

Scaffolding Insider

NEWS | FEATURES | COMMERCIAL | HEALTH & SAFETY

NOVEMBER 2024

SCAFFEX

Preview of the
industry's no.1 event

SCAFFEX 24

TG30

System scaffolding
guidance is a
game-changer

**FEAR &
FRUSTRATION**

Industry reacts to
The Budget

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FROM THE EDITOR

There is a strong appetite for change, innovation and improvement at NASC at the moment, and this issue of Scaffolding Insider reflects that.

We lead with ScaffEx, sponsored by Layher Ltd (UK) and taking place on 29 November in Belfast, which is a bold and ambitious new venture whose vision is to provide the most comprehensive new event ever seen by the industry. Starting bright and early in the morning is the Exhibition, which sees 30 of the biggest names in the industry all in one space – a fantastic opportunity to see so many important industry partners and suppliers all together. There are sure to be deals to be done on the day – including with NASC themselves, who are offering show-only rates as they launch two critical new products: the Common Assessment Standard and TG:30 Guidance for System Scaffolding.

The Conference runs through the day, pulling together a strong line-up of speakers to address some of the most urgent issues facing the sector today. Then in the evening it is the Scaffolding Excellence Awards, where our shortlisted individuals and companies wait to see if they are a winner – and 750 people enjoy the best night of the year. Read more about ScaffEx on pages 10-13. And if you're not booked in yet – there's still time!

NASC is also leading the way when it comes to the Common Assessment Standard, and will soon be offering this alongside the membership audit, which should save members thousands – or even tens of thousands – of pounds and huge amounts of time by getting rid of the need to subscribe to any of the plethora of certification schemes so often demanded in pre-qualification questionnaires. Read more about this on pages 19-20.

Also set to change the way the industry operates, especially those who use system scaffolding, is NASC's TG30: Guidance for System Scaffolding. NASC members will be familiar with TG20 Guidance for Tube & Fitting and now TG30 will follow a similar process, again saving NASC members many hours and a great deal of money. Read about this critical development on pages 17-18.

You might well need to save all the money you can after the Budget recently. Its implications seem significant for industry at large and scaffolding is no exception. We review the Budget on pages 15-16 and seek some views from those who will be affected.

As well as our usual news pages, we also have an interview with Wayne Connolly, who will become NASC President on 28 November. He tells us about his priorities for the two years of his tenure – and it's clear that the pace of development will certainly not be slowing. More on page 9.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue. See you at ScaffEx!



Nick Campion
Editor

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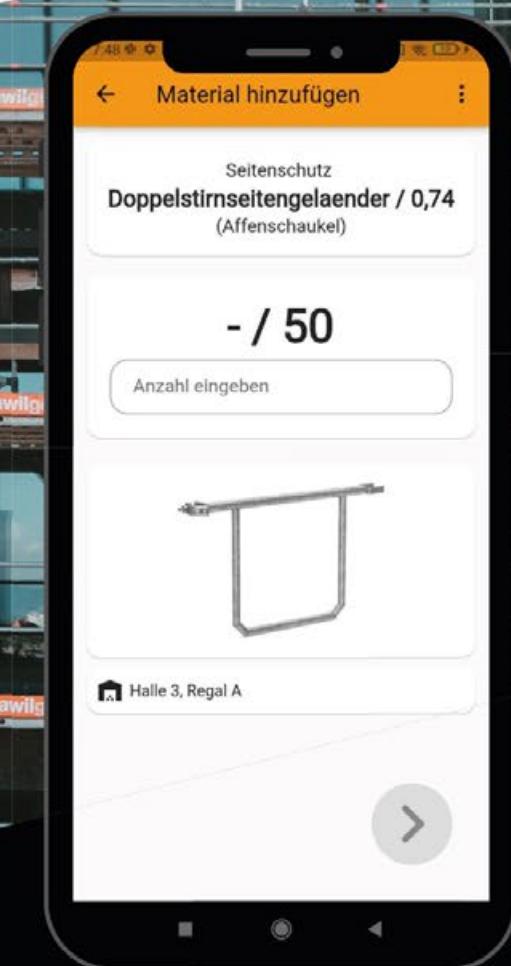
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FIRST LABOUR BUDGET SHOCKS THE INDUSTRY

Chancellor Rachel Reeves has delivered Labour's first Budget since 2010. She announced tax rises worth £40bn to fund the NHS and other public services. While the Chancellor sought to send a message of stability by meeting manifesto promises to not raise income tax, employee national insurance or VAT, and also did not change the rate of corporation tax, she did make changes to business taxes that will have a significant impact.



From April, there will be a 1.2% increase in employers' National Insurance (NI) Contributions, taking the rate to 15%, and a significant reduction in the secondary threshold to £5,000. The employment allowance - which allows companies to reduce their NI liability - will increase from £5,000 to £10,500. In total Reeves said the changes would raise £25bn a year by the end of the period covered by the Budget.

The National Living Wage will increase by 6.7%, with increases to the National Minimum Wage moving towards a single adult rate.

Read more about the Budget and how the scaffolding and broader construction sector have reacted on page 15.

CONSTRUCTION GROWTH SLOWS

Data presented in the latest UK Construction PMI report from S&P Global, for October 2024, indicated that 'output growth slowed considerably across the UK's construction sector' after reaching a 29-month high during September.

Civil engineering was by far the best-performing category of construction output in October, while house building was the only broad category of construction work to register an overall decline in output during October. This was the first decrease in residential activity since June, but the rate of contraction was only marginal.

Some construction companies noted that elevated borrowing costs and uncertainty ahead of the Autumn Budget had constrained demand. However, many construction companies noted strong sales pipelines and tender opportunities linked to generally improving domestic economic conditions.

Suppliers' delivery times improved marginally in October. Lead times have now shortened in each of the past three months.

HSE PROSECUTION AFTER WORKER LEFT PARALYSED

A builder was left paralysed from the chest down after falling through a ceiling at a housing job in Derbyshire. Father-of-three Andrew Clifford remained lying face down on the floor for around six hours before he was found by a delivery driver. He had been working alone installing first-floor joists during the construction of a house in Dronfield.

The 51-year-old was carrying out the work on behalf of Paul Freeman Limited, a Mansfield-based company he had worked with for around 20 years. The HSE prosecuted the company for failing to properly plan work at height. The HSE investigation found that Paul Freeman Limited failed to ensure that work at height had been properly planned and, as such, no measures had been implemented to prevent falls during the construction of the first floor.

Paul Freeman Ltd pleaded guilty to safety breaches at Derby Magistrates' Court and were fined £40,000 and ordered to pay costs of £6,263.

HSE inspector Sara Andrews said: *"My thoughts remain with Andrew and his family, whose lives have changed dramatically as a result of this preventable incident."*

"This case highlights the importance of undertaking a thorough assessment of the risks for all work at height activities and the need to ensure that, where work at height cannot be avoided, suitable control measures are implemented to minimise the risk of serious injury. This is even more significant when lone working."



£16BN COST AS CLADDING NIGHTMARE CONTINUES

Independent spending watchdog, the National Audit Office (NAO), believes it will cost over £16bn to fix unsafe cladding on all buildings over 11m high in the country. This huge sum comes as a result of the scope of those buildings needing to be fixed being extended from those above 18m to those above 11m.

