



# IRISH CONCRETE FEDERATION ANNUAL REPORT 2018

# INDUSTRY MISSION STATEMENT

**We will be a customer driven, service oriented, quality business.**

**We will be viewed by our community and Government as an environmentally responsible industry that operates in a safe and healthy manner.**

**We will create a work environment where our employees are highly trained and empowered to anticipate customer needs.**

**We seek to develop successful and mutually beneficial relationships with customers, suppliers, communities and the construction industry.**

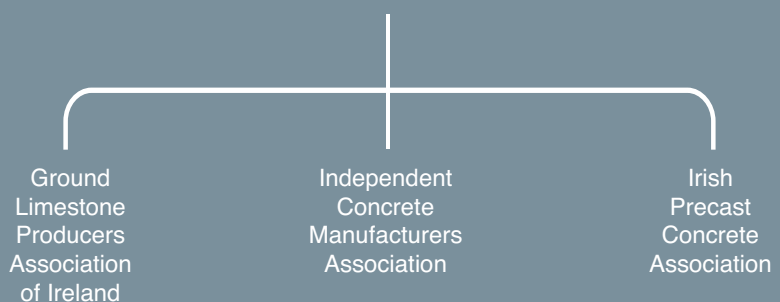
**The concrete products industry will continue to be successful.**

**The concrete products industry will be guided by positive leadership among the many strategies to be utilised in achieving these goals.**

**The End Result;**

- Adequate Return on Investment
- A Secure Future

## IRISH CONCRETE FEDERATION



### Affiliations

ICF is a member of ERMCO, European Readymix Concrete Organisation and of UEPG, the European Aggregates Association. IPCA is a member of BIBM, the European Federation for Precast Concrete.

**ERMCO**

EUROPEAN READY MIXED CONCRETE ORGANIZATION  
ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DU BETON PRET A L'EMPLOI  
EUROPÄISCHER TRANSPORTBETONVERBAND



(Union Européenne  
des Producteurs de  
Granulats)



European Federation  
for Precast Concrete

# CONTENTS

**03**

JOHN MAGUIRE -  
AN APPRECIATION

**04**

FOREWORD BY  
THE PRESIDENT,  
MR LARRY BYRNE

**08**

CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE'S  
REPORT

**11**

ICF COUNCIL

**12**

TECHNICAL  
COMMITTEE

**13**

TRANSPORT  
COMMITTEE

**13**

CONCRETE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GROUP

**15**

PLANNING AND  
ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE

**16**

BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE

**16**

HEALTH  
AND SAFETY  
COMMITTEE

**19**

IRISH PRECAST  
CONCRETE  
ASSOCIATION

**20**

GROUND  
LIMESTONE  
PRODUCERS  
ASSOCIATION  
OF IRELAND

**21**

ICF  
COMMUNICATIONS

**21**

STAKEHOLDER  
RELATIONS

**22**

EUROPE

**22**

SOCIAL

**24**

IRISH CONCRETE  
FEDERATION  
FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED 31  
DECEMBER 2018

**28**

IRISH CONCRETE  
FEDERATION  
COUNCIL MEMBERS  
2018

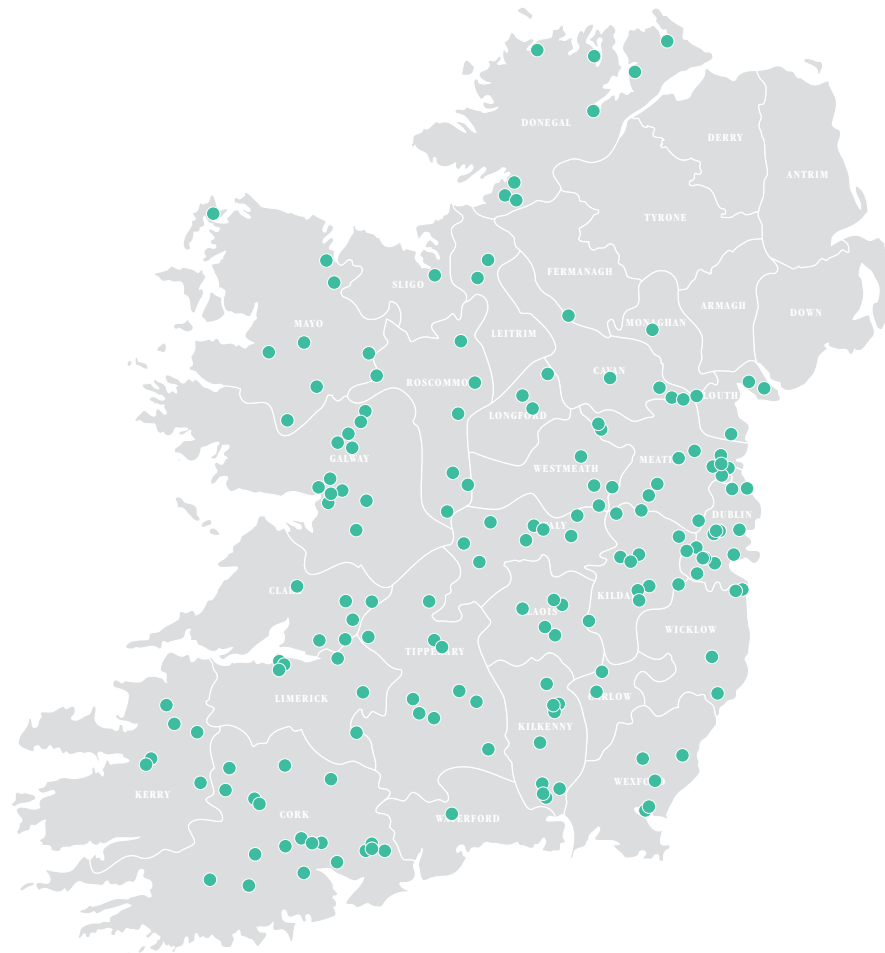


**Irish Concrete Federation**  
8 Newlands Business Park,  
Naas Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22 R2F8  
**Tel:** 01 464 0082 **Fax:** 01 464 0087  
**E-mail:** [info@irishconcrete.ie](mailto:info@irishconcrete.ie)  
**Web:** [www.irishconcrete.ie](http://www.irishconcrete.ie)

Cover photo:

Cavanagh Bridge UCC  
37th Irish Concrete Society Awards Overall Winner  
Major Suppliers: Kilsaran/Palmira  
Image Courtesy of O'Donnell Tuomey  
Photographer: Jed Niezgoda

## ICF MEMBER LOCATIONS 2018



### INDUSTRY FACTS



Industry output of aggregates  
(stone, sand and gravel)  
amounted to approximately  
**36 million tonnes**



Agricultural lime output in  
Ireland was approximately  
**1 million tonnes**



Industry output of  
readymix concrete was  
**4.8 million m<sup>3</sup>**



The value of exports of  
precast concrete to the UK  
was approximately  
**€125 million**



Industry output of  
concrete blocks was  
**over 125 million units**



There are approximately **220**  
concrete manufacturing locations  
and **350** large active quarries  
in Ireland



## JOHN MAGUIRE – AN APPRECIATION

It was with great sadness that the entire Irish quarrying and concrete industry learned of the untimely death on May 20th 2019 of Mr John Maguire, former Chief Executive Officer of the Irish Concrete Federation.

