ANNUAL REPORT 2022

IRISH CONCRETE FEDERATION

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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 (ICF)



Independent Concrete Manufacturers Association Irish Precast Concrete Association (IPCA)

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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.

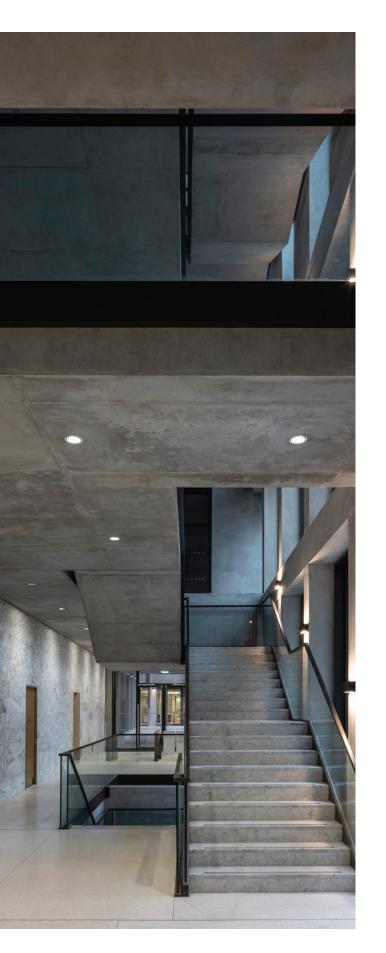
ERMCO

European Ready Mixed Concrete Organization (ERMCO)

Union Européenne des Producteurs de Granulats



European Federation for Precast Concrete



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Cover Photo: Project Fitzwilliam - Overall Winner of 40th Irish Concrete Society Awards

Major Suppliers: Roadstone, Techrete



ICF MEMBER LOCATIONS 2022

INDUSTRY FACTS (ESTIMATED)



Industry output of aggregates (stone, sand and gravel) amounted to approximately 37 million tonnes in 2022



Industry output of readymix concrete was approximately 4.7 million m³ in 2022



DONEGAL

LEITRIM

LONGFORI

POSCOM

TIDDE

WREFORD

GALWAY

LIMERICK

FERMANAGI

WESTMEATH

LAOIS

NILKENNY

DERRY

ARMAGH

UBLIN

TYRONE

MONAGHA

MEATI

WICKLOW

CAVAN

KILDA

RLOW

WEXF

ANTRIM

DOW

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

Agricultural lime output in Ireland was approximately 1.3 million tonnes in 2022

Industry output of concrete blocks in 2022 was approximately 135 million units

The value of exports of precast concrete to the UK was approximately €200 million in 2022 ______

FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT, CHRISTY LOUGHNANE



In contributing to the Annual Report of the Irish Concrete Federation (ICF) for 2021, I referred to the role of the ICF in tackling the many challenges faced by the quarrying and concrete manufacturing sector in this country. In particular, I made reference to the importance of decision making in the wider business, economic, political and technological environment in which companies like my own operate. This past year has provided more than enough evidence of such decision making.

In September, the Minister for Finance announced the Government's intention to introduce a 'Defective Concrete Products Levy' on all concrete products with effect from April 2023. This announcement was made in the absence of any engagement with ICF or the entire construction sector. It is testament to the ill-conceived nature of this measure that it rapidly became the political 'banana skin' of Budget 2023. The timing of the Government's announcement coincided with a period of unprecedented inflation in the cost of building materials, thereby adding further to construction costs at a time when Government is trying to stimulate additional construction to meet Ireland's housing needs. In addition, the imposition of a levy on the exports of Irish precast concrete was a complete contradiction of Government's policy to support exports. It is therefore abundantly clear that Government decision making, taken in a vacuum of knowledge and consultation, can have disastrous consequences, however unintended.

Thankfully, due to the efforts of the Irish Concrete Federation and its members and the support we received from political representatives and business representative organisations such as the Construction Industry Federation and the Irish Farmers Association, some positive changes were made to the details of the levy to mitigate its damaging consequences. I was heartened by the positive response from our membership to the 'call to arms' from our federation following the Budget's announcement. Throughout the country our members, who have played a pivotal role in the delivery of local, regional and national infrastructure, engaged directly with their political representatives resulting in substantial changes to the proposed legislation. While much work remains for completion on this issue in 2023, there is no doubt that the strength of our collective voices was eventually heard, and some sense of normality was restored.

Given these recent events, I would like to take this opportunity to express a long held personal view that Government bodies should consult more proactively with business sectors across the economy in advance of critical policy decision making. While they may not necessarily agree with Government policy in every case, representative bodies can certainly streamline the communication process and provide an informed perspective, thereby avoiding unnecessary confusion and ill-judged decision making.

I have no doubt that readers will be relieved to know that ICF was busily involved in many other issues during the year, apart from the Defective Concrete Products Levy. Our Chief Executive will give a more detailed report on some of the activities of our organisation over the past year and in particular the work of our policy committees and constituent associations in his report. I will mention just a few highlights.

FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT, CHRISTY LOUGHNANE

Our Health and Safety Committee supported two quarry safety campaigns during the year in cooperation with the Health and Safety Authority. I am particularly proud of the series of short quarry safety videos which were produced by our committee and are available in our YouTube playlists.