The NAO states: *“Remediation works on most tower blocks over 18 metres with the most dangerous form of cladding are now complete or nearing completion. However, the scale of the cladding crisis has proved much bigger than the Government initially understood, and its interventions have expanded as a result. For the many thousands of residents who have been living in fear of fire, facing costly remediation bills, struggling to access mortgage finance or affordable insurance, or unable to move, leaseholder protections and the promise of a way forward for all buildings over 11 metres are welcome.”*

“The principle of ‘polluter pays’, where the costs of remediation works are met by those responsible, was established to relieve pressure on the public purse, improve public value and protect leaseholders from paying to fix a problem that is not of their making. However, there is a long way to go before all affected buildings are made safe, and there are risks MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) must address if its approach is to succeed.”

“Of the 9,000 to 12,000 buildings over 11 metres that MHCLG estimates will need remediating, 4,771 buildings have been identified and included in its portfolio, leaving up to 60% of affected buildings still to be identified. Of those identified, remediation work has yet to start on half and has completed on around a third. Of all the buildings that may be in scope, work has completed on only 12–16%. The pace of remediation works is behind where MHCLG expected it to be. Putting the onus on developers to pay and introducing a more proportionate approach to remediation should help to protect taxpayers’ money.”

“However, this approach also created grounds for lengthy disputes between developers and freeholders over the scope of works required and these disputes are causing delays. To stick to its £5.1 billion cap in the long run, MHCLG needs to ensure that it can recoup any funds it spends above this through successful implementation of the proposed Building Safety Levy. MHCLG has been slow to address fraud risks and must ensure its incentivisation and enforcement activities encourage reluctant freeholders to engage and ensure the industry is not stalling.”

“Seven years on from the Grenfell Tower fire, there has been progress, but there also remains considerable uncertainty about the number of buildings needing remediation, the cost of remediating them, and how long it will take to fix them and to recoup spending in the long run.”



PICTURE CREDIT: Allen Boguslavsky



do not renew their card, and feedback from employers highlights many workers leave the industry long before their labourer cards expire.

“By reducing the labourer card’s initial validity to two years, we can better track the actual number of active labourers in the sector. The requirement for proof of working in a labouring role upon renewal will ensure the card is no longer used as the default easy option for site access.”

CISRS has told Scaffolding Insider that there is no plan to reduce the five-year life span of the CISRS labourer’s card.

FEWER LABOURERS AFTER CSCS CARD CHANGES

From February 2025, the initial labourers’ CSCS card will reduce from five years to two years. The move is designed to encourage new construction workers to sign up to the CSCS trainee red cards instead and continue their skills development rather than remain at labourer level.

Garry Mortimer, Executive Director of Operations at CSCS Cards Ltd, said: *“The competence of the construction workforce is at the heart of the Building Safety Act.*

“These changes better align with the competency expectations of the Act as they will encourage more new entrants to start their career not on the Labourer card, but on one of CSCS’s red cards, which demonstrate to employers that the card holder is on a recognised training pathway that supports long-term career progression.”

The CSCS said labourer cards are currently oversupplied with 500,000 currently in circulation.

Mortimer added: *“Our data shows that 85% of labourers*

CPA FORECASTS SKILLS SHORTAGE CRISIS

Autumn forecasts from the Construction Products Association (CPA) have given a worrying prognosis for the UK construction industry, as a demographic crisis will see large numbers of the workforce aging out of employment.

The CPA has described the number of construction workers that have left the industry as 'the greatest issue facing UK construction in the medium-term'. It continued:

"UK construction employment in 2019 Q1 already had a major age demographic problem in the UK-born workforce, with a spike in employment in the 50-64 age range. This meant that UK construction was set to lose over 500,000 workers, over one quarter of the workforce, within 10-15 years."

"However, the age-demographic problem and loss of construction employment have accelerated between 2019 Q1 and 2024 Q1. There were 2.08m people employed in UK construction in 2024 Q1, which is 1.9% lower than in 2023 Q4 and a year ago, plus 14.3% lower (347,000 fewer workers) than at the recent peak in 2019 Q1, in part due to the double-digit falls in activity in the two largest construction sectors, private house building and private housing RMI (repair, maintenance and improvement)."

"The employment fall also includes the impact of

government delays, pauses, and cancellations of new infrastructure projects as previous projects are completed.

"The largest loss in construction employment since the recent peak in 2019 Q1 has been in self-employment, primarily older age-demographic workers in specialist trades. Self-employment in construction in 2024 Q1 was 1.5% lower than in 2023 Q4 and 21.9% lower (217,200 fewer self-employed UK construction workers) than in 2019 Q1."

"The number of employees in UK construction in 2024 Q1 was 1.3% lower than in 2023 Q4 and 8.6% lower than in 2019 Q1, a loss of 122,250 construction employees. What this means is that, overall, UK construction has lost almost 350,000 workers between 2019 Q1 and 2024 Q1, while apprenticeship starts averaged 31,000 per year in the last five years, according to CITB, and the dropout rate is over 40%."

"How the industry deals with these skills shortages will be the biggest issue to construction growth medium-term and, for the new government, will be crucial in determining whether it can meet its objectives of building 1.5m homes, delivering the £700-775bn infrastructure pipeline and net zero transition."

LIVERPOOL STREET RETHINK

Network Rail has dropped its development partner Sellar and architect Herzog & de Meuron as it rethinks its ambitious Liverpool Street project after coming under fire for the original plans.

The plans submitted last year (see inset photo) for a £1.5bn wholesale redevelopment of London Liverpool Street generated thousands of objections from the public. It also attracted criticism from Historic England which described the scale of the plan to the original 1875 station as 'grossly disproportionate'.

Now Network Rail has appointed a new architect, ACME, to draw up a refreshed plan that has just gone out to consultation. Under the new plans being brought forward by Network Rail Property, the commercial element has been scaled down and set back from the historic station frontage. The focus is strongly on improving passenger experience and capacity. This includes increasing the size of the station concourse plus more lifts and escalators to improve passenger flows through the station.



JR SCAFFOLDING PART OF TALLEST BUILDING TEAM

One of Scotland's leading scaffolding businesses has helped prepare the way for a landmark residential building in the city centre of Glasgow which will become the tallest in Scotland.

JR Scaffold has erected approximately 2,000m² of scaffolding alongside 500 linear metres of edge protection on Portcullis House in the city's India Street in Charing Cross, which aided the safe demolition of the current building's façade. The company was tasked with the project by Putnam Construction who are overseeing the demolition.

Alistair McKay, Contracts Supervisor for JR Scaffold, said: *"This was a complex project for our team as we had to overcome some design aspects due to the scaffolding's close proximity to other buildings in this busy, city centre location."*

"We also had to consult engineers regarding wind loadings once the façade was demolished as the retained concrete frame is now completely exposed to the elements."

Watkin Jones is transforming the former HMRC building on India Street into student accommodation, with plans for 784 ensuite rooms and studios. At 36 storeys, the building, named The Ārd, will be the tallest residential building in Scotland.

SMALL COMPANIES STRUGGLING

Small building companies are reporting falling workloads, material costs going up, and a shortage of available workers, according to the latest State of Trade Survey Q3 2024, from the Federation of Master Builders (FMB).

FMB says 32% of its members reported falling workloads over the past quarter. Brian Berry, Chief Executive of the FMB, commented: *"Enquiries are also down, as is employment, with over a third of members struggling to recruit bricklayers and carpenters. What is concerning is that the poor numbers reported by builders seem to be here to stay as they have been a constant throughout 2024."*

"The Government missed a key opportunity in the October Budget to announce serious funding to tackle the skills crisis in Britain while tax rises, such as the increase to employers' National Insurance contributions, create additional barriers with firms already struggling to recruit staff."

