



Members at last year's ACEI Golf Classic at Powerscourt

Political Affairs Update:

Though the Dáil remains in recess there is plenty to be done on behalf of member firms and July saw the Secretariat continue its work on key issues.

Accelerating Infrastructure

- The Secretariat sent its Budget 2027 submission to designers this month with expected delivery to the Department for Public Expenditure in August.
- Meeting held between members of CIC and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to building control regulations.
- The ACEI this month has written to Clare Mungovan, special advisor to Simon Harris in relation to Budget 2027.
- DG Shane Dempsey participated in the Department's Accelerating Infrastructure Productivity working group on 7th July.
- DG attended Department's Industry Capability working group on 16th July.
- DG attended meeting of the CIC on 22nd July.
- ACEI Secretariat attended the DPER Infrastructure Conference on 8th July to hear from Minister Chambers on the work being done at department level to allocate risk more fairly and increase the risk appetite for project delivery.

Contractual issues - NCCs / HFA collateral warranties

- The ACEI has written to David O'Brien, Principal Officer for Construction Sector Capacity and Procurement on outstanding concerns RE: HFA and LDA contracts and use of collateral warranties.

Upcoming meetings:

- The ACEI will meet with the Department of Transport on 6th August following a request by Minister Darragh O'Brien.

If you need support or guidance on any issue affecting your firm, please contact DG, Shane Dempsey or Senior Policy Advisor, Dónal O'Neill. We're here to help.

Director General: Address

Colleagues,

Congratulations to Mayo. Their Odyssey is over. The ACEI's journey to Ithaka continues. This destination is an Ireland where the consulting engineer is respected, valued and remunerated fairly for their essential role in solving Ireland's infrastructure, housing and climate challenges.

Over the past 12 months, the ACEI has taken huge steps forward, not least in our ongoing efforts to influence the acceleration of infrastructure delivery across Government. Many of our insights and recommendations were incorporated and continue to be implemented through reform of the government's delivery systems.

We will continue to engage at every level to improve conditions so it is profitable, rewarding and less risky to deliver the State's housing and infrastructure requirements. The government's designation of nine critical infrastructure projects is a concrete step in the right direction.

Our message is that reform of procurement and contractual practices that work against design professionals will increase the capacity of the State's bodies to deliver projects.

Late payments, delayed projects, median priced tendering, planning, collateral warranties, liability clauses. We are pushing hard on all of it. Whilst the designation of these projects as critical is positive in moving them forward to construction and completion, it should not take the focus off bringing other important infrastructure projects to and through design phase.

This is essential to ensure there is a healthy pipeline of work to stimulate the confidence and investment in consulting engineering firms that will transform Ireland's economy and society. Over the past year, I have attempted to meet all ACEI members on a one to one basis. It's evident that there is significant levels of activity underway and that members are busy.



Director General Shane Dempsey

There is a strong community of consulting engineering firms developing with many people realising that we can only achieve more for our sector through collaboration. As an ACEI member, there are many ways you can contribute to the overall growth and health of our sector including attracting higher value for our work and respect for our roles. Participate in all or any of the following and you'll be helping your own organisation as well as the wider sector.

- Encourage further FCONSEI and RCONSEI [applications](#) from within your member firms.
- Promote [Chartered status](#) for employees
- Join the ACEI [Pledge to Net Zero](#)
- Sign up to the ACEI [EDI Charter](#)
- Participate in the ACEI [member survey](#) (currently with member firms)
- Join an ACEI committee (contact Dónal)
- Send younger staff to the Graduate Programme
- Complete the relevant health and safety programmes, [PSDP and DSC](#)
- Participate in the survey on public sector project concerns (currently with member firms)

Kind Regards,
Shane Dempsey

Director General, ACEI

The Pledge Grows...

We are pleased that this month saw further interest in the ACEI Pledge to Net Zero (PTNZ).

The latest IPCC report clearly demonstrates that urgent action is required in order to keep global warming from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to less than 1.5°C. As a sector, one of Consulting Engineering's core roles is to advise clients to manage and deliver on environmental challenges and signing our Pledge to Net Zero is a clear way for our member firms to show leadership in this area. Indeed there are already examples from member firms where clients have highlighted their engagement with the PTNZ as a deciding factor on a successful tender.

By registering, firms demonstrate leadership, cut emissions in their own operations, and strengthen the sustainability advice they give clients.

By making the Pledge, your organisation is committing to:

1. Set and commit to deliver a greenhouse gas target in line with a 1.5°C climate change scenario, covering buildings and travel as a minimum.
2. Publicly report greenhouse gas emissions and progress against this target each year.
3. Publish one piece of research/thought-leadership each year on practical steps to delivering an economy in line with climate science and in support of net zero carbon. Alternatively, signatories may choose to provide mentoring and support for smaller signatory companies in setting targets, reporting and meeting the requirements of the pledge.

On all of this, The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) provides mentoring and funding to help communities achieve their sustainable energy ambitions.

For any comments or questions about the pledge you can email: netzero@acei.ie

New members continue to join

As we grow ACEI's strength and influence, it was great to welcome new members in July. Not only did we welcome JACOBS Engineering and FCon, Jillian Bolton but MFA Consulting Engineers and FCon Mark Forbes also joined our ranks.

The strength of ACEI's voice is found in the depth of our membership body. The Secretariat will continue the work to grow that voice and use it to better address the issues that impact our members.

