
PATENTS OFFICE



OIFIG NA bPAITINNÍ

**Eighty Sixth Annual Report
of the
Controller of Patents,
Designs and Trade Marks
2013**

DUBLIN

PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from the
GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS SALE OFFICE, SUN ALLIANCE HOUSE

MOLESWORTH ST., DUBLIN 2

or by mail order from

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS, POSTAL TRADE SECTION
UNIT 20, LAKESIDE RETAIL PARK, CLAREMORRIS, CO MAYO
(Tel: 01-6476834/37 or 1890 213434; Fax: 01-6476843 or 094-9378964)

or through any bookseller

Available to download at http://www.patentsoffice.ie/en/publications_report.aspx

Price: €5.00

Foreword

I was appointed Controller of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks by the Government for a term of 5 years, with effect from 8 October 2013.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 103 of the Patents Act, 1992, I now have the honour to submit my Report to the Oireachtas for the year ended 31 December 2013, 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 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.

I also have certain statutory functions under the Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000, which are mainly concerned with dealing with registration of copyright licensing bodies, references and applications relating to licensing schemes operated by those bodies and the resolution of disputes regarding royalty amounts payable under those schemes which arise for the most part in respect of the public performance of sound recordings.

Intellectual property rights allow knowledge and innovation and creativity to be protected and exploited in the interests of promoting competitiveness and economic growth. As the statutory office responsible for the granting and registration of intellectual property rights in Ireland, specifically patent, trade mark and industrial design rights, the Patents Office provides an important service to Irish business and enterprise. In addition to administering the relevant legislation concerned with the processing of applications for patents, trade marks and industrial designs and maintaining the electronic registers and databases of these rights, the Office performs a number of operational functions including:

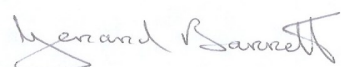
- Providing assistance and information on the intellectual property system to clients.
- Administering proceedings before the Controller in relation to IP rights and conducting hearings on oppositions to trade mark registrations.
- Maintaining the registers of patent and trade mark attorneys authorised to operate in the State.
- Acting as a receiving office for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the European Patents Office and the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM).
- Contributing to policy and legislative developments on IP rights.
- Implementing and giving effect to international agreements on IP rights.

My Annual Report for 2013 provides information on how the Office has delivered its services and discharged these various functions under the six objectives established in its Statement of Strategy 2011 to 2013. This narrative is supported by a range of business statistics.

Elements of the Office's Statement of Strategy reflected the call in the Government's Public Service Reform Plan launched in 2011, that the public service should improve its engagement with business customers, reduce the administrative burden involved in customer interaction with the State and improve the design and delivery of services. Notwithstanding budgetary constraints and fewer staff numbers, the Patents Office has made significant efforts to improve the way it carries out its statutory functions and has continued to meet its key customer service targets whilst maintaining a quality service. We have made improvements to the way we deliver some processes and services in order to do more with less resources and we have sought to reduce the administrative burden on business with initiatives such as the e-filing of trade marks and by expanding the range of e-payment options available to business to pay statutory fees.

As the previous three year strategy period comes to a close, we are prepared to open a new one. The Patents Office has evolved into an effective public service organisation, with an efficient and effective capacity for administering the IP system in Ireland. Our successes in developing a range of e-services in recent years have laid a solid foundation for the future, and the implementation of a customer orientated business strategy, in the coming years, will ensure that the Office continue to contribute to the evolution and advancement of the IP system in Ireland for the benefit of Irish business and enterprise.

I would like to acknowledge and thank every member of the staff team for the hard work, dedication and professionalism demonstrated during 2013 and their continuing commitment to delivering our services as efficiently and effectively as possible in the future.



Gerard Barrett
Controller

10 June 2014

General Commentary on Trends, Objectives and Activities

Innovation is a complex, cumulative, interdisciplinary and highly interactive process. It is influenced by a myriad of factors such as innovation culture, social capital, climate for entrepreneurship, education, research or knowledge networks.

Given this complexity and the fact that Ireland has suffered severely from the impacts of the financial crisis and has experienced a sharp decline in economic activity and employment in recent years, it is difficult to assess the extent to which innovation and intellectual property filings are contributing to economic growth.

A 2011 analysis of innovation performance conducted by Forfás¹ found that Ireland's innovation performance was encouraging with a high proportion of firms engaging in innovation activity. However, these are mainly foreign-owned firms and thus, there is a weakness in the innovative activity of small indigenous firms. Nonetheless the report points out that 'medium and large indigenous firms' are active in marketing innovation.

More recently the European Commission's Innovation Union Scoreboard for 2014² saw Ireland move up one place to ninth out of 28 EU Member States. The annual Innovation Union Scoreboard provides a comparative assessment of the research and innovation performance of the 28 EU Member States and the relative strengths and weaknesses of their research and innovation systems. Ireland was the overall leader in the indicator of the economic effects of innovation. This captures the economic success of innovation in employment in knowledge-intensive activities, the contribution of medium and high-tech product exports to the trade balance, exports of knowledge-intensive services, sales due to innovation activities and license and patent revenues from selling technologies abroad.

Notwithstanding the positive assessment of Ireland's innovation performance in the Innovation Union Scoreboard, the weakness in the innovative activity of small indigenous firms identified in the 2011 Forfas report would appear to be a factor contributing to the continuing decline in national IP filings. While recent filing figures published by WIPO, the EPO and OHIM of international and European filings abroad by Irish resident applicants are positive and show modest increases, these figures do not give the complete picture. This is because many Irish based foreign owned firms which develop IP in Ireland often have a policy of filing applications to protect those IP rights through their parent company which is headquartered abroad. In such cases, even though the R&D which has given rise to the IP has been carried out in Ireland, the applications might not necessarily be recorded as filings by Irish resident firms.

Nevertheless, the figures for international and European filings abroad by Irish resident applicants show a positive upward trend in contrast to the continuing declines in national filings. This suggests that export orientated Irish companies (many of which may be foreign owned) are continuing to look to exploit the potential for international sales in export markets and are ensuring that their intellectual property assets are protected in foreign markets.

1. http://www.forfas.ie/media/forfas110323-Analysis_of_Irelands_Innovation_Performance.pdf

2. http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/innovation-scoreboard/index_en.htm

Foreign IP Filings by Irish firms

Number of PCT Filings by Country of Origin

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ireland	482	443	415	391	435*

Source: WIPO Statistics Database

(*Statistics for 2013 are provisional)

Note: The PCT system makes it possible to seek patent protection for an invention simultaneously in each of a large number of countries by filing a single "International" patent application. The above count is based on the international filing date and country of residence of the first named applicant.

Number of European Patent Filings by Country of Residence of Applicant

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ireland	759	765	699	663	725

Source: EPO Statistics Database.

Note: A European Patent Application is a single procedure which confers patent protection in all of the EPC contracting states (38) that are designated by the applicant.

General Commentary on Trends, Objectives and Activities

Number of Community Trade Mark (CTM) applications by Country of Residence of Applicant

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ireland	821	832	808	827	1040

Source OHIM Statistics SSC003.1

Note: The CTM system provides for a single application and registration procedure which provides trade mark protection across the 27 EU member states.

Number of Madrid International trade mark applications by Country of Origin

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ireland	112	101	130	121	172

Source: WIPO Statistics Database

Note: The Madrid system offers a trade mark owner the possibility to obtain trade mark protection in several countries by filing a single application. An international mark is equivalent to an application or a registration of the same mark effected directly in each of the countries designated by the applicant. The above figures comprise international filings by Irish applicants through the Irish Office and international filings by Irish applicants through other intellectual property offices which are members of the Madrid System

**Some historical filing figures will vary from year to year due to the ongoing update of databases at WIPO, EPO and OHIM.*

Patent Applications Filed in UK according to Country of Residence

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ireland	321	289	330	336	Not available

Source : UKIPO "Facts & Figures"

Number of Utility Patent Applications Filed in the United States By Country of Origin (US utility patents are also known as "patents for inventions.")

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ireland	704	796	829	947	Not available

Source: USPTO Patent statistics

Patents Office Mission and Objectives

The central mission of the Patents Office is

"To provide an efficient and effective system of industrial property protection that will encourage technological progress and promote enterprise through the implementation by the Office of the relevant legislation".

This is to be achieved through the protection of intellectual property rights in the fields of patents, trade marks and designs and the proactive dissemination of relevant knowledge and information in conjunction with each of these activities.

The following commentary and accompanying statistical report considers the activities of the Office during 2013 in the context of the current six strategic objectives set out in the Strategy Statement 2011-2013. These objectives are seen as central to fulfilling the mission of the Office and maintaining its operational efficiency. The mission and strategy of the Office also ties in with the wider national objectives of supporting and encouraging enterprise and innovation and fostering an effective business environment in Ireland.

A new Statement of Strategy for the period 2014-2016 was completed in December 2013 and sets out how the Office will deliver on the 6 main objectives over the next three years.

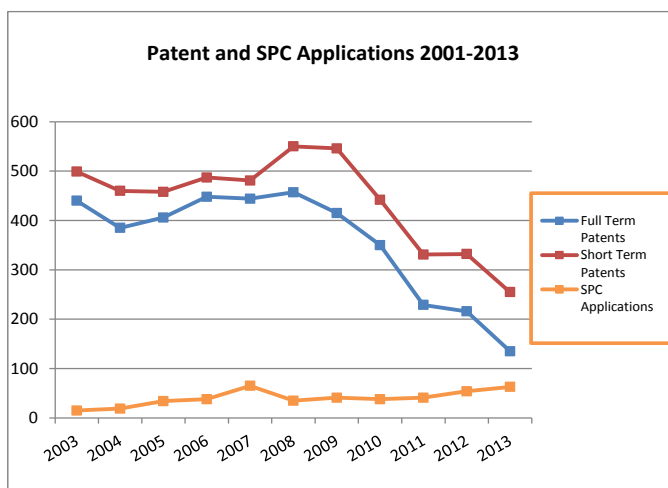
Objective (1)

Continue to grant patents and register trade marks and designs based on efficient administrative procedures and standards of service (which are in line with those reflecting best international practice and which meets the needs of customers).

The Office continued to deliver its services with increasing efficiency and effectiveness in 2013. Customer Service standards were revised where necessary and processes were further streamlined and automated. There were practically no processing backlogs and the majority of customer service targets were met to a very satisfactory level.

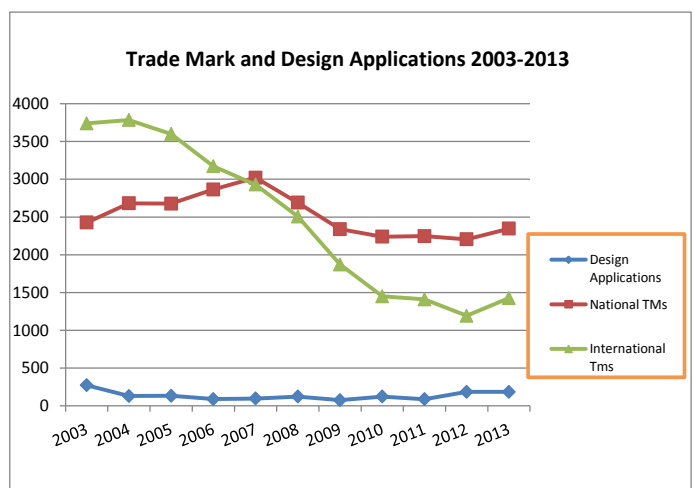
The economic downturn continued to have a significant impact on the filing of national applications for IP rights in 2013. Many small indigenous firms operating in the domestic market continued to experience reduced revenues, lack of credit and tighter profit margins during a difficult year. Many small businesses often have to re-assess their strategies and processes during periods of recession and by doing so may concentrate on more cost effective ways of delivering existing products and services. They may therefore be constrained from adopting a more innovative culture. The extent to which domestic SMEs have adopted a more conservative approach appears to be reflected in the overall declines in filing for national IP rights which has featured in each year since 2008.

On a more positive note, the overall rate of decline of all IP filings has lessened and has begun to flatten out. This may yet signal the beginnings of a return of business confidence. While the number of trade marks and Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs) filed has increased slightly, the number of patents and designs filed continued to decline. In the case of patents this decline is quite significant, with a 30% reduction in filings over the 2012 figure (from 554 in 2012 to 390 in 2013). The shift from long term patents to short term patents is also quite marked with a ratio of filings of 2:1. This change may be a consequence of the economic situation, as the short term patent can often be a better value option for entrepreneurs and SMEs.



- National long term Patent filings received during 2013 were down by 37% on 2012 (from 216 to 135) while the number of short term patent applications filed was down 25% on 2012 (from 338 to 255).
- Applications for Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs) continued to increase in 2013, up 16% from 54 in 2012 to 63 in 2013. SPCs are of considerable importance to the pharmaceutical and medicinal products industry and are a highly valuable IP right. Ireland is also now one of Europe's leading locations for the pharmaceutical industry with medical and pharmaceutical products accounting for around 25 % of total exports.

- Applications for the registration of industrial designs which has been at a very low level since 2003 when the Community Design registration system first came into being, showed a slight decrease in 2013 (from 67 to 61). The 61 applications covered a total of 172 designs.
- The total number of national trade mark applications received in 2013 showed an increase of 7% over the 2012 figure (from 2,210 to 2,354). International applications for marks seeking protection in Ireland also increased, up 14% by comparison to 2012 (from 1,250 to 1,427). This is the first increase in international trade mark filings since the first applications were received in 2006.



Net receipts accruing to the exchequer in 2013 were down slightly by 3% on 2012 (from €8.646m to €8.379m). The greater proportion of the Office's fee income comes from renewal fees on European Patents. Declines in national patent and trade mark renewals have been evident since 2008. The decline in renewal fee income may be attributable to business closure and with financial considerations dictating the ability to renew an IP right. The Office has reduced its running costs **each year** since 2008 by introducing administrative efficiencies, all the while operating with a reduced staff complement. The Office's net expenses for 2013 of €2.744m were down by €0.1m over the corresponding 2012 figure of €2.846m, which is a decrease of over 3%. The greatest reductions in expenses were in the areas of staff salaries (reflected in the continuing reduction in staff numbers) and in office equipment and supplies services. Overall since 2008, the Office's net expenses are down by almost €0.75m.

Objective (2)

Seek to incorporate new technology in order to improve systems and procedures and service to customers and which will also have regard to the demands of the information society and e-business.

The Office continued to focus on its role in relation to the effective and efficient delivery of services. Our commitment to quality customer service is outlined in our Customer Service Action Plan which is available on our website. 98% is the average level of achievement against target for the 35 customer service targets which establish optimum time limits for carrying out various customer focused activities and tasks, compared to 95% in 2012. These are detailed in the "Performance Targets" section of the report. During 2013, staff continued to refine the work processes and technology solutions that underpin its core products and services to provide more efficient service delivery.

A significant percentage of the Office's business transactions — particularly those related to the receipt and processing of applications are still paper-based, which can hamper more efficient service delivery. Recognising this, since 2010, the Office has pursued an e-communications programme which has the aim of improving service delivery and more efficient processing by combining electronic filing, electronic file processing and electronic communications in a way that will ultimately facilitate the introduction of paperless processing in the Office. The vast majority of Office correspondence is now issued by email and customers are encouraged to correspond by email with the Office, where possible.

The 2010 Innovation Task Force included a recommendation that the Office should introduce electronic and after hours filings. In order to give effect to this recommendation and pending the development of a suitable e-filing system, the Office introduced an electronic drop box in 2011 which facilitates the submission of encrypted patent, trade mark and design applications and associated documents electronically and securely via the Internet. The drop box facility is not available to all applicants but rather for registered agents who make or intend to make a number of applications for intellectual property rights in the course of a year. At the end of 2013, 21 firms were availing of the electronic drop box facility, compared to 19 firms in 2012.

