

ConsultA: September

Golf Proves Another Huge Success as Eyes Turn Toward Budget

Welcome to your monthly ACEI newsletter. In this month's newsletter we have a packed agenda from both the political and social sides of our Association. Training and webinars continue at pace as we head into the autumn months, and we have new dates in the diary for member firms.

Annual Golf Classic	Presidential Address	Budget 2027	Political Engagement	Upcoming Events	Training Courses
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Presidential Address

Dear Colleagues,

As the days shorten, and with the Budget just passed, I want to look back on a busy September for ACEI. It has shown, once again, the two things that make this association strong: our voice in government and our community among ourselves.

In September, ACEI met Minister Jack Chambers and officials from the Department of Finance to present our pre-Budget Submission. We brought to the table the concerns that member firms raise with us every day. These are the practical, contractual issues that decide whether public sector work is fair, viable and sustainable for the firms that deliver it.

We focused on four issues in particular:

- Multi-annual funding for contracting authorities
- Net contribution clauses (NCCs)
- Collateral warranties
- Median priced tendering

None of these are abstract policy points. They affect your insurance costs, your risk exposure, your margins and, in the end, your ability to invest in people and deliver the infrastructure Ireland needs.

September also brought one of the highlights of our social calendar: the ACEI Annual Golf Classic at Grange Golf Club in Rathfarnham. My thanks to everyone who took part, to our sponsors and to the team who organised such a well-run and enjoyable day.

It might seem that a meeting with a Government Minister and a day on the golf course have little in common. In fact, they are two sides of the same coin. When we meet Government, we speak for an entire profession. Our authority comes from the firms behind us: large and small, Dublin-based and regional, competitors in the market but colleagues in purpose.



That unity is built in the conversations, friendships and trust formed when members come together at events like the Golf Classic, our webinars, our conference and our annual awards. The stronger the bonds among us, the stronger we stand for what matters to us all. Every member who shows up, whether at a committee meeting, a consultation or a tee box, adds weight to the case we make on your behalf.

There is plenty more to come over the months ahead and I encourage every member firm to get involved, share your experiences with the ACEI team, and help shape the issues we take to Government.

Thank you for your continued support of the association.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ciarán McGovern'.

Ciarán McGovern
President of ACEI

ACEI's Golf Classic Brings the Sun Out in Rathfarnham

In what will surely be one of the last truly warm days of 2026, ACEI's golfing contingent descended on the beautiful fairways of Grange Golf Club, Rathfarnham. A fantastic day unfolded as golf took centre stage for the second year in a row in what is proving a highly popular and successful event for the Association. Thank you to all of our sponsors and corporate sponsors who together, made the day possible.

The beautiful clubhouse at Grange Golf Club



ACEI's Sponsors and Corporate Partners for the 2027 Golf Classic



ACEI's Secretariat team and former President Anne Marie Connibear celebrate 'getting round' the course



Roughan & O'Donovan's Aonghus O'Keefe gets himself out of a bit of bother on the 18th



O'Connor Sutton Cronin's James Barrett putts in for what he assured everyone was 'birdie'.



J.V. Tierney's Colm Saul keeps a close eye on his drive



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ACEI's Golf Classic Continued...

Arup's Joe Burns shows off his golf lessons with perfect technique on his approach



Fintan Bennett of Brendan Merry & Partners celebrates sinking a 15ft par on the 18th



Though all played their part, a few proved a cut above the rest and were duly rewarded in the prize-giving that followed the day's proceedings.

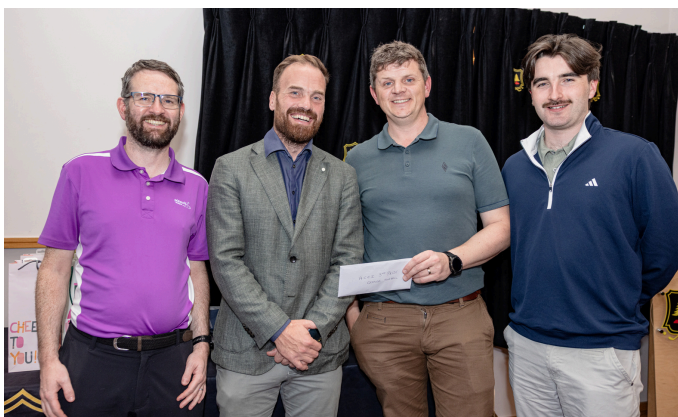
Keystone Group collects 1st prize with a score of 93



