

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

NSAI /TC 006 CONSTRUCTION
STANDARDS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

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#### 1 Chairman's Statement

The Construction Standards Consultative Committee (NSAI/TC 006), in November 2019 brought to fruition the inaugural publication of the Construction Sector Standardisation Programme to 2021 and the Construction Sector Standardisation Programme Database.

2020 however brought an unexpected and unprecedented difficult year for the construction sector in Ireland due to the impacts of the global pandemic, COVID -19, the implications of Brexit and concerns around the review of the Construction Products Regulation (Regulation EU 305/2011) by the European Commission.

Due to government COVID-19 public health restrictions there were 3 lockdowns in 2020 affecting the construction sector. A 7-week lockdown in March 2020 where the government imposed a full lockdown across society and the economy and included mandatory site closures across the sector with the exception of social housing sites.

The second lockdown in October lasted 6 weeks but excluded construction which was deemed an essential sector. The third lockdown from Christmas Eve was a partial lockdown for construction and extended until 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The widespread shutdown of construction activities lead to job losses and a decline in the volume of construction output across the country.

The industry responded urgently with a number of measures to provide protection for businesses, the workforce and communities during the pandemic, e.g. development of the CIF Construction Sector COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), a guide for the management of COVID-19 on a construction site, to be implemented in conjunction with the Government's return to work protocol. This SOP was supported by and online tutorial for workers.

Standardisation in the construction sector continued throughout 2020 with national and international standards meetings taking place virtually. The Construction Standards Consultative Committee met virtually in November 2020. The main focus of the meeting was an update of the construction sector programme, an update on the review of the Construction Products Regulation, a presentation by the DHLGH on the European Commission CPR Acquis programme and the support provided by NSAI Standards to this programme. A summary was presented of the extensive ongoing work programme to revise the Eurocodes and also a presentation and discussion on the impact of Brexit on construction.

Given the challenges associated with the impacts of Covid – 19 on the standards world with the progression of standards activities and meetings virtually, the NSAI construction sector technical committees rose to the challenge and continued to deliver on the Standards Programme for example, the publication in November 2020 by NSAI TC/16 Fire Safety Standards Committee of I.S. 391:2020; the development and public consultation by the BIM (Building Information modelling) standards committee of a National Annex to I.S. EN ISO 19650-2:2018 Building Information modelling, the publication of I.S. 10101:2020 National

Rules for electrical installations and public consultation of S.R. 50-4 Building Services Code of Practice for heat pumps which supports the government's Climate Action Plan.

The construction sector standards committee look forward to the preparation of the programme of work 2022 to 2024 which will be the main body of work for 2021 with the input of WG 1 (National Regulation/Policy framework) and WG 2 (Trade/manufacturers). Also, the development of a programme of work for WG 3 Communication and promotion of standards.

Kevin Sheridan

Thair NSAI Construction Consultative Committee

#### 2 Introduction

The primary objective of the NSAI/TC 006 is to provide NSAI with expert advice on general and standardization policy matters relating to construction in Ireland. The committee also oversees the progress of the Construction Sector Standardisation Programme to 2021 which was published in 2019 following a consultation process and input from the industry, see the programme publication and construction programme database <a href="HERE">HERE</a>

The Membership consists of a wide stakeholder base in the construction sector including regulators, state agencies, industry associations, professional bodies, academia and the chairs of all the NSAI Construction Committees, see 4.2 for Organisations represented on NSAI/TC 006.

NSAI/TC 006 Construction Standards Consultative Committee met in November 2020.

2020 proved to be a very challenging year for the construction sector, with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, implications of Brexit for the industry, the uncertainties around the future of the CPR and the launch of the CPR Acquis (i.e. harmonised standards, the European assessment documents and the legal acts of the European Commission) process, a parallel and separate process to the CPR review, see Annex B for more information.

The Standards community reacted positively to the challenges and changing operational needs presented by the pandemic. Resilience and flexibility was demonstrated by standards technical committees and experts as National and International standards development activities continued online.

NSAI construction standards technical committees adapted well to virtual meetings and progressed delivery of the national standardisation programme during 2020. The work undertaken in 2020 also included additional projects which were deemed necessary, and which were not part of the original standardisation programme. Annex A provides an update of the status of projects in the standards programme including the additional deliverables.