"The Government needs to prioritise boosting construction skills if it is serious about having a high-quality construction industry capable of delivering the ambitious housebuilding targets it has set out."

SAMA PLANS BIRMINGHAM TRANSFORMATION

Birmingham-based developer Sama Investment Group has submitted plans for a 301-bed student project on a prominent brownfield site in the heart of the city's China Quarter.

The new scheme would be delivered across a stepped brick building of 4 storeys, 10 storeys and 15 storeys on Pershore Street. Bilal Ahmed, founder and executive chairman of Sama, said: "Our proposals for Pershore Street would be a great addition for the 183,000 students in Birmingham, providing much-needed, high-quality living space in the vibrant Chinese Quarter.



SAFETY MILESTONE FOR TRAD UK

Scaffolding and safety systems supplier TRAD UK has achieved the milestone of one million work hours without a Lost Time Injury (LTI) across its six depots and site operations.

Alan Slater, TRAD UK's Head of Technical & Product Support, and Nick Smith, HSEQ Manager & Fleet Controller, credit this success to an improvement in the company's already high standards in safety culture over the last five years. "This isn't just about hitting a number - it's about a whole new mindset," said Alan. "We've made safety everyone's business, from the top down."

Vinci acquires FM Conway

In a deal expected to complete in early 2025, Vinci has acquired FM Conway, whose expertise encompasses roadworks, civil engineering, asphalt and binders' production as well as a range of specialist businesses including water and drainage management, lighting, cabling and traffic management.

Joanne Conway, CEO and executive group chair at FM Conway, said: *"We're a proud family business that has grown considerably through sheer hard work and determination to become an industry leader and a significant part of the UK's critical infrastructure delivery. The time is now right for the next chapter of our growth story."*

Muse enters £45m JV

Morgan Sindall-owned placemaker Muse has formed a long-term public-private partnership with investor Pension Insurance Corporation and Homes England. The £45m joint venture, named Habiko, aims to deliver 3,000 low-carbon, low-energy affordable homes for the rental market, unlocking institutional investment. Habiko aims to be self-financing within 12 years and is targeting affordable homes for rent, with rents set at 20% below the local market rent.

Wates hires Prongué

Wates has hired Bouygues UK's managing director for London and the South East to head its growing residential business.

Phillippa Prongué will take up the position of executive managing director of the housing business in the New Year, replacing Helen Bunch who is retiring after 19 years at Wates. Bunch leaves Wates having overseen 150% growth and a 73% increase in operating profit during her four-year leadership.



Phillippa Prongue

Vistry's new profit warning

Vistry has issued another £50m profit warning after discovering more under-estimated build costs at its southern division. The house builder issued a £115m profit warning last month after problems first came to light on nine schemes in the region. Now it has found more issues in the division across 18 sites which will impact profits by a further £50m over the next three years, bringing the total impact to £165m.

Guinness framework

The Guinness Partnership has opened bidding for a £1bn housing upgrade and repairs framework covering homes across the country. The 15-year framework deal has been split into five regional lots to deliver an extensive planned programme of works.

Norris replaces Ali as building safety minister

Alex Norris MP has been appointed building safety minister after Rushanara Ali lost the brief after it came to light that she had attended a conference sponsored by a cladding firm linked to Grenfell. Before becoming building safety minister, Norris was minister for local growth and democracy within the Ministry of Housing, Local Government and Communities.



Alex Norris

GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY

Current NASC Vice-president Wayne Connolly, becomes President of the organisation on 28 November. Scaffolding Insider asked Wayne what his plans are for his two-year term.

Scaffolding Insider: You're about to embark on two years as NASC President: how would you summarise what lies ahead?

Wayne Connolly: I see us as being at the start of the next stage of our evolution as an organisation and huge opportunities await us over the coming two years.

SI: What is your first focus?

WC: Firstly, I would like to make NASC even better and higher performing as an organisation and, in particular, to throw even more weight behind the #ItHasToBeNASC campaign. This campaign has the potential to be a game-changer for NASC members if we continue to persuade end users and tier one contractors to insist that its scaffolding contractors are in NASC membership. NASC membership embodies the qualities expected by clients. I would like #ItHasToBeNASC to see further investment and strategic planning to make it truly transformational.

SI: That is understandably a very member-focused priority. Will you be reaching out to the broader industry too?

WC: Definitely. NASC must continue to reinforce 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. To ensure this happens, governance reforms must continue, and the Executive will be both backed to deliver and held to account.

In terms of NASC's development as a body relevant to the whole industry, I am determined that it must be the business plan that leads the direction of the organisation, not the President alone: the President should not be allowed to come in and completely change the organisation's direction every two years. This is a critical point if NASC is to evolve in a strategically robust and coherent way.

SI: It sounds like you won't be afraid to make some changes?

WC: One of the biggest changes will be that NASC must embark on full digitisation. This will undoubtedly be a huge task, as the organisation will need to not only catch up to where we are now in the tech revolution but also future-proof against further technological developments. Full digitisation will lead to greater efficiency, impact and communication. The scaffolding and access business owners of the future are the 25–30 year olds of today, whose lives are interwoven with tech all day every day: NASC must be ready.

One change that's already begun is the creation of ScaffEx, which will be a key part of NASC's ever-expanding reach



Wayne Connolly, NASC Vice-President

and relevance. People will love the event in Belfast – a real opportunity for the industry to come together to learn, network, see new equipment, meet new customers and suppliers. ScaffEx has been established as the premier scaffolding industry event that will raise the profile of NASC and showcase the skills and professionalism of the industry, which has made incredible advances in recent years.

The new Scaffolding Excellence Awards is now a wholly autonomous process, powered by NASC but run independently from NASC, meaning it is a true industry event that is open to all members, from the smallest to the largest. It is really important that excellence is recognised and celebrated, and I look forward to the Scaffolding Excellence Awards only growing in stature and reputation.

SI: Will there be any further developments to look out for?

WC: We will continue to develop and promote the Talent Portal. This bold scheme directly addresses the ongoing issue of recruitment and retention in our industry. It is highly ambitious but absolutely critical for the development and introduction of talent. We must continue to get the message out there about what a great industry this is to join.

There are numerous other developments incoming, including the progression of TG30 for System Scaffolding, a truly vital development. We will also be working with CISRS as it makes its necessary evolution. By sitting within NASC, CISRS will enjoy increased resources and economies of scale, as well as working collaboratively with NASC towards a common goal.

I am highly ambitious for the organisation, and I look forward to working with members and the wider industry to help realise the potential of NASC, its members and the industry at large.

THE TIME IS NOW!

In just a few days, the industry's most ambitious event yet will begin. ScaffEx will take place on Friday 29 November at the ICC in Belfast, incorporating a major exhibition, packed conference programme and stellar awards dinner.

The Conference will run throughout the day and will address some of the most urgent issues facing the sector. Motivational speaker David Meade will host the Conference, and a strong line-up of speakers has been confirmed. The Conference is designed to help delegates understand the industry at a deeper level and to contribute to the change they want to see.

The Exhibition will see a wide range of industry suppliers and partners gathered together in one large space, while the Scaffolding Excellence Awards and Dinner will be a huge celebration of the very best the industry has to offer.

Main sponsor

Layher Ltd (UK) has signed up to be ScaffEx's main sponsor for three years. Asked why they were keen to make such a commitment, Sean Pike, MD of Layher Ltd (UK), replied:

"This partnership underscores Layher's commitment to advancing the scaffolding and access industry and supporting the pioneering efforts of the National Access and Scaffolding Confederation.

