

cabe

Building Control Professionals

**CABE Membership Survey
In England and Wales**

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Introduction

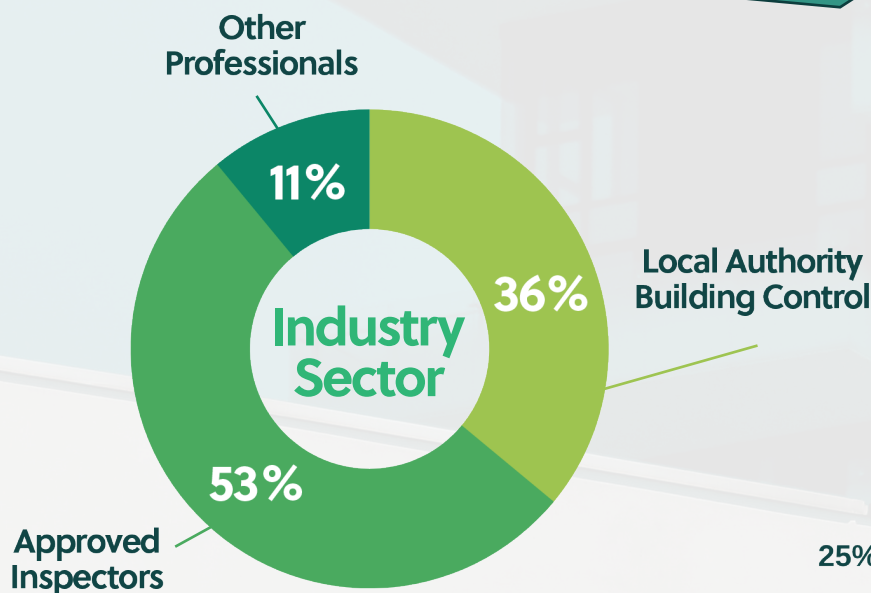


The Building Control Profession in England and Wales is about to undergo rapid change. From October 2023 in England, all building control officers working in Local Authorities and Approved Inspectors/Building Control Approvers will need to apply for registration with the Building Safety Regulator (BSR).

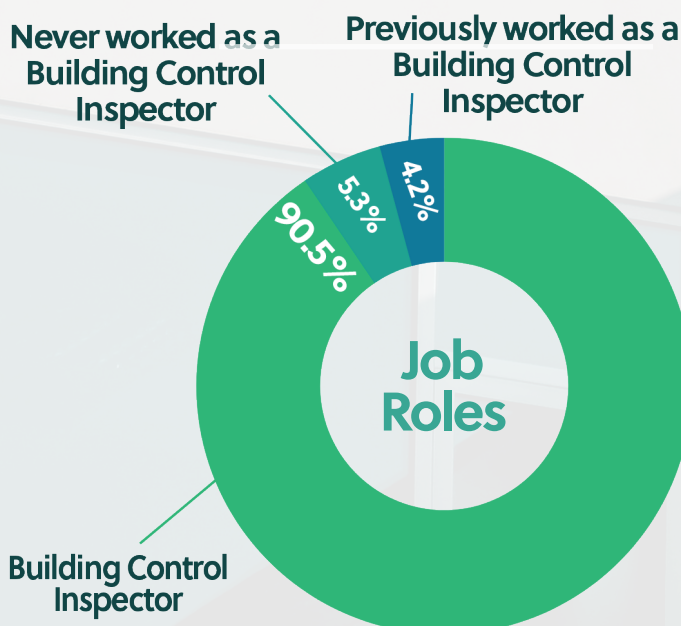
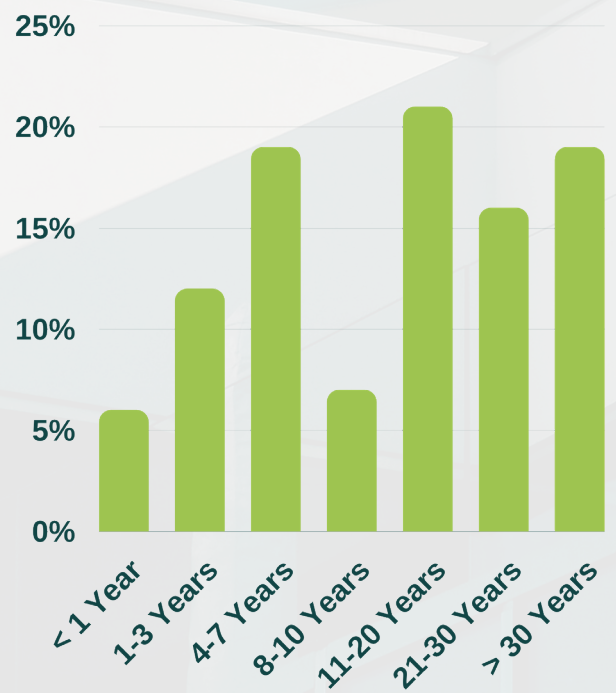
In November 2022 the BSR published a consultation on the competence framework for Registered Building Control Inspectors and as part of CABE's response we issued a survey to obtain the views and opinions of CABE members. We received over 400 responses to the confidential survey helping us to inform our response to the consultation. We are now pleased to share a summary of these results.

