



Oifig Maoine
Intleachtúla na hÉireann
Intellectual Property
Office of Ireland

Intellectual Property Office of Ireland

Annual Report 2024



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Foreword



I have the honour to submit my Annual Report to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment for the year ended 31 December 2024 so that it can be laid before each House of the Oireachtas in accordance with Section 103 of the Patents Act 1992.

My Report is in respect of the execution of my statutory functions under the Patents Act, 1992 (as amended), the Trade Marks Act, 1996 (as amended), the Industrial Designs Act, 2001, the Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000, the various Statutory Rules and Regulations made under these Acts; and the European Communities (Supplementary Protection Certificate) Regulations. Decisions under these Acts, Rules, and Regulations rest with me in my statutory capacity, subject to certain rights of appeal to the High Court. My report also includes a report on the KDB Certification Scheme as required by Section 18 of the Knowledge Development Box (Certification of Inventions) Act 2017.

In addition to its core business of administering the relevant legislation concerned with the processing of applications for intellectual property rights (Patents, Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs), Trade Marks and Industrial Designs), and maintaining the electronic registers and databases of these rights, the Intellectual Property Office of Ireland (IPOI) performs a number of operational and regulatory functions including:

- Administering proceedings before the Controller in relation to IP rights including hearings on oppositions to Trade Mark registrations.
- Maintaining the registers of Patent and Trade Mark attorneys authorised to operate in the State.
- Administering the registration and compliance reporting by copyright licensing bodies/collective management organisations as well as the resolution of disputes regarding royalty amounts payable to those bodies arising in public performance of sound recordings.
- Contributing to policy and legislative development on IP rights.
- Providing assistance and information on intellectual property rights.

My report provides more detailed information on how the Office discharged its various statutory and regulatory functions and ancillary activities and is supported by a range of business statistics.

The main business statistics, in summary, include the following.

- 774 National Patent Applications were received, and 110 Patents were granted; 53 Supplementary Protection Certificate applications were received and 13 were granted, rejected, or withdrawn. A total of 194,693 European Patent Applications designating Ireland were received in 2024.
- The Office received 2,336 National Trade Mark Applications and 829 International Trade Mark Registrations designating Ireland. A total of 1,949 National Trade Mark applications were registered and 742 International Trade Mark Registrations protected. 51 National Design applications, containing 109 Designs, were received and 107 Designs were registered by end of year.
- The Office attended a record number of information raising events in 2024. These included the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition, the Student Enterprise Programme Awards, the National Ploughing Championships, as well as collaborating with the Local Enterprise Network and providing presentations at over 45 secondary schools.
- Due to a significant turnover in staff – a 23% change - this was a testing year. However a majority of the IPOI's customer service targets were still met to a satisfactory level with 85% being the average rate of achievement.

Throughout 2024 the Intellectual Property Office of Ireland continued to deliver on its core functions to actively promote, support, and protect innovation in Ireland, contributing to a stronger and more competitive Irish economy.

Notwithstanding a slight improvement in economic growth and trends, with the domestic Irish economy performing well with low unemployment, falling inflation, and increasing wages, the year still presented serious challenges for business at national and EU level. Global supply chains vulnerable to geopolitical tensions and trade fragmentation, the continued security concerns across the EU, with the ongoing war in the Ukraine and severe conflict in Gaza and the West Bank, all having a negative impact on confidence and trade. The economic recovery has led to a steady but modest growth in Intellectual Property application filings across Ireland and the European Union system.

At national level, the Intellectual Property Office of Ireland continued to contribute to several IP conferences, exhibitions, and seminars. In May, the Office hosted the 4th meeting of the European Union Intellectual Property Network (EUIPN). The core objective of the EUIPN is to foster cooperation among the national and regional Intellectual Property Offices of the EU, user associations, EU agencies, and IP users to provide high-quality experience for users of the IP system by providing up-to-date electronic services, facilitating access to information, and converging practices with regard to how IP offices examine and evaluate IP rights.

At international level, the Unified Patent Court and unitary patent system made significant progress in its first full year of operation, thus assisting in simplifying patent enforcement across Europe, reducing costs and legal fragmentation. The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) hosted two major diplomatic conferences focused on advancing international legal frameworks in intellectual property; the first one, in May 2024, was in relation to Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge, addressing the intersection of intellectual property with genetic resources and traditional knowledge. The second Diplomatic Conference, held in November 2024, concluded and adopted a Design Law Treaty to help streamline the global system for protecting industrial designs, making it easier, faster, and more affordable for designers to protect their work in home markets as well as overseas.

Our work would not be possible without strong cooperation with the many public and private representative bodies, all who have a keen focus of improving the intellectual property ecosystem for Irish business and users of the Intellectual Property systems. I would like to thank the Irish Intellectual Property representatives' bodies and business community for their support throughout the year. I would also like to acknowledge the excellent cooperation, assistance and collaboration fostered with EUIPO, EPO and WIPO.

I would like to acknowledge the support provided to the Office by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, which is critical to the delivery of the statutory functions of the IPOI. Accordingly, I would like to thank Mr Declan Hughes, Secretary General and Mr John Newham, Assistant Secretary General. I would also like to acknowledge the support throughout 2024 of the Intellectual Property Unit, in particular from Ms Tara Coogan and Ms Jean O'Neill.

Finally, I want to say a special word of thanks to all my colleagues from the IPOI for their hard work and professionalism in 2024. I also want to acknowledge and thank the IPOI staff who moved on and transferred out of the Office during 2024 on retirement, promotion, and mobility for their loyal support. I welcome all new members of the team who joined us in 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'James Kelly'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'James' and the last name 'Kelly' clearly distinguishable.

James Kelly
Controller of Intellectual Property

1.0

IPOI Functions, Mission and Objectives.

The Intellectual Property Office of Ireland (IPOI) is an independent statutory office under the aegis of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment with responsibility for the grant and registration of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in Ireland, specifically patent, trade marks and industrial design rights. The IPOI is staffed by 46 civil servants who are assigned by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

During 2024, the Office continued to work towards achieving the strategic goals outlined in the IPOI Statement of Strategy 2023-2025. These priorities are also aligned with the Department's Statement of Strategy. Specifically, IPOI strategy will contribute to achieving the desired outcome of "a business environment facilitating investment and development, competition in the marketplace, and high standards of customer protection" through continuing to develop a modern regulatory regime for intellectual property, which stimulates economic growth by encouraging innovation.

The central mission of the IPOI is: ***"To deliver a modern, digitalised Intellectual Property Office, encouraging innovation and enterprise, which provides world class professional services to be proud of"***. This objective will be achieved by safeguarding IPRs in patents, trade marks, and designs within a robust legal framework that promotes innovation in Ireland. Additionally, the IPOI aims to actively disseminate accessible knowledge about IPRs and the broader intellectual property system.

The current IPOI Strategy Statement 2023 to 2025, sets out the key priorities for the Office, which are aligned with four strategic objectives namely:

1. Operational & customer service excellence,
2. Information services excellence,
3. Supporting a robust IP legal framework and,
4. Staff and workplace excellence

This commentary, along with the accompanying business statistics, reviews the Office's efforts in achieving these four objectives throughout 2024. It also provides insights into emerging IP trends and the evolving intellectual property landscape during the year.

1.1 Objective 1 - Operational and Customer Service Excellence.

The Office is committed to constantly reviewing its administrative procedures and delivering a responsive quality service in line with performance targets. The Office's Customer Service Action Plan 2023-2025 outlines key service targets and defines optimal timeframes for completing various internal and external customer-related tasks. These targets are detailed in the "Performance Targets" section of this report. Throughout the year, most customer service goals were successfully met, with an average achievement rate of 85%.

The Office offers a well-established suite of user-friendly digital services, including e-filing for patents, supplementary protection certificates (SPCs), trade marks, and designs, as well as online trade mark and design searches and e-payments. In 2024, nearly all applications for IP rights were submitted online (99% for patents and SPCs, 99% for trade marks, and 87% for designs). Additionally, almost all statutory fees were paid electronically, either through online payments or electronic fund transfers (EFT). The IPOI is also currently considering further automation of its e-payments facility to allow payment of all IPOI fees online. While the IPOI has not yet fully transitioned to a paperless system, efforts are underway to replace all paper-based processes with digital alternatives. Throughout 2024 Office staff, in collaboration with the ICT Unit, continued to drive digital transformation by introducing solutions to streamline and digitise workflows. Key developments included:

- Automation of the International Trade Mark registration process.
- Commencement of work on the digitisation of the Trade Mark Opposition process.
- Significant improvements made to automation and digitisation in the production of the IPOI Journal.

1.2 Objective 2 - Information Services Excellence.

A key objective of the IPOI is to provide comprehensive information on all aspects of intellectual property rights, helping SMEs, micro-enterprises, and entrepreneurs maximise the value of their ideas, strengthen their businesses, and gain a deeper understanding of the IP system. In 2024, the IPOI continued to enhance collaboration with various stakeholders, government agencies, and offices to facilitate information exchange and raise awareness of IPRs. The IPOI Information Unit also worked to increase the Office's visibility by leveraging social media more effectively, launching targeted information campaigns, and creating engaging, relevant content. In 2024, the information section handled over 3,920 emails and 3,741 telephone inquiries. The Office produced a new suite of colourful information cards on all the IP rights, the aim of which is to simplify intellectual property and make it relatable to everyday life. Two new explainer videos on the basics of IP and IP for SMEs were also launched in 2024. These videos are available to view on the IPOI website and are also used as an information tool for virtual and in person presentations.

The Office exhibited at the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition in January and the Student Enterprise Awards (SEA) finals in May. The IPOI sponsored prizes at both events. Staff also participated in several IP focused seminars and training courses ran by the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Network focusing on SMEs. The Office took part in an EU Commission event on knowledge valorisation in April as well as the IP R&D Summit in Dublin in September. Over the course of 2024, the Office provided IP presentations to 45 schools nationwide as part of the IP in Education programme, ran in conjunction with the Student Enterprise Programme. The Office also provided several IP clinics which gave an opportunity to members of the public, inventors, and entrepreneurs to discuss their IP application on a one-to-one basis with Office staff. More information on the Office's outreach events is detailed further in this report.