During 2013, the Office participated with OHIM and a number of European IP Offices in a Future Software Package project to facilitate the introduction of a system of online filing for trade marks. The development and integration work involved in bringing this project to fruition is funded under the OHIM Co-operation fund. A successful test of the electronic application process took place in December 2013 and allowed the Office to receive its first e-filed trade mark application. Further work on functionality to allow online payment of the application fee and integration of the e-filed application to the Office's Ptolemy administration system was also carried out before the system went live at the end of March 2014. This project will incorporate the functionality available through other OHIM Cooperation Fund projects such as TMclass. This will help to streamline the application process and ultimately lead to quicker decisions on applications for trade mark protection.

A project to expand the amount of national patent documents which are electronically archived commenced in 2013. The aim of the project is to scan all available patent application specification documents from the 1960s to the 1990s, and to make them available on the website. This will facilitate ease of access to the data for both the public and for staff, as well as reducing the requirement for storage space for paper files.

In line with Government policy to promote the increased use of electronic payments in the public service and throughout the economy, the Office established two new commercial bank accounts in 2011 which has improved the fee payment options available to its customers. 91% of the Office's statutory fees are now paid electronically compared to 89% in 2012. In November 2013, the Office introduced a credit card terminal (CCT) to further facilitate the payment of all fees via telephone. By year end, the Office had received over 100 payments via the CCT.

During 2013, staff continued to refine the work processes and technology solutions that underpin its core products and services to provide more efficient service delivery. In this regard, nine substantive enhancements to the PTOLEMY administration system were developed during the year, all of which were aimed at improving operational efficiency. In addition, a number of ICT software and hardware upgrades were effected by ICT staff which will ensure that the Office's core business systems and their technical infrastructure remain current. All computers within the Office were upgraded from Windows XP to Windows 7.

Objective (3)

Contribute to the drafting and subsequent implementation of any new IP legislation which creates functions for the Controller.

The regulation of intellectual property rights in Ireland is a vital part of the overall legislative framework that promotes, protects and encourages innovation. It is consistent with best international practice, reflecting the country's commitment to EU Intellectual Property Law and to other international treaties and conventions, such as the European Patent Convention and the various Treaties and Agreements of the World Intellectual Property Organisation. The Intellectual Property Unit (IPU) of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation has responsibility for intellectual property policy and preparation of legislation in this field. The Patents Office furnishes advice on these matters in particular on the impact of proposed legal or regulatory changes in the work of the Office.

Between November 2009 and October 2013, the roles of the Controller and Head of the IPU were vested in the one individual. However, since the appointment of a new Controller in October 2013, the functions relating to the drafting and implementation of IP legislation rest with the Intellectual Property Unit of the Department.

Matters on which the Office provided input and observations during 2013 were:

- A proposal to broaden the scope of the "Bolar" type research exemption provision as set down in Section 42 (g) of the Patents Act, 1992.
- Rules of procedure of the Select Committee of the Administrative Council of the European Patent Organisation established for the purpose of ensuring the governance and supervision of the activities related to the tasks entrusted to the European Patent Office pursuant to Article 145(1) EPC and in accordance with Article 9(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1257/2012.
- Rules proposed by the Select Committee of the Administrative Council of the EPO relating to Regulation (EU) No 1257/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2012 implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of the creation of unitary patent protection and to Council Regulation (EU) No 1260/2012 of 17 December 2012 implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of the creation of unitary patent protection with regard to the applicable translation arrangements.
- EU (Term of Protection of Copyright and Certain Related Rights) S.I No 411 of 2013

Objective (4)

To increase awareness of intellectual property.

One of the main objectives of the Patents Office is to assist businesses, innovators and entrepreneurs understand how IP can help them create value from their ideas and to be able to access information on IPRs, which will enable them to use, manage and enforce their intellectual property to its fullest potential. The Office has specifically directed its IP awareness programme towards assisting small and micro-enterprises and individual entrepreneurs and innovators.

In cooperation with the Enterprise Europe Network, Enterprise Ireland (EI) and the County Enterprise Boards (CEBs), the Office continued with its one-day seminars, on the theme of 'Building a Business on Your Ideas'. The seminars focused on making business more aware of the competitive edge which can be gained by using IP, of the possibilities to exploit the value of the IP inherent in most businesses and the support structures that are available for small businesses and start-ups from the State and Europe. During 2013, three of these seminars took place in Athlone, Dundalk and Waterford in conjunction with the local Institutes of Technology. Over 250 people in total attended these seminars giving very positive feedback. It is appropriate to acknowledge the assistance and support provided by the Enterprise Europe Network, EI and the CEBs as well as those patent and trade mark attorneys whose participation made the events interesting, informative and very relevant.

The Office also continued with its outreach programme of increasing awareness of intellectual property amongst the general public and directed particularly at the small business set-up sector and students. Altogether, the Office participated in some 30 events speaking on IP at "Start your own business" courses run by the County Enterprise Boards and at various business advice and enterprise exhibitions and shows throughout the country. Among the events attended was the "MeetWest" and "CorkMeet" Business Networking events where the Office held one to one sessions with various businesses who had specifically requested our presence.

The Patents Office held 18 IP clinics in 2013. The clinics give an opportunity to members of the public, inventors, entrepreneurs and business people to discuss with Patents Office staff on a one to one basis, their ideas and matters concerning IP (patent, trade mark or design) applications they intend to make or have already made to the Office. This particular approach has been found to be very helpful in providing basic guidance on procedures and forms required for the registration of IP rights, the processes of obtaining IP protection in Ireland or abroad and the timeframes involved. Assistance in constructing a do-it-yourself search strategy for patents, trade marks or registered designs and accessing and using online patent, trade mark and design databases is also provided.

The Office also continued to promote awareness of IP amongst second level students, parents and members of the public attending the 49th annual BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition in the RDS, Dublin in January 2013. The Office has found that our presence at the exhibition is a useful avenue for imparting knowledge on intellectual property rights to the younger generation and to offer advice to participants and attendees on patenting. The Office also continued with its sponsorship of a special award which is presented to the student or group of students whose project best demonstrates the use of technology in new or improved applications, enhanced efficiencies and novel innovations. The winners of the 2013 Patents Office sponsored prize were Ruth Coughlan and Aine O Connell from Loreto Secondary School Navan, Co Meath with their project "Sensor to Detect Threadbare Tyres".

The Student Enterprise Awards run by the County and City Enterprise Boards is the biggest enterprise competition for second level students in Ireland with some 16,000 potential participants. It provides an excellent vehicle for the Office to engage with second level student entrepreneurs to reflect an awareness of IP when developing a business idea and establishing and running a successful enterprise. The National Finals took place in April 2013 and the Office obtained the support of the Association of Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys for a special prize awarded to the student enterprise whose completed business report demonstrates the best awareness, understanding and inclusion of IP in their business and business planning. The winners of the 2013 sponsored prizes were as follows:

- Junior Category: Get the Kit, Coláiste Pobail Osraí, Kilkenny
- Intermediate Category: *Lyetech*, Coláiste Choilm, Swords, Fingal
- Senior Category : *Shoe Savers*, Jesus and Mary Secondary School, Gortnorabbey, Mayo

The Patents Office will continue its involvement with the Student Enterprise Awards for the 2013-2014 competition. The SEA workbook has now incorporated a new chapter specifically relating to Intellectual Property, thus reinforcing awareness of IP amongst second level students.

The Office's website continued to be the main vehicle for making information on IP available to the public as well as an efficient means of providing a range of interactive search and fee payment services. The number of visits to the website in 2013 increased by 7.5% on 2012 (from 643,605 in 2012 to 691,799 in 2013) and the number of unique visitors in 2013 increased by 22% on 2012 (from 263,267 in 2012 to 322,769 in 2013). Page views remained strong with more than 4.5 million views in 2013.

The online register pages continue to remain the most popular with views to the interactive Trade Mark Register increasing by 9% on 2012 (from 647,016 visits in 2012 to 706,061 visits in 2013).

Objective (5) Recognise staff as a key asset of the Office and utilise business planning and individual performance management and development in order to improve business performance and processes and enhance organisational effectiveness.

The ongoing commitment of staff, at all levels, to initiate and deliver change and continue to improve work practices has allowed the Office to deliver an efficient and high quality service with less staff resources. As of 31 December 2013, the Office had 47 authorised posts, 2 less than in 2012. However, when career breaks, work-sharing and other family friendly working arrangements are taken into account, the Office operated with a staffing level of 42.1 full time equivalents during 2013. The number of staff working in the Office has continued to decrease year on year. Since 2008, for example, the number of staff working in the Office has decreased by over 34% from 63 to the present level of 47. The Office has risen to the challenge of meeting the demands of high levels of public service with less resources and without compromising operational effectiveness. The Office is committed to ensuring that all staff performance is appraised regularly and that staff reviews are completed in a timely fashion. In accordance with the Performance Management Development System (PMDS) operated in the Office, a development plan for training was drafted which took into account the various training needs which staff had identified in their personal development plans for 2013. Outside of continuing on-the-job training, staff undertook a total of 22 training days during 2013. Training was provided in areas such as changes to the PMDS process operated in the Office, information and communication technology skills, writing skills and Health and Safety.

Staff have continued to play a pivotal role in reducing energy consumption within the office in line with the Public Sector Programme contained in the Government's Energy Efficiency Action Plan. The plan has a target of reducing energy consumption, increasing staff awareness of energy efficiency and monitoring the performance of heating/air conditioning equipment. The energy saving measures put in place by staff have resulted in total energy consumption decreasing by 17% in the past year (compared with 2008, the benchmark year) and a consequential saving in energy costs.

- Electricity consumption has decreased by 20% in the last 12 months (compared with 2008)
- Fuel consumption has decreased by 17.5% in the past 12 months (compared with 2008)

The involvement of staff in the support of this energy saving initiative is to be commended.

Objective (6)

To represent Ireland at international fora.

Patents Office staff represent Ireland on the Administrative Council of the EPO and its various Committees, the Administrative Board and Budget Committee of OHIM and several of its technical and liaison committees which deal with various issues concerning intellectual property. In addition, staff participate in meetings of governing and technical bodies of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) (which administers both the Patent Co-operation Treaty and arrangements under the Madrid Protocol dealing with international trade mark applications) in addition to a number of international IP treaties.

Both the EPO and the OHIM offer alternative routes to obtaining IP protection in Europe and the Office's involvement with these organisations is aimed at ensuring that Irish interests are appropriately represented, at keeping abreast of best practice at an international level and to facilitate collaboration with other national and international industrial property offices.

The Office has bilateral cooperation programmes with the EPO and OHIM under which it receives assistance towards participation in various IP awareness raising events, specialist IP training, ICT projects to facilitate IP data exchanges, the development of tools to provide better access to IP information and the harmonising of practices and procedures. Our participation also facilitates dialogue on the content and structure of cooperation programmes between those organisations and other national IP Offices in Europe which in turn enables the Office to further enhance or develop its customer services in line with best international practice.

International Co-operation



The Office participates in cooperation activities with its international counterparts, the Office for Harmonisation of the Internal Market (OHIM) and the European Patents Office on a number of projects, which are designed to promote harmonisation across national IP offices, and make things easier for users of the patent, trade mark and design systems.

The following are examples of some of the co-operation projects undertaken in 2013.

IPORTA and INNOVACESS

The Office is also a partner Office in an EU Programme called IPORTA which commenced in 2012 and involves the participation of 26 European IP Offices. The EPO and OHIM are observers. The programme is co-ordinated by CRP Henri Tudor on behalf of the Luxembourg IP Office. The project seeks to strengthen the cooperation between national intellectual property offices from the member states and associate countries and to promote activities and tools related to the use and management of intellectual property rights. It aims at building synergies among national IP Offices, with national business support organisations and with other IP stakeholders, such as the European and China IPR Helpdesk and the Enterprise Europe Network in order to help SMEs to better integrate IP into their business strategies and to better exploit them. More information can be found at www.innovaccess.eu.

OHIM CO-OPERATION & SOFTWARE PACKAGE PROJECT

The Office is represented on the Working Group of the OHIM Software Package project. The aim of this project is to develop and implement a suite of modern, web based tools supporting the trade marks and designs lifecycle.

The first part of the project relates to the electronic filing of trade mark applications. The Irish Office went live with the new system in the first quarter of 2014. This project will incorporate the functionality available through other OHIM Co-operation Fund projects. A key benefit for users of the system is the assurance they have that any terms that they choose from the approved harmonised classification list contained in TMclass will be accepted by the Office. This will help to streamline the application process and provide a degree of additional predictability for users and will help lead to a quicker decision on the application for trade mark protection. It will also assist the examination process and lead to quicker decisions on applications for trade mark protection.

The Office expects to complete work on two other FSP projects in 2014; Designview and E-filing of Designs.

OHIM CONVERGENCE PROGRAMME

Throughout the year the Office was involved in the OHIM Convergence Programme, which seeks to harmonise practice and procedures across all European Community Trade Mark Offices in areas which do not require any legislative change. The programme seeks to establish and communicate clarity, legal certainty, quality and usability for both applicant and participating offices in a number of key areas. Work on five specific projects in respect of trade marks continued in 2013 and staff of this office participated on the Working Groups of each of them. The five projects are:

- CP1 – Harmonisation of the classification of goods and services;
- CP2 - Convergence of Nice Classification Class Headings;
- CP3 – Absolute grounds of refusal in respect of figurative marks;

CP4—The scope of protection of black and white marks.

CP5 – Convergence of practice in accessing relative grounds of refusal regarding likelihood of confusion.

Progress was made on all projects with agreement on key issues being reached. Common Communications were issued regarding the implementation of changes in practice flowing from the 'IP Translator' case and new practice regarding the General Indications of the Nice Class Headings. The Office also published a paper on "Unacceptable Nice Class General Indications."

Work on the convergence of practice with regards to Designs commenced during 2013 and the Office is participating in the first two projects - Project CP6 (Graphical Representation of a Design), which aims to harmonise practices with regards to the graphical representation of a design application and Project CP7 (Harmonisation of Product Indications) which will focus on creating a harmonised product indication database.

By the completion of the Programme it is anticipated that this Office will be delivering better service with a more consistent and transparent approach with increased levels of predictability (with certainty in appropriate areas) for users which will increase the likelihood of "getting it right first time".

Office Publications

Patents Office Website

The website (www.patentsoffice.ie) provides a general introduction to intellectual property and specific information about how to protect your ideas and includes a section on IP for business.

Material published on the website includes previous years annual reports, a range of IP information booklets, the Office's current statement of strategy and customer service action plan and all primary and secondary legislation governing the functions of the Patents Office.

The following services are available online:

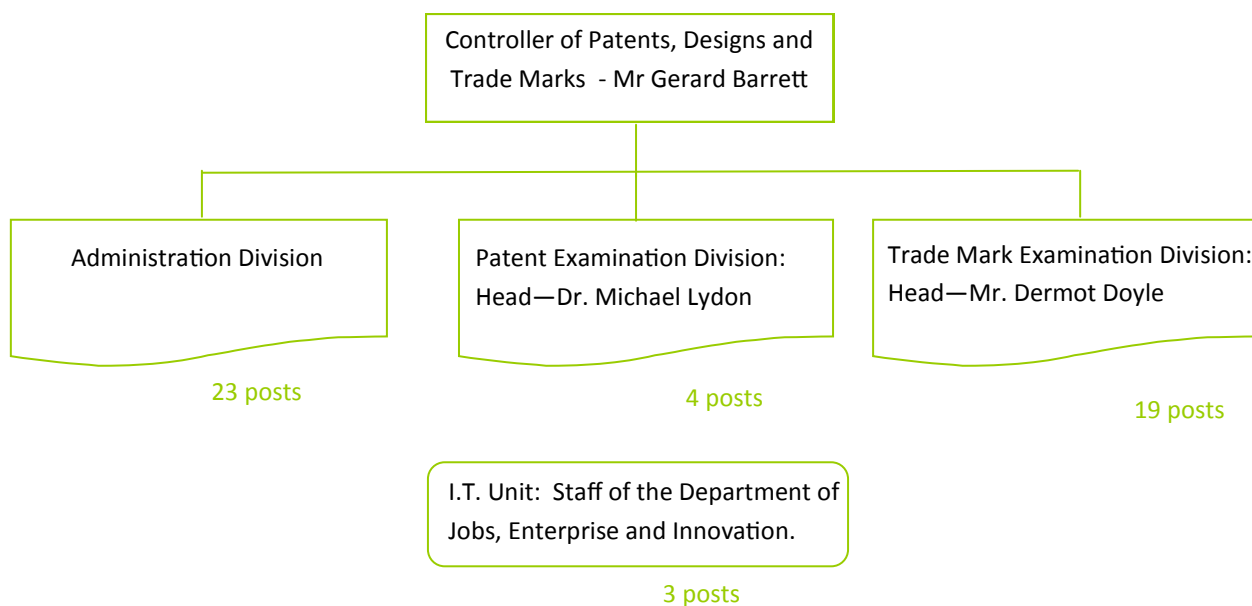
- View and Search the Registers and Databases - search for patents, trade marks, designs.
- Access and view the registers of copyright licensing bodies.
- Access and view the registers of patent and trade mark agents.
- Pay your patent, trade mark or design renewal fees online.
- Pay your patent grant and trade mark registration fees online
- View the decisions of the Controller in trade mark inter-partes cases.
- Search and view the Patents Office Journal online.

