



**IATGN-10 Architectural Technology Conference  
27 March 2015**

# **Towards the Registration of Architectural Technologists**

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# Overview of Presentation

- History of Regulation of Construction Professionals
- Current Policy Context
- The position of Architectural Technologists
  - Building Control Act 2007 / Directive 2005/36/EC
  - Towards registration of Architectural Technologists





# History of Regulation of Construction Professionals

# General

*The history of the regulatory framework within the Construction Sector in Ireland is characterised by a system of voluntarism and self-regulation.*

*Critical statutory interventions have arisen in response to:*

- *EU Membership (e.g. mutual recognition of qualifications, product standards, health and safety) or*
- *specific market failures.*

# General

*Apart for general regulation in areas such as company law, taxation, trade, employment rights, and health and safety, the regulation of the construction professions in Ireland is historically limited to two areas, namely*

- *the protection of title and*
- *the restriction of function to certain qualified persons (e.g. registered electrical contractors).*



# Key Developments

- ***Early 1800s – Development of Professions***

*Engineers, Architects, Surveyors etc. began to group and organise collectively – sharing information, setting standards, codifying their work, controlling membership.*

- ***1960s – Planning laws***

- ***1969 – Institution of Civil Engineers (Charter Amendment) Act***

*Chartered Engineer became a protected title.*

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# Key Developments

## ■ **1990 - Building Control Act**

*A statutory framework for control of building activity:*

- *clear legal standards as set out in the Building Regulations;*
  - *detailed Technical Guidance Documents to outline how these standards may be achieved in practice;*
  - *the burden and responsibility for compliance resting first and foremost with developers/builders and building owners;*
  - *a statutory responsibility for professionals to design and construct in accordance with the building regulations; and*
  - *enforcement by local building control authorities (currently 31 nationwide)*
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# Key Developments

- **2007 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Building Control Act**

*Limitations on use of certain titles (Architect, Building Surveyor & Quantity Surveyor) to registered persons*

- **2011 onwards – restrictions of function**

*various Acts, regulations and administrative arrangements e.g. Multi-Unit Developments Act 2011; Building Control Amendment Regulations 2014 (S.I. 9 / 2014) limiting certification of design and construction of buildings to competent registered professionals*

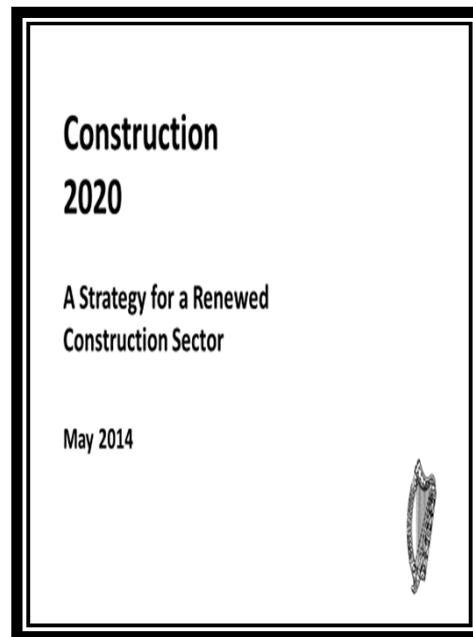
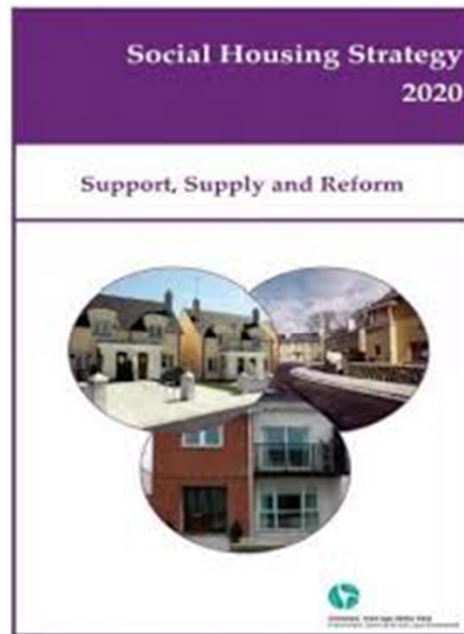






# Current Policy Context

# Construction Industry reform is central to Government policy



# Key Themes

## ■ Coordination & Consultation

Planning, Building & Environment (DECLG)

Public Procurement & PPPs (DPER, NDFA)

Employment law, IR and Health and Safety (DJEI & Agencies)

Education and Training (DES & Agencies)

## ■ Public Investment

## ■ Statutory Registration of Builders and Contractors

## ■ Construction Contracts Act

## ■ Planning

## ■ Energy Efficiency / Green Economy Jobs

## ■ Tackling the Shadow Economy

## ■ Training and Skills

## ■ Internationalisation



# Building Control Reforms

- Activate section 6(2)(a)(i) of the Act of 1990 requiring submission of Certificates of Compliance
- Regionalised/shared services model of Building Control administration
- Online Building Control Management System (BCMS)
- Standardised approaches & common protocols to ensure nationwide consistency in building control
- Construction Industry Register Ireland
- Review of registration arrangements for architects
- Latent Defects Insurance

# Key Principles underpinning BC Reforms

- Promoting Quality in Construction and Protecting Consumers
- Empowering Competence and Professionalism
- Introducing accountability for statutory obligations





# The position of Architectural Technologists

# Regulation / Registration of Professions in general

- Three distinct roles
  - Registrar/Competent Authority: Day to day Administration
  - Education Providers/QQI: Quality assure education/training
  - Parliament: Statutory basis
- Minister/DECLG can sponsor legislative proposals
- D/ECLG has no role in evaluating, assessing, or validating qualifications/competence



# Regulation / Registration of Professions in general

- Any statutory scheme proposed must take account of:
  - EU Recognition / Mobility requirements
  - Existing statutory arrangements
  - Public interest
  - Consensus of industry stakeholders
  - Competition (rights of new entrants and existing operators)
  - Consumer Protection
  - Accountability
  
- Stakeholder Consultation; RIA; Parliamentary timetable.





# Can an Architectural Technologist become a registered professional?

- Yes!
- Building Control Act 2007 and Directive 2005/36/EC (on Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications)



# Relevant Routes to Registration as Architect/Surveyor (BC Act 2007)

## ■ Architect:

- Section 14(2)(f): 7 years practical experience, and pass a prescribed register admissions examination (ARAE Ltd, UCD Campus Company)

## ■ Building Surveyor:

- Section 43(2)(b)/(e) member of surveying section of CIOB/CABE with two years experience
- Section 43(2)(g) & Section 44 (qualifications from other member states)

**N.B. Every application decided on its individual merits**

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# Towards independent registration of Architectural Technologists

- Welcome QQI Panel to define a common standard
  - Outcome will depend on industry consensus
  - Department's perspective –
    - Desired outcome is that registered persons can sign statutory certificates of compliance
    - Helpful if standard reflects both educational and vocational criteria e.g. code of standards to which practitioners adhere
  - Time is of the essence
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# Thank You!

## GENERAL ENQUIRIES

- [www.environ.ie/buildingstandards](http://www.environ.ie/buildingstandards)
- [buildingstandards@environ.ie](mailto:buildingstandards@environ.ie)



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