The Office collaborates with the European Patent Office (EPO) and the EU Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) through bilateral cooperation programmes. These initiatives provide support for participation in IP awareness events, specialised training, ICT projects for IP data exchange, and the harmonisation of practices and procedures. Throughout the year, Office staff leveraged the financial and technical support offered by the EPO and EUIPO, benefiting from funding, mentorship, and access to expertise and resources.

1.3 Objective 3 - Supporting a Robust IP Legal Framework

The regulation of IPRs is a vital part of the legislative framework that promotes and encourages innovation. The legislation under which the Office operates affords applicants and proprietors the right to be heard in certain circumstances and before any discretionary powers set out in the relevant Acts and Rules are exercised adversely. During 2024, the Office held 2 ex partes and 7 inter partes hearings concerning trade marks.

The Unitary Patent (UP) is a new single European patent right with unitary legal effect for all EU Member States that have ratified the Agreement on a Unified Patent Court (UPCA). The UP allows patent holders to apply directly to the EPO for a patent which will be valid in all EU Member States that have ratified the Agreement when unitary effect is registered. As of December 31, 2024, the UP system included 18 participating EU Member States following Romania's accession to the UPC.

The Unitary Patent system has continued to grow since its launch in June 2023. In 2024 the EPO received 28,123 requests for unitary effect. European applicants account for 62.8% of the requests, followed by the US (15.3%) and East Asia (13.5%).

Take-up of UPs by proprietor type



In 2024, Ireland ranked 10th overall in unitary patent uptake in Europe, with an uptake of 33%, which is an increase on its 2023 position.

Ireland requires the successful passing of a constitutional referendum to ratify the UPCA. If Ireland joins the Unitary Patent system, European Patents granted to Irish patent holders may be issued with unitary effect (a Unitary Patent) in up to 19 European countries, including Ireland, which may then be enforced before one new international court, the Unified Patent Court.

IPOI staff represent Ireland in various international forums, ensuring that the Office's stance on intellectual property matters is effectively communicated, recognised, and upheld. Senior Management represents Ireland on the Administrative Council of the EPO and its associated committees, the Management Board and Budget Committee of the EUIPO, and the WIPO General Assembly. Additionally, Office staff who are experts in their fields, participate in numerous EPO and EUIPO technical and liaison committees, as well as Project Working Groups that drive European convergence and harmonisation initiatives.

Engagement at the international level fosters dialogue on the design and implementation of cooperation and convergence programmes between these organisations and other national and regional IP offices in Europe. This, in turn, enables the Office to refine and enhance its legal and regulatory frameworks, operational procedures, and customer services in accordance with global best practices.

1.4 Objective 4 - Staff and Workplace Excellence.

The Office is dedicated to fostering a culture of excellence and continuous self-development among staff to provide outstanding customer service. As outlined in the Statement of Strategy 2023-2025, the Office has made training and staff development a priority, ensuring employees possess the essential skills and capabilities needed. To help achieve this, staff performance is appraised regularly. The Performance Management Development System (PMDS) gives staff the opportunity to set individual goals, to drive change and continue to improve work practices to deliver an efficient high-quality service. In accordance with PMDS, a Training Development Plan was drafted which considered the various training needs identified by staff in their personal development plans for 2024. All units of the Office also complete a Team Charter, which sets out the purposes of the team, defines best practice and is a useful tool in the blended working environment. Throughout 2024, staff had the opportunity to participate in various information sessions and training both virtually and in person, covering a wide range of topics related to their work, such as refresher training on Data Protection and National Archive training, as well as mental and physical wellbeing.

2.0

Intellectual Property Trends and Indicators.

The WIPO Global Innovation Index (GII) ranks world economies according to their innovation capabilities.

The WIPO Global Innovation Index (GII) ranks 133 world economies, according to their innovation capabilities. These consist of roughly 80 indicators, grouped into innovation inputs and outputs. Ireland ranks 19th in the GII 2024. Europe hosts the highest innovation leaders among the top 25; 15 in total, with seven among the top 10. 2024 saw nine European economies move up the rankings with Ireland moving up three places. Ireland ranks top globally in ICT services exports (1st), intellectual property payments (1st) and ranks in the top 3 for its intangible asset intensity (2nd)¹. The index also recorded that Ireland performed better regarding “innovation outputs” (ranked 15th, up from 18th in 2023) than “innovation inputs” (ranked 25th, up from 26th in 2023).

In 2024, the major growth areas of innovation globally included computer technology, with a particular emphasis on AI and machine learning, alongside significant advancements in the clean-energy sector and battery technologies and a growing focus on electric and autonomous mobility.

Ongoing global geopolitical tensions throughout the year continued to create market uncertainties, particularly concerning trade and supply chains. Notwithstanding, the Irish economy continued to experience strong economic growth and high employment levels.

The latest figures from the Central Statistics Office² show that the domestic economy expanded by 2.7% in 2024. Gross Domestic Product, which includes multinational activity, increased by 1.2% over the year. Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), declined steadily from a peak of 4.1% in January to 1.4% in December. Consumer spending on goods and services, grew by 2.3%, while wages saw a 2.9% increase. Employment remained strong, with the numbers in work reaching almost 2.8 million.

1. [Global Innovation Index 2024: What is the future of innovation-driven growth? \(wipo.int\)](https://www.wipo.int/global_innovation_index/en/2024/)

2. www.cso.ie

2.1 Patents.

2.1.1 National Patent Applications.

The total number of national patent applications filed in 2024 showed an increase of over 31% on 2023 (from 589 to 774) which is due to a continuing high number of applications received from China again this year. Within that overall figure, national short term patent filings received during 2024 increased on the 2023 total (from 461 to 642) with the number of long-term patent applications increasing from 128 to 132.

2.1.2 Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs).

Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs) extend patent protection for medicinal and plant protection products by up to 5 years to account for delays in obtaining regulatory approval in the early years when bringing the product from patented status to marketability. Manufacturers take account of SPC rights to secure an extension of their market exclusivity to recoup the costs of investments in research and development. A total of 53 SPC applications were received in 2024, which is an increase of 18% over the 2023 total of 45 applications.

2.1.3 European Patents Designating Ireland.

The number of patent applications received at the EPO in 2024 decreased slightly by 0.1% to 199,264, of which 194,693 designated Ireland. European patent applications which designate Ireland are entered on the Irish Patent Register following publication of grant at the EPO and have the same legal status as if they had been granted by the Office.

Overall European patent applications filed by Irish resident companies increased by 4% in 2024 as compared to 2023. A total of 1,118 applications filed in 2024 means that Ireland is now ranked in 11th place in terms of European patent applications per million of inhabitants.



53
SPC Applications
in 2024.



Table 1

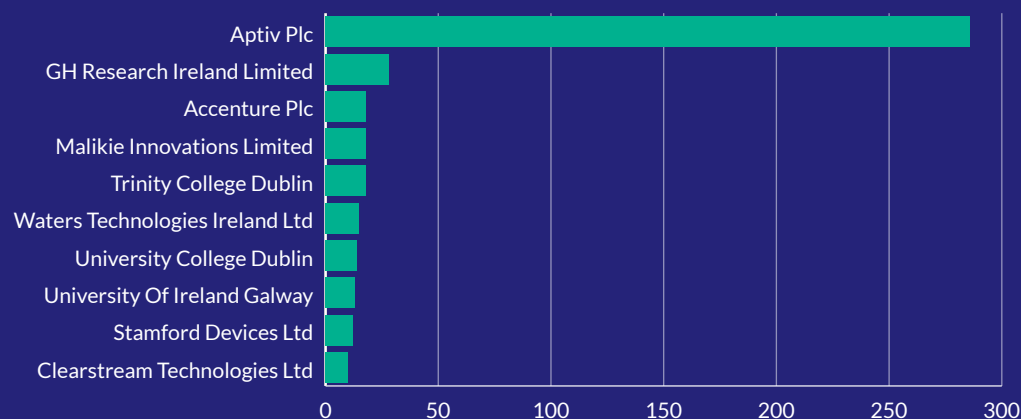
Developments in number of European Patent applications from Ireland since 2019

| Year | EP applications from Irish resident companies |
|------|---|
| 2019 | 882 |
| 2020 | 980 |
| 2021 | 1,015 |
| 2022 | 1,180 |
| 2023 | 1,071 |
| 2024 | 1,118 |

Source: EPO Patent Index 2024 data for Ireland. Historical filing figures shown in previous years may vary from year to year because of the updating of database by the relevant patent authorities.

Figure 1

Top Ten Patent Applicants in Ireland 2024



Source: www.epo.org Patent Index

Figure 2

Number of patent applications per technology field in 2024

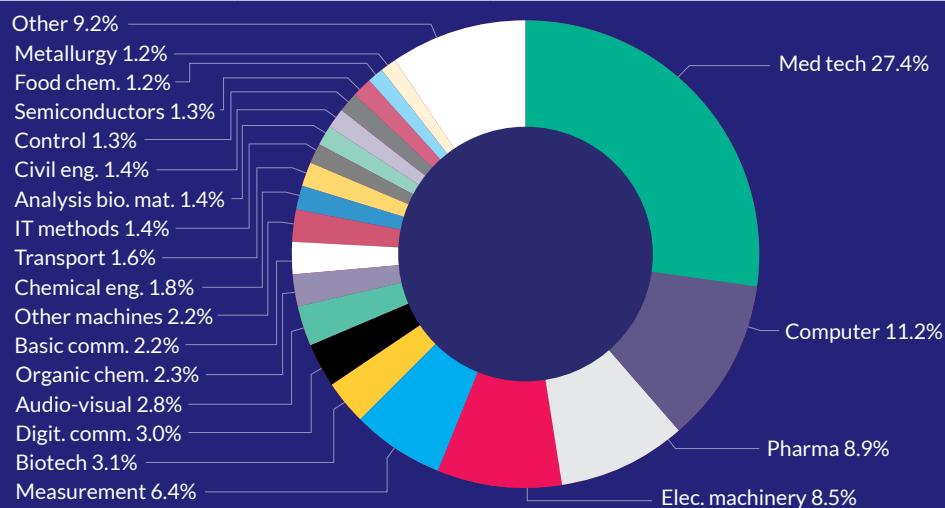


Table 2

Irish resident patent filings at selected International Patent Offices

| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| PCT ¹ | 762 | 908 | 783 | 756 | 729 |
| EPO ² | 980 | 1,015 | 1,180 | 1,057 | 1,118 |
| USA ³ | 1,271 | 1,226 | 1,390 | n/a | n/a |
| UK ⁴ | 366 | 296 | 226 | n/a | n/a |

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, EPO Statistics Database, UKIPO Facts & Figures & USPTO FY 2022 and 2023 Performance and Accountability Reports (PAR)

1. PCT applications (International Phase) filed by Irish residents by filing date.

2. Analysis based on European patent applications filed with the EPO

3. Filings refer to filings of Utility Patents also known as patents for inventions

4. UKIPO Facts and figures

Filings statistics are based on residence of first-named applicant. Historical filing figures shown in previous years may vary from year to year because of the updating by the relevant patent authorities.

