



Online response made at

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CBEConsultation/>

Consultation on Qualifications Wales Report of sector review of qualifications and the qualification system

The Institute of Historic Building Conservation is the professional body of the United Kingdom representing conservation specialists and historic environment practitioners in the public and private sectors. The Institute exists to establish the highest standards of conservation practice, to support the effective protection and enhancement of the historic environment, and to promote heritage-led regeneration and access to the historic environment for all.

IHBC welcomes the Report on the Sector Review of Qualifications in Wales and the Qualification System in Construction and the Built Environment and this consultation on that report. Key findings are set out in the report and some robust reforms are suggested in order to deliver clearly articulated, coherent progression routes for learners in Wales.

The Welsh Government described this CBE sector as the *'range of craft, technical and professional businesses whose work focuses on the creation, maintenance and protection of the built environment and associated infrastructure'*. It recognises that in addition to the erection of building and structures, these works also include repairing and renovating. It also states that the challenge of responding quickly enough to the introduction of new technology is significant. However it recognises *that it is not simply a case of replacing old skills with new skills - the industry often needs workers to still be able to apply the old practices or to work with the types of materials that were used in more traditional construction processes*

IHBC welcome the fact that the report recognises that the knowledge and skills to work on traditional and heritage buildings needs to be embedded in mainstream qualifications throughout all stages of learning and this is welcomed. This is a major step forward for the historic environment of Wales and something IHBC note that Cadw is actively promoting through its Strategic Skills Partnership Agreement with CITB, Historic England and Historic Environment Scotland.

However we would like to emphasise that it is important to ensure that this support is in addition to support for specialist heritage skills and not a replacement for such specialist training.

IHBC wishes to flag the following relevant resources:

- IHBC's partnership document 'Conservation Professional Practice Principles', 2017 as it offers an accessible statement on practice principles for specialists working in built and historic environment conservation roles.
- Also BS 7913 describes best practice in the management and treatment of historic buildings. It applies to historic buildings with and without statutory protection. BS 7913 will take you through all stages from initially looking at a building through to the completion of appropriate work. It also guides you with information and sign posts to other resources.