



Irish Concrete Federation

# Annual Report 2013



Concrete Built **is** Better Built

# 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 Structure



### Affiliations

ICF is a member of ERMCO, European Readymix Concrete Organisation and of UEPG the European Aggregates Association.

**ERMCO**

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



(Union Européenne des Producteurs de Granulats).

# Contents

	<b>Page No.</b>
Foreword by the President, Mr David Wright.....	2
 <b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT</b>	
Introduction .....	5
ICF Council.....	5
Business Development Committee.....	7
Transport Committee.....	9
Technical Committee.....	9
Planning and Environment Committee .....	10
Health and Safety Committee.....	11
Ground Limestone Producers Association of Ireland .....	12
Links with other organisations .....	13
Europe .....	13
ICF Annual Dinner & Golf Outing 2013 .....	13
Conclusion .....	13
 <b>APPENDICES</b>	
Irish Concrete Federation Financial Statements Year Ended 31 December 2013 .....	14
Irish Concrete Federation Council Members 2013.....	16

Cover Photo: River Erne Bridge, Co Cavan, 32<sup>nd</sup> Irish Concrete Society Award Winner. Supplier Quinn Building Products.

Image courtesy of Ferrovial Agroman, Ireland



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# Foreword by the President, Mr David Wright

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the Annual Report of the Irish Concrete Federation (ICF) for 2013. While 2013 may have seen a continuation of the difficult trading conditions of recent years, it was my great pleasure to accept the nomination from the members of the Federation to succeed Jim Farrell as ICF President for the next two years. As a member of the Federation and indeed the Irish Precast Concrete Association for many years, I would like to express my pride at taking over this very responsible position. I am in no doubt as to the challenges facing our industry but with the support of the membership, council and staff of the ICF, I am certain that no stone will be left unturned in our attempt to improve the Federation's services for the benefit of our members in the coming years.

2013 was certainly "a year of two halves". In overall terms the year proved to be slightly better than anticipated, particularly given its very slow start. There is no doubt that serious declines in sales volumes were experienced by our members in the first five months of the year, when compared to previous years. However, equally so there was a market improvement in the second half of the year which saw most of the decline experienced up to June regained, with the overall year showing a small decline on 2012 levels. Undoubtedly the good weather during the summer and autumn helped to lift spirits and certainly helped to prolong the season for the industry with some members benefitting from the sale of ground limestone to farmers into the month of December. In addition our exporters of precast concrete products continued to successfully increase their presence in the expanding UK market.

While there has been a welcome slowdown in the overall decline in the economy in Ireland, the limited recovery to date is sporadic and regional. There has clearly been a welcome pick up in activity in the greater Dublin area. The housing shortage in Dublin has been well documented at this stage and it has been encouraging to see Government finally stating in recent



pronouncements that a vibrant construction sector is a vital component of all modern economies. Hence ICF members with the ability to supply the Dublin market are largely more optimistic than their rural counterparts. Unfortunately many parts of rural Ireland remain extremely quiet with little sign of improvement in trading conditions. In effect, there is a two-speed economy currently at work within our own sector.

Throughout the year ICF continued to engage on behalf of its members with stakeholder bodies both within Government and in the regulatory authorities. Clearly much of the time of council and indeed my predecessor, Jim Farrell, was devoted towards the pyrite issue which has proven to be an extremely damaging problem for our industry. While a tiny minority of quarries were directly involved in the crisis, there was a negative impact on the image of products emanating from the entire industry. Throughout the year, ICF engaged regularly with the Construction Industry Federation and HomeBond in order to make a positive contribution towards finding a solution for the problems which the affected homeowners faced. ICF greatly welcomed the decision by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government

in October not to apply a levy to the output of Irish quarries. There is little doubt that for many reasons a levy would have had an extremely damaging impact on many of our members' businesses.

Throughout the year the ICF committees continued to engage with the regulatory authorities on behalf of our members. Our Planning and Environment Committee which has closely monitored the development of Section 261A of the Planning and Development Act 2010 was involved in representing member concerns to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and An Bord Pleanála. As usual, the intention of ICF is to seek greater clarity and consistency in decision making in order to provide greater certainty for our members so that they can plan for the future sustainable development of their businesses.

Despite the best attempts of our Business and Development Committee to influence Government to include suppliers of materials within the remit of the Construction Contracts Act, ICF was very disappointed at the exclusion of such suppliers from the remit of the Act. However, the political support given from elected politicians on all sides was an indication of the ability of our members to proactively campaign for what is right. We look forward to continuing to develop a positive working relationship with elected politicians in the future to influence decision making at the highest levels of Government on all of the key issues which impact on our industry.

