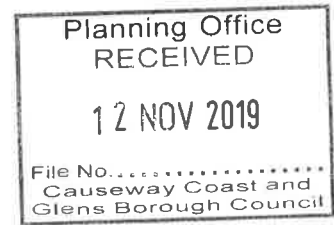




RSUA



Royal Society of Ulster Architects

11 November 2019

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
Planning Office
Cloonavin
66 Portstewart Road
Coleraine
BT52 1EY

Dear Sir/Madam

We are writing to draw attention to a matter that has been raised recently by our membership in relation to the use of the protected term 'architect'.

Some elected members of Council may be unaware of legislation which protects the use of the title architect, and our members are obviously focused on this issue. Under Section 20 of the Architects Act 1997, the title 'architect' is protected. It can only be used in business or practice by someone who has had the education, training and experience needed to become an architect, and who is registered with ARB. The register can be found at <http://architects-register.org.uk/>.

Our members report that the term 'architect' is often used in planning departments across NI and the wider Council planning context to describe any agent who submits planning applications when in fact the agent may not be at all qualified as such. The intent of the regulation of the term architect, as defined by ARB states that the registration Act "protects the public from dishonest individuals who deliberately mislead people by calling themselves something they're not".

The use of 'architect' as a generic term in the context of the planning process, unfortunately adds to public confusion and can make it easier for the public to be misled. This is particularly the case in the context of applications for single dwellings where this is often the only time that a person engages with the planning and construction process.

Accordingly, we would be grateful for a reminder being issued through the Council's planning committee processes, to advise elected representatives that only those persons on the Register of Architects held by ARB can be referred to as architects, and that the phrase cannot and should not be used as a generic term of reference.

We appreciate that the issue is a widespread problem, not just within planning, but we would be grateful for your support in avoiding confusion that can mislead the public and be detrimental to our profession.

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[Continued overleaf]

There may well be opportunity for us to assist further in understanding and explanation and we are of course willing to assist where useful.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ciarán Fox'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a stylized 'F'.

Ciarán Fox
Director