

Inspiring **Change** Bite-Size Virtual Conference: *“Build Back Fairer: Time To Think Differently”*

Tuesday 21 September 2021, 9.30am-1.00pm, online via Zoom

[Speaker Biographies](#)



Construction
Leadership
Council



Fairness, Inclusion
and Respect
in construction



Reuel Abrams, Arcadis

Reuel is a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers and Senior Programme Director at Arcadis. He enjoys solving client's problems. He has significant experience managing complex major projects on behalf of Government and Private sector clients and advising owners and funders on investment in infrastructure assets. In a career spanning 30 years his career highlight is delivering transport for London's 2012 Olympic Games, first as the ODA's Programme & Finance Director for Transport, then as HS1's Project Director for the Olympic Javelin. Reuel leads Arcadis UK's Ethnicity and Heritage Affinity Group, Origins, he also leads Highways England Supplier Diversity Forum, Race Working Group and is a Career Ready Local Advisory Board Member in Essex.



Clare Chattenton, Jackson Civil Engineering

Claire is Head of HR and Training at Jackson Civil Engineering, a regional contractor with a wealth of experience across a variety of different sectors. Claire leads on the company's wellbeing programme and is a mental health first aider and has been part of the team responsible to increase the number of company MHFA to 25% in order to emphasise the importance of tackling mental health. She is a FIR ambassador who was responsible for the company achieving the CITB BeFair framework accreditation in 2019. Claire has been with Jacksons for 18 years, with experience within training and development and HR. Claire has been working on a large scale project, rolling out a behavioural programme to all staff and is currently in the process of carrying out multiple training sessions to highlight how behaviour can have a positive effect on others and how collaboration is key.



Mark Coates, Bentley

Mark Coates is Bentley's International Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, where he helps to inform and guide government, policymakers, business leaders, and decision-makers globally on the benefits of digital transformation. A former quantity surveyor with an extensive background in global project delivery, Mark first began working in the construction sector 31 years ago. He has worked with Thames Water, United Utilities, ICI, Highways England, The Olympic Delivery Authority, and Crossrail. For the past seven years, Mark has been working in digital transformation and has seen the great advances made in sectors by adopting digital ways of working. He has worked on numerous infrastructure projects, consulting asset owners and their advisors on technology adoption to attain better project results while being conscious of time, cost, and quality.



Jeremy Crook, Black Training and Enterprise Group

Jeremy Crook OBE is the Chief Executive of the Black Training and Enterprise Group, national charity that works to improve outcomes for black, Asian and mixed heritage children and young people in education, employment and the criminal justice system. He has over 35 years' experience of promoting diversity and inclusion and developing practical solutions in the public, private and civil society sector. BTEG supports: Routes2Success and Moving on Up that help young black and Asian people to succeed in education and employment; and EQUAL National Independent Advisory Group that campaigns to improve outcomes for ethnic minority and Muslim groups in the criminal justice system.



Peter Crosland, Civil Engineering Contractors Association

Peter is a Chartered Civil Engineer and is the National Civil Engineering Director for CECA. He provides the Secretariat for the CECA Health Safety & Wellbeing Group, he is Chair of the CONIAC Tackling Ill Health Working Group, and Vice-Chair of the ICE Health & Safety expert Panel. He is a member of the CONIAC Keeping Pace With Change WG and a member of the Health in Construction Leadership Group. Peter was also a board member with Constructing Better health.



Blessing Danha, Ankura

Blessing Danha is a Senior Director in the Construction Disputes and Advisory practice at Ankura's London office. She is a Chartered Civil Engineer with over 15 years of experience in the UK and Middle East. She specialises in Infrastructure Advisory and supporting clients transition to more environmentally and socially responsible business practices. She is Member of Council at the ICE, where she is engaged in shaping strategic issues facing the industry.



Penny Gilg, Vice-Chair of ICE Fairness, Inclusion & Respect Committee

Penny Gilg has been a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers for over ten years and was an active student member in three regions as her career took her around the country. Following successful completion of her Professional Review in June 2018 she joined the Fairness Inclusion and Respect (FIR) committee, this year she took on the role as Vice Chair. Penny initial interest in FIR was around Shared Parental Leave and improving opportunities for fathers and second parents. In the last year she has spent more time researching racism and was heavily involved in organising of ICE's survey and analysis of the results, although this work continues. Penny is a Project Manager in the Transport team at Bristol City Council and has previously worked as a Bridge Engineer and Transport Planner.



