



Association of Electrical Contractors (Ireland)
Woodview Centre, Main Street, Celbridge, Co. Kildare
Phone: 01 288 6499; Fax: 01 288 5870
Website: www.aeci.ie Email: aeci@indigo.ie

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RE: RESULT of the AECI Member's Ballot on "Labour Court Recommendations"

AECI Members have voted by a large majority to reject the recommendations of the Labour Court for a 4.9% wage increase, paid over two phases, for the Electrical Contracting Industry. Members are adamant that it would be impossible to recover these cost increases from their customers, in the current economic climate and that Electrical Contractors would not be in a position to carry these costs themselves. All businesses are under immense financial pressure at this time and our members are no exception to this position, with requests for 10% to 25% reductions in charge out rates now becoming the norm.

Electrical Contractors are locked into fixed price contracts going forward to the end of 2010 and in the case of Government Contracts, prices are fixed for forty two months. It is clear from the feedback from AECI Members that no wage increase can be afforded until the Government addresses the issues of pre-qualification, fixed price tendering, non-compliance with the REA and Electrical Contractors from out of state who seemingly can operate in this country at a fraction of the costs incurred by compliant local Electrical Contractor.

Members have also expressed the view that any alteration in wage rates must be part of a review of the conditions of the REA.

AECI wishes to appeal to all parties to get back to discussions and give sufficient time to arrive at a solution that will be beneficial to everybody involved and for the good of the country at large in these difficult times. For AECI's part we will be available at all times to discuss these matters with the appropriate bodies and hope that a long lasting solution acceptable to all can be worked out.

Yours Sincerely,

Jack Hegarty
President