John's death after a relatively short illness was a great shock to his many colleagues and friends within the quarrying and concrete industry and beyond. John leaves a lasting legacy on the industry, the Irish Concrete Federation and most importantly, on the people with whom he worked over many years.

John was born in Co Fermanagh and studied at St Michael's College in Enniskillen. He studied economics, politics and labour law at Ruskin College, Oxford prior to joining the Northern Ireland Civil Service. John worked with the Department of Agriculture in Northern Ireland until 1981.

In 1981 John became a senior executive with the Construction Industry Federation in Dublin, working primarily with the Independent Concrete Manufacturers Association and representing companies operating in the quarrying, ready mixed concrete and precast concrete industry. In 1994, John founded and became Chief Executive Officer of the Irish Concrete Federation, which to this day remains the sole representative body for the extractive and concrete products industry in Ireland. He arranged the purchase of offices at Newlands Cross, which still remains the headquarters of the Federation.

During his many years leading the Irish Concrete Federation, John played a central role in the development of the quarrying and concrete sector in Ireland into the modern industry it is today and his advice and opinion were held in the highest esteem by all who sought them. John tackled all challenges that faced the industry in a professional and unflinching manner. He was a persistent and eloquent industry advocate and frequently represented the industry in the media. He worked tirelessly with government agencies both in Ireland and in Europe, developing new standards, legal frameworks and facilitating the growth of the concrete sector. His commitment to the industry and the membership was unrivalled with no problem too big for John to tackle.

In later years, the industry was challenged with difficulties attaining reasonably priced insurance. John set up the Independent Concrete Control Management (ICCM) insurance scheme which was an innovative model, whereby the industry became partly self-insured. He managed each insurance claim from initial set up of the legal parameters right through to final negotiation. This scheme has been very successful and indeed last year was extended to provide vehicle insurance to members. ICCM was managed by John and his team until March of this year.

John also had extensive international experience. He represented Ireland in Europe on the board of the Organisation of Quality Assurance in Construction and on the boards of ERMCO, the European Ready Mixed Concrete Organisation and UEPG, the European Aggregates Association. In more recent years John became a legally qualified mediator and was registered with Mediation Forum Ireland.

Throughout his career John was widely recognised as a professional and passionate advocate for the industries and individual businesses he represented, particularly in the quarrying and concrete sector. He made many lasting friendships within the industry and in organisations with whom he engaged on behalf of his members. His encyclopaedic knowledge of the concrete sector in Ireland, is a chapter now closed. He will be sadly missed.

On a personal level, John was a man of faith. We hope and pray that he has now been reunited with his previously departed family and loved ones. John told friends in his final weeks that he was very lucky to be surrounded by such wonderful family support and care.

Our thoughts and wishes are with his wife Anne and family.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.





**Larry Byrne**  
President

## FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT, MR LARRY BYRNE

It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Irish Concrete Federation for 2018.

It is often the case that those of us involved in business naturally assume that the general public and other interested parties automatically understand our industry and the organisations within it. In fact it is probable that many among the general public will not be aware of the Irish Concrete Federation's existence or who our members are and what they do.

On assuming the position of President of the Irish Concrete Federation (ICF) almost two years ago, one of my key ambitions was to highlight the contribution which the industry in which I am involved, plays in Ireland and the benefits which it brings to the everyday life for our citizens. To lay the blame on others for a lack of awareness among the public and other stakeholders of the strategic importance of our industry to Ireland is a mistake. Our industry, like every other, needs to inform and communicate with all interested parties on a consistent and regular basis, in order that society makes the link between modern living and the materials produced by our member companies.

In 2018, we in the ICF published a short summary of the economic contribution which our industry makes to this country. Having recovered from the impact of an 80% reduction in activity during the recessionary years, our industry now employs over 5,000 directly, operates in over 500 quarry locations and operates more than 200 concrete manufacturing plants throughout the country. In addition, Irish precast concrete companies export over €125 million of precast concrete to the UK, a business that has grown from zero when the recession began in 2008. The companies in our industry manufacture the essential materials used to construct Ireland's homes, schools, hospitals, offices, roads, public transport networks, farm buildings and many other examples of Ireland's built infrastructure. Put simply, normal life in Ireland would not be possible without our industry and the products which emanate from it. In addition, all products produced by our industry are made from locally available raw materials using the skills of local employees and contractors. The industry contributes approximately €300 million in wages and salaries to the local economy throughout Ireland.

ICF greatly welcomes the acknowledgement by Government in the National Planning Framework, published in February, of the important role that the extractive sector plays in Ireland. However, this acknowledgement, while welcome misses the essential point. The reality is that in order to cater for the needs of an extra million people by 2040, access to substantial reserves of aggregate raw materials will be required over the coming two decades and beyond. ICF looks forward to engaging with all stakeholder organisations and the public on the policy decisions needed over the next 20 years to ensure that the necessary raw materials are available to meet the essential infrastructural demands of this country. In 2019, ICF will publish a list of policy recommendations needed to ensure that our essential strategic resource of aggregates is protected and their use enabled in a sustainable manner to meet the needs of our people. We also look forward to highlighting the link between the need for more and better housing and infrastructure and the raw material supply chain that enables them to be delivered.

As ICF President, the body charged with the representation of Ireland's aggregates and concrete products industry, I am proud of the achievements of the organisation over the past two years. Like every voluntary organisation, a representative body is only as effective as the involvement of its members. I would like to thank the member representatives who continue to nominate themselves or their colleagues to sit on the policy committees within the ICF to contribute to their representative body. I strongly encourage those members who may not have been involved in ICF activities in the past to do so in the future, so that they make a positive contribution to the future of their industry while also benefitting from the reservoirs of knowledge and experience which exists in the industry today.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my colleagues on the ICF Council for their support during my term of office. In particular, I would like to thank John Joe McGrath of McGraths, Cong who stepped down as a long serving ICF Council member in December and to welcome Mr John Farragher from Concrete Manufacturing Company in Tuam, Co Galway as a new member of Council. Often described as the engine room of the ICF, I want to acknowledge the efforts of all the ICF committees, whose members gave freely of their time throughout the year. While our Chief Executive will outline the activities of the Federation in greater detail in his report, there are some particular achievements which I would like to acknowledge personally.

The acknowledgement of the importance of aggregates within the National Planning Framework followed a substantial submission on the draft framework made by our Planning and Environment committee. This will prove to be the foundation for our aggregate planning policy statement to be completed in 2019. I would like to also acknowledge the committee's work in promoting the development of end-of-waste criteria to promote higher levels of recycling of concrete in Ireland.

The health and safety of our employees is a key priority for all businesses in the industry. I would like to congratulate all of the winners in our Health and Safety awards presented by Minister Pat Breen in November and I wish to acknowledge the support of the Health and Safety Authority for ICF activities throughout the year. I look forward to meeting the new Chief Executive of the Authority in due course and will seek continuation of the Authority's commitment to the promotion of a culture of safety in our industry.

During the year our Technical committee remained highly involved in developing new standards and guidance on advisory panels within the National Standards Authority of Ireland and CEN, the European Standards body. Our Transport committee continued to lobby at Irish and European level for regulatory changes related to driver breaks and rest periods. Indeed I am encouraged that the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has supported the ICF in our efforts to date.

