

Stakeholder Forum Meeting

Wednesday 9th April 2025

Location: Online

Present:

CRO:

Maureen O'Sullivan
Niamh Nolan
Elaine Nolan
Richard Farrell
Róisín Coogan

Apologies:

Paul McHenry
Sean Smith

Members in attendance:

Andrew Lambe (*Company Bureau*),
Conor Sweeney (*CLS Chartered Secretaries*),
Dee Moran (*Chartered Accountants Ire*),
Deirdre Mooney (*William Fry*),
Eileen O'Connor (*Beauchamps*)
Eoin Paterson (*Maples*)
Eric Rochford
Eugene Hayes (*Midwest Corporate Services Ltd*),
Gavin Clare (*EY Law Ireland*),
Gagani Nidesha (*Company Formations Intl*)
Jillian O'Sullivan (*Grant Thornton*)
John Olden (*Addleshaw Goddard LLP*)
Kathryn Maybury (*Komsec*),
Laura Fallon (*KSi Faulkner Orr*),
Lilian Halpin (*Chartered Accountants Ire*)
Linda Murray (*Deloitte*),
Mark O' Hare (*Corporate Legal Services (CLS)*)
Oliver Holt (*Deloitte*),
Orla Kelly (*Johnson & Johnson*),
Patrick Butler (*Philip Lee*),
Patrick Kearney (*Xeinadin*),
Ray Hunt (*McCann Fitzgerald*),
Ruairi Cosgrove (*PWC*)
Salvador Nash (*KPMG*),
Sean Kavanagh (*Company Formations Intl*),
Stuart Connolly (*Open Forest*),
Sue Jesper (*Company Formations Intl*),

The Registrar opened the meeting by introducing Róisín Coogan, new Assistant Registrar to the CRO and taking over responsibility for Annual Returns. Niamh Nolan remains in the CRO but is assigned to other duties.

The Registrar also welcomed new members to the Stakeholder Forum.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting, which had previously been circulated and uploaded on the CRO website, were formally adopted.

2. CRO Updates.

Maureen O'Sullivan on behalf of Paul McHenry updated the forum on the following:

Fé Phrainn: processing applications on the 4th April

New Companies: processing applications from the 19th March. New Companies has experienced several retirements, and the delay is due to the time to recruit and train new staff.

Solvency: applications and processing are up to date.

Mortgages: applications and processing are also up to date.

On behalf of Sean Smith:

Enforcement: IT issues with the involuntary strike off process continue, but CRO have commenced limited involuntary strike-offs for companies without directors. No date for full restoration of strike offs is available yet.

Business Names: processing of applications is up to date.

Róisín Coogan provided the following updates for processing times from the following dates:

- B1 Annual Return General - 06/03/2025
- B1 Annual Return First - 07/03/2025
- B1 Annual Return non-designated ULCs - 03/03/2025
- B1 B73 Annual Return & change ARD - up to date

Richard Farrell provided the following IT update:

- The CRO recently launched the [CRO Open Data Portal](#). High value datasets can now be searched, including company profiles and financial statements.
- The procurement of the software development team is now complete and new developers appointed.

3. RBO Update.

Elaine Nolan provided an update on the RBO.

- **Compliance:** The compliance rate is currently 88.63%.
- With the change to the Companies Act 2014 the RBO has adapted the enforcement process to include the option to notify the CRO and request strike off for non-filing of beneficial ownership information.
- **Prosecutions:** The first cases for 2025 will be heard in court on the 26th May 2025.

A query was submitted on when the RBO would enable removal of a beneficial owner with an alternative name. The RBO have requested this change with IT, but there is no delivery date available. The RBO continue to recommend filing an amendment first to bring the beneficial owner's name into alignment with Department of Social Protection before filing to remove the beneficial owner.

4. Implementation of EU Directives

a. Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive

The Registrar advised the members of the EU's omnibus package which delays the implementation of CSRD by two years. The Registrar is awaiting further direction and clarity on this from the Department.

b. Open Data Directive

The Open Data services is now in operation with data available on both the national and EU portals, and financial statements are now available. Access is free of charge and the Registrar invited the members to view the portal at [CRO](#)

5. Filling Matters/AOB.

A number of queries were received in advance of the forum. One issue was the returning of B10s and the Registrar advised a note on this would issue. This note is included as an Appendix to the minutes.

The Registrar also highlighted additional issues such as including scanned documents that included personal data, or back dating a signature prior to the appointment date of the person signing.

It was again clarified that wet signatures are the legal required as prescribed the Companies Act 2014 at [Companies Act 2014, Section 888](#)

Mr John Olden advised the forum of a High Court case where a fraudulent B10 had been filed with the CRO and asked what measures the CRO would consider to address this. The Registrar advised the members that this type of activity had been observed frequently in the past but had reduced due to the requirement to use the PPSN. However, recently there had been some instances of companies registered offices being changed without their knowledge and CRO was considering a process to deal with these instances. The Registrar noted that the CRO is a good-faith register and accepts filings if they appear on their face to be correct.

6. OMCs (Owner Management Companies):

The Registrar advised that some time ago the forms A1 and B1 had been amended to include a tick box confirming whether or not a company was an Owner Management Company as defined in the Multi Units Development Act 2011. It has been noticed that check box to confirm if the company filing was an OMC was being incorrectly ticked in some cases, and that some misunderstanding may have occurred. She asked if Presenters would give this consideration when completing the relevant forms in respect of OMCs, and that more information was available on the CRO's website [Incorrect identification as an Owners' Management Company - CRO](#)

7. Stakeholder issues notified to the CRO/RBO:

The additional issues raised prior to the meeting and not already addressed above, or mentioned during the course of the meeting, were as follows:

- Inconsistent approach by the CRO to reviewing documents - The CRO will ensure a more consistent approach is taken.
- Delay on liquidations was raised but no further information was provided for the CRO to follow up on.
- Online statutory forms for Limited Partnerships - The CRO will implement an online register for Limited Partnerships when the legislation on Limited Partnerships which is currently being drafted is enacted.
- Commencement of new audit rules –CRO is aiming for this to be implemented by end May 2025.
- Scheduling of CORE updates – the CRO will endeavour to ensure no system updates coincide with filing deadlines in future.

Next Forum date: 25th June 2025, at 10am by video conference