

# Construction skills training in prison

## Ready for the real world

By **Robert Taylor**, Trades and Employability Team Leader, HMP Addiewell.

All the cooking and cleaning in HMP Addiewell is undertaken by the prisoners themselves. With 720 men here, it's hard work, but our construction skills courses are still hugely popular. Sometimes, these certificates are the only ones they've ever earned. Prisoners also learn the soft skills of cooperation and communication, as well as confidence, trust, and optimism for their future when they are released.

### What you need to know

- 1 We offer a nationally recognised certification.** Our training is aligned to the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS), which includes the 'Labourer card' you need to start work on a site.
- 2 Health & Safety is the top priority.** Successful completion of the Level 1 Health & Safety in Construction Environment course is a pre-requisite for many other courses any others, like painting and decorating.
- 3 Qualifications are externally assessed.** The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) attend on-site to mimic the exam conditions you'd find anywhere else.
- 4 We try and make it inclusive.** The Construction Site Certification Scheme (CSCS) course is an intense two weeks, but learners can use headphones to access materials in their first language. We support them every step of the way.
- 5 It's part of a broader education package.** We also run courses on industrial cleaning, including biohazards. It's a big site with many employment opportunities for prisoners to keep the prison clean. This all supports our aim to reduce re-offending and change lives for the better.



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Construction Site training is extremely popular with prisoners. They enjoy learning new skills which also helps them to secure employment on release and lead a more positive future.  
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### Construction at HMP Addiewell

Accredited by the Scottish Qualification Authority and Construction Industry Training Board (CITB).

Level 1 Health & Safety a pre-requisite for all vocational training courses.

Can work towards Site Supervision Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS) certification.

### Learning in numbers

180 learners in 2023.

90% pass rate for construction skills.

18 learner rooms.

21 education staff delivering both academic and vocational training courses.