The Official Journal

The fortnightly journal is published on our website. Each journal issue has a searchable index, along with information on actions relating to patent, trade mark and design applications and registrations. For example, you can view details of accepted trade marks and designs in any journal. The journal also contains details of patents applied for, published and granted 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 Patents Office opening hours. During 2012, an interactive facility was introduced into the online journal which now allows users access to the Register extract for any particular patent, trade mark or design contained within a journal by clicking on a hyperlink within the journal.

Organisation Structure and Personnel



Number of Staff serving as at 31 December 2013

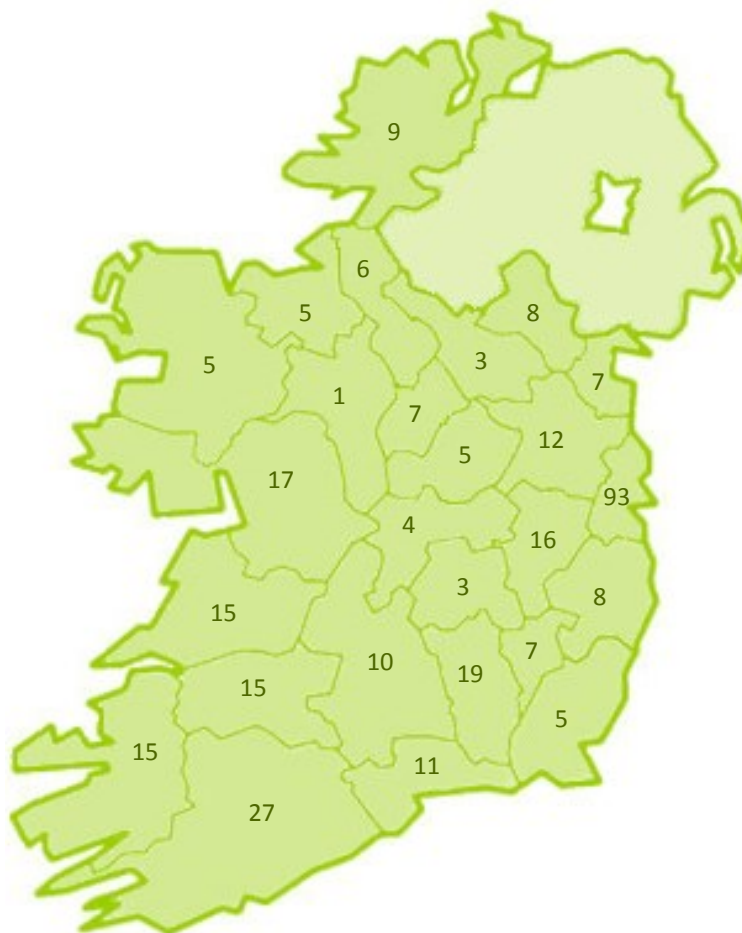
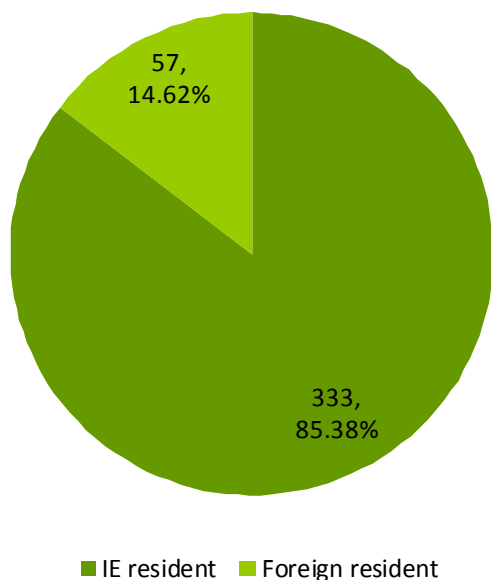
Number	Title
1	Controller
1	Assistant Principal
1	Senior Patent Examiner
4	Higher Executive Officer
1	Administrative Officer
3	Patent Examiner
17	Executive Officer
1	Staff Officer
17	Clerical Officer
1	Services Officer
47	

This staff figure includes 14 staff; 2 Higher Executive Officers (HEOs), 1 Administrative Officer (AO,) 6 Executive Officers (EOs) and 5 Clerical Officers (COs) who availed of a work-sharing scheme, which permits a variety of attendance patterns. Three staff availed of a teleworking scheme, which permits staff to carry out their duties from home for part of the week. The number of full-time equivalent posts in the Office at 31 December 2013 was 42.1

The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation provides information technology services to the Office. There are three staff members of the Department's IT Unit (1 HEO, 1 EO and 1 CO) situated in the Office.

Business Statistics - Patents

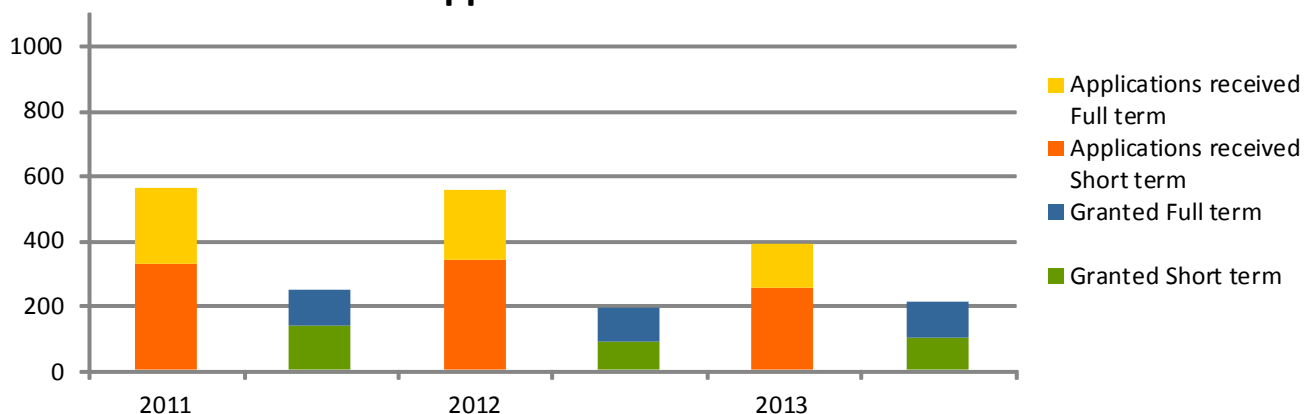
National patent applications by country of first applicant.



National patent applications by county in 2013

YEAR	APPLICATIONS RECEIVED			PATENTS GRANTED		
	Full Term (20 year)	Short Term (10 year)	TOTAL	Full Term (20 year)	Short Term (10 year)	TOTAL
2011	230	331	561	114	136	250
2012	216	338	554	101	89	190
2013	135	255	390	116	98	214

Patent Applications and Grants 2011-2013



As at 31 December 2013, there were a total of 1,297 pending applications on hand. Of these, 286 applications were awaiting the submission of evidence of novelty.

The number of applications received from applicants in the State was 333 compared with 492 in 2012.

European Patent applications designating Ireland

Year	Filings	Year	Filings	Year	Filings
1992	11,755	2000	76,806	2008	133,248
1993	35,762	2001	103,659	2009	128,378
1994	40,705	2002	96,779	2010	146,726
1995	44,161	2003	104,529	2011	141,373
1996	52,755	2004	111,537	2012	147,551
1997	41,875	2005	117,096	2013	147,487
1998	61,584	2006	123,912		
1999	65,708	2007	129,890		

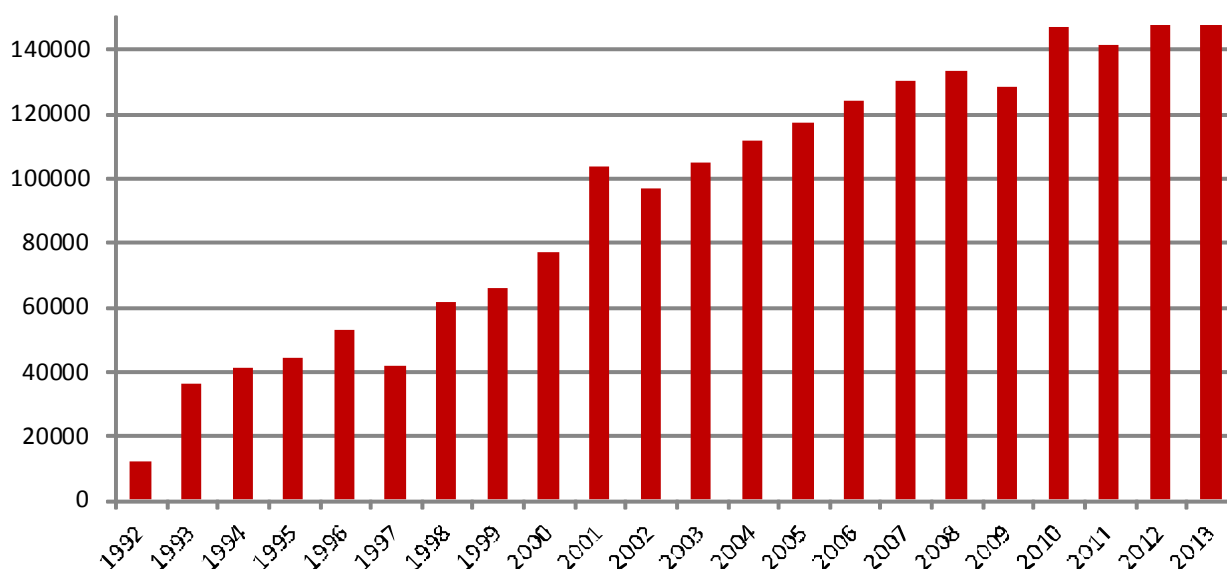
This table show the total number of European applications designating Ireland (first arising in 1992). This figure is not included in the total number of patents granted in 2013 having effect in the State. These patents were entered in the national Register of Patents and have the same legal status as if they had been granted by the Office.

Patents granted in 2013 having effect in the State

2013	Total	Number of patents granted to Applicants from within the State	% of patents granted to Applicants from within the State
Granted by Office	214	155	72%
Granted by EPO	56,025	197	0.35%
Total Grants	56,239	352	0.62%

In 2013, the number of granted European patents designating Ireland was 56,025.

European Patent Applications designating Ireland



Other matters affecting the Register of Patents

Other Patent Activity

	2011	2012	2013
Patents and patent applications the subject of assignments	826	932	833
Patents revoked	0	0	0
Patents surrendered	0	3	3
Patents lapsed	23,307	32,193	41,337
Patents restored/reinstated	15	14	18
Patents renewed	42,023	42,586	42,242
Patents expired	467	636	979
Patents in force	88,044	96,899	110,486

Hearings & Miscellaneous Matters

	2011	2012	2013
Hearings	1	0	0
International Patent Co-operation Treaty (PCT) Applications received for transmission to WIPO	67	54	26
European Patent Applications received for transmission to the EPO	27	7	1

Requests for Supplementary Protection Certificates

A total of 63 requests for Supplementary Protection Certificates were received during the year under the European Communities (Supplementary Protection Certificates) Regulations, 1992 (medicinal) and 1996 (plant protection products). During the year, 29 certificates were granted (medicinal and plant protection), 3 requests were rejected and 8 requests were withdrawn. At the end of the year there were 146 requests pending.

Register of Patent Agents

At the end of 2013, there were 84 individuals and 5 partnerships entered in the Register of Patent Agents.

CLASSIFICATION OF PATENTS GRANTED BY THE OFFICE IN YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION (IPC)

Note on Patent Classification

Patents are given classifications based on their technical content. Such classification allows retrieval of patents according to the nature of the inventions revealed therein. The International Patent Classification (IPC) consists of about 70,000 classification symbols divided between 8 basic sections (A to H), relating to different basic kinds of technology. In 2013, it was in its 11th edition (Int. Cl. (2011)).

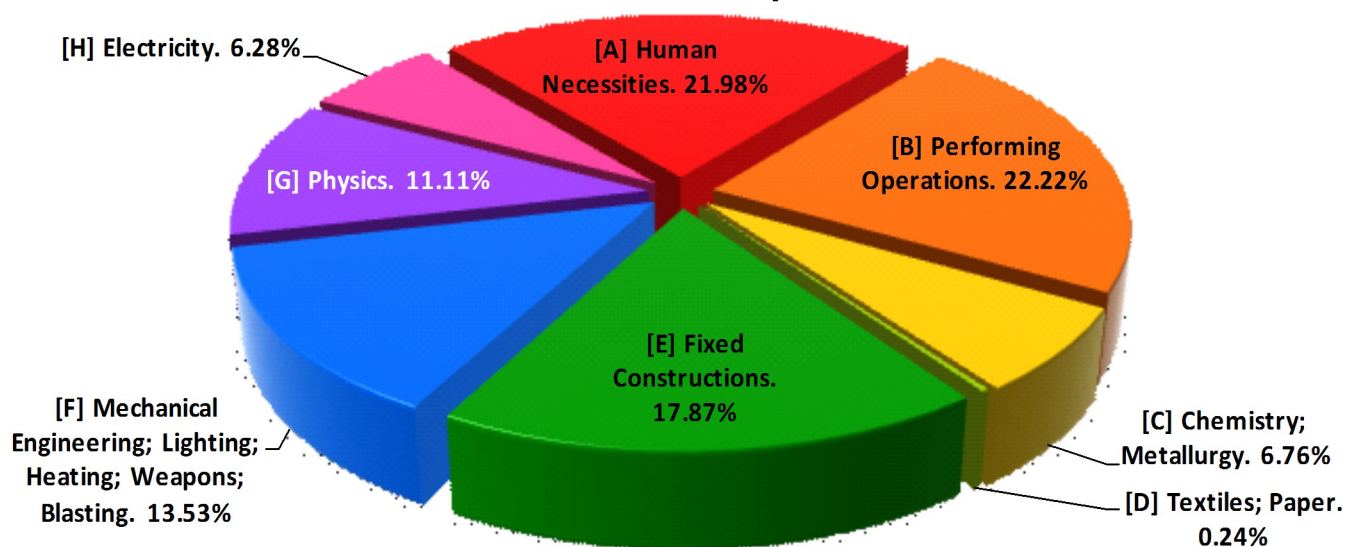
A classification code is given for each inventive thing in a patent. A patent may contain two or more inventions as long as they are sufficiently related; for instance, a new chemical compound and its use as a medicine or herbicide, or a new laser and its use in eye surgery or data readers. Accordingly, a patent may need a number of classification symbols to cover the whole of its content.

The accompanying table and graph collates the total number of classifications allocated to granted patents in 2013. Each individual classification represents an inventive element disclosed in a patent, so this is akin to a tally of inventiveness. The classifications are grouped by IPC section.

