

Mark Drakeford AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid
Cabinet Secretary for Finance



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-811
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00156/18

David John Rowlands AM
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10 April 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter dated 15 March, outlining a petition from Mr Paul Fear requesting the Welsh Government to stop using and promoting worker certification on Welsh Government contracts.

The Welsh Government considers that there is merit in requiring worker certification in some instances and a proportionate approach is applied to requiring certification schemes within construction projects. Intelligent use of certification schemes is required to ensure safe and competent delivery of construction projects and to enable smaller, local contractors and trades people to access direct and sub-contract work.

The Welsh Government adopts the SQuID approach to supplier selection which allows consideration of an optional question regarding the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS), or any equivalent certification system. In practice, this means that an assessment is made of each construction project to determine whether the nature of the project should require contractors to confirm that their workforce is CSCS certified.

It is the intention of the Welsh Government that the costs of accessing public contracts, including employment through the supply-chain, should be kept to a minimum.

The CSCS certification scheme is operated by a not-for-profit limited company. Its directors are from employer organisations and unions representing the breadth of the industry. Costs for securing CSCS certification involve £30 for the card itself and the separate CITB Health, safety and environment test costs £19.50.

I am always keen that procurement approaches are reviewed to explore alternative ways of ensuring public sector construction projects provide the safest environment possible for all those workers and employees involved in delivering the schemes. I will monitor the development of the petition to understand whether there is an alternative approach to achieving this.

Best wishes,

Mark

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