

# Stakeholder Forum Meeting

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

**Location:** Online

## **Present:**

### **CRO:**

Maureen O'Sullivan  
Paul McHenry  
Sean Smith  
Elaine Nolan  
Richard Farrell  
Róisín Coogan

## **Apologies:**

Niamh Nolan

## **Members in attendance:**

Andrew Lambe (*Company Bureau*)  
Anne Murphy  
Caroline O'Dea (*EY Law Ireland*)  
Conor Sweeney (*CLS Chartered Secretaries*)  
Dee Moran (*Chartered Accountants Ire*)  
Deirdre Mooney (*William Fry*)  
Eileen O'Connor (*Beauchamps*)  
Eleanor Cairnduff (*Matheson*)  
Eoin Paterson (*Maples*)  
Eric Rochford  
Eugene Hayes (*Midwest Corporate Services Ltd*)  
Gavin Clare (*EY Law Ireland*)  
Grace Curran (*Matheson*)  
Jenny McGowran (*Simmons & Simmons*)  
Jillian O'Sullivan (*Grant Thornton*)  
John Donnelly (*Startupshop*)  
Kathryn Maybury (*Komsec*)  
Laura Fallon (*KSi Faulkner Orr*)  
Lilian Halpin (*Chartered Accountants Ire*)  
Linda Murray (*Deloitte*)  
Lorraine O'Riordan (*Flynn O'Driscoll*)  
Mark O'Hare (*CSC*)  
Mark Murphy (*Law Debenture (Ireland) Ltd*)  
Oliver Holt (*Chartered Accountants Ire*)  
Orla Kelly (*Johnson & Johnson*)  
Patrick Butler (*Philip Lee*)  
Patrick Kearney (*Xeinadin*)  
Ray Hunt (*McCann Fitzgerald*)  
Ruairí Cosgrave (*PWC*)  
Salvador Nash (*KPMG*)  
Sean Kavanagh (*Company Formations Intl*)  
Sue Jesper (*Company Formations Intl*)

The Registrar opened the meeting.

### **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.**

**Paul McHenry** provided the following update:

- 17707 companies registered up to 31<sup>st</sup> August,
- 15998 registered in the same period the previous year an increase of 11%.

Currently processing ;

- Ordinary applications received 22nd August and
- Fe Phrainn received 29<sup>th</sup> August.

**Sean Smith** provided the following update:

### **Enforcement:**

- The involuntary strike-off process was recommenced in mid-August.
- At the request of Salvador Nash, Conor Sweeney and Eoin Paterson, it was confirmed the CRO is processing these from companies whose annual returns have been outstanding for the longest period.

### **Bonds:**

The relevant addresses within the CRO to post Bonds are as follows:

- bonds that accompany a form A1 for new company formation should be addressed to NEW COMPANIES; [newcompanies@cro.ie](mailto:newcompanies@cro.ie)
- bonds that relate to a company already incorporated (forms B67, B68, T1) should be addressed to ALIST SECTION; [companyofficers@cro.ie](mailto:companyofficers@cro.ie)

### **B10 Update:**

- Mr Smith acknowledged the efforts of presenters following the CRO guidelines which has resulted in a significant reduction in the volume of returned forms and thanked them for their co-operation.
- Processing submission times for B10s has fallen to 2-3 working days.
- The Section is currently processing forms received 1<sup>st</sup> September.

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

- **B1 Annual Return General** – 23/07/2025
- **B1 Annual Return First** – 25/07/2025
- **B1 Annual Return non-designated ULCs** – 24/07/2025

There are currently approximately 20,793 submissions on hand.

**Richard Farrell** provided the following IT update:

- The procurement and contracting process for a new support and maintenance provider was completed and the contract awarded to a new vendor
- The CRO's IT support operations team has recently onboarded two new Technical Specialist HEOs
- All technical support requests should be sent to;  
[support@cro-helpdesk.cloud.gov.ie](mailto:support@cro-helpdesk.cloud.gov.ie)

### **3. RBO Update.**

Elaine Nolan provided the following update:

- **Compliance:** The compliance rate is currently 88.97%.
- **Non-Compliance:** The RBO received 418 NCNs to end August, up 181% on 2024 for the same period.
- **Discrepancies:** The RBO received 1776 DN2s to end August, up 27% on 2024 for the same period.
- **Enforcement:**
  - The RBO system will now automatically issue an enforcement email to each entity who has failed to file beneficial ownership information at two months after the filing deadline.
  - 15 entities were identified for possible prosecution and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Enforcement letter recently issued.
- **Prosecutions:** The next court date is the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

### **4. Implementation of EU Directives**

#### **a. Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CRSD).**

The CRO is currently working on this, but there is no timeframe available.

#### **b. European Single Access Point (ESAP)**

The Department is awaiting legislation and guidance from Department of Finance and ESAP is anticipated to be in place by the end of the 2020's.

### **5. Peak Filing.**

The Registrar reminded the forum that the peak filing period is approaching and advised that, insofar as possible, not to leave filing to the deadline. She also advised that filing via software packages does not guarantee instant delivery to the CRO and there can be a short time lag which could result in late filing

### **6. Stakeholder issues notified to the CRO/AOB:**

- a. Caroline O'Dea raised two queries on Business Names
  - i. Delays. The Registrar assured that additional resources will shortly be assigned which should improve processing times
  - ii. Statutory Declarations. Ms O'Dea was advised to email the Registrar directly on this.
- b. Jenny McGowran and Eugene Hayes had similar queries on the new Limited Partnership process. The Registrar confirmed that the CRO will update the guidance notes on this to provide further clarity.
- c. Conor Sweeney and Gavin Clare outlined recent issues with uploading documents and are to email Mr Farrell/IT directly at the email address provided earlier.

**Next Forum date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025, at 10am by video conference