

13th January 2010

Office of Chief Executive
Aberdeen City Council

15 JAN 2010



Ms Sue Bruce
Chief Executive
Aberdeen City Council
Town House
Broad Street
ABERDEEN
AB10 1FY

Dear Ms Bruce

MEMBERSHIP OF CONSTRUCTION LICENCING EXECUTIVE

Construction Licensing Executive (CLE) was established in 2002 to operate a licensing scheme for construction trades in Scotland. The scheme is delivered through five trade associations, and now has close on 2000 businesses registered, with 250 of these based in the Aberdeen postcode area. All of these businesses have demonstrated that they meet the highest standards of technical competence, staff qualifications and commitment to training, financial soundness, adherence to statutory requirements on health and safety and employment legislation, and commitment to a code of practice which ensures customers will be treated fairly. In addition to this, the trade associations operate an independent complaints mechanism to investigate any problems which may arise, and – quite uniquely – offer a free warranty scheme which will ensure that any work which is the subject of complaint is rectified or completed, in the event that the complaint is not resolved by the trader.

CLE therefore recognises and promotes the highest standards of workmanship and customer service within the construction sector, which not only provides reassurances for individual private householders, but also has potential benefits for service procurement in the public sector. Through their Trade Associations, many CLE licensed traders are heavily engaged in apprenticeship training in Scotland.

At the invitation of Scottish Government, CLE has been working with SCOTSS over the past year, to develop a national scheme which will offer consumers in Scotland access to information about reputable traders. The joint proposal is based on combining the CLE scheme with an expansion of the Trusted Trader Scheme currently delivered by Dundee City Council, and would involve CLE working in conjunction with Local Authorities to make the combined scheme widely available in all parts of Scotland. The proposals have been endorsed by the Community Safety and Well Being Executive Group within COSLA and are now being considered by Scottish Government – we expect a decision on the way forward very soon.

In parallel with this work, CLE has established a new company with charitable status, to take this work forward. There are two categories of membership of the new charitable company: (a) Scottish local authorities and (b) Trade Associations with a significant number of construction traders in Scotland. The Board of Directors/Trustees will be elected from this membership, with one-third from local authorities, one-third from trade associations, plus one-third co-opted independent representatives who will bring relevant special skills or experience to the Board.

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Please note: Construction Licensing Executive has changed name to:
Construction Licensing Executive (2002) Ltd

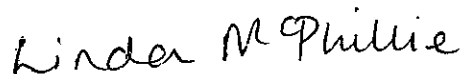
The new charitable company will soon commence trading, taking on the business of the existing non-charitable company.

In November 2008, an invitation for nominations for local authority representation on the new CLE charitable company Board was issued through COSLA Executive Group. Cllr Mark McDonald indicated that he would be interested in joining as a member of CLE, representing Aberdeen City Council. I met with Cllr McDonald yesterday and briefed him on the work of CLE and establishment of the charitable company.

My reason for writing is, therefore, to request that Aberdeen City Council formally considers submitting to become a member of CLE, with Cllr Mark McDonald (or another nominee) proposed as your representative. The Council would assist in the on-going development of CLE but would also benefit from supporting bona-fide local businesses to grow and reducing the impact that poor "cowboy" traders have on the lives of local householders. I should stress that there is no cost associated with this for local authorities, other than the time spent by their elected representatives on Board matters.

I would be pleased to provide any further information you require, and would be happy to come and discuss this with you, if that is preferable.

Yours sincerely



Linda McPhillie
Chief Executive

cc Mr P. Leonard, Director of Housing and Environment
cc Councillor Mark McDonald, Vice-Convener, Housing and Environment Committee