

Licence to Build

Should all building companies in the UK require a licence to build?



What is the current situation?



In the UK, any **person or company** can undertake construction work without demonstrating **qualifications** or a **minimum level of competence**.



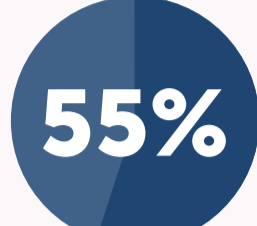
But, other trades such as **gas and electrical** are already **regulated**.



of homeowners put off doing **major home improvement** works because they fear hiring a **dodgy builder***



The amount the UK economy is **missing out** on due to homeowners' fears over **cowboy builders***



of people who commissioned building work had a **negative experience** with their builder**



'**Poor quality work**' was the most common reason for **client dissatisfaction (23%)****

What is being done about this?

A report titled **Licence to build: A pathway to licensing UK construction** was published by the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) setting out the case for why we need a licensing scheme to be introduced.

The FMB established the **Licence UK Construction Task Force** uniting like-minded organisations to drive the campaign forward and develop a proposal for how licensing could work in practice.

Since then, the FMB and the Task Force have been **campaigning for the Government** to introduce a licensing scheme.



"In what other walk of life could you have **so much responsibility** regarding the safety of consumers and not need any **basic level of competence?**"

Brian Berry, Chief Executive of the FMB

"Homeowners shouldn't have to cross their fingers in the hope that their builder will do a decent job or turn up for a day's work."

Paula Higgins, Chief Executive of the HomeOwners Alliance

What is a licensing scheme?

A licensing scheme would **require by law** that all builders in the UK must demonstrate a **minimum level of competence** to be able to operate.

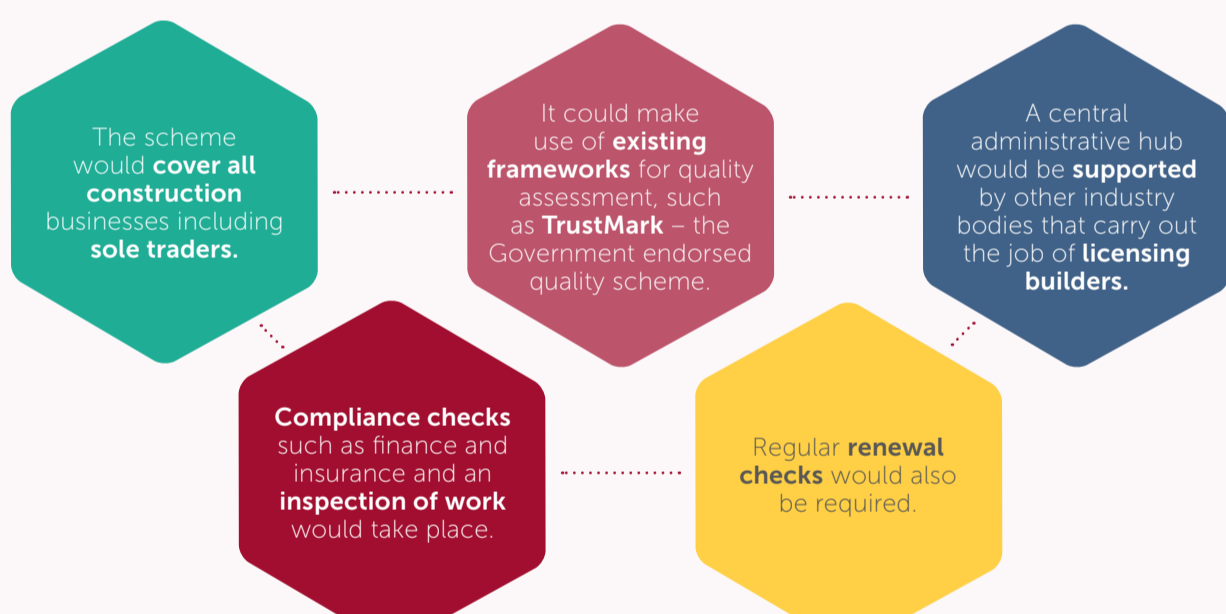
What are the benefits?

A licensing scheme for UK construction would:

- 01 Remove **incompetent** and **rogue traders** from the industry.
- 02 Offer a much **higher level** of consumer **protection**.
- 03 Increase construction output to **boost the wider economy**.
- 04 **Drive up** quality, professionalism and productivity.
- 05 Improve **health and safety** compliance.
- 06 **Enhance the image** of the industry.

How could it work?