I am particularly happy that the ICF reformed its Transport Committee in late 2013. It is clear that our members are no longer simply concrete manufacturing companies, they are also transport companies. This dynamic committee has a major task ahead of it in helping members to adapt to the new regulatory environment in which our transport operations must exist and also to highlight the massive increases in the cost of transporting our members' products. The ICF looks forward to building on existing excellent

relationships with the Road Safety Authority, An Garda Síochána and the Department of Transport in this regard.

Members of our Technical Committee continued to represent the industry on the myriad of committees within CEN, the National Standards Authority of Ireland and various European associations. In particular, members of the committee were involved in the development of the new Annex E to the S.R. 21 Guidance Note which will effectively become the new specification for aggregates placed under concrete floors. It is imperative that customers are made aware of this new specification in order to ensure that they order the correct materials for the intended job.

As ever, our Health and Safety Committee continues to promote the message of safety throughout our members' operations. The development of toolbox talks and safety bulletins is a key part of this process. In addition, the committee members are represented on various safety committees within the Health and Safety Authority and FAS.

I am convinced that for a small organisation, the ICF provides a professional and more importantly influential service on behalf of its members when engaging with other stakeholder organisations. With the continued support of the members and staff I am certain that the organisation will continue to flourish and increase its influence for the benefit of all of the industry. Finally I hope that you enjoy reading our Annual Report.



**Mr David Wright**  
**President.**



*Irish Concrete Society Award Winner,  
Supplier Techrete for Athletes Village.  
Image Courtesy of Irish Concrete Society.*

# Chief Executive's Report

The year 2013 saw a continuation of the all too familiar trend of recent years, with a further contraction in the output of the members of the Irish Concrete Federation. The most positive perspective of the year is that the reduction in activity within the sector slowed down when compared to previous years. However it is clear that 2013 was "a year of two halves". The five months up to June saw major declines in the output of our members across the country. This was due largely to very poor weather conditions and a lack of investment by the farming community in rural areas allied to continued weakness in the housing market with commencements of new projects at record low levels. Similarly, investment in public infrastructure continued to contract as Government maintained its policy of tightening of the purse strings by reducing investment in the public capital programme. In addition, investment in commercial infrastructure continued to be weak in early 2013. However, the excellent summer weather brought about a turnaround in the fortunes of the industry which prevailed throughout the second half of the year. These weather conditions and some indications of tentative green shoots in the economy ensured that our members generally experienced an improved July to December period when compared to the first half of the year.

While it is still too early to predict a strong recovery, there are tentative signs that at least the bottom of the national economic cycle seems to have been reached. However it is clear at this stage that it will take some time for the reversal in the country's economic fortunes to filter through to our members' activities and when it does, recovery will not manifest itself in a nationwide upturn. Rather it will be sporadic and most likely initially urban based. It has always been generally assumed that recovery would initially recommence in urban areas where demand for housing and investment is at its highest. Notwithstanding this point, ICF is hopeful that a continued upward trend in economic growth in 2014 will benefit our members in all regions of the country.

As has been the case since the economic downturn commenced, the ICF has used our limited resources to the greatest extent possible. Reduced staff numbers



*ICF Chief Executive, Gerry Farrell.*

within the organisation itself combined with similar reductions in staff numbers in all of our member companies means that the commitment of all involved in developing and driving the agenda of the Federation cannot be under estimated. The staff and members of the ICF together have achieved results in recent years that far exceed the 'sum of the parts' and for that I am grateful to all who have contributed to this success. Our council, our committees and our members located throughout the country can all be proud of the fact that, even at the most difficult of times, the Federation has managed to sustain itself and increase its relevance and role in assisting the industry to get through these difficult times.

## ICF Council

The ICF has been extremely fortunate in the leadership shown by successive councils and Presidents since its formation. The activities of the Federation are closely monitored by our council who meet on a regular basis throughout the year. In 2013 alone the council met on seven occasions. In July, Jim Farrell of Roadstone Wood retired as President of the Federation and was succeeded by David Wright of Wright Quarry Products. ICF would like to thank Jim for his fantastic efforts in guiding the Federation throughout his tenure as President. In particular, his efforts in addressing the major crisis of pyrite which impacted greatly on our industry are most appreciated by all ICF members.

