



Co-Operative Societies

Public Consultation on the operation and implementation of the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1893 - 2014

The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation wishes to announce a review of the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1893 – 2014. The objective of this review is to consolidate and modernise the existing legislation to ensure an effective legislative framework suitable for the diverse range of businesses using the co-operative model in Ireland.

The Industrial and Provident Societies Acts provide the statutory regulatory basis for the formation and general operation of co-operative societies in Ireland. The Acts date back to 1893 with various amendments over the years, most recently in 2014. That framework, by facilitating statutory incorporation and providing for a public register, maintained by the Registrar of Friendly Societies, has made a positive contribution to the development of co-operatives in Ireland. The co-operative model provides a corporate option which promotes a set of principles and values that are unique from those of a company. There are about 1,000 co-operatives in Ireland, and the largest 100 employ about 40,000 people.

This review aims to provide an operational framework for the co-operative sector to ensure that its full potential can be realised while ensuring good corporate governance practice and transparency. It seeks to identify any areas relating to the scope, powers or operation of the Acts which might require change.

Your submissions on any aspects of the operation and implementation of the legislative framework are invited. These should be marked “2016 Cooperative Legislation Review” and sent by email to cooplaw@djei.ie or by post to the following address:

2016 Cooperative Legislation Review
Co-operative Legislation Unit
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Earlsfort Centre
Lower Hatch Street
DO2PWO1

to arrive no later than 5pm on Tuesday the 31st January 2017.

Freedom of Information and Publication of Submissions

Please note that all comments, observations and submissions received will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2014, and may be published following the review.

Consequently, when submitting material, parties should identify any information which they consider should not be released, and identify the grounds under the Act which support the non-release of the information.

The Department may also decide to place any comments, observations and submissions received by it on the Department's website in due course. A decision on any such placement may occur without prior consultation with respondents to this consultation process. Thus, it is in the interests of respondents to highlight, in their submissions, any commercially sensitive or confidential information at the time of submission.

Queries

Further information may be obtained by contacting Cooperative Legislation Section of the Department at 01-6312664 (Tara Coogan) (or at tara.coogan@djei.ie).