



NASC

Scaffolding Insider

NEWS | FEATURES | COMMERCIAL | HEALTH & SAFETY

OCTOBER 2024

POLES APART

Changing attitudes
to manual handling

ONE MONTH
AND COUNTING

Inaugural ScaffEx
approaches

WINTER
WORKING

Prepare now for the
wind, rain and cold

www.nasc.org.uk

FREE TO ATTEND | REGISTER TODAY

WWW.SCAFFEX24.COM

SCAFFEX24

THE ONLY SCAFFOLDING & ACCESS EVENT

Industry Networking | Latest Innovations & Trends | Business Opportunities



**SCAN TO
REGISTER**

**JOIN THE SCAFFOLDING & ACCESS
INDUSTRY AT SCAFFEX24:
QUICK & EASY REGISTRATION**



FRI, 29 NOV



BELFAST



FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the October issue of Scaffolding Insider, which very much focuses on issues on the ground this month. We lead with an exploration of changing attitudes towards manual handling and a growing recognition that although the job of a scaffolder is inescapably a tough one involving heavy manual labour, we don't have to accept that injury is just part of the job.

Like the advent of proper footwear, hard hats and harnesses before, now it is the time for the dangers of repetitive lifting to be the focus of attention. We speak to several companies who want to do all they can to reduce risk to their workers – and therefore their companies too – and increase health, safety and efficiency on site by examining ways in which manual handling can be reduced. We also hear from one company which is using the latest technology to track, record and change the way operatives lift – with very encouraging results. Read more on pages 12–15.

Another hazard of the industry is the weather. Sadly the period when the main worry is drinking enough water and not getting sunburnt has well and truly disappeared now and we're approaching the seasons where rain, wind, cold and ice can cause significant risks on site. On pages 20–21, we review the main risks and what scaffolding contractors and operatives should be doing to mitigate them.

With just over one month to go, you can read the latest news about NASC's industry-leading new event, ScaffEx24, on pages 17–19. The excitement for this new event is really growing: there's a great line-up of speakers for the Conference, a roll call of outstanding exhibitors for the Exhibition, and almost 750 excited guests booked in for the Gala Dinner and Awards. If you haven't booked yet, I'd really recommend it – cheap flights to Belfast are still available and it's a brilliant city to spend a day or two in. And remember, the Conference is free to attend.

I attended the Construction Week Birmingham event at the NEC a couple of weeks ago and it was encouraging to see such a busy and active event. Star of the show was of course NASC's new van, which is basically an exhibition stand on wheels! – see pages 23–24.

We have a review of the current situation re: pending legislation that could have a major effect on the industry on page 11; and we hear from outgoing President David Brown on page 9. There's the usual industry news and NASC news to round off another bumper 28-page edition.

I hope you enjoy reading it.



Nick Campion
Editor

CONTENTS

From the Editor	3
Industry News	5
Feature: Interview with NASC President David Brown	9
Feature: What does new legislation mean for business?	11
Feature: The changing face of manual handling	12
Feature: ScaffEx: one month to go	17
Feature: Preparing for winter	20
Feature: Construction Week review	23
NASC News	26

CONTACT DETAILS

editor@nasc.org.uk

020 7822 7400

07958 695778

National Access & Scaffolding Confederation

4th Floor, 12 Bridewell Place, London. EC4V 6AP

www.nasc.org.uk



Scaffolding Insider is published by National Access and Scaffolding Confederation Ltd (NASC). Content does not necessarily represent the views of NASC. NASC is not liable for any inaccuracy or claims of any type from editorial, advertising, or any content within the publication.

Not all images used are representative of the standards NASC upholds and may be supplied by third parties in support of content featured in the publication.

All rights are reserved. Scaffolding Insider is the trademark of NASC, and the NASC logo and brand are registered.

"There's a popular misconception that system scaffolding is just for square buildings. As we expand into the infrastructure sector, we often have to work around obstacles, and this is where PERI UP provides the required versatility."

Paul Corfield | Operations Director, IE Access

PERI UP Flex
for versatility



www.peri.ltd.uk



**EXPLORE
PERI UP FLEX**





ISG IMPACT FELT ACROSS THE INDUSTRY

The impact of the sudden collapse of the construction giant ISG continues to be felt across the construction industry, including in scaffolding and access. As the dust settles, information continues to emerge about how this situation came about and what the consequences might be.

There seem to be several reasons for ISG's collapse, ranging from its immediate inability to secure funding and failed attempts to secure a buyer to medium-term issues such as legacy financial difficulties from the pandemic and substantial involvement in loss-making contracts, leading to cashflow issues. More broadly, much attention has been paid to ISG's perceived flawed business model and its very narrow operating margins – although these kinds of margins are hardly rare in construction. It has been widely reported that ISG's operating margin was roughly 2%, with the majority of its work being subcontracted.

ISG's collapse leaves projects in doubt, subcontractors at risk of not being paid and around 2,200 workers unemployed.

NASC expressed its concern as the news emerged and it quickly sought to address the potential impact on the hundreds of subcontractors and their employees facing significant uncertainty, with many companies in the scaffolding and access sector particularly vulnerable to potential insolvency.

NASC drew direct comparisons to the 2018 Carillion bankruptcy, which had a devastating ripple effect across the construction supply chain, leading to many insolvencies. The ISG collapse threatens to repeat this pattern. NASC has called on the Government to step in urgently and provide financial assistance and support for scaffolding and access contractors who are now left in limbo.

"The collapse of ISG represents not only a financial blow to subcontractors but also a logistical nightmare for scaffolding companies who now face weeks of uncertainty over the fate of their equipment and contracts," said Clive Dickin, CEO of NASC. *"We urge the Government to take immediate action to avoid a repeat of the Carillion disaster and protect the thousands of workers and small businesses who are crucial to the UK's construction industry."*

NASC has also issued guidance on novation and

administration to its members, and encouraged all members to access the legal and debt support services available to them as part of membership.

Industry analysts Glenigan have released an in-depth report on the situation. Glenigan's analysis says that a third of ISG's project pipeline was dedicated to public sector work, while industrial, commercial, and private housing projects accounted for over £2.8 billion of its active contracts. Several high-profile developments have been thrown into uncertainty, including:

- Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies Facility in Billingham, valued at £200 million
- Slough Data Centre Campus Phase 2 in Berkshire, also worth £200 million
- Institute of Neurology for UCL in London, at £158 million.

Overall, ISG had more than £2.5 billion worth of projects already on site, with an additional £1.7 billion in the pipeline. This includes 33 contracts awarded, 57 projects actively progressing, and three nearing completion – all now left in limbo. ISG was also involved in 19 construction frameworks, valued at £104 billion. It is worth noting that recent reports suggest that Sisk is set to secure a deal to finish the Billingham project.

ISG staff have spoken to various news outlets to express their frustration at how problems at the firm were visible for some time but not properly dealt with. Staff were disappointed at the apparent lack of connection and communication between management and the workforce on the ground – not least as the company's collapse actually occurred, with many finding out from the media rather than the company.

Administrators from Ernst & Young were appointed for eight ISG companies on 20 September.

COSTAIN'S CARBON TRACKER TRIAL

Costain is trialling a carbon tracker platform to improve emissions reporting across its projects. The online tracker enables project teams to monitor construction-related carbon emissions across the supply chain.

It is designed to improve the quality, accuracy and frequency of data reporting through enhanced analytics, including collating emissions data in real time from materials and resources used on site, such as concrete, steel or water.

Hotspots of materials or products generating a high volume of carbon emissions are highlighted to enable project managers to track progress against emissions targets and identify further areas of carbon reduction.

The tracker has been successfully implemented across several of Costain's projects in road, water and integrated transport, and will be rolled out across all relevant projects over the coming months. It is expected that data shared by suppliers will be used to inform future project planning and provide vital insights to reduce Scope 3 emissions.



NEW GOVERNMENT MEASURES ON LATE PAYMENTS



Jonathan Reynolds

The Government has unveiled new measures to support small businesses by tackling the scourge of late payments, which according to the Smart Data Foundry is costing SMEs £22,000 a year on average, and according to FSB research, leads to 50,000 business closures a year.

The Government will consult on tough new laws which will hold larger firms to account and get cash flowing back into businesses. In addition, new legislation being brought in the coming weeks will require all large businesses to include payment reporting in their annual reports, putting the onus on them to provide clarity in their annual reports about how they treat small firms.

Enforcement will also be stepped up on the existing late payment performance reporting regulations which require large companies to report their payment performance twice yearly on GOV.UK. Under current laws, responsible directors at non-compliant companies who don't report their payment practices could face criminal prosecutions including potentially unlimited fines and criminal records.

