



## Regulation of Lobbying in

# 2018

## Annual Report



Coimisiún um Chaighdeán in Oifigí Poiblí  
Standards in Public Office Commission

# Statistics

Figure 1 – Total registrants by year

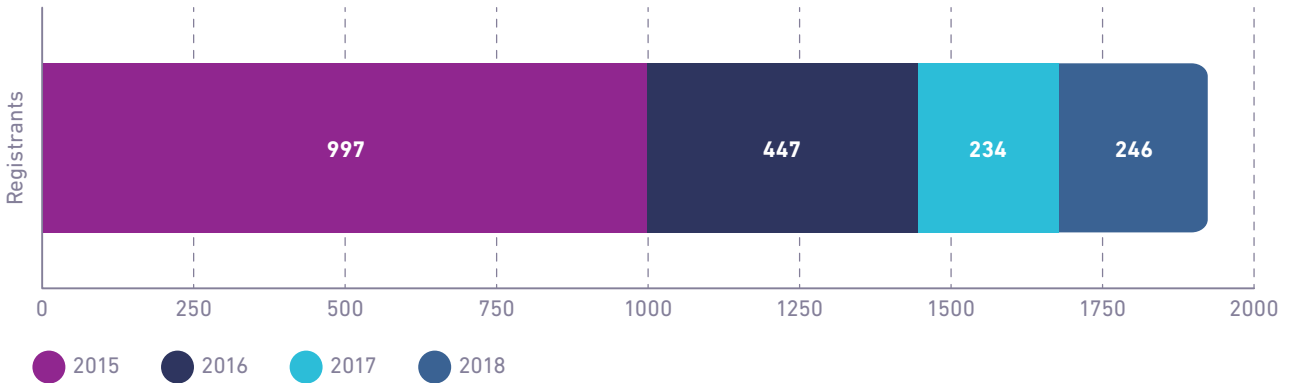


Figure 2 – Registrants by sector

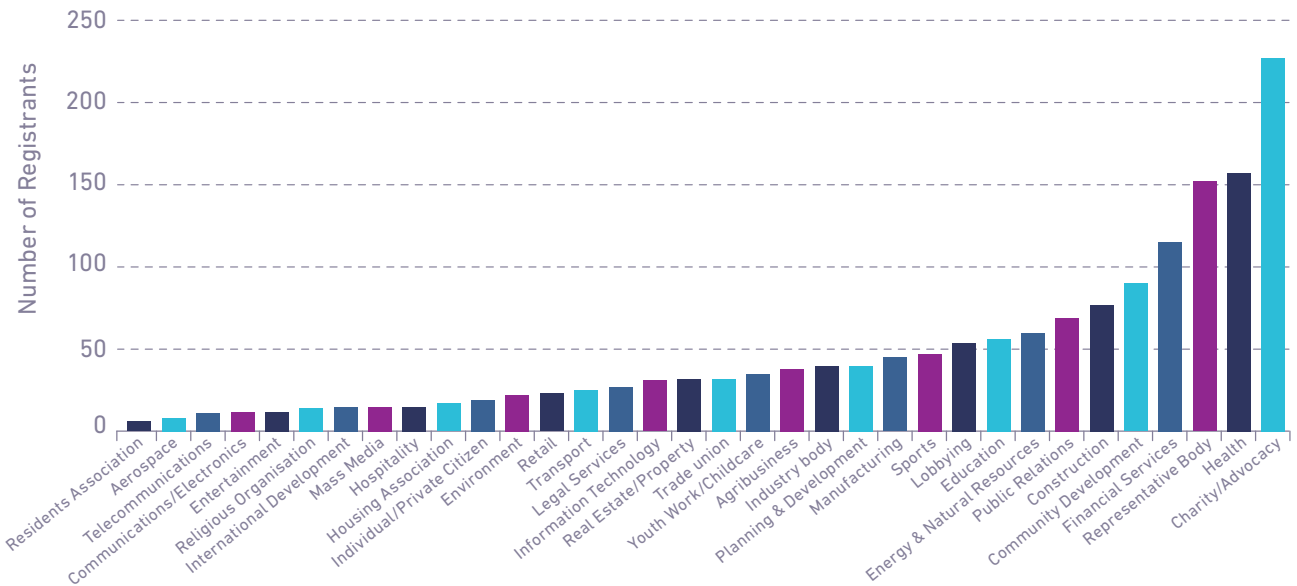
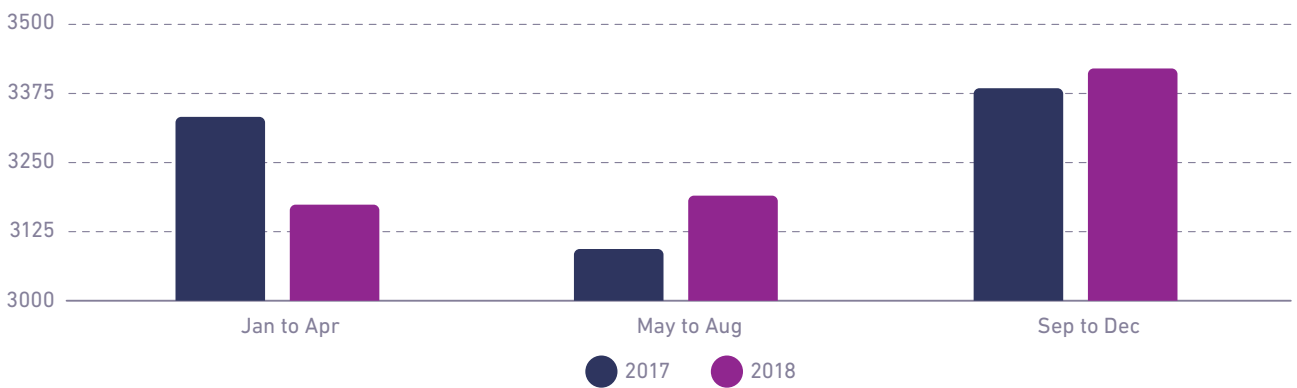
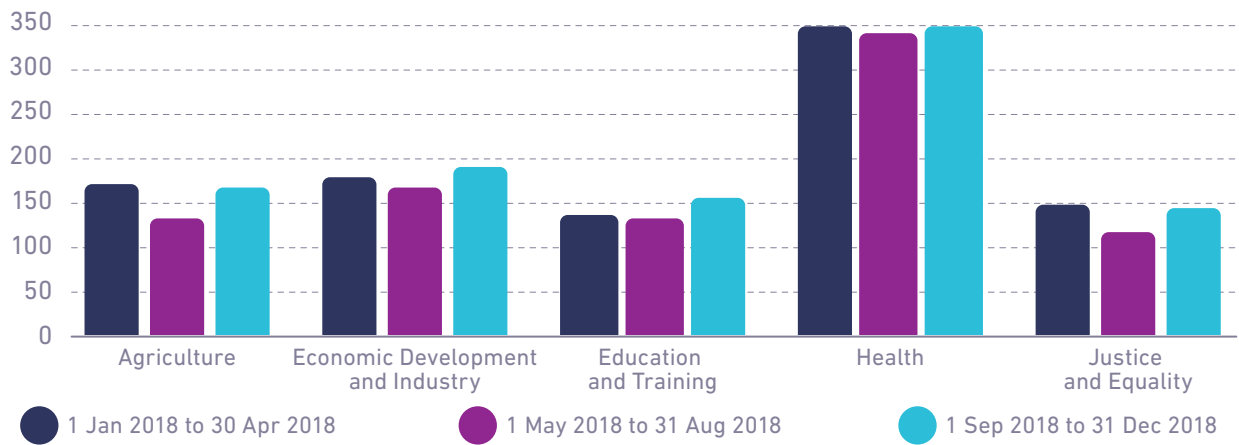