Our Planning and Environment Committee continued to input into the development by the Environmental Protection Agency of national end-of-waste criteria for recycled aggregates from waste concrete, a key element of the circular economy within the construction sector. In this context, the Council oversaw the development of a sustainability plan for the federation and we look forward to fully resourcing this area in the coming year so that our members can play a positive role in assisting Ireland meet our climate goals.

Our Transport Committee made a submission to the Road Safety Authority to deliver substantial emission reductions from our transport fleet by harnessing the benefits of modern design to deliver reduced journeys and fuel usage.

The Technical Committee continued to contribute to the development of product standards and associated guidance and held a major seminar for members on 'Masonry and the Construction Products Regulation (CPR)'. The committee continues to work proactively with the Department of Housing and the National Building Control and Market Surveillance Office to assist formal compliance with the CPR across the sector.

The Irish Precast Concrete Association engaged in an intensive and ultimately successful campaign with the political system to ensure that the ability of our precast concrete manufacturers to continue to grow their markets, both in Ireland and the UK, was not undermined by the introduction of a concrete levy on precast concrete. The Ground Limestone Producers Association of Ireland was highly involved with the Department of Agriculture on the details of the welcome Government decision in the Budget to support the application of lime in Ireland under the National Liming Programme 2023.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members for their support for ICF during 2022 and to thank my fellow Council members for their guidance and expertise which is generously given. In particular, I would like to express my gratitude to Larry Byrne, Finbarr O'Neill and David Wright, all of whom retired from Council during the past year and who made a massive contribution to the ICF during their tenure. I look forward to the contributions of their replacements on Council – Donal Rigney, Mark Galvin and John O'Connor, who will bring a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to their contributions on our Council.

While stewardship of the federation is the responsibility of the Council, the 'work engine' of the organisation is the policy committees which operate across a broad range of disciplines and business areas. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who contributed to our committees during the year.

Finally, a sincere word of thanks to the staff of the ICF for their commitment and professionalism over the past twelve months which is greatly appreciated by all our members.

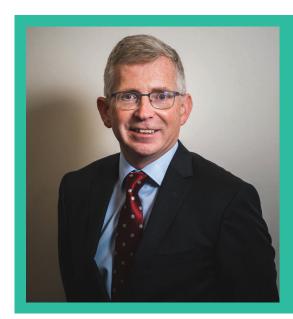
Christy Loughnane President

BLANCHARDSTOWN DRAINAGE SCHEME

HIGHLY COMMENDED FOR SUSTAINABILITY WINNER OF 40TH IRISH CONCRETE SOCIETY AWARDS

MAJOR SUPPLIER -KILSARAN INTERNATIONAL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT, GERRY FARRELL



It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Irish Concrete Federation for 2022, a year in which global events and their impacts continued to dominate the headlines worldwide. While the Covid pandemic thankfully receded, global politics were rocked with the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February which has wreaked havoc on the lives of the people of Ukraine. Unfortunately, a year on from the invasion, there are few signs that an end to this needless war is in sight. While the impacts of the war in Ireland obviously pale in comparison to those experienced by the people of Ukraine, the business community in our country has experienced major disruption arising from the conflict, particularly evident in unprecedented increases in the cost of raw materials and disruptions to supply lines. These impacts have created major challenges for ICF members and their customers as the cost of materials increased significantly as the year progressed, thereby increasing building costs across the economy. Ironically, this led to a small decline in output from the concrete sector during the year when compared to the previous two years, which coincided with the pandemic. While the need for private and public investment in critical infrastructure is well acknowledged in Ireland currently, there is no doubt that the continued high rate of inflation, particularly in building materials, will have a dampening impact on investment plans into 2023. One can only hope that diplomacy will somehow eventually yield positive results and bring a cessation to the conflict in Eastern Europe.

While COVID is thankfully no longer dominating our personal and business lives, I will repeat my expression of gratitude to all our members for their efforts to keep their businesses operational throughout the 'pandemic years', particularly the effort that went into adopting new practices and procedures in places of work to keep everybody safe.

Notwithstanding the challenges presented by global events, the economic outlook in Ireland remains favourable in the short to medium term. The health of the public finances allied with Government's "Housing for All" strategy and the "National Development Plan" should underpin demand for new social, environmental and economic infrastructure in the coming years, as our country's population grows thereby creating sustainable demand for our industry's products.

At time of writing, the impending introduction of a Government levy on ready mixed concrete and concrete blocks from September 1st 2023 is the key priority for ICF. The announcement of the levy in 'Budget 2023' in September was received with shock and disappointment throughout our membership. It is abundantly clear that the proposed levy has not been given any comprehensive consideration, has not undergone any regulatory or economic impact analysis and no guidance to industry on how it will be administered or enforced has been forthcoming. Thanks to the efforts of our membership and the support of many stakeholder organisations, the levy's impact has been negated to some extent due to the subsequent exclusion of precast concrete from its scope and its reduction to 5% of product value. Notwithstanding this fact, it is inevitable that the levy will increase construction costs in Ireland and will present a significant challenge for concrete manufacturers in border regions arising from increased competition

from suppliers based in Northern Ireland. ICF will be doing its utmost to influence the postponement of the levy's introduction pending a robust regulatory and economic impact analysis.