The consultation, which will be launched in the coming months, will also consider a range of further policy measures that could help address poor payment practices.

Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds said: "Late payments are simply unacceptable and this Government is determined to level the playing field for small business. When the cashflow runs dry, small firms go under which is why we need to hold larger business to account with their payment practices and foster an environment that supports growth and jobs."



GREEN LIGHT FOR TWO LIVERPOOL SCHEMES

Liverpool planners have given the green light to two big schemes, which are together worth nearly £120m of work.

Plans by developer Capital&Centric will see the transformation of the iconic former Littlewoods building into a world-class film and TV campus. Enabling works on the 1930s Edge Lane building, including demolition of the structurally unsafe clock tower, have already taken place.

There will also be a revamp of the Martin Luther King building, which houses the International Slavery Museum and the Maritime Museum. The museums on the Royal Albert Dock will close in early 2025 for three years during the upgrade.



CONSTRUCTION UPTURN

Latest figures from the bellwether S&P Global UK Construction Purchasing Managers' Index signal a strong upturn in total construction activity and the steepest rate of growth for 29 months.

Growth was seen in all sectors with civils the best performing, as contractors highlighted renewable energy infrastructure and a general uplift in work on major projects.

Commercial building also gained momentum in September, with output levels rising to the greatest extent since May, helped by lower borrowing costs and domestic political stability. Improving market conditions and rising confidence also helped to boost house building in September.

Tim Moore, Economics Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said: "UK construction companies indicated a decisive improvement in output growth momentum during September."

"A combination of lower interest rates, domestic economic stability and strong pipelines of infrastructure work have helped to boost order books in recent months."

"New project starts contributed to a moderate expansion of employment numbers and a faster rise in purchasing activity across the construction sector in September. However, greater demand for raw materials and the pass-through of higher wages by suppliers led to the steepest increase in input costs for 16 months."

"Business optimism edged down to the lowest since April, but remained much higher than the low point seen last October. Survey respondents cited rising sales enquiries since the general election, as well as lower borrowing costs and the potential for stronger house building demand as factors supporting business activity expectations in September."

RAYNER ABANDONS REVIEW

PICTURE CREDIT: No.10



Angela Rayner

Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner has abandoned a review aimed at boosting house building in London. The Deputy Prime Minister said London Mayor Sadiq Khan would no longer have to submit a review of the London Plan, initiated by the last Government which said he was holding back delivery of new homes.

Rayner said there would be a new 'partnership approach' to working with the London Mayor to boost house building in the capital which has a new higher target.

Under proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, London now needs to build around 81,000 new homes per year, up from a 62,000 homes target set by former housing secretary Michael Gove. According to the latest figures from City Hall, the average number of homes built in London between 2019 and 2023 was 37,200 a year.

BUILDING COSTS FACE 15% INCREASE

The Building Cost Information Service (BCIS) says that building costs will increase by 15% over the next five years, while tender prices will rise by 20% over the same period. As cost inflation moderates and market activity is expected to increase, tender prices are anticipated to rise faster than costs next year.

The BCIS All-in Tender Price Index, which measures the trend of contractors' pricing levels in accepted tenders, i.e. the cost to client at commit to build, saw annual growth of 2.1% in the third quarter of 2024.

On the input costs side, labour remains the main driver, though annual growth in the BCIS Labour Cost Index is forecast to slow, increasing overall by 16% between 2024 and 2029.

Materials cost inflation has been moderating since peaking in 2022 and annual growth in the BCIS Materials Cost Index has been in negative territory in recent quarters. BCIS expects the index to grow by 15% over the forecast period.

Dr David Crosthwaite, chief economist at BCIS, said: *"The upside risk to labour costs is that wages are driven up by widely reported skills shortages, which could impact on the viability and affordability of projects. The workforce is 88% what it was before the pandemic, when there were already long-standing concerns about fulfilling skill requirements."*

"Insolvencies in the supply chain represent an ongoing source of concern for the sector, in terms of both capacity and impact on cash flow. The effects of ISG going into administration will no doubt be felt throughout the supply chain. The consequences when a main contractor becomes insolvent are that sub-contractors and suppliers are left unpaid, which will likely result in further business failures."



Dr David Crosthwaite

NEWS IN BRIEF

Premier Inn plans

Whitbread has received consent to build a flagship Premier Inn near Trafalgar Square on the Strand. The nearly 700-bedroom, 13-storey Hub by Premier Inn hotel will start construction next year. Whitbread has been investing heavily in London and is seeking new sites in 40 locations for its Premier Inn and Hub by Premier Inn brands.

Clancy record

Civils specialist Clancy has delivered record revenue on the back of rising demand across water, energy and major civil engineering sectors. Delivering a sixth consecutive year of growth, Clancy's turnover grew 13% to £379m, which helped to drive a 55% rise in pre-tax profit to £21m. Matt Cannon, chief executive, said the group's direct labour model was assuring reliability and quality of work for clients, maintaining a strong order book worth £1.5bn.

Wates acquires Liberty

The Wates Group has announced the acquisition of Liberty, the property services division of ForHousing, a prominent social housing provider based in the northwest. This will see Liberty, along with its 1,100 employees, joining Wates Property Services. Last year, the company reported a turnover of £120 million and completed over 114,000 property repairs. Liberty will continue to operate under its own name.

Galliford Try surge

Galliford Try has delivered strong growth and profits in the year to June after a surge in previously delayed building jobs. Pre-exceptional pre-tax profits rose 40% to £33m on turnover rising 27% to £1.77bn. The improvement helped group operating margin edge up to 2.5%. The results were ahead of city expectations with the infrastructure division leading the growth, as building strengthened its margins.

**HS2 Euston plans**

Sadiq Khan says it is looking increasingly positive that the High Speed 2 rail line will reach Euston rather than terminating at Old Oak Common. This comes after the Sunday Times reported that the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, is preparing to approve plans for the required 4.5-mile tunnel link and for an overhaul of Euston station itself.



SCHOOL LEAVER INITIATIVE IN THE NORTH EAST

A new initiative in the North East is paving the way for school leavers to enter the scaffolding industry, significantly boosting apprenticeships and local employment.

According to Scaffmag, W@H Solutions, with support from Procure Plus and the Newcastle United Football Foundation, is leading this effort to offer school leavers the chance to gain hands-on experience and potentially secure apprenticeships through Northern Regeneration at the Construction Skills Village.

The innovative programme offers participants a five-day training course introducing them to the fundamentals of scaffolding. They then undertake a five-day work experience placement with a local scaffolding company. If both parties are satisfied with the fit, participants can enroll in an apprenticeship programme.

Over 80 young people have already signed up, but the programme has also appealed to a diverse range of applicants, including older individuals.

SKANSKA'S DIGITAL GP

Skanska has launched a Digital GP service for all staff, which provides employees and their immediate families with instant advice and diagnosis. Digital GP allows employees to connect with a doctor via video call or phone consultation.

Skanska says that with waiting times to access medical services increasing significantly since the pandemic, this new service helps employees to access the care they might need quickly and easily, helping them to recover and make the return to work easier.

SCAFFOLDERS ARE UK'S THIRD HIGHEST PAID TRADE

Analysis by TradeFix Direct, based on data from job site Indeed, has revealed that with an average annual salary of £38,365, scaffolders are third in the list of best-paid trades in the construction industry.

Carpenters top the list of highest-paid trades, earning an average of £45,482 per year, while gas engineers take second place with an average salary of £39,395.

However, there are dramatic differences between regions when it comes to salary, with a difference of up to £26,000 among scaffolders.

TWO TRANSFORMATIVE YEARS

NASC President David Brown's two-year term finishes at the organisation's AGM on 28 November. Scaffolding Insider took the opportunity to ask him to reflect on his two years at the helm.

Scaffolding Insider: Your two years as President is nearly complete – how would you summarise the whole period?

David Brown: Exciting. Enjoyable. Busy. Transformational!

SI: What sort of organisation did you find as you became President and what did you want to achieve during your tenure?

DB: There was much that NASC was doing well of course – but equally, I was facing challenges related to NASC's leadership, a dysfunctional business plan process, a lack of recognition among clients and contractors of NASC membership and standards, and a major challenge regarding recruiting and retaining talent in the sector. I established three main objectives that would help to start dealing with some of these issues, and I was led by these objectives throughout my tenure.

SI: What was the first of those objectives?

DB: Firstly, in terms of working hard to help our members win the work they deserve, the #ItHasToBeNASC campaign has been a real success. By getting key companies and organisations, such as the National Federation of Builders, Build UK and principal contractors like Vinci, on board to back the drive for contractors to specify that scaffolders must be NASC members, we have helped improve standards within the sector and built recognition of NASC's position as the pre-eminent standard setter. Through this, we attract new members and members gain work. This is a key part of stopping the race to the bottom, as seen by the proliferation of generic standards and accreditations that do not even recognise scaffolding and access risk.

