



Insurance repair firms create trade association

INSURANCE REPAIR contractors have joined forces to form a national trade association to improve confidence in the sector.

The creation of the National Insurance Repairs Contractors Association (NIRCA), set to be launched officially in September, comes amid stories of cowboy builders cashing in on the summer flooding.

Rob Withers, chairman of NIRCA and managing director of repair contractor Withers Group, said the association would provide insurers and loss adjusters with the opportunity to find a contractor with the

necessary competency, health and safety and technical checks.

"We thought now as good a time as any to go to the market. We're looking for more contractor members and also buy-in from the insurance side and the loss adjustment side to use NIRCA as one of the competency contractors," he said.

The association costs £500 to join and subscription costs are based on a sliding scale, starting at £750 a year for companies with an annual turnover up to £500,000.

A spokesman for the Association of British Insurers welcomed the move.

Contracts

Seven share £80m new-build scheme

SEVEN CONTRACTORS have won £80m-worth of new-build housing work in the West Midlands.

The line-up for Sandwell Borough Council's deal is Lovell, Wates, Barratt, Gleeson Regeneration, Mansell, Bellway Homes and David Wilson Homes.

The scheme, which centres on the West Bromwich area, is divided into two lots; one will focus on projects comprising up to 50 homes, while the other features larger packages of more than 50 units.

The design and build deal was let under a four-year framework agreement.

Partnerships for a £27m deal to spruce up all of the London Boro of Newham's 74 tower blocks under a four-year framework project.

Tunbridge Wells Council has shortlisted John Laing, Grainger, Quintain, Thornfield, St Modwen and ING Estates for its £90m scheme to redevelop the historic town centre.

Pyne Homes is inviting tenders for its four-year, £200m development framework covering schemes in Bute, Cowal, Argyll and Kintyre.

The British Museum has awarded a £40m to £80m construction management contract for its collections management centre special exhibitions facility.

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