Over the past year ICF has continued to work on behalf of our member businesses throughout the country across a range of policy areas. As ever, the 'work engine' of the organisation is the policy committees which operate across a broad range of disciplines and business areas. Our committees serve the dual purpose of harnessing members' expertise to form policy and equally importantly, facilitating the sharing of knowledge throughout the membership.

Our Health and Safety Committee continues to raise the bar in safety across our member locations. During the year we actively supported the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) on two safety campaigns in Irish quarries. We are grateful for the support of the HSA who conducted audits across the industry during both campaigns and provided valuable feedback to industry on the findings of the audits. ICF produced a series of 19 toolbox talk safety videos which can be viewed on our YouTube playlist and are available to all involved in our industry to assist in training and education in safety within our industry.

Rising global temperatures serve as a reminder to all of us of our collective responsibility to reduce our impacts on climate and the environment. During the year, ICF commenced the development of a sustainability plan for the organisation and in the coming year will hopefully undertake a recruitment process for a new Head of Sustainability. We look forward to engaging with all stakeholders to effectively communicate the achievements of our sector to date in reducing our industry's environmental impacts and to promoting increased awareness among our membership on the role that they can play in further reducing their carbon footprint, enhancing biodiversity and supporting the circular economy. In this context, our Planning and Environment Committee is looking forward to the publishing of national end-of-waste criteria for recycled aggregates from waste concrete by the Environmental Protection Agency, which we understand is forthcoming early in the coming year.

During the year the ICF Council commissioned the development of a policy document highlighting the depletion of authorised aggregate reserves in some regions and the resulting constraints on the delivery of Government strategic infrastructure priorities. ICF is becoming increasingly concerned that, while Ireland has abundant natural reserves of high-quality aggregates and there are no significant capacity constraints currently, scarcities of some aggregate products are already emerging in some regions. Ireland's strategic reserves of aggregates need to be identified, quantified and protected and a robust, effective and efficient planning system for quarries is needed to ensure that the extraction of Ireland's aggregate reserve is enabled in a sustainable manner. ICF is hopeful that the Government's forthcoming Planning and Development Bill will underpin the development of a planning system that provides the social, economic and physical infrastructure necessary to meet the needs of our people in a way that also protects the many qualities of our natural and built environment.

The ICF Human Resources Forum is continuously monitoring the ever-increasing raft of employment legislation facing employers and briefing members on the implications for their businesses. Our Technical Committee continues to contribute to the ongoing revision of product standards within the National Standards Authority of Ireland and the development of new guidance on their application in industry while our Transport Committee made a detailed submission to the Road Safety Authority on weight limits for modern delivery vehicles.

The Irish Precast Concrete Association engaged in an ultimately successful lobbying campaign to have precast concrete excluded from the scope of the Defective Concrete Products Levy while the Ground Limestone Producers Association of Ireland is working closely with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on the introduction of the National Fertiliser Database and also continuing to promote the association's trademark 'Grolime.' The association welcomed the introduction of a subsidy for lime usage in Ireland in 'Budget 2023' which has yet to come to fruition at time of writing due to the higher than anticipated level of interest from the farming community.

The following is a short report on some of the activities of our Council and committees during the past year. Obviously, it is impossible to report on the entirety of the organisation's achievements, but I hope it will inform readers of the nature of our efforts on behalf of members.

ICF COUNCIL

The members of the ICF Council in 2022 were:

Mr Christy Loughnane Loughnane Concrete (Birr), President

Ms Caroline Quinn Concast Precast Group

Mr John Farragher Concrete Manufacturing Company

Mr Larry Byrne Roadstone***

Mr Peter Gleeson Gleeson Quarries

Mr David Wright Wright Quarry Products*

Mr Derry McKeown Kilsaran International

Mr Finbarr O'Neill Finbarr O'Neill**

Mr Frank Healy Ducon Concrete

* Succeeded by Mr John O'Connor, Flood Group – May 2022

** Succeeded by Mr Mark Galvin, Ardfert Quarry Group – May 2022

***Succeeded by Mr Donal Rigney, Roadstone – December 2022

The ICF Council is responsible for the overall governance and management of the federation and meets regularly to discuss priority areas to be addressed by ICF on behalf of its members. There is no doubt the announcement by Government of the introduction of a Defective Concrete Products Levy in September was the single issue which consumed much of the Council's time during the year. In the immediate aftermath of the Government's decision to impose a 10% levy on ready mixed concrete, concrete blocks and precast concrete with effect from April 2023, the ICF Council coordinated an intensive lobbying effort on behalf of the industry to seek the deferment of the levy, pending a rigorous regulatory and economic impact analysis. This lobbying effort, which involved the entirety of ICF's membership, resulted in the Government's decision to exclude precast concrete products from the scope of the levy and reduce its level to 5%. While the exclusion of precast concrete and the reduction in the size of the levy are welcome, ICF remains committed to a further deferment of the levy's introduction beyond September of next year. The Council is grateful for the support it has received to date from all stakeholder organisations and trade bodies on this issue. I would also like to thank all ICF members who engaged directly with their elected public representatives on the impacts of this ill-conceived measure and I have no doubt that it will continue to be a key priority for ICF throughout the coming year.

