

Report from the ACCS School Building Projects Advisor 2020/2021

In my role as ACCS School Building Projects Advisor I provide advice and assistance to Boards of Management and Principals in all Building related matters.

I had contact with 76 Community & Comprehensive Schools in 2020.

Advice/Assistance was sought in the following areas:

Tendering for consultants, lists of consultants, marking tenders, attending design team meetings, additional accommodation application including ASD units, emergency works applications, appeals, DES audits, snag lists, special needs, fire safety, heating issues, leaks, refurbishments, furniture and equipment lists, accessibility issues, energy efficiency, SEAL, sports capital grants, school grounds and maintenance issues.

Emergency Works:

A new circular letter 0068/2020 was issued in relation to emergency works. Since 5th October 2020 all applications must be made on the Esinet system under "Devolved Project" section. A qualified consultant must be employed to write up the report. However, you must ensure that all boxes are completed and that the consultant has signed and stamped the form and added their insurance details. The form must also be signed by the Chairperson of the Board of Management. If any of these have been omitted the application will not be processed, but you won't be informed of this. If a month passes by without you hearing from them you should email or ring regarding the application. Results of the outcome of the application will be communicated through Esinet only.

The wording of the report from the consultant can be critical to a positive outcome. **If you wish you can send me the report before you upload it to Esinet and I will advise you on any recommended changes.**

When emergency works, Summer works or additional accommodation projects are approved by the Department of Education and Skills, a tender process must take place regarding the appointment of a consultant. I am available to assist Principals and Boards of Management in carrying out the tendering process and issuing all the relevant paperwork.

In 2020 I assisted in 91 Tenders.

- 29 Emergency Works Projects were granted in Community & Comprehensive schools (mechanical & electrical-10, special needs-5, roofs-9, fire safety-3, windows-1, external works-1)
- 13 Community & Comprehensive schools were granted additional accommodation projects (42 million euro approximately)
- 3 Community & Comprehensive schools were sanctioned for Summer works (only toilet refurbishments were considered this year)
- 3 Community & Comprehensive schools got SEAL energy upgrades
- 11 Community & Comprehensive schools were successful in obtaining sports capital grants ranging from €20,000 to €150,000

In 2020 there were building projects in 31 Community & Comprehensive schools ranging from being sanctioned by the Department of Education and Skills to nearing completion of their building project.

I can be contacted by email jmtwohig@gmail.com by phone 086 8158518 or by contacting ACCS Office Head on 01 4601150.

Jim Twohig,
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