



Future Trends: Architect's Profession

CPD Providers Network Forum

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Artificial Intelligence
Climate Change
Building Safety Consultations
Guidance and Competence



Artificial Intelligence

RIBA's Policy Place in the AI Conversation

Two Areas for AI and Policy:

- Policy about AI itself.
- Policy positions (or outcomes) that AI might support (such as safety or sustainability).

RIBA's Policy Place in the AI Conversation

Tool Use

Advising on the tools that are available, how they might be used in architectural practice, and which to use.

A Framework for AI

Providing a structure to describe the various ways in which AI might be applied through the Plan of Work

AI and the Profession

Understanding the views of the profession about AI, practice risks and opportunities, and the future of the profession.

RIBA's Policy Place in the AI Conversation

Tool Use

Advising on the tools that are available, how they might be used in architectural practice, and which to use.

The Institute should not provide a lead here

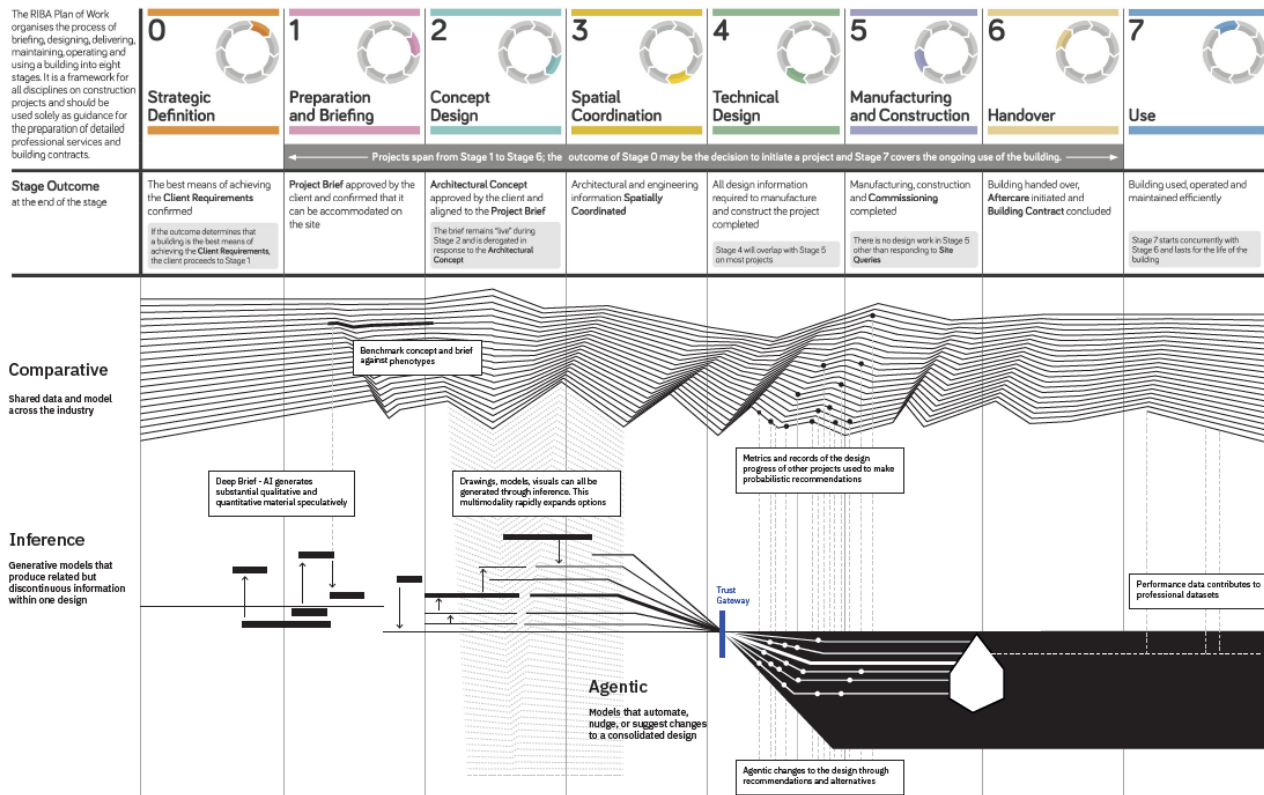
- Members are leading the way.
- We can provide ways for them to share their experience (as we have been).

RIBA's Policy Place in the AI Conversation



A Framework for AI

Providing a structure to describe the various ways in which AI might be applied through the Plan of Work



RIBA's Policy Place in the AI Conversation

Ethical Use of AI

Support for practices on developing and implementing an AI use strategy for all staff to follow and engage with.