2.2 Trade Marks and Designs

The total number of National trade mark applications increased by 5.3% from 2,218 in 2023 to 2,336 in 2024. The number of Industrial Design applications received has always been unpredictable and has fluctuated in recent years. In 2024 a total number of 109 individual design applications were received, a 13% decrease on the 2023 figure.

2.2.1 European Union Trade Marks (EUTMs) and Registered Community Designs (RCDs).

Some applicants choose to apply for a European Union Trade Mark (EUTM) rather than gaining a specific Irish registration because they wish to obtain trade mark protection in the EU and an EUTM registration covers all 27 EU countries. The number of filings of EUTM applications by Irish resident applicants increased by 13% from 1,351 applications in 2023 to 1,527 applications in 2024. Community Design applications filed by Irish resident applicants decreased from 304 to 301 in 2024.

Table 3

| EUTM and RCD applications by Irish resident applicants | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| EUTM applications | 1,273 | 1,351 | 1,527 |
| EUTM registrations | 1,216 | 1,166 | 1,278 |
| RCD applications | 313 | 304 | 301 |
| RCD registrations published | 250 | 326 | 304 |

Source: [Statistics EUIPO](#)

2.2.2 International Trade Marks.

The Madrid Protocol is an international system of trade mark registration which offers a trade mark owner the possibility to obtain trade mark protection in several countries by filing a single application. The Madrid system, which is administered by WIPO, offers a smart business solution for any company seeking to protect and manage its trade marks in international markets (usually outside the EU). The extent to which it is used by Irish resident companies can provide a useful indicator of their intent to break into foreign markets and to create new markets for existing and new product ranges. The Madrid Union currently has 114 members, covering 130 countries. These members represent more than 80% of world trade.

2.3 Madrid Applications

Table 4

| International Applications & Registrations via Madrid System for TM holders resident in Ireland where country of holder is Ireland | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Madrid Applications (by filing date) | 288 | 251 | 291 |
| Number of International Registrations | 274 | 263 | 280 |
| Designations in registrations | 2,278 | 2,213 | 2,248 |
| Subsequent Designations | 445 | 287 | 188 |

Source: WIPO IP Statistics ([Madrid System Statistics \(wipo.int\)](https://wipo.int/madrid/statistics))

WIPO recorded 280 international registrations for holders of trade marks domiciled in Ireland in 2024, up 6% on 2023. These registrations included 2,248 designations of other Madrid members in which the holders sought to extend protection for their trade marks. A total of 188 additional Madrid members were subsequently designated in already existing international registrations from Ireland, to extend their original geographic scope of protection to additional Madrid member countries or jurisdictions.

2.4 Official Journal

The fortnightly journal is published on the IPOI's website in PDF and searchable versions. Each journal issue has a searchable index, along with information on actions relating to patents, trade marks and designs. For example, it is possible to view details of accepted trade marks and registered designs in any journal. The journal contains details of patents applied for, published, granted, and lapsed, including patents granted under the European Patent Convention designating Ireland. The journal also contains information such as official notices, details of methods of payment of statutory fees and Office opening hours. The online journal has an interactive facility which allows users access to the Register extract for any patent, trade mark or design by clicking on a hyperlink within that journal.

3.0

International Co-operation

The Office participates in co-operation activities with its international counterparts, the EUIPO and the EPO, on several projects, to promote harmonisation across national and regional IP offices, and make things easier for users of the patents, trade marks and design systems.

3.1 European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)



The Office continued to actively contribute to many initiatives and projects managed by the EUIPO. The final round of Working Groups that operated under the Strategic Plan 2025 were held in October. IPOI staff successfully completed participation in these groups which delivered real and substantial benefits to Intellectual Property Offices across the EU and to customers and users of their services. The Convergence Programme of the EUIPO, launched in 2011, facilitates the convergence of practice between the EUIPO and National Offices. Collaborating with European User Associations, the key objective is to reach common ground in areas where IP offices have different practices. This complements the work being done to create common IT tools under the Cooperation Fund. Staff of the Office continued to build on the achievements of previous years through their active participation in various Working Groups established to support the aims of cooperation and the convergence of practice.

In support of one of our key goals, to deliver high quality IP rights, the Office consolidated the progress achieved by the awarding of ISO9001 quality certification in 2023. Our processes and procedures were successfully externally audited in 2024 as part of the continuous review of this system. This project was helped by financial and expert assistance from the EUIPO.

The SME Fund, launched by EUIPO in 2021, continued to successfully grow and expand. This scheme was created to help European small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) develop their IP strategies and protect their IP rights, at national or EU level. The fund is operated by the EUIPO in conjunction with the national IP Offices including the Intellectual Property Office of Ireland. Under the terms of the scheme, Irish SME's could be eligible to receive 75% off the basic application and registration fees of national and EU trade marks and designs. In addition, SMEs could apply for a refund of 75% of the cost of an IP audit conducted by recognised experts.

The SME Fund, subject to the availability of the budgeted funding, may also reimburse the search fees that are part of the application procedure for a national patent.

The main benefits for users arising from the various Convergence Programmes are:

- Clarity and transparency: Shared communication initiatives keep stakeholders informed of advancements in a timely manner, with unified information.
- Quality and usability: effective and efficient access to protection offered by registration systems both at the national and EU level.
- Legal certainty: increased legal certainty due to greater consistency in decisions made at national and EU level.
- Time and cost savings: potential reductions in application processing times and cost savings for both IP offices and applicants.

The Office continued to receive support from the EUIPO to maintain our data input to their flagship tools TMview and Design View. In addition, under a bilateral agreement with EUIPO, the Office availed of assistance towards the cost of a range of awareness raising events where information on the EU trade mark and EU Design Systems was disseminated.

The Office also actively engaged in the preparations for the new Strategic Plan 2030. A key contributor to the successful completion of the content of SP2030, which was launched in November 2024, was the joint hosting by EUIPO and the IPOI of the Annual Cooperation meeting of the European Union Intellectual Property Network in Kilkenny in May 2024. The event, which was attended by eighty delegates from the EU IP offices and the EUIPO focussed on developing the EUIPO Strategic Plan for 2030 and identifying future areas of cooperation and growth within the Network for the next six years. The Office received very positive feedback for the organisation of the event.

3.2 World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)



The IPOI continued to fulfil its commitments in the area of intellectual property protection arising from Ireland's membership of WIPO and the various multilateral treaties which it administers and in respect of which Ireland is a contracting state. In 2024, officers from the IPOI participated in the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents, the Committee of Experts of the IPC Union, Committee on WIPO standards, Group B+, and the IPC Revision Working Group. The Controller also attended the General Assembly meeting in July, which brings together all WIPO Member States to discuss the direction of future international IP policy.

In 2024, the Office signed a Memorandum of Understanding with WIPO to promote the use of specialised intellectual property and technology alternative dispute resolution (ADR) options in Ireland. The IPOI look forward to working with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Centre in raising awareness of the many benefits of ADR.

3.3 European Patent Office (EPO)



IPOI staff continued to be actively involved in activities of the various bodies and committees of the EPO throughout 2024. Representatives from the Office participated in meetings of the Administrative Council, Budget and Finance Committee, Technical Co-Operation and Support Committee and the Patent Law Committee. The IPOI and the EPO agreed a new co-operation agreement for the period 2024-2026 which provides funding and technical assistance in the areas of knowledge and outreach, convergence of practices, IT co-operation and capacity support for Member States. The four projects, outlined below, will enhance the digital and information services provided by the Office as well as strengthening knowledge transfer between the EPO and the IPOI.

- Knowledge and outreach: To foster IP knowledge, the values of innovation, entrepreneurship and technology for students and the education sector.
- Convergences of practices: To continue to work to achieve further convergence of patent practices across member states that benefit users.
- IT co-operation: To strengthen the data management and information security capabilities of the IPOI by maximising the use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence.
- Capacity support for Member States: To provide support measures to National Patent Offices facing temporary capacity gaps in search and examination of patents.

4.0

2024 Events

Throughout 2024, the IPOI attended a variety of events and meetings, both nationally and internationally, as well as hosting various meetings in the Kilkenny Offices. This is a snapshot of some of the events attended.

January

- IPOI attended the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition in Dublin.
- IPOI information team attended the Transition Year (TY) Show Cork.



James Kelly Controller of the IPOI presenting the IPOI Award to Megan Bohan and Riona O'Farrell from the Ursuline College Sligo at the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition, Dublin.



IPOI welcomes EUIPO colleagues
Pictured from L-R: Cesar Vidal, EUIPO, James Kelly, Controller of IPOI, Javier Moreno, EUIPO, John Nolan, Caroline Kelly, Conor Noonan, Keelan O'Donnell, Avril Hetherington.

March

- IPOI attended the EPO Admin Council & select committee meeting in Munich.
- Office attended WIPO's IPC Committee of Experts meeting in Geneva.
- Webinar hosted by IPOI for Local Enterprise Office Westmeath during their Local Enterprise Week.

February

- Office attends the EPO Committee on Patent Law.
- EPI Unified Patent Court Seminar.
- EUIPO Technical visit to the Office.
- Office hosts Co-operation Meeting with EUIPO.



IPOI welcoming EU delegates to Kilkea Castle attending the EUIPN Annual Cooperation meeting.

May

- Office attended EPO Working Group on Data Quality.
- Office attended WIPO IPC Working Group.
- James Kelly attended IP case law event in Alicante.
- IPOI attends European Patent Network 18th Annual Meeting with Member States in Vilnius, Lithuania.
- IPOI host the EUIPN Annual Cooperation Meeting in Kilkea Castle & Kilkenny.
- Office attends the 18th Medicines for Europe Legal Affairs Conference.
- IPOI attended Budget & Finance Committee meeting in Munich.
- Presentation of IP awareness prizes at the Student Enterprise Awards in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.