# Chief Executive's Report

The members of the council of the Federation in 2013 were as follows:

Mr David Wright	Wright Quarry Products, President
Mr Peter Gleeson	Gleeson Quarries
Mr Larry Byrne	Roadstone
Mr Jim Farrell*	Roadstone
Ms Caroline Quinn	Concast Precast Group
Mr Christy Loughnane	Loughnane Concrete (Birr)
Mr Brian Kelly	Cemex
Mr Mark Guinan*	Cemex
Mr Finbarr O'Neill	Finbarr O'Neill
Mr John Joe McGrath	McGrath Limestone Works
Mr Derry McKeown	Kilsaran International
Mr John Farragher	CMC

\*Retired 2013

During the year Mark Guinan of Cemex retired from the council and was replaced by Brian Kelly. ICF would like to thank Mark for his tremendous efforts during his time on the council. The council also welcomed Larry Byrne as a new member to replace Jim Farrell on his retirement. In December, the council also welcomed John Farragher, current Chairman of the Independent Concrete Manufacturers Association, as a new member.

One of the key challenges for the council was to oversee the implementation of the new funding arrangements for the Federation. The new system, whereby ICF members and members of Cement Manufacturers Ireland (C.M.I.) each contribute 50% of the overall running costs of the Federation was introduced in 2012. Therefore the council was highly focused on overseeing the implementation of the new system of financing throughout 2013. Despite inevitable teething problems, the membership subscription system has achieved positive results and it is already clear that the new system of financing has placed the Federation on a more sustainable footing for the future and insulates the Federation's finances from the inevitable peaks and troughs in the construction cycle.

ICF would like to thank all of our members and the members of C.M.I. for their continued support for the Federation and indeed we thank all companies who

assist in the collection of our membership fees. Without this support, the many activities of the Federation would not be possible.

The ICF council supported the continued development of a regional structure within the ICF through the holding of 24 regional meetings in six locations throughout the year. The objective of the ICF regional meetings is to bring the Federation's work closer to the members to ensure that the organisation reflects fully the views of members 'on the ground'. ICF would like to thank all of the members who made the effort to attend the regional meetings throughout the year and we will continue to bring the work of the Federation to the members in their own regions throughout 2014.

As a membership organisation, ICF is keenly concerned with communicating effectively with members. The work of the committees is critical in achieving this objective and we have 35 companies represented on the various committees within the organisation. As mentioned above, the regional meetings held on a quarterly basis further enhance a two-way communication channel between the ICF and its members. In addition, the regular ICF newsletter provides members with a snapshot of ongoing developments in the ICF work agenda.

In late 2012, the ICF council commissioned Grant Thornton to develop a standard costing management tool to be made available on disk and circulated to all members. The objective of the standard costing management tool was to highlight to members the impact of the substantial increases in the manufacturing and transport cost base in recent years, particularly in relation to energy and fuel costs. In early 2013, Mr Colin Feely of Grant Thornton made presentations on the use of the standard costing management tool to members at our regional meetings. We would like to thank Colin for his assistance in developing the tool which will hopefully be beneficial to individual members.

Throughout the year the ICF council was highly involved with other stakeholder organisations and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to the issue of pyrite. In late 2012 the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government indicated his intention to impose a levy on aggregates to finance the repair of houses damaged by pyrite. ICF has always expressed the view that the entire industry could not be held responsible for damage caused to houses by pyrite and

has consistently maintained that the houses should be repaired at no cost to the home owners themselves. Throughout the year ICF engaged regularly with the Construction Industry Federation and HomeBond on the setting up of a non-for-profit administrative entity to administer the pyrite remediation scheme, notwithstanding the ICF's continued objection to the imposition of a levy on the industry. ICF greatly welcomed the decision of the Minister not to impose a levy in October and that funding from within the capital expenditure budget would be set aside to repair houses which were damaged by pyrite.

The Irish Concrete Federation's council is committed to assisting in the development of traceability systems for all materials supplied by ICF members in the construction chain. In addition, the Federation is committed to playing its part to ensure that only products of the required quality are ordered and supplied to the construction industry. ICF contributed positively to the development of a new Annex E for S.R. 21, the guidance document for I.S. EN13242-Aggregates for Unbound and Hydraulically Bound Materials for Use in Civil Engineering Work and Road Construction. In addition the Federation is promoting the introduction of a certification scheme similar to that for concrete supplied under the Farm Waste Management Scheme. In 2013 ICF made representations to the various professional representative bodies and to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government on the introduction of a traceability/certification scheme for members' products. It is hoped that this will eventually be introduced to the marketplace in 2014.