In response to the high level of insolvencies in the construction chain, our Business Development committee held a highly successful seminar on risk in June which also provided members with practical guidance on the General Data Protection Regulations. The Concrete Development Group (CDG), with the valued support of Cement Manufacturers Ireland, undertook a major advertising campaign on concrete built construction throughout the year. In addition, the CDG built on the ICF's highly valued relationship with third-level education institutions throughout 2018 in order to hopefully positively influence future generations of specifiers on the positive role that aggregates and concrete can make to society in the future.

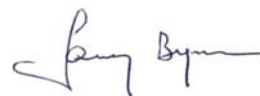
In his report, our Chief Executive will no doubt refer to the highly uncertain future faced by exporters within our industry arising from "Brexit". I am aware that the Irish Precast Concrete Association held a successful "Brexit" event with the support of Enterprise Ireland in April and that the Association has been highly involved in advising members on the unavoidable changes to their trading arrangements, particularly in the event of a failure to reach a deal on the terms of a withdrawal agreement on the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union.

The Ground Limestone Producers Association of Ireland (GLPAI), which affiliated to the Federation in 2013, continues to be highly active in promoting the productivity benefits of ground limestone to farmers. It is also obvious that there are significant environmental benefits to the application of lime to land in order to optimise soil pH, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fertiliser usage. These benefits will undoubtedly play a significant role in the Irish agricultural sector's response to the need to reduce emissions and I am aware that the GLPAI is engaging positively with the Department of Agriculture and Food and Teagasc in this area.

I hope that by reading our annual report, you will be impressed at the diversity of issues with which our organisation deals on an ongoing basis on behalf of the industry. As ever, we welcome feedback on our activities in order to inform our future thinking and actions in all the policy areas in which we are active.

All of ICF's activities would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of the ICF staff and I would like to express my thanks to them for their central role in the Federation's achievements during the year.

To end on a sad note, I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the family and friends of the organisation's founding Chief Executive Officer, Mr John Maguire, who passed away early in 2019. John left a lasting legacy on the industry, the Irish Concrete Federation and most importantly on the people with whom he worked over many years. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



**Larry Byrne**  
President





*Cliffs of Moher Coach Park Reception Building.*



**Gerry Farrell**  
Chief Executive Officer

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

There is little doubt that 2018 was yet another year of momentous political and socio-economic developments. A decade on from the year of “the Crash”, Ireland is now faced with new challenges that few predicted and which represent a major threat to the economic recovery of recent years. Imagine the reaction in 2008 if it was forecast that within a short number of years, Donald Trump would be President of the United States and the United Kingdom would leave the European Union!

The resilience of the Irish quarrying and concrete industry during the downturn which followed 2008 is to be admired. The overwhelming majority of our member companies, having undergone much downsizing, restructuring and refocussing, survived and have emerged from those recessionary years as leaner and more efficient enterprises, focussed on skills as well as innovation and new markets. Construction output is now growing strongly driven by house construction, commercial investment and farm building. While unfortunately, much of this increase in activity is concentrated around the M50, there is evidence that in 2018, the benefits of overall economic recovery were being felt in the regions. “Project Ireland 2040”, launched by Government in February, identified the pressing need for investment in our country’s public infrastructure with big increases in capital investment budgeted for the coming years. The country’s population is increasing again and unemployment continues to fall. Exports continue to grow strongly and consumer confidence is increasing. The essentials certainly look promising. But of course, then there’s Brexit...!!

At time of writing, Tánaiste Simon Coveney has indicated that the risk of a ‘no-deal Brexit’ has never been higher as the new administration of Prime Minister Johnson signals its intention to leave the European Union by the end of October with or without a withdrawal agreement. At this late stage it is clear that any deal agreed between the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK) requires compromise, a reality that unfortunately has still not dawned on many. In the absence of compromise, it is likely that the UK’s exit from the EU in October will be on the basis of the dreaded ‘no-deal Brexit’, unless the House of Commons decides otherwise.



While speaking at an industry event in 2018, I expressed the view that a 'soft-Brexit' was damage limiting at best and a 'hard Brexit' was incompatible with a frictionless border on the island of Ireland and between the UK and mainland Europe. Almost a year later, I still hold those views. In the intervening period, much time has been invested in politics, as the 'art of the possible,' to find a workable solution to this conundrum. Unfortunately, politics has simply crystallised the practical truths of 'Brexit' and deeply polarised opinion in the UK. One can simply hope that the necessary leadership and compromise comes to the fore in the coming period to avoid a 'no-deal Brexit' and the negative implications that will flow from such a course of action.

So what are the practical implications of 'Brexit' for the Irish aggregates and concrete products industry? On June 24th 2016, the date on which the result of the 'Brexit' referendum became known, the ICF was holding a regional meeting in Cork. It is fair to say that at the meeting there was an understandable lack of knowledge of what the implications of the 'leave' decision were. While the political future is little clearer three years on, knowledge of the likely practical implications for our industry has increased greatly.

While our industry in totality may not be as exposed as others such as the food sector in terms of trade with the UK market, the reality is that 'Brexit' and in particular a 'no-deal Brexit', will have a negative impact on this sector. The Irish aggregates and concrete products industry is highly dependent on a robust Irish economy. The Minister for Finance has estimated that a 'no-deal Brexit' could reduce growth in the Irish economy by 2% from its normal expected level. This contraction in growth will impact on demand for our industry's products as it is likely that public and private investment will be curtailed. Government's infrastructural investment plans, as outlined in "Project Ireland 2040" and which are highly dependent on a ready supply of construction materials is based on multi-annual

funding from the exchequer which will undoubtedly come under close scrutiny in the event of a 'hard-Brexit'. In addition, the Irish food sector and its farming supply base has been a very valuable market for our members throughout Ireland and given the Irish food sector's dependence on the UK market, it would be naive to assume that the introduction of WTO tariffs and duties on Irish exports would not have a negative impact on the agri-food sector throughout the country.

A major achievement of the concrete sector in Ireland during the recessionary years was the growth in Irish precast concrete exports from zero in 2006 to over €130million in 2017.

While export values for precast concrete are not yet available, it is likely that further export growth was achieved in 2018. Brexit will impact directly on these exports primarily through an expected reduction in UK construction activity which will dampen demand. Additionally, the imposition of tariffs, while not as significant as those which apply to food exports, will reduce the competitiveness of Irish exporters as will the cost of new customs arrangements, necessary to facilitate trade even in the event of a 'soft-Brexit'. However it is likely that the most immediate impact will be the predicted fall in the value of sterling which will more than likely see further depreciation in the event of a 'no-deal Brexit'. Such an outcome will certainly damage Irish exporters' competitive position relative to UK manufacturers in the marketplace.

While the magnitude of the previously mentioned impacts of 'Brexit' depend on the nature of the UK's exit from the European Union, there are a number of inevitable implications for domestic producers and exporters in the aggregates and concrete sector in the area of standards and certification. It is certainly positive to see that the UK is currently drafting legislation on product standards which is likely to be similar to equivalent legislation on EU standards in order to facilitate ongoing trade post 'Brexit'. It is therefore likely that, for the foreseeable future, product standards in the UK will be similar to those within the EU. In addition, the British Standards Institution (BSI) has indicated that they intend to remain a member of CEN and that immediately post-Brexit the UK will continue to accept the CE mark for the placing of products on the UK market. However, it is likely that the UK will eventually introduce its own mark as an equivalent for the CE mark which inevitably means that exporters to the UK will be required to affix this new mark to products or supporting documentation, while also requiring the CE mark to place product on the domestic and EU marketplace.