- A framework for informed decision-making
- Leadership and organisational buy in
- Trusted information
- Data and IP protection
- Competence and oversight
- Transparency and communication to clients and collaborators
- Permitted use

RICS have produced a Global Standard on Responsible use of artificial intelligence in surveying practice:

<https://www.rics.org/profession-standards/rics-standards-and-guidance/conduct-competence/responsible-use-of-ai>

RIBA's Policy Place in the AI Conversation

AI and the Profession

Understanding the views of the profession about AI, practice risks and opportunities, and the future of the profession.

AI Research

- RIBA AI Report 2026.
- RIBA Qualitative Research
- Collaboration with the Bartlett School of Architecture

Specific policy questions that need exploring:

- *IP.*
- *Risk allocation and ownership.*
- *Insurance.*
- *Reserved matters and AI.*
- *The 'Competency Principle'.*

RIBA's Policy Place in the AI Conversation

AI and the Profession

Understanding the views of the profession about AI, practice risks and opportunities, and the future of the profession.

Using AI and data to re-establish the professional standing of architects.

- Outcome based modelling
- Societal health and well being
- Sustainability
- Demonstrable financial benefits
- Climate Adaptation
- Stranded Assets and Insurability



Climate Change



UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard

UKNZCBS Version 1

BBP | BETTER
BUILDINGS
PARTNERSHIP



The Institution of
StructuralEngineers



RIBA



RICS



Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard

The UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard enables our industry to verify built assets as Net Zero Carbon in line with the UK's climate targets.



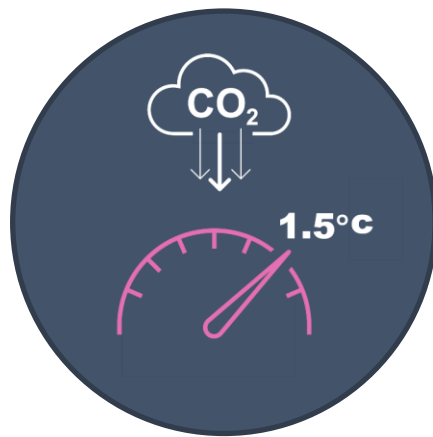
Rule book



Sectoral



Carbon and Energy



Science-led

NZCBS Sectors

Homes	Sport and Leisure	Hotels
Offices	Retail	Commercial Residential
Schools	Culture and Entertainment	Storage and Distribution
Healthcare	Science and Technology	Datacentres
	Higher Education	

NZCBS Technical Requirements

Limits are set for:



Upfront Carbon



Operational Energy



Fossil Fuel Free



District Heating and Cooling Networks



Refrigerants



Heating Delivered

Targets are set for:



On-site
Renewable
Electricity
Generation

There is an
optional reporting



Offsetting

There are reporting requirements for:



