

# Law Society Member Survey: Key Results for In-House and Public Sector Solicitors – Who we are

## METHODOLOGY

These findings are based on a quantitative members study conducted by Ipsos B&A in April/May 2023.

This survey was conducted online and achieved a total sample of n=2,264. This analysis primarily focuses on the responses from in-house and public sector solicitors (n=472). Results in brackets relate to the total sample i.e. all members of the Law Society.

Insights from a focus group in September 2023 are also included.

## GENDER



**60%** (54%)

Of **private in-house** solicitors are female

**70%** (54%)

of **public sector solicitors** are female

( ) result of total sample of the profession

## AGE

Less than 36	<b>15%</b>	(20%)
From 36 to 43	<b>28%</b>	(20%)
From 44 to 49	<b>24%</b>	(19%)
From 50 to 57	<b>22%</b>	(20%)
58 or more	<b>11%</b>	(21%)

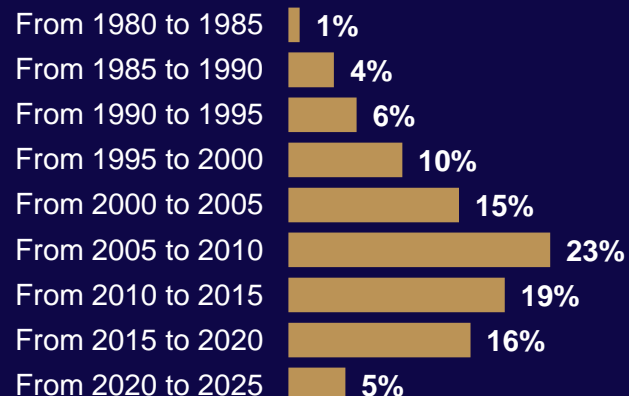
**Median:**

Private sector: 44.2

Public sector: 46.5

( ) result of total sample of the profession

## YEAR OF QUALIFICATION



## REGION

**76%** (58%)  
of the in-house  
and public  
sector are  
Dublin based

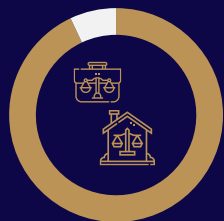


**74%** of in-house solicitors  
in the private sector are in  
Dublin

**79%** of in-house  
solicitors in the public sector  
are in Dublin

# Law Society Member Survey: Key Results for In-House and Public Sector Solicitors – How we work

## Working status



**93%** (87%)

of the in-house and public sector solicitors work full time

( ) result of total sample of the profession

## Hybridisation



**83%** (53%)

of the in-house and public sector solicitors are availing of hybrid working



**50%** Usually work more days working from home than in the office



**33%** Usually work more days working from the office than from home

## Size of 'firm'



**26%** (25%)

of in-house and public sector solicitors are working in units of 1, 2 or 3 solicitors.

( ) result of total sample of the profession



**38%** in-house solicitors in the private sector



**10%** in-house solicitors in the public sector

Public sector solicitors more likely to be working in organisations with 11-50 solicitors, or with 101-200 solicitors.

## Way of Working for In-House and Public Sector Solicitors – qualitative results:



There is a high incidence of remote working among in-house and public sector solicitors, which can be seen to aid work-life balance. However, this may negatively impact team cohesion, support systems, networking opportunities, and feelings of integration within their role.



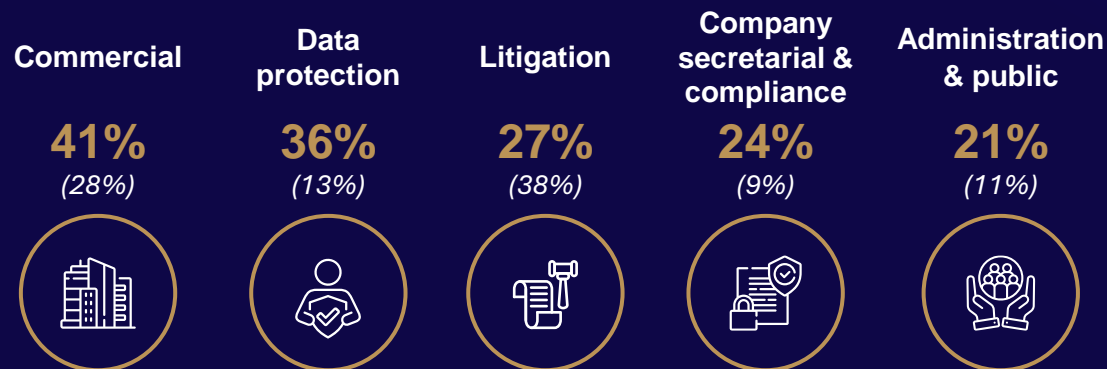
In-house and public sector solicitors, as trusted experts within a business, deal with a wide variety of issues/topics across the organisation, often covering multiple jurisdictions.