Minister Emer Higgins, and James Kelly IPOI Controller pictured with colleagues at the EU Commission Knowledge Valorisation event.



James Kelly with João Negrão Executive Director of EUIPO.



Visit by EPO Vice-President, Steve Rowan and Emma Ó Donnabháin
Pictured L-R James Kelly, Minister Emer Higgins, Emma Ó Donnabháin, EPO and Steve Rowan, Vice-President DG1 EPO.

April

- EPO Technical and Operational Support Committee meeting.
- EPO Convergence of Practice on third party observations attended by Office.
- IPOI attends EU Commission Knowledge Valorisation conference in Dublin.
- Presentation on How to Protect your Intellectual Property by IPOI in Monaghan.

June

- James Kelly attended MBBC in Alicante.
- IPOI delegates attend EPO Admin Council meeting in Munich.
- Visit by Steve Rowan, EPO Vice-President of the EPO to Ireland.

July

- Controller attended WIPO General Assembly in Geneva.
- Controller attended IP and Data Protection Committee.
- Office attended Group B+ Plenary.
- IPOI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with WIPO on Alternative Dispute Resolution.



James Kelly with Darren Tang, Director General of WIPO



Sean Brett Tullamore Show, Winner of IPOI award at Student Enterprise Programme

September

- Controller attended the EUIPO Design Awards in Riga.
- EPO Working Group on Data Quality attended by Office.
- Office attended WIPO Committee on Standards.
- IPOI information team attended the National Ploughing Championship.
- IPOI information team attended the Transition Year (TY) Show Dublin, promoting the IP in Education programme.



Minister Dara Calleary & Caroline Kelly, IPOI at the National Ploughing Championships.

August

- IPOI information team attended the Tullamore Show, Offaly.

November

- Controller attended EUIPO Meeting of the Joint Management Board & Budget Committee (MBBC).
- Patent & Trade Mark Agent Board meetings attended by James Kelly.
- Office attended the EPO Technical and Operational Support Committee (TOSC) meeting in Munich.
- IPOI participated in the International Conference on Geographic Indications in Slovenia.
- IPOI hosted an online IP information session for 2025 BTYSE finalists.



pictured at the Dublin IP R&D Summit. Summit.



Conference on Geographic Indications held in Slovenia in November 2024.



Simon Grey, Sinead Skrba APTMA, Dolores Cassidy, James Kelly IPOI, Hazel Tunney, Shane Smyth APTMA, Claire O'Reilly, John Nolan IPOI

October

- Office attended EPO Administrative Council, Budget & Finance & Select Committee meetings.
- Office attended the Life Science Strategy Summit on IP & Exclusivity in Munich.
- SPC Blog Meeting in London attended by Office.
- WIPO IPC Working Group attended by Office.
- Office attended WIPO Standing Committee on Patents.
- IPOI attended Business Studies Teachers Association of Ireland (BSTAI) Conference.
- IPOI attended annual Student Enterprise Conference in West Cork.

December

- Meeting with Association of Patent and Trade Mark Agents in Kilkenny.
- Meeting of the EPO Administrative Council in Munich.
- IPOI attended the EUIPN Points of Contact meeting at EUIPO in Alicante.
- IP in Education team visited five schools in Wicklow, Dublin, Tipperary, Waterford and Limerick.

5.0

Website and Social Media

The IPOI website provides access to a range of online interactive search and fee payment services. Online services include e-payments, e-filing of patent, SPC, trade mark and design applications, viewing and searching of patent, trade mark and design registers and databases, the registers of copyright licensing bodies and patent and trade mark agents. Material published on the website includes previous year's annual reports, the full suite of IP information booklets, the Office's current Statement of Strategy and Customer Service Action Plan as well as all primary and secondary legislation governing the functions of the Office. The website received 276,546 visits in 2024. As in previous years the interactive online register search pages continue to be one of the most popular website pages.

Having expanded its presence on all its digital channels, the Office concentrated in 2024 on increasing the number of followers by providing topical, relatable content, highlighting attendance at events and running targeted information campaigns aimed at SMEs and students. LinkedIn followers increased by 73% during the year. The theme of the 2024 World Intellectual Property Day was "IP and the Sustainable Development Goals - Building our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity". To mark this event, the Office provided a week of online posts on how IP helps to build a better future for our planet, our people, and the economy. Two Irish SMEs working in sustainability were featured together with the winners of the 2024 Best Group Award at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition, with their project on ash dieback disease.

Increasing Visibility in 2024

**73%**Increase in followers
on LinkedIn

ipoi.gov.ie

276,546

page views

**World
Intellectual
Property Day****Showcased 2**Irish SMEs and the winners of
Best Group Award BTYSE 2024



5.1 Intellectual Property in Education Programme

In 2024 the IPOI information team continued to extend the IP in Education programme for secondary school students. In collaboration with the Student Enterprise Programme, the team attended a wide range of schools across the country and provided the presentation to over 3,000 students, a 50% increase over 2023. The informative and topical sessions on intellectual property are specifically targeted at Transition Year students who typically take part in events such as the BT Young Scientist and the Student Enterprise Awards where intellectual property should be considered as part of their entries. The format of the presentation “What is Intellectual Property?” is very interactive with IPOI speakers presenting on the different IP rights. Students are encouraged to take part in the presentation by integrating question and answer segments throughout and several everyday examples of how IP affects the choices we make daily. Products and logos are used during the presentation to help students identify with the various IP rights, such as patents, trade marks, copyright, designs, and trade secrets. The presentation also covers the rapidly evolving area of artificial intelligence, counterfeit goods, together with the addition of our IP in Education animated explainer video. The information team also introduced a second team of speakers in 2024, allowing the Office to increase the numbers of schools attended.

6.0

Public Sector Duty Statement

The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty Statement is set out in Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 and places a statutory obligation on public bodies to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and protect the human rights of those to whom they provide services, and staff when carrying out their daily work.

The 2014 Act requires a public body, having regard to its functions, purpose, size, and resources available to it, to inter alia report on developments and achievements in the discharge of this statutory obligation in its annual report.

The IPOI is committed to ensuring that there is a culture of respect for human rights and equality among its staff and for the people to whom the Office provide services. In its day-to-day work and particularly in its dealings with stakeholders, the IPOI ensures that no member of the public or other stakeholder suffers discrimination in interactions with the Office under any of the protected grounds: gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, disability, age, race, religion and membership of the Traveller community. The IPOI extends the same equality of treatment to its staff. Mechanisms used by the IPOI for meeting its public sector duty include:

- Implementation and review of the requirements for equality of access as set out in the Disability Act 2005 and the appointment of an IPOI Access Officer.
- Enshrining the duty in the Office's Customer Service Plan with input from service users and stakeholders.
- Implementation of the Civil Service dignity at work, anti-bullying, harassment and sexual harassment policy for IPOI employees.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment launched its first Strategy for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion in 2023 to work towards promoting a positive culture of support and inclusion, ensuring equality of opportunity for staff and equality in access to services for customers. James Kelly, Controller of the IPOI, is a member of the Departmental working group tasked with delivering the Strategy's actions and reporting on progress annually. The working group continued its activities in 2024.

Official Languages Act (2003 & 2021)

The IPOI is committed to meeting all its obligations under the Official Language Acts (2003 & 2021). Under Section 4b of the Act, the IPOI is required to report annually on its obligations under this Act.

Claire O'Reilly, Assistant Principal Officer, has been appointed to oversee performance and report on the IPOI's obligations under the Official Languages Acts (2003 & 2021).

The following actions were taken by the IPOI during the year 2024 to ensure compliance with the Act:

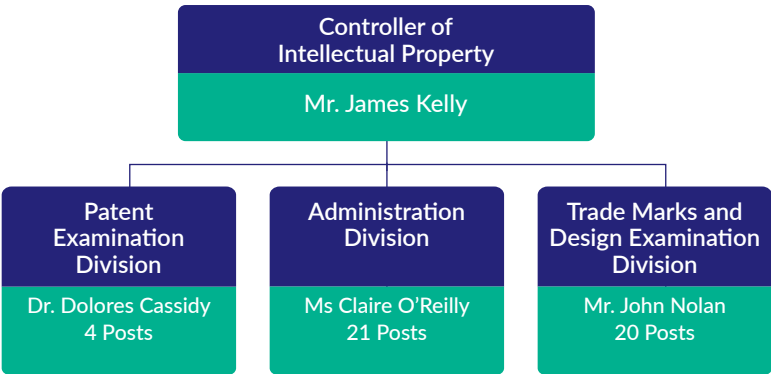
- The required amount of Social Media posts in the Irish language were created.
- A review of complaints received was undertaken to reduce likelihood of recurrence.
- New information leaflets were produced in both the English and Irish languages.

Protected Disclosures Act 2014

Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 requires that all public bodies, including prescribed persons, must publish an annual report of all protected disclosures received in each year. The IPOI received no protected disclosures in 2024.

7.0

Organisation and Staffing



On 31 December 2024, the 46 posts were filled by 45.2 whole time equivalents. In addition, a total of three permanent staff – one Executive Officer and two Clerical Officers were availing of a work-sharing scheme. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment provides information technology services to the Office. There are four members of the Department’s ICT Unit and seven members of the IPU Team situated in the Office.

| Table 5 | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Staff | |
| Title | Posts |
| Controller of Intellectual Property | 1 |
| Senior Patent Examiner | 1 |
| Assistant Principal | 2 |
| Higher Executive Officer | 5 |
| Patent Examiner | 3 |
| Executive Officer | 19 |
| Clerical Officer | 14 |
| Services Officer | 1 |
| Total | 46 |

8.0

Energy Efficiency in the IPOI

In line with the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate, the IPOI ensured that the Office was a sustainable and environmentally responsible workplace in 2024 through emission reductions, the implementing of energy savings projects as well as establishing a green ethos in the Office.



Office staff play a pivotal role in delivering the Government's Energy Efficiency Action Plan which has a target of reducing energy consumption, increasing staff awareness of energy efficiency, and monitoring performance of heating/air conditioning equipment. Energy saving measures have resulted in significant savings since 2008, when the Office first joined the Optimising Power @ Work campaign. This is a cross Departmental initiative run by the Office of Public Works which aims to change staff behaviour towards energy use and eliminating energy wastage in public offices. An Energy Advisor is appointed to each participating building and sets energy savings targets. The Energy Advisor also advises staff as to how energy savings may be achieved, through no or low-cost measures. Measures included closely monitoring heating usage to avoid waste during public holidays, switching off all unnecessary lighting and reducing the temperature on heating.