### Business Development Committee

The Business Development Committee in 2013 was chaired by John O'Carroll of Ardfert Quarry Products who succeeded Peter Gleeson of Gleeson Quarries as Chairman at the committee's first meeting in February. The committee would like to thank Peter for his chairmanship role during the preceding years. The members of the Business Development Committee in 2013 were as follows:

Mr John O'Carroll	Ardfert Quarry Products
Mr Peter Gleeson	Gleeson Quarries
Mr Ernie Bohan	Roadstone
Mr Fergus O'Hara	Hanlon Concrete Products
Mr Frank Bracken	Killeshal Precast Concrete

Mr James O'Connell	Ducon Concrete
Mr Joe Doyle	Ardfert Quarry Products
Mr Oisin Seale	CEMEX
Ms Onagh Murphy	Loughnane Concrete (Birr)
Mr Tony Curran	Kilsaran International
Mr Pat McGrath	McGrath Limestone Works
Mr Paul Murphy	Dan Morrissey (Ireland)
Mr Bernard Quinn	Concast Precast
Mr John Curran	Lagan Concrete
Mr Pat Freeman	McGrath Limestone Quarries
Mr Thomas King	Wright Quarry Products
Mr Tom Gallagher	B D Flood

The members of the committee continued their lobbying of public representatives in relation to the Construction Contracts Bill throughout 2013. Despite a large amount of support at committee stage of the Bill in May 2012 in Dáil Éireann, ICF was greatly disappointed that when the Bill was finally passed by the Dáil in 2013, material suppliers were effectively excluded from the protection offered by legislation. ICF consistently pointed out during the passage of the Bill through the Houses of the Oireachtas that suppliers whose materials are incorporated into a building within a short period of time following delivery and are therefore not recoverable, are completely exposed when customers do not pay. While commending the work of Senator Fergal Quinn, who spoke at the Federation's Annual General Meeting in July, and welcoming the fact that sub-contractors will be protected by the legislation, ICF remains extremely disappointed that it was decided by Government that material suppliers did not merit protection by the Bill.

Throughout 2013 the committee also continued its development of a certificate similar to that which applied under the Farm Waste Management Scheme certifying the origin of materials and their compliance with relevant product standards. In September, the ICF met with the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to the certificate. The Minister welcomed the intent of the ICF's certification initiative while suggesting changes to the certificate which the ICF has since taken on board. In addition, the Federation has continuously updated the stakeholder bodies, particularly the organisations



*Irish Concrete Society Award Winner,  
Supplier Techrete, Image courtesy of  
McKeon Group for DCU lettering. Image  
Courtesy of Irish Concrete Society.*

representing architects, engineers and surveyors on developments. Given recent incidences, such as pyrite and Priory Hall and the introduction of CE marking, allied to the impending introduction of new building control regulations in March of next year, it is the ideal time for the introduction of this certification initiative. ICF will continue to promote the launch of the scheme by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in 2014.

The Business Development Committee also continued to promote the importance of best practice in credit management to the ICF membership. There is little doubt that in the aftermath of the economic downturn in 2007, many ICF members suffered greatly from massive levels of bad debt. The Business Development Committee continued to promote the Best Practice Guidelines on Credit Management produced by the committee in 2012 to all members.

### Transport Committee

In 2013 the ICF reformed its Transport Committee under the chairmanship of Mr Christy Loughnane of Loughnane Concrete based in Birr, County Offaly. The ICF council has long recognised that our members are now not simply concrete manufacturing companies, they are also transport companies with their transport operations playing an ever-increasingly important role. For this reason, the ICF greatly welcomed the establishment of a new transport committee, specifically dedicated to addressing transport issues. The committee met for the first time in November.

The members of the ICF Transport Committee are as follows:

Mr Christy Loughnane	Loughnane Concrete (Birr)
Mr Conan Curley	Killeshal Precast Concrete
Mr Denis Doyle	Doyle Concrete
Mr John Curran	Lagan Concrete
Mr Eoin O'Carroll	Bennettsbridge Limestone
Mr Neil McConomy	Roadstone
Mr T J Lennon	Lennon Quarries
Mr Roy Hegarty	Kilsaran International
Mr Michael Keohane	Keohane Readymix
Mr Michael Gleeson	Gleeson Concrete

While the committee's activities will kick off in earnest in 2014, the first meeting of the committee identified

the need to educate members on the ever increasing regulatory requirements companies must comply with, particularly in the areas of vehicle roadworthiness, tachograph usage, driver competence (Certificate of Professional Competence) and driver hours legislation. As a first step it was decided that the committee should seek a meeting with the Road Safety Authority in early 2014 in order to seek the authority's agreement to present at a transport seminar in the first quarter of the year. It was also agreed that the ICF should educate its members on qualification for the essential user rebate which was introduced in 2013 for licensed hauliers. The committee will seek to work proactively with An Garda Síochána and the Road Safety Authority and all other stakeholder bodies to assist members in complying with the necessary legislation as enforced by the two organisations.

