

# ConsultA

**ACEI Newsletter - 7 May 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 is temporarily closed while the Secretariat is working remotely. Calls are being diverted and email is monitored at [info@acei.ie](mailto:info@acei.ie). ACEI Secretary General Sarah Ingle also welcomes member feedback and queries to [sarah.ingle@acei.ie](mailto:sarah.ingle@acei.ie).

### ACEI Communications and Website

The [ACEI Website](#) continues to be updated with current information from government and others. To assist in the dissemination of ACEI news and other materials, members are encouraged to connect with and follow the ACEI on [LinkedIn](#).

### ACEI Advice Note

On 1 May 2020, ACEI was pleased to publish an [Advice Note for members](#) on building and infrastructure site Health & Safety in the current pandemic environment. Thanks for this are due to the ACEI Structures Committee and Executive members with input from the Health & Safety Committee. The advice note has been well received both by members and colleagues in the wider built environment sector, and will be updated as the need arises and circumstances change.

### ACEI Annual General Meeting

As recently advised, the ACEI Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place in a virtual environment at 12pm on Friday, 22 May. An *MS Teams* invitation will be provided next week. Nominations to join the ACEI Executive are welcome using the [required form](#), to be received by 5pm on 11 May.

### ACEI Donations to GOAL

Earlier in the year, ACEI President Gerry Carty proposed that ACEI members provide financial support to the [Goal Watershare](#) programme in 2020. Thanks to those member firms that held events in early March to build awareness of the work of volunteers and raise funds for the initiative. A total of €2500, including an association donation, will be provided to GOAL this month.

### Results of Second EFCA Survey

The European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA) has published the [results of its second survey](#) in relation to the impact of the crisis on European consulting engineering firms. It is interesting to compare the findings from 20 countries across EFCA member associations in Europe.

## Government Supports for SMEs

Earlier this week, the government announced a range of [measures to further support](#) small and medium firms negatively affected by the current crisis. A number of welcome initiatives are planned including: a €10,000 restart grant for micro and small businesses, a three month commercial rates waiver, and the set-up of a €2 billion pandemic stabilisation and recovery fund. A commitment to local authorities has also been made to make up shortfalls in rates so that the continuation of full services to the public is provided.

## FIDIC Module 0 Suite of Agreements Course

FIDIC has introduced a 25% discount on its [Module 0 Suite of Agreements](#) training course. The course focuses on contract clauses and the practical use of the FIDIC contracts illustrated with real life case stories, interactive discussions and input from the trainer, Vincent Leloup, Chairman of the FIDIC Contracts Committee. The course begins on 25 May 2020; registration is available until 22 May.

## Beale & Co Legal and Commercial Advice Hub

The team at Beale & Co across all of its offices has produced a number of updates, practical guidance notes and webinars to assist in the management of legal and commercial risks during the pandemic. This helpful set of resources can be accessed at the [Advice Hub](#) on the Beale & Co website. You are now welcome to sign up for the next Webinar on Covid-19 – [Cyber and Data Protection Risks](#) taking place at 12.30pm on Tuesday 12 May 2020.

## Retaining and Engaging Employees

Up until the pandemic hit, the biggest challenge facing many consulting engineering firms was attracting and retaining talent. Although recruitment will necessarily have been put on hold for an unspecified period, many firms are putting steps in place to continue [employee engagement](#) at this challenging time. According to an expert in the area, empathetic leadership is essential. *"You need to communicate your company's vision and mission with empathy. It's about understanding that your people are going through challenging times."*

## Recent Good News

- A Monaghan company, *Carnehill Joinery*, has designed an [anti-viral door handle](#) to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in schools across Ireland.
- A recent article from the Harvard Business Review outlines how Managing Directors and other leaders can help to [support the mental health](#) of employees in a crisis. Supportive listening is a key objective to ensure that people feel heard.
- The [Hugh Lane Gallery](#) in Dublin continues with its online programmes of talks, lectures and workshops. It looks forward to opening again for visitors later in the year.
- Some interesting [business books](#) have been recommended for reading at this time by *London Business School*. These include *The Future of Capitalism* by Paul Collier.
- A new health screening robot, [PETRA](#), has been developed by Merck. PETRA can currently screen for three different health conditions: hypothyroidism, alcoholism or pre-diabetes and has been deliberately designed to look, feel and act in a 'human' way.
- A recent article in Entrepreneur details how Covid-19 will be [a catalyst for innovation](#) and shape firms and organisations in the future.
- Some [business tips](#) for during the pandemic, recommended by owners of small firms, has been collated by *MyCorporation*.

## Wind Power Overtaking Natural Gas

Electricity from [wind generation sources](#) is now overtaking natural gas as Ireland's leading provider of electricity. The SEAI announced that in the first quarter of 2020, wind turbine electricity provided 43% of total needs compared to 37% in 2019. David Connolly, CEO of the Irish Wind Energy Association, says: *"It is essential, if we are to build on this success, that the next Government prioritises reforming our planning system so we can develop wind energy off our coasts, and ensure that the new wind energy guidelines enable us to build the next generation of onshore wind farms."*