



# Specialist Engineering Contractors' Group

## ANNUAL REPORT



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## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD



**Trevor Hursthouse**  
Chairman of the SEC Group

2005 will remain in most people's memory as the year when London won the right to host the 2012 Olympic and Para-Olympic Games. Amidst all the celebration that surrounded the announcement it was easy to forget that this achievement was a vote of

confidence in the ability of the UK construction industry to deliver the infrastructure and facilities required for the Games to a high standard on time and within budget.

As an industry we now have the responsibility to demonstrate that this vote of confidence was not misplaced. Following the announcement, SEC Group issued a press statement drawing attention to the fact that this is a unique opportunity to showcase the UK construction industry's capability through implementing Best Practice in procurement and delivery.

To support this objective SEC Group has been actively involved in the development of the "Olympic Commitments" which will be launched in 2006 by the Strategic Forum for Construction Olympic Task Group. All organisations involved in the procurement and delivery of the Games will be expected to embrace the commitments which require:

- *Delivery by Project Teams that adhere to Best Practice in team work collaboration, design, risk management, health & safety and sustainability.*
- *A transparent selection process embracing quality criteria and not just price.*
- *Demonstration of both corporate and workforce competency.*
- *Payment through Project Bank Accounts without the application of Retentions.*
- *Fair allocation of risk amongst members of the delivery team including Consultants, Contractors and Manufacturers.*

- *The adoption of Best Practice resource use, waste minimisation and low-carbon performance by Project Teams and the proper consideration of Health & Safety risks during the design process.*

It will be the job of the Strategic Forum for Construction to ensure that Best Practice in procurement and delivery is monitored and, most importantly, implemented. SEC Group will play an active role over the next six years in helping to make this happen.

It was our pleasure in June to welcome Lord O'Neill of Clackmannan as a Member of the SEC Group Board. As Martin O'Neill, he was Chairman of the House of Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry and in that capacity he agreed to Chair an enquiry into the practice of Retentions. The outcome was a recommendation that the Government phase out Retentions on public sector projects "as soon as possible". Since joining the SEC Group team Lord O'Neill has provided invaluable support and guidance. We are also grateful for the support we have received from Members of Parliament who take an interest in our work, particularly Claire Curtis-Thomas MP who is now Chair of the All Party Group on Construction Skills and Training.

The SEC Group Agenda is driven by our Member Associations and we continue to rely on them for their support and input.

Finally, this is an opportunity to express appreciation for the work done by our Chief Executive, Rudi Klein and Executive Secretary, John Nelson. Whilst dealing with a wide ranging and demanding agenda they demonstrate a level of commitment and enthusiasm which is exceptional and together with their professional approach to issues and individuals SEC Group has become the organisation which is recognised as representing the increasingly important specialist engineering sector in the construction industry and elsewhere.

Through the recognition and influence we have achieved we will continue to promote Best Practice for the benefit of our member associations in a way which also brings benefit to the wider industry.

**Trevor Hursthouse**

Chairman  
Specialist Engineering Contractors' Group

## 2005 MILESTONES

- SEC Group provides a detailed response to the DTI's consultation on proposals to amend the Construction Act.
- SEC Group's Chairman addresses the 2nd Health & Safety Summit on 24 February. At the Summit he launches SEC Group's Site Safety Access Certificate.
- The National Audit Office (NAO) publishes its second report on public sector construction: *Improving Public Services through better construction*. This addresses a number of issues that SEC Group had raised at a meeting with the NAO in 2004.
- Welsh public sector procurement: SEC Group makes representations on issues affecting SMEs in Wales to the Business Procurement Task Force chaired by Andrew Davies AM, Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks in the Welsh Assembly Government.
- In his Budget Statement the Chancellor announces that the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and the Small Business Service (SBS) will inquire into the burden upon SMEs of public sector pre-qualification procedures; SEC Group meets with representatives of OGC and SBS carrying out this inquiry.
- SEC Group representatives attend a meeting at 10 Downing Street with Geoffrey Norris, the Prime Minister's senior advisor on trade and industry. The issues discussed included payment security, retentions and ProCure21.
- Launch of Parliamentary lobbying campaign to secure changes to the Construction Act with meetings taking place between SEC Group representatives and leading Members of Parliament from all the Parliamentary parties.



