

PRESS RELEASE

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CIC Chairman expresses disappointment at Government reshuffle

Speaking at the “*Constructing Excellence*” lunch at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors on 18 June 2003, Turlogh O’Brien – Chairman of CIC – expressed disappointment at the effect upon construction of the recent reshuffle of Government Ministers.

‘It is extremely disappointing that construction has been tucked behind small business in the overall Government portfolio’, said Mr O’Brien. *‘Although, we will look forward to working with Nigel Griffiths as the new Minister responsible for construction, it cannot be the right message from Government that an industry which is so vital to the overall economic life of the country is regarded as just one part of a multifarious portfolio of a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State. For its own sake, in achieving the delivery of its major programmes in health, education, transport and sustainable communities, the Government must get back to having construction within the portfolio of a full Minister of State, supported by a junior minister as part of a robust team’.*

Mr O’Brien continued by raising his concerns about the fragmentation in the Government’s approach to construction with diverse responsibilities for architecture, housing, planning, sustainability, building regulations, construction etc spread over several departments.

The CIC Chairman addressed the issue of professional bodies being seen as *‘barriers’* or *‘instruments’* of accelerating change in the industry. He acknowledged that there has been a perception that the institutions have followed, rather than led, the movement for change. He saw the role of CIC and the professional bodies as being key agents for leading and delivering change particularly on the key issues of quality and sustainability in the built environment.

‘We need better processes to deliver a better product, not just ways of producing the same inferior product quicker and cheaper’, he said, citing CIC’s work on Design Quality Indicators and Sustainable Development as exemplars of the major contribution made by CIC to the *‘Constructing Excellence’* process.

Concluding his Address, Mr O'Brien explained the process of developing the CIC Corporate Plan for the next three years and the focus on six major areas: Involvement in setting national strategy and policy; Influencing Government at all levels; Developing an Authoritative voice on all issues relating to the built environment; Improved Communications; Skills and Careers; and an 'Open Door' membership policy.

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Notes to the Editor

CIC is the representative forum for the professional bodies, research organisations and specialist trade association in the construction industry. It provides a single voice for professional in all sectors of the built environment through its collective membership of 500,000 individual professionals and 25,000 firms of construction consultants.

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