CLASSIFICATION	No of grants in Classification *
A. HUMAN NECESSITIES: e.g. Foodstuffs, Health, Personal Articles	91
B. PERFORMING OPERATIONS; TRANSPORTING: e.g. Shaping, printing, vehicle technology.	92
C. CHEMISTRY; METALLURGY	28
D. TEXTILES; PAPER	1
E. FIXED CONSTRUCTIONS: e.g. Building, drilling, mining.	74
F. MECHANICAL ENGINEERING; LIGHTING; HEATING; WEAPONS; BLASTING	56
G. PHYSICS: e.g. Optics, computing, nuclear physics.	46
H. ELECTRICITY: e.g. Electronic circuits, electricity generation and distribution.	26

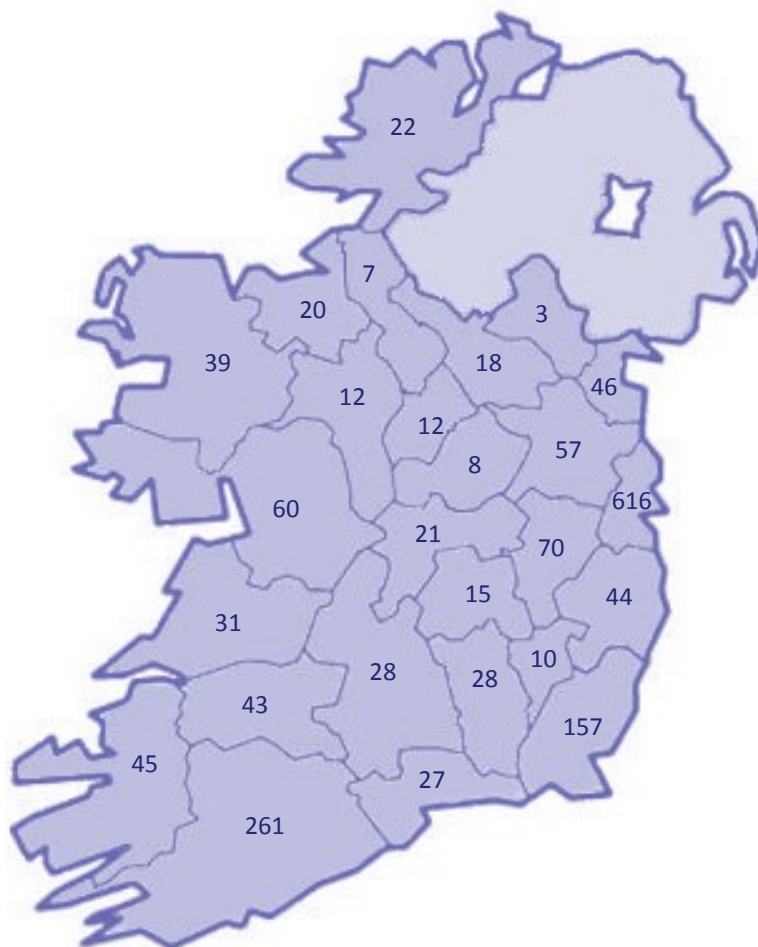
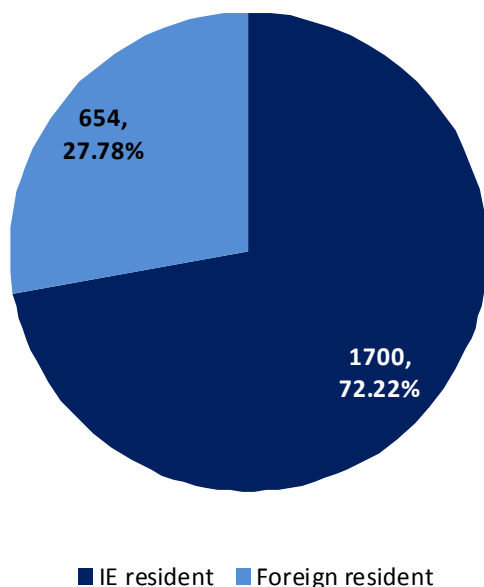
* Note:- Because it is possible that a granted patent may be classified in more than one technical field, the number of classifications into which these patents fall will exceed the total number of patents granted.

Granted Patent Classifications by IPC section in 2013



Business Statistics - Trade Marks

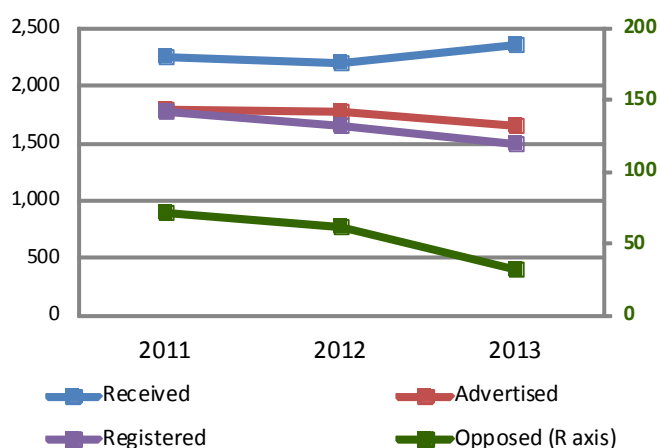
National Trade Mark applications by country of first applicant.



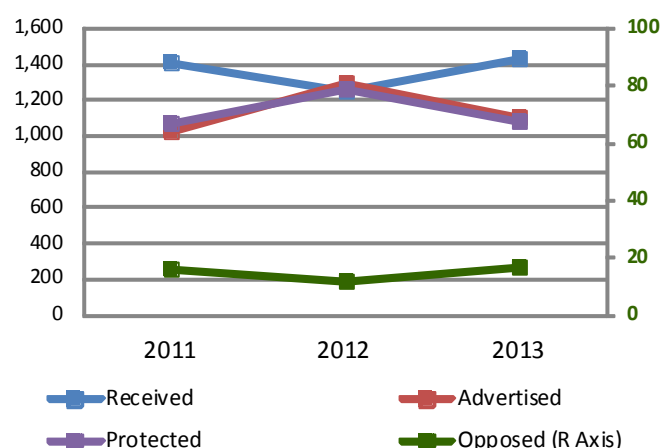
National Trade Mark applications by county in 2013

Year ended	National Applications				International Registrations designating Ireland			
	Received	Advertised	Opposed	Registered	Received	Advertised	Opposed	Protected
2011	2,251	1,803	71	1,783	1,410	1,021	16	1,069
2012	2,210	1,781	61	1,648	1,250	1,290	12	1,260
2013	2,354	1,650	32	1,486	1,427	1,103	17	1,075

National Trade Marks 2011-2013



International Trade Marks 2011-2013



Other matters affecting the Register of Trade Marks

	2011	2012	2013
Number of trade marks the subject of assignments	1,853	1,427	1,458
Number of licences of trade marks recorded in the register	66	50	6
Trade mark registrations removed for non payment of renewal fees	3,684	3,824	3,395
Trade mark registrations surrendered	29	12	7
Trade mark registrations restored	13	8	8
Trade mark registrations renewed	4,270	4,874	4,053
National trade marks revoked in full and in part	5	7	9
International trade marks revoked in full and in part	0	5	3
National trade marks declared invalid	2	0	1
International trade marks declared invalid	0	0	0
National registered trade marks in force	65,884	63,674	61,737
International trade marks in force	23,740	23,964	22,988
Total trade marks in force	89,624	87,638	84,725

Hearings & Miscellaneous Matters

	2011	2012	2013
Hearings (<i>ex-parte</i>)	6	6	6
Hearings (<i>inter-partes</i>)	15	7	12
Hearings (<i>inter-partes by way of written submission</i>) **	n/a	7	14
Applications to convert European Community Trade Mark applications into national applications	60	42	32
International Trade Mark applications with Ireland as the Office of Origin filed and transmitted to WIPO	63	46	70
Community Trade Mark applications filed through the Office and forwarded to the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (O.H.I.M)	1	1	0

**** This figure shows the number of inter-partes proceedings that were decided by way of written submissions in lieu of attending at a hearing. This procedure was first introduced in 2012.**

Register of Trade Mark Agents

At the end of 2013, there were 205 individuals and 4 partnerships entered on the Register.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF GOODS AND SERVICES INTO WHICH TRADE MARKS

REGISTERED IN 2013 FALL

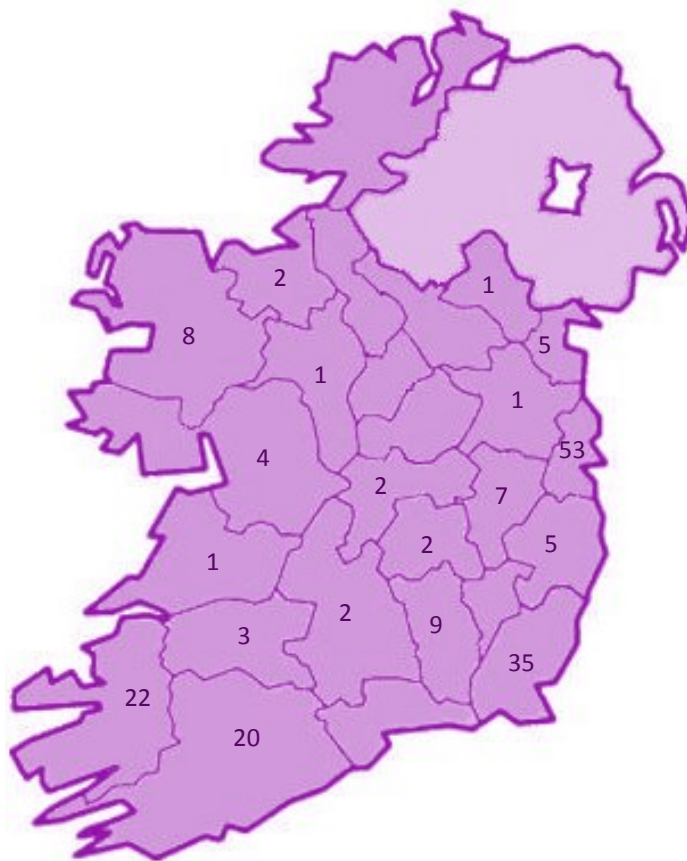
A multilateral treaty called the “Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks” established a classification system for trade marks. The Nice Classification comprises 45 class headings which describe in very broad terms 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 the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the current (tenth) edition has been in force since January 1, 2012.

Class	Classification of Goods	No of marks in classification	Class	Classification of Goods	No of marks in classification
1	Chemical Products, etc.	35	24	Tissues (piece goods), etc.	16
2	Paints, etc.	74	25	Clothing, including Boots, Shoes and Slippers	84
3	Bleaching Preparations, etc.	75	26	Lace and Embroidery, etc.	10
4	Industrial Oils, etc.	19	27	Carpets, etc.	13
5	Pharmaceutical Substances, etc.	155	28	Games, etc.	35
6	Unwrought and Partly Wrought Common Metals and their Alloys	40	29	Meat, Fish, Poultry and Game, etc.	199
7	Machines and Machine Tools, etc.	24	30	Coffee, Tea, Cocoa, Sugar, Rice, etc.	205
8	Hand Tools and Instruments, Cutlery, etc.	17	31	Agricultural Products, etc.	55
9	Scientific Apparatus and Instruments, etc.	167	32	Beer, etc.	80
10	Surgical Instruments, etc.	17	33	Wines, Spirits and Liqueurs	53
11	Installations for Lighting, etc.	30	34	Tobacco, etc.	24
12	Vehicles; Apparatus for Locomotion by Land, Air or Water	19	35	Advertising, Business Management, etc.	198
13	Firearms, Ammunition and Projectiles; Explosive Substances; Fireworks	0	36	Insurance, Financial Affairs, etc.	84
14	Precious Metals and their Alloys, etc.	28	37	Building Construction, Repair, Installation Services.	47
15	Musical Instruments (other than talking machines and wireless apparatus)	1	38	Telecommunications	54
16	Paper, etc.	158	39	Transport, Packaging and Storage of Goods, etc.	66
17	Gutta Percha, India Rubber, etc.	11	40	Treatment of Materials	18
18	Leather, etc.	27	41	Education, Entertainment, etc.	245
19	Building Materials, etc.	28	42	Scientific and technological services	100
20	Furniture, etc.	32	43	Providing food and drink	107
21	Small Domestic Utensils, etc.	54	44	Medical services, etc	84
22	Ropes, etc.	5	45	Personal and social services	44
23	Yarns, Threads	3			

Business Statistics - Designs

	2011	2012	2013
Design Applications*	46	67	61
Number of designs applied for*	86	187	185
Designs Registered	112	151	167
Designs Lapsed	74	67	253
Designs Renewed (1927 Act)	85	5	0
Designs Renewed (2001 Act)	13	127	46
Designs in force (1927 Act)	715	489	351
Designs in force (2001 Act)	937	1,012	1,112

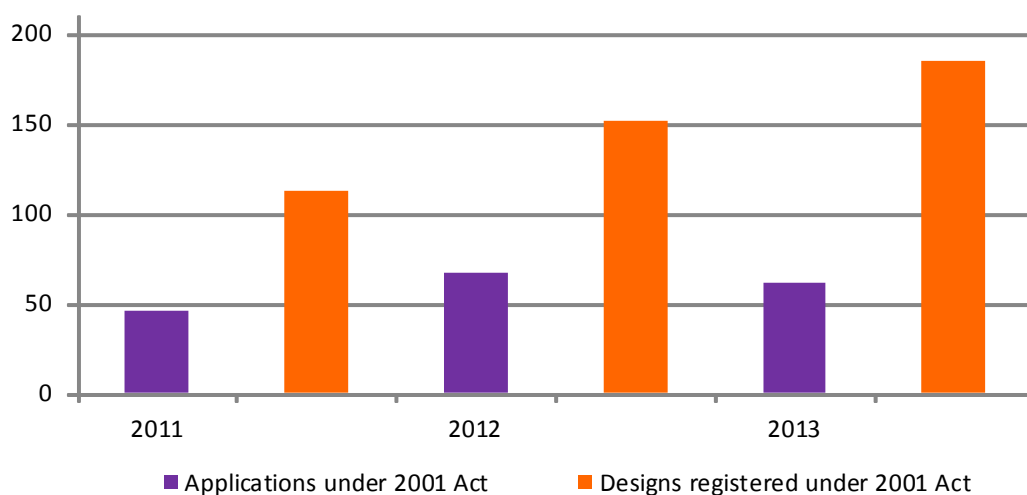
*Note-Rule 19 of the Industrial Designs Regulations 2002 provides that 2 or more designs subject to a maximum of 100 designs may be combined in one multiple application for registration of designs.



National design applications by county in 2013

	2011	2012	2013
Community Design Applications filed through the Patents Office and forwarded to the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (O.H.I.M).	2	3	0

Design Applications and Registrations 2011-2013



DESIGNS REGISTERED UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS ACT, 2001 DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

A multilateral treaty called “the Locarno Agreement Establishing an International Classification for Industrial Designs” 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 the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and the current (ninth) edition has been in force since January 1, 2009.