Many Irish experts involved in standardisation in the construction sector in CEN/CENELEC work and/or national work are aware of the far reaching issues surrounding non citation of hENs in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU), the resulting challenges to standards Technical Committees, the effect on national standardisation work and with CE marking of construction products in the market place.

The European Commission is examining closely the hENs for construction products published by CEN/CENELEC following a number of court cases, including the James Elliot case, in which the judgement of the ECJ (European Court of Justice) concluded that cited harmonised standards, although developed by private bodies, form "part of Union law". The European Commission published a document outlining 5 indicative options for a possible review of the CPR which underwent public consultation in 2020.

Experts and Stakeholders from the construction industry continue to make considerable commitments to standards development activity in the construction sector in Ireland to ensure relevant standards are available to industry and regulators.

This annual report provides a summary of the activities of the Construction Standards Consultative Committee in 2020.

Further detail of the activities in 2020 of individual construction related Technical Committees is available in the relevant individual NSAI construction committee annual reports for 2020, on the NSAI website HERE

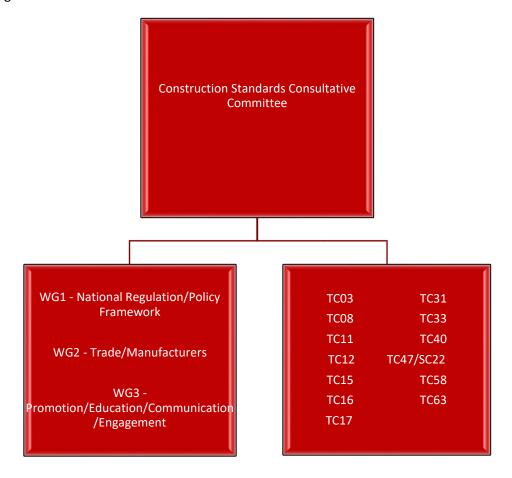
## 3 Scope of TC

To mirror the work of the CEN Construction Sector Network Forum which currently advises CEN BT on construction related matters.

# 4 Structure and Membership

#### 4.1 Structure

The Figure below illustrates the structure of the Committee:



## 4.2 Members

Organisation	Role
Independent Consultant	Chair NSAI/TC 06 Construction Standards Consultative Committee
CIF	Deputy Chair CCC
RIAI	Member
IGBC	Member
Independent Consultant	Chair NSAI/TC 17/WG2 and WG 7 Aggregates Panel
Roadstone	Deputy representative Aggregates Panel
Solas	Member
Engineers Ireland	Member
NDA	Chair NSAI/TC 23 Universal Design Committee
ACEI	Member
Ibec/BMF	Member
NDA	Member
NSAI Agrément	Member
	Member
Housing Agency Enterprise Ireland	Member
Society of Chartered Surveyors of Ireland	Member
Independent Consultants	Member
•	Member
Dept of Agriculture, Food and Marine Colas Ireland	Chair NSAI/TC 17 Road Standards Consultative Committee
Golder	Chair NSAI/TC 58 Pyrite Committee
Kavanagh, Mansfield and Partners	Chair NSAI/TC 15 Eurocodes Committee
SEAI	Chair NSAI/TC 31 Building Services Standards Committee
CEI	Member
Wavin	Member
Gas Networks Ireland	Chair NSAI/TC 01 Gas Standards Consultative Committee
Arcdox	Chair NSAI/TC 47/SC 22 BIM Standards Committee
Independent Consultant	Chair NSAI/TC 47/SC 34Thermoplastic Tanks committee
Independent Consultant	Chair NSAI/TC 12 Slating and Tiling Standards Committee
OPW	Member
CIT	Chair NSAI/TC 03 Concrete Standards Committee
LGMA	Member
Independent Consultant	Chair NSAI/TC 08 Timber Standards Consultative Committee
Michael Slattery and Associates	Chair NSAI/TC 16 Fire Safety Standards Committee
TII	Member
ICF	Member
Tricel	Member
Homebond	Member
DHPLG	Member
TBC	Chair NSAI/TC 40 Retrofit Committee
DHLGH	Chair NSAI/TC 19 Energy Performance of Buildings
NSAI	National secretary support team Members
NSAI	Manager Standards, Innovation, Policy& Business Development
NSAI	Manager Standards Technical
NSAI	Technical Secretary NSAI/TC 006

### 5 Summary of 2020 Activities

#### 5.1 Meetings

NSAI/TC 006 Construction Standards Consultative main committee met once in November 2020.

