

The Society of  
**Chartered**   
**Surveyors**

**SURVEYORS EXPRESS DISAPPOINTMENT AT GOVERNMENT INACTION  
SCS CLAIMS 100,000 CONSTRUCTION JOBS AT RISK IN 2010**

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009.** The Society of Chartered Surveyors has said it is disappointed that no action has been taken in the budget to manage the unprecedented decline of the construction industry.

The SCS had called on the Government to implement the proposals of the Construction Industry Council (CIC) which called for additional investment in infrastructure. The investment, equivalent to €5bn per annum for three years, would save 70,000 jobs while improving overall economic performance and competitiveness.

The President of the SCS, Ken Cribbin said a further cut of €960 million in investment projects will compound a further increase in unemployment within the construction industry where 100,000 jobs are already at risk in the first half of 2010 as a number of major infrastructure projects reach completion.

“The announcement to introduce a ‘National Solidarity Bond’ is welcomed as a vehicle to encourage investment in infrastructure, however, further detail is required. It is important that such an initiative be expedited to protect jobs that are under threat” Cribbin said.

The SCS welcomed the Ministers proposal to undertake an immediate review of property tax. “There is a need to widen the tax base as there has been a lengthy period of over-reliance on stamp duty. Such a tax should be implemented hand-in-hand with a reduction in stamp duty rates. The SCS would welcome the opportunity to have input into this review” Cribbin said.

The SCS said it also supported the recent announcement by the Minister to undertake an ‘efficiency review’ of the Local Authorities. Streamlining the number and operation of local authorities will facilitate efficiencies in management structure. Consolidating the various local authorities should lead to improvements in coordination and implementation of planning and development policy.

**For Further Information**

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