"ScaffEx represents a bold step forward for the scaffolding and access sector, supporting the industry's growth and evolution by offering an unprecedented platform for professionals, innovators and stakeholders to exchange ideas, showcase new technologies and drive the industry forward. As a leader in scaffolding solutions, Layher firmly believes in the importance of fostering collaboration and innovation, which are at the heart of this groundbreaking event.

"NASC has long been the voice of the scaffolding and access sector, championing best practices, safety standards, contractor and product audits, as well as professional development of initiatives for the next generation, which are our own shared visions. ScaffEx, as a flagship initiative,



embodies NASC's commitment to progress and industry leadership. Layher's sponsorship aligns with this vision, as we share the same dedication to quality, innovation, and education.

"This event will not only highlight the incredible work being done in our field but also inspire the next generation of scaffolding professionals to push boundaries and embrace cutting-edge solutions.

"Layher's sponsorship of ScaffEx is not just a financial investment; it is a commitment to the continued advancement of our industry. As we embark on this three-year partnership, we are confident that ScaffEx will become a cornerstone event for our industry, driving progress and showcasing the best of what scaffolding and access solutions have to offer.

"Let's make ScaffEx a legacy event that reflects the excellence, ambition, and professionalism of our trade".

One of the speakers at ScaffEx is David Abraham, Senior Consultant & Lead Trainer at Fulcrum Scaffolding, who will talk about training in the industry. David comments: "I'm

looking forward to speaking about how training has developed over the years and what is available now, including what funding is available and how to get hold of it. Many people don't realise what funding they can access, what the CISRS scheme is, and what is taught."



David Abraham

Conference app

NASC is launching a brand new app for conference delegates, so you can find out who's talking, when and about what – at the tap of a screen. Look out for more details from NASC about the app on social media – or sign up on the day. Among the programme highlights are:



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

08:00	EXPO OPENS	
	Registration	
09:30	Conference Welcome	Clive Dickin, CEO, NASC
09:40	Topic 1: Opportunity	Wayne Connolly, President, NASC
10:00	Topic 1: Opportunity	Lee Rowswell, Managing Director, GKR
11:00	Topic 2: Meet the buyer	Suzannah Nichol OBE Chief Executive, Build UK
11:35	Topic 2: Meet the buyer	James Butcher, Executive Director, NFB
12:10	LUNCH	
13:00	Topic 3: Innovation	Julio Black, Head of Product & Marketing, At-Pac
13:35	Topic 3: Innovation	Dr Yasuo Toyosawa, President, SCEA
14:30	Topic 4: Training and Education	Barry Neilson OBE, Chief Executive, CITBNI & Tim Balcon, Chief Executive, CITB
15:05	Topic 4: Training and Education	David Abraham, Co-founder, Fulcrum Scaffolding Safety
15:50	Final session	David Meade
16:10	Conference Close	
16:30	EXPO CLOSES	

Let's do business...

The ScaffEx exhibition brings together a wide range of industry-leading suppliers demonstrating the latest products, services and innovations in a generous exhibition space. Below you can see the floorplan and start planning out who you'd like to speak to on the day. There won't be a better chance to catch up with so many influential industry partners and suppliers in one single day.

#scaffex24

EXHIBITORS

1a +b	TRAD UK	TRADE LIVE & SALE STOOLING & SAFETY SYSTEMS
2a +b	PERI	PERI
3a +b	PERI	PERI
4a +b	George Roberts	GR RACKS RACKS
5a +b	St Helen's Plant	St Helen's Plant Limited STHP.CO.UK - 01744 898 200
6a +b	Scafom-Rux	scafom-rux
7a +b	Spanset Westport	Spanset
8a +b	Leachs	LEACH'S
9	ATPAC	ATPAC
10	Smart Scaffolder	CISRS
11	CISRS	CISRS
12	ScaffEx25	NASC
14	Citation	Citation
15	Layher	Layher More Possibilities. The Scaffolding System.

SCAFFEX 24
BELFAST
EX 29 NOV 2024

SHOW GUIDE

21 20 19 18 17

16 15 14

22 23 24

1a 2a 2b 4a

1b 3a 3b 4b

5a 6a 6b 8a

5b 7a 7b 8b

12 11 10

25 26 27

28 29 30

9

"Come and meet NASC at their promotional vehicle outside the conference in Hall 1 and register for some great offers."

Layher
More Possibilities. The Scaffolding System.

EXHIBITORS

Layher	Layher	16
PILOSIO	APA Height Access (Pilosio)	17
PILOSIO	APA Height Access (Pilosio)	18
BDS	Buckley Design	19
footprint	Footprint WFM	20
KEWAZO	Kewazo	21
SP Group	SP Group	22
Avontus	Avontus	23
Catari	Catari S.A.	24
UEG	UEG	25
STOCADRO	Stocadro	26
CITB	CITB NI	27
Lighthouse	Lighthouse Club	28
NASC	NASC Insurance Services	29
scaffmag	scaffmag	30
Belfast	TOURISM NORTHERN IRELAND	
visit Belfast		

RISE ABOVE THE REST
JOIN NASC NOW
#ithastobeNASC

Introducing Derek MacHale

Derek MacHale has been appointed as ScaffEx Manager and will lead on making the event an even bigger success in 2025 and 2026. He comments: *"Stepping into the role of event director on ScaffEx is one I'm looking forward to immensely. It's an exciting opportunity to continue to build the vision begun by the team at NASC, especially as 2024 in Belfast, the inaugural event, is building towards an incredibly busy, energetic and successful event this year. A successful event is about bringing people together, helping to create lasting relationships, exchanging knowledge and ideas, creating a positive experience for visitors and exhibitors alike, and it's very apparent ScaffEx is already strongly building on these principles."*

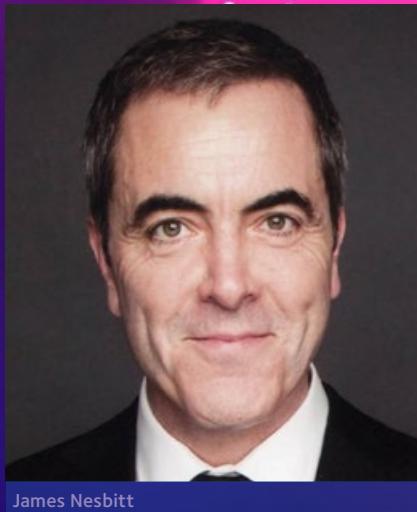
You can get in touch with Derek at derek.machale@nasc.org.uk



Derek MacHale

Scaffolding Excellence AWARDS

2024



James Nesbitt

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.

The Scaffolding Excellence Awards will be hosted by film and television actor James Nesbitt, who will be accompanied by special celebrity guest stars, who will be announced on the night.

#NASCawards24



Lyndon SGB



SCA Group



SRK



V3 Group

THE SHORTLISTS

Apprentice of the Year

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



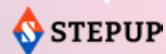
Design of the Year

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 Rowswell
Tom Gent
Alwyn Richards
Ray Johnson



Project of the Year – Small

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



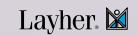
Project of the Year – Medium

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 – Major

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



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





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CONCERN AS BUDGET HITS EMPLOYERS HARD

On 30 October, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves delivered Labour's first budget in 14 years. Reeves said the Government will raise taxes by £40bn, including an increase in national insurance contributions for employers from April. She also announced a £5bn investment in house building and confirmed funding to extend HS2 to London Euston.