In the area of product certification a 'no-deal Brexit' will mean that UK based notified bodies, of which there are 174, will cease to be EU notified bodies for the purpose of CE marking unless such notified bodies have established operations within the EU. Therefore all exporters who currently use UK notified bodies for the purposes of CE marking, should ensure that such notified bodies continue to be registered within the EU post-Brexit. Similarly, importers of products will have to ensure that third party certifications of such products are by EU registered notified bodies, as they effectively become an importer from a third country and importers will assume additional obligations for placing products on the EU market.

Despite the political uncertainty, the coming months must be used by companies to protect their business for the long term. Over the past year ICF has had extensive discussions with the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) in relation to standards and certification of products

and has also taken advice on revenue and customs requirements on behalf of its members. We have also engaged with Enterprise Ireland on supports available for our precast members to prepare for 'Brexit'. However, as long as the political road remains unclear, the ability of industry to prepare effectively remains difficult. In the interim, ICF has advised all its members to prepare for the worst by identifying impacts and new requirements for supply chains, logistics, product certification, licensing and revenue and customs procedures for their own businesses. At this stage it would seem inevitable that these new requirements will eventually become a reality. The only question remaining unanswered is when.

While regrettable, it would seem highly likely that the UK will leave the EU and our nearest neighbour and largest trading partner will assume a 'third country' status. As ever in business, certainty on the eventual outcome and time to prepare is what is needed to avoid the most negative impacts of the Brexit 'saga'. The political representatives within the EU and the UK are charged with the responsibility of achieving compromise to facilitate citizens and business alike to prepare for new realities. To date there has been little sign of support for such agreement and compromise. If ever there was a time for politics to prove itself as 'the art of the possible' it is now.

Leaving Brexit aside, I am pleased to report that 2018 was yet another active year for the ICF and its members supported by the ICF Council and the ICF staff. I would like to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues in the ICF office, Liam Smyth, Diane O'Donoghue, Joanne Boylan and Patricia Craig whose commitment and professionalism remained undiminished throughout the year. As ever, all of the Federation's activities were governed by the Council and I would like to thank all members of the Council, particularly the ICF President Larry Byrne, for their time and commitment to the organisation, despite undoubted heavy workloads with their own businesses. It is this type of commitment that makes voluntary organisations like the ICF succeed for the members that they represent.

## ICF Council

The members of the ICF Council in 2018 were as follows:

Mr Larry Byrne

**Roadstone, President**

Ms Caroline Quinn

**Concast Precast Group, Vice-President**

Mr Peter Gleeson

**Gleeson Quarries**

Mr David Wright

**Wright Quarry Products**

Mr Christy Loughnane

**Loughnane Concrete (Birr)**

Mr John Joe McGrath \*

**McGraths Limestone, Cong**

Mr Derry McKeown

**Kilsaran International**

Mr Finbarr O'Neill

**Finbarr O'Neill**

Mr Frank Healy

**Ducon Concrete**

\* Retired December 2018

The ICF Council is responsible for overseeing the output of the many policy committees within the structure of the Federation. The Council decides on the key policy areas to be addressed by the ICF as well as overseeing the organisation's corporate governance.

In 2018 the Council introduced changes to the membership eligibility rules of the Federation, whereby quarry operators with no ancillary manufacturing are eligible to be full members of the ICF. The Council also oversaw the streamlining of the membership application process within the organisation's constitution. Both of these changes received unanimous approval at the Federation's Annual General Meeting in November. The Council also updated new membership criteria to apply to existing and new members in the area of technical standards, planning and the environment and health and safety.

In November, the Council oversaw the publication of a statement on the economic contribution made by the quarrying and concrete products industry in Ireland. This publication now features on the Federation's home page on [www.irishconcrete.com](http://www.irishconcrete.com).

ie and clearly shows the substantial local and national contribution which our members make to Ireland. It is the Council's intention to use this statement to underpin ICF representations on behalf of its members to all stakeholders. In March, Government produced three separate reports to inform public understanding of the cost of house building in Ireland. In parallel ICF updated its report of a year earlier to quantify the contribution of quarry and concrete products to the cost of house building in Ireland. This analysis, deemed necessary due to periodical uninformed comments on this issue, quantified this contribution at just over 3%. ICF welcomed the fact that the cost of our members' materials was not identified in any of the Government studies as being a key cost driver for new housing in Ireland.

An issue coming ever more increasingly to the fore is the area of labour and skill shortages in the entire construction chain. ICF members are not immune to this dynamic and many members have reported difficulties in sourcing employees, in particular new drivers. In a new departure, ICF held a "Building your Career in the Quarrying and Concrete Industry" event held in the National Construction Training Centre on 17th April. Approximately 200 attended the event which was jointly organised by the ICF, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Laois/Offaly Education and Training Board and Regional Skills Midlands. There were nine local ICF members represented at the event, the objective of which was to put local trainees and job seekers in contact with prospective local employers in the quarrying, concrete and precast concrete industry.



*"Building your Career in the Quarrying and Concrete Industry"*  
April 2018



Following many years of dedicated service on the ICF Council, Mr John Joe McGrath of McGraths Limestone, Cong in Co Mayo retired as a member of the Council in December to be succeeded by Mr John Farragher of the Concrete Manufacturing Company, Tuam, Co Galway. On behalf of the members of the ICF, I would like to thank Mr McGrath for his years of service to the ICF and welcome Mr Farragher as a new Council member. I would also like to thank the Council for their ongoing prudent management of the ICF finances and thank the members of Cement Manufacturers Ireland for their ongoing support for the ICF.

### Technical Committee

In 2018 the ICF Technical committee was chaired by Mr Peter Deegan of Banagher Precast Concrete. The members of the Technical committee were as follows:

Mr Peter Deegan

**Banagher Precast (Chairman)**

Mr William Farrell

**Killeshal Precast Concrete**

Mr Tom Holden

**Roadstone**

Mr Diarmuid McCarthy

**Roadstone**

Mr Richard Bradley

**Irish Cement**

Mr John Reddy

**Ecocem**

Mr Kevin Maguire

**Quinn Building Products**

Mr Gareth McMeekin

**Wright Quarry Products**

Mr Vincent Anderson

**Kilsaran International**

Mr Keith Goodwin

**Kilsaran International**

Mr Darragh McKenna

**O'Reilly Bros**

Mr David Cassidy

**Cassidy Bros**

Mr Martin Collins

**Coshla Quarries**

Mr Patrick Cullivan

**B D Flood**

Mr Brendan Lynch

**Consultant**

The ICF Technical committee performs a critical role for the Federation in representing the industry on a range of technical advisory committees in Ireland and abroad. Members of the committee are represented on advisory panels within the National Standards Authority of Ireland, namely the Aggregates Panel, the Concrete Standards Consultative Committee and the Masonry Panel. In addition, committee members are represented on CEN committees in relation to aggregates and concrete products. The committee is responsible for keeping members updated on the ongoing changes to standards and guidance related to products produced by the industry. The committee also produces guidance for members and other stakeholders in order to increase knowledge of the industry's products within the industry and beyond. Liam Smyth of the ICF represents the organisation on the National Construction Standards Consultative Committee within the NSAI which was established in late 2017.

