

# **An Irish Professional Body for Geologists**

## **Proposal for presentation to Councils of potential sponsoring bodies**

**September 1998**

**EUGENE DALY  
JULIAN MENUGE  
EurGeol CHRISTIAN SCHAFFALITZKY**

for the  
Professional Affairs Committee  
of the  
Irish Association for Economic Geology

The Professional Affairs Committee is chaired by Dr E. Doyle PMIAEG (IGA). It is composed of EurGeol Dr J. Clifford PMIAEG, Mr E. Daly (IAH), Dr P. Gardiner (IAEG, IMQS), EurGeol G. Ll. Jones PMIAEG (IGA, PESGB), Dr J. Menuge (IAEG, IGA), Mr B. Murphy (Geotechnical Section IEI), Mr N. O'Neill (Irish Members PESGB), Dr M. Philcox (IAEG, IGA, IQUA), EurGeol C. Schaffalitzky PMIAEG, MIMM.

### ***Table of Contents***

#### **Summary**

#### **Introduction**

#### **Background**

#### **Other professions in Ireland**

#### **The geology profession outside Ireland**

#### **The European Federation of Geologists**

#### **Discussion**

#### **Proposal**

*Name of the new body*

*Functions*

*Membership*

*Viability and finance*

*Relationship to the sponsoring bodies*

*Transitional management structure*

*Elected management structure*

#### **Schedule**

**Promotion and a programme of activities for the first year**

#### **Conclusions**

## **Summary**

The Irish Association for Economic Geology (IAEG) has provided professional certification (PMIAEG) for geologists in Ireland since 1992 and also acts as the vetting agency for EurGeol, the European professional geological title, in Ireland. After a debate at their AGM in 1996 the IAEG set up the Professional Affairs Committee (PAC), which included non-members, to review the status of the profession of geology in Ireland and make recommendations to improve it.

At the early PAC meetings concern was expressed at the progress of professional registration and the status of geologists in Ireland. It became apparent that there was a need for some form of new body based in Ireland to represent the interests of all geologists on professional matters. It was also felt that to successfully promote the profession of geology and the interests of geologists, there was a need for one strong unified body that could speak on behalf of all geologists working in the country.

The PAC examined the possibility of setting up a new body for geologists that would award professional certification to all eligible geologists, and develop professional activities and services on behalf of members. An outline proposal for the formation of such a body was considered by the existing geological groups and societies, and individual geologists, over the winter of 1997/1998. This outline proposal received a broadly favourable response.

The current document represents the views of the PAC and incorporates comments made by existing geological groups and societies and individual geologists. It is proposed to set up a new body called “The Institute of Geologists of Ireland” (IGI) to provide professional certification and look after the professional interests of geologists in Ireland. The IGI will in effect take over the work of the IAEG that relates to professional matters.

It is proposed that initially membership will be restricted to two classes: Professional Member of the Institute of Geologists of Ireland (PGeo) and Member of the Institute of Geologists of Ireland (MIGI).

The IGI will need to have a significant yearly income in order to carry out the activities necessary to make an impact in the first few years of its existence. To help fund the Institute in its early years it is proposed that the existing geological groups and societies, to which most geologists belong, provide a certain amount of sponsorship.

This document sets out the management structure and a budget for the Institute in its early years. It also sets out some of the functions and activities that will be necessary to establish the IGI on a firm footing. It is proposed to launch the Institute of Geologists of Ireland on April 30th 1999.

The complete PAC proposal in this document is being submitted to the Councils of potential sponsoring bodies for comment. A revised document will then be available for consideration at the AGMs of these bodies over the winter of 1998/1999.

The PAC believe that the proposed Institute of Geologists of Ireland is viable and can meet the long term objectives of professional geologists if given the encouragement and active support of geologists in Ireland.

## **Introduction**

The Irish Association for Economic Geologists (IAEG) has provided professional registration (PMIAEG) for geologists in Ireland since 1992. The IAEG is also the only Irish national body affiliated to the European Federation of Geologists (EFG) and empowered to register the title of “European Geologist” in Ireland.

There are a number of other “geobodies” in Ireland that are essentially “learned societies” but do carry out limited or occasional activities of a professional nature on behalf of members, e.g. representations to government. Some members of these organisations are also professional members of the IAEG.