Class	Classification	Designs Registered
1	Foodstuffs	9
2	Articles of Clothing and Haberdashery	21
3	Travel Goods, Cases, Parasols and Personal Belongings, not elsewhere specified	4
4	Brushware	2
5	Textile Piece good Articles, Artificial and Natural Sheet Material	0
6	Furnishings	26
7	Household Goods, not elsewhere specified	3
8	Tools and Hardware	0
9	Packages and Containers for the Transport or Handling of Goods	5
10	Clocks and Watches and other Measuring Instruments, Checking and Signalling Instruments	1
11	Articles of Adornment	40
12	Means of Transport or Hoisting	2
13	Equipment for Production, Distribution or Transformation of Electricity	0
14	Recording, Communication or Information Retrieval Equipment	4
15	Machines, not elsewhere specified	2
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	5
20	Sales and Advertising Equipment, Signs	0
21	Games, Toys, Tents and Sports Goods	1
22	Arms, Pyrotechnic Articles, Articles for Hunting, Fishing and Pest Killing	1
23	Fluid Distribution Equipment, Sanitary, Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning Equipment, Solid Fuel	0
24	Medical and Laboratory Equipment	0
25	Building Units and Construction Elements	13
26	Lighting Apparatus	2
27	Tobacco and Smokers' Supplies	0
28	Pharmaceutical Products and Cosmetic Products, Toilet Articles and Apparatus	5
29	Devices and Equipment Against Fire Hazards, for Accident Prevention and for Rescue	0
30	Articles for the Care and Handling of Animals	3
31	Machines and Appliances for Preparing Food or Drink, not elsewhere specified	0
32	Graphic Symbols And Logos, Surface Patterns, Ornamentation	22
	Total	172 *

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

Business Statistics - Copyright

References to the Controller under the Copyright & Related Rights Act, 2000

Under Section 38 of the Act, disputes between persons playing sound recordings in public and the owner of the copyright subsisting in the recordings, regarding the equitable remuneration payable to the copyright owner, may be referred to the Controller for determination.

Under Section 152 of the Act, dispute between persons or organisations requiring a licence under a scheme, which is in operation and the operator of that scheme regarding the equitable remuneration payable, may be referred to the Controller for determination.

	Number of disputes referred to the Controller pending as at 31/12/2012	Number of new references received in 2013	No. of cases settled	No. of cases - determined - withdrawn - deemed invalid	No. of cases pending at 31/12/2013
Disputes submitted under Section 38(4)	0	0	0	0	0
Disputes submitted under Section 152	2 ⁽¹⁾	1	0	1	2 ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Regarding the Section 152 references pending at the start of 2013, the arbitrator made an initial award on 8 October 2013 and a final award on 30 April 2014.

Registers

The Act also makes provision for me to establish and maintain the following Registers; The Office has 13 bodies registered in the Register of Copyright Licensing Bodies and 1 in the Register of Licensing Bodies for Performers' Property Rights

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

The Intellectual Property Unit of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation has responsibility for policy and the preparation of legislation relating to intellectual property.

LEGISLATION

The Intellectual Property Unit of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation has responsibility for policy and the preparation of legislation relating to intellectual property.

Legislation enacted in 2013

EU (TERM OF PROTECTION OF COPYRIGHT AND CERTAIN RELATED RIGHTS) SI NO. 411 OF 2013.

These Regulations transpose Directive 2011/77/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 September 2011 amending Directive 2006/116/EC on the term of protection of copyright and certain related rights into Irish law. The Regulations extend the term of protection for performers and for producers of sound recordings from 50 to 70 years. The Regulations implement harmonised rules governing the term of protection of copyright in musical compositions with words, i.e. where the lyricist and the composer are different persons.

Financial Information

RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

RECEIPTS	€000
Patent fees (Notes 1 & 2)	5,772
Trade Mark fees	1,391
International Trade Mark Registration – fees received from WIPO (Note 3)	1,247
Design fees	12
Other fees	133
Less refunds made in respect of fees paid in error	65
Less transaction fees arising in respect of online credit card payments	111
Net receipts accruing to the exchequer	8,379

EXPENSES	€000
Salaries	1,839
Travel & Subsistence	37
Miscellaneous & Incidental expenses	52
Postal & Telecommunications Services	114
Office Machinery and other Office Supplies	225
Office Premises Expenses	88
Information resources, books periodicals, etc.	0
Subscriptions to Industrial Property Unions	389
Net expenses	2,744

Note 1:

In accordance with the European Patent Convention, to which Ireland is a party, the Patents Office 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.	10,975
Less Proportion of patent renewal fees transferred to the European Patent Office	5,203
Net Patent fees which accrue to the Exchequer.	5,772

Note 2:

The Patents 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 the EPO and WIPO during 2013 are shown below:

	[€000]
PCT Basic and Designation Fees transferred to WIPO, Geneva.	33
PCT Search fees transferred to EPO, Munich.	47
Total.	80

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).

PERFORMANCE TARGETS 2013

The Patents Office Customer Service Action Plan is based on the Twelve Quality Customer Service Principles set out in the 'Government's Quality Customer Service Initiative' and outlines the actions which will be taken to give effect to these principles. The customer services targets included in this plan are reported below:

Area of Activity and Level of Achievement					
Patents					
1.	Issue formal filing receipts for correctly filed applications within 5 working days.	71%	7.	Transmit European and PCT applications to EPO/WIPO within 5 working days of receipt.	100%
2.	Issue certified copies of patent documents within 5 working days of receipt of request.	97%	8.	Approve the grant of short term patents within a period of 6 months from filing of a proper, complete application.	97%
3.	Issue patent renewal certificate within 3 working days of receipt of payment.	100%	9.	Following receipt of all necessary documents and responses to official objections associated with patent applications, to decide on whether to grant or refuse a patent within two months.	94%
4.	Process applications for registration of assignments within 7 working days of submission of a fully completed application.	100%	10.	Issue notification of formal defects within 15 working days of filing.	92%
5.	Issue confirmation that amendments requested to the patents register in respect of names and address of proprietors and addresses for service have been recorded within 5 working days of receipt of a properly completed application.	98%	11.	Issue notice of substantive defects within 2 months of filing	99%
6.	Grant patents within 5 working days of receipt of grant fee.	99%	12.	Classify for publication 90% of all non-divisional patent applications within 18 months after the priority filing date.	65%
Supplementary Protection Certificates					
1.	Issue notification of formal defects within 10 working days of filing date.	100%	2.	Issue formal filing receipts for correctly filed SPC applications within 5 working days.	92%
Designs					
1.	Issue formal filing receipts for correctly filed design applications within 5 working days.	67%	4.	Issue design renewal certificates within 3 working days of payment of the renewal fee.	100%
2.	Issue initial objections letter/acceptance letter within 12 weeks of receipt of application.	100%	5.	Issue Certificates of Registration within 5 working days of the application being registered by Examination Division.	95%
3.	Respond to 95% of all written correspondence on individual applications in examination within 5 weeks.	100%			

Area of Activity and Level of Achievement

Trade Marks

1.	Issue formal filing receipts for correctly filed trade mark applications within 7 working days.	70%	9.	Transmit application for International Trade Mark Registrations within 5 working days of receipt of correctly filed applications	100%
2.	Process applications for registration of trade mark assignments within 7 working days of submission of a properly, fully completed application.	100%	10.	Issue to relevant parties copies of notices of opposition and applications for revocation or declaration of invalidity within 2 weeks of receipt.	100%
3.	Issue certified copies and extracts from the Trade Marks Register within 5 working days of request.	100%	11.	Respond to 95% of all written correspondence on individual applications in examination within 3 weeks.	100%
4.	Issue trade mark renewal certificate within 3 working days of receipt of payment.	100%	12.	Respond to individual requests for extensions of time prior to the expiry of the relevant deadline where those requests are made not later than 2 weeks before such expiry.	100%
5.	Issue confirmation that requests for amendments to the Trade Marks register in respect of names and addresses of proprietors and trade mark agents and addresses for service have been recorded within 5 working days of receipt of a properly completed application.	100%	13.	Register trade marks within 5 working days of receipt of registration fee.	97%
6.	Accept applications for trade marks within a period of 3 months from the filing of a properly completed application and where no objections have been raised by the Office.	100%	14.	Issue written statement of grounds of decisions in hearings within 2 months following request for same.	75%
7.	Issue initial objections/acceptance letters within 12 weeks of receipt of new application in the Division.	100%	15.	Issue decisions in hearings within 1 month of hearing.	93%
8.	Respond to written correspondence on individual applications (opposition, revocation and invalidity) within 5 weeks.	100%	16.	Issue a request for payment of registration fees within 7 working days of the expiration of the period for filing of opposition where no opposition is received.	100%
			17.	Where opposition is determined in favour of the applicant, the request for registration fees to issue within 7 working days of publication of the withdrawal of opposition	98%

General

	Issue payment receipts for all fees received (in the form of cheque, bank draft and money order) within 2 working days.	100%
--	---	------



**An Seú Tuarascáil
Bhliantúil is Ochtó
ón
gCeannasaí Paitinní,
Dearaí
agus Trádmharcanna
2013**

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

ARNA FOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR

Le ceannach díreach ón

OIFIG DHÍOLTA FOILSEACHÁN RIALTAIS, TEACH SUN ALLIANCE,

SRÁID THEACH LAIGHEAN, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2,

nó tríd an bpost ó

FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS, AN RANNÓG POST-TRÁCHTA,

AONAD 20 PÁIRC MIONDÍOLA COIS LOCHA, CLÁR CHLAINNE MHUIRIS,

CONTAE MHAIGH EO

(Teil: 01 – 6476834/37 nó 1890 213434; Fax: 01 – 6476843 nó 094 - 9378964)

nó trí aon díoltóir leabhar.

Ar fáil le híoslódáil ó: http://www.patentsoffice.ie/en/publications_report.aspx

Réamhrá de Cheannasaí na hOifige Paitinne na hÉireann

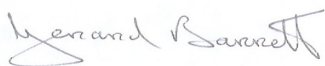
Cheap an Rialtas mé mar Cheannasaí Paitinní, Dearaí agus Trádmharcanna ar feadh téarma 5 bliana, le héifeacht ón 8 Deireadh Fómhair 2013.

De réir na bhforálacha d'Alt 103 d'Acht na bPaitinní, 1992, tá sé mar onóir dom anois mo Thuarascáil a chur faoi bhráid an Oireachtais don bhliain dar chríoch an 31 Nollaig 2013, i ndáil le comhlíonadh na bhfeidhmeanna reachtúla atá agam faoi Acht na bPaitinní, 1992, (arna leasú); faoi Acht na dTrádmharcanna, 1996, (arna leasú); faoin Acht um Dhearaí Tionscail, 2001; faoi na Rialacha agus faoi na Rialacháin Reachtúla éagsúla arna ndéanamh de bhun na nAchtanna sin; agus faoi Rialacháin na gComhphobal Eorpach (Deimhniú Forlíontach Cosanta). Is fúmsa, i gcáil reachtúil, atá cinneadh a dhéanamh faoi na hAchtanna, faoi na Rialacha agus faoi na Rialacháin sin, faoi réir cearta áirithe achomhairc chuig an Ard-Chúirt. Tá feidhmeanna áirithe reachtúla agam freisin faoin Acht Cóipchirt agus Ceart Gaolmhar, 2000, a bhaineann go príomha le déileáil le clárúcháin comhlachtaí ceadúnúcháin chóipchirt, le tagairtí agus iarratais a bhaineann le scéimeanna ceadúnúcháin atá á bhfeidhmiú ag na comhlachtaí sin agus le díospóidí a réiteach maidir le dleachtanna is iníoctha faoi na scéimeanna sin, a éiríonn den chuid is mó as na taifeadtaí fuaime sin a sheinm go poiblí.

Fágann cearta maoine intleachtúla gur féidir eolas, nuálaíocht agus cruthaitheacht a chosaint agus a úsáid ar mhaithe le hiomaíocht agus le fás geilleagrach a chur chun cinn. Agus í ar an oifig reachtúil a bhfuil freagracht uirthi as cearta maoine intleachtúla a dheonú agus a chlárú in Éirinn, go háirithe cearta paitinne, cearta trádmhairc agus cearta dearaidh thionsclaíoch, cuireann Oifig na bPaitinní seirbhís thábhachtach ar fáil do ghnólachtaí agus d'fhiontair Éireannacha. Mar aon leis an reachtaíocht ábhartha a riar maidir le próiseáil a dhéanamh ar iarratais ar phaitinní, ar thrádmharcanna agus ar dhearaí tionsclaíocha, agus mar aon le cláir agus bhunachair shonraí leictreonacha a choinneáil i leith na gceart sin, comhlíonann an Oifig roinnt feidhmeanna éagsúla oibriúcháin freisin, lena n-áirítear iad seo a leanas:

- Cúnamh agus faisnéis a sholáthar do chliaint maidir le maoin thionsclaíoch agus intleachtúil.
- Imeachtaí a riar os comhair an Cheannasaí maidir le cearta maoine intleachtúla (MI) agus éisteachtaí a sheoladh i gcás freasúraí in aghaidh clárúcháin trádmharcanna.
- Cláir na n-aturnaetha paitinní agus trádmharcanna a bhfuil údarás acu feidhmiú sa Stát a choinneáil.
- Feidhmiú mar oifig ghilachta don Eagraíocht Dhomhanda um Maoin Intleachtúil (EDMI), d'Oifig na bPaitinní Eorpacha (OPE) agus don Oifig um Chomhchuibhiú sa Mhargadh Inmheánach (OHIM).
- Rannchuidiú a dhéanamh maidir le forbairtí beartais agus reachtaíochta ó thaobh chearta MI de.

Tugtar faisnéis i mo Thuarascáil Bhliantúil do 2013 faisnéis ar conas a sholáthair an Oifig a cuid seirbhísí agus conas a chomhlíon sí na feidhmeanna éagsúla atá aici de bhun na sé chuspóir a leagadh síos ina Ráiteas Straitéise 2011 go 2013. Gabhann raon staitisticí gnó leis an bhfaisnéis sin. Léiríodh i ngnéithe de Ráiteas Straitéise na hOifige an glao a rinneadh i bPlean an Rialtais um Athchóiriú na Seirbhíse Poiblí a seoladh in 2011. Ba é sin, ba chóir don tseirbhís phoiblí feabhas a chur ar a rannpháirtíocht le custaiméirí gnó, laghdú a dhéanamh ar an ualach riaracháin a ghabhann le hidirghníomhú an chustaiméara leis an Stát agus feabhas a chur ar dhearadh agus ar sholáthar seirbhísí. Beag beann ar na srianta buiséadacha atá uirthi agus ar an soláthar foirne níos ísle atá aici, rinne Oifig na bPaitinní iarrachtaí suntasacha feabhas a chur ar an dóigh a gcomhlíonann sí a feidhmeanna reachtúla agus lean sí lena príomhspríocanna seirbhíse do chustaiméirí a bhaint amach, agus seirbhís ar ardchaighdeán á cur ar fáil aici ag an am céanna. Rinneamar feabhsuithe ar an dóigh a soláthraímid próisis agus seirbhísí áirithe d'fhonn níos mó a bhaint amach agus níos lú acmhainní againn agus rinneamar iarracht an t-ualach riaracháin atá ar ghnólachtaí a laghdú trí thionscnaimh ar nós trádmharcanna a ríomhchomhdú agus trí mhéadú a dhéanamh ar an raon roghanna ríomhíocaíochta atá ar fáil do ghnólachtaí agus táillí reachtúla á n-íoc acu. Toisc go bhfuil an tseant-reimhse straitéise trí bliana críochnaithe anois, tá sé ar intinn againn tús a chur le ceann nua. Tá Oifig na bPaitinní tar éis fás ina heagraíocht éifeachtach seirbhíse poiblí, a bhfuil acmhainn éifeachtach éifeachtúil aici an córas MI a riar in Éirinn. A bhfuil lenár n-éachtaí le blianta beaga anuas maidir le raon ríomhsheirbhísí a fhorbairt, is ann do bhonn daingean anois dá bhfuil i ndán dúinn. Má chuirtear straitéis ghnó atá dírithe ar an gcustaiméir chun feidhme sna blianta atá le teacht, cuirfear ar chumas na hOifige leanúint de bheith ag cur leis an gcóras MI a fhorbairt agus a chur ar aghaidh in Éirinn chun leas gnólachtaí agus fiontair Éireannacha araon. Ba mhaith liom aitheantas a thabhairt do gach ball foirne mar gheall ar an gcrua-obair a rinne siad, mar gheall ar an díograis agus ar an ngairmiúlacht a thaispeáin siad le linn na bliana 2013 agus mar gheall ar an tiomantas leanúnach atá acu dár seirbhísí a sholáthar ar bhealach chomh héifeachtach agus chomh héifeachtúil agus is féidir sa todhchaí. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil leo ina leith sin ar fad.