SEC Group at 10 Downing Street



Lord O'Neill of Clackmannan joined the SEC Group Board in June 2005

- SEC Group participates in the first meetings between the Construction Minister, Alun Michael, MP and representatives of the industry's umbrella bodies.
- SEC Group meets with Ken Anderson, director of the Commercial Directorate at the Department of Health to discuss the future of ProCure21, the NHS Estates procurement model.
- In October SEC Group publishes a report based upon a survey of specialist engineering contractors. The survey related to their experiences (as sub-contractors) on government projects. The report highlights the need for central government procurers to insist on best practice within the supply chain.
- SEC Group makes a substantial input into the draft Olympic Commitments. SEC Group participates in a meeting between the OGC and the Office of Fair Trading to discuss draft guidance published by the OFT on cartels in UK construction.
- Practitioner representatives from SEC Group member associations meet to discuss the way forward on the review of the Construction Act and participate in a DTI conference on 1 June on DTI's proposals to change the Act.
- SEC Group's draft core criteria facilitating recognition of reputable schemes of corporate qualification that audit for health and safety performance are brought into John Carpenter's November report to the Health & Safety Executive
- SEC Group's Chief Executive, Rudi Klein, spoke at numerous conferences and seminars during the course of the year. He was a speaker at a conference in March organised by Taylor Woodrow's Strategic Alliance Partnership. He was a keynote speaker at a construction leadership conference organised by Constructing Excellence in July. He spoke on business ethics.

## PAYMENT SECURITY

Improving payment security in the construction industry continues to be a priority for SEC Group. We cannot expect to achieve a critical mass of genuine partnering and collaboration between all members of the delivery team - consultants, lead contractors, specialist contractors, manufacturers - unless there is payment certainty.

Outdated and adversarial payment practices must be erased to enable firms within the specialist engineering sector and the wider industry to make a significant investment in technology and training that will ultimately enhance the quality of the delivered system, product or structure.

**“Unfair payment practices such as unduly prolonged or inappropriate cash retention undermine the principle of integrated team working and the ability and motivation of specialist suppliers to invest in innovation and capacity.”**

Improving Public Services through better construction (NAO, 15 March 2005)

## CONSTRUCTION ACT REVIEW

### DTI Consultation on Proposals for Amending the Act



Sir Michael Latham

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Welsh Assembly Government published their consultation document, *Improving Payment Practices in the Construction Industry*, on 21 March 2005. The majority of the proposals on which DTI was consulting reflected the issues which had been highlighted by the

SEC Group in the review discussions chaired by Sir Michael Latham in 2004. The key issues relating to payment included:

- Defining an adequate payment mechanism for determining when and what payments are to be made;
- Outlawing conditional payment provisions including pay-when-certified arrangements and pay-when-paid clauses operating in the event of up-stream insolvencies;
- The Act to make clear that stage payments start from commencement of contract rather than from commencement of on-site work;
- Introducing a statutory right to reimbursement for the cost of suspension and remobilisation as well as additional time for remobilisation;
- Making cross-contract set-off provisions ineffective.

The content and tone of the DTI's consultation document indicated that it was adopting a minimalist approach to changing the Act rather than considering those changes that would be needed to make the Act's provisions more effective.

In its response to the consultation SEC Group explained that the overriding aim was a **statutory** adequate payment mechanism that would identify the debt or define the amount to be discharged by the payment date. Key provisions in the Act were dependent upon this being achieved.

The DTI indicated that it was not consulting on two issues raised by the SEC Group:

- Introduction of a statutory limit on the length of payment periods; and
- A statutory right for clients to re-direct payments to insolvent main contractors to their sub-contractors (this had been recommended by Sir Michael Latham's Review Panel).