Much of the work of members of the Technical committee in 2018 was involved in contributing to the development by the NSAI of IS465:2018 – "The assessment, testing and categorisation of damaged buildings incorporating concrete blocks containing certain deleterious materials". The standard, which was published in November, arose from damage to homes in Donegal and Mayo and will be used by construction professionals to assess, test and categorise these homes. In January, ICF met with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and other industry bodies to look at education, competencies and qualifications in rendering and contributed on the aggregates panel towards the ongoing revision of SR:18 – "Aggregates for Mortar". During the year the committee produced guidance for members on IS EN 771-3: "Specification for Masonry Units" to accompany guidance on other standards, all of which can be found on the Federation's website. The Technical committee also monitored developments on 'Brexit' which will have implications for the testing and certification of products, not just for export but also for those placed on the domestic or EU market. The committee also welcomed Ms Diette Dechelle from the European Aggregates Association (UEPG) who presented to the committee in September on developments at CEN and on CE marking.

## Transport Committee

In 2018 the Transport committee was chaired by Mr Christy Loughnane of Loughnane Concrete (Birr). The members of the Transport committee were as follows:

Mr Christy Loughnane  
**Loughnane Concrete (Birr) (Chairman)**

Mr Conan Curley  
**Killeshal Precast Concrete**

Mr Denis Doyle  
**Doyle Concrete**

Mr Brendan Dunne  
**Roadstone**

Mr T J Lennon  
**Lennon Quarries**

Mr Roy Hegarty  
**Kilsaran International**

Mr Michael Keohane  
**Keohane Readymix**

Mr Micheál Gleeson  
**Gleeson Concrete**

Mr Tim Flood  
**B D Flood**

Mr Shane Tierney  
**B D Flood**

The Transport committee activities in 2018 were focused on two key areas. In January, ICF made a detailed submission to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on the need for readymix concrete deliveries to be exempted from Articles 5 to 9 of EC Regulation 561/2006 which deals with rules on driving times, breaks and rest periods for drivers. This initiative which has been led at European level by ERMCO, is based on the reality that readymix concrete is a perishable concrete similar to milk and must be placed on site within a defined period of time. The ICF's proposal was supported by the Department and the Permanent Representation of the Irish Government in Brussels. In December 2018 the European Council, with the support of the Commission, included a derogation for deliveries of readymix concrete from the regulation among its proposals for the first EU mobility package. The EU Council and the EU Commission proposals will be considered by the EU Parliament in early 2019.

On 1st February 2018, the long awaited legislation on weight limits for 5-axle rigid heavy goods vehicles was introduced by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. While welcoming the final introduction of legislation, the ICF Transport committee considers that there is much scope for confusion among industry and enforcement agencies on the new weight limit, particularly in respect of trucks registered and in operation before the implementation of the legislation. ICF will continue to work with the Road Safety Authority in 2019 to bring final clarity to this issue.

The committee also continues to be concerned at the lack of availability of new drivers in the industry and welcomed a presentation from the Department of Employment and Social Protection in early 2018 on the various forms of assistance which exists for companies to employ new drivers from the live register. This meeting was to prove the first step in the organisation of a major careers event in the concrete and quarrying industry held in April.

## Concrete Development Group

The Concrete Development Group (CDG) comprises representatives of the ICF and Cement Manufacturers Ireland (CMI), the national representative body for the cement industry in Ireland. The key task of the committee is the positive promotion of concrete to all stakeholders, including the general public, professional organisations and educational institutions. In 2018, the members of the CDG were as follows:

Mr Richard Bradley  
**Irish Cement**

Mr Derek Duffy  
**Oran Precast**

Mr Brian Gilmore  
**Cement Manufacturers Ireland**

Mr David Kelly  
**Hanlon Concrete**

Ms Eibhlin Keohane  
**Keohane Readymix**

Mr David McKeown  
**Kilsaran International**

Mr Darren McMillan  
**Lagan Group / Breedon**

Mr Diarmuid O'Sullivan  
**Roadstone**

In 2018, the CDG further developed the marketing and promotional activity to the general public through ongoing advertising of concrete built homes to home buyers and self-builders. The dedicated website [www.concretebuilt.ie](http://www.concretebuilt.ie) was promoted through advertising on Myhome.ie, Daft.ie and Selfbuild.ie. This online advertising campaign was supported through the dissemination of over 6,000 promotional brochures through our members highlighting the key benefits of concrete built construction. In late 2018, the CDG approved expenditure on the development of a suite of promotional videos which will be used to further promote concrete built through online advertising and social media platforms.



*Architecture & Building Expo 6/7th  
October 2018*

The critical role of educational institutions in informing and influencing the decision making of designers and specifiers of the future cannot be underestimated. ICF places great importance on developing more integrated links with third level institutions and by the end of 2018 the CDG had supported the purchase and installation of laboratory equipment suitable for testing and experimentation with concrete in five of our third level institutions, namely Trinity College Dublin, Athlone Institute of Technology, Cork Institute of Technology, University College Dublin and Dublin Institute of Technology (now Technological University of Dublin). ICF looks forward to supporting more colleges in a similar manner in the future. We were particularly pleased that Cork Institute of Technology ran the national third level course in Concrete Technology in early 2018 and that many educational institutions are

now using this course material within their ongoing educational programmes.

With investment at farm level, particularly in the dairy sector, continuing at a strong level throughout 2018, aided by the ongoing Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS), the CDG disseminated guidance through the farming press on S.100, the specification for concrete in farm buildings. ICF and Cement Manufacturers Ireland also exhibited at the Architectural Building Expo in the RDS held on 5th and 6th of October. The CDG, with the assistance of the Irish Concrete



*Presentation of Laboratory Equipment to Dublin Institute of Technology (L to R) Liam Smyth – ICF, Dr Niall Holmes – DIT, Richard Bradley – CMI*

Society, commenced the development of a publication on specifying concrete during the year. Initial reviews of the publication at committee and stakeholder level have indicated a preference for the document to be developed as a web based resource rather than a hard copy publication. As a result the development of a specifying concrete website to assist industry stakeholders in the specification of concrete in buildings will continue in 2019.



*Presentation of Laboratory Equipment to Cork Institute of Technology (L to R) Brian O'Rourke – CIT, Liam Smyth – ICF, Students from 2nd Year CIT, Richard Bradley – CMI*

## Planning and Environment Committee

The Federation's Planning and Environment committee was chaired by Mr Fergus Gallagher of Kilsaran International in 2018 and members of the committee were as follows:

Mr Fergus Gallagher  
**Kilsaran International (Chairman)**

Mr Stephen Linden  
**Quinn Building Products**

Mr Billy McGrath  
**McGraths Limestone, Cong**

Mr Ronan Griffin  
**CRH**

Mr John Glynn  
**Roadstone**

Mr Vincent Flanagan  
**B D Flood**

Mr Mark Galvin  
**Ardfert Quarry Products**

Ms Amanda Tarpey  
**Harrington Concrete and Quarries**

Mr John Quirke  
**M F Quirke & Sons**

Mr Maurice Carey  
**M F Quirke & Sons**

Ms Sarah O'Connell  
**O'Connell Concrete**

Mr John Stapleton  
**Carroll Quarries**

Mr Brian Downes  
**Lagan Asphalt**

The Planning and Environment committee welcomed the publication in February by Government of "Project Ireland 2040". In particular, the reference within the National Planning Framework of the importance of aggregates was welcomed by the committee which followed a submission on the draft framework in 2017. Despite its brevity, it is the intention of ICF to build on the Government statement to lobby for a badly needed national aggregates policy for Ireland. Towards the end of the year, the committee commenced the process of developing a policy document for aggregate planning which ICF hopes to launch in 2019. Indeed some members are continuing to experience major

delays in emerging from Section 177 and Section 37L parallel planning process which arose from Section 261A of the Planning and Development Act. It is essential that if the extraction of aggregates is to be enabled in a sustainable manner, the duration of the planning process for quarries should be shortened. ICF also met with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on legislative changes needed to address shortcomings in the Planning and Development Act in relation to the extractive industry. ICF will make a detailed submission to the Department on this issue in 2019.