Life Cycle
Embodied Carbon



Operational Water
Use

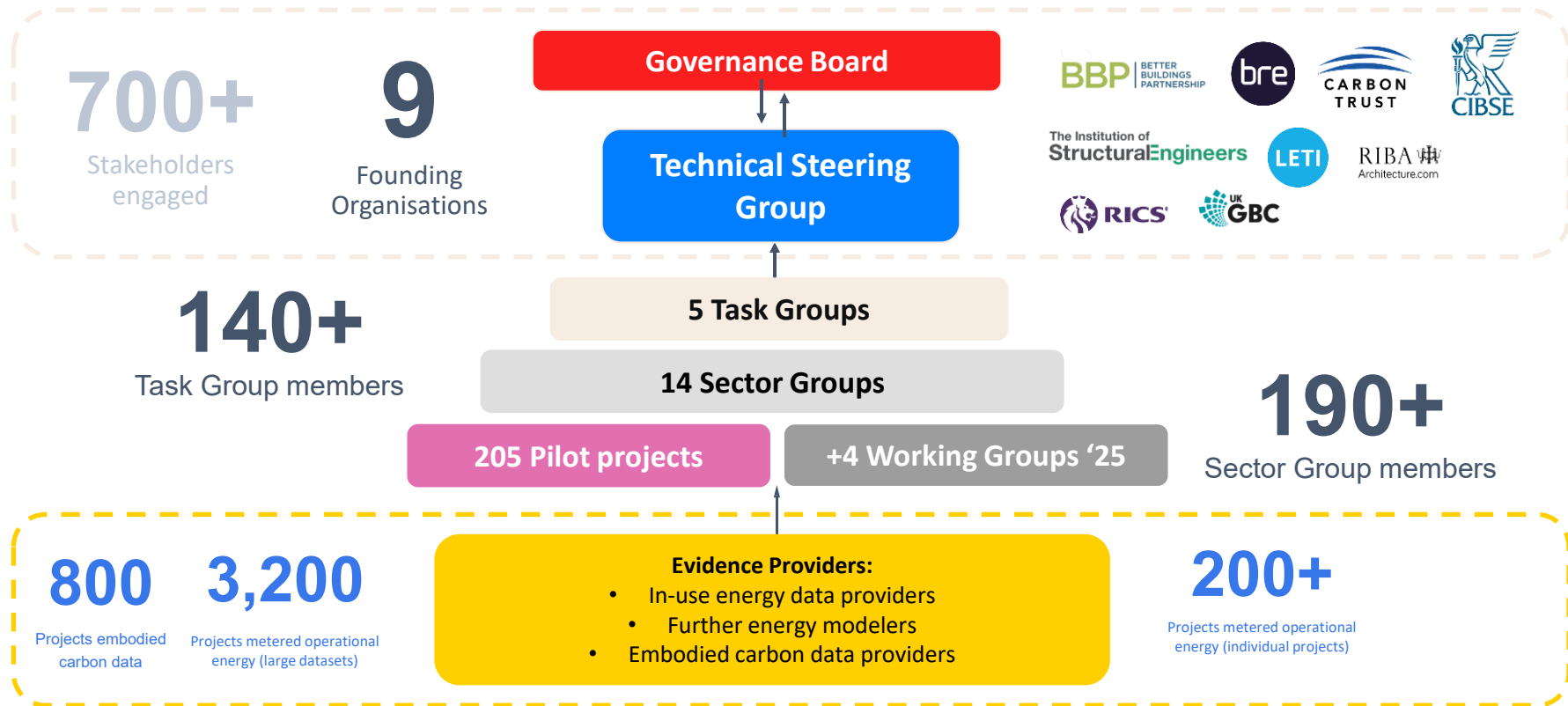


Electricity Demand



Heating and
Cooling delivered
to the building

How was it developed?



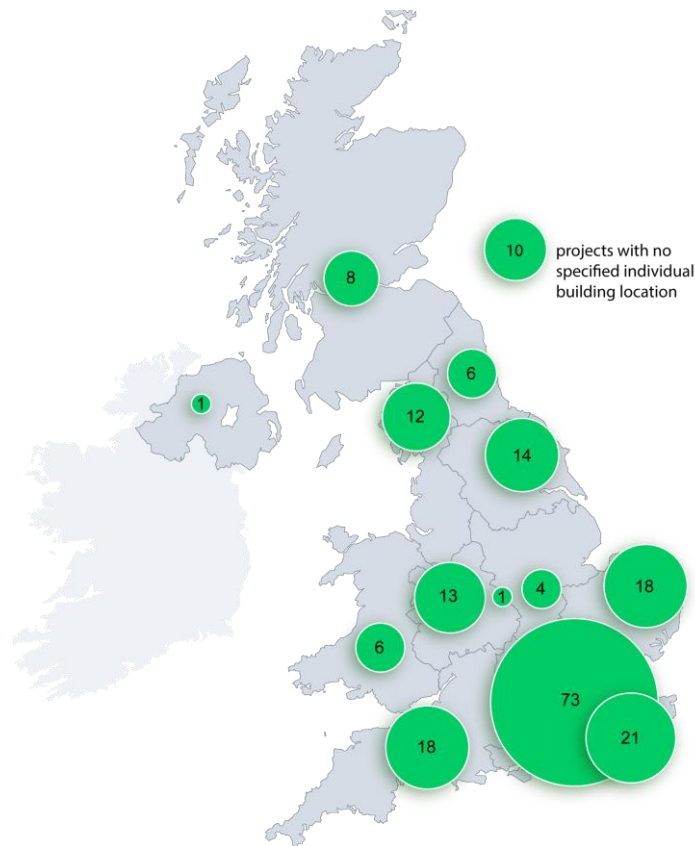
Pilot Programme Representation

205 Projects

134 Owners

All Sectors
represented

All aspects of the
Standard tested



RIBA Climate Literacy Test pilot just launched

Human Factors: Covers health, wellbeing, biophilic design, and community aspects.

Circular Economy: Focuses on resource efficiency, designing for change, waste management, and responsible sourcing.

Energy and Carbon: Addresses reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions in the built environment.

Water: Discusses water cycles, management, pollution, and climate impacts like flooding.

Ecology and Biodiversity: Explores nature-based solutions, urban biodiversity, and land use planning.

