



SCOTTISH PLANT OWNERS ASSOCIATION

EST. 1950

28th July 2025

Highland & Islands Skills (CIC)
Kintail House
Beechwood Business Park
Inverness
IV2 3BW

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of the Scottish Plant Owners Association (SPOA), representing more than 300 member businesses who collectively employ over 40,000 people across Scotland, we are proud to offer our strongest possible support for the proposed Centre of Excellence in the Highlands.

For three quarters of a century, Scotland has faced a widening skills gap in plant operations and infrastructure delivery. This gap is now at crisis point. With over £200bn of infrastructure investment planned across the



28th August 2025

Highland & Islands Skills (CIC)
Kintail House
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IV2 3BW

Dear Sirs,

We welcome the proposal for a Centre of Excellence for our industry.

Our company delivers civil engineering projects at remote and demanding locations. We are not only fully committed to safe working practices but also fully committed to safe working practices and the greatest risks to the region's and the industry.

We have always prioritised training and development for our staff.



28/08/2028

Dear Sirs,

Aventus Energy is proud to deliver engineering, fabrication, and installation solutions across offshore wind, oil & gas, and wider energy projects throughout Scotland and the UK. Our work ranges from small scale offshore developments to complex offshore fabrication projects, often in some of the most remote and challenging environments in the world. It is central to delivering safe and reliable energy solutions.

ORKNEY BUILDERS (CONTRACTORS) LTD

Crowness Road
Hatston
Kirkwall
Orkney KW15 1RG
Email: stephen@orkneybuilders.com
Tel: (01856) 871447
Mob: 07753 723100

Callum Mackintosh
Director
Highlands & Islands Skills (CIC)
Kintail House
Beechwood Business Park
Inverness
IV2 3BW

Dear Callum,

Letter of Support – Centre of Excellence for Sector Skills, Safety and Innovation

I am writing on behalf of Orkney Builders (Contractors) Limited to express our full support for the development of a Centre of Excellence for Sector Skills, Safety and Innovation in Inverness, being led by Highlands and Islands Skills (CIC) in collaboration with CITB, the National Construction College, ECITB, and the University of the Highlands and Islands.

As a business operating in Orkney, we play an active role in delivering critical projects throughout the Islands. Our operations span across all of the Orkney Islands, and we currently employ 85 staff. With over a number of infrastructure projects planned across the Islands through to 2040, we foresee significant growth potential and the need to expand our workforce in the years ahead.

We are acutely aware of the growing skills shortage across our industry, particularly in specialist roles such as plant and crane operators, steel fixers, groundworkers, scaffolders, and utility workers. The difficulty in accessing local training opportunities means that, too often, our workforce is required to travel long distances to Glasgow or even Norfolk to receive essential training. A dedicated, locally based Centre of Excellence would be a game-changer for the industry.



Highland & Islands Skills (CIC)
Kintail House
Beechwood Business Park
Inverness
IV2 3BW

27th August 2025

Dear Sirs,

We write to express our support for your plans to establish a Centre of Excellence for skills and safety in the Highlands.

Capstone Construction are local housebuilder, delivering new homes across the region, we see daily the challenges caused by a shortage of tradespeople. From bricklayers and joiners to site



torquer Ltd.

Spey House, Dochfour Business Centre, Inverness, IV3 8GY, Scotland, UK

Dear Callum,

Letter of Support for Hi Skills Centre of Excellence

On behalf of Torquer Ltd, I would like to express our strong support for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in the Highlands promoting skills, safety and innovation in the construction sector.

Torquer Ltd designs and manufactures innovative lifting solutions, including the HALO hands-free autonomous load orientation device and SPEAR self-positioning engage and release system. These products are used to improve safety and efficiency on construction sites. We are deeply committed to advancing safe lifting practices and working with local companies when manufacturing our products.