Clive Dickin, CEO of NASC, has expressed his disappointment in the Budget, highlighting the lack of support for the business community and calling it 'a missed opportunity'. He adds: *"This Budget has bitten into the heart of business and has left the construction sector, among others, under six months to react to these major changes and plan for a different future. The Budget lacked a business-focused vision, disincentivised employment and hampered innovation, all of which are foundational to future economic health."*

Some of the main changes are:

National living wage

The 6.7% increase in the National Living Wage (NLW) is significantly above inflation. While many in the industry will not be directly affected, this could well form the basis for further salary increases across all employers. There is a concern that while an increase in line with inflation is needed, this rise is excessive and may cause employers to re-consider employing more junior staff.

Employers' National Insurance

The impact of changes to National Insurance (NI) has



Rachel Reeves

PICTURE CREDIT: Lauren Hurley-No.10 Downing St

understandably taken most of the headlines, with a significant increase in the tax rate as well as a dramatic reduction in the threshold. The industry will fear that this will prevent employers from recruiting and may even affect current staffing levels. There is, however, some additional support for the smallest employers.

Business Rates and Capital Gains Tax

Changes to business rates will see thousands of small businesses facing a significant increase. While the Chancellor has removed the cliff edge for small firms, changes to the Small Business Multiplier and Small Business Rates Relief mean a significant increase is on the way. In addition, changes to Capital Gains Tax thresholds could disincentivise investment.

The Budget: key headlines

- The budget will raise taxes by £40bn.
- National insurance (NI) contributions for employers (not employees) will increase by 1.2 percentage points to 15% from April 2025.
- The point at which employers start paying NI will fall from £9,100 a year to £5,000 a year. This will raise £25bn per year.
- The lower rate of capital gains tax (CGT) on the sale of assets will increase from 10% to 18%. The higher rate will go from 18% to 24%.
- Tax thresholds will rise in the future; they are currently frozen but the freeze will end in 2028 and the bands will then increase at the rate of inflation.
- An investment of £5bn in housing, which will increase the affordable homes programme to a budget of £3.1bn.

- The freeze on inheritance tax will continue for a further two years until 2030.
- The minimum wage will rise by 6.7% to £12.21 an hour for people aged 21 and over. This is the equivalent of £1,400 a year for a full-time worker. Workers aged 18 to 20 will see their minimum wage increase by 16.3% to £10 an hour.
- An increase in employment allowance from £5,000 to £10,000 will mean 65,000 businesses won't pay any national insurance at all next year. It will also mean more than a million businesses will pay the same or less than they did previously.
- £1bn will be spent on the removal of dangerous cladding, implementing the findings of the Grenfell inquiry.
- The HS2 rail link to Birmingham will end at London Euston, following speculation that trains would terminate at Old Oak Common in west London.



Matthew Cousins

The industry responds

Matthew Cousins, Commercial Director at Apex Scaffolding (Exeter) and Chair of NASC's Contracts committee, commented: "The Budget left me feeling pretty flat. As a small business owner employing just under 50 people, we have gained absolutely nothing. The only thing

that could be considered as remotely positive is the freeze on fuel duty – but even that doesn't deliver anything new, it just maintains the status quo and kicks a difficult decision further down the road.

"The National Insurance changes will probably add £50,000 to the wage bill – that's potentially two employees we will not now be able to fund. The cost of employing one person on the minimum wage has gone up by about £2,000.

"Perhaps the most worrying aspect of this for an industry still reeling from the ISG failure, and Carillion before that, is that businesses will be working on contracts whose prices were fixed 12–18 months ago and they will just have to absorb this extra cost. There's no way they can pass it on. So this change could easily completely wipe out the margin for some companies on some contracts because the market is so competitive and so price-driven at the moment.

"It's great that there are encouraging noises around infrastructure but there are no hard and fast guarantees that any of it will happen – or that it will be enough to counteract the impact of other changes.

"Now businesses have a few months to sit down and try to work out how this all works for them commercially. There are some serious decisions to make about the work they do, whether they diversify, what work they tender for and so on."



Sarah Klieve

Sarah Klieve, Business Director at High Peak Scaffolding and Chair of NASC's Public Affairs Committee, added: "Of course we want all workers to have the right to a good wage but changes to the minimum wage alongside the changes to National Insurance makes it feel like businesses are bearing the brunt of this Budget. The changes to the minimum wage, both the amount and the age ranges, come on the back of already considerable changes to it in March this year. All of these changes combined will have a particularly significant impact on the scaffolding industry, especially as many labourers fall into the minimum wage bracket.

"As an organisation we do want to keep talking to Government and working with Government to try and soften these impacts; and in the future to have more regular formal dialogue with Government to help them understand our

businesses and the potential impacts of their decisions."



Richard Beresford

Richard Beresford, Chief Executive of the National Federation of Builders, tried to find the positives among the negatives: "The 2024 Budget was always going to be challenging due to the ongoing £22 billion black hole

narrative. Nevertheless, it is positive to see the suspected fuel duty rise did not happen, especially as the construction industry is already paying considerably higher fuel costs after the last government cut their access to red diesel.

"We also welcome the £5 billion funding boost for affordable housing, commitment allowing councils to retain 100% of Right to Buy receipts and the £3.4 billion for retrofitting.

"However, the Government's target to deliver 1.5 million homes is now at considerable risk due to the increase in Employer National Insurance contributions. This announcement will hinder the industry's ability to take on and train new staff and support the next generation of skilled workers. While some may point to planning reforms as the solution, those reforms have not yet been implemented, and it will take years before new projects avail of them."

Eddie Tuttle, Director of Policy, Research and Public Affairs at the Chartered Institute of Building, added: "The Budget offers mixed news for the construction sector. Increased funding for new infrastructure is welcome, as is the

continued emphasis put on housing; but higher taxes, like increased employers' national insurance contributions, are likely to increase financial strains on the SMEs that are so vital to the industry and its supply chain.

"Increased tax rises without consistent monitoring of the impact they have on the health of crucial sectors, such as construction, run the risk of damaging the pivotal role SMEs play. We urge ongoing Government consultation with bodies like CIOB to monitor these impacts on the sector.

"We welcome the Government's plans to introduce the Warm Homes Plan and we hope policymakers will consult with the construction industry on how the grant funding will be targeted, to avoid repeating previous mistakes in other upgrade schemes.