Connectivity and Transport: Covers site selection, walkability, low-carbon transport, and regional infrastructure.



Building Safety

ADB Consultation

- Small clarifications and technical changes to the guidance
- Consolidating guidance for building work on existing buildings
- Introducing a threshold where ADB guidance should not apply when combustible structural elements are used
- Revising and updating guidance on external wall systems roofs and balconies – all building types and heights will have a reaction to fire classification.
- Excluding laminated glass product balustrades from the ban on combustible materials in external walls (Regulation 7.3)
- Recommending provision of evacuation lifts in residential buildings above 18m and clarifying guidance for non-residential buildings

ADB Consultation

- Updating terminology on ‘sheltered housing’, introducing the new term ‘specialised housing’, and including provisions for alarm coverage at a minimum of Category LD1
- Introducing updated guidance on roofs, including new provisions for incorporating photovoltaic (PV) panels
- Increasing the fire resistance rating of open-sided car parks (double resistance in most cases).

Construction Products Reform White Paper

Government has identified the following issues to be addressed:

- Safety is not the central focus
- Limited regulatory coverage (1/3-2/3 covered by a standard) and only 37% of the market is regulated under the CPR.
- Fragmented regulatory landscape:
- Weak institutional oversight, competence, rigour and transparency of testing, and certification
- Inadequate product information
- Lack of digitalisation and poor product traceability
- Insufficient enforcement
- Need to drive competence, culture, and accountability

Construction Products Regulated in 2 ways

Products will either be regulated by designated standards – retaining consistency with the revised EU regime where Gov objectives are met.

Or

Risk-based general safety requirement – manufacturers responsible

And

Additional measures to enhance the regulatory framework

Construction Products Regulatory Enhancements

Additional measures to enhance the regulatory framework:

- Enhanced product information and transparency Digital solutions for enhanced product information
- Strengthening testing and certification (licensing all UK Conformity Assessment Bodies)
- Improved enforcement mechanisms
- Strengthening route to redress
- Sustainability and environmental considerations
- Accountability and competence
- Setting the path to implementation (long term)

Construction Products Information

Enhanced product information and transparency:

All construction products must feature clear, accessible labelling and product information that outlines critical safety information. Product information must be accurate and understandable to the user. The intention is to promote transparency and empower clients and builders to make decisions critical to safe selection and use, based on reliable information.

Already requirements for the RIBA CPD Providers Network.

Construction Products Proposed Duties

principal designer: ultimately responsible for ensuring that what is specified and installed is suitable and safe for the intended use. The principal designer would be expected to consider the end use and undertake actions commensurate to that risk. This could be supported by guidance or statutory obligations to identify and mitigate risks in 'safety critical scenarios'.

principal contractor: responsible for ensuring that installation is carried out correctly and appropriately. They would be expected to demonstrate how they have assessed the potential risks and taken appropriate action to mitigate those. In some instances, this could be by only using installers who meet certain competency requirements

Construction Products Proposed Duties

Manufacturers: will be responsible for meeting obligations in relation to providing product information. Increased take-up of robust third-party certification schemes could also support product selection and installation, along with support for competent installer schemes.

Current Building Regulations Duties

Current approach is more delineated:

Designers: design decisions should ultimately lead to compliance with building regulations.

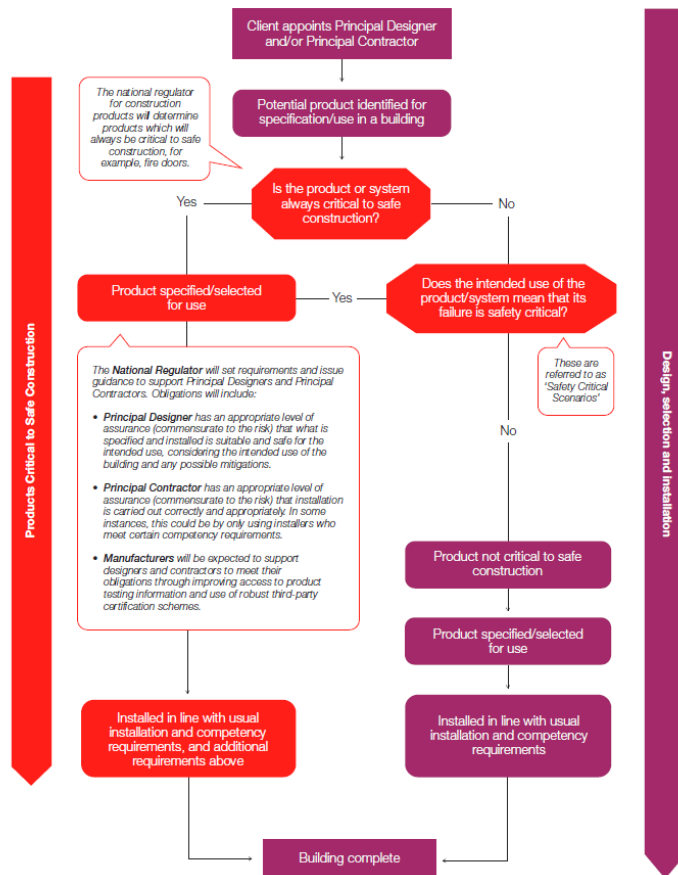
Principal designer: coordinate to achieve compliance, but design responsibility rests with designers.

