



# Regulation of Lobbying in 2019 Annual Report Highlights

## Statistics

Figure 1 – Total New Registrants by Year

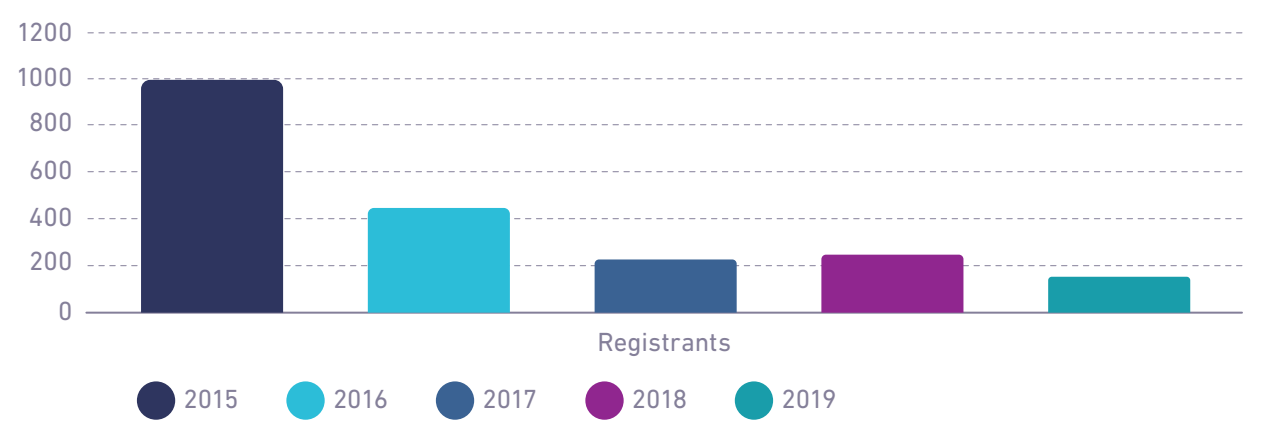


Figure 2 – Top Five Public Policy Matters Lobbied About in 2019

