



24<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **CONSTRUCTION CLIENT BUDDY SCHEME**

The recently published Construction Sector Deal, part of the Government's Industrial Strategy, has identified improving health and safety as a key element in creating a more productive and better-performing construction sector. The health and safety system strategy published in 2016 - Helping Great Britain Work Well – also recognises the importance of protecting people by managing risks in a proportionate and effective way, supporting innovation and increasing productivity.

The Construction Industry Advisory Committee (CONIAC) - led by its Acting Together Steering Group - has firmly positioned itself to support Helping GB Work Well and the implementation of the Sector Deal through its five working groups, one of which aims to engage and influence small employers, including hard-to-reach smaller clients, designers and contractors. Research and data tells us that understanding and awareness of good health and safety practice is poor amongst these groups, and a disproportionate number of incidents, injuries and fatalities occur within the micro/SME sectors. It is reasonable to assume that a similar picture exists in relation to time, cost and quality outcomes.

CONIAC believes that an area with significant potential to achieve sustainable change is influencing small and one-off commercial clients to act responsibly when procuring and engaging with construction suppliers. CONIAC is therefore pleased to support the work of the Construction Clients' Leadership Group to establish the national **Client Buddy Scheme** aimed at providing free advice and support to inexperienced and one-off commercial clients.

CONIAC is now seeking wider support from all industry players to work together to make this national scheme a reality. We are looking for your commitment to get firmly behind the ambition of the national scheme by promoting it, becoming a partner, and, if you are able, assisting in the scheme's funding. The scheme needs £55,000 in the first year and around £80,000 each year thereafter to have the impact it needs and work in the longer term.

The Health & Safety Executive believes the Client Buddy Scheme has the potential to be a 'game-changer' in influencing the hard-to-reach segment of the industry and bring about the transformation in health and safety performance that we all desire. HSE has reinforced its support and commitment by being one of the first to grant funding to the scheme.

If your organisation is able to offer support then please contact Gren Tipper, who is leading this work and would be pleased to discuss the details: [gren.tipper@cclg.co.uk](mailto:gren.tipper@cclg.co.uk)

Further information on CONIAC and the Client Buddy Scheme are also attached to this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PB', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

**Peter Baker, HSE Chief Inspector of Construction**

**On behalf of the CONIAC Acting Together Steering Group**

**The CONIAC ACTING Together Steering Group consists of:**

**Peter Baker, HSE Chief Inspector of Construction (Chair of Group)**

**Gren Tipper, Operation Director, Construction Clients Leadership Group**

**Fergus Harradence, Deputy Director, Construction, Dept. for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy**

**Rob Miguel, National Health and Safety Advisor, Unite the Union**

**Daniel Shears, National Safety Advisor, GMB**

**Clive Johnson - International Institute of Risk and Safety Management (IIRSM)**

**Revd Kevin Fear - Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) H&S Strategy**

**Gary Mees - Construction Industry Council (CIC)**

**Andrew Dixon - Federation of Master Builders (FMB) Head of Policy**

**Peter Crosland - Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA)**

## ANNEX

### **CONSTRUCTION CLIENT BUDDY SCHEME**

The Construction Industry Advisory Committee (CONIAC) is a tripartite body comprising the Health & Safety Executive (HSE), industry and Trade Unions, and is committed to achieving improvements in the management and control of workplace health and safety risks in the high-risk construction industry.

CONIAC is led by the Acting Together Steering Group, and has 5 Working Groups aligned to the health and safety system strategy – Helping GB Work Well – and addressing health and safety issues in the areas of:

- Managing Risk Well
- Tackling Ill Health
- Supporting Small Employers
- Keeping Pace with Change
- Sharing our Success

The **Client Buddy Scheme** is being developed and delivered by the Construction Client's Leadership Group (CCLG) as part of the work of the CONIAC Supporting Small Employers Working Group.

The Client Buddy scheme is a free service for inexperienced, 'occasional construction clients'.

It aims to help ensure they derive the best possible value when investing in construction, and importantly that they understand their obligations and duties as a 'construction client' under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015). These clients and their suppliers are often small business owners who are least familiar with their duties under CDM 2015.

The scheme will pair less-experienced clients with experienced construction client 'buddies' who will provide advice and guidance about procurement and construction delivery. The client buddies will provide advice and signpost users toward materials that will help equip them through the construction process for example, preparing briefs, engaging designers and procuring construction work, to help them manage and control construction risks.