

Implementation Group Terms of Reference

As Agreed at Inaugural Meeting of 25th October 2019

Implementation Group – Promotion of Irish Law Initiative

The Promotion of Irish Law Initiative was endorsed by decision of the Government on 4 January 2019. On foot of this decision, an Implementation Group is being established whose aim is to assist the Irish Government in developing a legal services strategy. This strategy will form part of the key Government priority of minimising the impact of Brexit on trade and the economy and also, independently, to support existing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and generate increased Irish employment in the legal services and related sectors and thereby increase tax revenue.

The primary objective of the Implementation Group is to develop and oversee a plan which would encourage international business to see Ireland as a preferred jurisdiction in which to do business, undertake transactions, obtain legal services, advice, and resolve disputes against a backdrop of legal certainty. The Group will develop a message which illustrates this case in terms of legal theory and practice.

In order to guide Government in achieving this aim, the Group will:

1. Identify the best pathways to promote the use of Irish law and Irish legal services in contracts and transactions by communicating the existing advantages of Irish law, the Irish legal system and the Irish courts.
2. Oversee the implementation of a formal strategy to promote Irish based legal services on the basis of our pro-business, English speaking, Common Law justice system, our continued membership of the European Union, the Irish judiciary's international record of integrity, fairness and impartiality and the extensive experience and expertise of the Irish legal profession.
3. Consider what steps are required to ensure that Ireland's dispute resolution system is best positioned to meet international expectations and the needs of international as well as domestic court users as an effective, responsive, reliable and cost-effective legal infrastructure.
4. Ensure that the Irish Government and State Agencies lead the way in promoting the use of Irish law and Irish legal services in contracts and business transactions generally.
5. Ensure the proper alignment of the legal services strategy with IFS 2025.

6. To identify what reporting structures are required, in order to monitor the success of the project.
7. To provide an initial, and thereafter periodic reports, to the Minister for Justice and Equality for the information of the Government and as may otherwise be considered appropriate.

Membership of the Implementation Group

The Implementation Group will be chaired by Mr. John Bruton and will include representatives of:

- The Bar of Ireland
- The Law Society
- IDA Ireland

- Department of An Taoiseach
- The Department of Finance
- Department of Justice and Equality
- Department of Public Expenditure and Reform
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation

A designated secretariat will also be provided.

A Vice-Chairperson may also be appointed to assist the Chair.