

**Call for Expressions of Interest –
Member of Timber in Construction Working Group
10th July 2023**

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified representative bodies for membership to the Timber in Construction Working Group. The initial commitment from members will be for two years. The Timber in Construction Working Group aims to develop a forum with Government and Industry to work collaboratively across a number of areas. The purpose of the group will be;

- To create the conditions to increase the use of timber in construction whilst ensuring the highest degree of building safety and property protection;
- To examine regulatory, standards and challenges; and
- To maximise the use of home-grown timber in construction.

Membership

The membership of the Working Group will be limited, and the final number will be decided following the level of expressions of interest received. It is important to note that suitable representative bodies and/or individuals not selected for membership of the Working Group may be invited to join a number of thematic groups to work on key areas and participate in stakeholder workshops.

Although the industry membership of the Working Group will be primarily limited to representative bodies we would also like to hear from individuals and experts on timber in construction who may be willing to participate in thematic groups and provide advice over the course of the Group's timeframe.

Stakeholders from public, professional bodies and industry representatives will receive invitations to join the Timber in Construction Working Group once selected. These stakeholders will provide input on the construction, housing, fire safety, design and built environment sector. The members will be appointed by the Minister of State with responsibility for Land Use and Biodiversity at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Membership of the Working Group shall be on a voluntary basis. Any costs incurred by members in the activities of the Group shall be borne by the members or their parent organisations. Funding will be available to the Working Group, which may decide to commission studies as may be required.

The Minister of State will also be contacting relevant Departments directly for inclusion in the Timber in Construction Working Group and will appoint a Chair to the group once its membership has been finalised.

Applications

Expressions of interest should be submitted by **15:00, 28th July 2023** via email to TimberConstructionGroup@agriculture.gov.ie and should include the following documentation:

1. Appendix A: From this document, Appendix A should be filled in and submitted specifying the thematic areas that would be of most interest which you could contribute to.
2. Appendix B: From this document, Appendix B should be filled in and submitted with a statement of suitability for membership briefly outlining how you fulfil the criteria (approximately 300 words). Individual experts who do not wish to join the Working Group but who have relevant expertise and may wish to join thematic groups to work on key areas and or participate in stakeholder workshop can also provide details on this form, and their information will be retained for this purpose.
3. Curriculum Vitae

Information and Queries

- Any queries or requests for clarification relating to this request for expressions of interest may be directed to: TimberConstructionGroup@agriculture.gov.ie
- All queries and requests for clarification will be responded to by email.

Applications are invited for membership to the Timber in Construction Working Group

About the Timber in Construction Working Group

The 'Housing for All' Secretary General Industry Capability Working Group understands the importance and role that timber (including Cross Laminated Timber) can play in decarbonising the built environment and future construction. An Interdepartmental group including the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage; the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications; and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment has developed draft terms of reference for an interdepartmental and industry Timber in Construction Working Group. The aim of this group is to develop a forum across Government and Industry to work collaboratively to achieve the mission statement below.

With a view to decarbonising and reducing the carbon intensity of materials in buildings, change will be required in Ireland's construction sector and this group can lay the groundwork for future building environments. The Department of Agriculture Food and Marine will act as secretariat to the interdepartmental & industry Working Group. It is envisaged that the group stakeholders' expertise and capabilities as well as external knowledge will produce deliverables that are beneficial to industry and policy.

Membership

Stakeholders from public & professional bodies will receive invitations to join the Timber in Construction Working Group following the closure of the stated window for submission of expressions of interest. These stakeholders will provide input on the construction, housing, fire safety, design and built environment sector. This model will allow industry representation and will allow the group's focus to identify key issues

surrounding research, development and innovation gaps surrounding timber in construction.

Membership of the Working Group shall be on a voluntary basis. Any costs incurred by members in the activities of the group shall be borne by the members or their parent organisations.

Mission	To develop a forum with Government and Industry to work collaboratively I. to create the conditions to increase the use of timber in construction whilst ensuring the highest degree of building safety and property protection; II. to examine regulatory, standards and challenges; and III. to maximise the use of home-grown timber in construction.
Approach	Providing a forum for active stakeholders in timber construction to examine regulatory challenges and standards to provide policy solutions and innovative approaches to further the use of timber in construction.
Group Themes	The group will have 5 themes, in accordance with which thematic groups will be created that utilise individual members' expertise. These thematic groups may include nongroup members: Theme 1: Market opportunity Theme 2: Regulation, Standards and Compliance Theme 3: Public Procurement and Demonstration Projects Theme 4: Research and Development Theme 5: Communication, Education, Training and Public Awareness
Member requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Familiarity with the challenges and opportunities relevant to the increased the use of timber in construction;• A proven track-record at a senior level of identifying key strategic challenges and addressing them through targeted interventions, working collaboratively with a range of public and private stakeholders;• A working knowledge across at least one of the following sectors: construction, housing, fire safety, design or built environment.• Critical thinking skills with a proven ability to grasp the detail of a wide range of issues;• Demonstrated understanding of the policy development process;• Experience of participation on similar committees or groups.
Duration	The term of membership to the group will commence once appointed. The commitment from members will be for two years (24 months).
Time Commitment	The Timber in Construction Working Group will meet 5 times per year and deliver outputs which include report findings to stakeholders and policy makers. Thematic groups will meet more often depending on the tasks required
Administrative Support	Secretariat/administrative support will be provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

How to apply	Send the following to TimberConstructionGroup@agriculture.gov.ie : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Appendix A: Indicate the thematic areas most relevant to your expertise. • Complete Appendix B: A statement of suitability for membership briefly outlining how you fulfil the criteria (approximately 300 words). • Curriculum Vitae
Selection Process	Appendix C outlines the selection process and criteria to determine suitability, availability, and absence of conflict of interest.
Closing date for applications	15:00, 28 th July 2023 via email to TimberConstructionGroup@agriculture.gov.ie

Appendix A:

Please indicate in the table below the thematic areas most relevant to your expertise and wish to contribute on. On a scale of 1-5, please indicate starting with 1, which is of most interest.

Theme	Indicate Interest (1-5)
Theme 1: Market opportunity	
Theme 2: Regulation, Standards and Compliance	
Theme 3: Public Procurement and Demonstration Projects	
Theme 4: Research and Development	
Theme 5: Communication, Education, Training and Public Awareness	

Please indicate using X on the appropriate box below:

I wish to be considered for membership of the Working Group:

OR

I do not wish to be considered for membership of the group, but I have specific expertise that I can provide to the group:

Appendix C: Selection Process

An Assessment Panel will be convened to consider and assess the expressions of interest received against the specific appointment criteria for membership. The Assessment Panel will arrive at a shortlist of the most suitably qualified candidates (based on the information provided by the candidates) to be sent forward for consideration by the Minister for State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Candidates will be scored according to the selection criteria required for the role as outlined in Skills and Experience and detailed below. A maximum of 600 points may be awarded, and scores will be awarded depending on the strength of evidence of each criterion demonstrated by the applicant's CV and cover letter.

Personal Specifications

1. Demonstrated understanding of the challenges and opportunities relevant to the increased the use of timber in construction (200 points).
2. A proven track-record at a senior level of identifying key strategic challenges and addressing them through targeted interventions working collaboratively with a range of public and private stakeholders (100 points).
3. A working knowledge across at least one of the following sectors: construction, housing, fire safety, design or built environment (200 points).
4. Experience of participation on similar committees or groups (100 points).