

From: [Ciaran Canavan](#)
To: [UREGNI Electricity Networks Responses](#)
Cc: [Craig, Alan](#)
Subject: RP7 Price Control Draft Determination - Stakeholder Consultation Response
Date: 22 March 2024 11:58:59
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image012.png](#)

**Caution – This email has been received from outside the NICS network.
Please ensure you can verify the sender's name and email address.
Treat all attachments and links with caution.
FOR INTERNAL NICS STAFF ONLY - If you have any concerns regarding the email
please forward to spam@finance-ni.gov.uk.**

'CONFIDENTIAL'

To Whom it may concern,

Fox Building and Engineering Ltd have successfully been engaged with NIE Networks in collaboratively delivering the B930 Civil Engineering Works contract over the past 12 years during the RP5 & RP6 period. Within this time we have successfully completed approximately 50% of the awarded works packages within this mini-competitions framework. Having reviewed your Price Control Draft Determination for RP7 we would like to express our concerns with the challenges faced by all in the delivery of the RP7.

Fox Building and Engineering Ltd have invested substantially in this field of work as we have continued to grow with NIE Networks in terms of increased knowledge of their requirements and delivering successful projects on time and to budget. A lot of our investment to date was in sourcing suitable plant for the role but more substantially a large portion of our investment was actually in our people in terms of sourcing adequate bespoke training for the carefully selected staff, providing the necessary specific PPE and tools to complete their tasks safely in with confidence. This NIE Network's working environment is very specific with a lot of safety rules and procedures to follow and so we have invested heavily in sourcing and allocating the best resource for the tasks, we want to keep continuity of work to retain the resource allocated and maintain consistency in delivering to highest of standards within the necessary timeframes.

This industry has become very difficult in terms of retaining the very minimal group of resource that are willing to work in this environment as we face the challenges of other construction areas poaching our highly trained and knowledgeable staff to engage on other areas of construction with less "Red Tape if you like" with better rates of pay, along with the higher rate of young entries to construction then emigrating to other parts of the world to seek better conditions. This along with the ever rising costs of basically running any business in NI at the moment, with daily issues on material shortages and price increases creates a uncertainty for us as we approach RP7. During the RP6 period in particular, the RPI's were not truly reflective of the unrepresented increases due to COVID, BRExit and War and so left it a very challenging time for us all to maintain an economical business within this field of work.

While we like the continuity of local work and have built up a good resource engaged in these NIE Networks projects, we do not forecast to be able to continue to carryout works the same portion of works in this field as there are other opportunities, of work in other areas of the Civil Engineering field, that will be more profitable and easier to resource with the fewer challenges. If the RPI would be increased to a more realistic value it would allow us more flexibility in terms of rewarding the staff in

money value to help retain and encourage new staff to come on board to these works and likewise suitable increase in line with material and other resource rises it would help a lot in a bid to continue to work on NIE Network sites delivering what we know and do best.

As we continue to grow and try to increase our staff and resource to meet NIE Networks requirements in delivering the required works programmes within this B930 Civil Engineering contract, we hope you will give careful consideration and allocate the necessary budget to meet your current planned investment for RP7, so we can continue to help you in delivering the necessary infrastructure our country needs, for us and our future generations to enjoy.

Kind Regards,

Ciaran

