

Consulta

ACEI Newsletter - 16 July 2020

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI Work Arrangements

The ACEI office is temporarily closed. Email info@acei.ie with queries or contact sarah.ingle@acei.ie.

Covid-19 Updates

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

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 PII Seminar by Griffiths & Armour

ACEI is pleased to advise that insurance firm, Griffiths & Armour (G&A) is providing a virtual seminar for members on Professional Indemnity (PI) Insurance: 'PI Insurance in a Brave New World'. The seminar, via Teams, is taking place at **12pm – 1pm on Tuesday, 21 July**. Questions can be provided in advance to be addressed by G&A Directors Graeme Tinney and Stephen Hargreaves, along with other queries that might arise during the seminar. Please [register to attend](#) and include any questions by close of business tomorrow, Friday 17 July. A Teams meeting link will be provided nearer the time to all registered participants.

ACEI Member Survey Results: Covid-19 Impact Q2 and Q3 2020

Thanks to those members who took the time to complete the recent online survey to determine the continuing business impact of the crisis during Q2 and Q3 2020. A total of 39 ACEI member firms out of 101 responded to the survey. The results of the survey may be summarised as follows:

In relation to income during Q2 2020, 63% of firms experienced more than 10% income reduction over the period and 51% expect more than 10% reduction for Q3 2020 compared to the same time last year. Although the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS) helped 62% of firms to continue to pay employees since the crisis began, 33% of firms had to lay off or make staff redundant during Q2, and 31% expect to do so in Q3. Some firms are now exiting the TWSS, with 40% of firms expecting to continue on the scheme until the current end date, 31 August.

Regarding new orders, 49% of firms expect a reduction of more than 10% in Q3 compared to the same time last year; three firms report a potential reduction of more than 50% which is very concerning. Returning to the workplace seems to be progressing well, as 28% of firms already have more than 75% of staff working at the office and 67% plan to have more than 50% back by 1 September. Firms expect that remote working will continue to be in place, as 56% of firms are projecting that 11-50% of staff will still be working remotely at the end of the year.

In the comments section, members noted some concerns about the tax implications of the TWSS causing challenges for employees; and also difficulties for junior staff in particular relating to training and development while working remotely.

Further replies to the survey are welcome from members who have not yet completed it. An increased response would help with a more complete view of the pandemic impact. One person in your firm is encouraged to [access the survey](#) and complete it today, or by close of business tomorrow, 17 July.

OGP Covid Co-Operation Framework: Update and Letter Agreements

The Office of Government Procurement (OGP) has published an addendum to its note of 24 June 2020 providing guidance on the use of the Covid Co-operation Framework in conjunction with PW-CF6 and PW-CF7. Also published this week were: (i) the Covid Co-operation Framework – Letter Agreements for use with PW-CF1-5; PW-CF6 and PW-CF7 and (ii) Covid Co-operation Framework – Covid Notice for use with all letter agreements. The update and letters can be downloaded from the [OGP website](#).

CIF Refocus on Safety Campaign

The Construction Industry Federation (CIF) is running a 'Refocus on Safety' Campaign in August. An emphasis on safe working at height is included as many falls take place at two or three metres above ground level. The CIF asks that all *'engaged in construction activity undertake risk assessments for work at height activities and make sure the work is adequately planned and organised to avoid, or at least reduce risks as low as reasonably practicable.'* Throughout August the [CIF](#) will provide a series of webinars on a number of safety areas: Lifting Operations; Plant & Pedestrian Safety; Live Services and Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS).

50 Must-Read How-To Books

Book Riot contributor, Sarah Nicolas has assembled a list of [50 of the best 'how-to' books](#) under a variety of headings. One that might be interesting for ACEI members is: *Water Storage: Tanks, Cisterns, Aquifers, and Ponds for Domestic Supply, Fire and Emergency Use* by Art Ludwig. Two others that catch the eye are: *How to Survive a Sharknado and Other Unnatural Disasters* by Andrew Shaffer, and *How to Get People to do Stuff* by Susan Weinschenk.

ACEI Contact and Summer Break

The Secretariat continues to work remotely on behalf of members. To make contact email info@acei.ie.

ACEI will be closed for the Summer break during 27 July – 17 August 2020 inclusive.

Recent Good News

ACEI congratulates Past President Richard Crowe, Managing Director of Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd (Ireland), on his appointment to a new FIDIC [International Financial Institutions](#) committee. The aim of this committee is to improve FIDIC's liaison with international financial institutions (IFIs) such as multilateral development banks and other funding agencies that have an important influence on the global infrastructure sector. The committee will play a key role in FIDIC's engagement with IFIs and related organisations in the development of policies, guidelines and processes to improve financial management and procurement.

Procurement Opportunity of Crisis

In a recent article: ['Future of Public Spending: Responses to COVID-19'](#), the Economist Intelligence Unit outlines the implications of the current crisis and the opportunity presented for rethinking procurement strategies. The briefing paper also focuses on the importance of effective and sustainable public spending as countries recover. Helena Fonseca, specialist in public management at the Organisation of American States and technical secretary of the Inter-American Network of Government Procurement notes that: *"Government has a powerful tool for influencing the economy and strengthening society – and that is public procurement."*

Infrastructure for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

A [recent report](#) from UNOPS has found that women and girls are particularly disadvantaged by the pandemic, economically, socially and healthwise. Many women have reduced job security and less access to social protection than men, making their livelihoods more likely to be affected by lay-offs.

The report notes that: *poor infrastructure can worsen the impact of crises. Gender-blind infrastructure, in particular, does not consider the needs of women and girls; this can limit their access to critical resources such as clean water, proper health and sanitation services, and digital communications technology. Combined with local norms and restrictions, gender-blind infrastructure can deepen inequalities, leave women and girls more vulnerable, and potentially put their lives at risk during times of upheaval.*