SEC Group's key issues relating to adjudication were as follows:

- A mandatory statutory procedure for all adjudications.
- The adjudicator to have the power to rule on certain aspects of his own jurisdiction.
- The Act to state that adjudicators' decisions should be enforced free of counterclaims.
- Nullifying the decision of the Court of Appeal in the *RJT Consultancy* case that the benefits under the Construction Act (including adjudication) are only available to parties who have entered into contracts that are either wholly in writing or - at least - are wholly evidenced in writing.

Addressing all these issues would help to reduce the cost of adjudication. There is growing evidence that such cost is becoming disproportionate to the value of the claim. A significant part of the cost is often incurred in dealing with objections to the adjudicator's jurisdiction. Such objections are being made as a matter of routine and, more often than not, are designed to derail the process.

In its consultation document the DTI indicated its reluctance to address these issues and, in fact, refused to consult on the need for a single adjudication procedure and on the decision in the *RJT Consulting* case.

The refusal to consult on a single adjudication procedure was at odds with the DTI's preparedness to outlaw specific provisions in bespoke adjudication procedures including trustee stakeholder accounts and clauses stating that decisions and certificates are to be "final and conclusive". These matters can be more easily dealt with by having a mandatory adjudication procedure. Otherwise the Act would have to be constantly amended to deal with bespoke provisions aimed at undermining adjudication.

The DTI confirmed its long-standing commitment to outlaw onerous cost provisions that require a party to pay the other side's legal costs irrespective of the outcome of the adjudication.

Although the issue was withdrawn from the consultation exercise, SEC Group insisted in its response that all process plant operations should fall within the scope of the Act. The line between those operations within the Act and those outwith the Act was wholly arbitrary and, in practice, had resulted in a number of unnecessary disputes.

### DTI CONFERENCE - 1 JUNE

Leading practitioners representing all SEC Group member associations gathered on 31 May 2005 to discuss their input to a DTI conference on 1 June aimed at resolving issues raised during the consultation process. During the conference much of the debate focused on how to amend the Act to achieve payment certainty.

## FAIR PAYMENT TASK GROUP

Following a meeting with SEC Group the previous Chief Secretary to the Treasury - Paul Boateng MP - agreed to set up a Fair Payment Task Group. The SEC Group is represented by Trevor Hursthouse on the Task Group which is chaired by the Office of Government Commerce. The Task Group has yet to report with its recommendations for improving payment performance down the supply chain.

## RETENTIONS CAMPAIGN

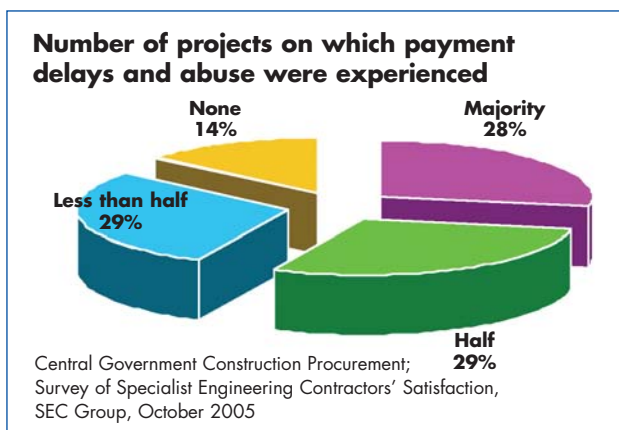
Significant progress still has to be made on central government projects; in SEC Group's survey of firms working on central government projects, 79% reported that they had not experienced a retention-free project.

At a meeting in July with Geoffrey Norris, the Prime Minister's senior policy advisor on trade and industry, SEC Group was informed that the government had agreed, in principle, that the practice of retentions should be phased out on public sector projects. There was, however, a difference of view between the government and SEC Group on the way forward. The government was concerned to establish progress in the direction of the defects - free delivery in order to dispel existing reservations among government procurers about getting rid of retentions.

During the course of the year SEC Group gathered evidence that showed that many major clients of the industry had already dispensed with retentions. Unfortunately, there is also widespread evidence that firms in the supply chain are still being asked for retentions even though the client had not demanded them upstream.

