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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **NSCC Launches No Retention Policy In Scotland**

NSCC celebrated the launch of the NSCC No Retention Policy in Scotland at a high profile event on Tuesday 11 October in Edinburgh. Over 40 contractors, clients, architects and suppliers attended the NSCC 'Protecting YOUR Money' Seminar supported by key partners Anderson Strathern Solicitors, Bibby Financial Services and Creditlook.

The NSCC No Retention Policy, which has the support of NSCC's 32 member organisations, aims to eliminate cash retentions by providing Specialist Contractors with the support they need to resist retentions. NSCC Chief Executive Suzannah Nichol MBE explained how Specialist Contractors could say 'no' to cash retentions using the guidance and tools provided by NSCC. Delegates also heard about the changes to the Construction Act due to come into force in Scotland on 1 November 2011 which will make it easier to get paid.

The launch of the No Retention Policy in Scotland marks another key milestone for the NSCC Fair Payment Campaign with the Scottish Government having already committed to 30-day payment throughout the supply chain on public contracts and its Construction Procurement Manual stating that: *"cash retentions or other traditional means of assurance should not prevail purely by default or without adequate analysis...hence, the Scottish Government does not prescribe the use of cash retentions."*

NSCC Scottish Committee Chairman Iain Robertson said:

*"NSCC continues to demand fair payment throughout the supply chain and the success of the 'Protecting YOUR Money' Seminar demonstrates increasing recognition by the supply chain that by working together we can improve payment practices. NSCC is creating the framework and providing the practical support; it is Specialist Contractors that will make it happen in practice."*

The NSCC Fair Payment Campaign website has a dedicated section on retentions at [www.no-retention.co.uk](http://www.no-retention.co.uk) that is packed with support for Specialist Contractors. NSCC has also developed a 'No Retention Policy' app that provides the key information when it is needed most.

~ Ends ~

**For further information, contact NSCC:**

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## Notes to Editors

1. The National Specialist Contractors' Council (NSCC) brings together the common aims of 32 specialist trade organisations within the construction industry and is the authoritative voice of 7,000 Specialist Contractors in the UK – [www.nsc.org.uk](http://www.nsc.org.uk).

2. The NSCC No Retention Policy, adopted by NSCC members on 1 January 2011, states:

*NSCC believes that the withholding of retention is an outdated practice which is unnecessary in the modern construction industry. The best guarantee of quality lies in the choice of a competent and qualified supply chain and NSCC Specialist Contractors are committed to seeking to attain the highest applicable standards in health and safety, training and technical performance. NSCC recommends that, whilst its Specialist Contractors are free to negotiate their own respective contractual terms, they do not accept cash retentions.*

3. Further information on the NSCC No Retention Policy can be found at [www.no-retention.co.uk](http://www.no-retention.co.uk).
4. The new NSCC No Retention Policy app can be accessed by scanning the QR code below or visiting [www.no-retention.co.uk](http://www.no-retention.co.uk) on your smartphone.



5. NSCC has published guidance on the changes to the Construction Act which can be downloaded at <http://www.fairpaymentcampaign.co.uk/docs/TakingControlofthePaymentProcess-GuidanceontheConstruction%20Act.pdf>.
6. Anderson Strathern Solicitors is a leading Scottish law firm providing a full range of legal services from professional, business-minded advisers who strive to create innovative solutions to complex problems – [www.andersonstrathern.co.uk](http://www.andersonstrathern.co.uk).
7. Bibby Financial Services is a global financial service provider offering a range of flexible funding solutions for businesses – [www.bibbyfinancialservices.com](http://www.bibbyfinancialservices.com).
8. Creditlook is an online credit forum enabling companies to share real-time information about clients trading outside agreed payment terms – [www.creditlook.co.uk/nsc](http://www.creditlook.co.uk/nsc).