



WIG

The Whitehall & Industry Group
connecting the sectors



'Infrastructure' Series

COVID-19 Sector Updates: Construction with Katy Dowding, Executive Vice President, Skanska

Expert Insight

We were joined by Katy Dowding, Executive Vice President, Skanska, for a webinar reflecting on the impact that COVID-19 is having on the construction sector. Discussing where there are opportunities for the construction sector to work with government, Katy touched upon many points:

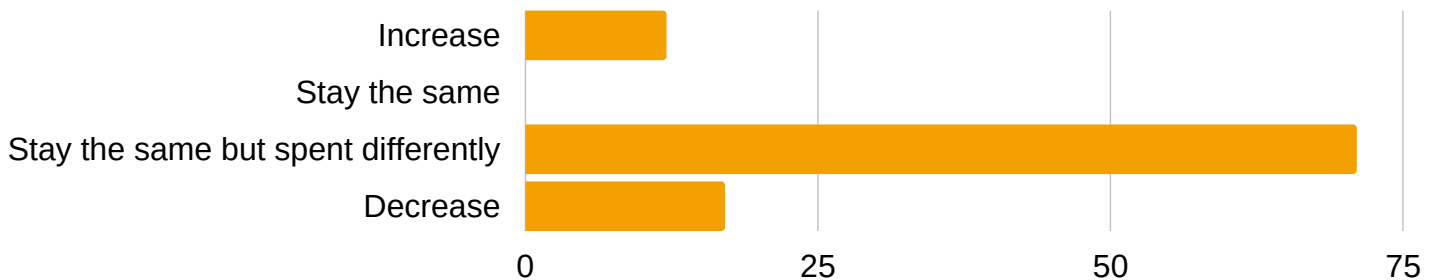
- One of the early challenges was managing conflicting information coming out at high speed, and having leaders with expertise across fields to compute it
- The ability for construction to perform is hugely dependent on the supply chain, and required rapid adaptation to the changing interdependencies of different players, from suppliers to those on-site
- Adapting to the COVID-19 crisis has taught firms important lessons around off-site construction, remote and home-working, and digital competency. To survive in a post-COVID world, we need to capture and carry these into the future
- Coordinating to ensure the safety of workers and members of the public has created new levels of trust and cooperation between government and industry; a new era of collaboration



Cross-Sector Opinion

Attendees from the breadth of our cross-sector membership listened in, we asked them:

Over the next 2 years, do you expect your demand for Construction and Property to:



Our members' questions

Our members asked some challenging questions to be answered, some of the issues raised included:

- How to ensure the new found unity of the diverse construction sector survives beyond the crisis, and remains a united voice to Government
- Whether now is the opportunity for widespread adoption of off-site construction and new approaches to working 'in construction'
- Understanding how the impact of COVID-19 on the construction sector might change the skills landscape

WIG members can listen to Katy's presentation [here](#)
To see our full programme of webinars, visit www.wig.co.uk