Contractors: responsible for compliant construction

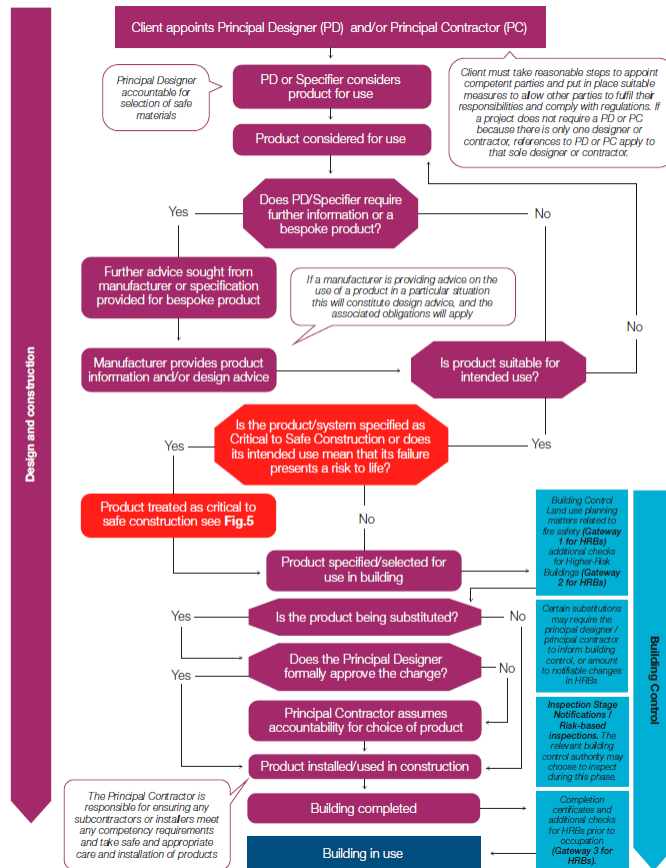
Principal contractor: coordinating compliant construction

Each party has a clear specific responsibility pathway, no duplication.

Products Critical to Safe Construction Signoff



Products Critical to Safe Construction Signoff



Construction Products Reform RIBA Response

- Keep delineation between designers and contractors including PD and PC – PD does not responsible for design decisions or installation.
- Design decision responsibilities must include product applicability when specific products are specified.
- Approvals should only be provided by building control not designers or contracts.
- Applications for Building Control Completion Certificates should include signatures from client PD and PC confirming duties have been carried out not that they all approve a building as compliant. Individuals must be responsible for their work.



Guidance and Competence

RIBA Client Guidance

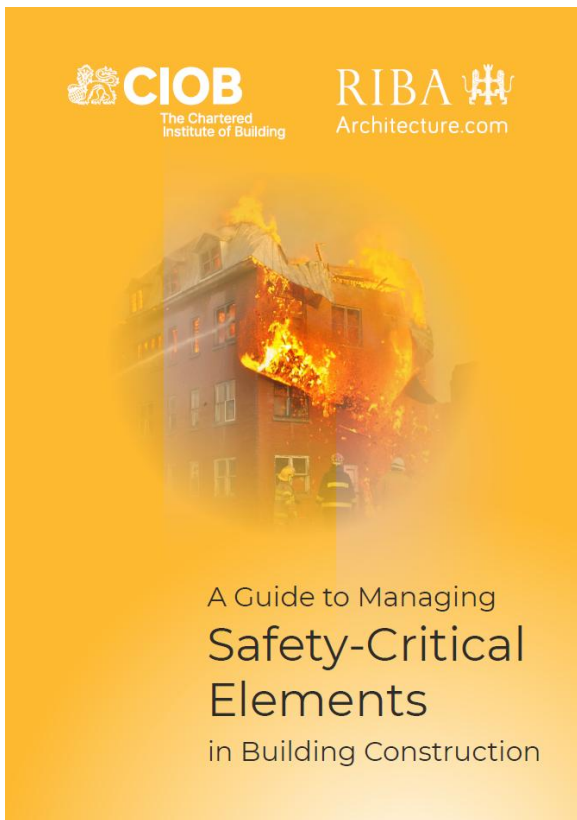
- Scope – Building regulations compliance
- Why safe buildings matter
- Legislative background
- Dutyholders
- Obligations
- Compliance control: procedures, enforcement and penalties
- Work affected
- Stage by stage guide to compliance
- Checklist
- How to tell if your designers and builders are competent
- Competent persons schemes

