IRISH CONCRETE FEDERATION ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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.

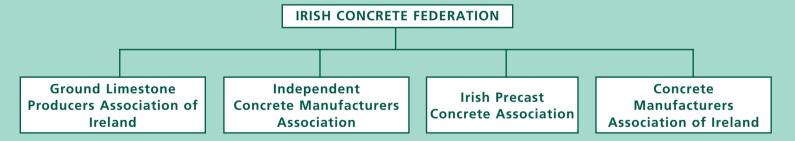
The concrete products industry will be guided by positive leadership among the many strategies to be utilised in achieving these goals.

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.

IPCA is a member of BIBM, the European Federation for Precast Concrete.





European Federation for Precast Concrete

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Cover photo and page 4 photo: dlr Lexicon Library 34th Irish Concrete Society Award Overall Winner. Major Suppliers Kwik Structures / Banagher Precast Concrete / Kilsaran International

Image Courtesy of Donal Murphy (interior) and Dennis Gilbert (exterior)



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Foreword by the President, Mr Peter Gleeson

It is my great pleasure to present to you the Annual Report of the Irish Concrete Federation for 2015. While it is impossible to compact the entire year's work of the Federation between the covers of a short publication, I sincerely hope this year's report gives the readers some flavour for the breadth and diversity of the activities which ICF is involved in on behalf of its members. Needless to say, further information on any of the activities referred to in the report is available by contacting the ICF head office.

2015 saw the continued emergence of a two-tier economy in Ireland typified by continued growth in the greater Dublin area in contrast to stagnant and even negative growth in rural Ireland. Our members supplying the Dublin market continue to see an increase in the demand for concrete products as construction activity increases. However, 2015 did not see similar increases in the activity of ICF members located throughout the country. There is no doubt that a major challenge facing the current and the incoming Government will be to achieve more balanced regional development throughout the entire country rather than a scenario where the overwhelming majority of economic activity is condensed into four counties on the Eastern seaboard. National economic recovery is vital and welcome. Unemployment figures are on the decrease which is the acid test for any economy. However we must now see the benefits of this recovery reaching the regions.

The Irish Concrete Federation remains a vibrant body working on behalf of its members on a daily basis. The Federation is governed by our Council, of which I am currently the chair. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the outgoing President, Mr David Wright, for his commitment and leadership shown over the past two years and to thank all members of the Council for their commitment to the ICF in the past and I am sure that this same support will be forthcoming from the Council during my tenure as President.

In the coming year ICF will continue to develop relationships and linkages with other stakeholder



ICF President Peter Gleeson

organisations in the construction sector. In 2015 ICF jointly commissioned a review of the construction materials sector with our colleagues in Northern Ireland, the Quarry Products Association (Northern Ireland). While not pre-empting the outcome of this report, there is little doubt that the strengths and weaknesses identified in the report will probably reflect those outlined in a similar review of the sector carried out in 2012. The Council was greatly pleased that Minister Paudie Coffey launched the ICF traceability and certification scheme in July and was greatly heartened with the support and welcome it received from other stakeholder bodies in the construction industry. There is little doubt that traceability and compliance with product standards, built on the changes in building control regulations and the introduction of CE marking, can play a major role to ensuring confidence in the construction supply chain in the future and ICF will be to the forefront in this regard.

Once again, the driving force for the ICF has been the output of the committees within the Federation. Our committees involve the input of many different people across our industry and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their work in 2015. I will refer only to some of the highlights of our committees' work in this foreword.

Our Transport Committee held a major Driving for Work Seminar in June. I would like to express our gratitude to the Road Safety Authority, the Health and Safety Authority and An Garda Síochána for their assistance in the organisation of the event and their presentations on the day. Our Transport Committee was also involved in representations to the Department of Transport, the National Roads Authority (now Transport Infrastructure Ireland) and the Road Safety Authority in relation to weight limits for new trucks and the committee also developed a transport management costing tool for members of the Federation.

The Health and Safety Committee continued to promote best practice among our members in the areas of safety. Quarry workplaces can be dangerous and unfortunately there were two fatalities in Irish quarries during the year. I know that our Health and Safety Committee is in the process of organising quarry safety workshops to be run in conjunction with the Health and Safety Authority in early 2016 and our committee will continue to produce guidance for members on the key hazards arising in the workplace.

The Planning and Environment Committee continued to deal with the ongoing fallout from Section 261A of the Planning and Development Act. After much representation, ICF greatly welcomed Minister Alan Kelly's enactment of new legislation to speed up the process of regularisation for those quarries which have been required to go for substitute consent. We urge An Bord Pleanala to ensure that the benefits of the legislation introduced by the Minister are realised through a speedy decision making process by the Board.

Our Technical Committee continued to be highly involved on specialist advisory committees within the National Standards Authority of Ireland on the development of new standards and guidance on standards that apply to the products produced by

our members. The committee was highly involved in the publication of an updated National Annex to I.S.EN206 and revised guidance on a number of standards for aggregates for certain end uses. There is little doubt that a major challenge facing the industry is the communication and education of other stakeholder bodies on these new standards and ICF intends to work with other industry and professional organisations in order to achieve this objective.

Our Business Development Committee developed a training course on best practice in credit control and organised a series of initial trial credit forums for members under the chair of the 'Credit Coach', Mr Declan Flood. Our members suffered greatly from huge levels of bad debt as the economy crashed at the end of the last decade. It is imperative that the mistakes of the past should inform best practice into the future, particularly if activity levels in construction increase in the coming years.