A discussion on professional membership at the IAEG Annual General Meeting in December 1996 resulted in a motion to review in greater depth the whole issue of the “Profession of Geology”. As a result, the then president (Dr E. Doyle) set up the IAEG Professional Affairs Committee (PAC), including non-members of the IAEG, to review how the profession was represented today and what it could do to improve representation in the future. The PAC has evolved to include representatives of all geobodies wishing to participate in the ongoing process.

After preliminary discussions the PAC agreed that to achieve the objectives of professional geologists in Ireland, there was a need for a body which was more fully representative of the profession. This was not to detract from the achievements of the IAEG on behalf of its members and its willingness to act outside the sphere of economic geology. Rather, the committee felt that others such as palaeontologists or engineering geologists find the existing IAEG title limiting and it would strengthen the profession if professional membership was conferred by an all-embracing geological professional body. This basic proposal was put to other geobodies in Ireland in late 1997 and early 1998 and received a broadly favourable response.

An Open Day, “Geology is Your Business”, to discuss the proposal to set up such a professional body was held in the Geological Survey of Ireland on March 19th 1998 and attracted about 80 participants. Speakers from the UK, USA and Spain were invited to the half-day meeting to outline the roles of their respective professional bodies. A speaker from the Institution of Engineers of Ireland discussed how professional issues are dealt with in the engineering profession in Ireland. Responses to a questionnaire distributed at the end of the meeting indicated strong support for the formation of the proposed professional body and suggested that it would have at least 50 members in its first year, including the current Professional Members of the IAEG.

This position paper represents the views of the PAC on professional affairs after a year’s examination and consideration of the options available to geologists in Ireland. It proposes the means by which a new professional body could be set up and outlines the costs and other administrative issues involved.

## **Background**

The need for professional registration of geologists has already been considered by the IAEG. The Irish Branch of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) has also recognised this need, in agreeing a mechanism with the IAEG for the professional registration of hydrogeologists. The arguments used are relevant to all geologists. A summary of the early IAEG discussions and those of the IAH are set out below.

At the initial meeting of the PAC, concern was expressed with the progress of professional registration and the status of geologists in Ireland. The main concerns addressed are as follows:

- The contribution geologists could make to modern society in Ireland were not being optimised.
- The PMIAEG certification is only a quality mark at this stage of its existence. Further recognition is important if this is to prove of value to its holders and to the public.
- Setting up the procedure for professional certification in the IAEG was the major achievement since 1992. However the PAC felt that there is a need for the development of other services to make professional membership attractive.
- The need to bring the training of geologists in line with the requirements of a modern profession.
- The need to broaden professional membership outside of economic geology (oil, minerals, quarrying) to other aspects of geology, e.g. hydrogeology, geophysics, academia/education, etc.
- To date progress on professional certification and standards has been almost entirely within the economic minerals sector. It is now time to extend this progress to other sectors of geology.
- Geologists are poorly organised, poorly paid and as a result geology is perceived as unattractive by graduates and amateurish by outsiders.
- If all geologists are represented and a sizeable proportion registered as professionals, geology will be in a better position to argue the case for better representation in society.

It was generally agreed that the word “economic” in the title was unhelpful to the wider body of geologists. It was felt that a professional body to cover all geologists was needed to give geologists the maximum influence in society in Ireland.

The PAC agreed to investigate further the possibility of setting up a professional body that would award professional certification to all eligible geologists in Ireland and develop professional activities and services on behalf of members.

### **Other professions in Ireland**

In reviewing the options available it is helpful to examine other professions already well organised in Ireland. Amongst these are engineers, doctors, solicitors and accountants. The professional standards in these areas and their organisation have been in existence for a long time. They also reflect the patterns of organisation which exist internationally. The case of the engineering profession serves as an example of what can be achieved.

The original charter for the Institution of Engineers of Ireland (IEI) was granted by the British Government in 1877. The charter was amended in 1960 to include all engineering. A charter amendment was introduced in the Daíl in 1969 as a Private Members Bill. The effect of this legislation is to protect the title of Engineer and to grant the IEI the right to control the title of Chartered Engineer.

In tandem with developments internationally, engineers have seen their profession grow to a point where they play a formal role in the life of the State.

