

# ConsultA

**ACEI Newsletter - 16 April 2020**

## Information and Advice for ACEI Members

### Covid-19 Updates

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

### Online Resources

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

### ACEI Working Arrangements

The ACEI office continues its temporary closure while the Secretariat is working remotely. Calls are being diverted and email is being monitored at [info@acei.ie](mailto:info@acei.ie). ACEI Secretary General Sarah Ingle also welcomes member communications to [sarah.ingle@acei.ie](mailto:sarah.ingle@acei.ie).

### ACEI Communications and Website

The [ACEI Website](#) is regularly updated with Covid-19 information from government and others. The latest uploads include information from Beale&Co, the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), the Health & Safety Authority (HSA) and FIDIC.

### ACEI Annual General Meeting

As already notified to members, due to government restrictions it is not yet possible to confirm the date of the 2020 ACEI AGM. To adhere to the requirements of the 2016 Companies Act, this year's AGM must take place before 14 August 2020. Consideration is being given to holding either a virtual or a hybrid (in-person and virtual) meeting, more details will be provided when possible.

### ACEI Member Survey Covid-19 Business Impact

Thanks to those firms who completed the recent ACEI member survey on the business impact that the current emergency is having on member firms. The survey results are very informative and will be used to advise government and other bodies as well as provide content for press communications.

### OGP and Minister of Finance Updates

An Office of Government Procurement (OGP) [update on procurement and contractual matters](#) in relation to Covid-19 was published on 14 April. This will replace the note of 19 March. A [press release](#) from the Minister of Finance on this and wider measures with respect to the National Development Plan (NDP) was provided at the same time.

### Revisions to Planning Regulations and Timelines

ACEI wrote to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government with a request to introduce measures so that electronic planning applications and payments can be made. A [response from the Planning Office](#) was provided recently, supplemented by a list of [FAQs](#).

## Support from Local Enterprise Offices

A variety of business support measures for firms continue to be available from [Local Enterprise Offices \(LEO\)](#). These include: vouchers for business continuity and trading online; low interest business loans; mentoring and training; assistance with cost saving initiatives and further financial and other supports.

## Small Firms Association Policy Paper

The SFA recently launched a new [policy paper](#) in relation to developing the economy after the crisis. The paper addresses the increasing concerns of SMEs that more needs to be done by government in both the short and medium term to support small firms. SFA recommendations in line with the ACEI view include increased investment in broadband and infrastructure, and the importance of maintaining competitiveness by delivering housing and NDP initiatives.

## Focus on the Future

The [Institution of Civil Engineers \(ICE\)](#) website provides some interesting content. ICE President Paul Sheffield writes that while focusing on the challenges of the current crisis, it is important for the sector to look to the future in order to be as prepared as possible for economic recovery.

## Sprinklers Compulsory in UK Apartments

In the UK, the government has recently announced that [sprinklers are now mandatory](#) in all new apartment buildings greater than 11m in England and Wales. This is a very positive step for society and for the built environment.

## TED Talks to Help with Stress

There are thousands of [TED](#) talks available for viewing on a huge variety of topics. To help address stress, fear and other challenges at this difficult time, [10 TED talks](#) have been assembled together. These cover a wide range of areas including dealing with emotions, listening to others and coping in a crisis.

## Revised CLC Site Operating Procedures

The UK Construction Leadership Council (CLC) has re-issued [site operating procedures](#) in relation to protecting workers during the Covid-19 outbreak. These may also be helpful to consider in an Irish context.

## Recent Covid-19 Good News

- A medical device company in Galway has designed a new system to enable two patients to be treated safely from one ventilator. The [Inspire Team](#), based at NUIG, is hoping the system can be replicated globally as an emergency response to ventilator shortages.
- Residents of a Cork nursing home were treated to fresh flowers from [Howe Hill Flower Farm](#) near Kilbrittain at the weekend. Gardaí from Bandon assisted with the transfer of flowers to brighten up the day for residents at Bandon Community Hospital.
- A recent project between the University of Limerick and University Hospital Limerick has resulted in 100,000 new [face visors](#) for the HSE. The visors were designed and produced using a 3-D printer, and include a shield that can be used during patient intubation and ventilation.
- Galway based social enterprise [GIYIreland](#) has announced a [Grow it Forward](#) initiative. This is a national call to action to encourage individuals and families to grow own food at home. Information on the skills, knowledge and resources needed to do this are provided on the website
- Scientists in Sligo are making two critical reagents used in Covid-19 tests. Supplying the two elements has facilitated [1,000 tests](#) so far in Sligo and Letterkenny.
- The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) has developed a list of [COVID-19 words and terms](#) explained in plain English.
- Jonathan Lundberg has put together [6 Covid-19 principles](#) for consideration at this difficult time. It may be useful to take on board the first one in particular: You are not 'Working from Home', you are 'At your home, during a crisis, trying to work'.
- A professor of sleep medicine at the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences at the University of Oxford has provided some useful tips to help [reset body clocks](#) and get a good night's sleep.