During the year the ICF Council oversaw the development of a sustainability plan for the federation by RPS Consulting. The draft plan was presented to the Council in September and we look forward to fully resourcing a sustainability function in the federation in 2023, through the appointment of a Head of Sustainability. In addition, the Council commissioned an analysis of the depletion of authorised reserves of aggregates in Ireland. It is clear that the critical role of aggregates for Ireland's future infrastructural development is not appreciated by policy makers, the general public or the planning system and we look forward to publishing this evidence based research in 2023 to follow up on our 2019 publication – "Essential Aggregates - Providing for Ireland's Future to 2040".

The ICF Council closely monitored the unprecedented increases in energy, fuel and raw material prices impacting on our members throughout the year and engaged with representative bodies for suppliers and customers to highlight the inflationary impact of these increases on the cost base of aggregate and concrete products manufacturers. ICF welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Public Expenditure of the introduction of the Inflation Co-operation Framework for public contracts in May.

Responsibility for the organisation's finances, which remain on a solid footing, lies with the Council with the valued assistance of our Financial Controller and Company Secretary Trish Craig. In this respect, I would like to thank all of our members and the members of Cement Manufacturers Ireland for their support to ICF during the year.

In May, two new members of the ICF Council were appointed. Mark Galvin of Ardfert Quarry Group was appointed to succeed Finbarr O'Neill of Finbarr O'Neill Ltd and John O'Connor of Flood Group was appointed to succeed David Wright of Wright Quarry Products. In December, Larry Byrne of Roadstone also retired from our Council and was replaced by Donal Rigney. On behalf of our members, I would like to sincerely thank Finbarr, David and Larry for their contributions to the ICF Council over many years and to wish Mark, John and Donal well in their new roles on our Council.

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE





The members of the Health and Safety Committee in 2022 were as follows:

Ms Nicky Mulchrone McGraths Limestone, Cong (Chairperson)

Mr Vincent Flanagan **B D Flood**

Mr Noel Morgan Flood Flooring

Mr Clive Carty Roadstone

Mr John McWeeney CRH

Mr Brian Coogan Wright Quarry Products

Mr Ian Hall Wright Quarry Products Ms Emma Murphy Harrington Concrete & Quarries

Mr Mark Patterson Kilsaran Precast

Mr Paul Gallagher Ducon Concrete

Mr Brendan Donagher Concast Precast

Mr Mark O'Dea **Techrete**

Mr David Whyte Shay Murtagh Precast

Mr Denis Byrne Irish Industrial Explosives

Mr Gerry Reidy Irish Cement

Mr Jamie Barrett Banagher Precast

Mr Cillian Casey Keohane Readymix

Mr Paul Conway Kellys of Fantane

Mr Clive Kelly Clive Kelly Safety, Consultant

Given the high levels of COVID experienced over the Christmas period, health and safety personnel throughout our industry were immediately refocused on reducing the risk of transfer of the virus in the workplace at the beginning of the year. The Health and Safety Committee kept members updated on best practice in reducing virus transmission in the workplace.

Once again, the ICF Health and Safety Committee and the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) collaborated for the Spring Quarry Safety Campaign which took place in March and focused on Machinery Operation, Maintenance and Guarding. A second campaign took place in September on Workplace Vehicle and Pedestrian Safety. As ever, I would like to thank all our members who participated in the online workshops as well as presenters from the HSA and our own committee. ICF will endeavour to ensure that the HSA maintains a high visibility in the quarrying sector to constantly reinforce the importance of safety among our membership.

To coincide with the Spring Quarry Safety Campaign, the Health and Safety Committee launched a series of 19 short quarry safety videos to complement existing training in the industry and assist in the communication of key safety messages. Under the guidance of our Health and Safety Manager, Aine Healy, the videos were shot in a number of member locations throughout the country and are now available among our YouTube playlists.

During the year ICF continued to participate on the Plant Working Group within Solas which is contributing to the reform of the Quarry Safety Certification Scheme and also monitored progress of the implementation of the Dangerous Substances (Flammable Liquids and Fuel Distribution and Commercial Supply Stores) Regulations 2019.

TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The members of the Transport Committee in 2022 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 Shane Tierney B D Flood In early 2022, the Transport Committee made a submission to the Road Safety Authority seeking changes in the maximum permissible weights for some vehicles in our members' delivery fleets to take account of modern design and harness the substantial benefits of reduced trips, fuel consumption, fuel costs and emissions. A meeting involving ICF, the Department of Transport, the Road Safety Authority and Transport Infrastructure Ireland will take place to discuss the submission

ICF is still awaiting the implementation in Ireland of the derogation from the requirements of Articles 5-9 of Regulation 561/ 2006 - European Communities (Road Transport) Regulations for readymix concrete deliveries. ICF is disappointed that the Department of Transport has not yet implemented the derogation in Ireland, despite supporting its introduction at EU level. We understand that this legislation will finally be enacted in Ireland in 2023 and look forward to engaging with the Road Safety Authority and the Department on its practical implementation.