Fergus Harradence, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Fergus Harradence leads for the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy on sponsorship of the infrastructure, construction and rail sectors, as well as public procurement policy. Since joining the Civil Service in 2000, he has worked in a number of Departments in a range of policy roles, including trade policy, export promotion, innovation and corporate tax. His current responsibilities include BEIS' policies to help improve the productivity, sustainability and performance of the construction sector, including through encouraging the adoption of digital and offsite manufacturing technologies, the Department's contribution to the Government's house building ambitions, increasing the skills and competency of the construction workforce, and decarbonising the sector. He also manages the BEIS relationship with the Construction Leadership Council, and through that, links with the wider industry.



Jenny McLaughlin, Heathrow

Jenny McLaughlin has worked within the airport industry for over 18 years. This began at East Midlands Airport as an Environment and Safeguarding Officer achieving ISO14001. The last 12 years have been at Heathrow Airport in a number of departments including Environment, Airside and now Infrastructure as a project manager. Jenny has delivered a number of business changes, from new aircraft de-icing process, introducing new IT applications, to building a remote coaching gate in the middle of a live terminal. Jenny is the Lead for Heathrow's Disability Network and brings that to her Project Management role. Jenny advocates that all projects should be designed to be systematically inclusive. By designing out barriers, we can ensure that everyone has an equitable chance to be safe, included and belong.



Martin Pratt, Ince

Martin specialises in advising companies and senior professionals on employment law matters. He acts for employers from a variety of sectors, including law, construction, logistics, media and the arts, to resolve any employment law issue. He also represents professional private clients, like public company directors, LLP members, lawyers, bankers, hedge fund managers and tech entrepreneurs, in a variety of complex issues. These range from boardroom disputes, restrictive covenants, discrimination, dismissal and workplace investigations, through to the negotiation of new contracts and remuneration structures.



Alasdair Reisner, Civil Engineering Contractors Association

Alasdair Reisner is the Chief Executive of the Civil Engineering Contractors Association (CECA). CECA is the representative body for the UK's civil engineering contractors, who build and maintain the nation's critical infrastructure networks in the key sectors of transport, energy, water, waste, and communications. CECA represents over 300 contractors of all sizes, covering approximately 80% of the civil engineering market in Great Britain. CECA members employ close to 200,000 people, deliver work worth around £15 billion every year, and build or maintain infrastructure that provides the basis for economic sustainability and quality of life in communities across the country.



Emma Stewart MBE, Timewise

Emma is co-founder, previous CEO and now Development Director at Timewise, the UK's flexible working experts. Her experience includes conducting research and creating innovative programmes for change, to delivering training and consultancy, spanning both the private and public sector. Emma is well known as a key opinion former, advisor and speaker on flexible work. She has contributed to numerous government taskforces, reports and initiatives. Emma has won numerous awards including ones for social enterprise and innovation from the Observer, Nesta and the Institute of Directors, amongst others. Prior to co-founding Timewise and before that, Women Like Us, Emma worked in a range of development roles across the private, civic society and social enterprise sectors and within documentary television.



Nigel Stroud, Heathrow

Nigel has worked for 30 years in construction, Implementing Digital Asset Information strategies and evangelising in efficient data workflows. His focus is always on a single source of data, providing decision making capabilities for a diverse customer base. As a practitioner, he has adopted a 'keep it real' approach enabling usable and sustainable solutions to be adopted. His manufacturing and assembly background have utilised his analytical skills to develop and implement time saving processes. He was privileged to have worked for the duration of Heathrow's Terminal 5 and Terminal 2 programmes, setting up and ongoing management of the Common Data Environment and digital deliverables. He is currently working on implementing a companywide digital asset information strategy.



Briony Wickenden, Civil Engineering Contractors Association

Briony believes there are exciting and rewarding opportunities for everyone in construction, but the industry must work together to attract talent from a more diverse pool and create inclusive environments where everyone feels valued and supported throughout their career. With many years of experience in the industry, Briony has represented the civil engineering sector on a number of high level national training and EDI related bodies. She currently leads a steering group made up of clients and contractors to develop the Fairness, Inclusion and Respect Toolkit for Construction, sits on the CLC Culture Group, ICE FIR Group and ICG EDI Group.



Matteo Zallio, Motionspot

Matteo is an award-winning designer, researcher and adjunct professor on a mission to make buildings and their technologies accessible and inclusive for all. He is currently a Marie Curie senior research fellow at the University of Cambridge, UX researcher at Motionspot, and previously a Fulbright fellow at Stanford University, and an A. Graves fellow at Technological University Dublin. He has a unique background in helping businesses to develop futuristic technologies that are inclusive and consider different aspects of human diversity. He is the chairman for the standard ISO TC 314 at the National Standards Authority of Ireland, member of the scientific committee at AHFE International, judge panelist and speaker worldwide.