Based on end of year data, the Office has saved 52% overall on energy consumption since joining the campaign. The Office continued to meet the 2030 50% target set, which derived from a 65% reduction in electricity (whole building) and 7% savings in heating. This year, the IPOI, along with the other offices in the building, has reduced its carbon footprint by over 56% compared to the benchmark year or a staggering 193 tonnes of CO₂. Having a designated officer with responsibility for monitoring energy efficiency in the building plays a large part in the ongoing reductions in energy usage.

In 2024, a major project to install Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panels across the Office building rooftops commenced. This project, scheduled for completion in 2025, marks a significant step toward reducing the buildings environmental footprint. Once operational, the solar installation is expected to generate a substantial portion of the Office's energy needs on-site, improving overall energy efficiency. This initiative underscores the commitment to clean energy and long-term operational sustainability.

9.0

Business Statistics

9.1 Patents

A total of 774 patent applications was received in 2024, which is a 31% increase over the corresponding 2023 figure. At the end of 2024, there were 1,260 pending patent applications on hand in the IPOI, which is a 62% increase over the 2023 figure of 777. These increases are due to a significant rise in applications received from China. 386 applications were awaiting the submission of evidence of novelty, up from the 2023 figure of 159. This historically high figure has been reducing steadily over the past number of years. The number of applications received from applicants in the State was 153 compared with 200 in 2023.

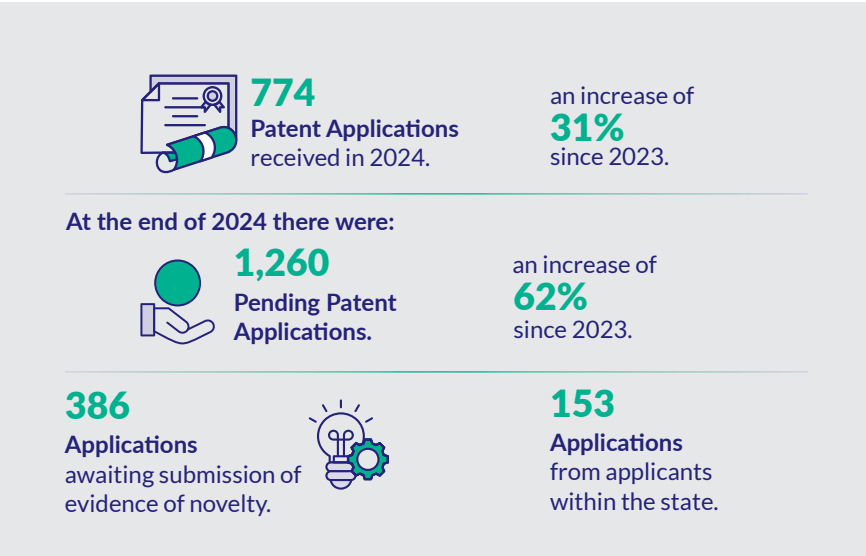


Table 5

| Patents | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-------|------|-----------------|------------|-------|
| Applications Received | | | | Patents Granted | | |
| Full Term | Short Term | Total | Year | Full Term | Short Term | Total |
| 89 | 117 | 206 | 2022 | 37 | 34 | 71 |
| 128 | 461 | 589 | 2023 | 51 | 58 | 109 |
| 132 | 642 | 774 | 2024 | 27 | 83 | 110 |

9.1.1 Supplementary Protection Certificates

A total of 53 requests for Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs) were received during the year under the European Communities (Supplementary Protection Certificates) Regulations, 1992 (medicinal) and 1996 (plant protection products). During the year, 13 certificates were granted (medicinal and plant protection), 1 was rejected and 6 requests were withdrawn. At the end of the year there were 240 requests pending, compared to 207 in 2023.

Figure 3

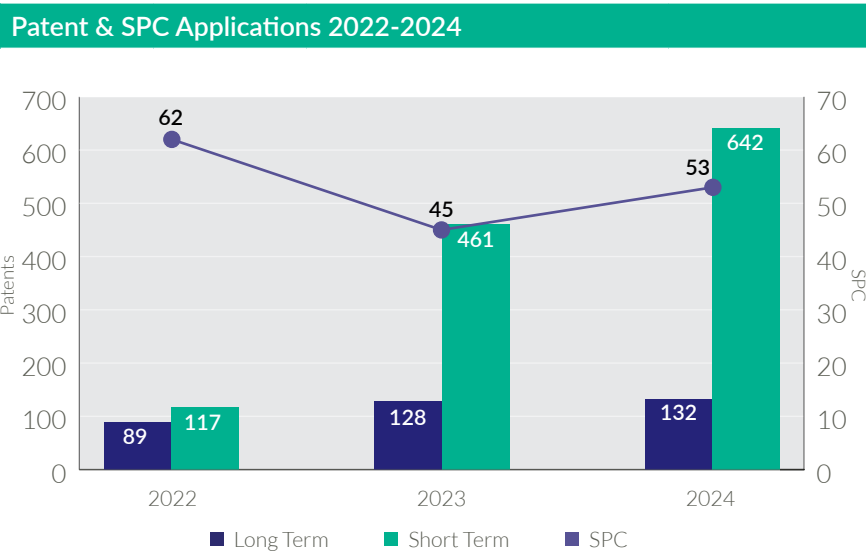


Figure 4 shows the total number of European applications designating Ireland. This figure is not included in the total number of patents granted in 2024 having effect in the State.

9.1.2 European Patent Applications

There were 194,693 European Patent Applications designating Ireland in 2024. The total number of European Patent Applications in 2024 was 199,264. For each European Patent Convention contracting state, the number of designations in applications is generally nearly 100% of the total applications, since all countries are initially automatically designated. There were 109,371 granted European Patents designating Ireland in 2024.

Figure 4

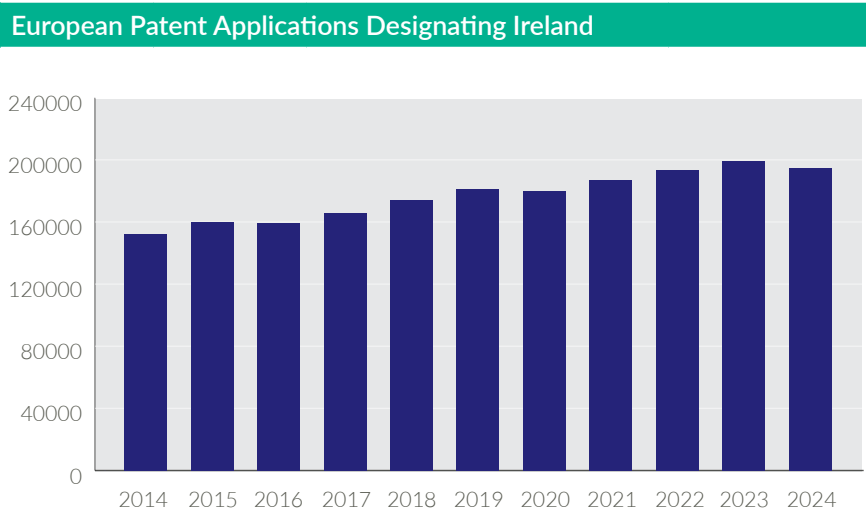


Table 6

Patents granted in 2024 having effect in the State

| 2024 | Total | Number of patents granted to Applicants from within the State | % of patents granted to Applicants from within the State |
|-------------------|---------|---|--|
| Granted by Office | 109 | 21 | 19% |
| Granted by EPO | 109,390 | 782 | 0.710% |
| Total Grants | 109,500 | 803 | 0.73% |

Table 7

Patent Register Data

| | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Patents and patent applications the subject of assignments | 1,161 | 633 | 971 |
| Patents surrendered | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Patents lapsed | 109,497 | 86,155 | 93,362 |
| Patents restored/reinstated | 19 | 13 | 11 |
| Patents renewed | 61,730 | 60,419 | 60,581 |
| Patents expired | 1,581 | 1,542 | 1776 |
| Patents & SPCs in force | 167,727 | 184,230 | 198,388 |
| Hearings (ex-parte) | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| PCT applications received for transmission to WIPO | 9 | 9 | 11 |
| European patent applications received for transmission to EPO | 0 | 0 | 0 |

9.1.3 Register of Patent Agents

At the end of 2024 there were 84 individuals, and eight partnerships entered in the Register of Patent Agents. The Law and Practice of Patents examination was held online in April 2024. A total of nine candidates sat the exam, seven passed and two failed with an overall success rate of 78%.

Patent Classification

- Patents are given classifications based on their technical content,
- Allowing retrieval of patents according to the nature of the inventions.

The International Patent Classification (IPC)

Consists of about **70,000** Classification Symbols,

Divided between **8** basic sections A-H
Each Section relates to different basic kinds of technology.

- A Human Necessities
- B Performing Operations
- C Chemistry
- D Textiles
- E Fixed Constructions
- F Mechanical Engineering
- G Physics
- H Electricity

The classification system is revised constantly ensuring new and emerging technologies are included.

New editions are released yearly.

A classification code is given for each inventive element in a patent.

A Patent may;

Contain **2** or more inventions as long as they are sufficiently related, for instance, a new chemical compound and its use as a medicine or herbicide.

Need several classification symbols to cover the whole of its content.