Richard Harral | CABE Technical Director

Respondent Demographics



Time in Current Role



Their Role



Building control professionals find their work very fulfilling, scoring **45 out of 50** in terms of job fulfilment, but they are less optimistic about the future scoring only **55 out of 100**.

66%

intend to register as a Building Inspector



68%

of those surveyed have their professional membership paid for by their employer

72%

of employees are given time off to undertake professional development, with 66% of employers paying for professional development

Career Plans

Continue in building control **53%**

Plan to leave building control, remaining in the construction sector **12%**

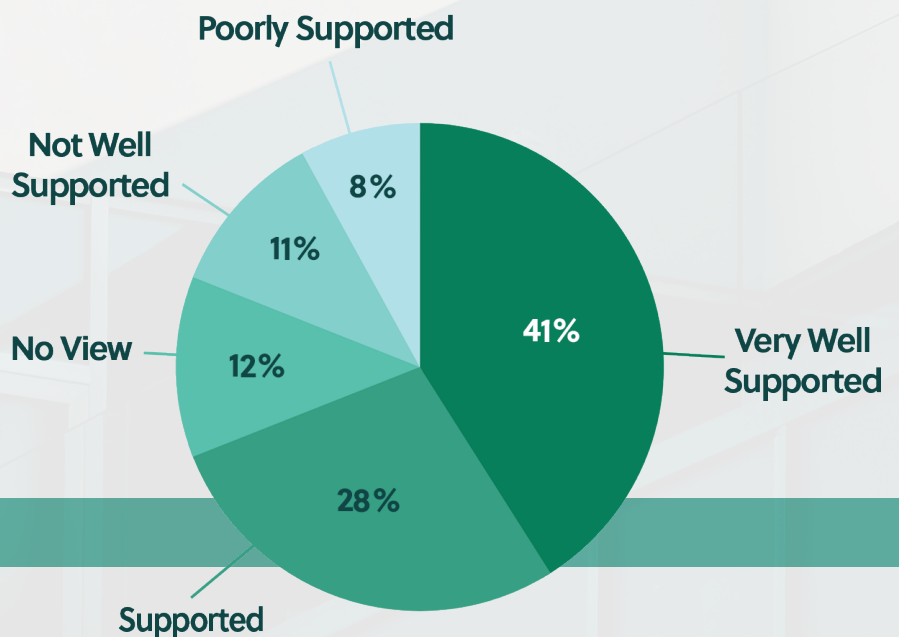
Plan to leave building control, and the construction sector **8%**

Plan to retire **18%**

Prefer not to say **9%**

Employer Support

When we asked how well building control professionals felt supported...



The Industry



Building Inspector Competence Framework:



66%

of respondents agree that the detailed competencies at the four varying levels, is the right approach

55%

agree that the detailed competencies for each of the nine main categories are comprehensive and appropriate.



Over the last three years:

39%

believe Building Control effectiveness has improved compliance outcomes.

Although **30%** believe that it has deteriorated.

42%

believe the construction industry's understanding of how to comply with building regulations has deteriorated.

