

Kirstie Donnelly MBE  
Chief Executive Officer  
City & Guilds Group  
5 Giltspur St  
Farringdon  
London EC1A 9DE

24 March 2020

Dear Kirstie Donnelly MBE,

### **Support Required by the Concrete Structures Industry**

Given the unprecedented impact of the coronavirus pandemic, I am writing to you today to outline the concerns our members have surrounding the impact on qualification achievement, and how you can help us keep the construction industry building during this complex and challenging situation.

CONSTRUCT Concrete Structures Group is the leading representative body for the concrete structures industry, and our members undertake approximately 80% of all concrete frames built nationwide.

### **Qualification and Apprenticeship Achievements**

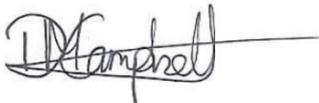
As it is not clear when this pandemic will subside, it is possible that it will affect the ability of employees and candidates to complete their qualifications.

For apprenticeship End-Point Assessments, these may be difficult to deliver, particularly in construction where face-to-face assessment is prevalent. We would urge that all EPAs are reviewed for the opportunity of bringing flexibility in the delivery to avoid delay in apprenticeship achievement, and that a grace period of 6 months be introduced to any deadlines for completion. This period should be reviewed regularly in line with the latest government guidance, and extended if necessary.

If the pandemic is short-term there may be little impact on the ability for candidates to complete their NVQs within the 3-year period. However, for construction, NVQs are linked to numerous card schemes, which allow operatives to gain access to site. We call for City & Guilds to offer a 6-month grace period for completion for those that are nearing the deadline, again with the option to extend further in necessary.

As this is an on-going and fast-moving situation, we would like to work closely with you to ensure the issues faced by our sector – and no doubt the other sectors of construction – are robustly dealt with during this difficult time.

Yours Sincerely,



**Dave Campbell**  
**CONSTRUCT Trade Association Manager**  
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