9.1.4 Classification of Patents Granted in 2024

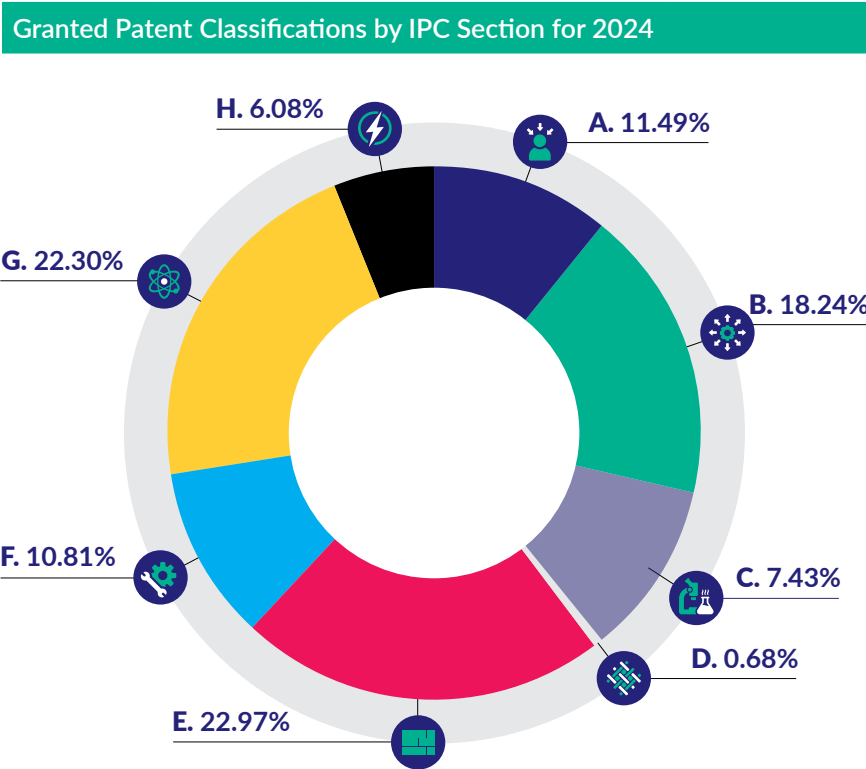
The accompanying table and graph collate the total number of classifications allocated to granted patents in 2024. Each individual classification represents an inventive element disclosed in a patent, so this is akin to a tally of inventiveness. Classifications are grouped by IPC section.

Table 8

| Classification of Patents Granted in 2024 | | |
|---|---|---------|
| Classification | | Grants* |
| A | Human Necessities: e.g. Foodstuffs, Health, Personal Articles | 17 |
| B | Performing Operations: Transporting: e.g. Shaping, Printing, Vehicle Technology | 27 |
| C | Chemistry: Metallurgy | 11 |
| D | Textiles: Paper | 1 |
| E | Fixed Constructions: e.g. Building, Drilling, Mining | 34 |
| F | Mechanical Engineering: Lighting; Heating; Weapons; Blasting | 16 |
| G | Physics: e.g. Optics, Computing, Nuclear Physics | 33 |
| H | Electricity: e.g. Electronic circuits, electricity generation and distribution | 9 |

*Note on Patent Classification

Figure 5



9.2 Trade Marks

The following tables set out the main business statistics in relation to Trade Marks in 2024. A total of 2,336 National Trade Mark applications were received, an increase of 118 when compared with 2023. 1,949 applications were registered. A total of 829 International Trade Mark registrations were received, which is a decrease of 63 on the 2023 figure. A total of 742 International Trade Mark registrations were protected.

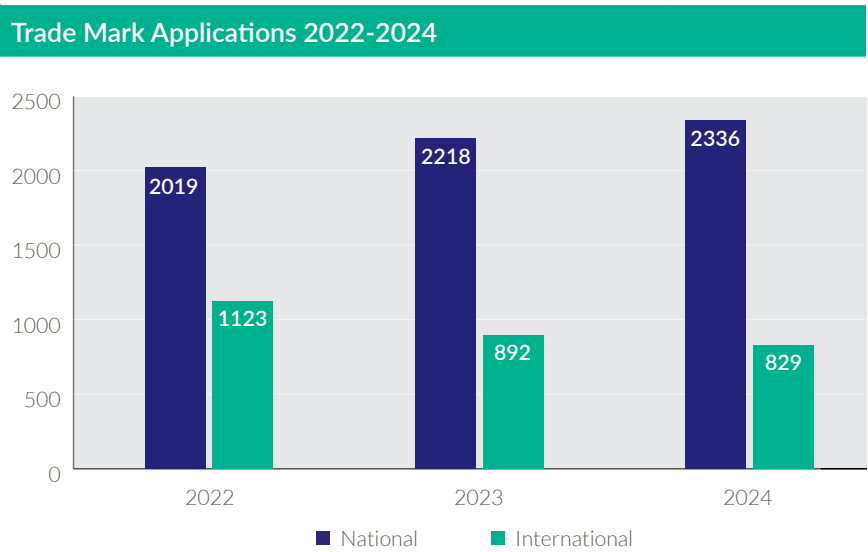
Table 9

| National Trade Mark Applications | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|------------|---------|------------|
| Year | Received | Advertised | Opposed | Registered |
| 2022 | 2,019 | 1,590 | 43 | 1,675 |
| 2023 | 2,218 | 1,791 | 37 | 1,220 |
| 2024 | 2,336 | 2,225 | 57 | 1,949 |

Table 10

| International Trade Mark Registrations | | | | |
|--|----------|------------|---------|-----------|
| Year | Received | Advertised | Opposed | Protected |
| 2022 | 1,123 | 947 | 13 | 940 |
| 2023 | 892 | 920 | 12 | 967 |
| 2024 | 829 | 751 | 18 | 742 |

Figure 6



9.2.1 Classification of Trade Marks Registered 2024

A multilateral treaty called the “Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks” established a classification system for Trade Marks. The Nice Classification comprises 45 class headings which describe in very broad terms the nature of the goods or services contained in each of the 34 classes of goods and 11 classes of services into which Trade Marks may fall. The classification is administered by WIPO and the current (twelfth) edition has been in force since 1 January 2024.

Table 11

| Classification of Trade Marks, 2024* | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------|-------|---|----------|
| Class | Classification of Goods | Quantity | Class | Classification of Goods | Quantity |
| 1 | Chemical Products, etc. | 40 | 23 | Yarns, Threads | 4 |
| 2 | Paints, etc. | 23 | 24 | Tissues (piece goods), etc. | 40 |
| 3 | Bleaching Preparations, etc. | 150 | 25 | Clothing, including Boots, Shoes and Slippers | 164 |
| 4 | Industrial Oils, etc. | 47 | | | |
| 5 | Pharmaceutical Substances, etc. | 225 | 26 | Lace and Embroidery, etc. | 23 |
| 6 | Unwrought & Partly Wrought Common Metals and their Alloys | 60 | 27 | Carpets, etc. | 13 |
| | | | 28 | Games, etc. | 68 |
| 7 | Machines and Machine Tools, etc. | 43 | 29 | Meat, Fish, Poultry and Game, etc. | 114 |
| 8 | Hand Tools and Instruments, Cutlery, etc. | 29 | 30 | Coffee, Tea, Cocoa, Sugar, Rice, etc. | 161 |
| 9 | Scientific Apparatus and Instruments, etc. | 318 | 31 | Agricultural Products, etc. | 36 |
| 10 | Surgical Instruments, etc. | 60 | 32 | Beer, etc. | 63 |
| 11 | Installations for Lighting, etc. | 78 | 33 | Wines, Spirits and Liqueurs | 99 |
| 12 | Vehicles; Apparatus for Locomotion by Land, Air or Water | 51 | 34 | Tobacco, etc. | 7 |
| | | | 35 | Advertising, Business Management, etc. | 385 |
| 13 | Firearms, Ammunition and Projectiles; Explosive Substances; Fireworks | 1 | 36 | Insurance, Financial Affairs, etc. | 183 |
| | | | 37 | Building Construction, Repair, Installation Services. | 123 |
| 14 | Precious Metals and their Alloys, etc. | 36 | 38 | Telecommunications | 81 |
| 15 | Musical Instruments (other than talking machines and wireless apparatus) | 5 | | | |
| 16 | Paper, etc. | 211 | 39 | Transport, Packaging and Storage of Goods, etc. | 101 |
| 17 | Gutta Percha, India Rubber, etc. | 16 | 40 | Treatment of Materials | 41 |
| 18 | Leather, etc. | 49 | 41 | Education, Entertainment, etc. | 432 |
| 19 | Building Materials, etc. | 45 | 42 | Scientific and technological services | 231 |
| 20 | Furniture, etc. | 54 | 43 | Providing food and drink | 141 |
| 21 | Small Domestic Utensils, etc. | 73 | 44 | Medical services, etc | 164 |
| 22 | Ropes, etc. | 15 | 45 | Personal and social services | 89 |

*A Trade Mark may be registered in more than one class; hence, the total number of trade marks in the classes exceeds the number of trade marks actually registered.

Figure 7

Top 5 Classes of Goods and Services 2024

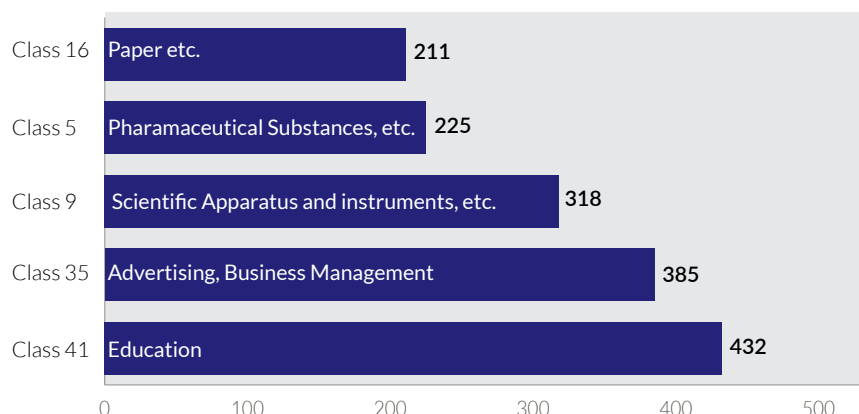


Table 12

| Trade Marks Register Data | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Number of trade marks the subject of assignments | 1,161 | 1,019 | 953 |
| Licences of trade marks recorded in the register | 10 | 20 | 3 |
| Trade mark registrations removed non-payment of renewal fees | 2,380 | 2,187 | 1,764 |
| Trade mark registrations surrendered | 19 | 6 | 5 |
| Trade mark registrations restored | 3 | 7 | 10 |
| Trade mark registrations renewed | 4,144 | 3,654 | 3,296 |
| National trade marks revoked in full and in part | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| International trade marks revoked in full and in part | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| National trade marks declared invalid | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| International trade marks declared invalid | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| National registered trade marks in force | 50,619 | 49,938 | 49,188 |
| International trade marks in force | 20,417 | 20,110 | 19,656 |
| Total trade marks in force | 71,036 | 70,048 | 68,844 |

9.2.2 Register of Trade Mark Agents

At the end of 2024, there were 247 individuals, and 15 partnerships entered on the Register. The Law and Practice of Trade Marks examination was held online in April 2024. 28 candidates sat the trade marks exam, 16 passed and 12 failed with an overall pass rate of 57%.

