

Marcella proposes “Grandfathers Clause” for architects

A proposal to include a “Grandfathers Clause” into the qualification procedure for architects has been put forward by Laois/Offaly Fine Gael TD, Marcella Corcoran Kennedy.

The local Deputy put forward her proposal following last week’s meeting of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment, Community and Local Government, of which she is a member. The Committee was discussing the Building Control Act 2007 and the registration of the title architect and heard submissions from the Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland (RIAI).

“Architects who have many years of experience are extremely worried about a new EU Directive which would see them having to sit exams in order to be accepted by the RIAI, and they are seeking to have a “Grandfather Clause” inserted into any new legislation, which I think is perfectly reasonable given their vast experience” said Deputy Corcoran Kennedy.

The Deputy heard submissions from many local architects who will be affected by the EU Directive, and also by the proposed amendments to the building regulations, and she said many of them face having their livelihood “completely wiped out” if the changes, as planned, are given the go-ahead.

“Many vastly experienced architects who are in the 55 to 65 year age bracket should not be required to re-sit exams in order to be accepted into the RIAI, and for that reason I am proposing that a so-called “Grandfather Clause” be inserted into the building legislation as a matter of urgency” said Deputy Corcoran Kennedy.

“It would be unreasonable to expect any professional in that age bracket to have to re-sit exams in order to qualify for membership of their professional body, and I am appealing to all sides in this debate to see reason, and to accept that architects who have worked for many years as professionals have more than proved their worthiness to qualify as members of the RIAI” added the Deputy.

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