over

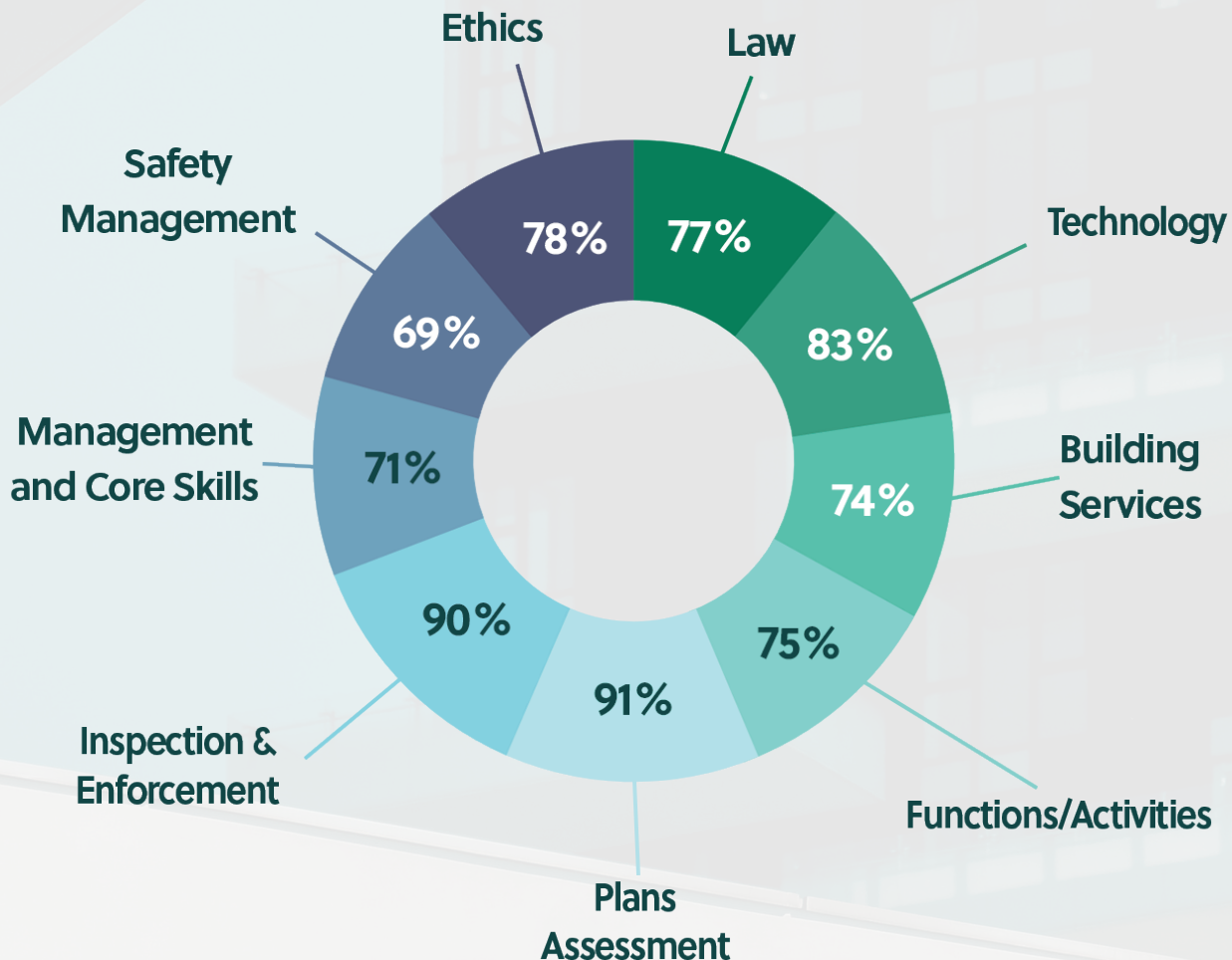
82%

believe that resourcing for building control functions has declined.

Building Control Competence Framework



Support for the primary subject areas of the Framework



Support for the Four Classes of Registration

69%

Class 1 – Building Inspector
(Associate/Assistant)



71%

Class 2 – Building Inspector
(Standard)



77%

Class 3 – Building Inspector
(Complex/HRBs)



64%

Class 4 – Building Inspector
(Manager)



Conclusion



In November 2022, CABE Members in England and Wales were invited to take part in a Building Control Survey. Respondents were asked to complete a series of qualitative and quantitative questions to generate feedback on the Building Control Profession, and the introduction of the Building Control Inspector Competence Framework.

The survey garnered 412 responses, with 90% of the respondents currently working in the Building Control profession. The split of those working in Local Authority Building Control (36%) and Approved Inspectors (53%) has allowed us to generate a snapshot of the whole of the profession and establish the thoughts and concerns of those working in the sector.

The survey shows us that Building Control Professionals are understandably concerned about the future, with a significant proportion (38%) considering leaving building control over the next three years. From the quantitative answers we received, we can see that the ongoing uncertainty around the routes to registration has been a significant driver for many considering retirement and/or alternative careers.

What is also clear is that there is a highly committed group of Building Control Professionals who are fulfilled in their work and generally feel that they are supported by their employers (69%). They are striving to deliver the best service for their clients with less resources, but there is concern that the construction industry's understanding of how to comply with the building regulations has been deteriorating (41%) which is making their job harder.

It is positive to see that there is general support for the primary subject areas of the Building Control Inspector Competence Framework, and the core competencies required to register with the BSR. There is also general support for the establishment of the four different levels (69%) – 1 Awareness, 2 Appreciation, 3 Understand, and 4 Comprehensive – to distinguish the different levels of experience and knowledge a professional working in Building Control has.

The results of the survey were used to shape CABE's response to the consultation on the Building Control Inspector Competency Framework, and CABE will continue to engage with Government and the HSE to clarify routes to registration so that the vital skills within building control can be retained in the medium term.

The full results of the confidential survey will be shared with the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUCH) and the Building Safety Regulator at HSE.

For information on the survey e-mail:
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