Legislation and regulation in the areas of safety, environment, etc. are often under the exclusive control of engineers because their chartered status is recognised by the State. The PAC believe that the status of geology has been devalued because the profession has not kept pace with developments in modern society. Increasingly, professionals are required to introduce and administer procedures and protocols in their areas of competence. The absence of formal structures of this kind in geology mean that this responsibility is sought elsewhere, mainly from the engineering profession.

### **The geology profession outside Ireland**

In Europe the status of the profession varies considerably. In Italy the profession is strongest, supported by the Geologist's Law in the statute books.

In Spain and Portugal geology has some professional standing, with membership of their respective professional bodies required for employment in the Public Service. Geological reports in geotechnics require professional endorsement. Report writing for exploration licence administration is also regulated.

Elsewhere the importance of geology also varies. A useful measure of the importance of a national association is the size of its membership fee. The lower it is, the less well organised the profession. It is impossible for a national association to work effectively on behalf of its members if the fee per head is £10, as is the case in the Netherlands. In Denmark most working geologists are employed in universities or in the Public Service and they feel their profession is best represented by their respective unions.

Our nearest neighbour, the UK, has recently combined learned society and professional activities in the Geological Society. There, progress is similar to Ireland, with internal issues, such as a code of ethics, professional standards and continuing professional development being the current focus.

In the USA, the American Institute for Professional Geologists (AIPG) is the main body representing geologists' interests. They actively lobby politicians and legislators to ensure that the interests of geologists are pursued. This is important because many states have a regulatory framework for geology. Licencing of geologists is common in many states and a person cannot practice as a geologist, in these states, unless they acquire a licence. The AIPG and the IAEG have a reciprocal arrangement which allows their professional members to obtain fast-track certification with each other.

In Canada, the profession is going through the same review process as here in Ireland. Licencing of geologists already exists in most provinces.

### **The European Federation of Geologists**

Although the EFG has been in existence since 1980, it has taken a long time for it to become an active and representative voice for geology in Europe. It is largely underfinanced and suffers from the obvious difficulties of combining many languages and cultures. Its existence relies on the strength of support it receives from its constituent national bodies. The PAC believes that this support is inadequate and needs to be strengthened.

The IAEG has been a member association since 1988, representing Ireland, and its professional membership category was established to allow it to register the "European Geologist" title. The IAEG was one of the first national associations to take advantage of this registration.

It should be pointed out that the EFG is not a stand-alone option for professional affairs. The EFG relies on the national associations to administer such issues in each member country. It provides the means to achieve professional objectives at the European level, where much of the legislation and regulation originates in the European Union. This effort needs to be supported if the objectives of professional geology are to be achieved.

## **Discussion**

The PAC believes that geology is at a cross-roads. There is a trend in many universities to dilute the meaning of “geologist” and to focus on widening the term to include, for example, the environment. On the professional front, there has been a strong demand for geological expertise in the geotechnical and engineering geology fields but the profession has not reacted to the opportunity which this presents. Instead, engineers find themselves signing off geotechnical and other geological reports because geologists have no effective quality mark which modern professional practise requires in other fields. These requirements are gaining in importance because of legal liability and increasing regulation originating in the EU.

The present advantages of professionalism for Irish geologists include:

- The Irish Stock Exchange will only recognise reports written and signed by professional geologists, including PMIAEGs and EurGeols.
- In Ireland, PMIAEGs are recognised as having achieved a high standard of expertise in their fields.

*In Europe:*

- PMIAEG holders are recommended for the professional title of EurGeol.
- Holders of EurGeol receive the assistance of other national associations in those countries, and may use their facilities.
- EurGeols may purchase a seal to imprint their professional reports.
- In Spain, a EurGeol may be fast-tracked for an application for membership of ICOG, the national college of geologists. This is a legal requirement for geologists who wish to sign reports they have written in Spain.

The PAC believes that the profession of geology in Ireland needs to be restructured to allow it to play a more effective role in Irish life. The raising of standards internally and the search for better recognition for the profession should be the long term objectives.

The PAC proposes the creation of a professional body to look after the professional interests of geologists in Ireland. Details of the proposal are presented in the following pages.

## **Proposal**

### ***Name of the new body***

The PAC proposes the name “The Institute of Geologists of Ireland”, abbreviated to IGI. This has the advantage of comparability to the well established “Institution of Engineers of Ireland” (IEI).