The Planning and Environment committee continues to promote the development of national end-of-waste criteria for recycled aggregates to facilitate greater recycling in the construction chain. A sub-committee oversaw more sampling and analyses of returned concrete in early 2018 and in June a submission of the findings were submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A further meeting with the agency took place in September and ICF is hopeful that a draft proposal will go to the EPA Board in the near future.

ICF made a submission on the EPA discussion paper on construction and demolition waste acceptance limits for facilities authorised under waste facility permits and certificates of registration and we believe that our proposal to increase the threshold will be accepted by Government. ICF also made a submission on the public consultation on Article 27 guidance on soil and stone by-products and Liam Smyth of the ICF was nominated to the Construction Waste Resource Group of the Department of Communication, Climate Action and the Environment.

Throughout 2018, ICF assisted its members to register their abstractions on the dedicated portal developed by the EPA. ICF met with the EPA on its plans for the national abstraction register in June and the vast majority of members had registered by the mid-November deadline. ICF also made a submission on the General Scheme of the Water Environment Abstractions Bill in 2018.

The Planning and Environment Committee also oversaw a submission by ICF on the National Marine Planning Framework in late 2018 and ICF looks forward to presenting its views on “Heritage Ireland 2030” which was published in November. The ICF submission will be developed by the Federation’s project archaeologist, Dr Charles Mount.

During the year ICF also met with the Valuation Office in order to clarify the methodology used by assessors of the Valuation Office when valuing ICF member sites. These valuations provide the basis for the calculation of commercial rates by local authorities.

### Business Development Committee

In 2018 the Chairman of the ICF’s Business Development committee was Mr Frank Bracken of Killeshal Precast. The members of the committee were as follows:

Mr Frank Bracken  
**Killeshal Precast (Chairman)**

Mr Bernard Quinn  
**Concast Precast**

Mr Ernie Bohan  
**Roadstone**

Mr Barry O’Brien  
**CRH**

Mr Fergus O’Hara  
**Hanlon Concrete**

Mr Francis Harrington  
**Harrington Concrete & Quarries**

Ms Geraldine Grace  
**Gleeson Quarries**

Ms Onagh Murphy  
**Loughnane Concrete (Birr) Ltd**

Mr Pat Freeman  
**McGrath Limestone Quarries, Clare**

Mr Pat McGrath  
**McGraths Limestone, Cong**

Mr Thomas King  
**Wright Quarry Products**

Mr Tom Gallagher  
**B D Flood**

Mr Tony Curran  
**Kilsaran International**

Despite the ongoing improvement in the economy, a recurring feature of the year was the number of insolvencies in the construction chain in Ireland and the UK. The high profile collapse of Carillion in the UK was but one example of the collapse of a major industry customer, the impact of which was keenly felt by ICF members. Regulatory protection of material suppliers is practically non-existent. With this in mind, the ICF’s Business Development committee held a risk seminar in June to highlight the importance of managing risk and best practice in credit management to reduce exposure to bad debt. The seminar also provided the attendees with practical advice on compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations which entered into force in May.



*Risk and GDPR Seminar 6th June 2018*

*(L to R) Gerry Farrell – ICF, Tony Kerins – Peninsula Ireland, Jim Browne – Trade Credit Brokers, Frank Bracken – Killeshal Precast, Mark Homan – Bailey, Homan, Smith & McVeigh*

### Health and Safety Committee

In 2018 the Health and Safety committee was chaired by Mr Vincent Flanagan of BD Flood and the members of the committee were as follows:

Mr Vincent Flanagan  
**B D Flood (Chairman)**

Mr Cormac McCarthy  
**Roadstone**

Mr John McWeeney  
**CRH**

Mr Eddie Mulgrew  
**Kilsaran International**

Mr Clive Kelly  
**McGrath Quarries, Clare**

Ms Ashling McCordle  
**O’Reilly Bros**



Mr Brian Coogan  
**Wright Quarry Products**

Mr Brian McQuaid  
**Wright Quarry Products**

Ms Emma Murphy  
**Harrington Concrete & Quarries**

Mr Mark Patterson  
**Oran Precast**

Ms Nicky Mulchrone  
**McGraths Limestone, Cong**

Mr Paul Gallagher  
**Ducon Concrete**

Mr Philip McGrath  
**Concast Precast**

Mr Michael Sanderson  
**Techrete**

Mr David Whyte  
**Shay Murtagh Precast**

Mr Denis Byrne  
**Irish Industrial Explosives**

Mr Ger Reidy  
**Irish Cement**

Mr Jamie Barrett  
**Banagher Precast**

Mr Cillian Casey  
**Keohane Readymix**

Mr Paul Conway  
**Kellys of Fantane**

The Health and Safety committee of the ICF was extremely active in 2018 on a number of fronts, all of which have the objective of improving safety within the industry. The highlight of the year was the presentation of the ICF Health and Safety Awards by Minister of State, Mr Pat Breen TD, in November. Presentations were made to winners in nine companies across six categories. A total of 59 entries were received for our awards which were of an extremely high calibre. ICF would like to say a special word of thanks to Professor Anne Drummond of UCD and Mr Pat Griffin of the Health and Safety Authority who were the independent judges of the awards.



*Presentation of Health & Safety Awards 6th November 2018*

*(L to R) John Flood – BD Flood, Minister Pat Breen, Vincent Flanagan – BD Flood, Larry Byrne - Roadstone*



*Presentation of Health & Safety Awards 6th November 2018*

*(L to R) Jude Lagan – Breedon Cement, Minister Pat Breen, John McNamara – Breedon Cement, Larry Byrne - Roadstone*



*Presentation of Health & Safety Awards 6th November 2018*

*(L to R) Derry McKeown – Kilsaran International, Minister Pat Breen, Eddie Mulgrew – Kilsaran International, Larry Byrne - Roadstone*



*Presentation of Health & Safety Awards 6th November 2018*

*(L to R) John Joe McGrath – McGraths Cong, Minister Pat Breen, Nicky Mulchrone – McGraths Cong, Larry Byrne – Roadstone, Mr Billy McGrath – McGraths Cong*



*Presentation of Health & Safety Awards 6th November 2018*

*(L to R) Barry O'Reilly – O'Reilly Concrete, Minister Pat Breen, Ashling McCardle – O'Reilly Concrete, Larry Byrne - Roadstone*



*Presentation of Health & Safety Awards 6th November 2018*

*(L to R) Tom O'Mahoney – Roadstone, Minister Pat Breen, Cormac McCarthy – Roadstone, Larry Byrne - Roadstone*

In April ICF held two seminars on safe block manufacturing with the assistance of the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) and Coote Engineering. These seminars which were attended in large numbers by ICF members formed part of a HSA initiative in block manufacturing which was greatly welcomed by ICF. The system of developing inspection checklists, the holding of information seminars followed up by site level inspections, has proven to be a very effective means of highlighting and mitigating safety risks in different areas within the industry in recent years. ICF looks forward to working with the HSA on developing similar



*Block Manufacturing Safety Workshops April/May 2018*

*(L to R) Gordon Bloomer – Coote Engineering , Jim Holmes - HSA, Gerry Farrell – ICF*

initiatives in the coming years. In December the committee met with HSA on the authority's programme of work within the quarry sector for 2019. ICF looks forward to meeting the new Chief Executive of the HSA, Dr Sharon McGuinness, in early 2019 to highlight the ongoing importance of active HSA interventions in the industry.

