# Improving quality in construction

The CQI's Construction Special Interest Group's (ConSIG) Training Working Group (TWG) has developed a new training course specification to upskill quality professionals in the construction sector.



**Course under development. Back row:** Gavin Avery, Mike Buss, Eric Loh, Susannah Clark, Rachel Cooper. **Front row:** Anna Ibraeva, Debbie John, Karen McDonald, Georg Georgiev, Nina Abbassi.

Research has found errors in the construction industry are costing the sector between £10-25bn per year (Get It Right Initiative). Eliminating these errors by improving quality would significantly lower this figure. Recent events, which have received significant media attention, also demonstrate quality is fundamental to safety of the built product.

Dedicated quality professionals work within the construction industry to support organisations and projects to achieve the quality outcome it needs. It is important to ensure these people have the right competencies.

To raise the bar in the knowledge, skills and behaviours of these quality professionals, the CQI's Construction Special Interest Group's (ConSIG) Training Working Group (TWG) has developed a specification for a two-day training course – Quality in Construction.

The specification will be used to create an industry-wide recognised training course delivered by CQI's Approved Training Providers (ATPs). More widely, this course may also be used to assist operational team members to understand what they need to do from a quality perspective to ensure successful implementation of all projects.

Topics covered by the training course will include project quality controls, information management, technical assurance and managing project change.

Karen McDonald, TWG Chair, said: "This has been a fantastic opportunity to bring quality professionals and industry experts together to develop a much-needed course for the construction industry. The group initially started with researching the various quality roles and undertook a significant piece of work to research what we want construction professionals to do by understanding specific gaps that exist and identifying the training needs."

Jon Adshead, ConSIG Chair, said that the ConSIG has identified a significant gap in training for our quality professionals in the construction industry. "This course will help provide confidence to the industry that quality professionals have the knowledge and skills required for their role," he explained.

After completing the training course, quality professionals will be able to complete specified modules from the CQI's course portfolio. This professional pathway will result in a CQI and IRCA Practitioner Certificate in Construction Quality Management.

The course is currently being piloted with Costain and will be available more widely in the New Year. Skanska UK also contributed to the cost of developing the exams to ensure the course is available to the construction industry.

Vincent Desmond, CEO at the CQI, said: "This initiative is another great example of our expert members collaborating together and with allied bodies to address shared industry challenges through the CQI's Special Interest Group framework. I am sure CQI members in the construction sector share my thanks for their collective effort in delivering this."

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT GO TO QUALITY.ORG

**The Training Working Group**

The following quality professionals and specialists have been involved in developing the training course:

- Karen McDonald – Skanska UK (TWG Chair)
- Mike Buss – Taylor Woodrow (Competency Working Group Chair)
- Debbie John – CQI (Head of Learning and Development)
- Nina Abbassi – Abbassi Ltd
- Gavin Avery – BAM Nuttall
- Susannah Clark – PMI
- Rachel Cooper – Skanska UK
- Mike Debenham – Business Process Improvement
- George Georgiev – Carey's Group
- Paul Greenwood – Greenwood Consultants Ltd
- Hussain Ali – Jacobs-Thames Tideway Project
- Anna Ibraeva – Mace
- Eric Loh – Murphy Group
- Paul Marsden – BAM Nuttall
- Jonny Montgomery – Shirley Parsons
- Kevin Rogers – Mott MacDonald.

**CONSTRUCTION SIG**
Chartered Quality Institute