## SECURITY OF PAYMENT ON PUBLIC SECTOR PROJECTS

During April/May SEC Group carried out a survey of firms in member associations which had been involved as sub-contractors on central government projects over the previous five years. Those surveyed were asked to indicate the number of projects on which payment delays and abuse had been experienced. 57% of respondents indicated that they had experienced payment delays and abuse on the majority of government projects. This figure rose to 62% for respondents (ie small businesses) in the £0.5m - £1m turnover band.



The results of the survey were analysed in a SEC Group report published in October 2005 which was sent to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly Government and the Central Procurement Directorate (Northern Ireland).

The extent of payment problems experienced by firms involved in government projects is no longer acceptable. The problem was acknowledged by the NAO in its report in March, *Improving Public Services through better construction*, in which the NAO recommended that public sector clients should consider introducing project bank accounts.

## PUBLIC SECTOR CONSTRUCTION PROCUREMENT

The primary aim of SEC Group's survey of firms involved in central government projects was to obtain feedback on the extent to which best practice had permeated along the supply chain and to establish whether there had been any progress since a similar survey in 2000. The survey was timely because it coincided with:-

- publication of the NAO report, *Improving Public Services through better construction*; and
- the conclusion of the *Achieving Excellence* programme (the Government's improvement agenda for construction procurement) at the end of March 2005.

The 2000 survey indicated that the selection of engineering contractors was based solely on lowest price. At that time there was significant concern over the lack of fairness and transparency in the tendering process, but there was a degree of satisfaction with the sub-contract terms on offer on government projects. Involvement of engineering contractors in partnering arrangements was rare.

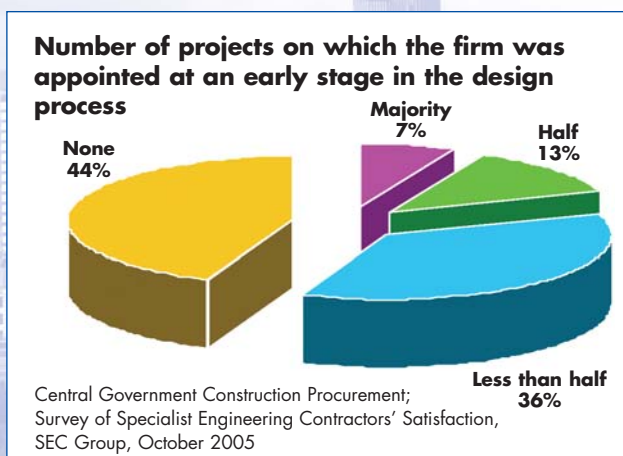
The 2005 survey attracted 184 responses which embraced (in round figures) between 1,500 and 2,000 contracts or projects. The results of the survey were analysed in SEC Group's report in October. These were as follows:

- 14% of firms stated that the majority of their tenders were evaluated on quality as well as price (compared to 9% in 2000). At the other end of the scale 66% of firms in 2000 stated that all sub-contracts on government projects were solely assessed on lowest price - this has now reduced to 28%.
- 49% of firms stated that the tendering process had been conducted fairly on the majority of government projects (compared to 21% in 2000).
- Alarming, 44% of firms indicated that their health and safety record had not been taken into account in the award of contracts on any of the projects they had been involved in (this issue was not raised in the 2000 survey).
- In 2000 48% of firms expressed satisfaction with the sub-contract terms on the majority of government projects but, five years later, this figure had reduced to 38%.
- There has been some slight improvement in the number of firms involved in partnering arrangements on government projects. Nevertheless, 62% of firms reported that they had no experience of partnering on any government project.
- Only 7% of firms stated that they had been appointed early in the design process on the majority of government projects (this issue was not raised in the 2000 survey).
- In 2000 57% of firms considered that they were treated fairly and as an equal member of the team on the majority of government projects; in 2005 this figure had reduced to 47%.