Osiers Road, London

International Award Winner of 40th Irish Concrete Society Awards Major Supplier - Techrete

The Transport Committee also monitored developments on the applications to local authorities for diesel storage tanks as required under the Dangerous Substances (Flammable Liquids and Fuels Distribution and Commercial Supply Stores) Regulations, 2019.

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The members of the Planning and Environment Committee in 2022 were as follows:

Mr Fergus Gallagher Kilsaran International (Chairman)

Mr Stephen Linden Mannok

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 Group

Ms Amanda Tarpey Harrington Concrete and Quarries

Mr Conor Quirke M F Quirke & Sons

Ms Sarah O'Connell O'Connell Concrete

Mr Brian Downes Breedon Ireland

The Planning and Environment Committee monitored the development of national end-of-waste criteria for recycled aggregates recovered from waste concrete by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in partnership with the local authority sector. In December, the committee met with the EPA to inform this process which ICF greatly welcomes. ICF looks forward to commenting on the draft criteria when they are published by the agency in February of next year which will hopefully contribute to circular economy goals for the overall construction sector. The Planning & Environment Committee also closely monitored the Water Environment (Abstractions and Associated Impoundments) Act 2022 which was passed by the Oireachtas in December and will eventually introduce a registration system for abstractions and a licencing regime for abstractions over a certain threshold. In late 2022, ICF met with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to discuss the implementation of the licencing regime which will be administered by the EPA. ICF will engage with EPA and the Department on this issue in 2023.

A sub-committee of the Planning and Environment Committee is working with RPS Consulting on the completion of an evidence-based report on the depletion of authorised reserves of aggregates in Ireland which will be published in the coming year. In addition, the committee is closely monitoring the Government's review of Irish planning legislation which is being overseen by the Attorney General and a working group of professionals with planning law expertise. The committee looks forward to examining the proposed changes to the planning code to be published by Government in 2023.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The members of the Technical Committee in 2022 were as follows:

Mr Alan Lowe Roadstone (Chairman)

Mr Peter Deegan Banagher Precast

Mr William Farrell Killeshal Precast Concrete

Mr Tom Holden Roadstone

Mr Diarmuid McCarthy Roadstone

Mr Richard Bradley Irish Cement

Mr Aidan Fogarty **Ecocem**

Mr Kevin Maguire Mannok

Mr Gareth McMeekin Wright Quarry Products

Mr Keith Goodwin Kilsaran International

Mr Patrick Cullivan **B D Flood**

Mr Eanna Nolan Irish Concrete Society

Our Technical Committee continued to meet quarterly online during the year. ICF and technical committee members continued to contribute to many National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) panels and committees during the year, in particular the Construction Standards Consultative Committee, the Aggregates Panel, the Masonry Panel and the Concrete Standards Consultative Committee.

The review of Standard Recommendation (SR)18 -'Guidance on Aggregates for Mortar' was completed during 2021 and was published this year. ICF committee members also contributed to the ongoing review of SR325 - 'Design of Masonry Standards in Ireland to Eurocode 6' and the review of SR 16 - 'Guidance on Aggregates for Concrete' which commenced during the year. An ICF project on the development of a standardised test methodology for concrete block durability which is being carried out in association with Technological University Dublin continues to progress and will hopefully yield results in 2023. In this context, the Technical Committee greatly welcomed the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage guidance on the marketing and use of concrete blocks in Ireland, which is targeted at manufacturers, importers, distributors, specifiers, designers, builders, certifiers and end users which was published in April.

In May, ICF held an industry seminar on 'Masonry and the Construction Products Regulation' at which speakers from the Department of Housing, the National Standards Authority of Ireland, the National Building Control and Market Surveillance Office (NBCO) Geological Survey Ireland, SLR Consulting and industry made presentations to a large representation of ICF members. ICF welcomes the continued focus of the NBCO on the sector and will continue to assist and advise members on compliance with the Construction Products Regulation. In November, the committee welcomed the publication by the Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland of its advice note to structural engineers on blockwork.

Members of the committee who participate on CEN panels contributed to the ongoing consultation on

EN 17555- 'Aggregates for Construction Uses' and monitored the ongoing review of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) and EN206.



ICF Technical Seminar 25th May 2022

Mairead Phelan, Head of National Building Control & Market Surveillance Office

CONCRETE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

The members of the Concrete Development Group, which comprises representatives of the Irish Concrete Federation and Cement Manufacturers Ireland are as follows:

Mr Richard Bradley Irish Cement

Mr Derek Duffy Kilsaran Precast

Mr Brian Gilmore Cement Manufacturers Ireland

Mr David Kelly Hanlon Concrete

Ms Eibhlin Keohane Keohane Readymix

Mr David McKeown Kilsaran International

Mr Eamon Finnegan Breedon Ireland

Mr Diarmuid O'Sullivan **Roadstone**

The Concrete Development Group did not meet in 2022.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The members of the Business Development Committee are as follows:

Mr Bernard Quinn Concast Precast

Mr Barry O'Brien

Mr Fergus O'Hara Hanlon Concrete

Mr Francis Harrington Harrington Concrete & Quarries

Ms Geraldine Grace Gleeson Quarries

Mr John O'Carroll Ardfert Quarry Products

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

The Federation's Business Development Committee did not meet during 2022.