On-site safety module

Reminder to all readers that ACEI and Engineers Ireland operate a Site Visitor Safety Course intended for those who are required to visit sites on an occasional basis, but not to undertake construction work. The aim of the course is to provide a general awareness of health & safety on sites. It is intended to provide industry recognised training that will support the duty of the employer under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.

To book a place please [click here](#)
Please note the remaining enrolment dates for 2026:

August – Wednesday 5th
September – Wednesday 2nd
October – Thursday 1st
November – Wednesday 4th
December – Wednesday 2nd

From your date of enrolment, you will have 28 days of access to complete the course and download your certificate.

Course delivery

This e-learning course is delivered online via the Moodle platform. This is followed by a short assessment. All modules must be completed in order to access the assessment, which you must pass with a mark of 70%. You will have 2 attempts at the assessment.

Fees

Enrolment is €95.00 (includes 2 attempts at the assessment).

Spaces begin to fill up for Golf Classic...

Following a successful inaugural competition in 2025, the Golf Classic returns for 2026. This year's event will take place in Grange Golf Club, Dublin on October 1st and spaces for teams to register are now being filled!

Join us for a day of friendly competition and networking with ACEI members and guests at Grange Golf Club. This is the perfect opportunity to connect with colleagues and clients outside the office environment.

Date: Thursday, 1 October 2026

Time: From 11am

Format: Scramble, shotgun start

Location: Grange Golf Club, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16

Cost: €850 per team of four

*This includes green fees, breakfast on arrival, and a post-game meal and prizegiving.



DSC and PSDP Courses go live!

DSC Course Dates and Times:

Day 1 – 3rd September – 9.30am-4.30pm

Day 2 – 10th September – 9.30am-4.30pm

Places can be booked online [here](#).

PSDP Course Dates and Times:

Day 1 – 14 October – 9.30am-4.30pm

Day 2 – 21 October – 9.30am-4.30pm

Places available [here](#).

Government appoints Ordinary Members to Climate Change Advisory Council (CCAC)

The Government has appointed four ordinary members to the Climate Change Advisory Council (CCAC). The members will assist the Council in its activities, including advising Ministers and Government on climate policy, conducting annual and periodic reviews of progress in furthering the achievement of reducing emissions as well as proposing carbon budgets to the Minister.

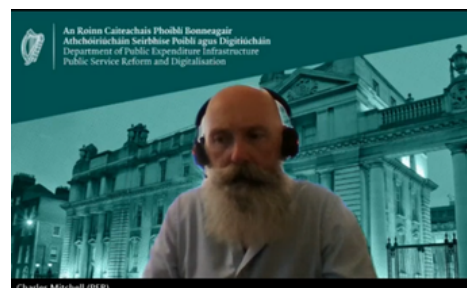
The four Ordinary Members appointed for the next 5 years are:

- Prof. John Gilliland
- Dr. Matthew Kennedy
- Mr. Luke O'Callaghan White and
- Dr. Muireann Lynch

Government will soon introduce a carbon measurement criteria in public procurement

On 14 July we were delighted to be joined by Charles Mitchell, Senior Quantity Surveying Technical Advisor to the Office of Government Procurement and a Government observer to the Agreed Rules of Measurement (ARM) Committee.

Publicly funded projects are moving towards a Total Cost of Ownership approach and Charles explained to members about capital cost, operational cost, and sustainability considerations such as global warming potential.



*Pictured: Charles Mitchell speaking to members.
The full webinar is available by contacting the Secretariat directly*



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Sector news you might have missed...

Nine projects to be fast-tracked under act

Unsurprisingly the big news other than Mayo this month was the announcement of the nine designated 'critical infrastructure' projects. Under the [Critical Infrastructure Act 2026](#), every public body will be required to do everything within its power to accelerate approval of any designated projects or programmes.

The Act does not establish a separate planning regime, nor does it displace existing planning, environmental, or regulatory requirements. Designated projects remain subject to all applicable domestic and European Union legal obligations.

By mandating prioritisation and enhanced coordination across public bodies, the Act seeks to reduce delays and facilitate the timely completion of projects critical to the State's future development.

The Government has confirmed that further designations will follow at regular intervals. Bearing this in mind, it will be important to monitor how the Act operates in practice both in terms of how effectively the nine designated projects are accelerated, and which additional projects and sectors are brought within scope. The exercise of the Minister's monitoring and direction powers under Sections 5 and 6, and how disapplication of Section 15 of the Climate Act is applied in practice, will also merit close attention.

Worth a read this month

[Irish Times](#): Irish officials proposed scrapping 'linchpin' of climate legislation - Link [here](#).

Synopsis: Story relating to officials from the Dept. of Public Expenditure approaching the Dept. of Climate earlier this year to entirely revoke section 15 of the Climate Act. This ended up only being applied to the critical infrastructure projects recently released but gives an indication as to how willing the Dept was to push these projects through.

[Irish Independent](#): Cabinet to sign off on €2bn funding injection for Irish Water to deliver 300,000 new homes - Link [here](#).

Synopsis: Analysis of how the new €2bn for Uisce Eireann is expected to help infrastructure delivery. The €2bn funding injection was a key commitment of the revised National Development Plan, published by Government last year, to transform infrastructure.

[Business Post](#): Laying down the law: Legal aid dispute first strike in Big Jim's wider battle on legal costs - Link [here](#).

Synopsis: Interesting read on the battle between the Department of Justice and the legal profession in relation to fees and the ongoing strike.

Thanks for reading



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