

# ConsultA

**ACEI Newsletter - 27 April 2023**

## Information and Advice for ACEI Members

### ACEI President's Opening Address



As CEO of Varming Consulting Engineers I am honoured to have been elected as President of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland, the fourth member of the firm to undertake this prestigious role. In that regard I sincerely thank our outgoing President Brian Kavanagh for his work over many years as an ACEI Executive member, Officer and President.

I would also like to thank the many people that I have worked with for their support in my time to date with the ACEI, in particular outgoing Secretary General, Sarah Ingle, Executive Board members, sub-committees, Secretariat staff, Louise Patterson and Toni Noonan and my fellow Directors past and present in Varming Consulting Engineers.

I am a Building Services Engineer and I graduated in 1990 from DIT Bolton Street College of Technology, DIT, now the Technological University Dublin. I first became actively involved in ACEI as a member of the M&E subcommittee and since then have served on the Executive Board as ordinary member, Honorary Treasurer and Vice-President.

During my term of office I plan to continue the leadership on the ACEI Strategy 2022-2025 in supporting a vibrant consulting engineering community within which our member firms can grow sustainable businesses. I aim to uphold and maintain the high standards set by the ACEI and look forward to building on the work undertaken to date by the association on behalf of us all. Key to this objective for myself and the Executive Board will be delivering value to ACEI members, while fostering and enhancing their standing in the consulting engineering profession and Irish built environment sector.

In conjunction with the Executive members, Secretariat staff and sub-committees, ACEI will continue to implement key initiatives already underway. These include our successful client and stakeholder engagement programme, Pledge to Net Zero commitment, implementation of the recommendations of Bridging the Gap Report and direct engagement with member firms to advocate for, and address, the issues that matter most to our membership.

By means of our client and stakeholder engagement programmes we continually highlight the value our member firms bring to projects, the integral role consultants play in the delivery of the National Development Plan and the challenges our firms are facing. We have met with, and continue to meet, key stakeholders, government bodies and policy makers including the Dept of Education and Skills, Housing, Transport, Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Justice together with other organisations including TII, HSE, OGP, Uisce Éireann, LDA, NDFA, IDA, daa and the SEAI.

As part of our member services programme this year we also plan to engage with current and potential new member firms of all sizes through regional events. Through these initiatives and other related campaigns such as our recently launched LinkedIn promotional campaign we hope to increase awareness of the benefits of ACEI membership and the support that the association offers to member firms.

Finally, thank you for your vote of confidence. I look forward to my term as President and working with the new Secretary General Shane Dempsey, Executive Board members, sub-committees and the Secretariat staff in continuing the ongoing development of the key ACEI initiatives and programmes on behalf of all members.

**James Kavanagh**  
**ACEI President**  
**2023-2024**

### 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 2023 Awards Presentations

Congratulations are due to the ACEI Member Firms and their winning projects across nine categories in the 2023 ACEI Engineering Excellence Awards. The awards were presented by Brian Kavanagh, ACEI President 2022-2023 at a gala awards dinner in the Shelbourne Hotel on 31 March. Further details and photographs of the winning projects are available on the [awards section](#) of the website and an ACEI awards feature was published in the Business Post on Sunday, 23 April.

ACEI also congratulates Dr Sarah Ingle, outgoing Secretary General, the recipient of the 2023 ACEI President's Award and Patrick Kavanagh, Engineering Director in BDP, winner of the 2023 ACEI Future Leader Award.

## ACEI Annual General Meeting

The ACEI 2023 Annual General Meeting was a successful hybrid event held on Friday 24 March in the ACEI office and online, via Teams. As well as the usual agenda items, a motion to amend the ACEI Constitution to update and clarify some wording in relation to membership requirements was approved.

Also at the AGM, [the Executive Board 2023-24](#) was elected including new members John Hayes, DBFL Consulting Engineers and David Brennan, BDP. Congratulations to all Executive members especially the ACEI officers: President, James Kavanagh; 1st Vice-President, Anne Marie Conibear; 2nd Vice-President, Tim Murnane; Honorary Secretary, Michael O'Reilly and Honorary Treasurer, Donnachadh O'Brien. We thank Brian Kavanagh for all his work as President last year and outgoing Board members David McHugh and Siobhán Moneley.

## EFCA Engineering Europe Newsletter

The April 2023 edition of the EFCA Newsletter, [Engineering Europe](#), has been published. A new Chair of the European Green Deal Committee, Søren Adamsen, COWI, and a new Vice-Chair, Andreas Gyllenhammar, Sweco, have recently been appointed. David McHugh, RPS and ACEI past President represents the association on this important EFCA committee. Immediate objectives for 2023 will build on past work and will align with the EU objectives of the Green Deal, where these match the expertise of EFCA member associations and their member consulting engineering firms.

Other features in the newsletter include: an update from the EFCA Digitalisation and BIM Committee; an outline of an EFCA Women in Engineering feature in the latest edition of [Construction Europe](#) and information on a joint paper, co-signed by EFCA along with other stakeholders from the Construction 2050 Alliance, emphasising the urgent need for reconstruction in Ukraine when possible.

## Recent Good News

- ACEI is pleased to note that [Engineers Ireland](#) has become the first organisation outside the UK to be licensed by the Society for the Environment to award the Chartered Environmentalist professional title. Chartered Environmentalist is a title recognising environmental knowledge, understanding and skills to protect and enhance the environment in a sustainable way.

## NTA Sustainable Transport Webinar

The National Transport Authority (NTA) has arranged a webinar at 11.30am on 26 May 2023 to brief consultants and contractors in Ireland and abroad on opportunities that will arise because of National Development Plan (NDP) investment in sustainable transport over the next decade.

The NTA webinar will be chaired by NTA CEO Anne Graham and addressed by Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan, along with Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, Paschal Donohoe. Representatives of Iarnród Éireann and Transport Infrastructure Ireland will also participate in the event. Further information including registration details are available [HERE](#).

## Uisce Éireann Update

Uisce Éireann was recently in touch with ACEI as it is contacting stakeholders, clients and suppliers with some important updates. Amendments to the Water Services Act established Uisce Éireann as the standalone national authority for water services with effect from January 1, 2023. A key element of the changes was Uisce Éireann becoming the new name for Irish Water.

Uisce Éireann advises:

*'While our name may have changed, our commitment to "Doing The Right Thing" is unchanged. We have always adopted a zero-tolerance approach to unethical behaviour in our organisation and in our dealings with clients, suppliers and stakeholders. We would ask that, should you see or suspect wrongdoing by any party in your dealing with Uisce Éireann, we want you to speak up and inform us through our confidential channels. You can be assured that we are fully committed to addressing any concerns or possible wrongdoing that may arise, and we will protect any employees or individuals who, in good faith, report such concerns.'*

With the establishment of Uisce Éireann as a standalone authority, there is a new phone line and email address where any concerns can be raised: 01 892 5880 or [confidential@water.ie](mailto:confidential@water.ie)