In September, the ICF and Cement Manufacturers Ireland reformed the Concrete Development Group with a view to recommencing the promotion of the industry and its products. I know that the committee have identified a number of priorities in the area of education and agriculture which will be acted upon in 2016.

These are just a small number of the activities carried out by the ICF throughout the year and our Chief Executive will expand on these issues in his review of the year in this report. I would like to pay tribute to the involvement of our members in all of these activities and in particular to thank the staff of the Federation who continue to professionally represent our industry and provide valuable service and advice to our members on a daily basis. I sincerely hope that you enjoy reading our annual report.

Peter Gleeson

Poter Gleeson

President



Chief Executive's Report

The year 2015 was a year of mixed fortunes for the members of the Irish Concrete Federation with sustained growth in the greater Dublin area benefitting local suppliers while those located in rural areas experienced little change from 2014 levels of activity. Clearly the overall economic performance of Ireland continued in a positive trajectory with renewed levels of growth and, most importantly, increasing levels of employment generation. While many economic commentators point to economic growth measured through Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Product (GNP) as a performance indicator for the health of the economy, the true indicator is the number of people at work. Fortunately, there was continued growth in the numbers employed across a broad range of sectors throughout 2015. It is essential that this momentum in job creation continues into the future to sustain businesses located the length and breadth of Ireland.

Unfortunately the significant feature of economic recovery in Ireland has been a concentration of growth in the urban centres and particularly in Dublin. This trend continued and in fact was enhanced in 2015. The counties of Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare and Meath account for over 40% of the country's economic activity and this has been reflected in the activity levels of ICF members. Clearly, many of our members throughout the country are highly dependent on investment in the smaller towns, investment in local infrastructure and housing and in particular investment in agriculture. Unfortunately, the future for agricultural commodity prices in 2016 remains uncertain which will impact on investment on farms for the foreseeable future. In particular, the long term impact of the increased level of production in the post quota period on dairy farm income and dairy commodity prices remains to be seen. However it is worth remembering that the dairy sector, like many sectors, is cyclical in nature and a short-term view must not be taken given Ireland's many competitive advantages in this area.

There has been much public commentary on the level of house building in Ireland. It is startling that in a very short period of time, the housing market has turned from major over-supply to one of shortage, particularly in Dublin. Once again, Ireland has not planned in a sustainable manner for the emerging housing shortage, predominantly in Dublin where



homelessness is on the increase and rents are fast approaching peak "Celtic Tiger" levels. It is not long since any suggestion that a housing shortage was developing in Ireland would have been dismissed as ludicrous. However the reality is that an increasing population demands an increased quantity of housing and currently the population of the country is fast approaching five million. Yet our house construction level remains at 1970 levels at a time when our population was over a third lower than it is today. The reality is that in any mature economy, construction should play a substantial role in economic life and that is not the case currently in Ireland. It is often said that in such a mature economy, construction constitutes approximately 12% of economic activity. In Ireland, the current figure is 6%. An increased population needs investment in housing, schools, hospitals, energy supply, transport, and infrastructure - the list is endless. The National Competitiveness Council continues to point to the inadequate levels of investment by Government in public infrastructure and housing. Ireland has the second lowest investment in infrastructure in the EU, surpassed only by Greece. It is imperative that for the continued competitiveness and economic growth, investment in infrastructure reaches a sustainable level. The Government must realise that, rather than pandering to those who claim that any investment in public infrastructure or housing is seen to benefit the construction sector, the reality is that such investment is necessary for the future prosperity of all in this country.

As mentioned earlier, investment in agriculture will continue to remain of critical importance to our rural based members. ICF welcomes the development of the Rural Development Programme 2015-2020, under which grant assistance for farmers to invest in modernising their facilities will be introduced. It is important that the Department of Agriculture grant schemes announced under TAMS II are user friendly for farmers, encourage investment and demand the highest quality and the ICF looks forward to assisting the Department of Agriculture in this regard.

In conclusion, it has often been said that the aggregates and concrete sector operates in a derived market. Greater growth and prosperity in the general economy will stimulate growth and investment in our built infrastructure, thereby increasing activity for our members. Therefore, while ICF's influence on the level of activity of its members is limited, our activities in 2015 continued unabated in the promotion of a more favourable business and regulatory climate for our members. As ever, all of the activities of the ICF are facilitated through the output of the staff of the Federation and the active involvement of our members on a daily basis. The following report highlights just a sample of the work undertaken throughout 2015 and I hope that readers will agree, that for an organisation with extremely tight resources, we constantly deliver results for our members.

ICF Council

All activities of the Irish Concrete Federation are governed by the Council which oversees the work of the policy committees as well as overseeing the corporate governance of the Federation.

Our Council is made up of the following leaders within the industry.

Mr Peter Gleeson	Gleeson Quarries, President
Mr Larry Byrne	Roadstone, Vice-President
Mr David Wright	Wright Quarry Products
Ms Caroline Quinn	Concast Precast Group
Mr John Farragher	Concrete Manufacturing Company
Mr Christy Loughnane	Loughnane Concrete (Birr)
Mr John Joe McGrath	McGraths Limestone Works
Mr Derry McKeown	Kilsaran International
Mr Finbarr O'Neill	Finbarr O'Neill

Apart from reviewing the work of the five policy committees within the Federation, the Council also carries out and commissions additional activity for the benefit of the industry. In late 2015 ICF, in conjunction with the Quarry Products Association in Northern Ireland (QPANI) and with the support of InterTradeIreland, produced an "Analysis of the Construction Materials Sector on the Island of Ireland". This report was a follow up to the report carried out by the same bodies in 2012. The methodology for the report included interviews with members of ICF and QPANI, Enterprise Ireland, Invest Northern Ireland, customers of the industry and financial analysts. Some of the key findings of the report were as follows:

- Sector capacity utilisation remains broadly similar to 2012
- There has been some growth in construction output across the island in the recent past but this has been concentrated in and around the two major cities, Dublin and Belfast.
- Employment in the sector remains similar to 2012 levels at 7,700 people.
- There has been some improvement in the sector's financial performance. However this has been due to rationalisation and corporate action rather than any market uplift.
- Construction activity on the island is currently about half the size it should be in a normal economy.