Whilst it is clear that government clients now appreciate that the centre of gravity, as far as delivery is concerned, lies with the supply chain, much more needs to be done to ensure that best practice is applied throughout the supply chain. In its report, SEC Group listed a number of recommendations for implementation by the OGC, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and the Central Procurement Directorate in Northern Ireland. These included:

- OGC (and its equivalents in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) should develop a best practice charter, adherence to which would be a condition of selection of all firms engaged on public sector works;
- Project bank accounts should be established for all projects coming on stream;
- All procurers to establish a review panel to deal with complaints of poor practice (this could be centralised);
- All procurers to ensure that partnering arrangements embrace the whole delivery team;
- All procurers to outlaw the use of conditions of contract solely aimed at transferring risk downstream (the suite of contracts adopted by the client should be used by the whole supply chain provided it represents a fair and proportionate allocation of risk and promotes collaborative working);
- The practice of retentions to be eradicated by 2007 on all government projects and their use outlawed throughout the supply chain;
- All procurers to ensure that engineering contractors are appointed as part of the design team;
- All procurers to report to OGC (and their equivalents in the regions) on the results on a survey of satisfaction among the construction supply chains on their projects;

SEC Group has undertaken to work closely with government clients to implement best practice within the supply chain. UK annual public sector construction business is now worth over £32bn which means that government clients are well placed to drive best practice throughout the supply chain.



**THE NAO REPORT ON 'IMPROVING PUBLIC SERVICES THROUGH BETTER CONSTRUCTION'**

SEC Group worked closely with the NAO in the development of its report, *Improving Public Services through better construction*, published in March. In its report the NAO identified savings totalling £2.6bn from the implementation of its recommendations for best practice. These included:

- Improving security of payment (to achieve this project bank accounts should be considered);
- Involving specialist suppliers in the design team and, in appropriate cases, paying them a fee for their design;

- *Selecting firms on a value for money basis rather than on lowest price and ensuring that they are made aware of the tendering evaluation criteria and relative weightings;*
- *Using modern forms of contracts that support collaborative and longer-term relationships with suppliers;*
- *Ensuring that partnering relationships are inclusive.*

The House of Commons' Public Accounts Committee (PAC) was due to hold a hearing on the NAO report but this was postponed because of the May General Election. SEC Group has been in contact with the PAC to secure another date for this hearing.

***"The Specialist Engineering Contractors Group informed us that much remains to be done by government clients in treating all suppliers in a fair and consistent manner by, for example, ensuring the financial benefits of good performance are passed down through the entire supply chain."***

Para.2.40  
Improving Public Services through better construction (NAO, 15 March 2005)

## PRE-QUALIFICATION AND CORPORATE COMPETENCE

SEC Group welcomed the announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his 2005 Budget that there would be an inquiry into the burden upon SMEs of pre-qualifying for public sector contracts. Responsibility for carrying out this inquiry was given to the OGC and the Small Business Service (SBS).

SEC Group met with representatives of OGC and SBS to discuss how they planned to take this inquiry forward. Subsequently SEC Group worked with a consultancy firm that was appointed to take on this project. A survey was carried amongst firms in member associations to gauge the extent to which they were required to be qualified under various private sector vetting processes and schemes in order to have access to public sector contracts. The results of the survey were made available on the OGC's website in December.

The next stage in this process is to put in place a solution (see section on Health & Safety).

### CORPORATE COMPETENCE

During the course of the year SEC Group representatives have worked closely with John Carpenter, a consultant engaged by the Health and Safety Executive, to develop a

framework for assessing corporate competence and operative competence from the standpoint of health and safety. The Carpenter Report, *Competency and Resource*, was presented to the Health and Safety Executive in November. The report adopted SEC Group's core criteria, with refinements, for recognising corporate qualification schemes that sufficiently audit health and safety performance. SEC Group will be urging the HSE to act on this report by incorporating the core criteria in the *Approved Code of Practice* for the CDM Regulations.

## STRATEGIC FORUM FOR CONSTRUCTION

The Strategic Forum for Construction (SFFC) is responsible for implementing *Accelerating Change* - launched by Sir John Egan in September 2002 - that sets out the improvement agenda for the industry.

