

# Public, Regulatory & Investigations

## Our Approach

We understand the public sector legal environment, its increasing complexity and governance requirements and the pressure to perform with ever-greater transparency and accountability.

Our leading specialisation and experience means that we advise expertly, quickly and effectively.

We act for a wide range of clients, including Government departments, local authorities, statutory and chartered bodies, regulators, disciplinary bodies, charitable and voluntary organisations and public bodies generally. We also act for people dealing with these bodies.

Areas of expertise include:

- Public and administrative law
- Statutory powers and jurisdictional error
- Statutory interpretation
- Natural and constitutional justice and fair procedures
- Judicial review and litigation
- Governance and procurement
- Information law, including FOI, data protection and confidentiality
- Professional disciplinary and regulatory law
- Investigations and inquiries
- Regulation of Lobbying
- Legislative drafting

## Our Services

We have significant knowledge in advising public bodies on their legal and statutory responsibilities. Our team is experienced in dealing with the European Convention on Human Rights, the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and the legislation relating to Standards and Ethics in Public Office, Regulation of Lobbying, Prompt Payments, Official Languages, Safety, Health and Welfare and Disability.

## Investigations, Inquiries & Public Law Litigation

This is a core practice area for our Public and Administrative Law team. We frequently advise on:

- Judicial review, including public procurement judicial review
- Statutory appeals and applications
- Investigative processes, including tribunals, inquiries and Commissions of Investigation
- Statutory notices and directions
- Law of evidence
- Civil enforcement
- Prosecutions
- Injunctions

We have particular expertise in alternative dispute resolution, including mediation.



## Information Law

We advise extensively on Information Law and particularly Freedom of Information. We have been involved in more freedom of information appeals to the High and Supreme Courts than any other Irish law firm. We also advise on other information law issues affecting the public sector, including Access to Environmental Information, Re-Use of Public Sector Information, data protection, confidentiality, privacy, and disclosure and discovery processes in court and other proceedings.

## Public Affairs

We recognise that navigating policy and legislative developments can be a complex and sensitive prospect. Our team understands the legislative process. We advise on lobbying and how to bring about policy and legislative change, drafting legislation and can also monitor emerging policies and proposals relevant to our clients. We also advise on the application to our clients of the Regulation of the Lobbying Act 2015.

## Professional Discipline & Regulatory Law

We have extensive experience of dealing with regulatory and disciplinary systems, codes and procedures. Our regulatory expertise stems from our experience in advising regulatory and professional disciplinary bodies, and those regulated by such bodies, including:

- The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland
- The Commission for Communications Regulation
- The Commission for Energy Regulation
- The Health Information and Quality Authority
- The Health Insurance Authority
- The Health and Safety Authority
- The Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority
- The Medical Council
- The Ombudsman
- The Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal
- The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

## Our Team



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