During the year the ICF continued to work with the HSA in the development of guidance related to the maintenance of brakes on mobile plant in quarries. The committee completed a Safety Data Sheet for ready mixed concrete which is available for use by all members and ICF members took part in the NEPSI reporting process required under the Social Dialogue Agreement on Respirable Crystalline Silica in the early part of the year.



*Extractive Industries Health and Safety Conference and Exhibition 26th September 2018*

*(L to R) Pat Griffin – HSA, Ger Reidy – Irish Cement, Cormac McCarthy – Roadstone, Vincent Flanagan – BD Flood, Gerry Farrell – ICF*

The committee will be meeting with SOLAS early next year in relation to the upcoming revision of the Quarry Safety Certification Scheme, details of which were published in the autumn. ICF was also happy to work with our partners, the Quarry Products Association in Northern Ireland and the Irish Mining and Quarrying Society, in supporting the All Island Quarry Safety Seminar which was held in Roadstone Doran's Pit in September.

## Irish Precast Concrete Association



*Enterprise Ireland/IPCA Brexit Seminar 30th April 2018*

The Irish Precast Concrete Association (IPCA) as a constituent association within the ICF is the representative body for twelve precast concrete manufacturers located throughout the country. The Chairman of the Association in 2018 was Mr Derek Duffy of Oran Precast and the members of the IPCA Council were as follows:

Mr Derek Duffy  
**Oran Precast (Chairman)**

Mr Frank Healy  
**Ducon Concrete**

Ms Caroline Quinn  
**Concast Precast Group**

Mr David Wright  
**Wright Quarry Products**

Mr Barry O'Reilly  
**O'Reilly Bros**

Mr Brendan Mahon  
**Banagher Precast**

Mr Marcus Sweeney  
**Techrete**

Mr Frank Bracken  
**Killeshal Precast**

Mr John O'Connor  
**Flood Precast**

Mr Paddy Mohan  
**Quinn Building Products**

Mr Denis Doyle  
**Doyle Concrete**

Mr Niall Thornton  
**Moylough Concrete Products**

Needless to say, IPCA activities in 2018 concentrated on the issue of 'Brexit'. In April, Enterprise Ireland with the support of the IPCA, held a seminar for precast concrete exporters on the implications of 'Brexit' and in particular the customs and logistical requirements which will enter into force upon the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union.

During the year the association was also briefed by Ms Carol Lynch, Partner, BDO Customs and International Trade, on the specifics of changes to the customs regime which will apply when dealing with the UK as a 'third country' following 'Brexit'. The IPCA also met with the Freight Transport Association of Ireland on particular customs issues such as applying for Trusted Trader status.



## Ground Limestone Producers Association of Ireland

The Ground Limestone Producers Association of Ireland (GLPAI) represents sixteen companies operating in thirty locations throughout the country who are licensed to produce agricultural lime as a soil pH enhancer. In 2018, the Chairman of the association was Eoin O'Carroll of Bennettsbridge Limestone. The members of the GLPAI committee are as follows:

Mr Eoin O'Carroll  
**Bennettsbridge Limestone (Chairman)**

Mr Joe McGrath  
**McGrath Limestone Quarries**

Mr Francis Harrington  
**Harrington Concrete & Quarries**

Mr Christy Loughnane  
**Loughnane Concrete (Birr)**

Mr Ray Deegan  
**Lagan Lime**

Mr Enda Hanly  
**Hanly Quarries**

Mr Padraic Hogan  
**Kilsaran International**

Mr Kevin Morrissey  
**Dan Morrissey & Co**

Mr Diarmuid O'Sullivan  
**Roadstone**

Mr John Joe McGrath  
**McGraths Limestone Works**

Mr Billy McGrath  
**McGraths Limestone Works**

Mr Mike Cronin  
**Michael Cronin Readymix**

Mr Peter Gleeson  
**Gleeson Quarries**

Mr Tom McDonald Jnr  
**Kilcarrig Quarries**

Mr Trevor Mortimer  
**Mortimer Quarries**

Mr David Coleman  
**Coleman Quarries**

The association continued to gain momentum in 2018 and was highly involved in working with Teagasc to promote the productivity benefits to farmers of maintaining soil pH at optimum levels. The association also engaged regularly with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on the review of the Fertiliser Regulations at EU level. The association was disappointed at the outcome of the review which could lead to a reduction in the quality of lime being marketed to farmers when the revised regulations enter into force in 2022. The association, the Department of Agriculture and Teagasc are in agreement that maintenance of the integrity and quality of Irish lime through the retention of the standards and requirements of SI 248/78 is essential.

During the year Grolime, the trademark owned by the association, was actively promoted through the farming press and a further more extensive promotional campaign is planned for 2019. Grolime continued with its twice yearly monitoring of compliance with the national lime specification as outlined in SI 248/78 at all Grolime registered locations. It is the association's intention to continue to promote Grolime registered locations as suppliers of quality lime, particularly given the potential threat to quality arising from the review of the Fertiliser Regulations.



Grolime at Grass and Muck 3rd May 2018

## ICF Communications

ICF places great emphasis on the development of its communication service to members throughout the country. Following on the launch of our new website in 2017, ICF developed new communication tools in 2018 in particular a new e-newsletter and an e-safety alert. The objective of our newsletter is to summarise concisely key areas of activity of the ICF for members on a periodical basis. The safety alert which is edited by the Health and Safety committee, highlights incidents and accidents which occur at member locations in order to prevent or reduce the risk of them reoccurring elsewhere.

ICF's online presence continued to increase in 2018. Our website, in particular our news and members' area, are an important source of information on the Federation's activities for members and the general public. The Federation now operates three websites and has also developed a presence on social media platforms which will be used to an ever increasing extent to communicate our activities to other stakeholders.

As ever, our events such as seminars, regional meetings, Council and committees all offer an opportunity to promote and highlight the work of the Federation to its members. ICF encourages all our members to participate on the various associations and policy committees within our structure in order to contribute to the industry's future, but also to build up a network of informed professionals and management within the industry.

## Stakeholder Relations

As a representative body for a strategically important sector, ICF greatly depends on its ability to develop linkages and relationships with stakeholder organisations in the wider construction sphere. ICF is thankful for the access afforded by these organisations and for their ever-willing agreement to engage with us on a wide variety of issues. Some of the organisations which ICF engaged with throughout 2018 are included in the following list and I apologise for any inadvertent omission from the list.