Gerard Barrett

Ceannasaí

10 Meitheamh 2014

Trácht Ginearálta ar Chuspóirí agus Gníomhaíochtaí

Próiseas casta, carnach, idirdhisciplíneach agus ard-idirghníomhach is ea nuálaíocht. Téann dúrud tosca i bhfeidhm uirthi, mar shampla, cultúr nuálaíochta, caipiteal sóisialta, timpeallacht le haghaidh fiontraíochta, oideachas agus líonraí taighde nó eolais. Mar gheall ar a chasta atá sí agus mar gheall gur mó a d'fhulaing Éire tionchar na géarchéime airgeadais agus go raibh laghdú géar i ngníomhaíocht gheilleagar agus i bhfostaíocht sa tír le blianta beaga anuas, tá sé deacair measúnú a dhéanamh ar a mhéid atá comhdúcháin nuálaíochta agus mhaoine intleachtúla ag cur le fás geilleagrach.

In anailís a rinne Forfás¹ ar fheidhmíocht nuálaíochta in 2011, fuarthas amach gur cúis mhisnigh a bhí i bhfeidhmíocht nuálaíochta na hÉireann toisc go raibh ardchéatadán de ghnólachtaí i mbun gníomhaíocht nuálaíochta ag an am sin. Is gnólachtaí faoi úinéireacht eachtrach atá i bhformhór na ngnólachtaí sin, áfach. Mar sin, is beag gníomhaíocht nuálaíoch atá á déanamh i measc gnólachtaí beaga dúchasacha. Ina ainneoin sin, tugadh faoi deara sa tuarascáil go bhfuil 'gnólachtaí dúchasacha meánmhéide agus móra' gníomhach maidir le nuálaíocht a mhargú. Bhog Éire suas go dtí an naoú háit as 28 Ballstát den AE le déanaí i Scórchlár Nuálaíochta an Aontais 2014² ón gCoimisiún Eorpach. Is i Scórchlár Nuálaíochta an Aontais – rud a chuirtear le chéile gach bliain – a thugtar measúnú comparáideach ar an bhfeidhmíocht taighde agus nuálaíochta de chuid na 28 Ballstát den AE agus láidreachtaí agus laigí coibhneasta a gcuid córais taighde agus nuálaíochta. Bhí Éire ar an gceannaire foriomlán sa táscaire a bhain le tionchar geilleagrach na nuálaíochta. Is é atá i gceist leis an tionchar sin ná an rath geilleagrach a bhaineann nuálaíocht amach maidir le fostaíocht a chruthú i ngníomhaíochtaí dlútheolais, an méid a chuireann onnmhairí is táirgí meánteicneolaíochta agus ardteicneolaíochta le comhardú na trádála, onnmhairí seirbhísí dlútheolais, díolachán a thagann as gníomhaíochtaí nuálaíochta agus ioncam ceadúnais agus paitinne a thagann as teicneolaíochtaí a dhíol le tíortha eachtracha.

Beag beann ar fheidhmíocht dhearfach nuálaíochta na hÉireann i Scórchlár Nuálaíochta an Aontais, is cosúil go raibh an easpa gníomhaíocht nuálach i measc gnólachtaí beaga dúchasacha – rud a aithníodh i dtuarascáil Forfás do 2011 – ar cheann de na tosca a chuir leis an laghdú leanúnach i gcomhdúcháin náisiúnta MI. Cé gur dearfach a bhí na figiúirí comhdúcháin a d'fhoilsigh WIPO, EPO agus OHIM le déanaí maidir le comhdúcháin idirnáisiúnta agus Eorpacha a rinne iarratasóirí atá lonnaithe in Éirinn, agus cé gur léiríodh méaduithe beaga iontu, ní thugtar an scéal iomlán sna figiúirí sin. Agus iad ag forbairt MI in Éirinn, tá sé mar bheartas ag mórán gnólachtaí faoi úinéireacht eachtrach atá lonnaithe in Éirinn iarratais a chomhdú chun na cearta MI sin a chosaint trí na máthairchuideachta a bhfuil a ceanncheathrú lonnaithe thar lear. I gcásanna den sórt sin, fiú amháin gur in Éirinn a rinneadh an Taighde agus an Fhorbairt as ar tháinig an MI, ní gá go dtaifeadtar na hiarratais sin mar chomhdúcháin ó ghnólachtaí atá lonnaithe in Éirinn. I gcodarsnacht le laghduithe leanúnacha i líon na gcomhdúcháin náisiúnta, mar sin, is treocht dhearfach aníos a léirítear sna figiúirí maidir le comhdúcháin idirnáisiúnta agus Eorpacha ó iarratasóirí atá lonnaithe in Éirinn. Tugann an méid sin le fios go leanann cuideachtaí Éireannacha atá dírithe ar onnmhairí (a bhféadfadh go mbeadh cuid mhór acu faoi úinéireacht eachtrach) le hiarracht a dhéanamh tairbhe a bhaint as an acmhainn atá ann díolachán idirnáisiúnta a dhéanamh i margaí onnmhairí agus go mbíonn siad ag cinntiú go bhfuil a sócmhainní maoine intleachtúil faoi chosaint i margaí eachtracha.

1. http://www.forfas.ie/media/forfas110323-Analysis_of_Ireland's_Innovation_Performance.pdf

2. http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/innovation/policy/innovation-scoreboard/index_en.htm

Comhdúcháin MI arna nDéanamh Thar Lear ag Gnólachtaí Éireannacha

Líon na gComhdúcháin CCP de réir Tíre Thionscanta

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Éire	482	443	415	391	435*

Foinse: Bunachar Sonraí Staitisticí

(*Tugtar staitisticí sealadacha do 2013)

Notá: Leis an gcóras CCP tá sé indéanta cosaint phaitinne a lorg go comhuineach maidir le haireagán I ngach ceann de líon mór tíortha trí iarratas amháin "idirnáisiúnta" ar phaitinn a chomdú. Tá an comhaireamh thuas bunaithe ar chomhdú idirnáisiúnta go dtí seo agus tír chónaithe an chéad iarratasóra ainmnithe.

Líon na gComhdúcháin Paitinne Eorpach de réir Tíre Cónaithe an Iarratasóra

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Éire	759	765	699	663	725

Foinse: Bunachar Sonraí Staitisticí OPE

Líon na n-iarratas ar Thrádmharc Comhphobail (TMC) de réir Tíre Cónaithe an Iarratasóra

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Éire	821	832	808	827	1040

Foinse: Staitisticí OCMI SSC003.1

Nóta: Á soláthar sa chóras TMC d'iarratas amháin agus do nós imeachta clárúcháin anháin a sholáthraíonn cosaint ar thrádmharcanna sna 28 ballstát.

Líon na n-iarratas ar thrádmharc idirnáisiúnta Maidrid de réir Tíre Tionscanta

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Éire	112	101	130	121	172

Foinse: Bunachar Sonraí Staitisticí EDM1

Nóta: Tugann córas Madrid deis d'úinéir trádmharc cosaint a fháil don trádmharc i roinnt tíortha trí iarrtas amháin a chomhdú. Is ionann marc idirnáisiúnta agus iarratas nó clárú ar an marc céanna a thabhairt i gcrích go díreach i ngach tír a bhíonn ainmnithe ag an iarratasóir. Is comhdúcháin idirnáisiúnta atá sna figiúirí thuas ag iarratasóirí Éireannacha trí Oifig na hÉireann agus comhdúcháin idirnáisiúnta ag iarratasóirí Éireannacha trí Oifigí eile.

**Beidh figiúirí áirithe stairiúla comhdúcháin éagsúil ó bhliain go bliain de bharr nuashonrú leanúnach na mbunachar sonraí de chuid WIPO, EPO agus OHIM.*

Iarratais ar Phaitinní arna gComhdú sa Ríocht Aontaithe de réir Tír Chónaithe

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Éire	321	289	330	336	Níl figiúirí ar fáil

Foinse: "Facts & Figures" ó UKIPO

Líon na nIarratas ar Phaitinn Fónais arna gComhdú sna Stáit Aontaithe de réir Thír Thionscnaimh

(Tugtar "paitinní i gcomhair airgeagán" ar phaitinní fónais na Stát Aontaithe freisin.)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Éire	704	796	829	947	Níl figiúirí ar fáil

Foinse: USPTO Staitisticí

Misean agus Cuspóirí Oifig na bPaitinní

Is é seo a leanas lármhisean Oifig na bPaitinní

"Córas éifeachtach éifeachtúil um maoin thionsclaíoch a chosaint a chur ar fáil, rud a spreagfaidh dul chun cinn teicneolaíochta agus a chuirfidh fiontraíocht chun cinn trí chur chun feidhme na reachtaíochta ábhartha ag an Oifig".

Bainfear é sin amach trí chearta maoine tionsclaíche a chosaint i réimsí na bpaitinní, na dtrádmharcanna agus na ndearaí agus trí eolas agus fhaisnéis ábhartha a scaipeadh go réamhghníomhach i gcomhar le gach ceann de na gníomhaíochtaí sin.

Is sa tráchttaireacht seo a leanas agus sa tuarascáil staidrimh a ghabhann léi a dhéantar breithniú ar ghníomhaíochtaí na hOifige le linn na bliana 2013 maidir leis na sé chuspóir straitéiseacha reatha atá leagtha amach sa Ráiteas Straitéise 2011-2013. Meastar go bhfuil na cuspóirí sin rithábachtach maidir le misean na hOifige a chomhlíonadh agus maidir lena héifeachtúlacht oibriúcháin a choimeád ar bun. Tagann misean agus straitéis na hOifige freisin leis na mórchuspóirí náisiúnta a bhaineann le tacaíocht agus le spreagadh a thabhairt d'fhiontraíocht agus do nuálaíocht agus le timpeallacht éifeachtach ghnó a chothú in Éirinn. Ullmhaíodh Ráiteas Straitéise nua don tréimhse 2014-2016 i mí na Nollag 2013. Leagtar amach sa Ráiteas conas a bhainfidh an Oifig na 6 phríomhchuspóir atá aici amach thar na trí bliana amach romhainn.

Ullmhaíodh Ráiteas Straitéise nua don tréimhse 2014-2016 i mí na Nollag 2013. Leagtar amach sa Ráiteas conas a bhainfidh an Oifig na 6 phríomhchuspóir atá aici amach thar na trí bliana amach romhainn.

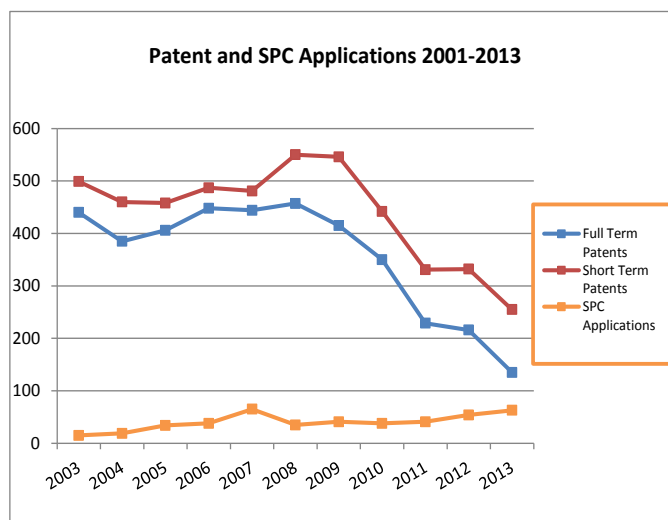
Cuspóir (1)

Leanúint le paitinní a cheadú agus trádhmharcanna agus dearaí a chlárú bunaithe ar nósanna imeachta riaracháin agus caighdeáin seirbhíse éifeachtacha (atá ag teacht leo sin is fearr a thagann le dea-chleachtas idirnáisiúnta agus a fhreastlaíonn ar riachtanais chustaiméirí).

Ba le breis éifeachtúlachta agus éifeachtachta a lean an Oifig lena seirbhísí a sholáthar in 2013. Rinneadh caighdeáin Seirbhíse do Chustaiméirí a athbhreithniú nuair ba ghá agus rinneadh próisis a chuíchóiriú agus a uathobriú tuilleadh. Ní raibh aon fhíor-riaráiste próiseála ann agus ba ar leibhéal an-sásúil a comhlíonadh formhór na spriocanna seirbhíse do chustaiméirí.

Lean an cor chun donais eacnamaíoch le tionchar suntasach a imirt ar líon na n-iarratas náisiúnta ar chearta MI a comhdaíodh in 2013. Ba ag a lán gnólachtaí beaga dúchasacha a oibríonn sa mhargadh intíre a bhí ioncam laghdaithe, easpa creidmheasa agus corrlaigh bhrabúis níos dlúithe le linn bliana a bhí deacair dóibh. Is minic a bhíonn ar a lán gnólachtaí beaga a straitéisí agus a bpróisis a athmheasúnú le linn tréimhsí cúlaithe. Agus é sin á dhéanamh acu, b'fhéidir go ndíreodís ar bhealaí níos éifeachtúla ó thaobh costais de chun táirgí agus seirbhísí reatha a sholáthar. Mar sin, seans go bhfuil srian orthu maidir le glacadh le cultúr níos nuálaí. Is cosúil gur féidir an méid a ghlac fiontair dhúchasacha bheaga agus mheánmhéide le cur chuige níos coimeadaí a fheiceáil sna laghduithe foriomlána i líon na n-iarratas ar chearta náisiúnta MI atá á gcomhdú gach bliain ó 2008 ar aghaidh.

Mar sin féin, is maith an rud é gur tháinig meath ar an ráta laghdaithe i gcomhdúcháin MI agus go bhfuil cothromaíocht ag teacht ar an ráta sin anois. D'fhéadfadh gur comhartha é go bhfuil muinín ag méadú i measc an lucht gnó arís. Cé gur tháinig méadú beag ar líon na dtrádhmharcanna agus ar líon na nDeimhnithe Forlíontacha Cosanta (DFCanna) a comhdaíodh, lean líon na bpaitinní agus líon na ndearaí a comhdaíodh de bheith ag laghdú. Bhí laghdú suntasach ar líon na bpaitinní go háirithe. Tháinig laghdú 30% ar líon na bpaitinní a comhdaíodh i gcomparáid leis an bhfigiúr do 2012 (ó 554 paitinn in 2012 go 390 paitinn in 2013). Is an-soiléir freisin atá an t-aistriú ó phaitinní fadtéarmacha go paitinní gearrthéarmacha - is é 2:1 an cóimheas ina leith sin. D'fhéadfadh gur iarmhairt na timpeallachta geilleagraí é an t-athrú sin, toisc gur minic a bhaineann fiontraithe agus fiontair bheaga agus mheánmhéide luach níos fearr as paitinn gearrthéarmach.

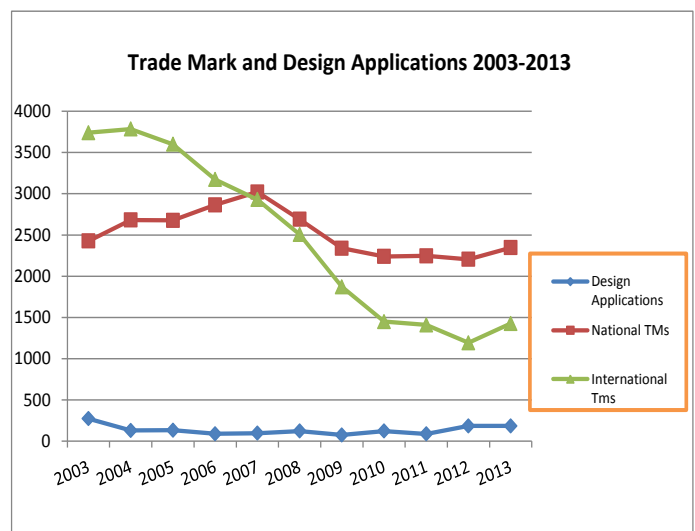


I gcomparáid leis na figiúirí do 2012, bhí laghdú 37% ar líon na gcomhdúcháin Paitinní fadtéarmacha náisiúnta a fuarthas le linn 2013 (ó 216 comhdúcháin go 135 comhdúcháin), agus bhí laghdú 25% ar líon na n-iarratas ar phaitinní gearrthéarmacha a fuarthas (ó 338 iarratas go 255 iarratas).

