

The Chairman of the Liaison Committee to the Construction Industry Annual Report 2018

1. The Committee

The Liaison Committee (LC) is comprised of the following Constituent Bodies:

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

EI and ACEI are to nominate 2 members of the Committee while the other bodies are to nominate 4 members, giving a total membership of sixteen. During the year there were 8 meetings of the Committee with an average attendance at those meetings of 11.

2. Committee Membership

SCSI held the Chair of the Committee for 2018 and this position was filled by Mr Mark McGreevy. RIAI will hold the chair for 2019 and Mr Toal O'Muire was nominated as Vice Chairman during the year, after he replaced Mr Niall Meagher on the Committee. Mr Harry Meighan (EI) stood down from the Committee in February and Mr Ciaran Fahy (EI) in December; which has resulted in there being no EI representative in the short term. Mr Terry Sheehan (ACEI) stood down from the Committee in 2017 and was replaced by Mr Eddie Comerford (ACEI).

3. Code of Practice for Tendering and Contracting Matters

A Sub Committee has been formed to deal with updating the current document and is being chaired by Mr Joe Miller. It has been agreed that two documents will be produced in tandem. The first document will serve as an interim document while work with continue on a second more encompassing version. Much of the work on the interim document is complete and it is hoped that a first draft of the second document will be presented to the Committee during the first quarter of 2019.

4. Edits to RIAI Forms

At the beginning of the year agreement was reached in relation to the edits to the 2017 Form, and an updated Contract was published, which was issued in agreement with the CIF and SCSI as has traditionally been the case. Edit 4, which had been put aside in order to get agreement, was revisited at the request of the RIAI and remains under discussion. At the final meeting of 2018, RIAI informed the Committee of its intention to issue a draft document encompassing further edits to future editions of the Blue and Yellow Forms.

5. Terms of Reference

A new Terms of Reference document for the LC has been agreed; which can be considered a milestone event for the LC. Trojan work was done by a Sub Group that consisted of the following senior representatives from each of the bodies: Sarah Ingle (ACEI), Tom Parlon /

Martin Lang (CIF), Damien Owens (EI), Toal O'Muire (RIAI) and Richard Mossop (SCSI). 8 meetings of the Sub Group were held during the year with the intention of getting agreement on this document, while further communications took place between representatives via phone and email. A copy of the final document was signed by each of the Director General's of the bodies conveying their buy-in to what was agreed. Whilst many of the changes sought to reflect the practical realities of the desired operation of the LC in today's world, one significant change to the document was the inclusion of a maximum tenure of 5 years for members.

6. Alternative Form of Contract

CIF, EI and SCSI continue to support the publication of this contract. During the year ACEI outlined that while they will constructively participate in the necessary debate and engagement on the drafting of the contract, they decided not to have themselves represented as a named party on the document when issued. RIAI has had no role in the Form's production. The contract is for the main part complete. Discussions are ongoing between the SCSI / CIF and EI regarding next steps.

7. Advance Payment Bonds

A draft document has been circulated by RIAI for comment from the other bodies. It is intended that this document will be tested and costed with bond providers.

8. Website Refresh

Earlier in the year it was agreed that a new LC website would be created. Think Media was tasked with the brief in this respect. A Sub Committee has been put in place and has started to engage on the task.

8. Secretariat

The administration of the LC was provided by CIF and I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the Committee. I would particularly like to thank Ms Denise Tuffy for her considerable effort and fantastic support to the Chair and the Committee on its various initiatives during the year.

9. Conclusion

In recent years the LC had struggled to achieve its desired output on many fronts. This meant that 2018 needed to be the year that the Committee recalibrated and refocused on what it has sought to do over nearly 70 years of existence, i.e. to set fair and equitable terms and conditions of engagement for all parties involved in building contracts, big or small.

The objectives for the year were narrowed to facilitate the achievement of this renewed focus. It is hoped that with the support for the LC's efforts confirmed and formally signed off in the new Terms of Reference, that the Committee along with the arrival of some new members, can seek to re-establish itself as the go to forum that sets the standard of what is considered as balanced tendering and contracting on private projects. It is my hope that the constructive engagement that we have seen between all of the representative Bodies during the past year, will help set the tone for more of the same during the coming year and those to follow.

I would finally like to express my gratitude to all members of the Committee for their help and guidance during 2018 and I would like to wish the incoming Chairman, Mr Toal O'Muire, every success in 2019.

Mark McGreevy, Chairman

Outgoing Committee

ACEI / EI

Eddie Comerford
Joe Hogan

CIF

Paul Carmody
John Curtin
Alison Irving
John Kelly

RIAI

Danyal Ibrahim
Joe Miller
James O'Donoghue
Toal O'Muire

SCSI

Liam Boylan
Mark McGreevy
Una Merriman
Gerry O'Sullivan