In addition the report also highlighted the following challenges:

- 35% of existing production plant capacity can be defined as structural over capacity.
- Unauthorised and non-compliant operators enjoy a 10-15% competitive advantage in the marketplace, i.e. the cost of compliance.
- Profitability and product prices within the island are regarded as unsustainable in the long run.
- Attracting and retaining new staff in the sector is a major challenge.

Notwithstanding the challenges and recommendations of the report, ICF still supports the overall vision for the industry as articulated in both the 2012 and 2015 reports.

With the support of Cement Manufacturers Ireland (CMI), ICF reconstituted the Concrete Development Group for the purpose of promoting the sector and the products emanating from the sector. It is a clear indication of renewed confidence in the future of our industry that once again the sector has the resources,

albeit at a low level, to address this area and the ICF Council looks forward to working with CMI and its representatives on the Concrete Development Group in this regard.



ICF Product Traceability Certification Scheme Launch, 1st July 2015. L to R Peter Gleeson, David Wright, Minister of State Paudie Coffey, Gerry Farrell

The ICF Council greatly welcomed the launch of the ICF certification and traceability initiative by the Minister of State at the Department of the Environment with Special Responsibility for Housing, Planning and Coordination of the Construction 2020 Strategy, Mr Paudie Coffey, on July 1st. This certification initiative is built on the experience of our members in supplying grant assisted farm building projects and takes into account the requirements of the revised Building Control Regulations and the ongoing improvement in standards allied to the introduction of CE marking in July 2013. The certification initiative gained great support from the representative bodies of professionals in the construction industry and the launch was attended by the Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland, Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland, Construction Industry Federation, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Engineers Ireland, Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland, Irish Home Builders Association, National Standards Authority of Ireland, Housing Agency, Pyrite Resolution Board, and HomeBond. The initiative gained widespread coverage in the trade press and offered specifiers, certifiers and customers of our industry a certification option which can assist in ensuring that the products that are supplied and used in our built infrastructure comply with the required product standards.

In response to some misguided commentary on the contribution of the costs of materials produced by our

industry towards the overall cost of building houses, ICF has recently commissioned a short analysis of the contribution of concrete and aggregates to the overall cost of building a house. While our members' materials remain the key structural elements in house building, there is little doubt that the contribution from these products towards the overall cost of house building remains extremely low. This analysis will be used by ICF to feed into our national representative policy in 2016.

Responsible for the corporate governance of the Federation, the ICF agreed updated competition law guidelines in consultation with our legal advisers. These guidelines will be issued to all members in early 2016. The Federation also registered as a lobbying organisation under the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 and will make returns as required under the legislation.

The ICF Council is also responsible for the sustainable management of the finances of the Federation. Obviously the cost of running the ICF is a fraction of that of a decade ago. However, due to the support of members and associate members through difficult times, and prudent management of expenditure, the Federation is once again on a sustainable financial footing.



Minister of State Paudie Coffey at ICF Product Traceability Certification Scheme Launch, 1st July 2015

Transport Committee

The chairman of the ICF Transport committee is Mr Christy Loughnane of Loughnane Concrete in Birr and the members of the 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 Micheal Gleeson	Gleeson Concrete
Mr Tim Flood	B D Flood
Mr Shane Tierney	B D Flood
Mr Gearoid Gilheany	Quinn Building Products

The ICF Transport Committee was re-formed in 2014 and has very quickly become one of the most active committees within the ICF structure. In 2015 the committee was extremely busy organising events, making policy submissions and producing best advice and guidance for members in the area of transport. The key policy issue which the ICF Transport Committee dealt with during the year was the ongoing deliberations by the Road Safety Authority, National Roads Authority and the Department of Transport



Delegates at the ICF Driving for Work Seminar, 25th June 2015

in relation to the weight limit for 5-axle rigid vehicles. ICF made a submission to the Road Safety Authority in March on the issue and on 8th May, the ICF committee met with the National Roads Authority and the Road Safety Authority to discuss the issue. ICF has sought a limit of 37 tonnes to be applied to the 5-axle vehicle in order to encourage future investment. Indeed the committee made a further submission to the Department of Transport in October and awaits development from the Department in 2016 in this regard. Throughout the year the committee also met with representatives of some of the truck manufacturing organisations in order to formulate the ICF position on this issue.

On 25th June the committee organised a Driving for Work Seminar with the support of the Road Safety Authority and the Health and Safety Authority. ICF was pleased to welcome Ms Moyagh Murdock, Chief Executive Officer of the Road Safety Authority and her colleague, Ms Kathleen Callanan, as well as Superintendent Con O'Donohue, from An Garda Síochána and Ms Deirdre Sinnott and Mr Noel Lacey, Health and Safety Authority, to the event. ICF members also heard a very interesting presentation on tachographs from Mr Brian Carroll.



Superintendent Con O'Donohue at the ICF Driving for Work Seminar, 25th June 2015

The committee also oversaw input by ICF into the expert group on commercial motor taxation convened by the Department of Transport. Indeed ICF greatly welcomed the reduction in commercial vehicle taxation announced by Minister Michael Noonan in his budget in October.