HUMAN RESOURCES FORUM

The current members of the ICF Human Resources Forum are as follows:

Ms Aine Black Shay Murtagh Precast

Ms Caroline McCaffrey Mannok

Ms Caroline Quinn Concast Precast Group

Ms Enda Keenan Kilsaran International

Ms Mary Lennon Kilsaran International

Ms Jennifer Flynn O'Reilly Concrete

Mr Jim Rea Roadstone

Ms Linda McGrath McGraths Limestone (Cong)

Mr Noel Morgan Flood Precast

Ms Orla Dunne **Techrete**

Ms Rowena Bottrill Breedon Group

Ms Stephanie Mahady Harrington Concrete & Quarries

Ms Susanne Atkinson Wright Quarry Products

Mr Thomas King Wright Quarry Products

Our new Human Resources Forum continued to gain momentum throughout 2022. The HR forum comprises mainly HR practitioners and is supported by Stratis Consulting and facilitates the updating of members on recent and pending changes in employment law. The forum met on three occasions during the year and held a number of all member briefings for members on issues such as pay developments, remote working legislation, statutory sick pay, autoenrollment retirement savings system and the Gender Pay Gap Information Act 2021.

IRISH PRECAST CONCRETE ASSOCIATION (IPCA)

The members of the IPCA Council in 2022 were as follows:

Mr Derek Duffy Kilsaran Precast (Chairman)

Mr Frank Healy Ducon Concrete

Ms Caroline Quinn Concast Precast Group

Mr David Wright Wright Quarry Products

Mr Emmet Cosgrove O'Reilly Bros

Mr Brendan Mahon Banagher Precast

Mr Marcus Sweeney Techrete

Mr Alan Brennan Killeshal Precast

Mr John O'Connor Flood Group

Mr Paddy Mohan Mannok

Mr Denis Doyle Doyle Concrete

Mr John Cleary Moylough Concrete Products

While 2022 was another busy year for our precast concrete manufacturers in both the domestic and UK marketplace, the global disruption to supply chains and the increases in energy and fuel costs presented a major challenge for operators. Unprecedented increases in the cost of reinforcing steel, cement and fuel in particular resulted in significant increases in the manufacturing and transport costs of precast concrete products. Notwithstanding these challenges, Irish precast concrete has an excellent reputation both in Ireland and in the UK which helped to protect the position of precast manufacturers in the marketplace.

In the aftermath of 'Budget 2023' in September which introduced a levy on the sale of all concrete products, including precast concrete, the IPCA and its members engaged in an intensive lobbying exercise with public representatives at all levels to express opposition to the levy. IPCA greatly welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Finance in November that precast concrete products would be excluded from the scope of the levy to protect jobs and exports. I would like to thank all IPCA members for their great efforts in achieving this successful outcome.

During the year IPCA met with Enterprise Ireland to discuss ongoing support for exporters of precast concrete to the UK. IPCA greatly welcomed the support received from Enterprise Ireland on the exclusion of precast concrete exports from the scope of Defective Concrete Products Levy.

In November, IPCA participated along with other stakeholder groups, in a workshop on the development of a Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) Demonstration Park in Mount Lucas, Co. Offaly. This is the first of its kind in Ireland and is being based on the BRE Innovation Park in the UK. The overall project management group is made up of Department of Housing, Government and Local Heritage, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Laois Offaly Education and Training Board and Solas. The growing importance of Modern Methods of Construction will undoubtedly lead to greater use of offsite manufacturing which will in turn generate opportunities for precast concrete manufacturers. In 2023 IPCA will host a workshop on Modern Methods of Construction featuring the key stakeholders including the recently formed 'Construct Innovate, Build Digital and Enterprise Ireland.

IPCA representatives on the ICF's Health and Safety Committee have commenced the development of guidance for customers on site conditions to facilitate the safe delivery and installation of precast concrete elements.

In May John O'Connor from Flood Group succeeded David Wright of Wright Quarry Products as an IPCA representative on the ICF Council.

GROUND LIMESTONE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND (GLPAI)

The members of the GLPAI committee in 2022 were 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 Fraser Thom Breedon Ireland

Mr Enda Hanly Hanly Quarries

Mr Tony Healy **Kilsaran International**

Mr Kevin Morrissey Dan Morrissey & Co

Mr Diarmuid O'Sullivan Roadstone

Mr Billy McGrath McGraths Limestone, Cong

Mr Mike Cronin Michael Cronin Readymix

Mr Peter Gleeson Gleeson Quarries

Mr Tom McDonald Jnr Kilcarrig Quarries

Mr Trevor Mortimer Mortimer Quarries

Mr Andy Fogarty Fogarty Concrete

The Ground Limestone Producers Association of Ireland (GLPAI) represents 15 companies operating in approximately 30 locations throughout the country that are licensed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to produce agricultural lime as a soil pH enhancer.