### ***Functions***

The principal functions of, and services to be provided by, the proposed body are outlined below. These functions and services will be developed over a period of years.

- Promote the profession of geology in Ireland.
- Represent members’ professional interests with government, appropriate committees, media and society as a whole.
- Interface and work to develop good relations with other relevant geological bodies such as the National Committee for Geology, European Federation of Geologists, Geological Society of London and the American Institute of Professional Geologists.
- Ensure that regulations and legislation affecting geology and its profession are monitored and influenced.
- Accept applications from, and award professional certification to geologists. (PMIAEG has already accepted geologists who are not working in Ireland).
- Recommend geologists for the European Geologist title.
- Co-ordinate certain aspects of geology on behalf of sponsoring bodies.
- Contribute to appropriate scientific bodies.
- Arrange for professional indemnity insurance.
- Organise and run courses for members on professional aspects of geology.
- Establish web page services on behalf of members, including a job opportunities page.
- Comment to universities and colleges on the training of geologists and develop course accreditation.
- Produce appropriate registers, directories and accessories.
- Carry out other functions considered appropriate by the membership.

The Institute of Geologists of Ireland will in effect take over that work of the IAEG which relates to professional matters.

### ***Membership***

It is proposed that initially membership be restricted to two classes. The PAC proposes Professional Member of the Institute of Geologists of Ireland, abbreviation PGeo, and Member of the Institute of Geologists of Ireland, abbreviation MIGI, respectively.

It is recognised that use of the term “Geologist”, rather than “Geoscientist” or “Earth Scientist”, in the name of the IGI may be regarded as too narrow by some potential members. It is nevertheless recommended by the PAC because it is a term of longer standing and is more recognisable by people outside the profession.



Professional Members will be those whose application for membership has been validated by the Validation Committee of the IGI. A fast-track mechanism will be employed to validate those with existing professional validation from other bodies, including the IAEG, the Geological Society and other such bodies approved for this purpose by the Council (or Transitional Council, see below) of the IGI. Professional Members will require eight years relevant experience, including time spent acquiring a B.Sc. degree, and must present evidence of same such as will satisfy a Validation Committee set up by the IGI Council or Transitional Council.

Members will be those possessing a primary degree approved by the IGI Council or equivalent experience. Members must be approved by the Council of the IGI on the basis of evidence supplied to the Council of their geological qualifications and experience.

### *Viability and finance*

The above proposal is viable only if certain important parameters can be met:

- Most importantly, a significant number of geologists must be prepared to register as Professional Geologists with the IGI. The PAC estimates that the IGI must rapidly achieve at least 100 Professional Members to be self supporting.
- There will need to be financial support from other geobodies in Ireland, hereafter referred to as the sponsoring bodies, for several years.
- A considerably higher Professional Membership fee will be necessary than is currently paid by Professional Members of the IAEG.

The IGI will need to have a significant yearly income if it is to be in a position to carry out the activities necessary to make an impact in the first few years of its existence. To start on a reasonable financial footing the IGI will also need capital. A proposed budget for the first five years (Table 1) has been drawn up by the PAC. It is based on a number of assumptions, some of which require the approval of the sponsoring bodies.

The PAC believes that many geologists have not examined the issue of professionalism as applied to their work. The PAC believes that professional membership is in the interests of each working individual and is an essential ingredient in a successful career. The scale of fees for Professional Members will be a key issue. An annual fee of £100 is not a large sum when viewed in the context of a full working life in one's own profession. The PAC recognises that there is, at this stage in Ireland, a "chicken and egg" problem. However, it believes that if all geologists review the proposals in detail they will be seen to contain essential and achievable goals for promotion of the long term interests of geologists.

Recognising that the services deliverable by the IGI will inevitably start from a low base, it is proposed that the scale of fees laid down in Table 2 be adopted for the first five years.

Fees paid by the sponsoring bodies will be of crucial importance during the first five years. It is proposed that the sponsoring bodies undertake to pay a sponsorship fee for five years at the rates laid down in the accompanying budget (Table 1). Additional geological bodies may become sponsors by mutual agreement with the IGI at any time.