RIBA Design Responsibility Matrix

[illegible]

Managing Systems Critical to Safe Construction

Update
to initial
guide



RIBA Lifelong learning

- CPD requirements
- Mandatory competences
- Specialist registers (conservation, client advice, principal designer)
- Technical standard and guidance
- CPD provision
 - Thought leadership
 - Training
 - Peer to peer
 - Technical problem-solving specification CPD (from you)

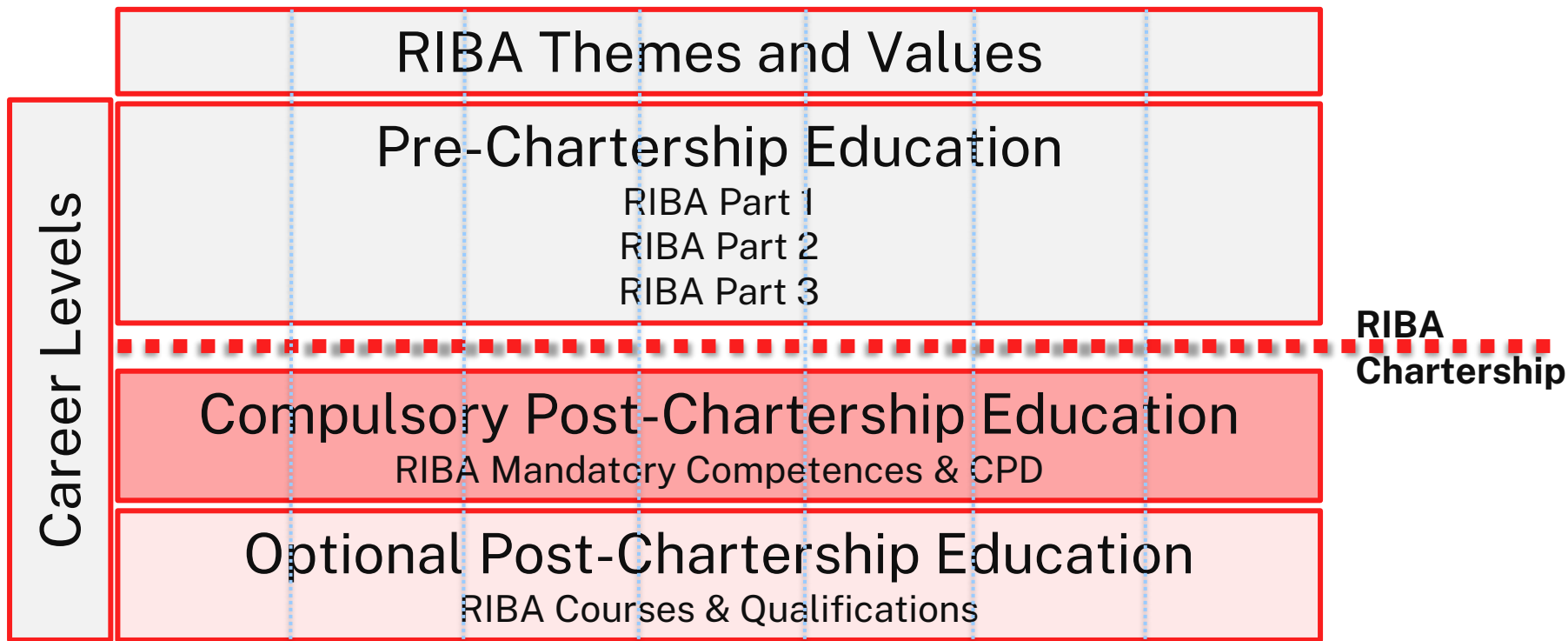
RIBA CPD Requirements

- All practicing RIBA Chartered Members are required to undertake and record CPD.
- 35 hours including 20 across the 10 core-curriculum topics
- New Health and Safety Test – over 8000 passes so far.
- New enforcement process, which started in 2024
- No sample audits, but 100% compliance expected.
- Taking conduct cases forward for members in non-compliance over the summer.
- From early 2027, only members who meet the requirement every year will remain as members.