Figure 3 – Returns by reporting period in 2018



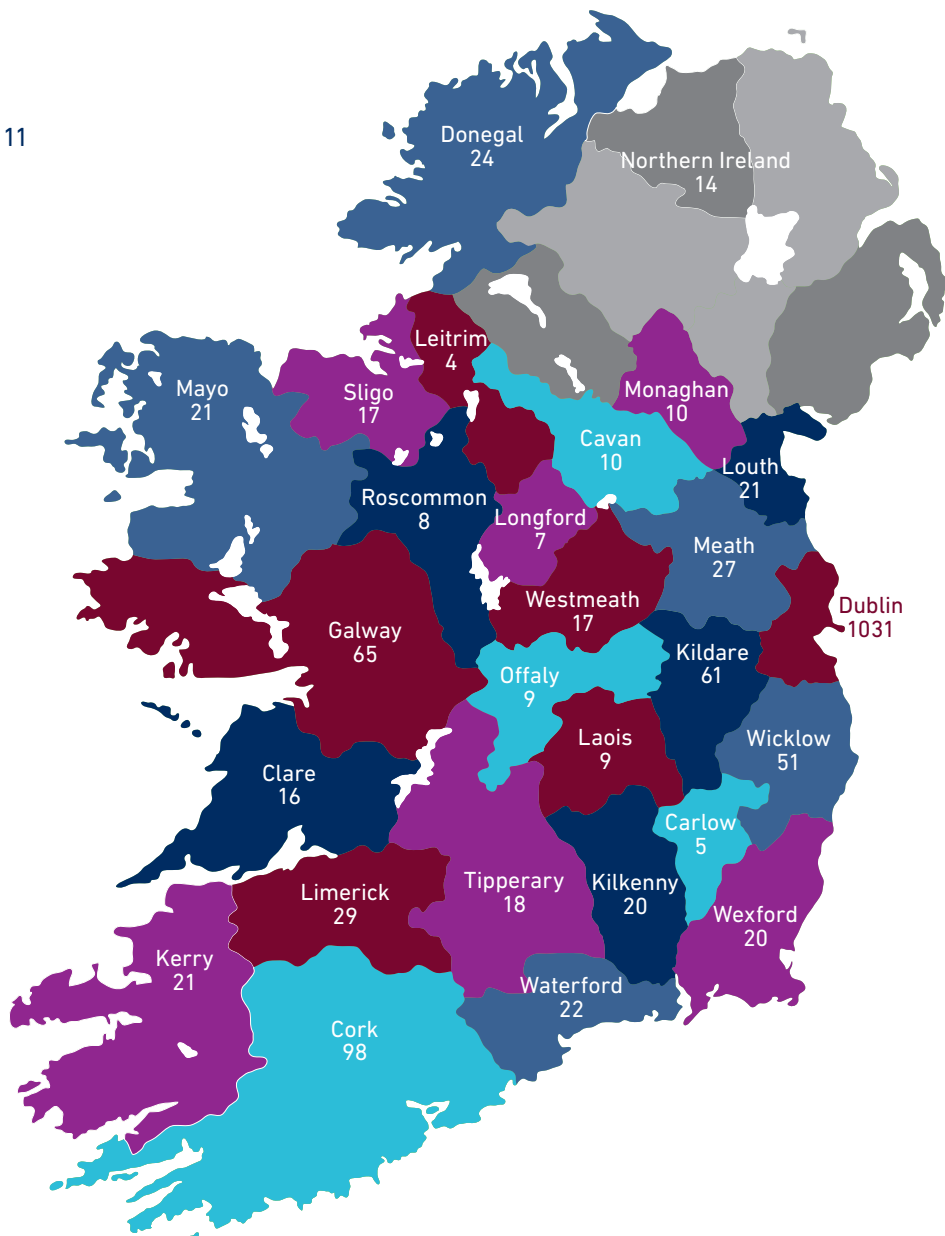
**Figure 4 – Returns by Public Policy Area Jan - Dec 2018**



**Figure 5 – Regional location of registrants**

Great Britain: 58  
 Rest of Europe: 18  
 Rest of the World: 11

**Total: 1742**



## Decisions made by the Commission under the Act

- The Commission has the authority to make decisions under sections 10, 14 and 22 of the Act. These decisions may be appealed.
- One application to delay publication of a return of a lobbying activity was received under section 14 of the Act. The application was approved and publication delayed.
- Two former Designated Public Officials applied for a reduction/waiver of the one year “cooling-off” period provided for under s. 22 of the Act. In the first case, the Commission refused consent. On appeal, the Commission’s decision was upheld. In the second case, the Commission granted its consent subject to conditions.
- There was one breach of the Act’s post-employment provisions in 2018. The contravention is not ongoing as the person subsequently left the new post.

## Enforcement Provisions

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

In 2018, the Commission issued 41 notices to individuals who had failed to pay a fixed payment notice received for making a late return, an offence under the Act. The notices informed the recipient of the intent to prosecute if the penalty remained unpaid. All complied once they received the notice. Accordingly, there were no convictions in 2018 under this section of the Act.

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

In 2018, the Commission issued 199 notices to persons informing them of the intent to prosecute if they did not submit a return of lobbying activities. Eight files were prepared for prosecution relating to non-returns; of these 5 were discontinued or settled. Prosecution proceedings were initiated in two cases, which are ongoing.

### Fixed Payment Notices served under section 21 of the Act

During 2018, 522 Fixed Payment Notices were issued, as was the case the previous year. Of these, 437 were paid (€87,400) and 15 remain unpaid. Seventy FPNs were cancelled where it was determined that there were valid reasons to do so.

## The Eight Principles of the Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct for persons carrying on lobbying activities came into effect on 1 January 2019. The Code of Conduct sets out eight principles by which persons may carry on lobbying activities in a transparent and ethical way. These are:

1. Demonstrating respect for public bodies
2. Acting with honesty and integrity
3. Ensuring accuracy of information
4. Disclosure of identity and purpose of lobbying activities to public bodies and elected or appointed officials
5. Preserving confidentiality
6. Avoiding improper influence
7. Observing the provisions of the Regulation of Lobbying Act
8. Having regard for the Code of Conduct