These solicitors often have more of an oversight role, allowing them to be involved throughout projects rather than focusing on one aspect, with external counsel handling specific details.

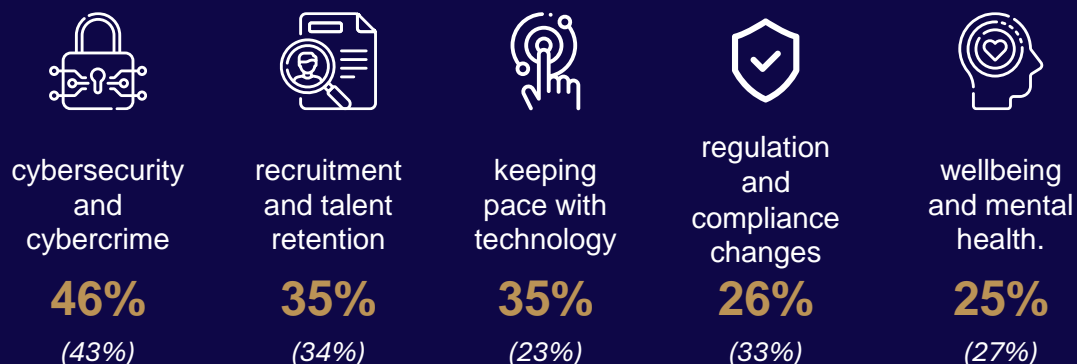
# Law Society Member Survey: Key Results for In-House and Public Sector Solicitors – What we work on

## Areas of legal practice



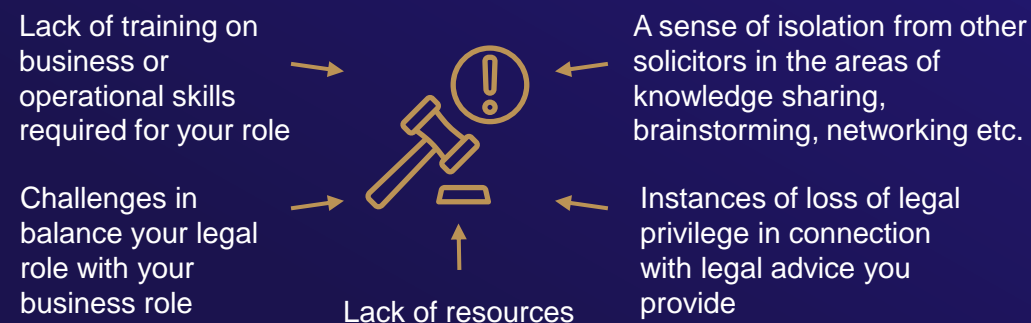
( ) result of total sample of the profession

## Top 5 issues facing in-house and public sector solicitors (extremely challenging)



( ) result of total sample of the profession

## Top professional issues facing in-house and public sector solicitors

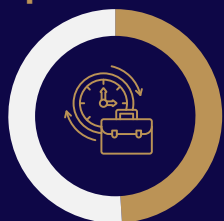


- In-house and public sector solicitors report often feeling isolated from the profession given they often lack a peer group internally and lack of professional or social supports.
- These solicitors are often working with limited resources.
- Keeping up with the solicitor's profession can be difficult.