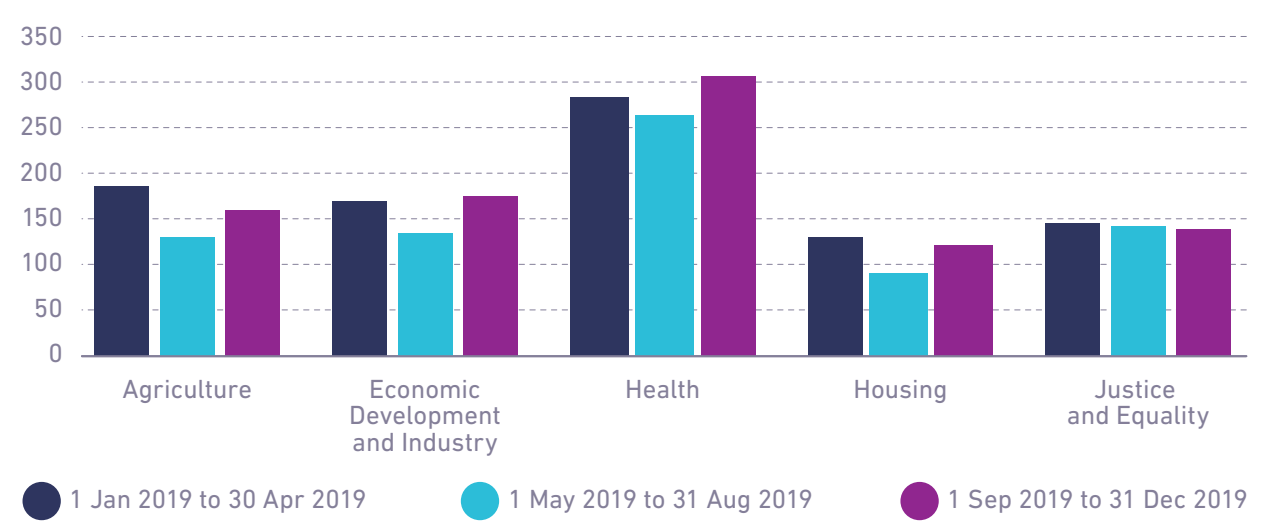


Figure 3 – Number of Returns by Reporting Period 2017-2019

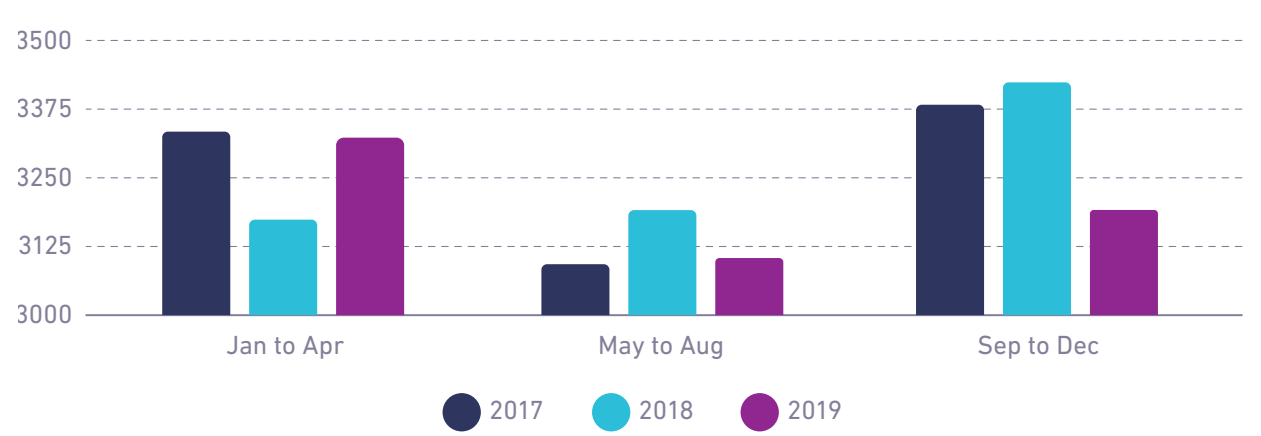
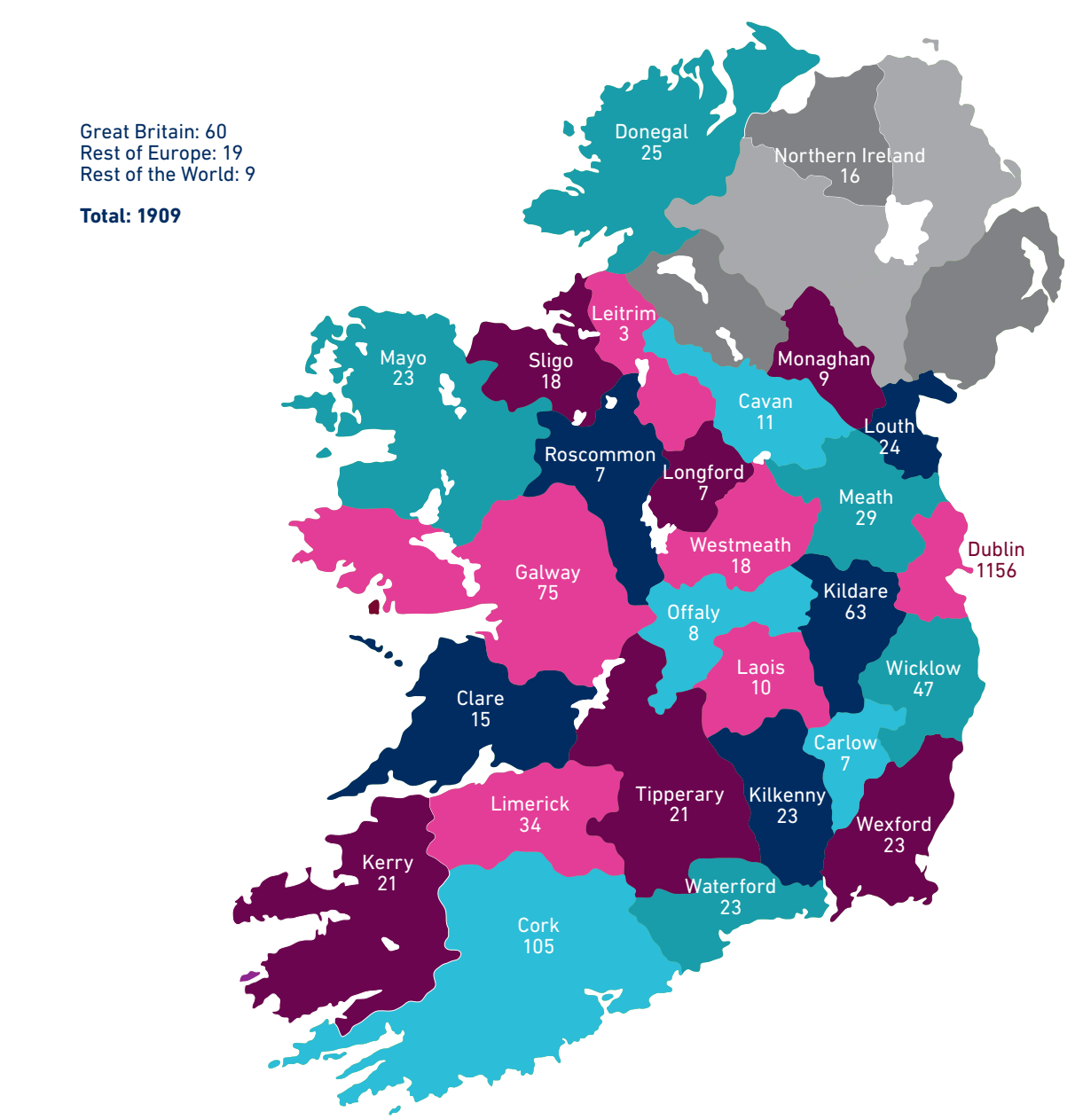


