



Private & Confidential

Ms Heather Humphreys TD
Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation
Ms Maureen O'Sullivan
Registrar of Companies

By email: minister@dbei.gov.ie
maureen.osullivan@dbei.gov.ie

31 March 2020

Re: closure of the CRO

Dear Minister and Registrar,

We refer to the announcement by the Companies Registration Office today 30 March that due the Covid-19 pandemic they are not in a position to process submissions or answer queries at this time.

This has caused a lot of concern in the solicitors' profession and amongst our clients as ongoing commercial activity does require some level of function by the CRO for example to enable new company incorporations to be processed and for statutory time periods for filings to be observed, good examples being the filing of C1 forms for creation of security by companies and the filing of summary approval declarations and resolutions. If this can't be done then security can be unenforceable and there could be personal and criminal consequences for Directors and officers if they proceed with transactions without the ability to comply with filing obligations. In reality transactions will not proceed and many of these will be multi-jurisdictional transactions as well as transactions which just relate to Ireland.

The inability to conduct closing searches will also prevent corporate and funding transactions completing many of which may be for organisations which are providing essential services.

Given that banking and financial services and legal services necessary to support essential services and vulnerable people have been deemed essential in the guidance published by the government on 28 March it is essential in our view that the CRO can continue to provide a level of service albeit we appreciate that service levels may be affected. We presume that most services provided by the CRO can be provided by its staff remotely in this regard.

We would be grateful for your urgent attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michele O'Boyle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Michele O'Boyle
President