

# The Society of Chartered Surveyors

- **SCS President warns construction employment could fall by another 100,000**
- **Unemployment among Southern graduate surveyors 17% above national average**

**Thursday November 5<sup>th</sup> 2009:** The President of the Society of Chartered Surveyors has warned that employment in the construction industry is going to suffer more in the next few months before things might begin to improve. Ken Cribbin was speaking at the Southern Region Annual SCS Dinner, which was held in the Maryborough House Hotel on Friday last (Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>). Over 200 guests attended the event, including Michael Barrett, Chairman of the SCS Southern Region Committee. Several other committee members from the Southern Region were also present, including Isobel O'Regan, John Lavelle, Brian O'Driscoll, and Paul Hannon.

In his speech at the annual dinner, Mr. Cribbin highlighted some stark figures. He told guests that at the height of the boom, the construction industry represented 18% of total employment in the economy. According to the Construction Industry Council, the absence of an intervention by way of a stimulus package, combined with the completion of several large projects means up to a further 100,000 jobs in construction are under threat in the first six months of 2010. There is a real fear that employment in this industry could fall as low as 120,000 from a peak of 400,000.

The situation is especially challenging in the south of the country. In a recent graduate survey carried out by the Society of Chartered Surveyors, it emerged that 40% of all graduate surveyors throughout the country have lost their job. Yet the figure for the south indicates that up to 57%

of graduates in that region are now unemployed. These figures are indeed cause for great concern.

In order to address this situation, Mr. Cribbin also mentioned that the SCS is meeting on an on-going basis with representatives from the Department of Finance. However, he told guests that the pace of decision making is extremely slow and leading to great frustration for all involved. Finally, Mr. Cribbin thanked the members for their support in these turbulent times and encouraged them to remain positive during this “challenging period of overwhelming change.”

**Issued by:**

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