SI: With PAS91 disappearing, is this an opportunity to address the accreditations issue?

DB: Definitely. NASC will soon launch its Common Assessment Standard. This will see the end of the need to secure multiple accreditations, and this one step will reduce the burden on NASC members considerably and improve their competitiveness.

SI: And the second of your objectives?

DB: We all know that recruiting and retaining talent is a major issue in our sector, so I wanted to ensure NASC put something back into the industry by supporting the funding of training that helps members to recruit and develop their staff, raising industry standards. Members embraced the idea, showing they have the desire to keep developing their teams and their standards. Grants included: £150 for each new starter recruited into the industry, both operatives and



David Brown, NASC President

office-based roles; £200 for newly-qualified scaffolders; £250 for newly-qualified Advanced Scaffolders; £500 for each Supervisor Card issued; £175 on completion of a CISRS System Scaffold Product Training Scheme; and £175 for Basic Scaffold Inspectors completing the Advanced Scaffold Inspection card. NASC has paid over £250k in grants to date, supporting massive improvement in the training of operatives and giving NASC members increased confidence to recruit and develop their people and their businesses.

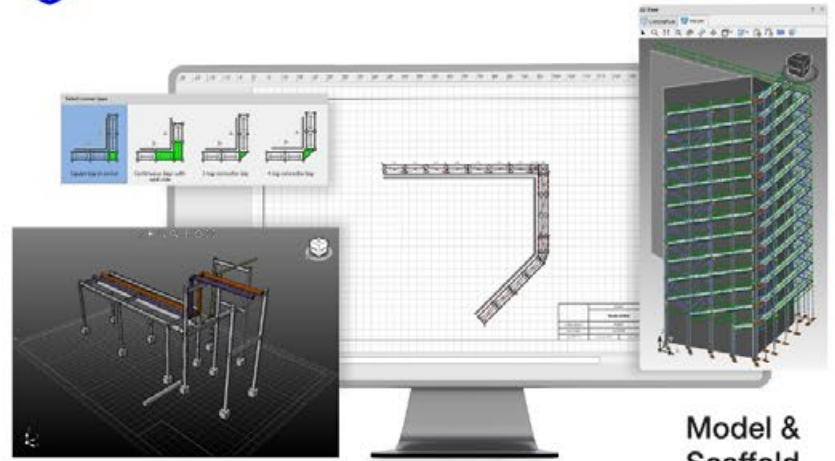
SI: Two very outward-looking objectives so far. What about NASC itself?

DB: I was voted in by the NASC Council with a remit to bring in new people and new ideas, and to transform NASC, making it relevant to the whole industry and dispelling the myth that NASC is just an old boys' club. With a change of leadership and a change of rules, we have achieved that: we have seen huge growth in all areas of membership over these two years, with the increase in membership reaching a 24% monthly growth rate in recent times. NASC is now the largest fully audited scaffolding and access trade body in the UK, its membership is at its highest ever level, and it supports the whole sector.

SI: That sounds like quite a transformation. How has it been possible?

DB: The energy and passion in the NASC team is exemplary. The appointment of Clive Dickin as CEO was a major development and he has achieved a great deal in his first year. There is real momentum now, as demonstrated by membership growth, new resources available to members, and the enthusiasm of members to join our new committees and really make a contribution.

An integrated suite of scaffold software made by scaffolders



3D Model Import

Scaffold Design

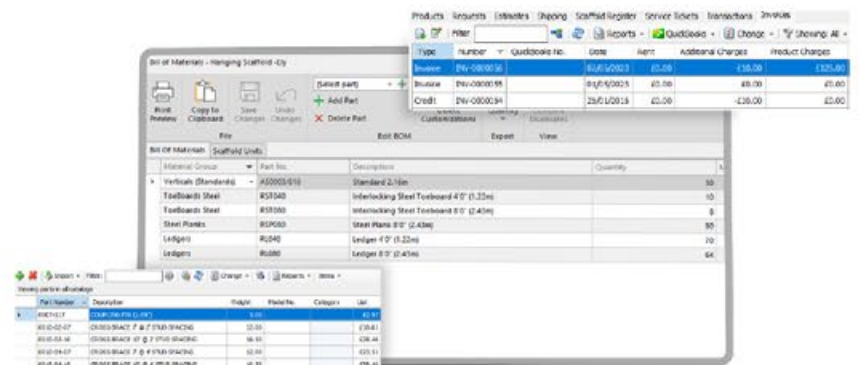
Model &
Scaffold
Review



Scaffold Overlay

Share with
customers and
co-workers

Automated Invoicing



Inventory Control &
Forecasting

Fast & Accurate
Estimates

See Avontus in action



Visit us at **STAND 23**

Contact us today

Phone
+44 (0) 330 380 1349

Email
sales@avontus.com

www.avontus.com

UNCERTAINTY OVER MAJOR WORKERS' RIGHTS CHANGES

Labour's General Election Manifesto said the Government would introduce its workers' rights package within its first 100 days – and on 10 October, day 97, it fulfilled that promise.

It is still very early stages: Parliament has only just begun to debate the newly-published Employment Rights Bill and even that is only one stage in a longer workplace reform journey. Many of the Government's decisions about changes to the world of work remain to be nailed down and are not part of the Bill at all.

Changes are not imminent and there are likely to be many twists and turns yet. Some of the current main proposals include:

- **Unfair dismissal:** workers will have the right to claim unfair dismissal against their employer from day one (except in Northern Ireland). However, staff will be subject to a nine-month probation period, during which employers can dismiss someone more easily and without the full process required. The proposals could yet change with the Government planning a series of consultations. The new rights are set to come into force in autumn 2026.
- **Zero-hours contracts:** companies will be required to offer a zero-hours worker a guaranteed-hours contract based on the hours they clock up during a 12-week period.
- **Flexible working:** to become the default for all workers, with employers required to say yes to requests from staff from their first day starting in a job unless they can prove it is 'unreasonable'.
- **Sick pay:** the waiting period and lower earnings limit to receive Statutory Sick Pay will be removed.
- **Unpaid parental and bereavement leave:** to become a day one right.
- **Fire and rehire:** banned in almost all circumstances.

Certain measures included in Labour's manifesto plan Make Work Pay do not feature in the Employment Rights Bill. This includes Single Worker Status, whose complexity has led to these plans being pushed back pending further consultation.

Laura Nadel, Employment Law Partner at PwC UK, said: "There will be a need for employers to adapt to these enhanced protections and benefits for new hires from their first day, and be mindful of the impact on the existing workforce. This change highlights the importance of revisiting onboarding processes, updating the wording of employment contracts and policies to ensure compliance, and having robust management procedures in place. The Government will consult on the use of statutory probationary periods, with the Government's preference to have a nine-month statutory probationary period in place. The statutory probationary period is intended to provide balance between offering job security for employees and giving employers a greater degree of confidence in making

new hires. The changes will not come into effect any sooner than Autumn 2026, meaning that employers have time to prepare."

Tina McKenzie, Policy Chair at the Federation of Small Businesses, commented: "Plans to give day one unfair dismissal rights to new employees will add to the risks associated with hiring people. That increased risk will inevitably deter small employers from taking on new people, for fear of facing an employment tribunal simply because a new recruit turns out to be unsuited to the role. That's bad for jobs, and a barrier to growth and investment. A vague reference to a statutory probation period, with no detail of what that would look like, won't reassure small employers."

NASC has re-focused its efforts in recent months to ensure the industry's voice is heard in the corridors of power.



Sarah Klieve

Sarah Klieve, Chair of NASC's Public Affairs & ESG Committee, said: "We are currently drafting our manifesto, which will form the basis of our interactions with the new Government. We plan to take a considered and structured approach to operating in the political arena, not only delivering to the Government an awareness of the issues facing the industry, but also how the solutions to these

issues could translate into actual policy – and how that policy will then result in practical, tangible improvements on the ground.

"In April, we held our All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) reception at the Houses of Parliament, which was an excellent way to talk to a wide range of ministers and MPs to enlighten them as to the reality of the scaffolding and access industry, how critical it is to the UK economy, and the challenges it faces. These include issues such as training and development, the skills gaps, protection of the supply chain, and changing perceptions to make scaffolding a career of choice. We are now working on re-forming the APPG under the new Government so we can continue these conversations and find MPs to advocate on our behalf.

"In the short term, we await the Budget and the passage of the Employment Rights Bill to see what changes employers are going to be facing and how we might lobby to influence the implementation of these policies on behalf of our members and the industry at large."

