

Weekly News Summary

24th January 2024

17% pay rise for engineering construction workers: A strike involving thousands of construction workers at energy sites across the UK has been called off after they accepted a 'whopping' pay offer. More than 3,000 workers at Stanlow, Fawley, Valero, Grangemouth and Mossmorran Oil Refineries, as well as at Sellafield Nuclear Facility had voted in favour of industrial action. To read more Click [Here](#)

Merchant sales volumes down 11.5% in October: The latest Builders Merchant Building Index report shows sales volumes were down 11.5% in October 2023, year-on-year. Builders merchants' takings were down 4.0% in October 2023 compared to the same month in 2022, but with prices 8.4% higher than a year before, the amount of product sold was down 11.5%. To read more Click [Here](#)

Northern Ireland construction output up 7.8%: While Northern Ireland's economy remains hampered by the absence of any regional government, its construction industry is in strong growth mode. According to a report from construction consultant Aecom, in the 12 months to 30th June 2023, total construction volume output in Northern Ireland was up by 7.8% year on year. Growth was primarily driven by repair & maintenance work, which in 2023 saw a year-on-year increase of 17%. Infrastructure also had a significant increase of 9.3%, although this slowed to only 2.6% in the fourth quarter. To read more Click [Here](#)

Number of construction companies in critical distress jumps by a third: The number of UK construction companies deemed to be in critical financial distress has risen by 33% in the past three months. The latest Begbies Traynor Red Flag Alert report into the nation's corporate health asserts that 7,849 construction companies are in 'critical' financial distress, up from 5,919 just three months ago. To read more Click [Here](#)

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Currencies	Last	Chg.	Chg. %
FTSE 100	7,512.81	27.08	0.36%
DAX	16,843.64	216.55	1.30%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,541.75	75.84	1.70%
S&P 500	4,864.60	14.17	0.29%
Nikkei 225	36,226.48	-297.57	-0.81%
Dow Jones	37,905.45	-96.36	-0.25%
FTSE 100 Futures	7,504.20	16.2	0.22%

Current value as at 12:34 BST, 24th Jan 2024

ABOUT UKR

UKR is an established construction recruitment agency supplying trades & labour to the UK construction industry. We recruit at all levels across the following disciplines: Construction, Civil Engineering, Mechanical & Electrical, Rail and Utilities on a temporary, contract and permanent basis.

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Drax gets planning for world's largest carbon capture scheme: The Government has granted development consent for Drax to build the world's largest carbon capture facility at its North Yorkshire power station. But whether the £2bn project to install plant to capture carbon dioxide emissions from two existing biomass units will be built hangs in the balance over Government funding. The Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) project could deliver up to 10,000 high-skilled jobs in the Humber at the peak of the project's construction as well as safeguarding 7,000 direct and supply chain jobs. To read more click [Here](#)

£200m London Gresham Street office retrofit approved: The City of London Corporation has kicked off the New Year by green lighting another major office retrofit scheme. The £200m office overhaul at 65 Gresham Street is one of the largest building reuse projects in the Square Mile to date. Proposals for the mixed-use scheme will see the site retain around 70% of the existing building's structure, including much of its Portland Stone cladding. To read more click [Here](#)

Google to build £800m data centre in Waltham Cross: Google has confirmed plans to build a giant £800m new data centre in Hertfordshire. Work will transform a 33 acre site in Waltham Cross which Google purchased in 2020. Ruth Porat, President & Chief Investment Officer, Chief Financial Officer of Alphabet and Google said: "The Waltham Cross data centre represents our latest investment in the UK and the wider digital economy at large. To read more click [Here](#)

Arup maps London buildings at higher heat risk: Arup has used its heat-mapping tool, UHeat, to analyse heat risk throughout London's built environment. Arup was commissioned by the mayor of London to establish heat risk across the capital's homes, neighbourhoods and essential properties in the wake of climate change. The analysis, revealed in the Properties Vulnerable to Heat Impacts in London report, comes after the recent warning that 2023 was the hottest year on Earth since records began. To read more click [Here](#)