The ICF Transport Committee also engaged the services of transport consultant, Mr Michael Joyce, in the development of a transport cost management tool to be used by individual members to assist them in the reduction of their transport costs. Michael presented the cost management tool to all members at regional meetings throughout the year and the template will be emailed to all members for their own use early in 2016.

In November the Transport Committee met with the Freight Transport Association of Ireland and heard a briefing on the key issues being addressed by that organisation to support the transport sector in Ireland.



Moyagh Murdock, CEO RSA, at the ICF Driving for Work Seminar, 25th June 2015

Technical Committee

The chairman of the ICF Technical Committee is Mr Peter Deegan of Banagher Precast Concrete. The members of the committee are 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 John Newell	Ecocem
Mr Kevin Maguire	Quinn Building Products
Mr Gareth McMeekin	Wright Quarry Products
Mr Vincent Anderson	Kilsaran International
Mr Darragh McKenna	O'Reilly Bros
Mr David Cassidy	Cassidy Bros
Mr Brendan Lynch	Consultant
Mr Martin Collins	Coshla Quarries
Mr Patrick Cullivan	B D Flood

Once again, the output of the Technical Committee remained to the forefront of ICF priorities in 2015. There is no doubt that in recent years there is an increased focus on quality, product standards and certification arising from a number of quality issues and changes in building control regulations. Members of the ICF Technical Committee have been highly involved in the development and communication of new guidance on standards which apply to ICF members' products. A number of members of the committee, along with Liam Smyth of the Federation, sit on advisory committees within the National Standards Authority of Ireland. These committees, which are formed with involvement from various stakeholder groups, have developed new guidance in relation to aggregates and concrete products. Furthermore the new guidance, allied to the implementation of the Construction Products Regulation and CE marking, has led to an increased focus on the certification of products in the marketplace by project certifiers. In addition to ensuring that the content of guidance is robust, the focus of the committee has been to communicate these updated standards and guidance to members and other stakeholder bodies. It is fair to

say that much work remains to be done in this regard as there is much confusion in the marketplace on standards and certification requirements. Unfortunately, the constant revision of guidance on standards has not assisted in achieving understanding and clarity in the industry. This was clearly seen with regard to S.R. 21 which is currently under review again, following concerns of the Department of the Environment in relation to radon. It is hoped that the revised guidance will be issued in early 2016, following public consultation. In tandem with S.R. 21, ICF made a submission to the public consultation on I.S. 888 which is a code of practice for the procurement and use of unbound granular fill (hardcore) for use under concrete floors and footpaths. In addition, representatives of the ICF Technical Committee have participated on the aggregates panel of the N.S.A.I on the review of S.R. 16, which is the guidance on aggregates for concrete. It is likely that the revisions which were introduced for S.R. 21 will be replicated in S.R. 16.

Representatives of the ICF Technical Committee also participated on a working group with the Department of Agriculture on the review of S.100, the specification for farm concrete. In addition, the revised National Annex to I.S. EN 206, the standard for readymix concrete, was published by the N.S.A.I during the year which was greatly welcomed by the ICF.

The ICF Council has identified the communication and understanding of standards applying to products produced by ICF members as a major priority for 2016. It is hoped to hold a technical seminar for all members in 2016 and the Technical Committee will also produce guidance documents on each of the standards for use by members and other stakeholder bodies. On November 17th, Gerry Farrell of the ICF presented at a seminar hosted by the Construction Industry Federation on the Construction Products Regulation. HomeBond has indicated that ICF will be afforded the opportunity to speak to its members on the standards for aggregates and concrete products in 2016, an opportunity which ICF looks forward to accepting.

In response to the issue of skills development, ICF made a submission to the Apprenticeship Council for the development of an apprenticeship scheme for concrete technicians. While the proposal has been sanctioned as a Category 3 proposal, it requires further changes for final acceptance by the Apprenticeship Council.

On 18th June 2015, the Irish Concrete Society hosted "Concrete Practice in Ireland 2015", a symposium at which expert speakers gathered

in the O'Brien Centre for Science in UCD. Held on a ten yearly basis from 1965 until 1995, the Concrete Practice in Ireland Symposium is traditionally an important opportunity for those involved in the concrete supply chain (researchers, suppliers, producers, designers) to consider the advancements and changes that have occurred in the previous decade and a look to the future. The ICF Technical Committee members, Donal Crowley, Richard Bradley and the Federation's own Liam Smyth, all presented papers at the event which was an overwhelming success.

Business Development Committee

The Business Development Committee in 2015 was chaired by Mr John Curran of Lagan Concrete who succeeded Mr John O'Carroll of Ardfert Quarry Products. The members of the committee are as follows:

Mr John Curran	Lagan Concrete
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
Ms Onagh Murphy	Loughnane Concrete (Birr)
Mr Tony Curran	Kilsaran International
Mr Pat McGrath	McGraths Limestone Works
Mr Bernard Quinn	Concast Precast Group
Mr Pat Freeman	McGrath Quarries
Mr Thomas King	Wright Quarry Products
Mr Tom Gallagher	B D Flood
Mr Francis Harrington	Harrington Concrete and Quarries

The Business Development Committee's work on the development of a traceability certificate for the industry came to fruition with the launch of the ICF traceability and certification initiative on 1st July by Minister Paudie Coffey, an event highlighted earlier in this report. The members of the committee were highly involved in the development of the initiative which is targeted at providing greater traceability and information on standards to customers in the marketplace.