POLES APART: CHANGING ATTITUDES TO MANUAL HANDLING

Did you know that during their working life the average scaffolder will handle over 90,000 tonnes of material/scaffolding equipment? Were you to erect scaffold 6m high daily during your working life, you would erect scaffolding equivalent to a height of 32 miles – that's six Mount Everests.

No wonder then that manual handling accounts for approximately 25% of injuries reported by NASC members each year and even though the use of mechanical aids has risen in recent years, manual handling is still the most significant occupational health hazard faced by the scaffolding industry today.

Manual handling occurs during the lifting and handling of materials during scaffolding operations but also during loading and unloading and storage of materials on site and in the yard.

One experienced scaffolder comments: *"In scaffolding, you're typically manual handling for 50% of your day, so the toll on your body is high – especially over weeks, months, years and decades. In fact, just a few generations ago, it used to be unusual for scaffolders to work beyond 40 but with better training and more mechanisation in the last couple of decades, along with the use of system scaffolding, that age has extended and there are even just a few scaffolders still working in their sixties."*

"Better training with the NASC SG6 training suite has helped raise the importance of avoiding or reducing manual handling where possible. Mechanical aids such as forklifts, hoists, cranes, trolleys and wheelbarrows have helped scaffolders to work longer and more healthily and to make the industry more attractive to a wider range of young people. Innovative companies such as Leach's and Kewazo strive to supply or produce new products such as the Liftbot to reduce the manual handling burden. The bottom line remains, however, that moving heavy equipment repeatedly is what the job is all about, no matter what mitigations are put in place."

"Scaffolders do welcome assistance when it comes to improving manual handling, but they also still often carry more than the guidance recommends – partly down to bravado and partly just because they want to get on and get the job done. This risky action doesn't always pay off because scaffolders getting injured endangers their long-term health, slows the job down, with the company experiencing financial impact through lost time, injury claims, sick pay and additional recruitment costs."

"In scaffolding, you're typically manual handling for 50% of your day, so the toll on your body is high – especially over weeks, months, years and decades."



Bilfinger UK, in collaboration with Layher UK, designed the world's first underdeck scaffolding system using FlexBeam to provide safe access to the underside of an oil rig.

"There is a difference between smaller and larger companies: smaller companies tend to have a traditional yard containing material in racks; they pull off what they need for the day, drive it to site and erect it. A larger company is likely to have articulated lorries, cranes, hoists and forklifts."



Lee Marshall

On that subject, Lee Marshall, HSE Lead, Bilfinger UK Limited, adds: "Larger scaffolding companies often have the resources to develop comprehensive training programmes and invest in advanced safety equipment. However, the smaller companies can be more agile and responsive to safety needs, often with a hands-on approach. This allows

them to maintain close relationships with their team, ensuring that safety practices are understood at every level. Both types of companies have unique strengths, but there's always room to learn from one another."

Manual handling in action



Roy Rogers

Roy Rogers is the man responsible for NASC Guidance document SG6 Manual Handling for Scaffolders, which address safe manual handling. He is also QSHE & Energy Director at Enigma-IS; he comments: "At Enigma-IS, we've produced our own PowerPoint presentation based on SG6, which helps us provide face-to-face education with our workforce

– and it particularly helps those who may have learning differences. The PowerPoint is complemented by Enigma-IS bulletins and NASC toolbox talks, ensuring we reinforce material handling as a key focus in the scaffolding industry.

"Prior to employment, an important step we undertake is the health screening of potential employees; a fairly simple but crucial and ethical element of pre-employment. This

process helps Enigma-IS identify workers fit to do this work. Obviously injury can happen to anyone at any time, even in the most innocuous ways, but we have robust management systems and the risk management process to avoid it where practicable. All new workers spend time in the yard first, which is time well spent learning the job and seeing if it suits them and if they suit the industry."

Bilfinger's Lee Marshall explains his company's approach to minimising the impact of manual handling: "The first thing is giving operatives the correct information and training to ensure they are aware of the problem and the long term implications of not following the training we provide. We can then look at placing control measures to help assist with any manual handling operations.

"To help us lower the lost days for our employees, this starts with a robust company induction where we carry out training with the new employees and focus on work-related ill health through poor manual handling techniques, providing our employees with the correct information on lifting techniques and how a load should be carried and knowing your limitations. It's something that most people do in daily life but we have all picked up bad habits over the years with starting to bend or stooping, placing unnecessary strain on the body.

"I'm sure most people have seen the video of how children assess the load and lift with their knees and the load close to the body, and it's amazing to think that we are programmed to use correct lifting techniques yet we can pick up bad habits over the years.

"We've implemented a training programme that focuses on the unique challenges we face in the extreme environments we work in and everyday life. This includes safe lifting practices tailored to the types of materials we handle daily, such as heavy gaskets, chain blocks, tubes and boards to name a few. We also invest in equipment that makes lifting safer and easier. The best way to ensure no musculoskeletal injuries is by avoiding the lifting altogether. Regular toolbox talks and practical demonstrations are key as they reinforce these techniques, ensuring that safe lifting techniques are at the front of our employees' minds.

"Since we ramped up our focus on manual handling, we've

seen a decrease in manual handling-related injuries on site. The operatives are more aware of their limits and have embraced safer practices. I would imagine that most are taking it into daily life as well. They are certainly asking more questions about how they can keep longevity in their trade. This not only keeps our workforce healthy but also boosts morale.

"There's been a significant shift in attitudes among operatives over the years. Nowadays we have come to appreciate the value of correct manual handling techniques. They're more engaged in safety discussions and actively seek out ways to improve their handling techniques. This newfound respect for manual handling is a testament to the hard work many have put in over the years and the culture of safety that's been created."



David Anderson

David Anderson, General Manager, By Royal Appointment scaffolders Allen & Foxworthy Ltd, agrees: "The workers are more accepting now. It's a cultural thing, like harnesses, hard hats, boots – they all took some accepting but no-one questions them now. We're getting there – I think workers are, fortunately, just not as willing to injure themselves and

they want longevity in this career.

"As a company we have forklift drivers with all the relevant licences so if there's no forklift on site, we'll get one of our drivers down there to speed the process up. We use cranes for speed, efficiency and to save the scaffolders some heavy lifting. There will always be jobs and times when there is a lot of manual handling but I'm a big advocate of lightening the load wherever possible. We roll out manual handling guidance to every member of staff and run refreshers on SG6, SG4 and TG20 every year; I check they're paying attention and they understand just how important this is. I also ask for feedback from sites if they need any more equipment that might help prevent injuries.

"Apart from the sheer weight of the materials, workers also have to be mindful of wet and slippery site conditions and might have to adjust the amount they carry accordingly. They also have to be aware of the proximity of the public if they're working close or overhead, and they have to be aware of confined spaces and the impact that might make on the technique required to avoid injuring others.

"As an industry, we have to recognise that not everyone's the same, not everyone can lift for the same amount of time and the same amount of material before they become tired and sloppy. People need managing carefully. We also need to engage more with clients and agents so they are reasonable about when and how a job gets done. We are proactive about this, emphasising it at pre-contract stage – it's so much easier just to get it right from the start.

"You have to keep thinking outside the box – like a few years ago when TRAD cut all their 21 foot tubes to 16 foot or less, which made getting them up vertically was more manageable.

"We never say to our lads that they've got a time limit. Of course there are expectations but never pressure

because that means shortcuts, especially when it comes to manual handling. The risk assessment and manual handling assessment must be rigorous and job-specific. I'm not beyond refusing to do a job if it's not safe for the scaffolders."

On this issue, Bilfinger's Lee Marshall adds: "Clients are much more aware these days as they are given more information and increasingly recognise the importance of manual handling and its impact on overall project success. This coincides with the documents being produced by NASC, such as SG6:22 – guidance written by industry specialists who understand the importance and the daily struggles of the tradesman. Clients are now asking more questions about manual handling practices during pre-tender project discussions. I am finding that I'm being asked when we are out in the field about the correct techniques. This indicates a growing awareness that investing in safety ultimately leads to better outcomes for everyone involved."

SG6

SG6 Manual Handling for Scaffolders is a guide to good practice for manual handling in the scaffolding industry. Roy Rogers, QSHE & Energy Director at Enigma, and the man responsible for NASC Guidance document SG6, comments on it: "SG6 is an invaluable document for translating the legislation into the language of an Ops Manager and to give guidance that is practical, useable and helpful. The new SG6 video is a major step forward both in terms of content and how flexibly it can be used and also updated."

