

1.5 Million New Build Homes – We Just Can't See It

Three quarters (72%) of people surveyed believe the Labour Party's pledge of 1.5 million new homes is unachievable. And two thirds believe the prices for any newly built homes are unrealistic.

The survey was conducted by video game publisher Wired Productions and developer Just Add Water, which have created an authentic and immersive light-simulation VR excavator game for the Meta Quest VR headset, DIG VR which is to be used in construction training.

No to new

Showing the public's confidence in new build homes, 2 in 5 (40%) said they would rather



buy an existing house than a new build.

When asked why 1.5 million new homes is unachievable, nearly half gave 'an unrealistic time frame' as the reason.

However, over a third (34%) don't believe we have enough skilled workers in the UK. [i](#)

Picture with thanks to Meta: The Meta Quest three VR headset.

FIT Is Flying... And Filling Up Fast

The floorplan for FIT Show 2025 is filling up fast, with the organiser reporting it is on target to increase the size of the show by 30% since the May 2023 event.

The increase in footprint will see the show grow into four halls when it returns to Birmingham NEC from 29 April to 1 May next year.

Visitors will be able to see, touch and compare thousands of the latest products on the market at the UK's only dedicated trade show for the window, door, flat glass, hardware, components and roofing industry.

Brands that have joined the lineup in recent weeks include Universal Trade Frames, Ingenious Locks & Hardware, CPS Lift, MB Aluminium, Kingdom Industrial Supplies, Alubend UK, H2B Windows,

Apecs Consult BSI Group and Aluminium Bending Specialists.

The Installer Magazine & TheInstaller.pro and The Fabricator Magazine and TheFabricator.pro will be occupying a Take a Break hospitality area.

The Installer Demo Zone

FIT Show 2025 visitors will be able to take advantage of new and improved features at the show. The Installer Demo Zone will return on a bigger scale, building on the success of its 2023 launch. It will be expanded to incorporate a more diverse product demonstration offering as well as stalls to purchase the latest tools, work-wear etc.

A CPD learning programme will run across the three days of the show, alongside the content for Glass Conference which will



run in its entirety on day one of FIT Show. The content will be free to access for all visitors and has been carefully crafted to cover important updates to building regulations, health and safety, sustainability.

Event director Nickie West says: "The brands that are coming to FIT Show are sending a very strong message that they are safe, secure and ready to do business." [i](#)

Smoking Rising

According to newly released data from the Office for Health Improvement & Disparities, one in five workers in routine, manual and service occupations in England smoke – 2.5 times higher than in any other industry and an 8% increase compared to 10 years ago.

The startling figures reveal that routine and manual employees are falling behind national trends for smoking cessation – particularly in the construction sector.

Smoking prevalence in manual roles means employees are 68% more likely to smoke when compared to the average smoking rate in England. This figure has risen by 3 percentage points since 2022.

The data insights, collated by the Vape Club, highlight the need for equal smoking cessation support for all in society.

Taking a look at the bigger picture, over the past decade,



Vape Club is an online vape store.
www.vapeclub.co.uk

there has been a notable decline in smoking rates across various professional sectors. Manual labour industries have seen a significant reduction, with smoking prevalence dropping from 30% in 2014 to 20% in 2023, representing a 33% decrease.

However, by comparison, employees across all other industries experienced a larger decline of 37% during the same period, with rates falling from 12.5% to 7.9% on average.

Despite these overall improvements, the data shows that those in manual labour professions

continue to have the highest smoking rates at 19.5%, followed closely by the long-term unemployed at 15.3%.

While smoking has decreased across the board, the reduction in manual labour professions, while substantial, continues to lag behind other industries.

The government has set a target of reducing the number of smokers to 5% of adults in England by 2030. To achieve this, encouraging manual workers to use smoking cessation methods will play a key role, says the Vape Club. **f**

Hat Trick Of Award Nominations

Quickslide's digital product visualiser tool, Legacy On-Screen, has earned a finalist spot for customer care initiative of the year at this year's G-Awards...with efforts recognised elsewhere.

The company's Legacy sliding sash has been shortlisted for Build It's best window award and the fabricator has also been named a finalist for Manufacturer of the Year at the Business for Calderdale Awards, recognising Quickslide's standing as a key local employer in Calderdale, West Yorkshire.

"The best thing about being shortlisted for three awards is that each one highlights a different, vital aspect of what we do – our excellent customer care, our great products and our achieve-

ments as a business," says Quickslide's MD Ben Weber.

"The G-Awards is the pinnacle all companies in our sector strive to get shortlisted for, let alone win. Our Legacy On-Screen web tool which seamlessly integrates with our trade partners' websites to present our sash windows to potential customers. It is a great example of our commitment to our customers.

"Having our Legacy PVC-U sliding sash windows shortlisted for the Build It Awards is the seal of approval from the experts in self-build and renovation – one of our core customer groups.

Being a finalist for Business for Calderdale's manufacturer of the year award couldn't mean more to us. We're a national business with strong local roots and have



grown from 30 employees when we started 20 years ago to over 240 today. Our people are our greatest asset and this award nomination is a recognition from our own community of their talent and hard work and also our support as a business for our employees and the community." **f**