ICF Training Day, "Credit Control from Start to Finish", 25th November 2015

The Business Development Committee was also highly involved in the development of a number of regional trial credit forums which were held throughout the year and were hosted by "The Credit Coach", Mr Declan Flood. The committee also organised a training day entitled "Credit Control from Start to Finish" which was held on November 25th in Newbridge. This training day, which was attended by approximately 20 members, addressed the issues of credit policies, credit terms, opening new accounts, managing ledgers, cash collection, cash control and dealing with disputes and queries and was targeted at business owners, credit controllers and managers who are responsible for the collection of payments.

ICF members were deeply saddened upon hearing that Mr James O'Connell of Ducon Concrete and a member of the Business Development Committee, passed away on 22nd March 2015. James was a valued and respected member of the Business Development Committee. May he rest in peace.

Health and Safety Committee

In 2015 the Councils of the Irish Concrete
Federation and the Irish Precast Concrete
Association agreed to merge the respective Health
and Safety Committees of the two organisations.
The objective of this decision was to ensure that the
committee involved input from the highest number
of health and safety professionals possible in the
industry. The first chairman of the new committee
was Mr Paul O'Mahony of Roadstone who had
succeeded Mr Anthony Moran who stepped

down as chairman of the ICF Health and Safety Committee earlier in 2015. The members of the new committee are as follows:

Mr Paul O'Mahony	Roadstone
Mr Cormac McCarthy	Roadstone
Mr John McWeeney	CRH
Mr Tony Reville	Kilsaran International
Mr Vincent Flanagan	B D Flood
Mr John McNamara	Lagan Group
Mr Clive Kelly	McGrath Quarries
Mr Con Keigher	Irish Industrial Explosives
Ms Ashling McCardle	O'Reilly Bros
Mr Brian Coogan	Wright Quarry Products
Ms Emma Murphy	Harrington Concrete & Quarries
Mr Gerry Clancy	Quinn Building Products
Mr John Cashin	Banagher Precast Concrete
Mr Mark Patterson	Oran Precast
Ms Nicky Mulchrone	McGraths Limestone Works
Mr Paul Gallagher	Ducon Concrete
Mr Philip McGrath	Concast Precast
Mr Richard Sherlock	Techrete
Mr Tim Flood	Flood Precast
Mr Tom Farrelly	O'Reilly Bros
Ms Vivienne Murtagh	Shay Murtagh Precast

The importance of the work of the ICF Health and Safety Committee was highlighted in the gravest manner when a fatality in a quarry in the South East of the country occurred on the first working day of 2015. There were two fatal accidents in Irish quarries during the year.

ICF met with the Health and Safety Authority on a number of occasions throughout 2015 in order to identify key safety concerns in the industry and develop initiatives to address these concerns. As part of the outcome of these discussions, the ICF and the Health and Safety Authority will be holding joint seminars on a regional basis throughout the country in early 2016. ICF will encourage its members to participate in these workshops which will hear, at first

hand, the concerns the Authority may have in relation to quarry safety and the practical steps that can be taken by the industry to address them. In addition, it was agreed that ICF and the HSA would work together to revive "Quarry Safety Week" in 2016 in order to highlight health and safety in our members' quarries on an annual basis.

The issue of load security is also high on the agenda of the Health and Safety Committee and in December our committee invited Mr Noel Lacey of the Health and Safety Authority to make a presentation to the committee on this area. In September, ICF organised a workshop on load security for members of the committee which was hosted by Gill Group.



ICF Training Course on Load Security, 11th September 2015

The Health and Safety Committee is also working with the Health and Safety Authority on the development of an initiative focused on pre-stressed concrete manufacturers involving inspections by Health and Safety Authority personnel of all pre-stressing operations in the country which is likely to take place in early 2016. The ICF committee welcomes this initiative, the genesis of which is a similar exercise carried out by the Health and Safety Executive in Northern Ireland in 2013 on which details were presented at an ICF Health and Safety Committee meeting last year.

The Health and Safety Committee also made an input into the organisation of the Driving for Work Seminar, held with the support of An Garda Síochána, the Road Safety Authority and the Health and Safety Authority which took place in June. On a slightly negative note, the committee was disappointed that, despite the number of submissions and discussions on the draft Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Quarries) Regulations in 2014, the revised regulations have still not been published.

Planning and Environment Committee

The ICF Planning and Environment Committee is chaired by Mr Fergus Gallagher of Kilsaran International. The members of the committee in 2015 are as follows:

Mr Fergus Gallagher	Kilsaran International
Ms Naomi Cooper	CRH
Mr Sean Loughnane	Loughnane Concrete (Birr)
Mr Stephen Linden	Quinn Building Products
Mr Keith McGrath	McGraths Limestone Works
Mr Ronan Griffin	Roadstone
Mr Vincent Flanagan	BD Flood
Mr Mark Galvin	Ardfert Quarry Products
Ms Amanda Tarpey	Harrington Concrete and Quarries
Mr John Quirke	M F Quirke & Sons
Mr Maurice Carey	M F Quirke & Sons

Once again, the ICF Planning and Environment Committee was largely concerned with the ongoing fallout from Section 261A of the Planning and Development Act 2000. In particular, the Federation was greatly concerned at the pace of decision making by An Bord Pleanala in respect of substitute consent applications which were required in many cases. It was against this background, that ICF lobbied both the current and preceding Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to introduce legislative provisions to facilitate quarry operators, already required to apply for substitute consent, to apply directly to An Bord Pleanala for the future development of their quarries. Representatives of the Planning and Environment Committee had a number of detailed discussions and meetings with the Department of the Environment on the drafting of the legislation.