The WGs had no meetings during 2020.

#### 5.2 National Work

The NSAI Construction Sector Work Programme provides an overview of the main standardisation developments and strategic priority areas for 2019-2021.

The work programme provides a comprehensive list of National Committees (NC) related to construction and each national committee has been linked to the "mirrored" international committee. The data in the construction standardisation database represents a "snapshot in time" to inform the development of the work programme 2019 – 2021.

Technical experts and NSAI staff demonstrated flexibility and responsiveness to the COVID -19 crises by adapting to conducting standards technical meetings virtually. National standardisation work progressed well throughout 2020 not only on the projects planned as part of the work programme but also on additional necessary standards projects which emerged, see Annex A for status of the work programme deliverables.

#### 6 Work programme for 2021 onwards

Completion of the construction standards work programme for the construction sector 2019-2021.

Consultation with NSAI/TC 006 WG1 and WG2 to inform the development of the construction standardisation programme for 2022 – 2024.

Update of the Construction standardisation programme database.

Development of a Work Programme for WG3 – Communication and promotion of standards.

Continued function in providing NSAI with expert advice on general and standardisation policy matters relating to the construction in Ireland.



# Annex A Progress of projects in the NSAI national construction standards programme (as presented 16/6/21 meeting TC 006)

programme (as presented 10,0,21 meeting to 000)					
Technical committee	Deliverable	Status			
NSAI/TC 011 Wastewater Engineering Committee	NA:2019 to I.S. EN 16941-1:2018 Irish National Annex to I.S. EN 16941-1 On-site non-potable water systems – Part 1:Systems for the use of rainwater	Published 19/12/2019			
NSAI/TC 015 Eurocodes Committee	NA + A2:2020 to I.S. EN 1991-1-3:2003&A1:2015 Irish National Annex (informative) to Eurocode 1 – Actions of structures – Part 1-3 General actions – snow loads	Published 08/12/2020			
ETC TC 2 Electrical Installations committee	I.S. 10101:2020 National Rules for Electrical Installations	Published 6/3/2020 Corrigendum 1:2020 published 20/10/2020 includes various corrections listed at the front of the publication.			
NSAI/TC 33 Cranes Committee	I.S. 360: 2019 Code of Practice: Safe use of cranes in the construction industry - Part 1: General	Published 10th November 2020.			
NSAI/TC 16 Fire Safety Standards Committee	I.S. 391:2020_Fire mains for buildings - Installation, commissioning, maintenance and testing	Published 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2020.			
NSAI/TC 19 Energy performance of buildings	National Forewords to Standards supporting the Energy Performance of Building Directive (EPBD)	Published 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019.			
NSAI/TC 17 Roads Standards Committee - Aggregates Panel	S.R. 18 Guidance on the use of EN 13139 – Aggregates for mortar, Roads Standards Committee- Aggregates Panel	Public consultation completed 25/3/21. Comments resolved. NSAI editing complete. Put forward for Board approval to publish.			
NSAI/TC 31 Building Services Committee	S.R. 50-3:2021 Building Services Code of Practice Part 3: Water supply for domestic use within dwellings and their curtilages	Published 8/2/2021			
NSAI/TC 008 Timber Committee NSAI/TC 17 Roads Standards Committee - Asphalt WG	I.S. 440 - Timber frame construction dwellings and other buildings I.S. 844 - Transportation and installation of bituminous materials for roads and other paved areas	I.S. 440 additional submissions from members are being discussed and considered currently.  Project progressing well, project timelines to be reviewed.			
NSAI/TC 31 Building Services Committee	S.R. 50-4 Building Services— Code of Practice Part 4 heat pump systems in dwellings - Design installation commissioning and maintenance	This deliverable supports the Governments Climate Action Plan, published on target 25/3/21			

