

Construction

What's coming up in 2026

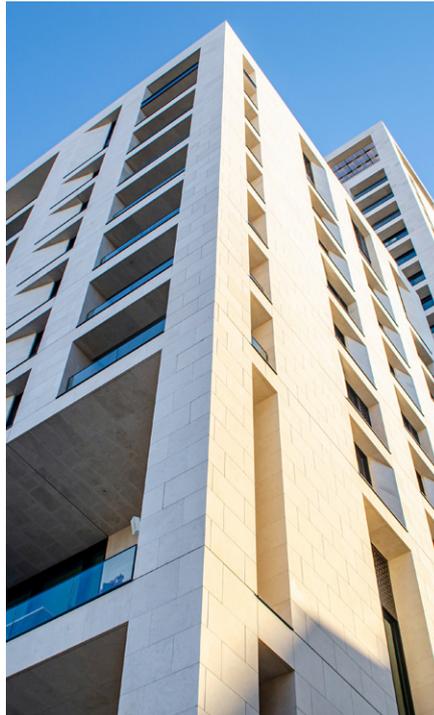
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Planning and Regulation

[Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025](#) – The Act received Royal Assent on 18 December 2025. It intends to speed up housing and infrastructure delivery, boost economic growth, and advance clean energy goals. It introduces streamlined planning for major projects, strengthens local authority powers, and adds environmental measures, including a Nature Restoration Fund.

[Planning and Regulatory –](#) Planning system capacity is expected to be expanded in 2026 with an additional £48m funding for additional planners and environmental regulators.



Low Carbon Energy

The Centralised Strategic Network Plan 2 (tCSNP2), also known as “[Beyond 2030](#)” is a plan developed by the National Energy System Operator (NESO) to identify necessary onshore and offshore electricity transmission network reinforcements for connecting offshore wind generation and achieving net-zero goals. As part of this, NESO published its [Regional Energy Strategic Planning Methodology](#) in November 2025, which it is now consulting on and is open until 16 January 2026.

[GB's energy infrastructure –](#) In 2026, the NESO is scheduled to publish its inaugural spatial energy plan, setting out the prospective layout of electricity generation and storage through 2050. The plan is intended to cut grid-connection waiting times, reduce overall system costs, and accelerate the government's clean energy superpower mission, thereby strengthening investor confidence.

[North Sea Future Plan –](#) This is expected to accelerate construction activity across offshore wind, CCUS and hydrogen, major port upgrades and encouraging oil and gas decommissioning works in 2026.

Fire Safety Regulations

[Building \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2025](#) – are to come into force on 6 April 2026. The Amendments extend requirements in relation to external wall cladding systems to hotels, guest houses, boarding houses and hostels.

[Approved Document B –](#) Amendments to Approved Document B will come into force on 30 September 2026. Planning applications submitted after this date, for buildings over 18 metres, must include the design and provision of two separate stairways and compliant evacuation lifts.

Manufacturing Product Regulation

[New BSI Code of Practice PAS 2000:2026](#) – Scheduled for publication in early 2026, it provides recommendations for the level of due diligence required before construction products are put on the market.

[Construction Products Reform –](#) The UK Government has released a Green Paper outlining construction product reforms and tougher enforcement powers for breaches. It is expected that these will be developed into legislation by Spring 2026.



Construction Reform

[Phase 2 of Building Safety Reforms](#)

– The government will continue a phased approach to implementing further reforms based on the Grenfell Inquiry recommendations. Further announcements are expected throughout 2026.

[Construction Permitting](#) –

It is expected that in 2026 the UK Environment Agency will streamline environmental permitting for construction, allowing exemptions for low-risk activities like site investigations and drainage works.

[Updated NISTA Green Book to be published](#) –

HM Treasury is due to publish a revised version of its Green Book at the beginning of 2026. This is expected to set out six major reforms to how public infrastructure business cases are appraised.



Tax Changes

[Building Safety Levy](#) – A new levy will be implemented in England and Wales in October 2026. The levy applies to new residential developments requiring building control approval.

Employment

[The Employment Rights Act 2025](#)

– The Employment Rights Act 2025 received Royal Assent on 18 December 2025, with most reforms to be phased in over 2026 and 2027. Key changes include a six month qualifying period for unfair dismissal, removal of the compensatory award cap, a six month tribunal time limit, doubled collective redundancy awards, stricter limits on contract changes, new zero hours protections, day one paternity and unpaid parental leave, a stronger right to flexible working, and a ban on NDAs restricting harassment or discrimination disclosures.

Procurement

[Consultation on Procurement Thresholds](#) –

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation seeking views on amending the goods, services, works and community benefit thresholds within Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act 2014. Consultation closes on 8 January 2026.

Governance and Compliance

[HM Treasury Regulation Action Plans](#) –

open consultations are expected to come in 2026 on reforms on remuneration reporting, corporate governance reporting, and financial reporting.

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