A major element of the work of the SFFC is promoting and facilitating project team integration in the industry. In this respect *Accelerating Change* set demanding targets: 20% of construction projects (by value) were to be undertaken by integrated teams and supply chains by the end of 2004 and this was to be increased to 50% by the end of 2007.

The results of the survey carried out by the SFFC at the end of 2004 indicated that:

- *At least 13% projects were being undertaken in an integrated way (although it was unclear whether this figure represented projects by number rather than by value);*
- *Over half of major and repeat clients reported that their projects were being undertaken in an integrated way.*

SEC Group's priority in relation to the SFFC has been to keep it focused on driving the *Accelerating Change* agenda to achieve greater integration of the industry's processes. In this regard SEC Group pays tribute to Martin Davis who represented the Group on the SFFC for over two years. Martin was appointed as the SFFC's *Integration Champion*.

### STRATEGIC FORUM WORKING GROUPS

SEC Group was represented on the SFFC's working groups on SMEs and Health and Safety by David Frise and Bill Belshaw respectively. During the year a Olympic Task Force was established to monitor and promote best practice on Olympic projects. Trevor Hursthouse was selected to sit on the Task Force.

### PROJECT BANK ACCOUNTS & PROJECT INSURANCE

In order to facilitate integrated working between consultants, specialists and manufacturers, SEC Group has prioritised

two activities - project bank accounts and project insurance.

On project bank accounts SEC Group has sought to encourage government procurers to set up project bank accounts on construction projects coming on stream. They should also be adopted on all Olympic projects.

Project insurance policies aim to underwrite the delivery team in respect of all construction risks. Furthermore, they would reduce duplication associated with the numerous policies for individual projects that overlap in respect of the risks that they purport to cover and, by their very nature, are a hindrance to collaboration.

SEC Group has been involved in meetings with client organisations and insurers to discuss how such policies can be developed. A number of public sector clients have agreed to pilot policies of project insurance.



Martin Davis

Both project bank accounts and project insurance will provide a major catalyst for genuine teamworking. Outdated and adversarial payment processes and insurance arrangements have no place in a modern and professional industry that wishes to improve its delivery process through genuine partnering and collaboration.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

### HEALTH AND SAFETY SUMMIT

The second Health & Safety Summit was held on 24 February. It was addressed by the SEC Group Chairman, Trevor Hursthouse. In his address the Chairman emphasised that effective management of health and safety risk can be best achieved by an integrated delivery team. It is vital that the key members of the delivery team are appointed at the outset of the design process to enable design decisions to take account of construction methodologies and processes that can minimise or eradicate health and safety risks.

At the Summit the Chairman launched the **Safe Site Access Certificate**. This is available on SEC Group's website [www.secgroup.org.uk](http://www.secgroup.org.uk). The **Certificate** comprises a checklist of health and safety issues to be resolved between the *Principal Contractor* and the engineering contractor **prior** to the arrival on site of the latter's workforce.

### CONTRACTOR SELECTION

SEC Group completed its work on drafting core criteria to enable clients to recognise reputable schemes of corporate qualification that sufficiently audit for health and safety performance. These criteria were made compatible with criteria used by the Major Contractors' Group and with criteria adopted by the local authorities CHAS scheme.

The reasons for developing the draft core criteria were to:

- *promote the use of pre-qualification schemes that demonstrate ability to carry out construction works in a safe environment;*
- *reduce the costs incurred by SMEs having to pre-qualify under a number of schemes with varying standards - membership of a reputable scheme should suffice;*

The cost of having to comply with different vetting processes and schemes also detracts from worthwhile investments in health and safety and training.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY GATEWAYS FOR SPECIALIST ENGINEERING DESIGN

At the Health & Safety Summit SEC Group made a commitment to develop health and safety gateways for managing health and safety risk in the design of specialist engineering works. Through the Specialist Engineering Alliance SEC Group has been involved in developing a checklist of design activities for the design and installation of mechanical and electrical works. This work is almost complete. It is hoped that during 2006 funding can be obtained to develop health and safety gateways that embrace the design tasks identified in this checklist.