### Technical Committee

In 2013, the ICF Technical Committee was chaired by Mr Peter Deegan of Banagher Precast Concrete. The members of the committee were as follows:

Mr Peter Deegan	Banagher Precast Concrete
Mr William Farrell	Killeshal Precast Concrete
Mr Tom Holden	Roadstone
Mr Donal Crowley	Roadstone
Mr Diarmuid McCarthy	Roadstone
Mr Luke Curran	Lagan Concrete
Mr Richard Bradley	Irish Cement
Mr Peter Seymour	Ecocem
Mr Kevin Maguire	Quinn Building Products
Mr Joe Rice	Cemex (ROI)
Mr Gareth McMeekin	Wright Quarry Products
Mr Keith Goodwin	Kilsaran International
Mr Brendan Lynch	Consultant

The members of the Technical Committee were extremely busy in 2013 in addressing many changes to guidance, standards and building regulations in addition to assisting the industry adapting to the introduction of CE marking with effect from July 1st. Many of the members of the committee are also members of various CEN committees in Europe and of sub-committees of the National Standards Authority of Ireland. I would like to acknowledge the work of those members who sit on committees dealing with

# Chief Executive's Report

standards, both at European and Irish level, often whose work goes unseen by industry on a day-to-day basis. It is important to realise that any mistake or omission in the development of new standards or guidance related to the products which our members produce, can have far reaching consequences for the industry and we owe a great deal of gratitude to those in our industry who participate on the committees that generate and review these standards.

Many of the key items which were faced by the committee in 2013 emanated from the pyrite issue. A number of committee members are also members of the Aggregates Panel of the N.S.A.I which produced the revised 'Annex E to S.R 21'. The need for a revision to Annex E to S.R. 21 had been recommended by the report of the Pyrite Panel in July 2012 and ICF was happy to participate on the committee which drafted the new annex to the guidance note. As a general point, ICF supports the development of new standards and is adamant that all regulatory authorities and procurement authorities, both private and public, ensure that purchasing managers and purchasing departments are aware of the relevant standards to facilitate the correct ordering of products to ensure that there is no recurrence of the quality problems of the past.

Our technical committee was also involved in the revision of the S100 Concrete for Farm Buildings Specifications with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. ICF supports the mandatory requirement for EN 206 concrete used in all farm buildings whether grant aided or not. ICF will be making representations to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine that compliance with the new specification should be mandatory for all farmers and enforceable by linking compliance with the qualification criteria for eligibility for the single farm payment. While the revised specification for concrete for farm buildings was agreed with the Department, the specification will not be published until the National Annex to I.S. EN206 is published in 2014.

On July 1st, CE marking became mandatory for all products produced to a harmonised standard. While the concrete standard, I.S. EN206, is not a harmonised standard, many products which members produce including aggregates and precast products, have a relevant harmonised standard. In order to assist ICF members comply with the requirements for CE marking, ICF with the assistance of the NSAI, held a seminar in April on CE marking. The seminar was

very well attended and ICF would like to thank all who presented at the seminar including committee members and representatives from the National Standards Authority of Ireland. ICF remains disappointed that, despite the fact that CE marking was introduced in July, there has been little evidence either by the public or private sector seeking compliance with CE marking requirements as a pre-requisite for supply. In November ICF wrote to all local authorities in Ireland reminding them that CE marking was now a legal requirement and materials sold without a CE mark were in effect illegal. ICF will continue to make representations to the local authorities, particularly in relation to eligibility for mini-tenders under LA Quotes that all materials supplied are in compliance with CE marking requirements.

In November a sub-committee of the Technical Committee made a submission to the National Standards Authority of Ireland in relation to the revision of the Irish National Annex to EN 206. The submission will be discussed by the concrete panel of the authority before the revised National Annex is published in 2014. The Federation also made a submission to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland on a revision to the Dwelling Energy Assessment Procedure (DEAP) which is the methodology used for determining the Building Energy Rating of dwellings in Ireland.