The lack of accessible training and certification resources locally poses real challenges when preparing staff for work on client projects. We recognise the current shortage in the Highlands of flexible premises for startup



Callum Mackintosh
Highlands and Islands Skills CIC
Kintail House
Beechwood Business Park
Inverness
IV2 3BW

30th June 2025

Dear Callum,

This letter affirms our commitment to contribute to the development of the Infrastructure Skills Centre in the Highlands.

Any business operating within the Highlands and Islands has a responsibility to avoid any disruption to the region's infrastructure.

To achieve this, we need to ensure that our workforce is equipped with the skills and knowledge to deliver high-quality infrastructure projects.

Aventus Energy
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Invergordon, Scotland,
E-Mail: operations@aventusenergy.co.uk
Tel No: +44 (0) 134

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Tel No: +44 (0) 134

28/08/2028

Dear Sirs,

Aventus Energy is proud to deliver engineering, fabrication, and installation solutions across offshore wind, oil & gas, and wider energy projects throughout Scotland and the UK. Our work ranges from small scale offshore developments to complex offshore fabrication projects, often in some of the most remote and challenging environments in the world. It is central to delivering safe and reliable energy solutions.

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Director
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Scottish Building Federation

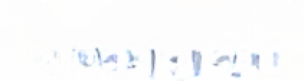


Glen Earrach

Balfour Beatty



Barhale



Highland & Islands Skills (CIC)
Kintail House
Beechwood Business Park
Inverness
IV2 3BW

27th August 2025

Dear Sirs,

Global Crane Services provide lifting solutions to clients across construction, energy, and civil engineering projects throughout Scotland and the wider UK and Ireland. Our work takes us from major infrastructure projects in central Scotland to some of the most remote and challenging environments in the Highlands and Islands, where our

THE UKS PLANT HIRE PROFESSIONALS

blackwoodplanthire.co.uk [in](#) [f](#) [@](#)



Highlands & Islands Skills (CIC)
Kintail House
Beechwood Business Park
Inverness
IV2 3BW

6th July 2025

Dear Sirs,

The future of the region is secure that future engineering. N the region owe

We are facing While this report these roles. To and right wher

Currently, Black Construction young people. careers easier.

We strongly be provide the m of plant operat industry where which will be c

At Blackwood support it how

We encourage The Centre ha workforce, whi

We're excited Yours faithfully

Paul McCormac
Managing Dire



STODDART CRANE HIRE LTD

Unit 17 Tomich Industrial Estate
Muir of Ord
IV6 7WA
Tel: 01463 871167

Highlands & Islands Skills (CIC)
Kintail House
Beechwood Business Park
Inverness
IV2 3BW

Date: 3rd July 2025

Dear Sirs,

We are excited to learn of your project to develop a significant centre of excellence for sector skills, safety and innovation in the Highlands.

Stoddart Crane Hire has proudly served customers across the construction, energy, and civil engineering sectors for over 20 years, providing services throughout the Highlands and Islands, including the most remote locations such as St Kilda and Unst in Shetland, as well as across the rest of Scotland and the UK.

McFADYENS CONTRACTORS

(CAMPBELTOWN) LIMITED

Civil Engineering and Drainage Contractors,
Plant Hires and Quarry Masters

GLEBE STREET, CAMPBELTOWN, ARGYLL PA28 6LR
Tel: 01586 552961 • E-mail: info@mcfadyenscontractors.co.uk



Mr Callum Mackintosh
By E-mail callum@hi-skills.org

05/09/2025

Dear Callum

Centre of Excellence – Training Facilities

Thank you for your recent communications regarding the above subject. McFadyens Contractors (Campbeltown) Ltd is a civil engineering contractor and Plant Hirer established in 1901 undertaking principal contractor projects for our clients. We support the utility industry of electricity, water and gas on both major new infrastructure works as well as maintenance of the existing infrastructure. We further carry out design and build commercial buildings for our clients along with

Balfour Beatty



Barhale

