

The Chairman of the Liaison Committee to the Construction Industry Annual Report 2021

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 6 meetings of the Committee with an average attendance at those meetings of 12.

2. Committee Membership

The Construction Industry Federation held the Chair of the Committee for 2021 and this position was filled by Mr Paul Sheridan. The SCSI will hold the chair for 2022 and Mr XXXX has been nominated at the incoming Chairman. During the year Mr John Kelly (CIF) stood down from the Committee was replaced by Mr Paul Nichols (CIF). Mr John Kelly has given many years of active and valuable service to the committee.

3. Code of Practice for Tendering and Contracting Matters

A large body of work has taken place on the updated version of this document which is due for publication in January 2022. This task has fallen to members of the Sub Committee which consists of Mr Ibrahim, Ms Alison Irving, Mr Pranash Ramanundh and Mr Joe Miller. On behalf of the Liaison Committee, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to these individuals for their unwavering dedication to getting this task complete.

Once this document is complete it is intended that there will be an official launch which will also encompass the launch of the new website which was completed at the beginning of the year.

4. Edits to RIAI Forms

The development on an updated version of the current 2017 versions of the RIAI Form of Contract was continued through 2021 by the Edits Sub Committee. This Committee is Chaired by Mr Mark McGreevy and during 2021 three meetings took place. In addition to these meetings four bilateral meetings have taken place between those bodies whose membership is affected by the suggested changes.

I am pleased to note that agreement has been reached in relation to many of the issues where varying opinions had been expressed; however, some issues remain outstanding principally around text related to contractor's design standard and the exemplar second schedule. Given the importance of publishing an updated version of the RIAI contract that reflects the current construction environment, I believe it is in the interests of all parties that consensus is found around acceptable text as soon as is practical.

I would like to express my gratitude to members of this Sub Committee who have repeatedly shown their dedication to the LC, their own body and the industry as a whole. I would also like to particularly thank Mr McGreevy as Chairman of the Sub Committee for the role he has played in getting consensus to date as well as for his ongoing determination to get this task complete.

5. Availability of Insurances

The limited availability of PI insurance and/or at commercial terms in the current market remains major threat to all stakeholders of the construction industry. Due to its importance, this issue continued to be discussed within the Liaison Committee to ensure members are aware of updates. The CIC is also monitoring this area and are involved in conversations with the GCCC with the direct support of the LC.

6. Brexit

The members of the Sub Committee on Brexit kept the committee informed of the relevant impacts of Brexit on its work. It was agreed that the committee would be stood down in the second quarter of 2021 with the Liaison Committee taking on a watching brief for the remainder of 2022. The members of the Sub Committee included Mr Toal O'Muire as convenor, Mr Damien Owens, and Mr John Kelly and they were thanked for the commitment and valuable contributions on behalf of the committee.

7. COVID

The first half of 2021 presented even greater challenges for the industry than 2020 with 50% of the industry shut down for nearly 4 months. Unfortunately, the challenges of COVID on construction did not end with re-opening. It continued to have a huge impact in terms of supply chain disruption, labour shortages, inflation, and productivity. However, a positive outcome has been the rapid acceleration in the adoption of new technologies and modern methods of construction, which we hope will have positive impact on productivity and quality across the industry.

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 and Ms Laura O'Keeffe for their tireless efforts in assisting both the LC and the Edits Sub-Committee in preparing and circulating the agenda and minutes for each meeting.

9. Conclusion

I also wish to thank all members of the Committee for their help and support during the year and wish the new Chairman, Mr. XXXX every success in 2022.

Paul Sheridan, Chairman

Outgoing Committee

ACEI / EI	CIF	RIAI	SCSI
Eddie Comerford	John Curtin	Joe Miller/Pranash Ramanundh	Claire Cullen Crowley
Joe Hogan	Alison Irving/Paul Sheridan	Eilis O'Donnell	Dermot Durack
Gerard Monaghan	John Kelly/Paul Nichols	James O'Donoghue	Mark McGreevy
Damien Owens	Mel O'Reilly	Toal O'Muire	Joe Boyle