Figure 4 – Regional Location of Registrants



## Decisions made under the Act in 2019

- The Commission has the authority to make decisions under sections 10, 14 and 22 of the Act. These decisions may be appealed.
- There were no applications made to delay publication of a return to the register under section 14 of the Act in 2019.
- In 2019, 22 investigations were launched into possible unreported or unregistered lobbying activities, 12 of which were closed by year end. Ten investigations were carried over into 2020.
- In 2019, two former DPOs applied for a reduction or waiver of the one-year cooling-off period provided for under section 22 of the Act. In both cases, consent was granted, subject to conditions.

## Enforcement Activities in 2019

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

No of S. 20(1) Notices issued	In respect of 2019 return periods	In respect of 2018 return periods	Referred for prosecution
28	19	9	1

In June 2019, the first conviction under section 20(1) of the Act took place. The organisation in question had failed to submit returns of lobbying activity by the deadline and refused to comply with its obligations. The court imposed a fine of €1,250 and costs were awarded to the Commission.

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 2019 periods.	In respect of 2018 periods.	Referred for prosecution.
97	72	25	0

Fixed Payment Notices served under section 21 of the Act

No. of FPNs issued	Relating to 2019 relevant periods	Relating to other relevant periods	Paid	Cancelled	Unpaid
290	203	87	244	41	5

**The Second Legislative Review of the Act**  
In 2019, the Second Legislative Review of the Act took place. The Commission's submission – with 22 recommendations – is available to view [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](#).