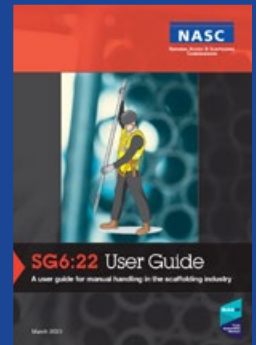
SG6 has become the unofficial code of practice for manual handling in the scaffolding industry and provides comprehensive guidance for safe lifting, transporting and handling of materials. It is used by constructors, inspectors, health and safety professionals and all who work with or manage scaffolding.

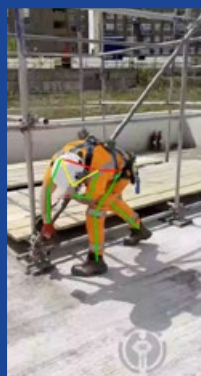
SG6 is available in three forms:

- Management Guide (Digital PDF free to download from the NASC website).
- User Guide (A6 Pocket-sized booklet).
- SG6 training video available on the NASC ePortal.

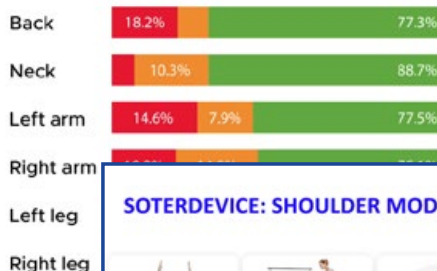
SG6 contains advice on how to reduce risks from manual handling. Its contents include:

- Methods for carrying various scaffolding materials.
- Methods for standing up long tubes and boards.
- Examples of mechanical lifting aids.
- Guidance on the chaining of materials.
- Guidance on the storage of materials.
- Guidance on the use of a rope and wheel.

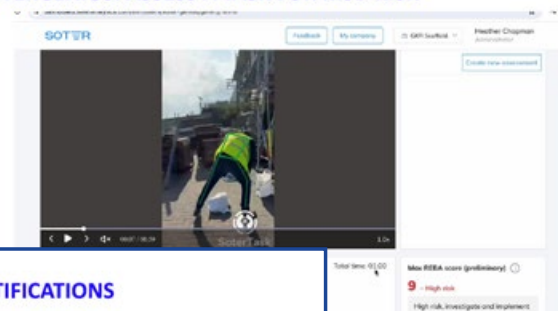




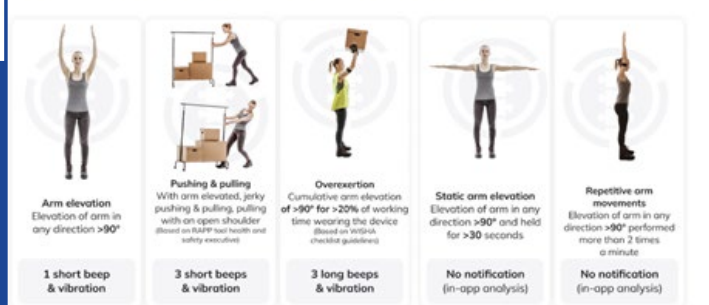
Time split by body position risk



SOTERGENIUS: ASSESS A TASK FOR MSD RISK



SOTERDEVICE: SHOULDER MODE NOTIFICATIONS



GKR'S Pioneering Approach

In partnership with Soter Analytics, GKR Scaffolding has made a significant investment in technology as it aims to pioneer a new era of workplace health and safety.

The GKR Health and Safety team have developed a bespoke training scheme with the Soter wearable device technology whilst also incorporating artificial intelligence video analysis. It delivers personalised coaching to workers using a wearable device and provides recommendations via a mobile companion app and management dashboard. The device measures and monitors ten at-risk back and shoulder movements in real-time and provides audio and haptic real-time feedback to the worker in the form of sound notifications. The audio feedback from the device then in turn begins a process of behavioural change. From kickstarting an awareness of poor movements to creating neural links between the brain and muscles, it is designed to forge internal learning and ultimately initiate new and improved behaviour. The Health and Safety team then looks at the analytics dashboard to identify any possible trends and what the most at-risk tasks are for manual handling, which then feeds into the enhancement of the risk assessment process.

In a pilot study on their HS2 project, over the course of the 20-day training programme, GKR saw a 30% reduction in manual handling associated risks.

Peter Cullen, Health and Safety Director, GKR Scaffolding, said: "We do risk assessments and manual handling training of course, and use equipment to reduce manual handling as much as possible – but we wanted to do more. We wanted to understand the level of exposure and the individual workers' manual handling movements. The Soter device is a device that fits on the back or arm to measure back, arm and shoulder movements. If it identifies that an operative's manual handling technique can be improved, it will notify

them via a noise or vibration – for example, if they're not using their legs to lift, are lifting too heavy or twisting while lifting. Then the operative can stop and review what they're doing and make adjustments.

"We first do a workshop to explain the device and how it works to operatives, a retraining session on manual handling techniques, then after a fortnight of device use we review progress and what's been learned. We have already seen an improvement of 61% in manual handling technique.

"We also talk to individuals about the times where they couldn't make a change after the device alerted them, so we can look at other ways to mitigate manual handling on that task. We go out and film operatives working on different tasks and record a video showing green, amber and red on their bodies as they go about different tasks, and we build up a library of all the tasks they might do and the impact on their bodies. If improvement can't be made regarding impact on the body, we look again at the tasks and whether engineering controls or lifting aids can help – and if not, then how these tasks can be shared so the impact is reduced on individuals.

"Operatives have taken to it well, even though some may have started a little sceptically. They can see the benefits to their health – and they know that we as a business value them. We currently have 15 devices which are always in use across three projects, both on site and in the yard, and in due course every employee will have had the opportunity to wear them.

"In the next six months or so, we can go back to the industry at large, including principal contractors, to demonstrate the importance of manual handling training and the critical role that lifting aids play in health, safety and productivity."



CITB NI

Construction Industry Training Board

Encouraging the adequate training of those employed or intending to be employed in the construction industry.

Improving the skills & productivity of construction in NI.

Providing careers and training advice, courses and grants for training to help construction companies improve their skills & competitive edge.

Find out more

www.citbni.org.uk

028 90 825466



17 Dundrod Road, Crumlin, Co. Antrim, BT29 4SR.



COUNTDOWN TO BELFAST...

There's just over a month to go until the industry's newest and biggest event gets underway. ScaffEx, sponsored by Layher, will be held in the fantastic city of Belfast, with a Conference, Exhibition, Awards and Gala Dinner all being held on one packed and inspiring day. There's still time to book your place for the 29 November event, held at Belfast International Conference Centre, that has become the talk of the industry.



Conference

The Conference will run throughout the day and will address all the most urgent issues facing the sector. Motivational speaker David Meade will host the Conference, with speakers including:

- Suzannah Nichol, Chief Executive of Build UK
- Julio Black, Head of Product & Marketing, AT-PAC
- Lee Rowsell, Group Director, GKR Scaffolding Ltd
- Barry Neilson OBE, Chief Executive, CITB NI
- Wayne Connolly, MD of Connolly Scaffolding and NASC President (from 28 November)
- Tim Balcon, CEO, CITB
- Dr Yasuo Toyosawa, President, Scaffolding & Construction Equipment Association of Japan
- James Butcher, Executive Director, National Federation of Builders
- David Abraham, Founder, Fulcrum Scaffold Safety & Training.

Exhibition

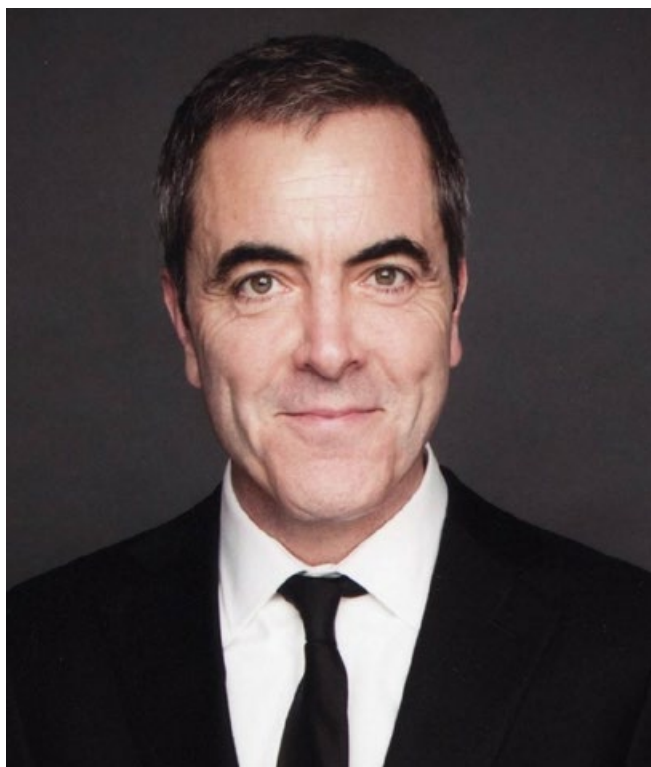
The ScaffEx exhibition brings together a wide range of industry-leading suppliers demonstrating the latest products, services and innovations in a generous exhibition space.

