

Mark Drakeford AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid
Cabinet Secretary for Finance



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-811
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/00284/18

Ms Sarah Beale
Chief Executive
Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)
Bircham Newton
Kings Lynn
Norfolk
PE31 6RH

20 June 2018

Dear Sarah Beale,

I am writing following a letter I have received from Mr David Rowlands AM, Chair of the Petitions Committee, in relation to a petition brought by Mr Paul Fear regarding use of worker certification in Welsh Government contracts – CSCS cards in particular. A link to the petition, which has attracted 66 signatories, is provided below:-
<http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=21489>

One of the concerns raised by Mr Fear is that the CITB health and safety test discriminates against people with dyslexia. I have provided the relevant excerpts from his letter below for your reference:-

'The CITB health & safety test discriminates against people with dyslexia, learning difficulties and poor education. The test requires revision of a rather large health and safety book, the test is done on a touch screen computer terminal. The test centre will read out questions and answers for the applicant, however many forms of dyslexia are auditory as well as visual. Also no extra time is given. Rather than a test, a health and safety course with visual aids should be used to stop this discrimination.

It has also come to my attention, talking to my apprentices, that CITB requires minimum GCSE requirements in Maths and English for apprenticeships. Again this is discrimination. I am dyslexic, I failed both English and Maths in school. Yet I am a very skilled carpenter and I also achieved a business HND. My lack of GCSE qualifications has never stopped me being skilled in carpentry, carpentry actually helped me to learn Maths and English.'

I informed Mr Fear I would draw these points to your attention and seek your views so would be grateful if you could consider and let me know your thoughts.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
Mark Drakeford

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cc. David Rowlands AM, Chair, Petitions Committee
Mark Bodger, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Wales