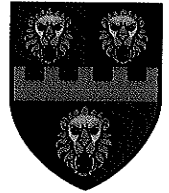


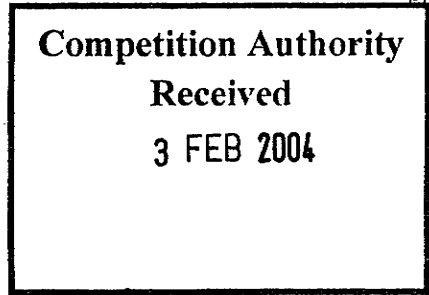


Association of Building Engineers



Promoting Excellence for over **75** years

The Competition Authority  
Parnell House  
Parnell Square  
DUBLIN 1  
Ireland



DRG/GIS/A296

30 January 2004

Dear Sir

**Competition Professional Services in Ireland Consultation – Architects**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above proposals, I apologise for this slightly delayed response, this is due to consultations taking place internally.

It is noted that the term 'architect' is not protected in Ireland and that the registration process would offer protection. The Association has no problems with the registration and protection of titles provided the functions and duties provided within the industry are not restricted and can be provided by professionals within the industry.

The proposals recognise the skills and competencies of architects, and professional standards are supported.

In reviewing openness and fair competition, this is considered to be an essential component within the industry. The papers suggest that this freedom is available.

As an Association we do not issue scales of charges or fee criteria as we believe fees reflect the nature of the schemes and clients service requirements, and are unique to a specific project.

Entrance to any register proposed, must be fair and transparent to all, both entrants via traditional routes and those based on experience "grandfather rights".

In respect of media, free exposure should be fair and available to all.

I am aware that our Irish Branch has responded more fully to the proposals and I am seeking to offer further comments and at this juncture would support the registration process.

Yours sincerely

**David R Gibson**  
Chief Executive

The Association of Building Engineers

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