One of those exhibitors is The Construction Industry Training Board Northern Ireland (CITB NI), which is focused on skills and training for the Northern Ireland construction industry, providing the support and services needed to ensure that local construction businesses are equipped for progress and expansion. CITB NI will be pleased to talk to exhibition visitors about a whole range of issues, including its grant scheme, its training delivery, business improvement seminars, careers promotion and more.

Jonathan Threadgold, Product Owner and Sales Lead for SMART Scaffolder, commented: *"ScaffEx represents a significant milestone for the industry, and we see it as an invaluable platform for exchanging ideas, showcasing our latest developments, and demonstrating our ongoing commitment to innovation and excellence in scaffolding compliance."*

Nick Munster, Director of SP Group & SP Gilray, adds: *"NASC has always provided great opportunities for its members to expand our business and reach customers. ScaffEx this year is one of those opportunities that allows us to showcase our products and connect with more people in the industry in one venue. Imagine meeting hundreds of potential customers in one day—now that's a really good day for the business!"*





James Nesbitt

Scaffolding Excellence Awards

The NASC Annual Ball and Awards is famous throughout the industry and this year's night of celebration promises to be another spectacular event. As well as a chance to let your hair down, it is also a really important opportunity to recognise industry excellence and outstanding achievements.

There are just a handful of places left for the Awards Dinner, so book now if you would like to join colleagues at the social event of the year.

The Scaffolding Excellence Awards will be hosted by film and television actor James Nesbitt. James has been on our screens for three decades, with his breakthrough role being when he shot to fame as Adam Williams in *Cold Feet*. He won the Best Actor award at the British Comedy Awards and quickly became – and stayed – one of the UK's best loved stars. Always an engaging speaker, James will keep guests entertained and informed through the Awards and Gala Dinner. James will be joined on the night of the Awards by ScaffEx24 host, David Meade, plus other celebrity guests, who will be announced soon.

The competition for the Awards was very strong but the shortlists have been announced (see right). Chair of Judges Dr James MacFadden commented: *"It was a fantastic year of entries for the Scaffolding Excellence 2024 awards. The standard of entries was high across the board and judges were presented with some very difficult decisions."*

"It was heartening to see so many high quality submissions that recognise how important apprentice development, health and safety and sustainability is to a successful project outcome. It is a sure sign that the scaffolding industry continues to positively develop and grow with support from NASC."

THE SHORTLISTS

Apprentice of the Year

Albie Cooper, Benchmark Scaffolding
James Joseph Aicken, K2 Scaffolding
Harrison Mapley, Star Scaffolding
Lacey Maclean, Everlast Scaffolding

Design of the Year

Buckley Design Solutions – Blackburn College
Lyndon SGB – New Register House
Scaffold Erection Services – HM Prison Birmingham
SRK Scaffolding – Industrial storage tank

Product of the Year

GKR Scaffolding – Soterdevice
Layher – FW System
PERI – PERI UP Cladding

Service of the Year

Footprint – Interactive project tracking
Safety & Access Ltd – Scaffold training programme
Costain/Skanska (SCS Railways) – Scaffold request app

Lifetime Achievement Award

Lee Rowsell	Alwyn Richards
Tom Gent	Ray Johnson

Project of the Year – Small

Advanced NI – Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast
Ingleford Scaffolding – St Mary's Lighthouse, Whitley Bay
Shield Services Group – Cathedral Park, Bristol
Malvern Scaffolding – Worcester Cathedral

Project of the Year – Medium

Chris Sedgeman – Market House, Penzance
Everlast Scaffolding – City Exchange, Leeds
Inner City Scaffolding – Parkside Court, Chelmsford
Scaffolding Access – Former Somerfield Store, Newhaven,

Project of the Year – Large

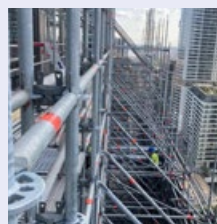
Lyndon SGB – New Register House, Edinburgh
SCA Group – Centenary Quays, Southampton
SRK – Inovyn Runcorn Power Station
V3 Group (CASS) – The Milliners, Bristol

Project of the Year – Major

Crossway Scaffolding – Lloyds Trinity Road, Halifax
GKR Scaffolding – 25 Canada Square, Canary Wharf
Scaffold Erection Services – HM Prison Birmingham



Crossway Scaffolding



GKR Scaffolding



Scaffold Erection Services



PICTURE CREDIT: Belfast images courtesy of Tourism Northern Ireland

Beautiful Belfast

Belfast is busy! The city is the shopping, retail, educational, commercial and entertainment centre of Northern Ireland and home to many of its largest businesses. If you're able to allow some time to explore before or after ScaffEx, there are many attractions to enjoy, such as the Grand Opera House, Donegall Square, Crown Liquor Saloon, Ulster Museum, the Botanic Gardens, Belfast Zoo, and Titanic Belfast, a museum opened in 2012 to commemorate the centenary of the sinking of the famous ship.

Belfast has over forty parks, of which the oldest and one of the most popular is the Botanic Gardens in the Queen's Quarter. Buildings and walls throughout the city are adorned with murals that reflect the city's social, cultural and political traditions and history. Around the city, you'll find stunning countryside and enchanting natural attractions.



Join in the ScaffEx conversation online at:



PREPARE FOR WINTER

It's that time of year. The days of working in half-decent weather are numbered, the rain is falling and the wind is blowing. In a month or so, we can look forward to frosty mornings before the ice and snow of winter are upon us. These weather conditions can all make working on scaffolding a hazardous occupation – and we've all seen photos of collapsed scaffolding in the news after storms have blown through.

Working on a scaffold during bad weather can present several hazards that should be considered by clients, designers, scaffolding contractors and other contractors to ensure workers can operate safely in poor weather conditions. The risk of falls and of falling objects are the principal hazards likely to be encountered.

It must be noted, however, that all scaffolding should be designed to remain secure against the strongest winds and all adverse weather.

NASC advises that everyone involved in the planning, design, erection, use, alteration and dismantling of scaffolding carries out a suitable and sufficient risk assessment focused on the following hazards:

- Wind – high winds can compromise the stability of scaffolding, potentially leading to accidents or even structural collapse. To safeguard against high winds and strong gusts it is essential that all scaffolds are suitably designed and constructed in line with an appropriate TG20 compliance sheet or a bespoke design completed by a competent scaffold designer. Wind can cause a push/pull effect on the scaffolding structure. Workers must follow HSE guidelines for working on scaffolding during windy conditions, and designers/contractors must consider the location, height and orientation of scaffolding, as well as the materials used.



- Rain – rain can have a significant impact on scaffolding materials and surfaces, causing them to become slippery and potentially hazardous. It is important to take precautions, such as ensuring slip-resistant surfaces and appropriate PPE. Water can also cause erosion and deterioration of ground conditions, including subsidence, and this risk must be mitigated wherever possible. Before work begins, all parties involved should consider where responsibilities lie for maintenance and ensuring platforms have adequate drainage/run-off prevent water accumulation. Work may need to be suspended in very heavy rain.
- Snow and ice – these can create very dangerous conditions due to slippery surfaces but also place additional weight on the structure and can obscure gaps and edges on boarded platforms. Regular inspections and maintenance are critical, as well as removing snow and ice before commencing work.
- Lightning – NASC recommends that all outdoor scaffolding work stops in thunderstorms due to the potential for increased danger from the metal structure and its height.

Plan and assess

Any party involved in planning, erecting and using scaffolding should assess local weather patterns and historical data when scheduling projects, and should also include weather contingency plans in the project timeline. It is important to establish clear responsibilities and communication

channels for decisions around weather-related issues. A risk assessment must be undertaken, reviewed and the workforce suitably briefed, before any work takes place. NASC advises that at a wind speed of approximately 20mph, it will become unsafe to carry out work at height on external scaffolds and at approximately 30mph all external work at ground level may need to be suspended. However, these figures are for guidance only as wind speed can vary significantly with height above ground level and around the corners of buildings etc. It is therefore essential that all operations are suitably assessed to determine when conditions become unsafe for the work to continue.

Scaffold Cladding

Scaffold cladding provides shielding for workers against adverse weather conditions. This creates a more secure and controlled working environment, allowing work to continue in varying conditions and thus helping to maintain project timelines. It is also used to provide protection for site workers or members of the public in areas surrounding the scaffold against construction dust and debris.

