



Shortage of skilled workers a 'ticking time bomb'

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The UK is facing a 'ticking time bomb' because of a potential shortage of skilled workers such as electricians and plumbers, an industry leader warned today.

Diane Johnson, the first female president of the Electrical Contractors' Association, complained that the emphasis in this country had been on university education rather than on-the-job skills training.

Craft training had often been seen as the 'lesser route', said Ms Johnson, adding: 'We are sitting on a ticking time bomb. If we don't act now, we will not have the home-grown talent needed to fulfil this country's potential.'



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Diane Johnson: 'All too often the valuable role of our tradespeople is ignored'

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'The consequences of that will be more far reaching than most people realise.

'All too often the valuable role of our tradespeople is ignored. When we are no longer able to call on a qualified electrician, plumber or joiner, for example, to carry out essential work in our homes and businesses, because they are in such short supply, it will be too late.

'I worry about what the landscape will look like in 10 years and who will be teaching our future captains of industry.'