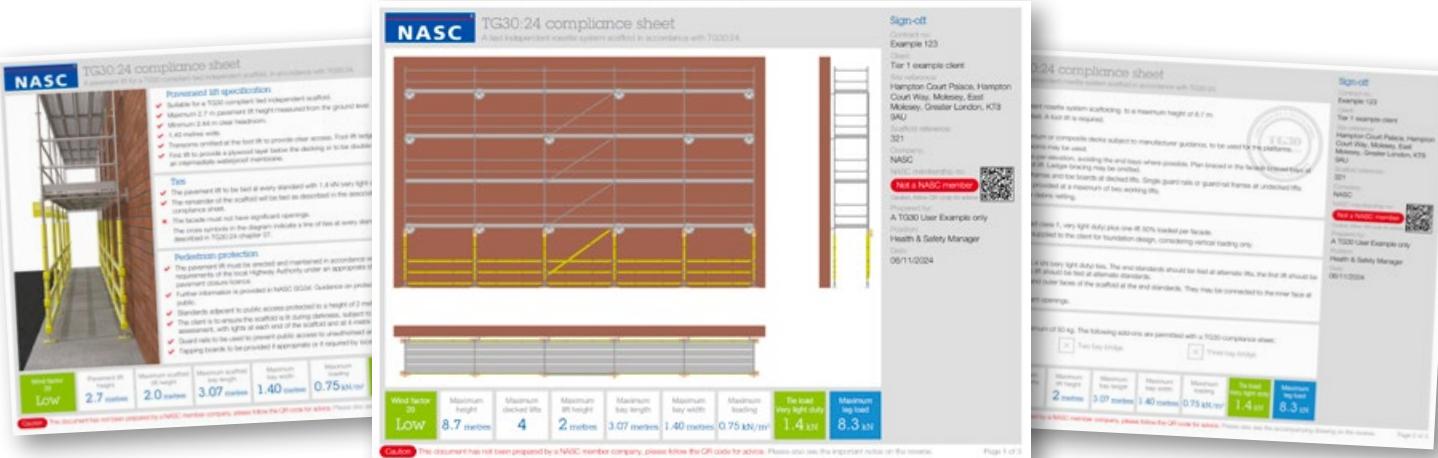
"Finally, building safety remains a critical concern for the construction industry, so we were pleased funding for dangerous cladding remediation was acknowledged as part of the budget, particularly in the wake of the second phase of the report into the tragedy at Grenfell Tower."

CITB chief executive Tim Balcon said: "The Government's continued support for the construction industry through increased investment in the Affordable Homes Programme and the commitment to infrastructure delivery is welcome.

"A strong pipeline of apprentices and construction workers is required to build the millions of homes we need, and key to achieving the government's ambitions is to get the right skills policies in place. It is essential that the new Growth and Skills Levy drive up construction apprenticeship numbers that have declined under the Apprenticeship Levy.

"However, apprenticeships aren't the only route into a career in construction, and we need to ensure we're making all the available pathways into the industry clear and accessible for people, including upskilling and identifying transferable skills from other industries."

TG30 LAUNCH SET TO BE TRANSFORMATIONAL



NASC is preparing to launch TG30, a cutting-edge guidance suite for system scaffolding, at ScaffEx24 on 29 November. This new initiative is set to transform the way system scaffolding is designed and implemented. TG30 has been developed in close collaboration with the manufacturers and suppliers of scaffolding systems to provide the scaffolding industry with practical guidance across the wide range of available system scaffolding.

The goal of TG30 is to provide a robust solution for system scaffolding guidance and compliance, comparable to that offered by TG20, which is the industry recognised guidance for tube and fitting scaffolding. TG30 will facilitate compliance with regulations and good industry practices.

It is a development the industry has been crying out for and comes after a major investment by NASC, who have harnessed the latest technology, allied with expertise from the industry's foremost experts and full technical input from system scaffolding manufacturers and suppliers.

TG30 provides good practice guidance for those involved with the procurement, supply, design, construction and use of system scaffolding. The TG30 suite will consist of:

- The TG30 eGuide, allowing users to generate compliance sheets
- The TG30 Operational Guide
- The TG30 Design Guide
- The TG30 User Guide (A6 pocket sized booklet).

TG30 will provide scaffolding contractors with evidence that they are working to these good practices and to manufacturer guidance in the form of TG30 compliance sheets. These sheets take the same format and approach as TG20 compliance sheets, which have become the UK construction industry standard for tube and fitting scaffolding.

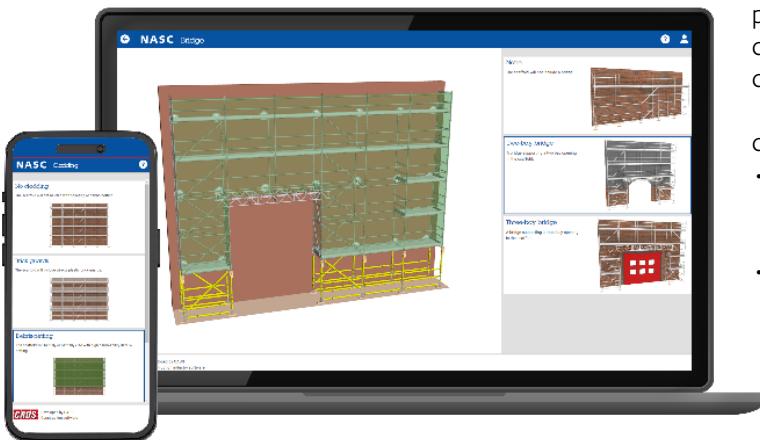
In addition to evidencing good practices, TG30 compliance sheets will also demonstrate that scaffolding assembled in accordance with a compliance sheet is a standard configuration that has been checked by strength and stability calculations to BS EN 12811 and related codes of practice,

thereby meeting the regulatory requirements in Schedule 3, Part 2 of the Work at Height Regulations 2005.

Colin Murphy from NASC's Technical Committee, and the lead on Digitisation on NASC's Council, said: *"For basic system scaffolding structures where the cost of a design can often be prohibitive and the manufacturer's user manual overly complex, the use of a TG30 compliance sheet will be a game changer, giving much needed reassurance to the client and ensuring a safe, consistent approach to construction."*

When TG30 launches, it will offer comprehensive guidance for system scaffolding using the rosette system (otherwise known as a ring system) for independent and tied towers. Throughout 2025, further system types will be released and become available through TG30, including: Cup, Wedge, Pocket and Octo systems, as well as manufacturer systems by late Summer 2025. The TG30 User Guide (A6 pocket booklet) will be made available late in 2025 to accompany the full suite of guidance.





Guidance

The different elements of the guidance are as follows:

The TG30 eGuide is an online tool for the creation of TG30 compliance sheets, which provide definitions of common scaffolding structures in accordance with NASC TG30 and manufacturer guidance. A TG30 compliance sheet may be used to demonstrate that compliant scaffolding does not require bespoke design.

The TG30 Operational Guide will explain the concepts behind TG30 compliant scaffolding, offer practical guidance for the use of TG30 compliance sheets, and provide good practice guidance for the use of common system scaffolding structures that is intended to be read in conjunction with manufacturer guidance.

The TG30 Design Guide is intended for use by scaffolding designers, temporary works engineers, and all those concerned with the design and supply of scaffolding systems.

The TG30 User Guide (A6 pocket booklet) will be made available late in 2025 to accompany the full suite of guidance.

Mixing systems

The TG30 compliant standard and eGuide provide a controlled approach for the compliance checking and construction of system scaffolding when mixing components of compatible TG30 compliant scaffolding systems under manufacturer guidance or the advice of a competent and qualified scaffolding designer or structural engineer as described in TG30 Operational and Design guides.

Over time, scaffolding contractors often accumulate components from various systems and suppliers. The mixing of components from different scaffolding systems is generally not recommended due to potential compatibility issues, and scaffolding contractors should seek advice from their suppliers on any liability or insurance issues that may arise from the use of mixed systems and be aware of the effect on any warranties.

The reality, however, is that there are many systems in use today which use components from different manufacturers, and scaffolders do mix systems; NASC has therefore

developed the TG30 compliant standard and eGuide to provide a safe and controlled approach for the compliance checking and construction of system scaffolding using mixed components.

The following should be considered when contemplating combining different scaffolding system components.

