

The Chairman of the Liaison Committee to the Construction Industry Annual Report 2017

1. The Committee

The Committee is comprised of the following Constituent Bodies:

- Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland (ACEI)
- Construction Industry Federation (CIF)
- Engineers Ireland
- Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI)
- Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland (SCSI)

Engineers Ireland and ACEI each nominate two members of the Committee while the other bodies nominate four members giving a total membership of sixteen. During the year there were 6 meetings of the Committee with an average attendance at those meetings of 8.

2. Committee Membership

CIF held the Chair of the Committee for 2017 and this position was filled by Mr John Kelly. The Chair for 2018 is SCSI and Mr Mark McGreevy was nominated as Vice Chairman during the year. Ms Anne Costello stood down from the Committee and was replaced by Ms Una Merriman. Mr Terry Sheehan also stood down and this vacancy remains to be filled.

3. Code of Practice for Tendering and Contracting Matters

A Sub Committee in the process of being formed which will consist of a representative from each of the constituent bodies. The Sub Committee will work on updating the current Code of Practice.

4. Edits to RIAI Forms

As in 2016, this topic again dominated the year. Two edits remain outstanding; edit 3 relating to conciliation; and edit 7 which addresses the inclusion of wording dealing with a retention bond. RIAI unilaterally took the step to publish their own contract which included the edits (except edit 7) but did not include the traditional front cover stating that it was done in agreement with SCSI and CIF. Steps have since been taken to gain agreement on all edits with the intention of publishing a contract which will be an updated version of the 2012 form and will state that it is an agreed document. Although final agreement has not been reached consensus appears likely in the immediate very near future.

5. Terms of Reference

The Committee discussed forming two separate Sub Committees, each with a different purpose.

The first Sub Committee is to look at updating the original Terms of Reference document and is to consist of Liaison Committee members. There was no development on this during 2017.

The second Sub Committee is to be made up of high level individuals from each of the constituent bodies who will look at the Liaison Committee from a high level perspective and consider its purpose going forward. This Committee is in the process of being formed. The

outcome of this Sub Committee is critical to determine if there is a requirement for the Liaison Committee to exist in the future, as its purpose and requirement has become less clear with each year.

6. Alternative Form of Contract

There was little progress made in 2017; however all bodies submitted responses outlining their views in relation to the last draft of the contract. Now that edits to the RIAI contract have been dealt with, it is expected that this item will become a priority.

7. Latent Defects Insurance and Advance Payment Bonds

Latent Defects Insurance - This item is also being addressed by the CIC and it was agreed that it would remain on the Liaison Committee agenda.

Advance Payment Bonds – A working draft of an Advance Payment Bond was circulated by RIAI to CIF and SCSI. A response is to be made by both bodies to RIAI.

8. Secretariat

The administration of the Liaison Committee was provided by CIF and I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the Committee. I would like to thank Ms Denise Tuffy for her work during the year.

9. Conclusion

During 2017 some unusual practices took place which questioned the overall purpose of the Committee. However, the use of bilateral communication by means such as telephone calls allowed for progress to be made on certain areas of the agenda. It is my hope that this informal communication will continue to take place and that further traction will be gained on agenda items during 2018. The Committee should make use of the talents of the people around the table in between meetings and not wait for each formal session in order to make progress.

I would to express my gratitude to all members of the Committee for their help and guidance and support during 2017 and I would like to wish the incoming Chairman, Mr Mark McGreevy, every success in 2018.

John Kelly, Chairman

Outgoing Committee

ACEI / EI

Ciarán Fahy
Harry Meighan
Joe Hogan

CIF

John Curtin
John Kelly
Martin Lang
Paul Carmody

RIAI

James O'Donoghue
Joe Miller
Jude O'Loughlin
Niall Meagher

SCSI

Gerry O'Sullivan
Liam Boylan
Mark McGreevy
Una Merriman