

Construction Sector Group

2019 Work Programme



1. Introduction

This document outlines the work programme of the Construction Sector Group (CSG) for 2019. The programme details the five priorities identified by the members of the CSG. These priorities were identified by members during the first two meetings of the group along with further meetings which took place between the Investment Projects and Programmes Office (IPPO) and each of the industry bodies represented at the CSG.

Overarching Priority: promoting the sustainability of the construction sector

The overarching priority of the CSG is to enable the construction sector to sustain viable companies and rewarding careers in order to produce high quality construction output, thereby delivering better value for money and key national priorities. Following a broad consultation it is proposed to deliver a programme of work that focuses on the following priorities:

- 1. Communicate for industry confidence**
- 2. Secure the skills pipeline**
- 3. Drive growth and productivity**
- 4. Improve value for money**
- 5. Lead a sustainable and resilient industry**

2. Background to the CSG

The CSG was established following the launch of Project Ireland 2040 and the National Development Plan in February 2018. The role of the CSG is to ensure regular and open dialogue between Government and the construction sector. The CSG will focus on issues that may impact on the successful delivery of the NDP on a value-for-money basis for the State. The CSG is made up of each of the key segments of the industry along with officials from relevant Departments and Agencies. The CSG's 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.
- 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.

The industry bodies represented are:

- Construction Industry Federation
- Irish Congress for Trade Unions
- The Building Materials Federation
- Engineers Ireland
- Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland
- Royal Institute of the Architecture of Ireland
- Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland
- Irish Planning Institute

As the CSG operates under the Transparency Code the full work programme along with the minutes and agendas of all meetings will be published on the DPER website.

3. Preliminary Meeting Schedule for 2019

The CSG meets once a quarter in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

- Q1 Meeting – 11.00 a.m. on the 6th of February
- Q2 Meeting – 10.00 a.m. on the 17th of May
- Q3 Meeting – July
- Q4 Meeting – November

Exact times and dates for the Q3 and Q4 meetings will be confirmed closer to the time.

4. Ways of Working

4.1 Proposed Outputs

The IPPO will facilitate the functioning of the CSG by arranging the quarterly meetings with the input of the group members. Industry leadership and engagement will be essential to delivering a high value work programme.

The work of the CSG will contribute to the following outputs:

- Build Report: Construction Sector Performance and Prospects 2019 (Q1)
- A coordinated promotion of the construction sector by Industry bodies to highlight it as an attractive, modern and technology-centric industry (approach to be discussed at Q2 meeting with update from industry due in Q4 meeting)
- Updated Investment Tracker and Mapping Tool (Q1 & Q3)
- Industry bodies to disseminate Tracker and further promote key information to the sector (to report back at Q2 2019 meeting)
- Construction Sector Productivity Assessment and Growth Actions (Q1-Q3)
- Industry bodies to lead and participate in the subgroups proposed below as required.

Industry bodies will be invited to propose how they might best coordinate their work, particularly on the priority of communicating for confidence.

4.2 CSG Sub-Groups

Two sub-groups will be established to allow for more detailed discussions of particular priorities on the CSG's work programme.

- **Growth and Productivity Sub-Group**

This sub-group will support and inform the conducting and commissioning of the wide-ranging analysis of productivity and sustainability by the IPPO in order to inform new construction industry approaches for improvement. This proposed research will also form a fundamental component of 2019 work programme of the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs and will be required to inform crucial policy initiatives to contribute to improved productivity. The group will also work on proposals to improve technology adoption and deployment of BIM.

The first meeting of this sub-group will take place in Q1 2019.

- **Value for Money and Sustainability Sub-Group**

This sub-group will primarily support and inform the production of future editions of the Build Report and contribute to work to improve value for money.

The first meeting of this sub-group will take place in Q2 2019.

These are the initial sub-groups which have been proposed. It is expected that the sub-group will evolve over time as required with additional sub-groups established as new priorities and demands are identified.

5. Timeline of Outputs

Quarter 1 2019

- CSG to have a focused discussion on skills - issues, challenges and opportunities
- Further develop the Investment Tracker to provide the industry with the confidence to invest, recruit and expand
- IPPO to publish *Build: Construction Sector Performance and Prospects 2019* with strong input from all CSG members
- Ex-post review of major infrastructural projects to be undertaken by the Irish Academy of Engineering (Q2 2019)

Quarter 2 2019

- Industry bodies to disseminate Investment Tracker and further promote key information to the sector (to report back at Q2 2019 meeting)
- Industry bodies to work together to promote the construction sector as an attractive, modern and technology-centric industry (approach to be discussed at Q2 meeting with update from industry due in Q4 meeting)
- CSG to contribute to OGP's medium-term procurement strategy
- Industry and Departments to consider how to take forward proposals on BIM
- CSG to have a focused discussion on labour compliance issues in the construction sector

Quarter 3 2019

- The Growth and Productivity Sub-Group will report on a wide-ranging analysis of productivity to inform new industry approaches for improvement (Q2 - Q3 2019)
- The Investment Tracker will be further updated and developed

Quarter 4 2019

- Industry to report back to CSG on how they have increased and further coordinated their promotion of the construction sector as an attractive, modern and technology-centric industry
- Planning for Build 2020 to begin.

6. Outputs for each Priority

1. Communicating for confidence

- Government will further develop the Investment Tracker in consultation with the CSG to provide the industry with the confidence to invest, recruit and expand (update for Q1 2019)
- This will include timings on key milestones of projects and details in relation to planning, procurement and construction programmes
- Industry bodies to disseminate this and further promote key information to the sector (to report back at Q2 2019 meeting)
- DPER to publish "Build: Construction Sector Performance and Prospects 2019" Construction Sector Activity Report - with strong input from all CSG members (Q1 2019)

2. Securing the skills pipeline

- The Expert Group on Future Skills Needs will undertake a detailed skills foresight exercise (with input from CSG members through the Steering Committee for the study)
- Industry bodies to work together to promote the construction sector as an attractive, modern and technology-centric industry (update to be discussed at Q2 2019 meeting)
- CSG to have a focused discussion on apprenticeships, issues, challenges and opportunities (Q1 2019 meeting)
- Growth and Productivity Sub-Group to update on industry-led initiatives to improve sectoral capacity.

3. Driving productivity and growth

- The Growth and Productivity Sub-Group will lead a wide-ranging analysis of productivity to inform new industry approaches for improvement (Q3 2019)
- The CSG will take forward proposals from the BIM Roadmap.

4. Enhancing value for money

- Build Report to provide early warning on inflation pressures (Q1 2019)
- DPER to report on ex-post review of major infrastructural projects undertaken by the Irish Academy of Engineering (Q1 2019)
- CSG to contribute to OGP's medium-term procurement strategy (Q2 2019)

5. Leading a sustainable and resilient industry

- Growth and Productivity Sub-Group to consider industry approaches to improve environmental sustainability
- Industry to work on potential solutions and ideas to enhance the sector's circular economy
- CSG to have a focused discussion on labour compliance issues in the construction sector

In addition, the CSG will be updated on a range of relevant Government initiatives including construction waste management, planning changes, progress on Project Ireland 2040 delivery, employment rights and regulation and other issues.