The objective was to increase the speed of decision making by facilitating An Bord Pleanala to simultaneously assess applications for substitute consent and future development at the same location. The commercial reality is that, arising from events which date back to the European Court of Justice Decision of July 2008, many operators have been unable to regularise the planning status of their quarries, thereby leaving many operators with an acute shortage of authorised reserves available to them. ICF greatly welcomed the Minister's decision in July 2015 to sign the regulations into force and it is now hoped that applications to An Bord Pleanala, which

can be made under Section 37L of the Planning and Development Act, will lead to timely decision making by An Bord Pleanala in respect of quarry applications.

In August the ICF, with the assistance of the Irish Asphalt Pavement Producers Association, submitted draft End of Waste Criteria for the production of aggregates from concrete, asphalt, soil and stone waste and similar End of Waste criteria for the production of reclaimed asphalt from bituminous waste. This issue arose from a circular issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in October 2014 with regard to the sale of construction and demolition waste material, rubble, crushed concrete and stone. ICF made these submissions following a meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency in March at which the agency requested the Federation to develop quality protocols covering secondary aggregates from recycled concrete and bituminous waste. ICF is currently awaiting the deliberations of the agency on both of these protocols.



Delegates at the ICF Planning & Environment Policy Seminar, 10th November 2015

In February, ICF hosted a workshop for members on hydrology and quarries with guest speakers, Dr Pamela Bartlett and Dr Evelyn Moorkens. This seminar highlighted the need for a positive strategy to be adopted by quarry operators in respect of hydrology and the need for high quality advice on this issue. The Planning and Environment Committee also oversaw the submissions on draft regional waste management plans for the South East and Midlands region and the Connacht and Ulster region.

In November, ICF hosted a major planning policy seminar. The Planning and Environment Committee, in organising the seminar, decided that it was timely for the industry to analyse the current planning status of the sector and the strengths and weaknesses of the various forms of authorisation under which the industry operates. Delegates attending the seminar heard expert presentations from Liam Smyth of the ICF, Mr Sean Loughnane, who represented the Planning and Environment Committee, Professor Yvonne Scannell, Mr Jim O'Brien, Dr Charles Mount and Mr Derek Luby.



Liam Smyth at the ICF Planning & Environment Policy Seminar, 10th November 2015

The Planning and Environment Committee also made a submission to Kerry County Council with regard to the requirement for pre-application archaeological testing. There is little doubt that the benefits of the ICF Archaeological Code of Practice and the services provided by the ICF Project Archaeologist, Dr Charles Mount, need to be continued to be promoted to local authorities so that national archaeology can be protected while facilitating ongoing necessary development. Through the ICF Project Archaeologist, Dr Charles Mount, ICF continued to engage with the National Monuments Service on a regular basis.



Professor Yvonne Scannell at the ICF Planning & Environment Policy Seminar, 10th November 2015

Quarry operations are strategically critical businesses and should operate in an environment of regulatory certainty into the future. It is not acceptable that authorised quarries can remain open to challenge, thereby threatening their future and ICF will continue to advise all members, on both an individual and collective basis, on the best options available to them on achieving regulatory certainty. In addition, ICF members constantly raise concerns on the continued lack of enforcement against unauthorised quarry operators. The report produced in 2015 on the "Competitive Analysis of the Construction Materials Sector on the Island of Ireland" clearly highlighted that a key challenge facing the sector is competition from unauthorised and non-compliant operators, particularly in the Republic of Ireland. Contributors to the report estimated that the cost of compliance is estimated at 10% and 15% of the selling price of various materials. It is unacceptable to ICF that procurement policy by the public and private sector confers a commercial advantage on unauthorised operators over authorised operators, particularly in times of depressed demand.

Concrete Development Group

As reported in last year's annual report, the Irish Concrete Federation and Cement Manufacturers Ireland Council agreed to re-establish the Concrete Development Group with a view to promoting the industry and the products emanating from it. The first meeting of the Group was held on 17th September at which general agreement was reached on the priorities of the committee for 2016. In particular, the issues of farm concrete, education of engineering undergraduates in third level institutions, housing, concrete design and the promotion of internal education initiatives within the industry were highlighted as immediate priorities. The Federation has already had positive exploratory discussions with a number of third level institutions with regard to the development of a concrete technology course and examination for undergraduate engineering students and in December the Federation met with Teagasc to devise a plan to educate farmers and farm contractors on the new specification for farm concrete.

The members of the Concrete Development Group in 2015 are as follows:

Mr Richard Bradley	Irish Cement
Mr John Curran	Lagan Group
Mr Derek Duffy	Oran Precast
Mr Brian Gilmore	Cement Manufacturers Ireland

Ms Michelle Hanlon	Hanlon Concrete
Ms Eibhlin Keohane	Keohane Readymix
Mr David McKeown	Kilsaran International
Mr Diarmuid O'Sullivan	Roadstone

Ground Limestone Producers Association of Ireland

In 2013 the Ground Limestone Producers Association affiliated to the Irish Concrete Federation. Since its affiliation, the association has been extremely active in developing links with other stakeholders in the industry and the promotion of the Grolime brand which is owned by the association. On 15th June, the association organised a joint training day for members which was held in Teagasc offices in Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford.

Presentations at the training day were provided by Teagasc and the Department of Agriculture. Advice was provided on liming and the future regulatory framework in which lime is marketed. The association also agreed to re-examine enforcement of the regulations governing the use of the Grolime trademark. In order to meet the quality requirements demanded by the Grolime trademark, it was agreed that all users of the trademark should have their product sampled on a twice yearly basis by an independent and accredited testing laboratory.