The preferred model for a licensing scheme is still being developed in consultation with organisations across the construction industry. One option is:



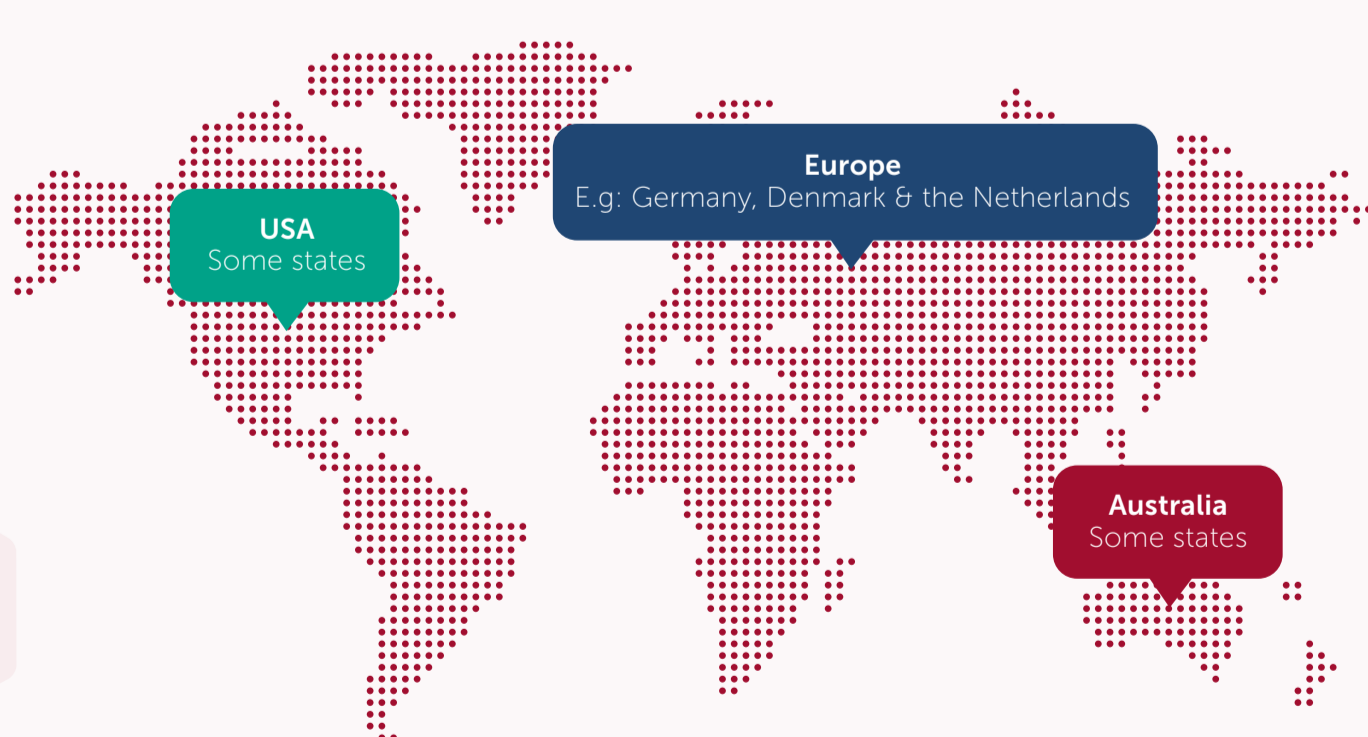
Who supports licensing?

40+ ORGANISATIONS HAVE PLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT

78% OF CONSUMERS WANT TO SEE A LICENSING SCHEME INTRODUCED**

86% OF FMB MASTER BUILDER MEMBERS SUPPORT LICENSING***

Do other countries have licensing schemes?



What happens next?

The Task Force has been working closely with Conservative MP Mark Garnier to promote the campaign in Parliament. A Private Members' Bill, called the *Domestic Building Works (Consumer Protection) Bill*, was debated in Parliament in November 2021.

The Task Force will:

- ✓ Continue to engage with politicians and Government officials to promote the benefits of a licensing scheme; and
- ✓ Continue to raise awareness among consumers through the media.



"There is no other option than for a licensing scheme. The UK needs this with the number of cowboys out there. I've been fixing their mess for 24 years. Things have to change."

FMB Member



What can I do to support the campaign?

You can:

Find out more at www.fmb.org.uk/licensing/ and pledge your support by emailing publicaffairs@fmb.org.uk

Email or write to your MP asking them to back the campaign to licence the UK construction industry.

*Research by OnePoll, commissioned by the FMB, 2017.

**Licence to Build report, 2018.

***State of Trade Survey by the FMB, Q4, 2021.