# Views of the future

## OPTIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION

### In-house and public sector solicitors are more optimistic



**49%** (41%)

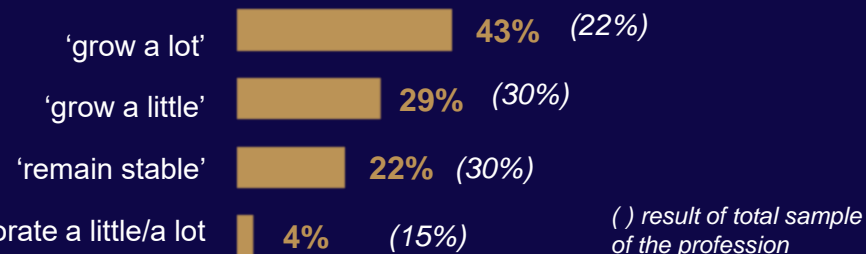
of the in-house and public sector are optimistic about the future of the profession (either very or quite optimistic)

( ) result of total sample of the profession

In-house solicitors working in the public sector show the least pessimism at 13%, (compared to 19% of private in-house and 28% of overall profession)

### Five-year trajectory of own area of practice

In-house and public sector solicitors thought their own areas of practice would:



### Key reasons for work/business growing in both public/private sectors



**Public:**



Increased regulation



Housing increase



New legislation/legislation development



GDPR/data protection



**Private:**



Increased regulation



Housing increase



Increase in technologies/AI



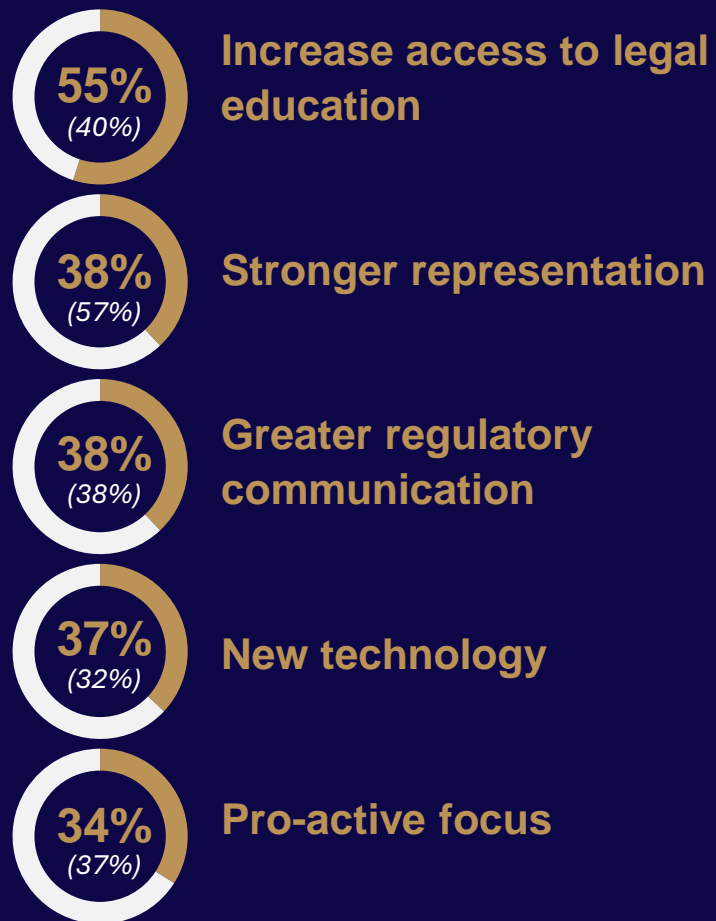
GDPR/data protection

### Top 10 areas in-house and public sector solicitors expect to generate additional growth over the next 5 years

1) Data protection, 2) artificial intelligence, 3) environmental and planning, 4) financial regulation, 5) commercial, 6) energy and infrastructure, 7) administrative and public, 8) competition and regulation, 9) fintech, and 10) litigation

# Law Society engagement

## Top 5 areas identified in which the Law Society can strengthen on in future



( ) result of total sample of the profession

## Key focus areas for the Law Society going forward



**Aid in resource provision**  
Offer resources from trainee level.



**Address unique challenges**  
Recognise and address specific challenges faced by in-house and public sector solicitors.



**Networking opportunities**  
Facilitate networking among in-house and public sector solicitors.



**Professional connection**  
Increase outreach efforts to make in-house and public sector solicitors feel more connected.



**Membership value**  
Clearly communicate the value and purpose of membership to the Law Society.