

Minutes of the second Meeting of the Construction Sector Group



28th November 2018

Present

Robert Watt (Chair, DPER), Sarah Ingle (ACEI), David Duffy (BMF), Tom Parlon (CIF), Caroline Spillane (Engineers Ireland), Patricia King (ICTU), Kathryn Meghen (RIAI), Áine Myler (SCSI), Kevin Daly (DBEI), Matt Collins (DCCA), Hubert Loftus (DES), Colm Desmond (D/Health), Maria Graham (DHPLG), John Shaw (D/Taoiseach), Garret Doocey (DTTS), David O'Brien (OGP). Ronnie Downes (DPER), Ed Hearne (DPER), Fionn Jenkinson (DPER), Margaret O'Donnell (DPER), Aine Griffin (DPER), Paddy Howard (DPER), Christina Mohan (DPER), Paul Cotter (D/Finance), Terry Sheridan (DHPLG).

1. Minutes of Meeting held on July 31st

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

As a follow up to the last meeting, the Head of the Secretariat of the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs took the opportunity to provide a short update on the work of that group. The EGFSN propose to finalise a research proposal relating to skills issues shortly.

Action Points

- DCCA to provide an update on Construction and Demolition Matters at the next meeting.

2. Proposal to operate under the Transparency Code

DPER proposed that the CSG operate under the terms of the Transparency Code and outlined the requirements and benefits of doing so. The CSG agreed to this proposal.

Action Points

- DPER to begin process of implementing the Transparency Code.

3. Update on Project Ireland 2040 implementation

DPER outlined the projects to be completed in 2019, provided an update on the remit of the Land Development Agency and an update on the Four NDP Funds. The update also included details of the next iteration of the tracker and future plans for the tracker.

Action Points

- Industry members to continue to provide feedback on future iterations of the Investment Tracker.

4. Proposed work programme for the CSG (DPER, all)

DPER proposed that the CSG takes forward a programme of work across the following themes: communicating for confidence; securing the skills pipeline; driving productivity improvement;

enhancing value for money; and, leading a sustainable industry. The issue of compliance was raised and it was agreed that it should be incorporated into the work programme.

A concern was raised about the ability of construction sectors workers from outside the EU to access work permits for Ireland. It was noted that the EU is a market of over 200 million workers and should be the first source of overseas labour.

Action Points

- CSG to incorporate theme of compliance into the work programme.
- DBEI to update the CSG in relation to the process of reviewing work permit eligibility.

5. The Construction Sector Activity Report

DPER provided an update on the emerging findings of the Construction Sector Activity Report, outlining trends in output, costs, employment and enterprise, human capital and productivity.

Action Points

- DPER to continue to refine the draft and take into account a number of suggestions from the CSG.
- A draft to be circulated to the CSG.
- Industry members to provide feedback in advance of publication.

6. Containing inflation and driving productivity growth (CIF)

CIF gave a presentation on the dual challenges of inflation and productivity. The presentation pointed to the role of a range of factors in driving productivity improvements. These include education, waste management, more customised standard designs, early contractor involvement, better integrated supply chain, improved and sustainable procurement, BIM adoption and use of pre-fabrication.

DPER emphasised the imperative not to chase inflation by further increasing public capital programme spend.

Action Points

- DPER to consider the work stream and to take the points raised on board.

7. Update on reforms of Judicial Review and Planning for Strategic Infrastructure Projects (DHPLG)

DHPLG provided an update on reforms of Judicial Review relating to strategic infrastructure projects. A discussion followed relating to potential options to improve the current process.

Action Points

- DHPLG to update the CSG on progress at a future meeting.

8. AOB

The next meeting is scheduled for February 6th 2019 at 11am.