

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 2 September 2021

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI Work Arrangements

The ACEI office is temporarily closed. Email info@acei.ie with queries or contact sarah.ingle@acei.ie.

Covid-19 Updates

- [ACEI](#)
- [EFCA](#)
- [FIDIC](#)

Online Resources

- [HSE](#)
- [Revenue](#)
- [Institute of Public Health](#)
- [Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection](#)
- [Health & Safety Authority](#)
- [World Health Organisation](#)
- [Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [Health Protection Surveillance Centre](#)
- [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)

ACEI Welcomes Government Plan to Lift Restrictions

ACEI welcomes the new Government plan: "[Reframing the Challenge, Continuing Our Recovery and Reconnecting](#)" that will herald the lifting of almost all current pandemic restrictions by October 22nd. The government has agreed that during the period between 1 September and 22 October, there will continue to be a careful and gradual approach to reopening, while supporting maximum reach of the vaccine programme and allowing time to achieve the full benefits for all those currently being vaccinated.

Ethos Engineering Teamwork for Focus Ireland

A special project was recently completed by a team consisting of ACEI member firm Ethos Engineering, KMCS, MOLA, T&I Fitouts and Meehan Green. This hard working group successfully delivered the redevelopment of the Focus Ireland office in High Street, Dublin 8 which is a hub for all of its Dublin and nation-wide services. The building was no longer fit for purpose and required upgrade works to meet regulatory standards. Over 100 support staff are located in the office, and it provides space for customer meetings, research and essential work to support those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

All the work and materials on the project by Ethos and others were provided pro bono to Focus Ireland which means that the funds that would have been needed to upgrade the building can now be redeployed to essential homelessness services. A [short video](#) outlining the impact of the work has been made available by Focus Ireland, and features Robert Ralph from Ethos Engineering. Congratulations to CEO Greg Hayden and all involved from Ethos on their participation in this very worthy, charitable cause.

OGP COVID-19 Mandatory Closure Clause

Since the start of the pandemic and subsequent shutdowns of the construction sector, the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) has issued a series of guidance notes advising Contracting Authorities how to manage the prolonged closures, re-opening, and tendering of public works projects during the crisis. In late July the new COVID-19 Mandatory Closure clause for public works contracts and associated documents was published on the [CWMF website](#). This clause permanently places provisions similar to those of the ex gratia scheme in the public works contracts and the main benefits are:

- providing potential tenderers for public works projects with a clear risk share in the event of a Covid-19 closure of the site, better enabling them to price the risk of such a closure in their tender price; and
- enabling all parties to move quickly to protect the delivery of the project in the event a future closure does occur by providing a clear process to both share costs and extend the time to completion.

The clause will apply in respect of a local, regional, or national shutdown of the site due to COVID-19. The new guidance note GN 1.5.4 provides more information regarding the circumstances in which the clause applies.

Department of Housing Extension of Building Control Measures

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has updated its [information](#) in relation to further extension of measures Introduced during the pandemic to 9 Nov 2021. Key points to note are:

- Proposed works, or a material change of use, pursuant to Article 3(1) (a) and (b) of S.I. 113 of 2020 may continue to apply the 'works (Covid-19 crisis) notice', provided that the works are carried out and completed during the relevant period.
- The application of Article 20C (Regularisation Certificates) of the Building Control Regulations 1997 – 2021, to relevant works, i.e. the requirement to obtain a Regularisation Certificate, have been extended to 12 months from 9th Nov 2021.
- Similarly, the requirement to comply with the provisions of Part L of the Second Schedule to the Building Regulations have now been extended to 24 months from 9th Nov 2021.
- Works which cannot be carried out and completed during the relevant period, or works which do not relate to a building of a class specified in Schedule 1 should apply the 'normal' processes as required under the Building Control Regulations.
- A date of commencement of the works should be included in the development description on the 'works (Covid-19 crisis) notice'.

Do We Say Sorry Too Much?

According to sociologist [Maja Jovanovic](#), when we needlessly apologise we end up "making ourselves small and diminish what we're trying to express". Jovanovic, who teaches at McMaster University and Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario found in her research that "apologies have become our habitual way of communicating". She outlines several ways that we can eliminate the "sorries" from our verbal and written sentences, and still be considerate to others.

The Need for Radically Human Leadership

[Gary Burnison](#) is the CEO of management consultancy, Korn Ferry. Burnison feels that what the world needs now is "radically human leadership – leadership that is based on humility, on not just showing empathy but having empathy, on being vulnerable, on being authentic." To address the issue of human leadership, Burnison recommends that firms first look closely at how its leaders and the organisation itself deals with failure, as punishment rather than encouragement may mean that employees are not open about the challenges they face. This also means thinking about, and providing more opportunities for, staff connecting with their leaders on a regular, informal basis.

Recent Good News

- Engineers Ireland has recently approved IT Sligo's Masters in Engineering (MEng) in [Road and Transport Engineering](#) for full accreditation to Chartered Engineer level for graduates with an accredited Level 8 degree. This part-time, blended programme is the first online Master's programme in Ireland to be accredited at the standard required for the registration of Chartered Engineers.
- Congratulations are due to everyone in member firm Ethos Engineering who took part in the Ethos July Walk Run or Cycle challenge. CEO Greg Hayden and Head of People Alison Heffernan recently handed over a cheque for €37,090 to the Irish Cancer Society charity comprised of hundreds of donations which were topped up by an Ethos contribution.

The Voice of EFCA Highlights PII Concerns

The latest edition of the the [Voice of EFCA](#) is now available for review. This issue focuses on the European concerns related to the increasing costs of Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) premiums. Helena Dahlberg, a lawyer at the Federation of Swedish Innovation Companies (FSIC), and Vice-Chair of the Internal Market Committee at EFCA believes that innovation, the foundation of much of the European Green Deal, is being compromised by these PII costs. She notes that: "In reality, public sector clients are making innovation very difficult," she says. "There are actually very few innovative projects. Politicians want to promote innovation but clients still want to play safe."

FIDIC Conference and Business Week 2021

The 2021 FIDIC Global Infrastructure Conference is taking place virtually, on 10 and 13 September 2021. This year's event examines the global need for high quality and sustainable infrastructure within the context of a world emerging from the pandemic. Sarah Ingle, ACEI Secretary General will be a moderator for the HR Forum discussions on 10 September.

ACEI member firms can avail of the special discounted rate of €95 for both days of the conference. There is also a full business programme taking place from 8 September. This is available to attend free of charge for ACEI member firms. Further details of the events taking place during the conference and business week event registration are available on the [ACEI Website](#).