Under wintry conditions where severe winds, rain and snow are more prevalent, it is crucial that the process of fixing cladding to scaffolding is appropriately controlled. The scaffold structure itself must of course be suitably designed, either via an appropriate TG20 compliance sheet or a bespoke design, to ensure that it will withstand the additional loads imposed by the sheeting. This may necessitate additional ties or buttressing to be fitted. In addition, the sheeting or debris netting must be of adequate quality and strength to withstand the anticipated loading and be suitably secured to the scaffold with an appropriate type and frequency of fixings.

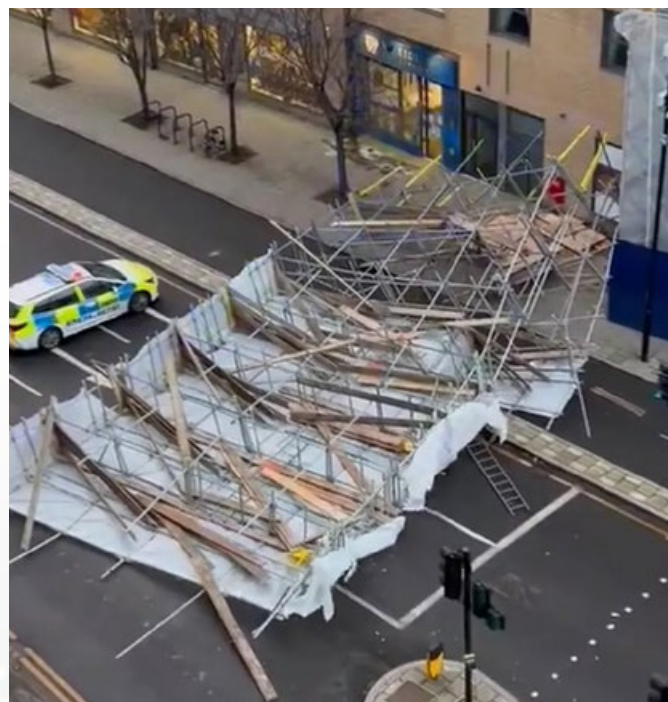
It is recommended that all types of sheeting should comply with BS 7955. The details of the type and frequency of the fixings should be specified by the sheeting manufacturer or a competent design engineer. Typical spacing for fixings will normally be approximately every square metre.

Special consideration should always be given when using shrink wrap sheeting. Whilst this provides taut, neat and extremely watertight protection, due to the size of the sheets they are usually only connected to the scaffold at approximately 6m centres. When the wind is blowing towards the scaffold, the additional loading is distributed over the whole structure, which does not present a problem. However, in leeward areas where the sheeting is sucked away from scaffold, this results in large, concentrated loads being imposed on certain sections of the scaffolding only. It is therefore recommended that shrink wrap sheeting is only used when the scaffold and its fixings have been designed by a competent scaffolding designer, to cater for the resultant concentrated loading patterns.

Sound fundamentals

Of course, the fundamentals of scaffold construction remain critical whatever the weather – and these fundamentals will always form the basis of a scaffold that is able to withstand adverse weather conditions.

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) states on its website:



PICTURE CREDIT: JoshHargreaves

“It is a requirement of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 that unless a scaffold is assembled to a generally recognised standard configuration, such as National Access and Scaffolding Confederation (NASC) Technical Guidance TG20, for tube and fitting scaffolds or similar guidance from manufacturers for system scaffolds, the scaffold must be designed by bespoke calculation, carried out by a competent person. This will ensure that the scaffolding will have adequate strength, rigidity and stability at all times whilst it is erected, used, altered and dismantled.”

Many of these scaffolds will typically have ties spaced every 4m in height by every 4m in length and should always be inspected by a competent person, in line with the Work at Height Regulations 2005.

It is also vitally important that scaffolding is erected safely by CISRS-qualified Scaffolders. The HSE also states the following on their website: “All scaffolding must be erected, dismantled and altered in a safe manner. This can be achieved by following NASC’s Safety Guidance SG4 ‘Preventing falls in scaffolding operations’.

For scaffolds that fall outside the scope of a generally recognised standard configuration, the design must be such that safe erection and dismantling techniques can also be employed throughout the duration of the works. Where necessary, specific instructions may need to be provided with the design.

The risk of collapse is created when scaffolds are not erected to a recognised configuration or a bespoke design. This risk can be exacerbated when:

- there are insufficient ties securing the scaffold to the building
- when there is unauthorised interference and anchor ties are removed
- when scaffolds are undermined
- where the scaffolds are not managed or inspected appropriately
- or a combination of these factors.

Your ultimate partner in Employment Law, Health & Safety and more!

At Citation, we understand the unique challenges of running a scaffolding business. That's why we're here to help you keep operations running smoothly, from adapting to the latest Employment Law changes to simplifying HR and Health & Safety tasks.

As an NASC Services and Ancillary Products Member, we know your business and the support you need. With over 300 specialists, we take care of your Health & Safety and HR compliance, so you can focus on success.

Here's how we can help



24/7 expert advice

With Citation, expert advice is always at your fingertips. Day or night, we're here to handle your Health & Safety, HR & Employment Law issues. Our experts are just a phone call away, ready to provide reliable solutions. Backed by the Citation Advice Guarantee.



Health & Safety support

Stress-free Health & Safety? We've got you covered. Our expert team provides annual inspections, reports, and practical advice to keep your workplace safe and compliant, giving you peace of mind.



Bespoke documents and policies

From bespoke contracts to comprehensive handbooks, risk assessments to method statements, our team make sure you have everything you need to comply with the law, reducing paperwork and saving you time.



ISO certification

Stand out with ISO certification – the global mark of quality that boosts your credibility and showcases your commitment to excellence and high standards.



Smart management software

Manage essential tasks with ease using Atlas, our online Health & Safety and HR hub. From e-learning and documentation to risk assessments, incident reporting, and holiday requests – it's all streamlined for you.



Smas accreditation

Show you're serious about Health & Safety with SSIP (Safety Schemes in Procurement) accreditation – recognised by thousands of organisations, big clients and principal contractors.



They've worked with scaffolding companies so having Citation here makes me feel at ease, especially when it comes to risk assessments, and it's saved me a lot of time."

WBS Scaffolding

Ready to enhance your Employment Law and Health & Safety?

Enquire today to access preferential rates for NASC members, plus details of our scaffolding sector 'Buy now, start paying 2025' special offer.

Scan the QR code to find out more.



BACK IN BRUM:

UK CONSTRUCTION WEEK MAKES STRONG RETURN

The UK's largest event for the built environment, UK Construction Week (UKCW) Birmingham made a welcome return to the NEC last week, with a string of exclusive launches, a strong line-up of speakers, exhibitors from across the globe – and a strong NASC presence.





It was a busy show, full of a wide range of exhibitors and an impressive range of speakers delivering to full crowds at a number of hubs around the show. Visitors came from every trade and from every stage of their career, from industry veterans to brand new apprentices.

The three-day show included high-profile names including the Mayors of the West and East Midlands, Richard Parker and Claire Ward; Mace Chief Executive Mark Reynolds; architect and Channel 4 presenter George Clarke; and Amanda Long, Chief Executive, Code for Construction Product Information (CCPI).

Over 7,000 products were on display from over 300 exhibitors, while the Net Zero Hub made its UKCW debut at the show. Alongside this, the new Net Zero Trail showcased the latest innovations and sustainable practices driving the construction industry towards a Net Zero future.

NASC's CEO Clive Dickin was a guest speaker, addressing visitors on the hidden risks of scaffolding, while NASC's unique van located in a high traffic area of the exhibition space drew great interest and led to many high-quality conversations and potential new member leads. The organisation was also pleased to catch up with a number of existing members and current applicants. As well as direct, in-person interactions, the exhibition also created excellent PR exposure and social media interaction – all invaluable as NASC seeks to make its presence ever more widely known and get across to clients and contractors the #ItHasToBeNASC message at every opportunity.

Dates for the next two UKCW shows have already been announced: UKCW London runs 7-9 May 2025 at ExCeL, while UKCW Birmingham returns to the NEC 30 September to 2 October 2025.



The Better Scaffold Sheeting Choice

SAFEGARD® Scaffold Sheeting



Stronger sheet at a better price



Uses less polymers/plastic for the same strength as thicker sheets



Long-lasting, less flapping and ripping



Warringtonfire Certified



Sustainable



Wholesale Scaffold and Temporary Protection Supplies in one place

With the brand merger of Gilray Plant with SP Group, we are set to supply scaffolders and construction companies with top-notch materials for quality build and temporary protection on-site.