- Contractors should check with the manufacturer or supplier of their system that it is safe to mix with another, specified, similar system.
- Where manufacturer guidance is unavailable, a competent and qualified scaffolding designer or structural engineer should be consulted to perform a thorough technical assessment to determine if the systems are compatible and can be mixed safely. This should include checks on dimensions, geometry and rigidity: even small discrepancies can compromise the structural integrity and safety of the scaffold. The assessment should also verify that the materials used in the different systems have similar strength and durability properties to handle the applied loads uniformly. It should also analyse the load-bearing capacity, stability and overall safety of scaffolding assembled from the mixed system. This may require new technical guidance to be issued, or in some cases, bespoke designs to be produced by a competent scaffolding designer.
- Particular attention should be taken when performing scaffolding inspections to detect any issues arising from the use of mixed components, with special attention paid to the connections and load points.
- Detailed records should be kept of the components used, the design process, and all inspections and tests conducted. This documentation can be necessary for addressing any legal or insurance issues that may arise.

It should be noted that this article is for editorial interest only and does not constitute technical advice. Please strictly follow the guidance in TG:30.



COSTS TO DROP

AS COMMON ASSESSMENT STANDARD LAUNCHES

The complex and expensive landscape of certifications and pre-qualifications is about to become clearer, simpler and cheaper. At ScaffEx, NASC will set out for the first time its plans adopting the Common Assessment Standard (CAS) as an optional add-on to its audit.

Members can register at ScaffEx and get 50% off the optional add-on to the audit, regardless of when that audit takes place.

This initiative will significantly reduce the burden on NASC members, who will be able to drop their subscriptions to multiple certifications. The new process will result in additional questions being asked as part of the NASC audit for those members who opt into the additional service. These will be optional and in line with the requirements of NASC becoming a Recognised Assessment Body.

Currently, when tendering for larger scaffolding contracts, scaffolding and access contractors are often required to complete a selection of prequalification questionnaires. Many members give enormous amounts of time and money to several of the approximately 13 bodies who provide these

certifications. Adopting the CAS and becoming a Recognised Assessment Body offers members a streamlined, cost-effective way to meet all pre-qualification requirements through the NASC audit.



Sarah Klieve

Sarah Klieve, Business Director at High Peak Scaffolding, comments: *"This will be an absolute blessing. We have seven certifications at the moment, which cost thousands in subscriptions, not to mention the audit time needed for every single one. A lot of these bodies do a good job and there's no problem with individual bodies – there are just too many of them doing the same job."*



The [Common Assessment Standard](#), developed by Build UK, is designed to improve efficiency and reduce cost in the construction pre-qualification (PQ) process. A growing number of organisations across the public and private sectors are now using the industry-recognised standard which is not only minimising duplication across the industry but raising the bar in assessing the competence of the supply chain.

	26	Contractors and Clients specifying the Common Assessment Standard for their supply chains
	6	Trade Associations accepting the standard as part of their membership audit scheme
	18,500	Supply Chain Companies certified to the standard

Key Features

1	Certification per year from a choice of Recognised Assessment Bodies	
2	Levels of certification – desktop and site-based to suit a company's needs	
234	Questions covering 10 key areas to fully assess a company's competence	
29	Key questions for which data is shared between Recognised Assessment Bodies	

It's a real strain on smaller companies in particular, eating into their profit margins. Our industry has been crying out for this change for a long time."

NASC has recently achieved ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, which are significant steps towards meeting the criteria of being a Recognised Assessment Body; the organisation will be formally applying to become a Recognised Assessment Body soon. Once NASC has achieved this status, it means that NASC members to meet the CAS through their NASC audit, with no additional questionnaires. This new approach will not only simplify the prequalification process but also reduce costs considerably for NASC members, also saving time and resources while ensuring compliance with all necessary requirements.

About the CAS

The Common Assessment Standard, developed by Build UK and endorsed by the Construction Leadership Council (CLC), is already specified for use by central Government departments and the wider public sector when pre-qualifying suppliers for construction works contracts. It has replaced the now withdrawn PAS 91.

Build UK has recently released an updated version of the CAS. Version 4 has been streamlined following the withdrawal of PAS 91 and updated to include a new Building Safety section, ensuring the Common Assessment Standard can be used to demonstrate that companies have the 'organisational capability' to fulfil their roles under the Building Safety Act. Under the Act, anyone appointing individuals or organisations to undertake design and construction work has a duty to ensure they are competent. Clients and contractors can demonstrate compliance with this duty by specifying that organisations in their supply chain are certified to the Common Assessment Standard, which requires the appropriate management policies, procedures and systems to be in place.

Build UK adds: *"In recent months, the Common Assessment Standard, which is endorsed by the Construction Leadership Council (CLC), has reached a critical mass of companies using it across the sector. A growing list of major contractors and clients are now specifying the Common Assessment Standard for their supply chains, and more than 22,500 suppliers have been certified against it by the Recognised Assessment Bodies. Its use for public sector work has been confirmed by Procurement Policy Note (PPN) 03/24 issued by the Cabinet Office, which specifies that the Common Assessment Standard should be used by contracting authorities when pre-qualifying suppliers for construction works contracts."*

Mark Reynolds, Co-Chair of the CLC, added: *"The CLC is pleased that the Common Assessment Standard can now*



be used by the public sector. It is a real and practical way of reducing bureaucracy and improving quality in the industry and it has come at just the right time. Companies can demonstrate that they meet an agreed industry standard, with clients, contractors, and now public sector bodies able to rely on the certification. The CLC would encourage organisations across the supply chain to use it."

NASC added value

Companies that have the CAS are certified once a year by a Recognised Assessment Body, which NASC is soon to become. The CAS comprises an industry-agreed question set and corresponding assessment standards for the pre-qualification of suppliers. Such is the thoroughness of NASC's own audit process to gain and maintain membership that it is a small step to then gain the additional, optional level.

The result is a hugely diminished amount of work for companies, compared to seeking a CAS from another organisation because most of the work is already done in order to meet NASC's high standards of membership. The reduction in cost is also significant. Some companies are paying out to two, three, four or even more organisations such as CHAS, Constructionline, Achilles and so on, so the potential savings could run into thousands or even tens of thousands of pounds – not to mention the hours of administration saved too.

Build UK has stated that companies that have been certified against the Common Assessment Standard by a Recognised Assessment Body can share their key pre-qualification data with other Recognised Assessment Bodies to increase their visibility amongst more contractors and clients, and Build UK provides the means to do this on its website.

Although NASC is not yet a Recognised Assessment Body, the process is well underway and in anticipation of that process being completed, NASC is offering a one-time only introductory price to register for the audit add-on. NASC members can sign up now and their annual subscription will only begin when NASC has achieved Recognised Assessment Body status.

Apart from the reduced cost, the other advantage of signing up now is that NASC can work with you to understand the needs of your business, where you are in the NASC audit calendar, and how planning ahead will maximise the efficiency and minimise the cost of the process.

It is likely that this product will be fully available to members by the middle of 2025.

While the process to become a Recognised Assessment Body continues, NASC is also working with others in the industry, such as Build UK and the Construction Leadership Council, to raise awareness of the CAS among main contractors to ensure that they are using it and fully understand the way it works. NASC is particularly campaigning on behalf of its members so they benefit from the streamlining of the process and sharp reduction in costs as soon as they are able to take advantage of NASC's new, enhanced audit process.



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NASC INSURANCE SERVICES: BESPOKE COVER FOR THE INDUSTRY

In response to members' concerns over the difficulty, complexity and scarcity of current options, NASC has launched NASC Insurance Services, offering bespoke insurance solutions exclusively for the sector, with enhanced specialist value cover for NASC members.

