

COMPANY LAW REVIEW GROUP

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION: MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME

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A. Information about the FOI Body

Company Law Review Group

The Company Law Review Group (CLRG) is a statutory advisory expert body charged with advising the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation (the Minister) on the review and development of company law in Ireland. It was accorded statutory advisory status by the Company Law Enforcement Act 2001, which was continued under section 958 of the Companies Act 2014.

Membership

The members of the CLRG are appointed by the Minister in accordance with section 960 of the Companies Act 2014. The CLRG consists of members who have expertise and an interest in the development of company law, including practitioners (the legal profession and accountants), users (business and unions), regulators (implementation and enforcement bodies) and representatives from government departments including the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation. The Chairperson is nominated by the Minister from among the membership of the CLRG. The membership of the CLRG can be found here.

Annual Report

The CLRG is required under section 962 of the Companies Act 2014, to make a report to the Minister no later than three months after the end of each year. The report must be subsequently laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas no later than two months after the date of receipt of the report by the Minister. The annual reports of the CLRG can be found here.

Contact information

The CLRG maintains a website www.clrg.org, where it publishes its reports and the minutes of its meetings. The website also lists the members and sets out the current work programme.

The Secretariat to the CLRG is provided by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation. The Secretariat also receives queries relating to the work of the CLRG and is happy to assist members of the public. Contact may be made either through the website or directly to:

Ms. Tara Keane
Secretary to the Company Law Review Group
Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation
Earlsfort Centre
Lower Hatch Street
Dublin 2

Tel: (+353-(0) 1) 631 2675 Email: <u>tara.keane@dbei.gov.ie</u>

B. Services Provided or to be Provided to the Public

The Role of the CLRG

The CLRG was established to monitor, review and give advice to the Minister on company law matters. In so doing, it is required to "seek to promote enterprise, facilitate commerce, simplify the operation of the Act, enhance corporate governance and encourage commercial probity" (section 959(2) of the Companies Act 2014).

C. Decision Making Process for Major Policy Proposals

The Work Programme of the CLRG

In exercise of the powers under section 961(1) of the Companies Act 2014, the Minister, after consultation with the CLRG, determines the programme of work to be undertaken by the CLRG over the ensuing two year period. The Minister may also add items to the work programme as matters arise. The current work programme of the CLRG can be found here.

Policy Analysis

The CLRG has subcommittees which meet, as the need arises, in relation to items on the work programme, issues arising from the implementation of the Companies Act 2014 or matters arising such as court judgments in relation to company law. There are currently nine thematic subcommittees which facilitate the on-going review of company law. The CLRG meets in plenary session to discuss progress on the work programme, to deliberate policy issues and to formally adopt its recommendations and publications. The minutes of the plenary meetings of the CLRG can be found here.

Publications

The CLRG publishes its recommendations to the Minister either annually, in its annual reports or thematically, in stand-alone publications. The publications of the CLRG can be found here.

Policy Development

The CLRG presents its recommendations on matters in its work programme to the Minister. The Minister reviews the recommendations of the CLRG and decides the policy direction to be adopted.

D. Financial Information

Remuneration

The members of the CLRG give their services voluntarily. It is only the Chairperson who receives an honorarium, which currently stands at € 8,978 per annum. The honorarium is paid from the vote of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation (Vote 32).