ARB CPD Requirements

- All registered architects must undertake appropriate CPD to them.
- Fire and life safety, and environmental sustainability are mandatory topics each year (though these may change)
- Record on Arb or RIBA platform
- Removed registrants for non-compliance for the first time this year (c. 1500).

Education & Professional Development Framework



Education & Professional Development Framework

		Themes and Values						
		Ethical and Professional Practice	Health and Life Safety	Sustainability	Construction Technology and Specification	History, Theory, Research and Conservation Methodologies	Design Process, Leadership and Communication	Business Skills and Practice Management
	RIBA Part 1	Part 1 Graduate Attributes						
Compulsory Pre-Chartership Education	RIBA Part 2 (aligned to ARB academic outcomes)	Part 2 Graduate Attributes						
	RIBA Part 3 (aligned to ARB practice outcomes)	Part 3 Graduate Attributes						
Compulsory Post-Chartership Education	CPD Curriculum	35 hours annually including at least 3 hours for each of the Themes and Values						
	Mandatory Competences	Ethical Practice	Health and Life Safety	Climate Literacy				
Optional Post-Chartership Education	Short courses		Principal Designer course			Conservation Course		
	Specialist Registers		Principal Designer			Conservation Architect	Client Adviser	
	Higher Qualifications					RIBA MA Arch History, Theory and Culture		RIBA MBA

Core Curriculum from 2027

- Ethical and Professional Practice
- Health and Life Safety
- Sustainability
- Construction Technology and Specification
- History, Theory, Research and Conservation Methodologies
- Design Process, Leadership and Communication
- Business Skills and Practice Management

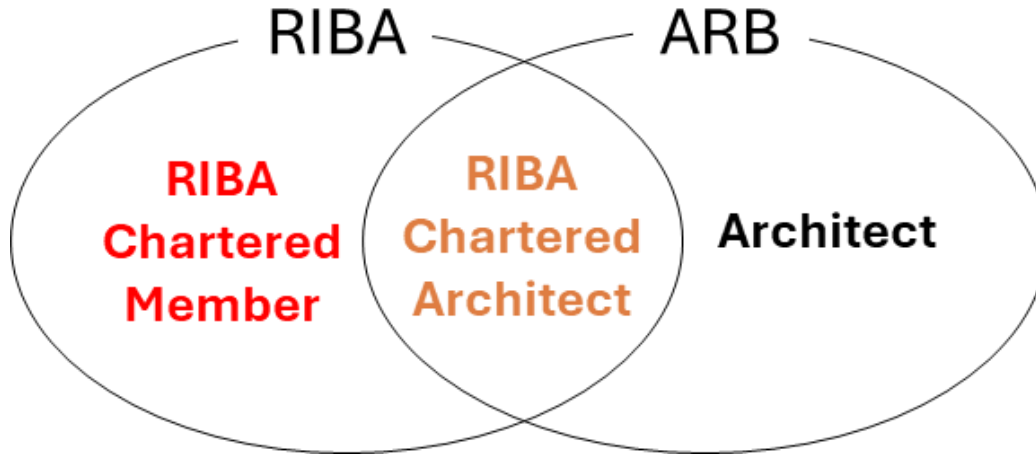
Regulation of the Profession

On Thursday 11 December 2025, RIBA President Chris Williamson wrote to the Architects Registration Board (ARB) to notify it that he would not renew his registration in 2026.

This aimed to highlight the ineffectiveness of the current regulatory system for UK architects, which only protects the legally restricted title 'architect' but provides no oversight of the competence of those who undertake architectural services or activities.

Chris was not calling for others to follow his lead but inevitably some other members have chosen to express solidarity with his position by also not renewing their registration.

