



2020

Regulation of Lobbying Annual Report Highlights

Statistics

Figure 1 – New registrants in year 2015-2020

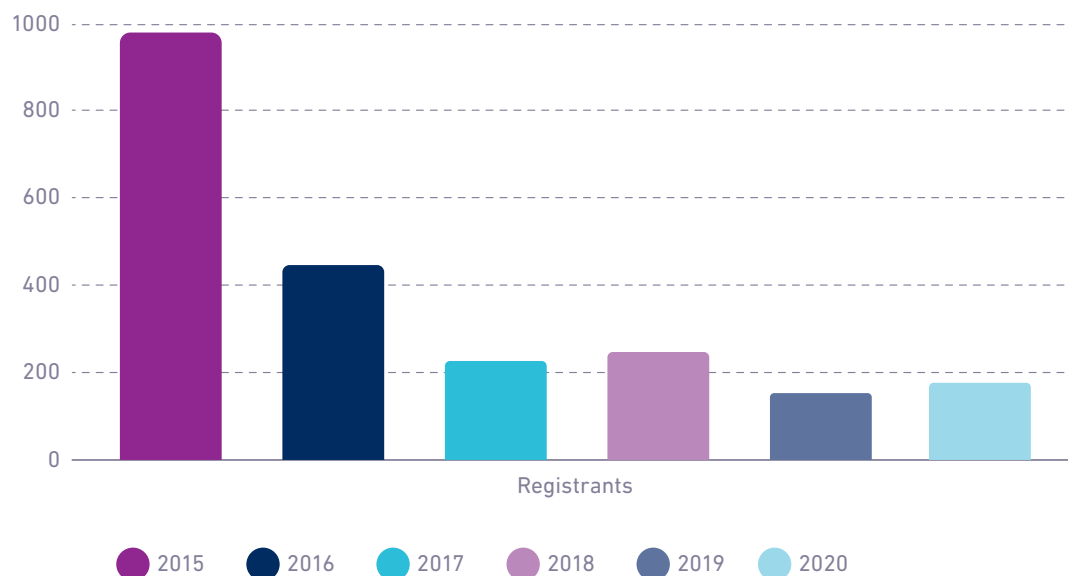


Figure 2 – Top five public policy matters lobbied about in 2020

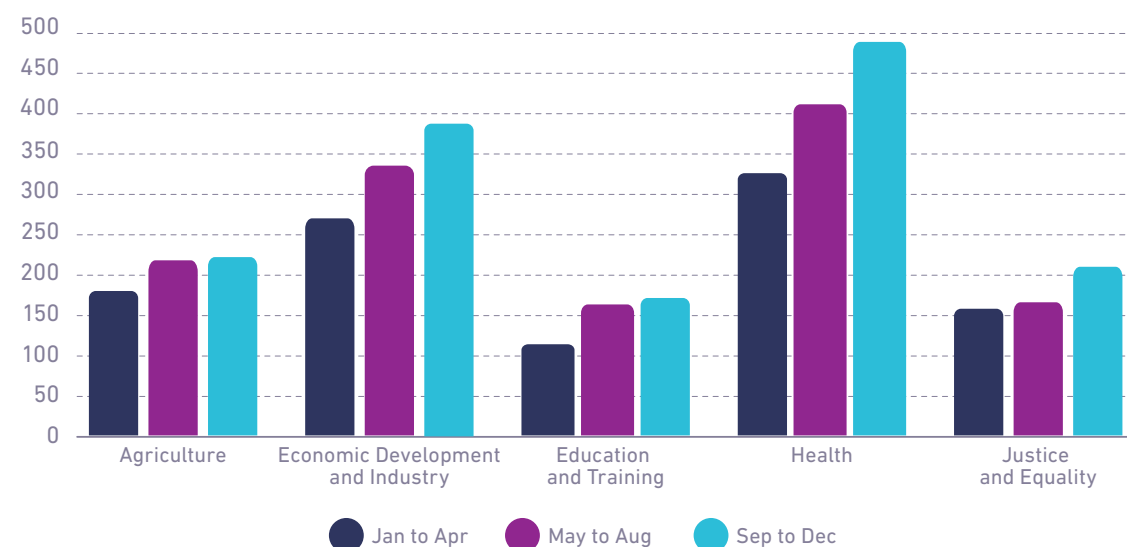
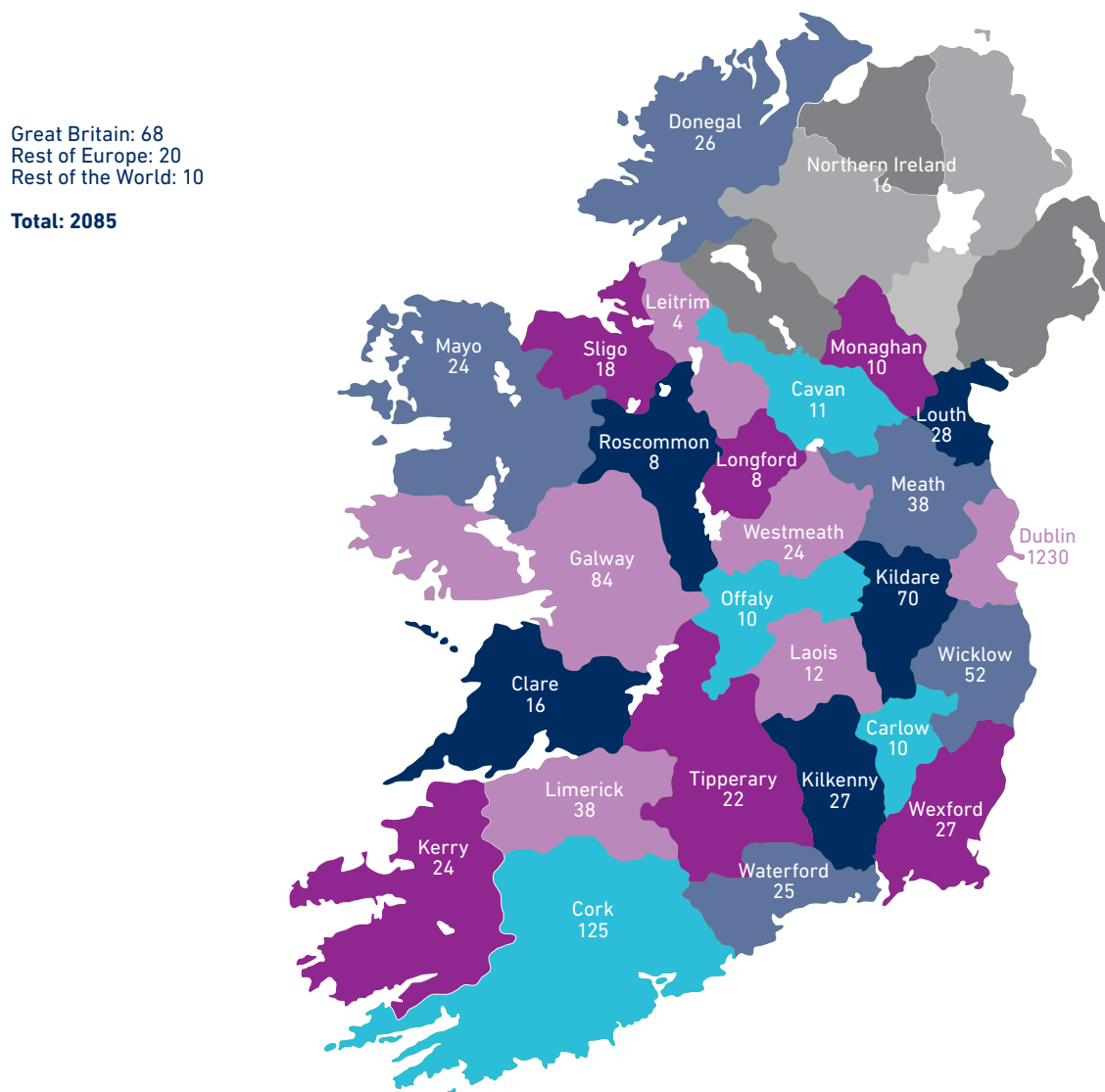


Figure 3 – Applications to waive/reduce post-public employment cooling-off period, 2015 to 2020

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Ministers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ministers of State	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ministerial advisors	0	1	3	2	2	8
Prescribed public servants	0	1	2	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	2	5	2	2	8

Figure 4 - Regional location of registrants at end 2020



Decisions made under the Act in 2020

- The Commission may make decisions under sections 10, 14 and 22 of the Act, which may be appealed.
- There were no applications made to delay publication of a return to the register under section 14 of the Act.
- Nine investigations into possible unreported or unregistered lobbying carried over from the previous year. Three further investigations were launched and 11 closed by year-end. One investigation carried over into 2021.
- In 2020, eight former DPOs applied for a reduction/waiver of their post-employment provisions – the largest number since the Act commenced. The Commission became aware of two former DPOs who did not apply but, in the view of the Commission, should have sought consent to take up a particular employment.

Enforcement Activities in 2020

Offences under section 20(1) of the Act – late returns

No of S. 20(1) Notices issued in 2020	In respect of 2020 returns periods	In respect of 2019 return periods
379	234	145

In 2020, the Commission launched two prosecutions for offences under section 20(1) of the Act. Both actions were settled and there were no convictions.

Offences under section 20(2) of the Act – failure to submit a return of lobbying activities

No of section 20(2) Notices issued.	In respect of 2020 periods.	In respect of 2019 periods.	Referred for prosecution.
150	111	39	1

The Second Legislative Review of the Act

The Second Legislative Review of the Act, launched in 2019, and concluded in February 2020. None of the Commission's recommendations were endorsed in the report, published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. On foot of calls for reform, a new review was launched in late 2020, and expanded to encompass recommendations made by the Commission to previous reviews. The review is expected to conclude in 2021. The Commission's recommendations may be viewed [online](#).

The Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015

The Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 can be viewed [online](#).

The Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct, which came into effect on 1 January 2019, is available to view [online](#).