Lean iarratais ar Dheimhnithe Forlíontacha Cosanta (DFCanna) de bheith ag méadú in 2013, iad tar éis ardú faoi 16% ó 54 iarratas in 2012 go 63 iarratas in 2013. Meastar go mbaineann tábhacht shuntasach le DFCanna don tionscal táirgí cógaisíochta agus íocshláinte agus is ceart an-luachmhar MI iad. Tá Éire ar cheann de na príomháiteanna san Eoraip anois don tionscal cógaisíochta, agus táirgí íocshláinte agus cógaisíochta freagrach as thart ar 25% d'iomlán ár n-onnmhairí.

Bhí laghdú beag ar líon na n-iarratas a fuarthas in 2013 ar dhearaí tionsclaíocha a chlárú (ó 67 iarratas go 61 iarratas), rud a bhfuil líon an-íseal iarratas meallta aige ó 2003 nuair a tháinig córas clárúcháin Dearaí an Chomhphobail i bhfeidhm den chéad uair. Bhí 172 dearadh san iomlán i gceist leis na 61 iarratas a fuarthas.

I gcomparáid leis an bhfigiúr do 2012, tháinig méadú 6% in 2013 (ó 2,210 iarratas go 2,354 iarratas) ar líon iomlán na n-iarratas náisiúnta ar thrádhmharcanna a fuarthas. Tháinig méadú ar líon na n-iarratas idirnáisiúnta ar thrádhmharcanna cosanta in Éirinn freisin, iad tar éis méadú faoi 14% i gcomparáid leis an bhfigiúr do 2012 (ó 1,250 iarratas go 1,427 iarratas). Is é sin an chéad mhéadú i líon na n-iarratas idirnáisiúnta ar thrádhmharcanna a comhdaíodh ó fuarthas na chéad iarratais in 2006.



Tháinig laghdú beag 3% ar ghlanfháltais a bhí dlite don státchiste in 2013 i gcomparáid leis an bhfigiúr do 2012 (ó €8.646m go €8.379m). Tagann an chuid is mó d'ioncam táillí na hOifige ó tháillí athnuachana ar Phaitinní Eorpacha. Tá laghduithe in athnuachaintí paitinní agus trádmharcanna náisiúnta le feiceáil ó 2008. D'fhéadfadh go mbeadh an laghdú in ioncam ó tháillí athnuachana curtha i leith dúnadh gnólachtaí agus cúinsí airgeadais a théann i bhfeidhm ar an gcumas atá ag gnólachtaí ceart MI a athnuachan. Tá a costais reatha laghdaithe ag an Oifig **gach bliain** ó 2008 trí éifeachtúlachtaí riaracháin a thabhairt isteach, agus soláthar laghdaithe foirne aici an t-am ar fad. B'ionann glanspeansais €2.744m na hOifige do 2013 agus laghdú €0.1m ar an bhfigiúr comhfhreagrach €2.846m do 2012, rud ar laghdú de níos mó ná 3% é. Ba sna réimsí seo a leanas a tháinig na laghduithe ba mhó i speansais chun cinn: tuarastail foirne (de bharr laghdú leanúnach sa soláthar foirne), trealamh oifige agus seirbhísí soláthairtí. Ar an iomlán, tá laghdú de bheagnach €0.75m tagtha ar ghlanspeansais na hOifige ó 2008.

Cuspóir (2)

Iarracht a dhéanamh ar theicneolaíocht nua a ionchorprú d'fhonn feabhas a chur ar chórais agus nósanna imeachta agus ar sheirbhís do chustaiméirí agus a thógfaidh ceann freisin d'éilimh an tsochaí faisnéise agus r-ghnó.

Lean an Oifig de bheith ag díriú ar an ról atá aici seirbhísí a sholáthar ar bhealach éifeachtach éifeachtúil. Tá an tiomantas atá againn do sheirbhís ardchaighdeán a sholáthar do chustaiméirí leagtha amach inár bPlean Gníomhaíochta um Sheirbhís do Chustaiméirí, rud atá ar fáil ar ár suíomh Gréasáin. Is é 98% an meánleibhéal gnóthachtála i gcás na 35 sprioc seirbhíse do chustaiméirí atá againn, spriocanna lena leagtar síos uasteorainneacha ama chun gníomhaíochtaí agus cúraimí éagsúla atá dírithe ar an gcustaiméir a chur i gcrích. Ba é 95% an meánleibhéal gnóthachtála in 2012. Cuirtear síos ar na spriocanna sin sa rannán "Spriocanna Feidhmíochta" den tuarascáil. Ar mhaithe le seirbhísí a sholáthar ar bhealach níos éifeachtúla, lean an fhoireann le feabhas a chur ar na próisis oibre agus ar na réitigh theicneolaíochta atá mar bhonn thaca ag a croítháirgí agus ag a croísheirbhísí le linn na bliana 2013.

Is páipéarbhunaithe atá sciar suntasach d'idirbhearta gnó na hOifige go fóill – go háirithe iad siúd a bhaineann le hiarratais a fháil agus a phróiseáil – agus is féidir leis sin cur isteach ar sholáthar éifeachtúil seirbhísí. Agus é sin á aithint aici, tá an Oifig ag féachaint, ó 2010 ar aghaidh, le clár ríomhchumarsáide a chur ar bun, rud arb é an aidhm atá leis soláthar seirbhísí a fheabhsú agus próiseáil a dhéanamh ar bhealach níos éifeachtúla trí chomhdúchán leictreonach, phróiseáil leictreonach comhad agus chumarsáid leictreonach a chomhcheangal ar bhealach a chabhróidh ar deireadh le próiseáil gan pháipéar san Oifig. Is trí ríomhphost a eisítear formhór mór chomhfhreagras na Roinne anois. Spreagtar custaiméirí cumarsáid trí ríomhphost a dhéanamh leis an Oifig nuair is féidir.

Mhol an Tascfhórsa Nuálaíochta do 2010 gur chóir don Oifig comhdúcháin leictreonacha a thabhairt isteach agus iad sin a chur ar fáil lasmuigh de ghnáthuaireanta oibre. D'fhonn éifeacht a thabhairt don mholadh sin, agus ar feitheamh córas oiriúnach ríomhchomhdúcháin a fhorbairt, thug an Oifig bosca seachadta leictreonach isteach in 2011, rud a fhágann gur féidir iarratais chriptithe ar phaitinní, ar thrádmharcanna agus ar dhearaí, in éineacht le doiciméid ghaolmhara, a chur isteach go leictreonach agus go slán tríd an Idirlíon. Níl an bosca seachadta ar fáil do gach iarratasóir. Tá sé ar fáil do ghníomhairí cláraithe a dhéanann roinnt iarratais éagsúla, nó a bheartaíonn roinnt iarratais éagsúla a dhéanamh, ar chearta maoine intleachtúla i mbliain ar bith. Ag deireadh na bliana 2013, bhí leas á bhaint ag 21 gnólacht as an mbosca seachadta, i gcomparáid le 19 ngnólacht a bhí á úsáid in 2012.

Le linn na bliana 2013, ghlac an Oifig páirt i dtionscadal Pacáiste Bogearraí Amach Anseo i gcomhar le OHIM agus le roinnt Oifigí Eorpacha MI, rud arb é ab aidhm dó freastal ar chóras um thrádmharcanna a chomhdú ar líne a thabhairt isteach. Is trí chiste Comhair OHIM a mhaoinítear an obair forbartha agus chomhtháthaithe atá i gceist leis an tionscadal sin a thabhairt chun críche. Tástáladh an próiseas iarratas leictreonach go rathúil i mí na Nollag 2013 agus chuir sé sin ar chumas na hOifige glacadh lena céad iarratas ríomhchomhdaithe ar thrádmharc. Sular cuireadh an córas i bhfeidhm ag deireadh mhí an Mhárta 2014, tugadh faoi obair bhreise feidhmiúlachta chun go bhféadfaí an táille iarratais a íoc ar líne. Rinneadh obair freisin chun go bhféadfaí an feidhmchlár ríomhchomhdaithe a chomhtháthú isteach i gcóras riaracháin Ptolemy na hOifige. Cuimseoidh an tionscadal sin an fheidhmiúlacht atá ar fáil trí thionscadail eile de chuid Chiste Comhair OHIM, TMclass ina measc. Cabhróidh sé sin leis an bpróiseas iarratas a chúchóiriú agus, ar deireadh, cuirfidh sé ar chumas na hOifige cinntí níos tapa a dhéanamh ar iarratais ar chosaint trádmharcanna.

Cuireadh tús in 2013 le tionscadal arb é is aidhm dó cur le líon na ndoiciméad paitinne náisiúnta atá cartlannaithe go leictreonach. Ba é aidhm an tionscadail ná na doiciméid sonraíochta uile atá ar fáil faoi iarratasóirí ar phaitinní a fuarthas sa tréimhse idir na 1960í agus na 1990í a scanadh agus iad a chur ar fáil ar an suíomh Gréasáin. Cabhróidh sé sin le rochtain éasca ar na sonraí a thabhairt don phobal mór agus don fhoireann, chomh maith leis an ngá atá le spás stórála do pháipéar-chomhaid a laghdú.

Ar aon dul le beartas an Rialtais chun úsáid mhéadaithe íocaíochtaí leictreonacha a chur chun cinn sa tseirbhís phoiblí agus ar fud an gheilleagair, bhunaigh an Oifig dhá chuntas nua bairc thráchtála in 2011, rud a thugann tuilleadh roghanna íocaíochta táillí dá custaiméirí. Is go leictreonach a íoctar 91% de tháillí reachtúla na hOifige anois, i gcomparáid le 89% in 2012. I mí na Samhna 2013, thug an Oifig teirminéal cártaí creidmheasa (TCC) isteach ar mhaithe le híocaíocht gach táille ar an teileafón a éascú tuilleadh. Faoi dheireadh na bliana, bhí breis agus 100 iarratas faighte ag an Oifig tríd an teirminéal sin.

Ar mhaithe le seirbhísí a sholáthar ar bhealach níos éifeachtúla, lean an fhoireann le feabhas a chur ar na próisis oibre agus ar na réitigh theicneolaíochta atá mar bhonn thaca ag a croítháirgí agus ag a croísheirbhísí le linn na bliana 2013. I ndáil leis sin, forbraíodh naoi bhfeabhas shubstainteacha ar chóras riaracháin PTOLEMY le linn na bliana. Ba é an aidhm a bhí le gach ceann acu ná feabhas a chur ar éifeachtúlacht oibriúcháin. Ina theannta sin, rinne an fhoireann TFC roinnt uasghráduithe ar bhogearraí agus ar chrua-earraí TFC na hOifige, rud a chinntigh go bhfuil croíchórais ghnó na hOifige agus bonneagar teicniúil na gcroíchóras sin cothrom le dáta. Rinneadh gach ríomhaire san Oifig a uasghrádú ó Windows XP go Windows 7.

Cuspóir (3)

Cur le dreachtú agus le forfheidhmiú ina dhiaidh sin ar aon reachtaíocht nua MI a chruthaíonn feidhmeanna don Rialtóir.

Tá rialáil na gceart maoine intleachtúla in Éirinn ina cuid riachtanach den chreat fhoriomlán reachtaíochta lena ndéantar nuálaíocht a spreagadh, a chosaint agus a chur chun cinn. Tá sé ar aon dul leis an dea-chleachtas idirnáisiúnta, a léiríonn an tiomantas atá ag Éirinn do Dhlí Maoine Intleachtúla an AE agus do chonarthaí agus do choinbhinsiúin idirnáisiúnta eile, amhail Coinbhinsiún Paitinní na hEorpa agus Conarthaí agus Comhaontuithe éagsúla na hEagraíochta Domhanda um Maoine Intleachtúil. Is é Aonad Maoine Intleachtúla (AMI) na Roinne Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta atá freagrach as beartas maoine intleachtúla agus as reachtaíocht a ullmhú sa réimse sin. Soláthraíonn Oifig na bPaitinní comhairle ar na hábhair sin, go háirithe ar an tionchar a d'imreodh athruithe dlíthiúla nó rialála a bheartaítear ar obair na hOifige.

Idir Samhain 2009 agus Deireadh Fómhair 2013, ba i nduine amháin a bhí an ról mar Cheannasaí agus mar Cheannaire ar an Aonad Maoine Intleachtúla (AMI) dílsithe. Ó ceapadh Ceannasaí nua i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2013, áfach, is ag Aonad Maoine Intleachtúla na Roinne atá na feidhmeanna a bhaineann le reachtaíocht MI a dhréachtú agus a chur chun feidhme.

Is iad seo a leanas na hábhair ar chuir an Oifig leo agus ar chuir sí tuairimí in iúl ina leith le linn 2013:

- Togra chun leathnú a dhéanamh ar raon na forála díolúine taighde de chineál “Bolar”, faoi mar atá leagtha síos in Alt 42(g) d’Acht na bPaitinní, 1992.
- Rialacha nós imeachta Roghchoiste Chomhairle Riaracháin Eagraíocht Paitinní na hEorpa, arna bhunú chun rialachas agus maoirseacht na ngníomhaíochtaí a bhaineann leis na dualgais a cuireadh de chúram Oifig Paitinní na hEorpa de bhun Airteagal 145(1) de Choinbhinsiún Paitinní na hEorpa agus de réir Airteagal 9(2) de Rialachán (AE) Uimh. 1257/2012 a chinntiú.
- Rialacha arna moladh ag Roghchoiste Chomhairle Riaracháin Oifig Paitinní na hEorpa maidir le Rialachán (AE) Uimh. 1257/2012 ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gComhairle an 17 Nollaig 2012, lena gcuirtear comhar feabhsaithe chun feidhme sa réimse a bhaineann le cosaint aonadach phaitinne a chruthú agus Rialachán (AE) Uimh. 1260/2012 ón gComhairle an 17 Nollaig 2012, lena gcuirtear comhar feabhsaithe chun feidhme sa réimse a bhaineann le cosaint aonadach phaitinne a chruthú i ndáil leis na socruithe aistriúcháin is infheidhme.
- AE (Téarma Cosanta Cóipchirt agus Cearta Gaolmhara Áirithe), I.R. Uimh. 411 de 2013

Cuspóir (4)

Feasacht ar mhaoin intleachtúil a mhéadú.

Is é ceann de na príomhchuspóirí atá ag Oifig na bPaitinní ná cúnamh a thabhairt do ghnólachtaí, do nuálaithe agus d'fiontraithe a thuiscint conas is féidir le MI cabhrú leo luach a bhaint amach óna gcuid smaointe agus bheith in ann faisnéis ar chearta maoine intleachtúla a rochtain, rud a chuirfidh ar a gcumas a maoin intleachtúil a úsáid, a bhainistiú agus a fhorfheidhmiú chomh fada agus is féidir. Tá an Oifig tar éis a clár feasachta MI a dhíriú go sonrach ar chúnamh a thabhairt d'fhiontair bheaga, do mhicreafhiontair agus d'fhiontraithe agus do nuálaithe aonair.