DBFL collects 2nd prize with a score of 92



3rd prize with a score of 91 went to AtkinsRéalis



4th prize went to OCSC with a score of 90



Women's longest drive went to Leah Kenny



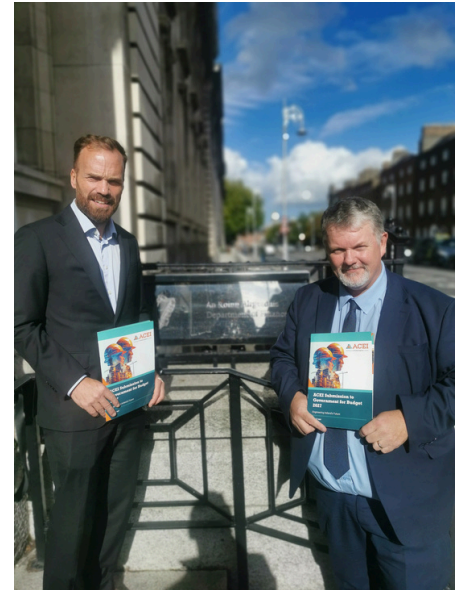
Men's longest drive went to Gavin Mullins



ACEI Engages Directly with Government ahead of Budget 2027



Pictured (L-R) are ACEI's Senior Policy Advisor, Dónal O'Neill, Minister Jack Chambers, 2nd VP Sinéad Timoney and Ex-Officio, Tim Murnane as they meet ahead of Budget 2027



Pictured are Director General, Shane Dempsey and President Ciarán McGovern ahead of their meeting with the Department of Finance on Budget 2027

Political Affairs Update:

September was busy again. With Budget 2027 approaching, ACEI met with Minister Jack Chambers for a sit-down meeting to discuss the proposals in the ACEI Budget Submission for 2027. Later in the month we met with the Department of Finance and its Housing Unit where NCCs, Median Priced Tendering and HFA Collateral Warranties were all discussed openly. A full rundown of this month's engagement can be found below.

ACEI stakeholder engagement in September

- DG Shane Dempsey attended the EFCA Board of Directors meeting on 2nd September
- DG Shane Dempsey attended a pre-Budget briefing on 8th September
- The Secretariat attended the government's Accelerating Infrastructure, Productivity and Capacity Working Group on 8th September
- President Ciarán McGovern and DG Shane Dempsey attended the FIDIC Global Conference in New Delhi, India on the 14th and 15th September.
- On 16th September, Ex-Officio Tim Murnane, 2nd VP Sinéad Timoney and Senior Policy Advisor Dónal O'Neill attended a meeting with Minister Chambers and David O'Brien, the head of the government's procurement unit.
- On 23rd September, DG Shane Dempsey and Senior Policy Advisor Dónal O'Neill met with Labour TD (Limerick) in relation to industry capacity and NDP delivery.
- Meeting held on 30th September with the Department of Finance's head of housing, Patrick O'Brien. In attendance for ACEI were President Ciarán McGovern, DG Shane Dempsey and Senior Policy Advisor Dónal O'Neill.

Upcoming meetings

- DG Shane Dempsey will attend the Ireland Infrastructure Conference on 13th October
- Secretariat to attend CIF 'Construct' Conference on 16th October



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Graduate Development Course



ACEI is delighted to announce the launch of the 2026 ACEI Graduate Development Course

Across the four sessions there will be five different themes with insight from the profession's leading practitioners for graduate consulting engineers with a minimum of one year's experience.

 Wednesday 4 November: In Person, Chartered Accountants Ireland, Dublin 2
Leadership and People | Business and Finance

 Thursday 12 November: Virtual via Teams
Strategy and Innovation

 Thursday 19 November: Virtual via Teams
Sustainability and Climate Change

 Thursday 26 November: In Person, Chartered Accountants Ireland, Dublin 2
Technical and Operations | Designing for Compliance, Safety & Performance

Delivered by: ACEI leadership and senior practitioners from ACEI member firms.

Click [here](#) for further information and bookings.

Upcoming Webinars

Webinar 1: Irish Centre for Diversity

This webinar will take place on 10th November and cover the ACEI Pledge to Diversity and Inclusion and how it works for member firms.

Webinar 2: Uisce Éireann

This webinar will take place on 3rd December and cover an overview of CDS, planning guidance, an overview of PCE and rundown of the recently expanded Developer Led Infrastructure initiative.

EFCA Barometer (Autumn 2026)

EFCA publishes twice each year an industry barometer based on a survey of companies and EFCA national associations.

Please note that the deadline for submission is Friday October 23rd 2026!

You can answer the survey [here](#)

On-site Safety Module

Reminder to all readers that ACEI and Engineers Ireland operate a Site Visitor Safety Course intended for anyone who is 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](#).

Remaining enrolment dates for 2026:

November – Wednesday 4th

December – Wednesday 2nd



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