

The Society of Chartered Surveyors



PETER STAPLETON ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS

NEW PRESIDENT URGES SCS MEMBERS TO SUPPORT MERGER PROPOSAL WITH IAVI

SCS CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL PROPERTY REGISTER WITHOUT DELAY

Tuesday 11th May 2010. Peter Stapleton has been elected as the new President of the Society of Chartered Surveyors.

Stapleton, is Managing Director of Lisney and has over 35 years experience in transacting and valuing commercial property.

In his inaugural address to SCS members, Stapleton gave his full backing to a merger proposal with the Irish Auctioneers and Valuers Institute, urging members of the SCS to support the upcoming vote on a merger.

In his speech he said that the opportunity to establish a key single professional body for property and construction professionals will provide a platform to create a strong and unified body that can deliver better services to members and ensure high and uniform educational standards for the property and construction sectors in Ireland.

'I am positively in favour of the proposed merger with the IAVI and I do hope that members will support the recommendations of the SCS Council in this regard' he said.

Stapleton also pointed out that the SCS has for some time been advocating total transparency in the property market through the establishment of a national property register to include comprehensive information on all freehold and leasehold transactions and lease variations.

'This information could be properly analysed by agents and valuers including those involved in arbitrations where a lack of transparency has led to considerable commercial issues that have been the subject of discussion in the Dail. The information could also be used as an efficient base for the collection of a wide range of property taxes where much duplication exists' Stapleton said.

In a wide-ranging address Stapleton reiterated the SCS's support for a widening of the tax base through the introduction of an equitable annual property tax which minimizes any anomalies that may exist between urban and rural property and which takes account of the ability of the owner/occupier to pay it.

He also pointed out that the construction industry will be an important part of the solution to the present unemployment crisis and he welcomed the fact that the Department of Finance had agreed to commence a series of bilateral engagements with the professional bodies on the Governments' overall capital investment policy.

'Indeed these are just some examples where the proposed merger with the IAVI would allow us to provide an enhanced service to all stakeholders in our economy and to articulate our recommendations in a better resourced unified manner' Stapleton concluded.