



Construction Sector Group – 2024 Work Programme

Terms of Reference

The Construction Sector Group (CSG) was set up in 2018 by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform (DPENDR). The CSG is a forum for regular and open dialogue between Government and the construction industry. The CSG focuses on issues that may impact on the successful delivery of the NDP and to consider wider developments in the construction sector. Its remit includes:

- Working with industry and government bodies to (a) benchmark and improve productivity and environmental sustainability and (b) to modernise public works delivery.
- Considering opportunities to introduce reforms within the sector that will help in controlling construction price inflation, improving efficiency and delivering value for money for investment.
- Assessing the supply of necessary skills and measures enhancing capacity (including potential use of overseas contractors).
- Issues arising from inadequate or ineffective regulation, poor performance and systemic poor quality.

Meetings Focus

Overview

The CSG ensures regular and open dialogue between government and industry on how best to achieve and maintain a sustainable and innovative construction sector positioned to successfully deliver on the commitments in Project Ireland 2040. It is made up of representatives of key industry bodies, as well as senior representatives of relevant government departments and agencies with responsibilities for policy and for the delivery of infrastructure and is chaired by the Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. The group reports to the Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery, and Reform.

In line with the principles of openness and transparency, the Construction Sector Group operates under the guidelines set out in the Transparency Code. This means that the group's membership, work programme, and the minutes and agendas of all meetings are published on DPENDR's [website](#). This document outlines the work programme of the CSG for 2024. Meetings were held in November and December 2023 between the National Investment Office (NIO) and Government Departments (DHLGH, DFHERIS, and the Office of Government Procurement) and the construction industry (CIF, Engineers Ireland, ACEI, RIAI, SCSi, and BMF). At these meetings, it was clear that the CSG, and the associated Innovation and Digital Adoption Sub-Group, should increase focus on issues related to procurement reforms, and skills and capacity within the construction and built environment sector. In addition, feedback suggested that CSG meetings should contain less presentations, leaving more time to discuss key issues for the industry such as reforms to the Public Works Contract, standards, sustainability, the public sector Building Information Modelling (BIM) mandate, and clearer communication on the pipeline of projects coming to market in line with the NDP. The detailed work programme for 2024 is outlined below.

Preliminary Meeting Schedule

Four meetings of the CSG are planned in 2024. The preliminary dates across the four quarters are as follows:

- Q1 Meeting – 25 January 2024
- Q2 Meeting – 18 April 2024
- Q3 Meeting – 11 July 2024
- Q4 Meeting – 24 October 2024

Key Items for 2024

1. Build Report 2024

The purpose of the Build Report 2024 is to provide as comprehensive an overview of the performance and prospects of the sector as possible, based on official statistics, at this point in time. The Report is an important source of evidence to inform the work of the CSG and the Innovation and Digital Adoption Sub-Group. This report will compile and analyse the available official statistics relating to the Irish construction sector. The broad topics will include regional activity, costs, investment, output, productivity, sustainability, skills and knowledge, and employment and enterprise.

2. Prospects Report 2024/2025

The Prospects 2024 report will provide an overview of fifty of the largest construction projects included in the Project Ireland 2040 tracker. Departments and the Project Ireland 2040 Co-Ordination Group will be consulted to obtain updates they may have to the Major Projects being developed on the PI2040 tracker.

3. CSG Meetings in 2024

As noted above, meetings were held in late 2023 between the NIO and Government Departments and the construction industry to identify the priority issues to be examined by the CSG in 2024. The broad topics and themes for discussion in 2024 are set out below. These may need to change in response to feedback or unforeseen circumstances. However, the objective is that the core discussion topics in the form of standing items and associated cross-sectoral issues will be discussed as planned.

The proposed broad themes and topics for 2024

1. **Improving Regulation and Public Procurement** – for example: Capital Works Management Framework review, Public Works Contract, International Cost Management Standard (ICMS), BCAR, NBCO, planning reforms, standards and regulations.
2. **Supporting Innovation and Digital Adoption** – for example: Build Digital Project, Construct Innovate, Demonstration Park for MMC, BIM Mandate, Circular Economy Guidelines for the Construction Sector.
3. **Securing the Skills Pipeline** – for example: *Careers in Construction: Action Plan*, careers promotion, training and education.
4. **Communicating the Public Investment Pipeline** – for example: Prospects Report 2024/2025, regular NDP delivery updates and the PI2040 tracker and map.

Core discussions

All meetings will feature:

- Update from Innovation and Digital Adoption Sub-Group
- Update on Project Ireland 2040 (NIO)
- Updates from the OGP regarding procurement reforms
- Skills and Capacity

Cross-sectoral issues

All meetings will have discussions on a range of cross-sectoral issues which impact upon project delivery. The following sets out the topics to be discussed at the four meetings in 2024. The list is not exhaustive and other topics may be added as issues arise.

Meeting	Construction Sector Group	Cross-Sectoral Issue (s)
1	25 January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing Item: Update from Innovation and Digital Adoption Sub-Group • Standing Item: Update on Project Ireland 2040 - CSG Work Programme 2024 (NIO) • Procurement reforms (OGP) - OGP Work Programme 2024 • Construction Skills and Apprentices (DFHERIS)
2	18 April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing Item: Update from Innovation and Digital Adoption Sub-Group • Standing Item: Update on Project Ireland 2040 – Q1 2024 Investment Tracker update (NIO) • Planning and Development Bill and resourcing the planning system (DHLGH) • NDP Delivery at Local Authority Level
3	11 July 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing Item: Update from Innovation and Digital Adoption Sub-Group • Standing Item: Update on Project Ireland 2040 - Public Sector Capacity (PI2040 Delivery Board) (NIO) • National Planning Framework (NPF) update • Promotion of Construction Careers/MMC Skills Action Plan
4	24 October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing Item: Update from Innovation and Digital Adoption Sub-Group • Standing Item: Update on Project Ireland 2040 (NIO) • Timber in Construction Working Group (DAFM) • Building standards and regulations (DHLGH)

National Investment Office (NIO)
Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform
January 2024