

Press Release

For immediate release

Monday 28th October 2019

Scottish civils workloads rise for the first time in two years

After two years of falling workloads, figures released today by the voice of Scotland's civil engineering contractors, CECA Scotland, show that workloads are finally on the rise in Scotland's civils sector.

CECA's latest Workload Trends Survey for Scotland, which has been published quarterly since 2005, has found that workloads in Scotland rose according to 27% of firms on balance, the first increase since 2017 Q3.

However, despite this positive news, civils contractors remain concerned about the future outlook for the sector. No Scottish firms, on balance, reported that orders had risen. 6% of Scottish firms expected workloads to decline over the next year and 25%, on balance, expected a fall in new work orders. Employment declined and costs are also reported to have risen.

Commenting on the findings, CECA Scotland Chief Executive, Grahame Barn said:

“We are obviously pleased that after two years of declining workloads, there are signs of light at the end of the tunnel however we remain concerned about the future outlook, given that ordered books remain stubbornly static.

These are challenging times for the civils sector and with the ongoing uncertainty around not just Brexit but the future infrastructure pipeline, we will continue to make the case for investment in infrastructure to be the top priority for both the Scottish and UK Governments”

Ends

Note for Editors:

1. The Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA) Scotland represents over 110 contractors of all sizes, covering approximately 80% of the civil engineering market in Scotland. Our members build the infrastructure that provided the basis for economic sustainability and quality of life in communities right across Scotland.
2. A copy of CECA's Workload Trends (Scotland) report for 2019 Q3 is included with this release.
3. Photo of Grahame Barn attached.

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