

# The Construction Industry Forum for Northern Ireland

## The purpose of the Forum

To provide a strategically focused interface between the construction industry in Northern Ireland and the devolved administration. It provides the opportunity to establish and strengthen relationships between the industry and all arms of the devolved administration and facilitates the consideration and development of matters of mutual interest.

The industry's representation is drawn from the Construction Industry Group for Northern Ireland and from the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

The devolved administration's representation is drawn from the Government Construction Clients Group.

The Forum's considerations are progressed mainly through Task Groups appointed to pursue and report on particular issues. The Forum does not have executive powers and relies on CIGNI and GCCG to disseminate its recommendations.

CIGNI disseminates the recommendations (via its Colleges) to the industry, whilst GCCG disseminates them (via Departmental representatives) to Departments, their Agencies, NDPBs and the wider public sector. It is intended that the conduits for disseminating recommendations will operate in the opposite direction for feedback. These conduits also provide a means for members of the industry or the public sector to raise relevant issues.

## Construction Industry Group for Northern Ireland (CIGNI)

CIGNI is a private sector body and was established in November 1998.

It is made up of 5 colleges namely, Professional Bodies; Contractors; Specialist Sub-Contractors; Suppliers and Clients. Its purpose is to ensure that the industry operates efficiently and effectively to meet the needs of modern society and it aims to achieve this by promoting excellence in all aspects of the work of the industry.

## The aims of the Forum

- to build trust and develop teamwork within the industry.
- to promote efficiency and other initiatives.
  - to facilitate the exchange of information.
  - to promote best practice.

## Trade Unions

Two members drawn from those unions with particular interests in construction represent the industry employees at the Forum on behalf of The Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions

## Government Construction Clients Group (GCCG)

GCCG brings together representatives from all Government bodies with an involvement in construction. Its purpose is to ensure the effective promotion of best practice and efficiency throughout the public sector and it enables the public sector client's views to be sought collectively.

## Task Groups

To enable due consideration to be given to matters of detail, CIFNI relies on Task Groups, established and stood down as required.

Task Groups comprise a Chairperson and at least 2 members (one from CIGNI and one from GCCG) appointed by the Forum together with up to 8 co-opted members, selected by the Chairperson for their knowledge and experience of the subject area under consideration.

It is envisaged that the members co-opted for one subject will stand down and be replaced by others when the subject area changes. This will enable the Task Groups and Forum to benefit from appropriate expert advice whilst maintaining continuity through appointed members.

When a Task Group has considered an issue it brings recommendations to the Forum for discussion and agreement. Each meeting of the Forum receives a report from each Task Group.

