

# Consulta

ACEI Newsletter - 17 December 2020

## Information and Advice for ACEI Members

### ACEI Work Arrangements

The ACEI office is temporarily closed. Email [info@acei.ie](mailto:info@acei.ie) with queries or contact [sarah.ingle@acei.ie](mailto: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](#)

### Year End Message from ACEI President Conor McCarthy

The year 2020 will last long in the memory of all who have lived through it. Those of us in the consulting engineering community closed our doors, our staff went home and construction sites closed. It was against this background that I was elected ACE President on 22 May 2020.

I took up the role of President at a particularly difficult time for consulting engineers, and indeed for society in general. As the year went on, I became increasingly aware that the staff of all ACEI member firms and their staff found the challenges of remote working through the Covid-19 pandemic difficult and tiring. But I am also aware of how resilient you have been, how you have adapted to change, and how you continue to deliver quality engineering services for your clients.

Listening to you, our members, I am aware that there is a real and genuine worry of the potential long-term impact on consulting engineering businesses of a coming recession brought about by this public health crisis. And yet, I firmly believe that we can be confident that there will be an economic recovery in its immediate aftermath.

In this regard, ACEI is pleased that Budget 2021 provided an allowance of €10.1 billion for capital expenditure, the largest amount in the history of the State. What is really important now is for Government agencies and departments to translate this funding commitment into actual project delivery. We at ACEI are building on this pledge by advocating on behalf of you, our member firms, with the major client bodies including, TII, Irish Water, OPW, HSE, Departments of Housing and Education as well as the OGP. As consulting engineers you all have a major role to play in developing the sustainable economy of the future. Your work, energy and drive in design, planning, procurement and project management will be key to progressing infrastructure projects across all sectors.

As President of ACEI, I am also very conscious of the wellbeing requirements of the leaders and other employees in your firms. We all need to be aware of the potential negative impact on our staff and ourselves in terms of balancing home life with work expectations. And so I would like to conclude by asking you to be conscious of your employees' needs, while also being open to the opportunities for your member firms, in the long-term vision of the National Development Plan, and in providing for the additional one million people projected to be living in Ireland by the year 2040.

Mind yourselves, your families and stay safe over the holiday period. Let us look forward to a calmer, quieter 2021, and to the restoration of all the positive norms we once took for granted.

**Conor McCarthy**  
ACEI President



## ACEI Webinar - Contracts and Disputes

ACEI is pleased to advise that Beale & Company is providing a bespoke, virtual event for members: 12pm – 1pm on Thursday 14 January 2021. The webinar will address the topics of *Negotiating Contracts and Dispute Avoidance*. Also discussed will be the contract terms that are important to focus on in negotiation, as well as how to approach issues that arise on projects, which have the potential to generate claims.

In particular, the webinar will cover the following:

- Limits on Liability
- Insuring clauses
- Time, Money & Notices
- Co-operation provisions
- Collateral Warranties
- Practical Dispute Avoidance Strategies

A live Q&A will take place at the end when speakers will address questions. Please note the time and date, 12pm on 14/01/21. A meeting invite will be provided nearer the time.

## Irish Water Self Lay Pilot Project

Irish Water is delivering a pilot project that is facilitating Self Lay of water services infrastructure in public roads by developers on behalf of Irish Water. Submissions for inclusion in this pilot project will be considered where:

- Significant synergies exist with other utilities and services for work to be undertaken in the public road.
- A proposed Irish Water delivery programme to provide the required infrastructure does not align with the required development timelines.

The developer must currently have a valid connection application for the development with Irish Water, or be in receipt of a valid connection offer for the development. Further information and how to register is available on the [ACEI website](#).

## EFCA 2021 / 2022 Conference and AGM

Due to continuing public health, travel and other uncertainties, the Board of the European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA), has made the decision to postpone the Istanbul venue for the AGM and Conference to June 2022. During 2021 a virtual AGM and other event will be organised. Further details to be provided soon.

## Updated Project Ireland 2040 Projects Tracker

On Friday 11 December, Minister Michael McGrath in the Dept of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) launched an update of the Project Ireland 2040 investment projects and programmes tracker and interactive map. A recent [press release](#) provides an overview and further information. The [updated tracker](#) is now available on gov.ie.

## CSG Innovation and Digital Adoption

This week ACEI members were invited to attend a briefing event by the [Construction Sector Group's \(CSG\)](#) Innovation and Digital Adoption sub-group of which ACEI is a member. The CSG facilitates regular and open dialogue between government and industry on how best to achieve and maintain sustainable and innovative built environment and construction sectors, positioned to successfully deliver on the commitments in Project Ireland 2040.

The CSG includes representatives from key industry bodies including ACEI, RIAI, SCSl, CIF and Engineers Ireland, as well as senior representatives of relevant government departments and agencies with responsibilities for policy and for the delivery of infrastructure. It is chaired by the DPER Secretary General Robert Watt, and reports to the Minister of DPER, Michael McGrath.

Earlier in 2020, the CSG set up an Innovation and Digital Adoption sub-group to implement seven priority actions recommended in a report commissioned by the Dept of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER). ACEI Secretary General, Sarah Ingle, is leading Action 2: Identification of Funding. The sub-group is chaired by retired ACEI member, PJ Rudden, previously of RPS.

More information will follow in 2021 about the activities of this sub-group, including the associated benefits to ACEI members and others in the built environment sector.

## ACEI Holiday Arrangements

The ACEI Office will be closed from 21 December to 1 January 2021 inclusive. Sarah, Louise and Toni in the Secretariat, along with President Conor McCarthy and the Executive Board wish all ACEI member firms a healthy and peaceful break. We look forward to continuing our work on behalf of members in a less restricted environment in 2021.