Sales of agricultural lime reached approximately 1.3 million tonnes in 2022, which was unchanged from 2021 levels. The increase in the use of lime as a soil conditioner in recent years as a result of the elevated price levels for chemical fertilisers has certainly kept all our members busy supplying their farmer customers. In addition, the use of lime to maintain optimum soil pH is now being seen as a major element of Government's plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. While Budget 2023 was certainly not one to remember for our concrete producer members with the announcement of the Defective Concrete Products Levy, Government's decision to introduce a subsidy to support lime usage by farmers in 2023 was a welcome and innovative approach to support the path towards climate neutrality for Irish agriculture. Since the announcement of the 'National Liming Programme 2023', GLPAI has engaged regularly with the Department of Agriculture on the administration of the programme and is hopeful that 2023 will see a further increase in the sales of lime, particularly in regions with a traditionally lower use of lime.

The planned introduction of a National Fertiliser Database in 2023, provided for in the Veterinary Medicinal Products, Medicated Feed and Fertilisers Regulations Bill 2022 was also a priority for GLPAI during the year. While the final details of how the database will operate are still unclear, GLPAI looks forward to assisting its members prepare for the introduction of the database which will see all sales and purchases of fertilisers, including lime, being reported directly to the Department of Agriculture.

A GLPAI supported research project carried out by Teagasc in University College Dublin on the identification of the barriers to the use of lime among farmers was completed during the year. The masters student Conor Mulligan presented the findings to the GLPAI in November.

The promotion of 'Grolime', the certification mark operated by the GLPAI continued successfully throughout the year thanks to the work of the marketing sub-committee assisted by Greenacre Marketing. A comprehensive promotional advertising campaign in the traditional farming press, digital advertising and social media promotion was undertaken during the spring and autumn. We look forward to continuing our promotional campaign in the coming year, which is likely to feature the National Liming Programme.

EUROPE

ICF is a member of UEPG - the European Aggregates Association, ERMCO - the European Ready Mixed Concrete Organisation and BIBM - the European Precast Concrete Federation and remains highly involved in all three organisations. ICF is represented on the Board of ERMCO and UEPG by Gerry Farrell. In addition, Mr Jim O'Brien is an honorary President of UEPG and regularly contributes to the organisation on ICF's behalf. ICF is supportive of the work programme of these organisations, particularly in the areas of the environment, technical standards and health and safety.

UEPG – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AWARDS 2022



(Left to Right) Dirk Fincke, Director General UEPG, Brendan O'Sullivan, Kilsaran International, Brendan Quinn, Kilsaran International, Stijn Renier, UEPG Board Member, Antonis Antoniou Latouros, UEPG President



(Left to Right) Dirk Fincke, Director General UEPG, Colin Doyle, Roadstone, John Glynn, Roadstone, Fearghal Philips, Roadstone, Stijn Renier, UEPG Board Member, Antonis Antoniou Latouros, UEPG President

Two ICF members were among the companies recognised at the Sustainable Development Awards Ceremony, organised by Aggregates Europe – UEPG, that took place on 30 November in the Brussels concert hall 'La Madeleine'.

Kilsaran International was recognised for excellence in the category of "Operational Best Practice, Process or Product Innovation" while Roadstone was recognised for excellence in the category of "Environmental Best Practice".

"The European Aggregates Industry is part of the solution", said Aggregates Europe – UEPG President Antonis Antoniou Latouros at the beginning of the event. Keynote speakers Costas Kadis, Cypriot Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment and European Parliament Vice-President Rainer Wieland addressed an audience of more than 230 participants from companies, environmental organisations, academia, and European and national authorities.

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS

As a representative body for a strategically essential sector, ICF greatly depends on its ability to develop linkages and relationships with stakeholder organisations in the wider construction and regulatory 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 2022 are included on the following list and I apologise for any inadvertent omission from the list.

- Alliance for Insurance Reform
- 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, Local Government & Heritage

- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
- Department of Environment, Climate & Communications
- Department of Transport
- Education and Training Boards
- Engineers Ireland



ICF AGM and Management Seminar 29th November 2022 Fergus Sharkey, Head of Business Supports and Transport, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland



- Enterprise Ireland
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Fertiliser Association of Ireland
- Freight Transport Association of Ireland.
- Geological Survey Ireland
- Health and Safety Authority
- HomeBond
- Housing Agency
- Irish Concrete Society
- Irish Mining & Quarrying Society
- Irish Water
- Mineral Products Association (UK)
- Mineral Products Association (Northern Ireland)
- National Monuments Service
- National Standards Authority of Ireland
- National Building Control and Market Surveillance Office
- Office of Permanent Representation of Ireland Brussels
- Road Safety Authority
- Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland
- Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland
- Solas
- Teagasc
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Valuation Office

ICF COMMUNICATIONS

As a business representative organisation, ICF relies greatly on its ability to communicate effectively with members and other stakeholder organisations with whom we interact daily. Effective communications with our member organisations allow us to represent the sector effectively and professionally and in an informed manner. This in turn helps the reputation of the organisation with other stakeholder organisations, both in Government and in industry.