Table 13

| Hearings | | | |
|---|------|------|------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Hearings (ex-parte) | 7 | 9 | 2 |
| Hearings (inter-parte) | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Hearings (inter-parte by way of written submission or papers filed) | 5 | 5 | 2 |
| Applications to convert EU Trade Mark applications into national applications | 35 | 35 | 36 |
| International Trade Mark applications filed and transmitted to WIPO | 64 | 69 | 93 |

9.3 Designs

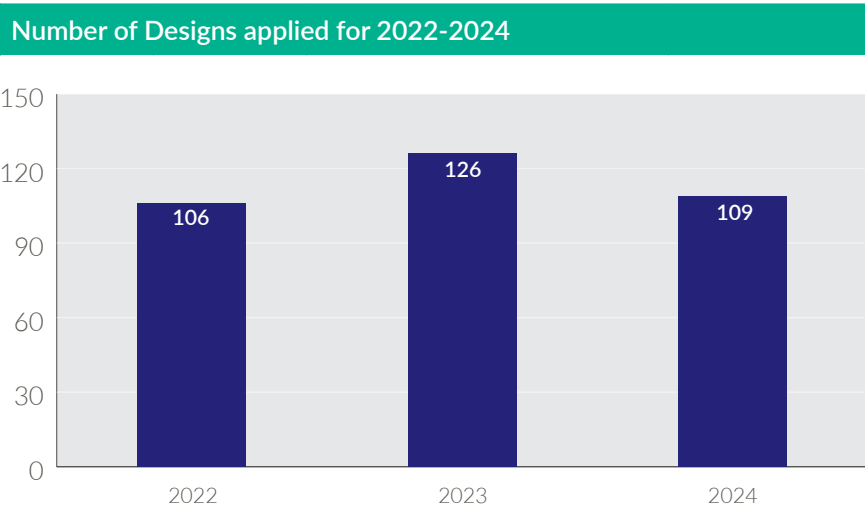
The following tables set out the main business statistics in relation to Industrial Designs. A total of 51 National Design applications were received in 2024, incorporating 109 individual designs. 107 Designs were registered during the year. A total of 1,146 National Designs remained in force at the end of year

Table 14

| Design Register Data | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
| Design Applications* | 50 | 47 | 51 |
| Number of Designs applied for* | 106 | 126 | 109 |
| Designs Registered | 102 | 115 | 107 |
| Designs Expired | 91 | 152 | 511 |
| Designs Renewed | 75 | 90 | 99 |
| Designs in force | 1,587 | 1,550 | 1,146 |

*Note: Rule 19 of the Industrial Designs Regulations 2002 provides that up to a maximum of 100 designs may be combined in one multiple application for registration of designs.

Figure 8



9.3.1 Classification of Designs Registered 2024

The Locarno Agreement established a classification system for industrial designs. The Locarno Classification comprises a list of 32 classes of goods in which industrial designs may be incorporated. The classification is administered by WIPO and the current 15th edition has been in force since January 1, 2025.

Table 15

| Classification of Designs* | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------|
| Class | Classification | Registered* |
| 1 | Foodstuffs | 0 |
| 2 | Articles of Clothing and Haberdashery | 7 |
| 3 | Travel Goods, Cases, Parasols and Personal Belongings, not elsewhere specified | 0 |
| 4 | Brushware | 0 |
| 5 | Textile Piecegood Articles, Artificial and Natural Sheet Material | 8 |
| 6 | Furnishings | 12 |
| 7 | Household Goods, not elsewhere specified | 1 |
| 8 | Tools and Hardware | 0 |
| 9 | Packages and Containers for the Transport or Handling of Goods | 12 |
| 10 | Clocks and Watches and other Measuring Instruments, Checking and Signalling Instruments | 0 |
| 11 | Articles of Adornment | 37 |
| 12 | Means of Transport or Hoisting | 1 |
| 13 | Equipment for Production, Distribution or Transformation of Electricity | 2 |
| 14 | Recording, Communication or Information Retrieval Equipment | 8 |
| 15 | Machines, not elsewhere specified | 0 |
| 16 | Photographic, Cinematographic and Optical Apparatus | 0 |
| 17 | Musical Instruments | 1 |
| 18 | Printing and Office Machinery | 0 |
| 19 | Stationery and Office Equipment, Artists' and Teaching Materials | 2 |
| 20 | Sales and Advertising Equipment, Signs | 2 |
| 21 | Games, Toys, Tents and Sports Goods | 4 |
| 22 | Arms, Pyrotechnic Articles, Articles for Hunting, Fishing and Pest Killing | 0 |
| 23 | Fluid Distribution Equipment, Sanitary, Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning Equipment, Solid Fuel | 1 |
| 24 | Medical and Laboratory Equipment | 0 |
| 25 | Building Units and Construction Elements | 2 |
| 26 | Lighting Apparatus | 1 |
| 27 | Tobacco and Smokers' Supplies | 0 |
| 28 | Pharmaceutical Products and Cosmetic Products, Toilet Articles and Apparatus | 2 |
| 29 | Devices and Equipment Against Fire Hazards, for Accident Prevention and for Rescue | 1 |
| 30 | Articles for the Care and Handling of Animals | 1 |
| 31 | Machines and Appliances for Preparing Food or Drink, not elsewhere specified | 0 |
| 32 | Graphic Symbols and Logos, Surface Patterns, Ornamentation | 11 |
| | Total | 116 |

*A Design may be registered in more than one class; hence, the total number of designs in the classes exceeds the number of designs actually registered.

9.4 Copyright

9.4.1 Collective Rights Management (CRM)

The European Union (Collective Rights Management) (Directive 2014/26/EU) Regulations 2014 (“the CRM Regulations”) were transposed into Irish law through S.I. No.156 of 2016 with effect from 10 April 2016.

The Regulations act to incorporate into Irish law EU Directive 2014/26/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on collective management of copyright and related rights and multi-territorial licensing of rights in musical works for online use in the internal market (“the CRM Directive”). The CRM Directive has two aims:

- to ensure that Collective Management Organisations (CMOs) act in the best interests of their rightsholders by enforcing a minimum standard of governance and transparency on all European CMO and Independent Management Agencies (IMEs).
- to facilitate the multi-territorial licensing of authors’ rights in musical works for online uses.

The CRM regulations provide that the Controller is the competent authority in Ireland for monitoring compliance in the State. The regulations also provide that in addition to meeting the requirements set out in the Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000 which requires a CMO to register and maintain its registration as a copyright licensing body before it can operate in the State, each CMO or IME headquartered in Ireland must also submit an annual compliance statement and compliance report to the Controller, together with their registration documentation. The compliance reporting requirements of the CRM Regulations currently apply to 10 of the 14 registered copyright licensing bodies operating in the State.

9.4.2 References to the Controller under the Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000

Under Section 38 of the Act, disputes between people playing sound recordings in public and the owner of the copyright subsisting in those recordings, regarding the equitable remuneration payable to the copyright owner, may be referred to the Controller for determination. Under Sections 151 and 152 of the Act, disputes between people or organisations regarding a proposed or existing licensing scheme and the operator of the licensing scheme regarding the equitable remuneration payable, may be referred to the Controller for determination. In 2024 there were no references made to the Controller under Section 38.

9.4.3 Registers of Copyright Licensing Bodies under the Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000

The Act makes provision for the Controller to establish and maintain the following Registers:

- The Register of Copyright Licensing Bodies.
- The Register of Licensing Bodies for Performers' Property Rights.
- The Register of Licensing Bodies for Database Rights.

In 2024, 14 bodies were registered in the Register of Copyright Licensing Bodies, 1 body was registered in the Register of Licensing Bodies for Performers' Property Rights and there were no entries in the Register of Licensing Bodies for Database Rights. The Registers may be viewed on the IPOI website.

9.4.4 Orphan Works

Orphan Works are works such as books, films, newspaper articles and other creative material that are protected by copyright, but whose owner cannot be found or contacted to obtain permission to use them. The works may be part of collections held by Beneficiary Organisations such as libraries, museums, archives, film and audio heritage institutions and public service broadcasting organisations. The EU Directive on Orphan Works (Directive 2012/28/EU) sets out common rules for the use of Orphan Works by cultural organisations for the purpose of digitising those works for non-commercial purposes without infringing copyright. Following the completion of a diligent search to establish either ownership or the orphan nature of the work(s), any organisation wishing to register an Orphan Work in the Orphan Works Database must first apply online to the EUIPO to be registered as a "Beneficiary Organisation." To date, eight Irish organisations have been registered as Beneficiary Organisations.



10.0

Knowledge Development Box

The Knowledge Development Box (Certification of Inventions) Act 2017, (No. 6 of 2017) (the KDB Act) establishes a certification scheme to enable SMEs which have inventions in the form of intellectual property (IP) equivalent to a patentable invention to qualify for the KDB and avail of the reduced corporate tax rate.

Eligible SMEs are those with income arising from intellectual property of less than €7.5m and with global turnover of less than €50m where the profits result from R&D. The KDB Act provides that the Controller will oversee and operate this certification scheme. It is important to note that an application for a KDB Certificate does not constitute an application for tax relief and a KDB certificate confers no intellectual property rights on a certificate holder.

10.1 KDB Report

Section 18 of the KDB Act requires the Controller to include statistical information on the number of applications received, withdrawn, or refused, the number of certificates issued and information on the number of applications reviewed and the outcome of each review in the report to the Minister, made in accordance with Section 103(1) of the Patents Act 1992. The report shall not disclose any details of an invention which is the subject of an application. No KDB Certificate applications were received in 2024

11.0

Legislation

Section 103(1)(b) of the Patents Act 1992, requires the Controller to include particulars of all legislation made in 2024, the administration for which the Controller is responsible.

There was only one legislative change in 2024, and it related to trade marks legislation,

SI No 558 of 2024 Trade Marks (Madrid Protocol) (Amendment) Regulations 2024

This S.I. amends Rule 21(1)(a) of SI No 346 of 2001 Trade Marks (Madrid Protocol) Regulations and Form No 2M in the Schedule to the Regulations to provide for a partial replacement of a national trade mark registration with an international registration, namely for only some of the goods and services covered by the national trade mark registration to be listed in the international registration.

