



Department
for Education

Department for Education
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Date: 27 May 2025

Dear Mayor Khan

The government wants to work in partnership with local leaders to deliver 1.5 million new homes which will transform our communities.

In the spring statement the Chancellor announced a construction skills package to train up to 60,000 more skilled construction workers. This includes an additional £20m in AY25/26 for adults which will be delivered through expanding the Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) offer by adding more construction courses to the national FCFJ list.

The Challenge

Mayoral Strategic Authorities are crucial to the success of this package. We want to ensure that there is a broad construction offer tailored to local needs and the building and construction challenges faced in your area.

We recognise that as part of our commitment to further devolution we have agreed to give you unringfenced FCFJ funding from academic year 25/26 onwards. We know the benefits of devolution and appreciate MSAs' greater knowledge of local skills needs. We know you have the ability to leverage your provider base to deliver provision that is both innovative and works for the local community. We will continue, subject to future funding decisions at SR, to offer this additional funding on an unringfenced basis.

The Ask

We know that construction is a national priority and a local response is required to get the best outcomes. We will be allocating £4,763,582 of FCFJ funding to your area for the next academic year through the construction skills package. For this, the Chancellor will expect a higher number of construction training places across devolved and non-devolved areas. We will collectively be held to account for this and the DfE will be reporting regularly on the delivery of extra training places. We estimate the additional funding will provide between 1200-1800 additional places for FCFJ. These are estimates and we note this will depend on several factors, such as course size or delivery costs.

I would ask that our Officials work together to agree a reasonable estimate of additional training places that will be made available through this funding which we can report to the Chancellor. To keep the reporting burden minimal, we will look to collect this through Individual Learner Records. The aim of this funding is to significantly boost the number of construction workers nationally and locally and help achieve housebuilding targets. We

recognise that funding is being confirmed close to the start of the academic year and it may be difficult to incentivise immediate growth in priority courses. I would ask our Officials to work together to agree a timeframe over which our ambitions will be achieved.

Next steps

I would be grateful if your team can respond by 30 June setting out your commitments to deliver additional training places for adults making use of the £4,763,582 funding provided for FCFJ. My officials are available to discuss plans as they are developed and provide support where required. We will report progress across the country both in devolved and non-devolved areas to HM Treasury to help understand the overall effectiveness of the package.

Further to our recent discussions, I believe that Mayors could play a fuller role in delivering the construction package and securing the increase in construction workers that we need. I have asked my team to develop this thinking, in conjunction with MSA skills leads.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Bridget Phillipson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP
Secretary of State for Education