



Mr. Christophe Krief
Architects' Alliance
12A Kennelsfort Road lwr.
Palmerstown
Dublin 20

By Email

12 April 2010

SCR-2010-49

Re: RIAI Register of Architects

Dear Mr. Krief,

I refer to your email of 24 March 2010 in which you raise a number of concerns about the content of the Building Control Act 2007 and the manner in which the Act is being implemented by the regulatory body, the RIAI.

We have received a number of complaints from members of Architects' Alliance in recent weeks and have given careful consideration to the issues raised. We would make the following points in reply:

- The content of the Building Control Act 2007 was agreed following a long process of consultation and discussion, stretching over several years. The Competition Authority was involved in this process, along with groups representing architects, building surveyors and others. If you continue to have concerns about the content of the Act, these concerns would be best directed to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
- When the policy of statutory registration for architects was debated, we argued strenuously that the registration body should be completely independent of professional representation. This was precisely to avoid conflicts of interest arising between the RIAI's dual roles as regulator and representative body. Unfortunately, our recommendation on this matter was not implemented.
- The advertising campaign undertaken by the RIAI to promote the new register for architects was, in our view, premature. We note that the

Broadcasting Authority of Ireland recently upheld your complaint that the campaign was "misleading". We have voiced our concern to the RIAI on this matter. We believe it was inappropriate to run an advertising campaign of this sort at a time when it was not yet possible for anyone other than members of the RIAI to be enrolled on the new register. Our understanding is that the RIAI does not plan to engage in further promotion or advertising of the register for some time to come.

- Your concerns about the level of the fees charged by the RIAI for registration and ARAE Ltd for examination are not matters suited to the use of our legal powers. Section 73 of the Building Control Act 2007 requires the registration body (the RIAI) to keep and publish records of its income and expenditure for the performance of its functions under the Act each year. These records would expose any ill-practice on the part of the RIAI in terms of the registration fees.

I hope that this letter has been of assistance to you. If you would like to discuss the matter further, please feel free to call me on 01-8045466.

Yours [Click here to type sign-off]

[Click here to type Your Name]
[Click here to type Your Job Description]
[Click here to type Your Division]

[Click here to type Your Tel. Number]
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