The S.I. was signed into law by Minister Higgins on 15 October 2024 and it entered into force on that date.

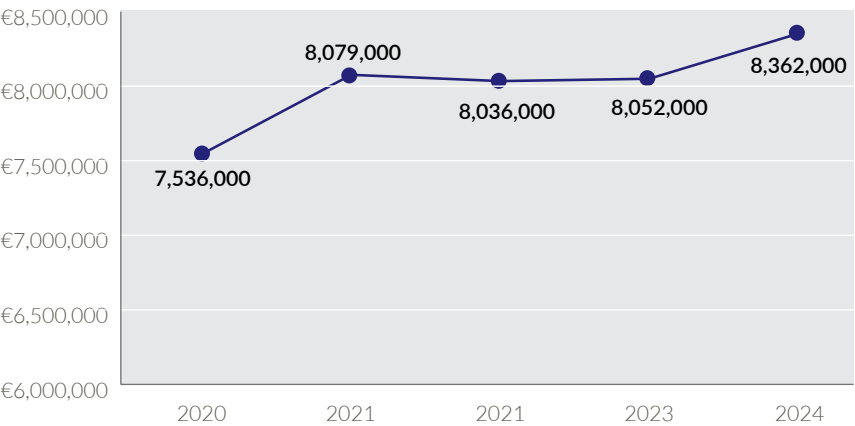
12.0

Financial Information

Net receipts accruing to the Exchequer in 2024 amounted to €10.472m, an increase of €235,000 or 2.29% on the 2023 figure of €10.237m. The greater proportion of the Office’s fee income comes from renewal fees on European Patents. In 2024, the Office received a net amount of €7.537m in renewal fees for granted European Patents designating Ireland, which was an increase of 0.23% (€0.018m) over the 2023 figure. The combined net income from European and National patent renewal fees amounted to €8.362m in 2024. The 2024 net figure increased by 10% over the corresponding 2023 figure.

Figure 9

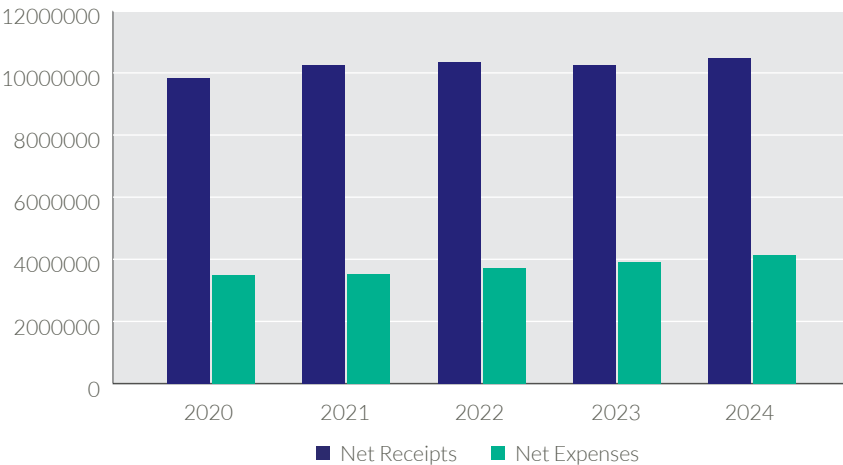
Net Patent fees which accrue to the Exchequer



The combined income from patent, design, and trade mark fees (including international trade mark fees) was €10.664m, an increase of €0.23m or 2.22% compared to the 2023 figure of €10.432m. The Office’s net expenses for 2024 amounted to €4.127m which represented an increase of €0.21m over the corresponding 2023 figure of €3.912m.

Figure 10

Receipts and Expenses 2020-2024



12.1 Receipts and Expenses - Year Ended 31 December 2024⁴

| Receipts | €000 |
|--|---------------|
| Patent fees (Notes 1 & 2) | 8,362 |
| Trade Mark fees | 1,415 |
| International Trade Mark Registration – fees received from WIPO (Note 3) | 875 |
| Design fees | 12 |
| Other fees | 92 |
| Less refunds made in respect of fees paid to the Office in error | 72 |
| Less transaction fees arising in respect of online credit card payments | 212 |
| Net receipts accruing to the exchequer | 10,472 |

| Expenses | €000 |
|--|--------------|
| Salaries | 2,626 |
| Travel & Subsistence | 62 |
| Miscellaneous & Incidental expenses | 137 |
| Postal & Telecommunications Services | 71 |
| Office Equipment and Supplies & Related Services | 604 |
| Office Premises Expenses | 123 |
| Information resources, books periodicals, etc. | 6 |
| Subscriptions to Industrial Property Unions | 498 |
| Net expenses | 4,127 |

Note 1: In accordance with the European Patent Convention, to which Ireland is a party, the Intellectual Property Office of Ireland is obliged to remit to the European Patents Office 50% of all renewal fees received in respect of European Patents which have been validated in Ireland and which are entered in the national register of patents.

| | €000 |
|---|--------------|
| Patent Fees | 15,899 |
| Less Proportion of patent renewal fees transferred to the EPO | 7,537 |
| Net Patent fees which accrue to the Exchequer | 8,362 |

Note 2: The Office acts as a receiving Office for patent applications made under the Patent Co-operation Treaty and as such receives fees for onward transmission to both the EPO and WIPO. These fees do not accrue to the Irish exchequer and are therefore not included in the figure for net receipts. Details of the fees transferred to EPO and WIPO during 2024 are shown below:

| | € |
|--|-----------|
| PCT Basic & Designation Fees transferred to WIPO | 19 |
| PCT Search fees transferred to EPO | 18 |
| Total | 37 |

Note 3: As a consequence of Ireland's ratification of the Protocol relating to the Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Marks (the Madrid Protocol) on 19 July 2001, the Office receives fees due in respect of International Trade Mark applications seeking protection in Ireland from the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

4. The income and expenditure figures above are included in the unaudited 2024 DETE Appropriation Account. The C&AG will publish the audited central government appropriation accounts not later than the 30th day of September in the year following the financial year to which the accounts relate.



13.0

Performance Targets 2024

The Office's Customer Service Action Plan 2023-2025 sets out the IPOI's approach to delivery of certain key actions and establishes a range of performance targets related to service delivery which are reported on below.

| Patent | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-------|---|-------|
| | | % | | % |
| 1 | Issue 90% of formal filing receipts for e-filed Patent applications within 2 working days. | 90% | Issue 100% of formal filing receipts for e-filed Patent applications within 4 working days. | 96% |
| 2 | Issue 90% of notifications of formal defects within 7 working days of filing. | 53.5% | Issue 100% of notifications of formal defects within 15 working days of filing. | 69.5% |
| 3 | Approve the grant of 80% of valid short term patent applications within a period of 12 months from the filing of an application. | 69% | Approve the grant of 100% of valid short term patent applications within a period of 18 months from the filing of an application. | 88.5% |
| 4 | Conduct first examination of 70% of patent applications within 12 months of receipt in the examination section. | 78% | Conduct first examination of 90% of patent applications within 18 months of receipt in the examination section. | 88% |
| 5 | Conduct substantive examination of 75% of full-term patent applications within 12 months of receipt in the examination section. | 62% | Conduct substantive examination of 90% of full-term patent applications within 18 months of receipt in the examination section. | 67% |
| Supplementary Protection Certificates | | | | |
| | | % | | % |
| 6 | Issue 90% of formal filing receipts for e-filed SPC applications on the next working day. | 78% | Issue 100% of formal filing receipts for e-filed SPC applications within 3 working days. | 92% |
| 7 | Issue 90% of notifications of formal defects within 10 working days of SPC filing date. | 87.5% | Issue 100% of notifications of formal defects within 15 working days of SPC filing date. | 87.5% |
| 8 | Perform technical examination of 90% of all applications for Supplementary Protection Certificates at least 4 months before expiry date of the basic patent ¹ . | 82% | Perform technical examination of 95% of all applications for SPCs before expiry date of the basic patent. | 86% |

1. Only refers to those applications which are received earlier than 12 months before the expiry date.



| Trade Marks | | | | |
|--------------------|---|-------|---|-------|
| | | % | | % |
| 9 | Conduct formalities check and issue 90% of formal filing receipts for e-filed Trade Mark applications within 2 working days. | 98% | Conduct formalities check and issue 100% of formal filing receipts for e-filed Trade Mark applications within 4 working days. | 100% |
| 10 | Determine 90% of TM applications for acceptance or initial objection within 40 working days of filing of the application. | 94% | Determine 95% of TM applications for acceptance or initial objection within 60 working days of filing of the application. | 98% |
| 11 | Conduct initial search in respect of 90% of new TM applications within 5 working days of receipt. | 84% | Conduct initial search in respect of 100% of new TM applications within 8 working days of receipt. | 92.5% |
| 12 | Issue 90% of decisions in hearings within 20 working days of hearing. | 100% | Issue 100% of decisions in hearings within 30 working days of hearing. | 100% |
| Industrial Designs | | | | |
| | | % | | % |
| 13 | Carry out formalities check and issue formal filing receipts for 90% of e-filed Design applications within 2 working days. | 94.5% | Carry out formalities check and issue formal filing receipts for 100% of e-filed Design applications within 4 working days. | 94.5% |
| 14 | Determine 90% of Design applications for registration or initial objection within 40 working days of filing of application. | 97% | Determine 100% of Design applications for registration or initial objection within 60 working days of filing of application. | 100% |
| Copyright | | | | |
| | | % | | % |
| 15 | Complete examination of compliance reports and registration requirements and issue 90% of copyright licensing bodies with Certificates of Registration or Renewal of Registration 5 working days before the date of expiry of the registration ² . | 94% | Complete examination of compliance reports and registration requirements and issue 100% of copyright licensing bodies with Certificates of Registration or Renewal of Registration before the date of expiry of the registration. | 94% |
| General | | | | |
| | | % | | % |
| 16 | Issue 90% of payment receipts for fees received (excluding on-line payments) within 2 working days. | 98% | Issue 100% of payment receipts for fees received (excluding on-line payments) within 4 working days. | 99% |

2. This target is contingent on requests for registration and renewal of registration being submitted more than 30 days in advance of the renewal date.

The background of the cover features a large, stylized graphic of a hand holding a circular object with the words 'INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY' on it. The graphic is overlaid with various geometric shapes and patterns, including hexagons and lines, in shades of blue and green. The overall design is modern and tech-oriented.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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