## Planning and Environment Committee

The ICF Planning and Environment Committee was chaired by Mr Sean Loughnane of Loughnane Concrete (Birr) in 2013. The members of the committee were as follows:

Mr Sean Loughnane	Loughnane Concrete (Birr)
Mr Brian Downes	Cemex (ROI)
Mr Stephen Linden	Quinn Building Products
Mr Keith McGrath	McGrath Limestone Works
Ms Naomi Cooper	CRH
Mr Ronan Griffin	Roadstone
Mr Vincent Flanagan	B D Flood
Mr Fergus Gallagher	Kilsaran International
Mr Mark Galvin	Ardfert Quarry Products
Ms Amanda Tarpey	Harrington Concrete and Quarries
Mr John Quirke	M F Quirke & Sons
Mr Maurice Carey	M F Quirke & Sons
Mr David Tobin	Lagan Cement

Unsurprisingly, the main issue for the Planning and Environment Committee in 2013 has been the ongoing implementation of Section 261A of the Planning and Development Act 2010. As ever, legislation on planning tends to suffer from uncertainty with regard to its outcome allied to a lack of consistency in relation to its implementation and as a result, the entire process continues to cause great concern to our members. To follow up on submissions made to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government and all local authorities throughout the country in 2012, the ICF continued to liaise closely with the Department in relation to the implementation of Section 261A. The focus of attention of the committee moved to advising members on dealing with determinations by local authorities or reviews of those determinations by An Bord Pleanala in relation to their own locations and the need for the process to continue with as little impact on members' ongoing activities as is possible. For this reason, the ICF welcomed indications in July that the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government intends to introduce legislation to facilitate the efficient implementation of Section 261A by the introduction of a facility to enable operators to apply concurrently for substitute consent and Section 34 development directly to An Bord Pleanala. ICF has lobbied strongly for the introduction of this legislation to minimise the impact on those operators that are required to apply for substitute consent and may be running out of authorised reserves. To date this legislation has not been enacted and ICF will continue to press for its immediate introduction in the coming year.

The ICF, through its Project Archaeologist, Dr Charles Mount, continued to engage with the Monuments Service throughout 2013, particularly in relation to the implementation of the Archaeological Code of Practice and also the revision of the Statutory Record of Monuments. ICF were highly involved in ensuring that a large number of recorded monuments that were no longer in existence were removed from the record. In addition ICF continued to make submissions to local authorities that are in the process of reviewing their County Development Plans.

Throughout 2013, the committee made representations to the Environmental Protection Agency on the delays in the issuing of waste licences. Unfortunately progress in the issuing of waste licences by the authority is unsatisfactory and the committee was disappointed at the response from the authority on this issue which put delays down to a lack of resources and a lack of priority. The committee also decided to discuss the

issue of discharge licences and the requirements being attached to the review of such licences on the agenda for 2014.

In January, a delegation from the Planning and Environment Committee met with the Chairperson and representatives of the board of An Bord Pleanala as part of the board's stakeholder involvement. The principle points of discussion were the ongoing Section 261A process, in particular the time delays associated with substitute consent applications to the board.

### Health and Safety Committee

The ICF Health and Safety Committee was chaired by Anthony Moran of Cemex in 2013 and the members of the committee were as follows:

Mr Anthony Moran	Cemex
Mr Adrian Maye	Harrington Concrete and Quarries
Mr John McWeeney	CRH
Mr Tony Reville	Kilsaran International
Mr Paul O'Mahony	Roadstone
Mr Shane Casey	Roadstone
Mr Vincent Flanagan	B D Flood
Mr Jody Guilfoyle	Lagan Group
Mr Clive Kelly	Clive Kelly Training
Mr Con Keigher	Irish Industrial Explosives

The committee was extremely busy in 2013 in promoting health and safety among ICF members and also in making representations to FAS and the Health and Safety Authority on ongoing industry training schemes and programmes.

ICF was represented on the newly formed Quarry Safety Certification Scheme Steering Committee which was set up by FAS in February. At this committee ICF raised a number of key issues in relation to the renewal of QSCS tickets, the delays in the completion of training and issuing of certificates and the need for the inclusion of a drillers course within the QSCS. In late 2013, the committee made submissions to FAS in relation to the renewal process for QSCS registration cards. In addition the ICF also made a submission to FAS in relation to the review of the existing recognition process between CSCS and QSCS.

