

Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors (WCCS) – Written Evidence (YPB0011)

Regarding the current Inquiry of the Committee on *Young People and the Built Environment*, this submission provides factual evidence relating to the educational work of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors, especially as it pertains to questions 3 & 7. Specifically, this submission addresses:

1. Background to the Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyor Education initiatives.
2. Details of our undergraduate Pathways to Property bursary programme.
3. Details of our partnership with Unifrog providing career sector video pathways to careers in the Built Environment.

Links to the other organisations referenced here are provided at the end of the evidence.

1. WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS (WCCS)

WCCS is one of the 113 City of London Livery Companies who engage in charitable and educational projects throughout the UK, donating collectively over £80m to charitable causes in 2024.

The Education committee of WCCS is managed entirely by a team of 20 Livery members engaging with and providing built environment careers advice to young people nationally in the following ways:

Information about Careers in property — Promoting careers nationally through digital communications, school visits and the Unifrog school careers online platform.

WCCS Bursary Programme — Providing bursaries for maintenance to undergraduate students on accredited courses from underprivileged backgrounds.

School Engagement Programme — Long term relationships between the WCCS and three London secondary schools to provide career advice, financial support and practical assistance to leadership.

2. WCCS PATHWAYS UNDERGRADUATE BURSARY PROGRAMME

WCCS has for over 20 years provided bursary support to students from its supported schools though in 2020 scaled up the programme under the strapline:

Talent is Universal, Opportunity is Not.

The object was simply to increase opportunity and diversity within the property sector; providing students from disadvantaged backgrounds meaningful

financial, professional and pastoral support in order to access careers in the property sector.

The bursary comprises £10,000 per annum for 3 years undergraduate study on a Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) accredited degree course, alongside dedicated career mentoring, work experience and pastoral care throughout the period of study and into work.

The programme is run in partnership with Pathways to Property (Henley Business School/Reading Real Estate Foundation).

Open to all, Pathways promote the opportunity to the majority of secondary schools across the United Kingdom and invite applications to attend an annual four day built environment induction course held each July at The University of Reading.

150 students attend the course annually and to meet demand an online version has also been developed.

Students who have made applications or hold offers to study an RICS accredited undergraduate degree are able to apply directly to the WCCS Bursary Programme for receipt of financial support for their education. The WCCS Bursary selection criteria takes into account a variety of socioeconomic indicators in determining a student's eligibility, including but not limited to: whether they are in receipt of free school meals; qualitative information regarding their family circumstances; their lack of connection to the property sector; and whether they are the first in their family to go to university.

At the fifth anniversary of the WCCS Bursary Programme in its new guise in September 2025, we have supported 50 students either completed or currently studying accredited degrees at 16 universities nationwide. 23 students had graduated by September 2025, with 75% working in relevant employment with 15 employers across the disciplines of Real Estate, Construction Management, Building Surveying, Planning and Quantity Surveying.

54% of the cohort are female (RICS membership is 82% male) and whilst we do not select on grounds of ethnicity, 90% are non-white British.

Administration costs of the programme are met entirely by WCCS whilst the bursary funds and mentoring are provided by 34 individual corporate sponsors including the RICS who support 3 students including our first rural surveyor.

Interviews are currently underway which will lead to a further 10 students joining the programme in Autumn 2026 meaning a total of £1.8m has been raised and invested directly in the students to date, all other costs being met by WCCS.

It is with some pride that in April 2026 we achieved the all-important milestone of our first student achieving professional status as a Chartered Surveyor.

Nandi Mabaso, originally from Newcastle, studied Real Estate at Sheffield Hallam University, joined a leading London property consultancy and is now proudly

MRICS. Following the ethos of the Bursary Programme, she has joined the committee of our junior organisation, Livery Lite and will support the students coming behind her entering careers in the sector.

3. WCCS/UNIFROG BUILT ENVIRONMENT CAREER PATH VIDEOS

WCCS has contracted with Careers Advice platform Unifrog to provide built environment sector career videos to their userbase which includes 65% of all UK state schools, with over 2.2 million students regularly accessing support through their services.

The first 5 videos were launched on the platform in September 2025 covering the disciplines of Retail Agency, Property Management, Planning & Building Surveying. At time of writing they had received close to 20,000 pageviews, with over 3000 students watching the videos through. 69% of the viewers were aged 11–15, whilst 21% of content engagement was from a disadvantaged audience and 39.6% from females.

Given we might previously have provided in-person career presentations at a dozen or so schools annually, this partnership with Unifrog has substantially increased our ability to inform and advise students about the possibilities of careers in the sector.

Therefore, alongside RICS we are currently preparing the next batch of career videos on a wide range of accredited specialisms — ‘Minerals Surveying’ being one under production —with the objective over the next two years of providing a comprehensive set of videos relating to all careers in the sector.

This digital platform offers new opportunities for informing a diverse and previously inaccessible audience of young people about the possibilities of such careers, and receive direct and applicable advice from professionals in the industry.

Conclusion

The WCCS Bursary Programme has and will continue to support young people from underprivileged backgrounds through their tertiary education to access careers in the sector.

Our partnership with Unifrog is showing encouraging early results and is, we believe, the way forward to connecting students of all ages nationally with built environment careers

In discussion with our member firms, we often hear anecdotal evidence that graduate and apprenticeship work opportunities are heavily oversubscribed. We are therefore preparing a survey of our membership to establish where, if any, shortages exist to direct our future investment in built environment careers.

Appendix: Links to relevant organisations & Attachments

WCCS Education Committee — <https://surveyorslivery.org.uk/education/>

Pathways to Property — <https://live.henley.ac.uk/page/pathwaystoproperty>

Unifrog — <https://www.unifrog.org/>

RICS - <https://www.rics.org/>

WCCS/Pathways to Property 2025/26 Annual report

Property Week WCCS Bursary Article October 2025

Clwyd Roberts
Chair
WCCS Education Committee

4 May 2026