Table 1

## INSTITUTE OF GEOLOGISTS OF IRELAND

## Proposed Budget

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	IR£	IR£	IR£	IR£	IR£
<b>INCOME</b>					
Professional Membership	3,000	6,000	9,000	12,000	14,000
Professional Application Fees	600	800	800	900	1,000
Membership	100	250	450	600	875
Membership Application Fees	60	125	150	150	175
Corporate Sponsors	500	500	500	500	500
Sponsoring Bodies					
IAEG	4,000	3,000	3,000	2,000	2,000
IAH	1,250	750	750	750	750
IGA	700	700	700	700	700
IMQS	200	200	200	200	200
Geotech	200	200	200	200	200
Geophys	200	200	200	200	200
PESGB	200	200	200	200	200
IQUA	50	50	50	50	50
Publications	0	0	500	1,000	1,500
Lectures / Conferences	1,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,500
Courses	500	1,500	3,000	3,500	4,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>13,060</b>	<b>17,475</b>	<b>22,700</b>	<b>25,950</b>	<b>29,850</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
EFG affiliation fees	900	950	1,300	1,400	1,500
EFG expenses	1,200	1,275	1,350	1,425	1,500
Newsletter	500	500	600	700	800
Mail / Secretarial	3,000	4,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Lecture costs	1,500	2,000	2,500	2,500	3,000
Directory	0	1,500	1,500	2,000	2,000
Promotion	2,000	1,300	1,800	2,200	2,500
Publications	0	0	0	1,500	0
Professional Training	1,000	1,500	2,500	3,000	3,500
Company registration	500	0	0	0	0
Audit fees	0	900	1,000	1,000	1,100
Contingency	1,500	1,500	1,000	1,000	1,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>12,100</b>	<b>15,425</b>	<b>18,550</b>	<b>21,725</b>	<b>21,900</b>
<b>SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>4,150</b>	<b>4,225</b>	<b>7,950</b>

	Professional membership fees		Membership fees			
	Fee	IR£	No. of members	Fee	IR£	No. of members
Year 1999		60	50	20		5
Year 2000		75	80	25		10
Year 2001		90	100	30		15
Year 2002		100	120	30		20
Year 2003		100	140	35		25

---

**Table 2 Membership Fees**

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Professional Membership subscription	£60	£75	£90	£100	£100
Professional Membership application fee	£30	£35	£40	£45	£50
Membership subscription	£20	£25	£30	£30	£35
Membership application fee	£10	£10	£15	£15	£20

- All fees will be subject to increase from 2000. This will be at the discretion of the IGI Council or Transitional Council to allow for inflation and other contingencies, and with approval of the membership.
  - Application fees will be waived for applications received before 31st August 1999.
  - Applications for Professional Membership from Members of at least three years standing will be processed at a fee equal to the difference between the Membership application fee and the Professional Membership application fee.
- 

### ***Relationship to the sponsoring bodies***

The sponsoring bodies will retain full control over their own internal affairs and are free to fund raise their sponsorship fees as they see fit. The PAC hope that, after five years, the IGI will have sufficient membership and financial security to continue without such sponsorship. Nevertheless a flexible approach is proposed whereby, after five years, sponsorship by any or all of the sponsoring bodies may be discontinued unilaterally by either the IGI or by any sponsoring body, or it may be continued under mutually agreed terms. As set out below, the sponsoring bodies will be entitled to representation on the Transitional Council of the IGI.

### ***Transitional management structure***

The IGI will be inaugurated at an Inaugural General Meeting open to the members of all sponsoring bodies. This meeting will be held on Friday 30th April 1999 and the Agenda for the meeting will be drawn up by the PAC. When the IGI is inaugurated, a Transitional Council will come in to being to run the IGI and the PAC will cease to exist. The Transitional Council will comprise members nominated by the sponsoring bodies. A Constitution and Statutes for the IGI are under preparation by the PAC and will come into force at its launch.

Representation on the Transitional Council will be on the basis of the number of geologists (excluding amateur and student members) who are members of each sponsoring body in 1998. One representative per 50 geologists will be allowed. The sponsoring bodies alone will have sole authority to choose their representative(s). The level of representation of each sponsoring body will be fixed for the lifetime of the Transitional Council. Using provisional 1998 membership statistics, potential sponsoring bodies would be represented as shown in Table 3.