The committee also monitored developments at EU level, particularly at the EU Advisory Committee

# Chief Executive's Report

on Safety and Health in relation to its deliberations on crystalline silica. ICF supports the employer representative bodies in Europe's position that a new binding limit value of 0.1 mg/m<sup>3</sup> for respirable crystalline silica should be included in the chemical agents directive. The committee will continue to monitor this issue through coming year.

The committee continued to produce safety bulletins for members in order to assist in the delivery of toolbox training on-site at individual member locations. The committee produced bulletins on the collection of small loads and on working in confined spaces early in the year. In addition, the committee produced a safety bulletin on the safe use of ladders which will be circulated to members in due course. The committee intends to run safety workshops for members in regional locations in early 2014 in association with the Health & Safety Authority.

During the year ICF nominated two committee members onto the Quarry Safety Steering Committee, later re-named the Quarry Safety Partnership, of the Health and Safety Authority. It is clear that the remit of the steering committee will focus largely on a review of the Safety, Health & Welfare at Work ('Quarries') Regulations 2008 and on the development of future training requirements for the industry. The ICF Health & Safety Committee will continue to make submissions through to the Health and Safety Authority in light of the future reviews of the 'Quarries' Regulations and in December, a sub-committee of the Health and Safety committee met to prepare a submission on a review of the regulations.

The Federation continues to provide Quarry Pass courses aimed at contractors entering ICF member locations. All ICF members are encouraged to ensure that contractors coming on-site are in possession of a valid Quarry Pass card.

## Ground Limestone Producers Association of Ireland

The ICF Council approved the affiliation of the Ground Limestone Producers Association of Ireland to the Federation in late 2013. The Ground Limestone Producers Association comprises 12 member companies all involved in the manufacturing of agricultural lime for supply to farmers throughout Ireland. The Association is also the owner of the 'Grolime' trade mark used to promote members' products to farmers. Given the fact that the overwhelming majority of members of the Association are also members of the ICF, it is the intention of both the ICF and the Ground Limestone Producers Association of Ireland to assist in the promotion of lime, particularly lime marketed under the 'Grolime' brand, in the most effective and efficient manner in the coming years.

## Links with other organisations

ICF greatly values the co-operation and assistance it receives from many organisations with whom it interacts on an annual basis. One of the key priorities of the Federation is to develop even stronger linkages with those organisations with which the ICF can further develop our members' interests. In this regard I would like to thank all of the following organisations with whom it has interacted throughout the year



*Irish Concrete Society Award Winner, Supplier Concast, Image courtesy of VIDY Construction for Ballyroan Library. Image Courtesy of Irish Concrete Society.*

and I apologise to any organisations who we have inadvertently omitted from this list.

- Department of Transport
- Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of the Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht
- The National Roads Authority
- The Roads Safety Authority
- All Local Authorities
- An Garda Síochána
- An Bord Pleanála
- Health and Safety Authority
- FÁS (Solas)
- Environmental Protection Agency
- An Taisce
- National Standards Authority of Ireland
- Geological Survey of Ireland
- Health and Safety Executive (Northern Ireland)
- Engineers Ireland
- Irish Concrete Society
- Irish Building Control Institute
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
- UEPG
- ERMCO
- BIBM
- Quarry Products Association (Northern Ireland)
- Mineral Products Association (UK)
- Cement Manufacturers Ireland
- Enterprise Ireland
- InterTradeIreland
- Invest Northern Ireland
- Society of Chartered Surveyors
- Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland
- Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland
- Construction Industry Federation
- Irish Mining & Quarrying Society
- Grant Thornton

## Europe

The ICF is a member of the European Readymix Concrete Organisation (ERMCO) and the European Aggregates Association (UEPG). Both UEPG and ERMCO are highly involved in the representation of the European aggregates and concrete products industry to the European Parliament and the European Commission. In 2013 the ICF nominated Mr Donal Crowley, National Technical Manager for Roadstone, to the Board of ERMCO.

## ICF Annual Dinner & Golf Outing 2013

The ICF Annual Dinner and Golf Outing for 2013 saw a return of the Federation to Castlemartyr in East Cork. ICF would like to thank the sponsors for all of the events which took place over the weekend and also to thank members for their attendance.

## Conclusion

As all are aware, 2013 was yet another challenging year for the Federation and its members. However, despite the ongoing challenges, the ICF remains committed to representing its members to the best of its abilities in order to yield benefits for members in their own operations. The Federation continues to succeed because of the input of members and the output of its staff. In these trying times we in ICF greatly appreciate the continued support from members for all our activities. It is a testament to the organisation's strength that member involvement remains at an extremely high level in the current economic climate.