This will involve a number of benefits:

- *It will provide a systematic and structured approach to managing health and safety risk in the design process to ensure that the facility is safe to construct and operate;*
- *It will be a checklist for each party involved in design delivery - consultants, specialists and manufacturers - that will help ensure that all the 'ground has been covered';*
- *It will facilitate earlier involvement of contractors and manufacturers in the design process.*

Research carried out by Loughborough University and UMIST for the Health & Safety Executive, suggests that 50% of accidents could have been mitigated by a design change.

### REVISION OF CONSTRUCTION, DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT (CDM) REGULATIONS

SEC Group continued to be represented on the CONIAC Working Party reviewing the CDM Regulations.

## CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL (CONIAC)

Bill Belshaw represents SEC Group on CONIAC.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY TASK FORCE

SEC Group's Health and Safety Task Force - chaired by Bill Belshaw - met during the year to take forward SEC Group's health and safety strategy. This can be found on the SEC Group's website.

## CORPORATE MANSLAUGHTER

SEC Group provided a detailed response to the Government's draft Corporate Manslaughter Bill. In its response SEC Group raised concerns that the *senior manager* test would detract from an offence aimed at penalising firms for having in place poor management systems; the *senior manager* test could place the focus on individuals. SEC Group's response was also submitted as evidence to a pre-legislative inquiry carried out jointly by the House of Commons' Home Affairs and Work and Pensions Committees.

## PARLIAMENTARY LOBBYING

In response to the Review of the Construction Act SEC Group's member associations invited their MPs to write to the Construction Minister with the recommendation that the Act should be amended to:

- clearly define the **amount** to be discharged by the date for payment (as originally intended by Parliament);
- outlaw all conditional payment provisions; and
- include measures to protect a payee against insolvencies upstream.

During the course of the year SEC Group had meetings with Malcolm Bruce, Liberal Democrat spokesman on trade and industry and Charles Hendry, opposition construction minister. Claire Curtis-Thomas MP continued to provide SEC Group with invaluable support and advice.

An autumn/winter edition of the Parliamentary Newsletter was sent out to Members of Parliament, Welsh Assembly Members and Members of the Scottish Parliament.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Member associations continue to be updated through the SEC Group *Focus* dealing with "headline issues" and the SEC Group *Briefing* that provides detailed information for firms on specific issues. This material can be found on the SEC Group website [www.secgroup.org.uk](http://www.secgroup.org.uk)

## ABOUT THE SEC GROUP

SEC Group is the representative voice for the specialist engineering sector. It brings together the construction industry's premier trade associations:

**Association of Plumbing and Heating Contractors**

**British Constructional Steelwork Association (BCSA)**

**Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA)**

**Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association (HVCA)**

**Lift and Escalator Industry Association (LEIA)**

**SELECT (Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland)**

These long-standing, effective and influential organisations represent a sector comprising over 60,000 companies and a workforce of more than 300,000. SEC Group seeks to raise awareness - amongst clients, professional advisers, government and the industry at large - of the critical importance of specialist engineering expertise within the construction industry. Moreover it aims to promote productivity, profitability and best practice throughout the construction process.

The SEC Group's constituent associations represent a wide range of engineering expertise including telecommunications, power and lighting, heating and ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration, acoustics, ductwork, plumbing, automation and control systems, security systems, data transmission, lifts and escalators, constructional steelwork and facilities management.

SEC Group's constituent associations work closely to define and pursue their mutual objectives under the SEC Group umbrella. The strength of the SEC Group lies in the cooperation between the associations as well as in the engineering synergy that binds the associations and their members together.

**"The SEC Group exists to promote an efficient and profitable specialist engineering sector, comprising qualified firms and a skilled workforce, able to meet the business needs of its clients with delivery of high-quality engineering systems, services, products and structures as part of integrated supply teams."**

(SEC Group Mission Statement)



## **INFORMATION**

Information about the SEC Group can be found by visiting the SEC Group website ([www.secgroup.org.uk](http://www.secgroup.org.uk)). Further information can be obtained by contacting:

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