Designed specifically for the scaffolding and access industry, this service simplifies the often-complex world of insurance, providing comprehensive coverage tailored to the unique risks faced by scaffolding businesses.

With decades of industry experience, NASC Insurance Services delivers competitive, cost-effective insurance packages, supported by expert advice and an in-depth understanding of NASC's stringent standards. The service uses its knowledge of the scaffolding sector to offer members exclusive product extensions, competitive pricing, and a streamlined, transparent process.

NASC Insurance Services offers a comprehensive range of sector specific tailored insurance products, including:

- Liability Insurance
- Property Insurance
- Plant – Own & Hired
- Motor Fleet Insurance
- Professional Indemnity
- Management Liability
- Cyber (Crime) Insurance
- Credit Insurance
- Travel & Personal Accident Insurance



To find out more about NASC Insurance Services, visit www.nascinsurance.com

SURGE IN NASC MEMBERSHIP

NASC has announced that it now has well over 800 members, a growth in some categories of over 24% in one year. As now the largest trade body within the scaffolding and access industry, NASC plans continued growth based on maintaining the highest standards and leading the sector in promoting best practices in safety, quality and professionalism.

With an extensive network of members, including scaffolding contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers, NASC serves as a vital resource for industry expertise and collaboration. NASC's CEO has recently written to every local authority, council and unitary authority questioning the procurement practice of generic accreditations in high-risk operations and the untested issuing of road permits.

NASC's CEO, Clive Dickin, commented: *"Recent incidents with the winter storms and the proliferation of a less than rigorous procurement process within local government have raised concerns. We have raised NASC members' concerns at a local level and will continue to press for better procurement practices, recognising NASC membership standards and audit as the minimum."*

For more information about NASC membership and benefits, visit www.nasc.org.uk or contact NASC at enquiries@nasc.org.uk or 020 7822 7400.

EVEN BIGGER, EVEN BETTER FOR SCAFFEX25

With ScaffEx24 making such an incredible splash in its first year, NASC has vowed to make next year's event even bigger and even better. The event, to be held on 11-12 September 2025, will be a two-day event instead of this year's one-day event and will be held at Manchester Central, a fantastic venue in the heart of one of the UK's most vibrant cities. The city-centre location and on-site car park means the venue is very easy to reach, however you chose to travel.



Additional space means the event will have even more specialist exhibitors who will be able to show their products without restriction. NASC has again committed to making the exhibition and conference elements free, while the 2025 Scaffolding Excellence Awards will be the biggest yet.



SHOW- ONLY OFFERS

NASC members can secure one-off discount prices on two major new NASC products at ScaffEx this month, with both the Common Assessment Standard and TG30 System Scaffolding Guidance being launched. See pages 17-20 of this issue for more information on both of these products.

FINAL REGIONAL MEETING OF 2024

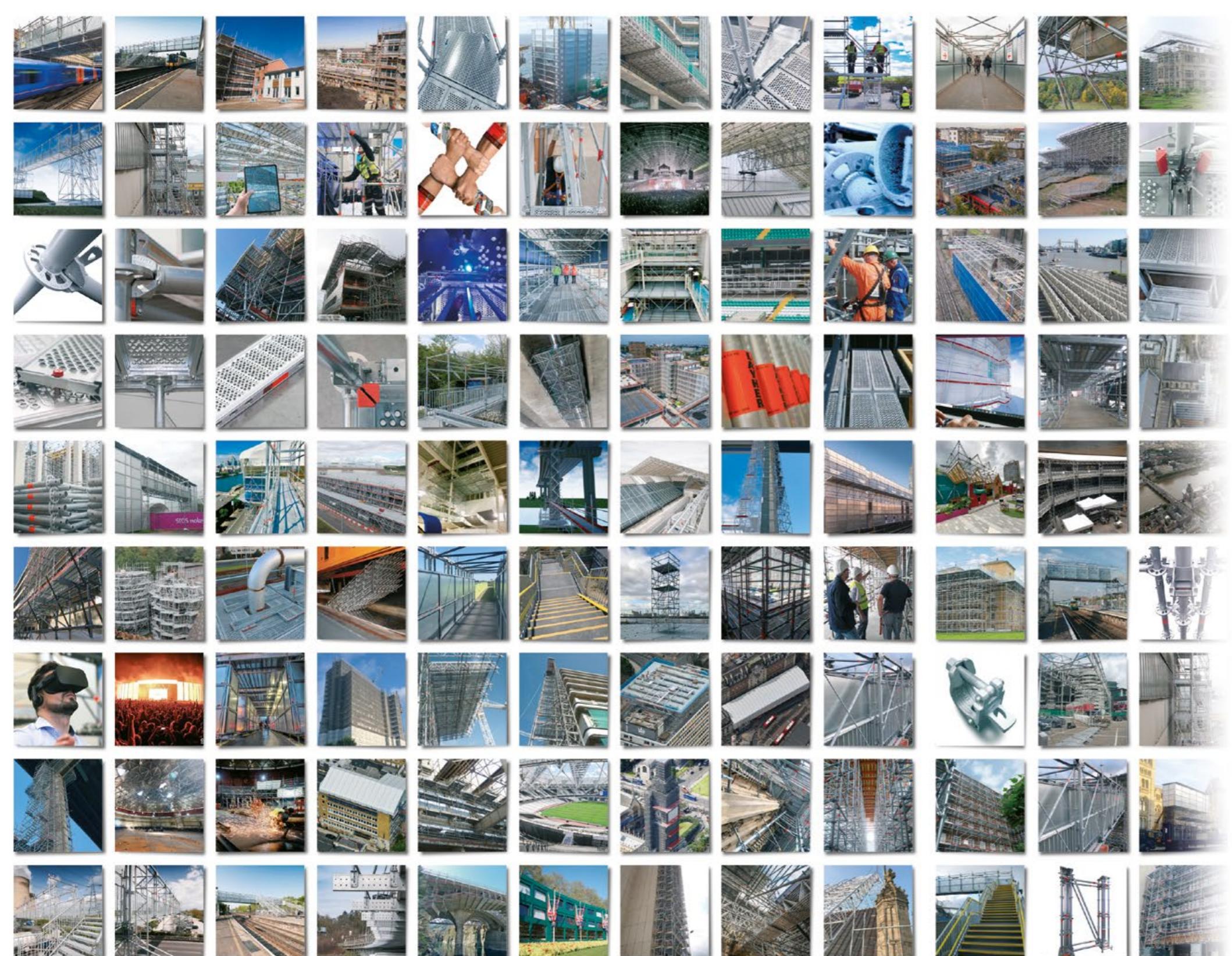
The final meeting of a successful year of Regional Meetings will take place on Thursday 12 December at MTC Coventry. For more information about the event, guest speakers and location, call 020 7822 7400 or register at <https://marketing.nasc.org.uk/p/7O2C-3FX/midlands-regionalmeeting-12december>

Spring 2025 meetings will be as follows:

- Thursday 23 January – Scotland & NI – Doubletree Edinburgh
- Thursday 27 February – South West & South Wales – DoubleTree Bristol
- Thursday 27 March – London and South East – Venue TBC
- Tuesday 15 April – Midlands – MTC Coventry
- Thursday 22 May – Northern and North West – Durham Cricket Ground

NEW SAFETY BULLETIN

A new Safety Bulletin is available for scaffolding contractors working near gas flues. It highlights key risks, including blocking or damaging the flue during scaffold erection or dismantling, and stresses the importance of incorporating these hazards into risk assessments with appropriate controls. Go to the members' area of the NASC website for more information.



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