

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 23 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 Conference and Summer Break

Given the continuing uncertainty due to the pandemic restrictions, an ACEI conference will not take place in 2020. However we are pleased to advise that a Spring 2021 conference is already in the planning stages. ACEI regrets any inconvenience caused, and bookings from individuals and firms will be honoured or refunded.

ACEI will be closed during 27 July – 17 August 2020 inclusive. The Secretariat and Executive hope that all members keep well and safe over the Summer period, and have a chance to take a meaningful break. We look forward to continuing working on your behalf from mid-August.

ACEI Submission to Government's Stimulus Plan

In its recent submission to Ministers in a number of departments, ACEI welcomed a Government stimulus package that would:

- Keep engineers in employment
- Focus on providing building and infrastructure projects
- Assist in the rebuilding of the economy

The key messages to Government from ACEI to support consulting engineering firms are:

- The Government July 2020 Stimulus Plan should relaunch and reactivate the economy through investment in public infrastructure, and in critical areas such as housing, healthcare, education, transport, utilities including water and wastewater, as well as in renewable energy infrastructure.
- "Shovel Ready" public infrastructure and investment projects should be rolled out as a matter of urgency.
- Regional imbalance remains a serious challenge. Addressing years of under-investment particularly in digital and transport infrastructure, and in third level education in the regions and along the Atlantic Economic Corridor, is essential to overturn this imbalance to support the longer-term development of the regions and promote balanced regional growth.
- The Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme should be extended to year end, and eligibility for the scheme changed so firms are removed on a tapered basis as turnover increases above 75% of normal, graduating towards 90%.

Beale Analysis of Covid Co-Operation Framework

ACEI members have already been notified of the publication of an Office of Government Procurement (OGP) Covid Co-Operation Framework Agreement. This document addresses the management of cost and time impacts of the implementation of the Return to Work Safely Protocols, under public works contracts. In a [recent article](#), Killian Dorney and Cian O'Gorman of Beale & Company Solicitors provide an analysis of the publication, and summarise the key steps involved in the framework agreement.

EFCA and Consulting Engineers' Contribution to 2030 Sustainable Agenda

Members of EFCA's European External Aid Committee have developed a presentation to demonstrate [the capabilities of European consulting engineers](#) to contribute to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the external dimensions of the European Green Deal. The committee notes that consulting engineers are ideally placed to contribute to this area from a number of perspectives, including preparing climate-friendly public and private investment projects, as well as proposing new solutions, management processes and innovative practices that accelerate the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The five SDGs that are directly related to the business activities of consulting engineers include:

- Clean water and sanitation
- Affordable clean energy
- Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Sustainable cities and communities
- Climate action

Virgin Media Infrastructure Publication

Virgin Media is offering a free publication to ACEI members. A [new handbook](#) has been created in response to requests from consulting engineers, architects, surveyors and other professionals. Outlined in the publication is the process for installing its civils infrastructure and wiring into new development sites.

Please note that ACEI is not providing any advice in relation to the document, nor has ACEI any responsibility for the content therein. The handbook is merely being passed on for information purposes.

Recent Good News

- A [Creativity in Older Age Programme](#) has been announced by the Government. This programme has been designed to counteract the social side-effects of the pandemic and will be delivered by the *Creative Ireland* Programme through its strategic national partners and the local authorities. It will begin in July 2020 and continue for the next 18 months.
- Ireland is to receive more than €8.8 million in grant aid from the European Union to spend on studies to expand the Dublin Area Rapid Transport (Dart) railway line into Kildare. Support for [expansion of the Dart line](#) was made possible by a €2.2 billion investment round from the EU which will support 140 key transport projects. The funding was provided under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), the EU's transport grant scheme.
- The National Transport Authority (NTA) recently launched the next phase of the Dodder Greenway. This phase includes three bridges crossing the Dodder at Firhouse, Rathfarnham and Templeogue and is planned to be completed by the end of 2020.

WEF Calls for Action to Safeguard Nature

The coronavirus crisis has clearly demonstrated that nature-related business risks are intensifying. A new World Economic Forum (WEF) report, [The Future of Nature and Business](#), provides a blueprint for business action to safeguard nature. Key findings are:

- There is no future for business as usual, we are reaching irreversible tipping points for nature and climate.
- Fighting climate change is essential but not enough to address the nature crisis.
- 80% of threatened and near-threatened species are endangered.
- 15 nature-positive transitions by businesses could generate \$10.1 trillion and 395 million jobs.