Through its extensive committee structure, ICF harnesses the expertise of individuals and organisations in our industry and maintains an ever-present link with its membership. Regular committee meetings are supported by regional meetings held throughout the year which keep members updated and briefed on the organisation's activities. In addition, the Federation's

work agenda is communicated increasingly through our newsletters, newsflashes, safety alerts and the organisation's website. The organisation now operates three websites, including Grolime for our members involved in the production of agricultural lime.

SOCIAL

After a two-year break, it was with great pleasure that we were able to once again welcome members to the highlight of the ICF's social calendar, the annual dinner and social weekend, which was held in May. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all guests which as usual was organised expertly by Diane O'Donoghue in our head office.

CONCLUSION

An industry representative body such as the ICF is only as strong as the input it receives from its constituent members. I am always acutely aware that individuals must always give priority to their employer organisation and therefore time spent by these individuals contributing to the ICF work programme is precious and should never be taken for granted. The Irish aggregates and concrete products industry should consider itself lucky to have so many dedicated and professional individuals who make an immense contribution to the industry's representative body for the benefit of all who participate in the sector.

I would therefore like to express my gratitude once again to the Council, committees and members of the Irish Concrete Federation for their ongoing commitment throughout 2022. Thankfully this year restored some sense of normality to the nature of our engagements with members and other organisations. We look forward to continuing this work in 2023 which promises to be yet another busy and challenging one for ICF.

I would like to thank our President, Christy Loughnane for his leadership of the organisation during the year and I look forward to working with him again throughout the coming year. A special mention also to Derek Duffy, Frank Healy and Eoin O'Carroll for their leadership of the various organisations within the ICF.

Lastly but by no means least, for their commitment, input and support always, a very special word of thanks to my colleagues in Newlands Cross – Diane O'Donoghue, Trish Craig and Gwen Synnott who contribute greatly on a daily basis to this organisation. A word of thanks to Charles Mount for his work as ICF Project Archaeologist. I would like to pay tribute to Liam Smyth, who left us during the year, for his many years of service to the organisation and to wish him the best in his future career. Similarly, we send our best wishes to Aine Healy, who also moved on to new pastures during the year.



NATIONAL SURF CENTRE

ELEMENT CATEGORY WINNER OF 40TH IRISH CONCRETE SOCIETY AWARDS

MAJOR SUPPLIER -FLOOD PRECAST

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 comprehensive income, the Statement of financial position, the Statement of cash flows, the Statement of changes in equity for the financial year ended 31 December 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the 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 2022 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities, and the responsibilities of the directors, with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report. Other information

Other information

Other information comprises information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon, including the Directors' report. 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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF IRISH CONCRETE FEDERATION CLG (CONT'D)

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 Act have not been made. We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Responsibilities of 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.

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:

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF IRISH CONCRETE FEDERATION CLG (CONT'D)

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.

Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

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

Statement of Comprehensive Income For the financial year ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	€	€
Turnover	1,108,600	1,405,977
Gross profit	1,108,600	1,405,977
Administrative expenses	(1,109,688)	(820,713)
Operating (Loss) / Profit	(1,088)	585,264
Interest receivable and similar income	-	34
Interest payable and expenses	(10,701)	(5,095)
(Loss) / Profit before tax	(11,789)	580,203
Tax on loss	(1,313)	(1,321)
(Loss) / Profit for the financial year	(13,102)	578,882

Statement of Financial Position For the financial year ended 31 December 2022

		2022	2021
		€	€
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets		-	694
		-	694
Current assets			
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	1,127,078	1,089,446	
Cash at bank and in hand	2,372,465	2,424,600	
	3,499,543	3,514,046	
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(112,334)	(114,429)	
Net current assets		3,387,209	3,399,617
Net assets		3,387,209	3,400,311
Capital and reserves			
Other reserves		99,420	99,420
Profit and loss account		3,287,789	3,300,891
Shareholders' funds		3,387,209	3,400,311

ICF COUNCIL MEMBERS 2022

MR CHRISTY LOUGHNANE (PRESIDENT) Loughnane Concrete (Birr), Woodlands Birr, Co Offaly

MS CAROLINE QUINN Concast Precast Group, Hazelhatch, Newcastle, Co Dublin

MR JOHN FARRAGHER Concrete Manufacturing Company, Ballygaddy Road, Tuam, Co Galway

MR FRANK HEALY Ducon Concrete, Ballymaquirke, Kanturk, Co Cork

MR PETER GLEESON Gleeson Quarries, Laffansbridge, Thurles, Co Tipperary

MR DERRY MCKEOWN Kilsaran International, Flathouse Lane, Piercetown, Dunboyne, Co Meath

MR JOHN O'CONNOR Flood Group, Hilltown, Oldcastle, Co Meath

MR MARK GALVIN Ardfert Quarry Group, Sackville, Ardfert, Co Kerry

MR LARRY BYRNE Roadstone, Fortunestown, Tallaght, Co Dublin

CHIEF EXECUTIVE MR GERRY FARRELL Irish Concrete Federation, 8 Newlands Business Park, Naas Road, Clondalkin, D22 R2F8

COMPANY SECRETARY MS PATRICIA CRAIG Irish Concrete Federation, 8 Newlands Business Park, Naas Road, Clondalkin, D22 R2F8



ICF COUNCIL MEMBERS 2022



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