Four enforcement notices over Hinkley C site fire safety fears: The Office for Nuclear Regulation has revealed it has served a series of enforcement notices for shortfalls in fire safety at the Hinkley Point C construction site. Inspectors issued four enforcement notices after pre-planned inspections over three days in November at the first reactor building site identified the potential for harm and risk of serious injury. These were served on EDF client body NNB GenCo HPC and contractors Bouygues and Laing O'Rourke Construction, the joint venture partners in BYLOR JV. The fourth was issued to REEL UK which is installing complex handling systems at the site. To read more click [Here](#)



Planning Leads

Title	Location	Value	Publish Date
3 Bungalows	Chelmsford	£400,000	23/01/2024
Conversion to 3 Dwellings	Blackpool	£200,000	23/01/2024
14 Flats	Nottingham	£2,000,000	23/01/2024
Conversion to 2 Dwellings	York	£200,000	23/01/2024
Conversion to 2 Apartments	Oldham	£200,000	23/01/2024
83 Dwellings	York	£9,000,000	23/01/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Southampton	£100,000	23/01/2024
Office	Peterborough	£700,000	23/01/2024
Extension to Industrial Unit	Preston	£200,000	23/01/2024
Shopfronts	Harrogate	£100,000	23/01/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Leeds	£100,000	23/01/2024
3 Dwellings	Cleveland	£400,000	23/01/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Lancaster	£100,000	23/01/2024
Conversion to 2 HMO's	Nottingham	£100,000	23/01/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Peterborough	£100,000	23/01/2024
Extension to Hospital	Oxford	£100,000	23/01/2024
Conversion to HMO	Plymouth	£100,000	23/01/2024
Conversion to Dwelling	Brighton	£100,000	23/01/2024
2 Dwellings	Milton Keynes	£300,000	23/01/2024
Storage Building	Norwich	£100,000	23/01/2024
Conversion to Car Sales	Stevenage	£200,000	22/01/2024
Pond	Reading	£100,000	22/01/2024
Extension to Gym Facility	Doncaster	£100,000	22/01/2024
Conversion to HMO	Birmingham	£100,000	22/01/2024
Extension to Industrial Unit	Shrewsbury	£200,000	22/01/2024
Extension to Care Home	Dudley	£100,000	22/01/2024
Conversion to Holiday Let	Hereford	£100,000	22/01/2024
Extension to Office	Brighton	£100,000	22/01/2024
Conversion to Holiday Let	Hereford	£100,000	21/01/2024
Extension to Office	Brighton	£100,000	21/01/2024



Contractor ranked by work won during December 2023

Rank	Contractor	No. contracts	Value
1	JRL	1	£245.0m
2	Legacie Contracts	1	£200.0m
3	Morgan Sindall	15	£188.2m
4	RG Group	1	£120.0m
5	United Living	1	£75.6m
6	GMI	2	£70.8m
7	Willmott Dixon	8	£69.7m
8	Royal BAM	5	£65.8m
9	Hill Partnerships	2	£56.0m
10	McLaughlin & Harvey	1	£52.0m
11	Kier	5	£44.7m
12	Lagan Construction Services	1	£43.9m
13	ISG	2	£42.0m
14	George Cox & Sons	1	£34.6m
15	Classic Builders	1	£33.5m
16	Readie	1	£33.5m
17	Ogilvie Construction	2	£33.0m
18	Farrans	1	£30.0m
19	Mott MacDonald (JBA Bentley)	1	£30.0m
20	Deconstruct (UK) t/a The De Group UK	1	£30.0m
21	Gilbert – Ash	1	£30.0m
22	GRAHAM Construction	2	£27.7m
23	O'Brien Contractors	1	£25.0m
24	8 Build	1	£20.0m
25	Henry Boot	1	£20.0m

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