

The Chairperson of the Liaison Committee to the Construction Industry Annual Report 2024

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 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 six meetings of the Committee with an approximate average attendance of 10.

The dates of the meetings were as follows;

- 23rd January 2024 - AGM (12 present)
- 26th March 2024 (10 present)
- 11th June 2024 (8 present)
- 20th August 2024 (13 present)
- 8th October 2024 (11 present)
- 3rd December 2024 (11 present)

The meetings were held in the CIF offices in Construction House and could be attended in person or online.

2. Committee Membership

The ACEI held the Chair of the Committee for 2024, and the position was filled by Joe Hogan. The CIF will hold the Chair for 2025, and Paul Sheridan has been nominated as the provisional incoming Chairperson.

3. Edits to RIAI Form of Contract

The RIAI Form of contract is expected to be published imminently.

4. Issues with Specification Writing

During 2024, the Committee considered current issues and challenges with specification writing within the construction industry, for both design team members and contractors.

The ongoing difficulties and challenges were discussed including the increasing level of both technical and digital disruption on the industry and prohibitive costs of building standards for small to medium sized design team practices and contractors.

The committee also lobbied through the Construction Industry Council regarding alleviating the costs of building standards which are ongoing.

5. Costs in Arbitration

The Liaison Committee continues to pursue this policy area through both strategic and individual stakeholder engagement with the OGP. The OPG have indicated that they will be undertaking a review of ADR provisions and the strengthening dispute avoidance in the CWMF. This will commence in February with end in April.

6. Construction Price Inflation

CIF and SCSI have jointly published an information note on the new PVC mechanism in the PWC and a joint webinar with the OGP will take place on the 18th of February on the matter. ARM 5 refers to the naming of an inflation recovery mechanism if used in the contract. The

mechanism used in the PWC could be adapted to the Private sector.

7. Availability of Professional Indemnity Insurance

The Committee continues to monitor the impact of availability of Professional Indemnity Insurance within the construction industry, which is improving steadily but challenge remain in fire protection etc.

8. SEAI One Stop Shop

Following meetings with SEAI, they indicated that they would be adopting the RIAI form of contract and the use of nominated contractors and suppliers under normal contracting arrangements.

9. Design Matrix for Mechanical and Electrical Works

The ACEI and the CIF continue to engage in the ACEI Design Responsibility Document. The latest version is currently being assessed by CIF's Mechanical and Electrical Contractors members for further discussion internally with Main Contractors.

10. Secretariat

The CIF continued to provide administrative support to the Liaison Committee for 2024 and I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the Committee. I would particularly like to thank Helen Early for her assistance in preparing and circulating the agenda and minutes for each meeting and for arranging and setting up the meetings.

11. Finances

I would also like to thank Paul Sheridan of the CIF for continuing to act as Treasurer in 2024. The costs of running the committee are low and are met by an agreed levy on the member bodies when funds run low. As funds were low the committee agreed to issue letters to the member bodies seeking their contributions. The only other source of income is from sales of the Code of Practice on Tendering.

12. Conclusion

I wish to thank all members of the Committee for their help and support during the year and wish the new Chairperson, Paul Sheridan, every success in 2025.

Joe Hogan

Joe Hogan, Chairperson

Outgoing Committee

ACEI / EI	CIF	RIAI	SCSI
Eddie Comerford	John Curtin	Joe Miller	Joe Boyle
Joe Hogan	Paul Sheridan/Jonathan Flynn	Danyal Ibrahim	Dermot Durack
Gerard Monaghan	Oliver Keown	Ellis O'Donnell	Mark McGreevy
Damien Owens	Mel O'Reilly	James O'Donoghue	Aiden O'Neill