- All Local Authorities
- An Bord Pleanála
- An Garda Síochána
- An Taisce
- Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland
- Cement Manufacturers Ireland
- Construction Industry Council
- Construction Industry Federation
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government
- Department of Employment & Social Protection
- Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment
- Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
- Education and Training Boards
- Engineers Ireland
- Enterprise Ireland
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Fertiliser Association of Ireland
- Freight Transport Association of Ireland.
- Geological Survey of Ireland
- Health and Safety Authority
- HomeBond
- Housing Agency
- InterTradelreland
- Invest Northern Ireland
- Irish Concrete Society
- Irish Mining & Quarrying Society
- Irish Water
- Mineral Products Association (UK)
- National Construction Training Centre
- National Monuments Service
- National Standards Authority of Ireland
- Office of Permanent Representation of Ireland Brussels
- Quarry Products Association (Northern Ireland)
- Regional Skills Forum
- Roads Safety Authority
- Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland
- Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland
- Society of the Irish Motor Industry
- Solas
- Teagasc
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Valuation Office



## Europe

ICF is a member of EMRCO, the European Readymix Concrete Organisation and of UEPG, the European Aggregates Association. In addition, the Irish Precast Concrete Association is a member of BIBM, the European Precast Concrete Federation. ICF is represented on the Board of ERMCO by Gerry Farrell and the ICF nominee to the Board of UEPG is Mr Jim O'Brien. Throughout 2018 ICF continued to engage with all of the representative organisations in Europe in order to monitor developments from Europe on issues which impact on the sector.

## Social

The highlight of the ICF's social calendar, the annual dinner and social weekend, was held in the Europe Hotel, Killarney, Co Kerry on 11th and 12th May. Following on from an extremely successful event at the same location in 2017, this year's event broke new attendance records and was thoroughly enjoyable for all who attended. Our Council and President look forward to welcoming members to next year's annual dinner in Powerscourt, Co Wicklow in 2019.

In October the motor racing enthusiasts in our industry tackled the Palmer Aerodrome in Bedford in the UK. Some very impressive times were recorded and needless to say the day's events were enjoyed by all who attended.

I sincerely hope that you have found this Annual Report to be of interest to you. Obviously it is impossible to record all of the activities of an organisation like the ICF over the entire year in a publication like this. However, I hope it gives readers a flavour of the very busy agenda and work programme undertaken by ICF on behalf of its members.

I would like to thank all of the members for their support throughout the year, particularly those involved in our committees and our Council. I would also like to thank all of the organisations with whom we engaged on our members' behalf throughout the year and without whom it would not be possible to carry out our functions. Finally a sincere word of thanks and appreciation to all of the staff in Newlands Cross for their commitment, professionalism and support during the year.

*Gerry Farrell*

**Gerry Farrell**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



*Palmer Sport 5th October 2018*





# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF IRISH CONCRETE FEDERATION CLG

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Irish Concrete Federation CLG, which comprise the Statement of income and retained earnings, the Statement of financial position, the Statement of cash flows, the Statement of changes in equity for the financial year ended 31 December 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation of the financial statements is Irish law and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

In our opinion, Irish Concrete Federation CLG's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2018 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the financial year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements' section of our report.

We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, namely the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority

(IAASA) Ethical Standard concerning the integrity, objectivity and independence of the auditor, and the ethical pronouncements established by Chartered Accountants Ireland, applied as determined to be appropriate in the circumstances for the entity. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

## Other information

Other information comprises information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge



obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies in the financial statements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014**

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the Directors' report is consistent with the financial statements. Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of our audit, in our opinion, the Directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

Based on our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' report.

Under the Companies Act 2014, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Acts have not been made. We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

## **Responsibilities of the management and those charged with governance for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, including FRS102, and for such internal control as they determine necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the company's financial reporting process.

## **Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements**

The auditor's objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF IRISH CONCRETE FEDERATION CLG - *continued*

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), the auditor will exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit.

They will also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If they conclude that a material uncertainty exists, they are required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify their opinion. Their conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves a true and fair view.

The Auditor shall communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that may be identified during the audit.

## The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Colin Feely FCA  
for and on behalf of  
**Grant Thornton**

Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Audit Firm  
13-18 City Quay  
Dublin 2

Date: 9 July 2019



## Statement of Income and Retained Earnings

For the financial year ended 31 December 2018

	2018 €	2017 €
Total income	1,123,393	1,077,472
Administrative expenses	(795,686)	(776,369)
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>327,707</b>	301,103
Interest receivable and similar income	38	12
Interest payable and expenses	(842)	(849)
<b>Profit before tax</b>	<b>326,903</b>	300,266
Tax on profit	(1,322)	(1,316)
<b>Profit after tax</b>	<b>325,581</b>	298,950
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year	1,684,705	1,385,755
Profit for the financial year	325,581	298,950
<b>Retained earnings at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>2,010,286</b>	1,684,705

## Statement of Financial Position

For the financial year ended 31 December 2018

	2018 €	2017 €
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	1,645	2,194
	<b>1,645</b>	2,194
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	899,154	832,339
Cash at bank and in hand	1,350,178	1,083,615
	<b>2,249,332</b>	1,915,954
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(141,271)	(134,023)
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>2,108,061</b>	1,781,931
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>2,109,706</b>	1,784,125
<b>Capital and Reserves</b>		
Contributions to capital set-up costs	99,420	99,420
Retained earnings	2,010,286	1,684,705
<b>Shareholders' funds</b>	<b>2,109,706</b>	1,784,125

# IRISH CONCRETE FEDERATION COUNCIL MEMBERS 2018

Mr Larry Byrne (President)  
Roadstone  
Fortunestown  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24

Mr Peter Gleeson  
Gleeson Quarries  
Laffansbridge  
Thurles  
Co Tipperary

Mr David Wright  
Wright Quarry Products  
Swanns Cross  
Monaghan

Mr John Joe McGrath\*  
McGraths Limestone (Cong)  
Cregaree Quarries  
Cong  
Co Mayo

Mr Christy Loughnane  
Loughnane Concrete (Birr)  
Woodlands, Birr  
Co Offaly

\*Retired December 2018

Ms Caroline Quinn (Vice-President)  
Concast Precast  
Hazelhatch  
Newcastle  
Co Dublin

Mr Finbarr O'Neill  
Finbarr O'Neill  
Poulavone, Ballincollig  
Co Cork

Mr Derry McKeown  
Kilsaran International  
Flathouse Lane  
Piercetown  
Dunboyne  
Co Meath

Mr Frank Healy Jnr  
Ducon Concrete  
Ballymaquirke  
Kanturk  
Co Cork



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Mr Gerry Farrell  
Irish Concrete Federation  
8 Newlands Business Park  
Naas Road, Clondalkin  
Dublin 22. D22 R2F8

## COMPANY SECRETARY

Ms Patricia Craig  
Irish Concrete Federation  
8 Newlands Business Park  
Naas Road, Clondalkin  
Dublin 22. D22 R2F8



*Irish Concrete Federation Council Members 2018*



**Irish Concrete Federation**

8 Newlands Business Park, Naas Road,  
Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22 R2F8

Tel: 01 464 0082

Fax: 01 464 0087

E-mail: [info@irishconcrete.ie](mailto:info@irishconcrete.ie)

**[www.irishconcrete.ie](http://www.irishconcrete.ie)**

Concrete Built is Better Built