Does the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 have an uncertain future?

Eight months since coming into force, and just two months since the transition provisions came to an end, revisions to the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (“CDM 2015”) could be introduced in 2016

One of the key measures of George Osborne’s Autumn Statement and Spending Review was to inject close to £7bn into the housebuilding market in order to deliver 400,000 new homes by 2019 including those aimed at first time buyers.

Having taken a step back as to how such an aim is to be implemented, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills has today launched a new cutting red tape review for the house building industry, which will include potential changes to CDM 2015.

The Government’s aim is to “identify and remove unnecessary regulatory barriers to growth and associated costs to the house building sector, while ensuring necessary protections are maintained. It will build upon previous work of the government to identify an initial list of regulatory burdens on house builders and identify opportunities to reduce these”.

CDM 2015 is a key part of this. While it is undoubtedly critical that risks to health and safety are managed effectively, the review will obtain the views of those smaller housebuilders who may feel some of the provisions will prevent the delivery of new homes, by adding additional cost and/or time.

Any proposed changes will have to be balanced with the overall aims and objectives of CDM 2015 as well as compliance with the key EU directive for health and safety, Directive 92/57/EEC for temporary or mobile construction sites.

The review closes on 13 January 2016 – watch this space!

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