During the year, the association started the development of a website to promote Grolime and the association also joined the Fertiliser Association

of Ireland. In September the association met with the Department of Agriculture and Teagasc to discuss future research opportunities to assist all stakeholders on future liming requirements and the environmental benefits of applying lime.

The GLPAI is chaired by Mr Joe McGrath of McGrath Quarries and the committee members are as follows:

Mr Joe McGrath	McGrath Limestone Quarries
Mr Brian Harrington	Harrington Concrete & Quarries
Mr Francis Harrington	Harrington Concrete & Quarries
Mr John Curran	Lagan Lime
Mr Christy Loughnane	Loughnane Concrete (Birr)
Mr Enda Hanly	Hanly Quarries
Mr Eoin O'Carroll	Bennettsbridge Limestone Quarry
Mr Ernie Bohan	Roadstone
Mr John Joe McGrath	McGraths Limestone Works
Mr Keith McGrath	McGraths Limestone Works
Mr Mike Cronin	Michael Cronin Readymix
Mr Peter Gleeson	Gleeson Quarries
Mr Tom McDonald Jnr	Kilcarrig Quarries
Mr Paul Murphy	Kilsaran International



GLPAI Training Day, Teagasc, Johnstown Castle, 15th June 2015

Irish Precast Concrete Association

The chairman of the Irish Precast Concrete
Association is Mr Frank Healy, Ducon Concrete, and
the members of the committee are as follows:

Mr Frank Healy	Ducon Concrete
Ms Caroline Quinn	Concast Precast Group
Mr David Wright	Wright Quarry Products
Mr Barry O'Reilly	O'Reilly Bros
Mr Brendan Mahon	Banagher Precast Concrete
Mr Chris O'Dea	Techrete
Mr Marcus Sweeney	Techrete
Mr Derek Duffy	Oran Precast
Mr Frank Bracken	Killeshal Precast
Mr John O'Connor	Flood Precast
Mr Richard Maguire	Quinn Building Products

Recent years have seen increased penetration of the UK market by Irish based exporters of quality precast concrete products. In total, exports of precast concrete increased from 0 in 2006 to a value of approximately €130m in 2015. The members of the Irish Precast Concrete Association engage regularly with Enterprise Ireland in order to continue the development of this market into the future and in September the Council met with Enterprise Ireland to discuss the supports which exist for businesses in the UK market.

The key policy issue which the association is currently dealing with is the issue of ancillary certification. As a result of changes to the Building Control Regulations and the introduction of new certification requirements, the IPCA is currently developing ancillary certificates applicable to precast concrete which it is proposed will be used by certifiers in the marketplace. It is the intention of the IPCA to engage with all of the professional bodies, such as the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland, Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland, Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland and Engineers Ireland in order to seek their agreement for the use of an ancillary certificate for precast concrete.

The association is also highly involved in promoting best practice with regard to health and safety on a regular basis. Currently IPCA is engaging with the Health and Safety Authority on the possibility of an intensive round of inspections of pre-stressed concrete manufacturing plants by HSA inspectors to

take place in early 2016. The association was also responsible for the organisation of a workshop on load security which took place in September. This is an issue which will have to be addressed by this association in the coming years in order to provide clarity as currently advice and enforcement on this issue varies on a regular basis.

Internal Communications

As ever ICF maintains a regular communication service with its members. The representatives of the members on the ICF Council met on six occasions throughout the year. In addition the ICF policy committees meet on a regular basis in order to formulate policy and develop initiatives with member input. It is this committee work that drives the activities of the Federation and ensures that ICF policies closely reflect member views and opinions on the ground. ICF encourages the highest level of participation in policy committees among members. In addition to affording the opportunity to input into the direction of the ICF, there is little doubt that ICF committees are a learning experience for those in our industry and offer the opportunity for committee members to harness knowledge and expertise for their future benefit.

Similar to 2014, the ICF held a major seminar for members in advance of its Annual General Meeting at which a representative from each of the policy committees made a presentation to members on the work of the particular committee. The quality of the presentations clearly indicated the expertise that exists within the industry and the contribution this expertise can make to the further development of the industry.

The activities of the Federation are also communicated to the members at our regional meetings which are held throughout the country in six regions on three occasions per year. The purpose of the regional meetings is to brief members on developments at national level which can impact on them on an individual basis and to outline ICF activities on these issues. ICF is thankful to all of those members who take the time from their busy schedules to attend these regional meetings.

The activities of the Federation are also summarised in newsletters which are issued periodically to members throughout the year. In addition, a new website for the ICF is being planned and it is hoped that the new website will be launched in 2016 with a view to using it to a greater extent as a tool to communicate with members throughout the country.

External Communications

The ability of ICF to influence decision making at the highest level depends on our ability to engage positively with other stakeholder organisations that can support or indeed may wish to oppose ICF policy. Throughout the year, ICF continued to engage with many Government departments and agencies and other stakeholder organisations in order to further our members' views on many issues. ICF is deeply indebted to these organisations for their access and openness and we look forward to continuing this engagement in the future. Some of the organisations which ICF engaged with throughout 2015 are listed below. I apologise for any inadvertent omission from the list.

- Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
- 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 Pleanala
- Health and Safety Authority
- 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
- HomeBond
- Irish Mining & Quarrying Society
- Society of the Irish Motor Industry

Europe

ICF is a member of ERMCO, the European Readymix Concrete Organisation and of UEPG, the European Aggregates Association. ICF is represented on the Board of ERMCO by Mr Donal Crowley of Roadstone and the ICF nominee to the Board of UEPG is Mr Jim O'Brien, former UEPG President.