Chartered Member, Chartered Architect and Architect



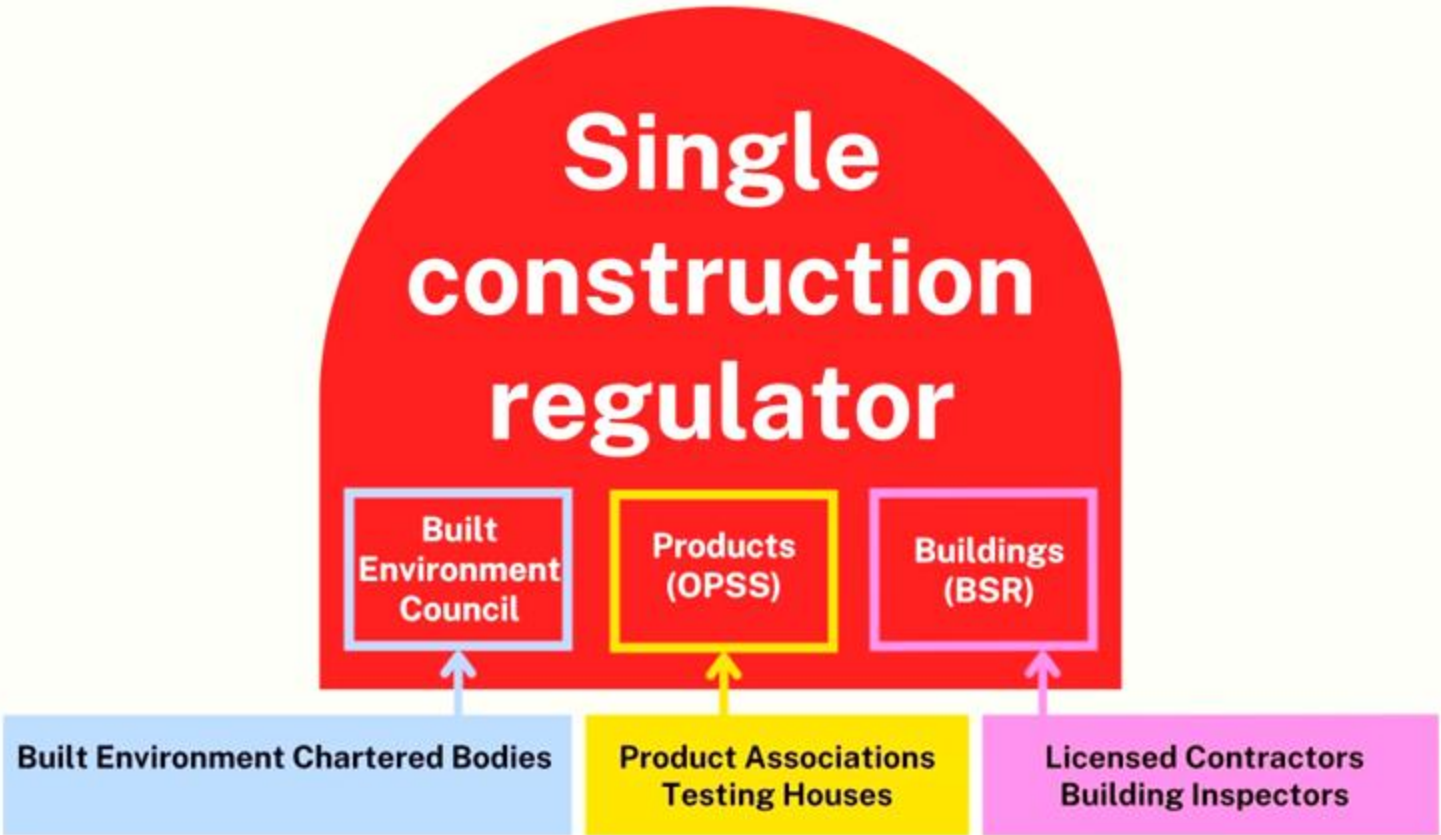
In the UK, only qualified individuals who are registered with ARB can legally use the title architect. This does not prevent RIBA Chartered Members (or others) from providing architectural services.

Professional competence regulatory reform

We are calling for:

- **Repeal:** Removal of the Architects Act 1997
- **Reserve:** Replacing the Architects Act with new legislation that sets out reserved activities for key disciplines
- **Regulate:** Oversight of the competence requirements of construction industry professional charter bodies should be by a Built Environment Council.

Single construction regulator



The diagram illustrates a regulatory framework for the construction industry. At the top, a large red semi-circle contains the text 'Single construction regulator'. Below this, three colored boxes represent different regulatory areas: 'Built Environment Council' (blue), 'Products (OPSS)' (yellow), and 'Buildings (BSR)' (pink). Each of these boxes is connected by an upward-pointing arrow to a corresponding box at the bottom. The bottom boxes are 'Built Environment Chartered Bodies' (blue), 'Product Associations Testing Houses' (yellow), and 'Licensed Contractors Building Inspectors' (pink). The arrows indicate that these bottom-level entities report to or are regulated by the respective middle-level bodies, which in turn report to the central regulator.

Built
Environment
Council

Products
(OPSS)

Buildings
(BSR)

Built Environment Chartered Bodies

Product Associations
Testing Houses

Licensed Contractors
Building Inspectors



Thank you

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