I would like to thank the ICF President, Mr David Wright, the Vice President, Mr Peter Gleeson, and all the ICF Council for their stewardship of the Federation over the past 12 months. Their support is greatly appreciated.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the ongoing support, commitment and ongoing professionalism of the small team of ICF staff members in Newlands Cross. On behalf of all the members, I would like to say thank you to Liam, Diane and Laura for their tremendous efforts throughout 2013.

**Gerry Farrell**

**ICF Chief Executive.**

# Irish Concrete Federation Limited (A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital) Report and Financial Statements Year Ended 31 December 2013

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

We have audited the financial statements of Irish Concrete Federation for the year ended 31 December 2013 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Accounting Policies and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

### **Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors**

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 3, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements giving a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the company's members as a body in accordance with Section 193 of the Companies Act, 1990 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

### **Scope of the audit of the financial statements**

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Directors' Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

### **Opinion on financial statements**

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2013 and of its surplus and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Acts 1963 to 2013.

### **Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Acts 1963 to 2013**

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the company.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

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

We have nothing to report in respect of the provisions in the Companies Acts 1963 to 2013 which require us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by law are not made.

**John Dunne**  
**for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers**  
**Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm**  
**Dublin**

# Income & Expenditure Account

Year Ended 31 December 2013

	Notes	2013 €	2012 €
Income		764,779	606,466
Expenditure		(537,781)	(602,254)
<b>Operating surplus</b>		<u>226,998</u>	<u>4,212</u>
Interest receivable	3(a)	2,411	8,169
Bank interest and charges	3(b)	(343)	(461)
<b>Surplus for year before taxation</b>	1	<u>229,066</u>	<u>11,920</u>
Taxation	4	(2,131)	(3,654)
<b>Surplus for the year after taxation</b>		<u>226,935</u>	<u>8,266</u>

# Statement of Movement in Accumulated Reserves

Year Ended 31 December 2013

	2013 €	2012 €
At 1 January 2013	263,501	255,235
Surplus/(deficit) for year	<u>226,935</u>	<u>8,266</u>
<b>At 31 December 2013</b>	<u>490,436</u>	<u>263,501</u>

All of the company's activities are classed as continuing. The company has no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the surplus above and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented.

# Balance Sheet

31 December 2013

	Notes	2013 €	2012 €
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	5	<u>18,989</u>	<u>23,715</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors and prepayments	6	523,651	453,276
Cash at bank		<u>346,523</u>	<u>174,050</u>
		870,174	627,326
<b>Creditors:</b> Amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(299,307)</u>	<u>(288,120)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>570,867</u>	<u>339,206</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>589,856</u>	<u>362,921</u>
<b>Financed by</b>			
Contributions to capital set-up costs		99,420	99,420
Reserves		<u>490,436</u>	<u>263,501</u>
		<u>589,856</u>	<u>362,921</u>

# Irish Concrete Federation Council Members 2013

### **PRESIDENT**

Mr David Wright  
Wright Quarry Products  
Swanns Cross  
Monaghan

Mr John Joe McGrath  
McGrath's Limestone Works Ltd  
Cregaree Quarries  
Cong  
Co Mayo

Mr Brian Kelly  
Cemex (ROI) Ltd  
Block 6  
Central Business Park  
Clonminch, Tullamore  
Co Offaly

Mr Mark Guinan \*

Cemex (ROI) Ltd  
Block 6  
Central Business Park  
Clonminch, Tullamore  
Co Offaly

Ms Caroline Quinn  
Concast Precast Group  
Hazelhatch  
Newcastle  
Co Dublin

Mr John Farragher  
CMC Ltd  
Ballygaddy Road  
Tuam  
Co Galway

\* Mark Guinan retired from Council in 2013 and was replaced by Mr Brian Kelly

\*\* Jim Farrell retired from Council in 2013 and was replaced by Mr Larry Byrne

### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Mr Peter Gleeson  
Gleeson Quarries Ltd  
Laffansbridge  
Thurles  
Co Tipperary

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

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

Mr Derry McKeown  
Kilsaran International  
Flathouse Lane  
Piercetown  
Dunboyne  
Co Meath

Mr Larry Byrne  
Roadstone Ltd  
Fortunestown  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24

Mr Jim Farrell \*\*  
Roadstone Ltd  
Fortunestown  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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

### **COMPANY SECRETARY**

Mr John Maguire  
Irish Concrete Federation  
8 Newlands Business Park  
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