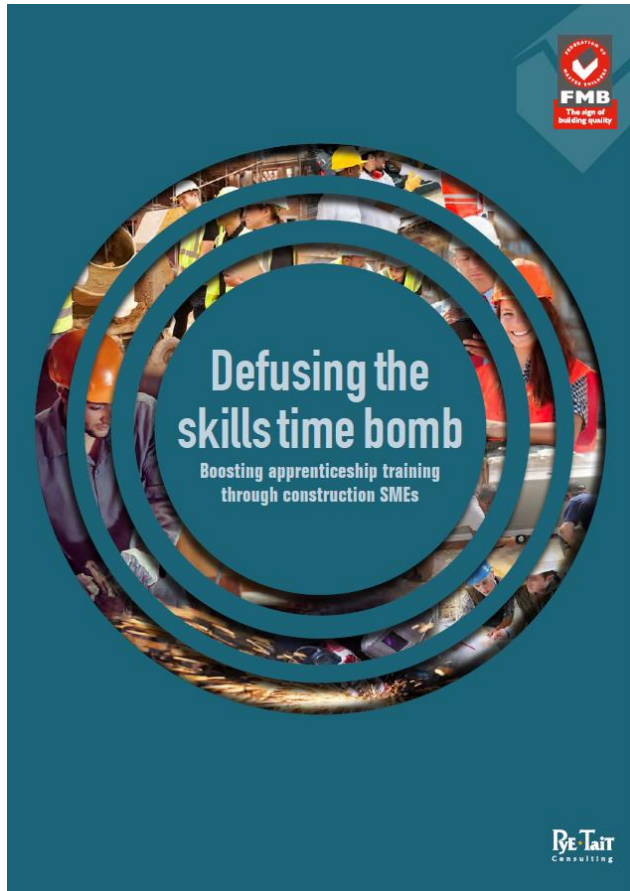
# Stricter vetting process and independent inspections

*Making FMB membership mean more through:*

- New stricter vetting process
- Independent inspections from the British Board of Agreement
- All new members inspected since 2011
- Existing members being inspected from 2015 onwards
- All FMB members to have undergone inspection by 2018



# Apprenticeship research report



- UK Government target to create three million new apprenticeships by 2020
- “Defusing the skills time bomb” research report (November 2015), which included 17 recommendations
- Apprenticeship “ambassador” programme – visiting schools





# Master Builder Awards

**Celebrating the SME construction industry:**

- **Categories including: Apprentice of the Year; New Home of the Year; Heavenly Builder**

**Providing positive coverage for FMB members and the wider sector:**

- **Coverage on ITV news and in the Sunday Times, Sunday Telegraph**



# Insurance-backed warranties



- Exploring introducing insurance backed warranties for all consumers using FMB members
- Warranty would cover projects over £25,000
- Increase consumer protection
- Increase professionalism of construction SMEs
- Cost covered by minimal increase in membership fees

# What is EBC doing to improve the image of construction?



To main areas of focus at present:

- 1) Women and young people
- 2) Apprenticeships

# Women and young people

- Main focus of EBC Annual Congress in Geneva, 2015 – lots of female speakers
- Photo exhibition and 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in European Parliament
- European video competition aimed at encouraging young talent



# Apprenticeships pledge initiative



- **EBC signed apprenticeship pledge on behalf of the EU SME construction sector**
- **Encouraging national trade feds to also sign up**
- **Application for EU funding for best practise sharing project between different nations – FMB has volunteered to be a part of this**
- **Include visits to the German Construction Industry Training Centres**

# Any questions?