Took wisel committee	Daliyayahla	Chahua
Technical committee	Deliverable	Status
NSAI/TC 31 Building	S.R. 50-5 Building Services – Code of	Establishment of a new sub committee
Services Committee	Practice Part 5 Solar Voltaic Systems for dwellings - Design installation	NSAI/TC 31/SC7. This deliverable has been renamed to S.R.
	commissioning and maintenance	55:202x – Solar voltaic micro-generators for
	commissioning and maintenance	dwellings - design, installation, commissioning
		and maintenance.
		Public consultation is now open until 13th
		August 2021
		YSYS link to comment : HERE
		A review of programme target dates adjusted
		publication date to Q1 2022
NSAI/TC 68 (formerly	NA:2021 Irish National Annex to I.S.	The BIM committee has now been established
NSAI/TC 47/SC22)	EN ISO 19650-2:2018 Organisation	as a standalone technical committee, NSAI/TC
BIM (Building Information	and digitization of information about	68.
Modelling)	buildings and civil engineering works,	(re-established to assist with its administration)
	including building information modelling (BIM) – Information	
	management using building	Published 8/2/2021
	information modelling – Part 2:	, as notices 6, 2, 2022
	Delivery phase of assets.	
Additional deliverables	s to the construction sector standa	rds work programme 2020
NSAI/TC 63 Blocks	Amendment to I.S 465:2018 +A1:2020	Published 25/9/2021
committee	Assessment, testing and	The amendment to I.S. 465 includes
	categorisation of damaged buildings	clarification notes the expert panel had issued
	incorporating concrete blocks	to the DHLGH in I.S. 465 as a new informative
	containing certain deleterious	annex (Annex F)
ETC TC 2	materials	The work has started an reviewing the
Electrical Installations	Amendment to the wiring rules I.S. 10101	The work has started on reviewing the Harmonised Documents (HDs) that have been
committee	10101	published since "the line in the sand" was
		drawn as to what standard was used for I.S.
		10101. Extensive work is involved in reviewing
		the HDs so no date has been set for an
		amendment as of yet.
NSAI/TC 15	Amendment to Irish National Annex	Published 8/12/2020
Eurocodes Committee	to I.S. EN to 1993-1-6: Eurocode 3 -	
	Design of Steel Structures - Part 1-6:	
	Strength and Stability of Shell	
	Structures	
NSAI/TC 15	Amendment to Irish National Annex to	Published 8/12/2020
Eurocodes Committee	I.S. EN 1993-3-1: Eurocode 3: Design	
	of steel structures - Part 3-1: Towers,	
	masts and chimneys - Towers and	
NCAL/TC 24	masts	Dublish ad 9/2/24
NSAI/TC 31	S.R. 50-1 Building services Code of	Published 8/2/21
Building Services Committee	practice Part 1: Water based heating systems in dwellings	
Committee	systems in uweilings	

#### Annex B

# Communication on the European Commission CPR Acquis process and NSAI's participation (November 2020)

#### 1. Summary of main points in this communication

- ➤ CEN/CENELEC development of Harmonised European standards (hENs) for construction products supporting the Construction Products Regulation (CPR), (Regulation EU 305/2011)
- Challenges with citation in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) of harmonised standards published by CEN/CENELEC
- European Commission review of the CPR and the CPR Acquis process
- ➤ NSAI's participation in the CPR Acquis process

#### 2. CEN/CENELEC development of hENs for construction products supporting the CPR

CEN and CENELEC are European Standardisation Organisations (ESOs) recognised by European Union Regulation 1025/2012 to develop and publish harmonised European construction product standards mandated by the European Commission in support of the CPR. Harmonised standards once published by CEN/CENELEC, accepted by the Commission and cited in the OJEU provide a technical basis to assess the performance of construction products. They enable manufacturers to draw up the Declaration of Performance as defined in the Construction Products Regulation and affix the CE Marking. CE Marking is mandatory for all construction products covered by harmonised standards, placed on the market in the European Economic Area.