Scaffold Boards
Scaffold Tubes and Fittings
Scaffold Accessories
Site Containment
Scaffold Access and Tools

Floor Protection
Scaffold Protection
Temporary Window & Glass Protection
Permanent Window & Glass Protection
Surface Protection

Protection Tapes
Fire Protection
Anti-Slip Protection
Personal Protective Equipment
Custom Print Products

www.s-pgroup.com
sales@s-pgroup.com
028 9442 8611

www.spgilray.com
sales@spgilray.com
01322 442006

A YEAR OF CHANGE AND GROWTH

NASC has published its Annual Report, which documents a year of transformation in 2023, a transformation that has continued through 2024. Picking out key recent achievements, CEO Clive Dickin notes developments including:

- New guidance documents including the innovative digital SG6 training video, as well as guidance on PAYE, VAT and Mental Health. A technical bulletin on base plates has been issued, as well as safety bulletins on storage of hexagonal bundles of scaffold tube, gas flues, and the Building Safety Act, which includes a section on fire prevention.
- Major improvements in the audit process and standards that have seen a significant growth in membership without compromising quality. NASC is now the largest scaffolding and access body in the UK.
- The creation of ScaffEx, a brand-new conference, exhibition and awards that has quickly become the leading event in the sector.
- The start of developments in education and training, and the modernisation of CISRS.
- The creation of more opportunities for members through the #ItHasToBeNASC campaign
- The creation of the Talent Solution to help address the recruitment and retention crisis in the industry.

Writing in the Annual Report, outgoing President David Brown says: "I was voted in by the NASC Council with a remit to bring in

new people and new ideas, and to transform NASC, making it relevant to the whole industry and dispelling the myth that NASC is just an old boys' club. With a change of leadership and a change of rules, NASC is now the largest fully audited scaffolding and access trade body in the UK. I look back on these two years as a lot of hard work but also an awful lot of joy at being able to see all that hard work from the Council, the Board and the Executive coming to fruition."

Incoming President Wayne Connolly adds: "NASC must continue to grow as an organisation, reinforcing its position as the trade body for the whole industry, being totally inclusive and not excluding anyone for any reason except if they don't meet our high standards. We must continue to make sure that message is heard loud and clear."

Next month's Scaffolding Insider will hear from Wayne in an in-depth interview.



NASC STRENGTHENS GLOBAL TIES WITH INTERNATIONAL VISIT

NASC recently completed a series of productive visits to New Zealand and Japan, collaborating with industry leaders SARNZ, SAA, Tekken, and Takamiya. NASC representatives had insightful discussions on scaffolding innovations, sharing best practice and exploring mental health in construction.



COMMON ASSESSMENT STANDARD LAUNCH

At ScaffEx, NASC will launch the Common Assessment Standard (CAS), whereby NASC members will be able to meet all CAS obligations by taking the NASC audit alongside meeting a few other obligations.

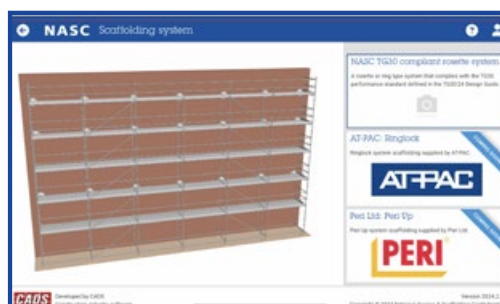
Currently, when tendering for larger scaffolding contracts, NASC members are often required to complete a selection of pre-qualification questionnaires using a service provided by one of up to 13 assessment bodies. With NASC becoming a recognised assessment body, it will be able to offer CAS to contractor members in an efficient and cost-effective way.

Members are encouraged to sign up at ScaffEx24 in Belfast for a one-time-only discount on the CAS.



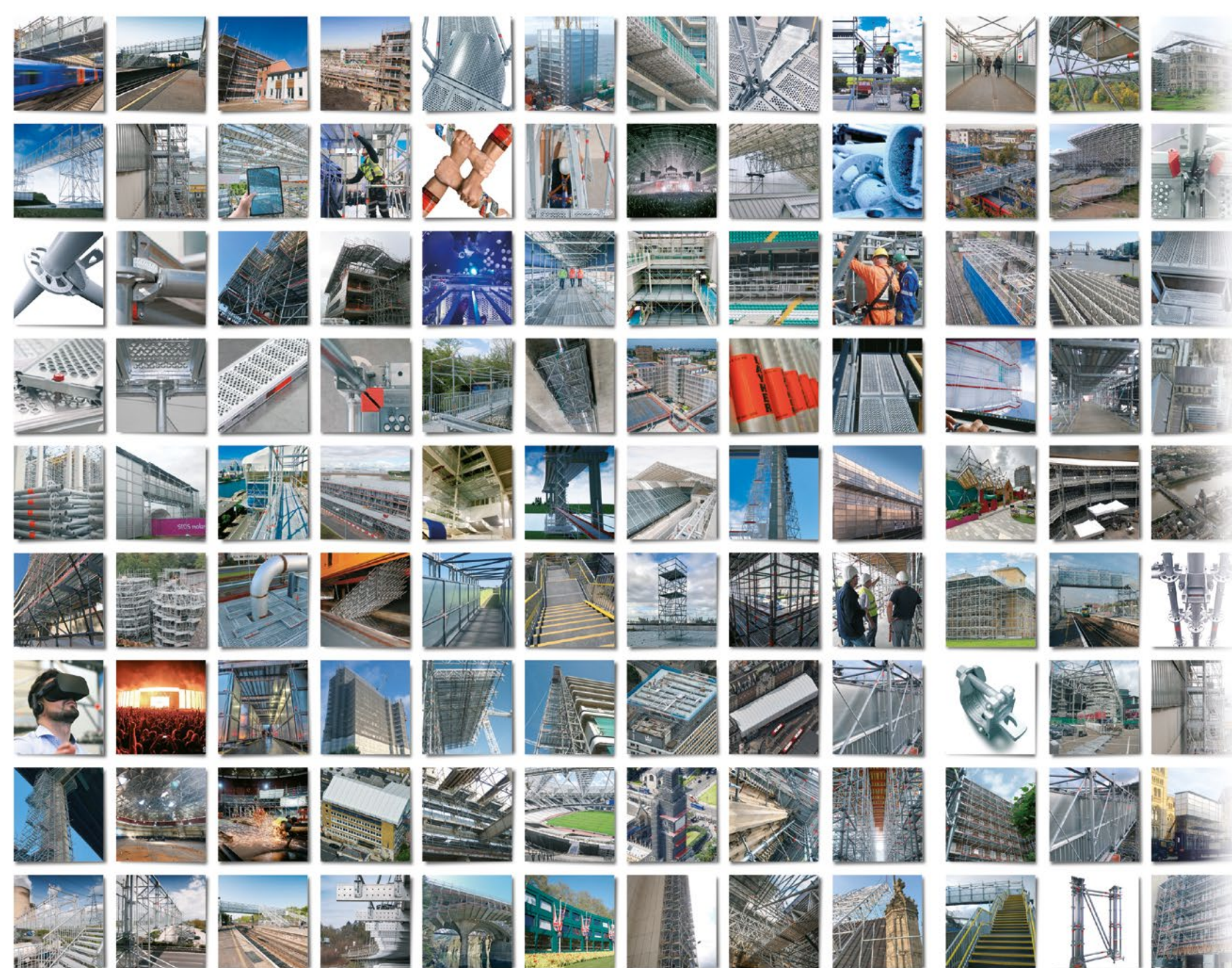
TG30 FOR SYSTEM SCAFFOLDING

NASC Guidance TG30 for System Scaffolding is a truly vital development: not only does this bring together guidance from across System manufacturers, but it also means members can use compliance sheets rather than having to create a design every time. Part of NASC's move into digital, TG30 will be unveiled at ScaffEx24, where there will be a one-time-only discount.



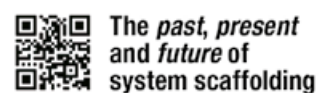
AGM: ALL WELCOME

All members are welcome at the NASC AGM on Thursday 28 November 2024 at 4:30pm at the Hilton Waterfront, Belfast. Clive Dickin, NASC CEO, will report to members and Wayne Connolly will be inaugurated as President. This is an opportunity for members to ask questions and engage with the leadership of the organisation. Following the meeting, a sponsored reception will offer valuable networking opportunities.



For more than
75 years,
Layher has focused
on **innovation**
not imitation.

It's why we remain
the past, present
and future of
system scaffolding.



The past, present
and future of
system scaffolding

Layher UK info@layher.co.uk | www.layher.co.uk



Layher® 

More Possibilities. The Scaffolding System.