---

**Table 3 Representation on the Transitional Council**

IAEG	4
IGA	2
IAH (Irish Branch)	2
Geotechnical Society	1
PESGB (Irish members)	1
IQUA	1
IMQS	1
Geophysicists	1
TOTAL	13

---

The Transitional Council will elect a Board from amongst themselves comprising a President, up to two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

If not already members of the Transitional Council, Ireland's two EFG representatives and the Presidents of all sponsoring bodies will be entitled to be observers on the Transitional Council. As observers, they will be entitled to attend all meetings of the Transitional Council, receive Minutes and make suggestions, but will not be entitled to vote.

The Transitional Council will organise an AGM to be held in or around May 2000. If the Transitional Council deems it appropriate, this AGM or a subsequent EGM may be used as an opportunity to replace the Transitional Council with the first elected Council. If the Transitional Council is still in existence after two years, it must be replaced by an elected Council at an AGM held in May 2001.

During its period of office the Transitional Council will:

- Determine and prioritise a work programme.
- Establish committees from amongst its members to carry out the work of the Transitional Council.
- Complete the drafting of a Constitution and Statutes for the IGI and present them to the Professional Members at an AGM or EGM for adoption.
- Take over the validation of Professional Geologists from the IAEG.
- Affiliate to the EFG in place of the IAEG.
- Propose additional classes of member and appropriate membership fees.
- Finalise the arrangements for election of the elected Council.
- Carry out other functions deemed necessary by the Transitional Council to establish the IGI on a firm footing.
- Report on an agreed basis, for the lifetime of the Transitional Council, to a group comprising the Presidents of the sponsoring bodies.

#### ***Elected management structure***

Elections to the Council of the IGI will be by the Professional Members, who will elect the 10 members of the Council. Once a sufficient number of Members have joined the IGI, measures will be adopted to provide them with direct representation on the Council.

The election of Officers to the Council will be carried out in accordance with the terms of the Constitution and Statutes of the IGI, which will have been prepared by the Transitional Council.

## **Schedule**

To meet the objective of launching the new organisation on April 30th 1999, the PAC is adhering to a series of target dates.

### *Progress to date:*

#### End 1997

A proposal was put to other geobodies at their AGMs for agreement of an outline proposal.

#### January - March 1998

The PAC finalised details and took account of submissions from other geobodies.

#### 19th March 1998

A half day meeting on professional issues “Geology is Your Business” was held in the Geological Survey of Ireland.

#### March - September 1998

Further submissions were taken from potential sponsoring geobodies, leading to completion of this document.

#### September 1998

The PAC presents this document for discussion and amendment to the Councils of potential sponsoring geobodies.

### *Remaining deadlines:*

#### September - October 1998

The Councils of the potential sponsoring bodies examine this document.

#### October 16th 1998

Deadline for suggested amendments from the Councils of the potential sponsoring bodies to be passed to the PAC for incorporation in a revised version of this document.

#### November 1998 - March 1999

Geobodies agree to sponsor the Institute of Geologists of Ireland at their AGMs or at EGMs. Preparations are made by the PAC to set up the Transitional Council and launch the IGI. Sponsoring bodies select their representatives to sit on the Transitional Council.

#### March 19th 1999

Deadline for sponsoring bodies to inform the PAC of their nominees to the Transitional Council.

#### April 30th 1999

The Institute of Geologists of Ireland is formally launched under the Transitional Council.

#### May 2000 - May 2001

The Transitional Council holds an AGM or EGM for election of the first Council.

## **Promotion and a programme of activities for the first year**

It will be important to launch the organisation in the media and in professional and corporate circles. Promotional material will be prepared for dissemination to media, government departments, universities, other professional organisations and commerce.

The success of the concept will rest on efforts to raise the profile of geology and ensure that it plays a more important role in future. As Ireland is a small country with a limited number of geologists, it will be important to develop in parallel with the EFG's strategy in Europe.

The following programme of activities for the year May 1999 - April 2000 is suggested:

- Organise courses and lectures on professional aspects of geology, including report writing and legal aspects.
- Hold one or more fund-raising events, e.g. barbecues. One of these might be combined with the AGM in 2000.
- Organise events to promote the geological profession in society.

## **Conclusions**

The PAC are of the opinion that there is a need for one body to represent the professional interests of all geologists working in Ireland.

The PAC believe that the proposed Institute of Geologists of Ireland is viable and can meet the long term objectives of professional geologists if given the encouragement and active support of geologists in Ireland.