#### 3. Challenges with citation in the OJEU of hENs published by the CEN/CENELEC

The European Commission is examining closely the hENs for construction products published by CEN/CENELEC following a number of court cases, including the James Elliot case, in which the judgement of the ECJ (European Court of Justice) concluded that cited harmonised standards, although developed by private bodies, form "part of Union law" due to the legal requirement to certify products that are covered by the CPR in accordance with the hENs cited in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).

The European Commission's <u>Evaluation of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 (Oct 2019)</u> outlines their issues with the standardisation system.

The Commission's publication of the "Refined Indicative Options for Review of the CPR" further outlines in Annex III, their issues with the current harmonised technical specification system, including reference to the high rate of rejection of harmonised standards published by CEN/CENELEC in support of the CPR, see <a href="EC Refined indicative options for a review of the CPR">EC Refined indicative options for a review of the CPR</a>.

In brief, the CEN/CENELEC position is to support the implementation of the current CPR and any initiatives for collaborating with the European Commission to solve the current issues with citation. However, in the event of a review of the CPR that CEN/CENELEC remain part of that process, in that the European harmonised standards adopted by ESOs will remain as harmonised technical specifications for

construction products.

As a Member of CEN/CENELEC, NSAI generally support this position.

See CEN/CENELEC position paper on the implementation and future of the CPR (August 2020),

#### Link to CEN/CENELEC position paper

Many Irish experts involved in standardisation in the construction sector in CEN/CENELEC work and/or national work are aware of the far reaching issues surrounding non citation of hENs, the resulting challenges to standards Technical Committees, the effect on national standardisation work and with CE marking of construction products in the market place.

4. European Commission review of the CPR and the CPR Acquis process

#### 4.1 EC review of the CPR

As previously referred to, the European Commission have published a document outlining 5 indicative options for a possible review of the CPR. This document is undergoing a public consultation process currently and is available for all stakeholders to comment on until 25/12/2020. For participation in the public consultation go to <u>Link to EC Public consultation on review of CPR.</u>

The European Commission have stressed that no final decision has been made with respect to the possible review of the CPR and that there is still an opportunity to put forward any observations and suggestions via this public consultation.

#### 4.2 EC CPR Acquis process

#### 4.2.1 Introduction

The European Commission CPR Acquis (i.e. the harmonised standards, the European assessment documents and the legal acts of the European Commission) is a separate process to the review of the CPR.

The rationale and purpose of the CPR Acquis is outlined by the EC HERE.

For an overview of harmonised technical specifications under the CPR, see Annex II.

#### 4.2.2 Governance

The governance of the process has 2 levels. The decision level is the Acquis steering group, led by the European Commission, where decisions are taken on prioritization of product families, working methods, etc. and coordination of the working groups on product families/groups.

The Acquis working groups on construction product families/groups represent the operational level tasked with defining the scope, content and boundaries of future harmonised technical specifications (HTSs) but are not tasked with writing the text of future HTSs.

#### **4.2.3** Output

It is important to note that the CPR Acquis process itself will not deliver HTSs but aims to provide the legal framework for development for HTSs.

It is currently unclear from the European Commission if the output from the CPR Acquis process will form the basis of Standardisation Requests, or what entity will be tasked with development of HTSs.

#### 4.2.4 Product families

The product families and priorities were identified by the CPR Acquis group (Member States, EFTA countries and Turkey). For information on the final list of product families for the CPR Technical Acquis management see <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/42129">https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/42129</a>

The first 10 ranking product families form part of the first stage of the work.

#### 5. NSAI's participation in the CPR Acquis process

#### 5.1 Introduction

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) have recently collaborated with NSAI to establish a national approach to facilitate Ireland's participation in the CPR Acquis process. See Annex A, DHLGH response to the EC re: Ireland's engagement with the CPR Acquis process.

Given that Ireland is a relatively small Member State, NSAI recognises that there is a finite number of experts in the areas of each of the product families identified and much of this expertise is in the relevant NSAI Technical Committees in the construction sector.

On behalf of NSAI construction standardisers and in the best interest of stakeholders in the construction sector in Ireland, NSAI agree that the way forward is to support the DHLGH in forming a national structure to facilitate Ireland's contribution to the CPR Acquis process.