Throughout the year ICF participated at committee and board level within the two organisations to influence developments and legislation which impact on all our members at national level. The highlight of the year was when the "Concrete Initiative" held its first annual event, Concrete Dialogue 2015 entitled "Citizens at the Heart of the Sustainably Built Environment", on 19th November 2015. This event brought together members of the European Parliament, European Commission and civil society for a concrete dialogue round table to debate issues of relevance to sustainable construction. Furthermore, a new study of the multiplier effect of investment in concrete, as well as a study on sustainability in construction, were presented providing new insights to further stimulate the discussion.

Social

The ICF social calendar remained busy in 2015. The Federation had 35 participants on a visit to the Apario Quarry near Bilbao in Spain from 21st to 24th May. ICF would like to thank our gracious hosts, Cementos



Industry Study Tour 21st to 24th May 2015, Apario Quarry Bilbao



ICF Activity Day, PalmerSport, Bedford Autodrome, 9th October 2015

Lemona, for the hospitality afforded to our group on this thoroughly enjoyable visit and in particular, to Sean Keane of CRH who organised much of the itinerary.

On 9th October the racing car enthusiasts in our industry, of which there were 25, took to the circuit at the PalmerSport Autodrome in Bedford to sit behind the steering wheel of a variety of modern and not so modern racing cars. There is no doubt that there is a cohort of extremely skilled drivers within our industry, to which the times recorded on the day are testament.

The ICF held its Annual Dinner on 18th April in the beautiful surroundings of Druids Glen in County Wicklow. We again would like to thank all the supporters and sponsors of the most important social event in the ICF's annual calendar and look forward to welcoming them to Westport in 2016.

Conclusion

As ever 2015 was yet another busy year for members of the Council and committees within the Irish

Concrete Federation. The Federation, through the input of members at Council and committee level, will continue to provide leadership and support to our members on a daily and weekly basis. It is important that all members of representative bodies value and trust their representative body to carry out their activities to the highest standards of professionalism and I am happy to say that the ICF will continue to achieve these levels of professionalism in its daily activities under the guidance of its committed Council.

I would like to express my thanks to the members for their support throughout the year and we wish them a prosperous 2016 as the economy hopefully recovers and economic growth returns to the regions.

Finally I would like to thank Liam Smyth, Patricia Craig and Diane O'Donoghue for their commitment and professionalism throughout 2015 without which none of the achievements outlined in this report would be possible. I would also like to thank the ICF Project Archaeologist, Dr Charles Mount, for his input and assistance to members throughout the year.

Independent auditors' report to the members of Irish Concrete Federation Limited Report on the Financial Statements

Our opinion

In our opinion, Irish Concrete Federation Limited's financial statements (the "financial statements"):

- give a true and fair view of the company's assets, liabilities and financial position as at 31 December 2015 and of its surplus and cash flows for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

What we have audited

The financial statements comprise:

- the balance sheet as at 31 December 2015;
- the statement of income and retained earnings for the year then ended;
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

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 and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

In applying the financial reporting framework, the directors have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. In making such estimates, they have made assumptions and considered future events.

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

Matter on which we are required to report by exception

Directors' remuneration and transactions

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

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Our responsibilities and those of the directors

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 and for being satisfied that they give 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 391 of the Companies Act 2014 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.

What an audit of financial statements involves

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). 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.

We primarily focus our work in these areas by assessing the directors' judgements against available evidence, forming our own judgements, and evaluating the disclosures in the financial statements.

We test and examine information, using sampling and other auditing techniques, to the extent we consider necessary to provide a reasonable basis for us to draw conclusions. We obtain audit evidence through testing the effectiveness of controls, substantive procedures or a combination of both.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Directors' Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Aisling Fitzgerald for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm, Dublin November 2016

Statement of Income and Retained Earnings Financial Year Ended 31 December 2015

	2015 €	2014 €
	€ .	e
Total income	897,820	810,968
Total expenditure	(623,357)	(552,134)
Operating surplus	274,463	258,834
Interest receivable	283	626
Bank interest and charges	(532)	(446)
Surplus for year before taxation	274,214	259,014
Taxation	(2,764)	(1,468)
Surplus for the year after taxation	271,450	257,546
Retained profits at 1 January	747,982	490,436
Retained profits at 31 December	1,019,432	747,982

The operating surplus above arose solely from continuing operations. The company has no recognised gains and losses other than those dealt with in the Statement of Income and Retained Earnings.

Balance Sheet

	2015 €	2014 €
Fixed assets	_	
Tangible assets	15,546	15,024
Current assets		
Debtors and prepayments	796,464	701,116
Cash at bank	481,838	302,050
	1,278,302	1,003,166
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(174,996)	(170,788)
Net current assets	1,103,306	832,378
Net assets	1,118,852	847,402
Financed by		
Contributions to capital set-up costs	99,420	99,420
Reserves	1,019,432	747,982
Total equity	1,118,852	847,402

Irish Concrete Federation Council Members 2015

PRESIDENT

Mr Peter Gleeson Gleeson Quarries Ltd Laffansbridge Thurles Co Tipperary

Mr David Wright Wright Quarry Products Swanns Cross Monaghan

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

Ms Caroline Quinn Concast Precast Group Hazelhatch Newcastle Co Dublin

Mr John Farragher Concrete Manufacturing Company Ltd Ballygaddy Road Tuam Co Galway

VICE-PRESIDENT

Mr Larry Byrne Roadstone Ltd Fortunestown Tallaght Dublin 24

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

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 Naas Road, Clondalkin Dublin 22