#### 5.2 National representatives - Steering Group and Working Groups

In conjunction with NSAI, the DHLGH have nominated national representatives to the CPR Acquis steering group and product family working groups as follows:

#### **Steering Group**

Simon Dolphin, Adviser Building Standards – Built Environment Advisory Unit – DHLGH Sean Balfe, Director Sustainability and the Built Environment, NSAI

#### Working Groups - First 10 ranking product families

Product family	DHLGH representative	NSAI representative
M100 Precast concrete products	-	Ken Murphy
M120 Structural metallic products	-	Ken Murphy
M115 Reinforcing steel	Simon Dolphin	Ken Murphy
M101 Doors, windows	-	Jonathan Quigley Ken Murphy (back up)
M114 Cement	-	Ken Murphy
M103 Thermal insulating products	Simon McGuinness	Jonathan Quigley Ken Murphy (back up)
M112 Structural timber products and ancillaries	Simon Dolphin	Jonathan Quigley
M128 Concrete, mortar & grout	Simon Dolphin	Ken Murphy
M116 Masonry	Simon Dolphin	Ken Murphy
M125 Aggregates	Simon Dolphin	Therese Clarke

#### 5.3 Operation of Working Groups (WGs)

The CPR technical Acquis process is currently evolving.

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The European Commission are developing a programme for the next steps.

The WGs have not started work yet. However, it is clear that the 10 priority WGs will begin operating in stages, with the precast concrete and structural metallic product WGs being the first two product families commencing work in the first stage of the process.

#### **5.4** Proposed Role of NSAI Technical Committees

It is envisaged that the technical input required for submission to the relevant EC Acquis WGs will be agreed and compiled through a consultation process and a consensus approach, coordinated by the Standards Officer with the relevant NSAI Technical Committee, or with relevant experts where an NSAI technical body is not in operation.

NSAI's understanding to date is that the technical input from NSAI Technical Committees will be typically but not limited to the provision of the text and summaries of national requirements in relation to the relevant product family and the provision of documents/websites showing how these requirements are implemented in practice.

NSAI recognises and appreciates the continued support and hard work of technical experts in the various Technical Committees, particularly in this endeavour to participate in the EC CPR Acquis process in support of standardisation in the construction sector in Ireland.

Therese Clarke.

Secretary NSAI Construction Standards Consultative Committee

4th November 2020

#### ANNEX I CPR Acquis Letter to EC

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage



Mr. Gwenole COZIGOU

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Avenue d'Auderghem 45

1040 Brussels

Belgium

09 October 2020

RE: Request for additional engagement by Member States for the correction, completion and renewed adoption of technical specifications adopted under the Construction Products Regulation

Dear Mr. Cozigou,

I refer to your letter, dated 14/07/2020 requesting the allocation of sufficient and dedicated human resources from Member States national offices to assist in the proposed overhaul of the CPR Acquis.

Over the past number of weeks, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has liaised closely with the National Standards Authority of Ireland to consider the challenge posed and reach agreement on a national structure that will facilitate a meaningful contribution to the process. In this regard, Ireland's nominations to the Steering Group are as follows:

Mr. Simon Dolphin, Adviser Building Standards – Built Environment Advisory
 Unit - Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Email: Simon.Dolphin@housing.gov.ie

and,

Mr. Sean Balfe, Director Sustainability & the Built Environment, National Standards Authority of Ireland

Email: Sean.Balfe@nsai.ie

Ireland's nominations of experts to the working groups is attached to this letter and reflects the top ten product families prioritised for the CPR Technical Acquis management.

By and large, the overhaul of the CPR Acquis, will need to rely upon the same pool of experts who contribute to the development of current harmonised EN standards. In this regard, Ireland's nominees will include a complement of Standards Officers from the National Standards Authority of Ireland and professional technical grade staff from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The former will facilitate consultation and engagement with established national technical (standards) committees and industry experts, where required.

As you will appreciate, Ireland is a small Member State and we have a limited pool of available experts in our national administrations to assist the Commission with the task ahead. As such, we will review our allocation of resources after 6 months from the start of any working group, with full consideration of the progress made.

Regards

Senior Adviser - Built Environment Advisory Unit Department

of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Alla Nichela

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