I gcomhar leis an Líonra Fiontar Eorpach, le Fiontraíocht Éireann (FÉ) agus leis na Boird Fiontar Contae (BFCanna), lean an Oifig le seimineáir aon lae a reáchtáil. Ba é téama na seimineáir sin ná 'Gnó a Fhorbairt Bunaithe ar Do Smaointe Féin'. Dí-ríodh sna seimineáir ar fheasacht a mhéadú i measc gnólachtaí orthu seo a leanas: an buntáiste iomaíoch is féidir a bhaint amach trí MI a úsáid, na féidearthachtaí atá ann leas a bhaint as luach MI ar gné dhílis é d'fhorhóir na ngnólachtaí agus na struchtúir thacaíochta atá ar fáil do ghnólachtaí beaga agus do ghnólachtaí nuathionscanta ón Stát agus ón Eoraip. Le linn na bliana 2013, cuireadh trí cinn de na seimineáir sin ar siúl i mBaile Átha Luain, i nDún Dealgan agus i bPort Láirge i gcomhar leis na hInstitiúidí Teicneolaíochta áitiúla. D'fhreastail breis agus 250 duine san iomlán ar na seimineáir sin agus thug siad aiseolas an-dearfach ina leith. Is ceart aitheantas a thabhairt don chúnamh agus don tacaíocht a thug an Líonra Fiontar Eorpach, Fiontraíocht Éireann agus na Boird Fiontar Contae, mar aon leis na harnaetha paitinní agus trádmarcanna siúd a ndearna a rannpháirtíocht sna himeachtaí rud an-ábhartha, faisnéiseach agus spésiúil díobh.

Lean an Oifig freisin lena clár for-rochtana a reáchtáil, rud arb é an aidhm atá leis feasacht ar mhaoin intleachtúil a mhéadú i measc an phobail i gcoitinne, agus é dírithe go háirithe ar earnáil na ngnólachtaí beaga nuathionscanta agus ar dhaltaí. Ghlac an Oifig páirt i dtuairim is 30 imeacht san iomlán. Labhair sí faoi MI ag cúrsaí "Do Ghnó Féin a Chur ar Bun", a bhí á reáchtáil ag na Boird Fiontar Contae, agus ag taispeántais éagsúla chomhairle gnó agus fiontraíochta a bhí ar siúl ar fud na tíre. I measc na n-imeachtaí ar freastalaíodh orthu, bhí na himeachtaí Líonrú Gnó dar teideal "MeetWest" agus "CorkMeet", áit ar thionóil an Oifig seisiúin aonair le gnólachtaí éagsúla a d'iarr orainn bualadh leo.

Chuir Oifig na bPaitinní 18 gclinic MI ar siúl in 2013. Tugann na clinicí deis do dhaoine den phobal, d'aireagóirí, d'fhiontraithe agus don lucht gnó plé duine le duine le foireann Oifig na bPaitinní a dhéanamh ar a gcuid smaointe agus ar cheistanna a bhaineann le hiarratais MI (paitinní, trádmarcanna nó dearáí) a bheartaíonn siad a dhéanamh nó atá déanta acu cheana féin chuig an Oifig. Táthar den tuairim go bhfuil an cur chuige ar leith sin an-úsáideach maidir le buntreoir a thabhairt maidir le nósanna imeachta agus le foirmeacha a theastaíonn chun cearta MI a chlárú, maidir leis na próisis a bhaineann le cosaint MI a fháil in Éirinn nó thar lear agus maidir leis na tréimhsí ama a bhíonn i gceist. Tugtar cúnamh freisin maidir le straitéis chuardaigh 'déan féin é' i gcomhair paitinní, trádmarcanna nó dearáí cláraithe a chur le chéile agus maidir le bunachar sonraí paitinní, trádmarcanna agus dearáí a rochtain agus a úsáid.

Lean an Oifig le feasacht ar MI a chothú i measc daltaí dara leibhéal, tuismitheoirí agus daoine den phobal a d'fhreastail ar an 49ú Taispeántas bliantúil Eolaithe Óga agus Teicneolaíochta de chuid BT i gCumann Ríoga Bhaile Átha Cliath i mí Eanáir 2013. Creideann an Oifig go bhfuil ár láithreach ag an taispeántas ina bealach tábhachtach chun eolas a thabhairt do dhaoine óga maidir le cearta maoine intleachtúla agus chun comhairle a thabhairt do rannpháirtithe agus don lucht freastail maidir le paitinniú. Lean an Oifig freisin le hurraíocht a dhéanamh ar dhuais speisialta a bhronntar ar an dalta nó ar an ngrúpa daltaí a mbaineann a dtionscadal an úsáid is fearr as teicneolaíocht i bhfeidhmchláir nua nó fheabhsaithe agus a mbaineann a dtionscadal na héifeachtúlachtaí feabhsaithe nó na nuálaíochtaí núiosacha is fearr amach. Is iad buaiteoirí na duaise faoi urraíocht Oifig na bPaitinní do 2013 ná Ruth Coughlan agus Áine O'Connell ó Mheánscoil Loreto, An Uaimh, Co. na Mí, mar gheall ar an tionscadal "Braitheoir chun Boinn Lomchaite a Bhrath" a chuir siad i láthair.

Tá Dámhachtainí Fiontar na nDaltaí atá á reáchtáil ag na Boird Fiontar Contae agus Cathrach ar an gcomórtas fiontair is mó do dhaltaí dara leibhéal in Éirinn, agus d'fhéadfadh 16,000 duine páirt a ghlacadh ann. Tugann an comórtas deis den scoth don Oifig dul i dteagmháil le fiontraithe is daltaí dara leibhéal d'fhonn feasacht ar MI a léiriú nuair a bhíonn smaointeamh gnó á fhorbairt acu agus nuair a bhíonn fiontar rathúil á bhunú agus a reáchtáil acu. Bhí na Babhtáí Ceannais Náisiúnta ar siúl i mí Aibreáin 2013 agus fuair an Oifig tacaíocht ó Chumann na nAarnaetha Paitinní agus Trádmarcanna i gcomhair duais speisialta a bhronnadh ar an bhfiontar dalta ar léiríodh ina thuarascáil chomhlánaithe ghnó an fheasacht agus an tuiscint ab fhearr ar MI le haghaidh a ghnó agus le haghaidh pleanáil ghnó. Is iad seo a leanas buaiteoirí na nduaiseanna urraithe do 2013

- An Chatagóir Shóisearach: Faigh an Trealamh, Coláiste Pobail Osraí, Cill Chainnigh
- An Chatagóir Idirmheánach: *Lyetech*, Coláiste Choilm, Sord, Fine Gall
- An Chatagóir Shinsearach: *Tarrthálaithe Bróg*, Meánscoil Íosa agus Mhuire, Gort na Ráibe, Maigh Eo

Leanfaidh Oifig na bPaitinní de bheith páirteach i nDámhachtainí Fiontar na nDaltaí sa chomórtas in 2013-2014. Is é atá i leabhar oibre an SEA anois ná caibidil nua a bhaineann go sonrach le Maoin Intleachtúil, rud a athdhaingíonn feasacht ar MI i measc daltaí dara leibhéal.

Lean suíomh Gréasáin na hOifige de bheith ar an bpríomh-mhodh chun faisnéis maidir le MI a chur ar fáil don phobal mór. Bealach éifeachtúil chun raon de sheirbhísí idirghníomhacha cuardaigh agus íocaíochta táillí ba ea an suíomh Gréasáin freisin. I gcomparáid leis na figiúirí do 2012, tháinig méadú 7.5% in 2013 ar líon na gcuartheanna ar an suíomh Gréasáin (ó 643,605 in 2012 go 691,799 in 2013) agus tháinig méadú 22% ar líon na gcuartheoirí uathúla (ó 263,267 in 2012 go 322,769 in 2013). Bhí ardlíon amharc leathanaigh go fóill, agus níos mó ná 4.5 milliún amharc in 2013. Bhí na leathanaigh chlárúcháin ar líne ar na leathanaigh ba mhó amharc go fóill, agus bhí méadú 9% ar líon na n-amharc ar an gClár Trádmharcanna idirghníomhacha i gcomparáid leis an bhfigiúr do 2012 (ó 647,016 cuairt in 2012 go 706,061 cuairt in 2013).

Cuspóir (5)

An fhoireann a aithint mar phríomhshóchmhainn na hOifige agus úsáid a bhaint as pleanáil gnó agus bainistíocht agus forbairt feidhmíochta indibhidiúil le feabhas a chur ar fheidhmíocht agus nósanna imeachta gnó agus feabhas a chur ar éifeachtúlacht eagraíochtaí.

A bhuí leis an rún daingean leanúnach atá ag an bhfoireann ar gach leibhéal athrú a thionscnamh agus a sholáthar agus leanúint le cleachtais oibre a fheabhsú, tá an Oifig in ann seirbhís éifeachtúil ardchaighdeán a sholáthar, agus níos lú acmhainní foirne aici. Bhí 47 post údaraithe ag an Oifig amhail an 31 Nollaig 2013. B'ionann é sin agus laghdú 2 phost ar an bhfigiúr do 2012. Tar éis sosanna gairme, postroinnt agus socrúithe oibre eile a thacaíonn leis an teaghlach a chur san áireamh, bhí leibhéal foirne de 42.1 coibhéis lánaimseartha ag an Oifig le linn 2013. Leanann líon foirne na hOifige de bheith ag titim bliain i ndiaidh bliana. Ó 2008 ar aghaidh, mar shampla, tá líon foirne na hOifige tar éis titim faoi 34%, is é sin, ó 63 duine go 47 duine faoi láthair. Agus níos lú acmhainní aici, tá an Oifig tar éis glacadh leis an dúshlán a bhaineann le freastal ar ardleibhéil seirbhíse poiblí gan dochar a dhéanamh dá héifeachtacht oibriúcháin. Tá rún daingean ag an Oifig a chinntiú go ndéantar measúnú rialta ar fheidhmíocht na foirne ar fad agus go gcuirtear athbhreithnithe foirne i gcrích ar bhealach tráthúil. De réir an chórais bhainistíochta agus forbartha feidhmíochta (CBFF) atá i bhfeidhm san Oifig, rinneadh plean forbartha i gcomhair oiliúna a dhréachtú, rud inar cuireadh san áireamh na riachtanais éagsúla oiliúna ar aithin na baill foirne iad a bheith acu ina bpleananna forbartha pearsanta do 2013. Lasmuigh den oiliúint leanúnach ar an láthair oibre, thug an fhoireann faoi 22 lá oibre san iomlán le linn 2013. Cuireadh oiliúint ar fáil i réimsí éagsúla. Mar shampla, oiliúint sna hathruithe ar phróiseas an chórais bhainistíochta agus forbartha feidhmíochta (CBFF), scileanna teicneolaíocht faisnéise agus cumarsáide, scileanna scríbhneoireachta agus Sláinte agus Sábháilteacht. Lean an fhoireann le ról ríthábhachtach a imirt maidir le hídiú fuinnimh san oifig a laghdú, ar aon dul leis an gClár Earnála Poiblí atá i bPlean Gníomhaíochta an Rialtais um Éifeachtúlacht Fuinnimh. Is é sprioc an phlean ná ídiú fuinnimh a laghdú, feasacht na foirne ar éifeachtúlacht fuinnimh a mhéadú agus monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fheidhmíocht an trealamh théimh/aerchóirithe. Mar thoradh ar bhearta coigilt fuinnimh atá déanta ag an bhfoireann, tá laghdú 17% tagtha ar ídiú iomlán fuinnimh sa bhliain seo a chuaigh thart (i gcomparáid leis an mbliain 2008, arb í bliain na tagarmharcála) agus tá coigilt iarmhartach tagtha chun cinn i gcostais fuinnimh.

- Tá laghdú 20% tagtha ar ídiú leictreachais sa 12 mhí seo a chuaigh thart (i gcomparáid leis an bhfigiúr do 2008)
- Tá laghdú 17.5% tagtha ar ídiú breosla sa 12 mhí seo a chuaigh thart (i gcomparáid leis an bhfigiúr do 2008).

Moltar rannpháirtíocht na foirne agus í ag tacú leis an tionscnamh coigilt fuinnimh.

Cuspóir (6)

Ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar Éirinn ag fóraim idirnáisiúnta.

Déanann foireann Oifig na bPaitinní ionadaíocht ar Éirinn ar Chomhairle Riaracháin an EPE agus ar a Coistí éagsúla, ar Bhord Riaracháin OCMI agus roinnt dá coistí teicniúla agus idirchaidrimh a bhíonn ag déileáil le ceisteanna éagsúla a bhaineann le maoin intleachtúil. Ina theannta sin, bíonn an fhoireann rannpháirteach i gcrúinnithe chomhlachtaí rialaithe agus teicniúla an Eagraíochta Dhomhanda um Maoin Intleachtúil (EDMI) (a riarann an Conradh Comhoibrithe Paitinne agus socrúithe faoi Phrótaic Mhaidrid ag déileáil le hiarratais ar thrádmharcanna idirnáisiúnta) in éineacht le roinnt chonarthaí idirnáisiúnta MI.

Déanann an EPE agus an OCMI slite eile a thairiscint le cosaint MI a fháil san Eoraip agus tá rannpháirtíocht na hOifige leis na heagraíochtaí seo dírithe ar a chinntiú go mbíonn ionadaíocht iomcuí ag leasa na hÉireann, ar fanacht suas chun dáta le dea-chleachtas ag leibhéal idirnáisiúnta agus éascú a dhéanamh ar chomhoibriú le hoifigí eile maoine tinsclaíoch náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta. Tá clár chomhair dhéthaobhaigh ag an Oifig le EPO agus le OHIM, clár faoina bhfaigheann an Oifig cúnamh le haghaidh na nithe seo a leanas: páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí éagsúla atá dírithe ar fheasacht ar MI a ardú, páirt a ghlacadh i sainoiliúint MI, páirt a ghlacadh i dtionscadail TFC arb é is aidhm dóibh malartú sonraí MI a éascú, uirlisí a fhorbairt chun rochtain níos fearr a chur ar fáil ar fhaisnéis MI agus cleachtais agus nósanna imeachta a chomhchuíbhíú. Freastalaíonn ár rannpháirtíocht sna cláir ar chomhphlé a dhéanamh ar ábhar agus ar struchtúr clár comhair idir na heagraíochtaí sin agus oifigí náisiúnta eile MI san Eoraip, rud a chuireann ar chumas na hOifige a seirbhísí do chustaiméirí a fheabhsú agus a fhorbairt tuilleadh de réir an dea-chleachtais idirnáisiúnta.

Comhoibriú Idirnáisiúnta



Bíonn an Oifig rannpháirteach i ngníomhaíochtaí comhoibrithe lena comhpháirtithe idirnáisiúnta, an Oifig um Chomhchuibhiú sa Mhargadh Innheánach (OCMI) agus Oifig na bPaitinní Eorpacha ar roinnt tionscadal, a ceapadh le comhchuibhiú a chur chun cinn trí oifigí náisiúnta MI, agus é a bheith níos éasca do lucht úsáide paitinne, trádmharc agus córas dearaidh.

Seo a leanas samplaí de chuid de na tionscadail chomhoibríocha a bhí ar bun i 2013.

IPORTA & INNOVACCESS

Tá comhpháirtí Oifige ag an Oifig freisin i gclár de chuid an AE ar a dtugtar IPORTA a thosaigh i 2012 ina bhfuil 26 Oifig MI Eorpach rannpháirteach, Is breathnadóirí iad an OPE agus an OCMI. Déanann CRP Henri Tudor comhordú ar an gclár thar ceann Oifige MI Luxembourg. Déanann an toinscadal seo iarracht ar chomhoibriú a neartú idir oifigí náisiúnta maoine intleachtúla ó na Ballstáit agus tíortha a bhaineann leo agus cur chun cinn a dhéanamh ar ghníomhaíochtaí agus uirlisí a bhaineann le húsaid agus bainistiú cearta maoine intleachtúla. Déanann sé iarracht ar shinerigíocht a thógáil i measc Oifigí náisiúnta MI, le heagraíochtaí tacaíochta gnó náisiúnta agus le páirtithe leasmhara eile MI mar Dheasc Cabhrach IPR na hEorpa agus na Síne agus an Lónra Fiontar Eorpach d'fhonn cabhrú le SMEs comhtháthú níos fearr a dhéanamh ar MI ina stautéisí gnó agus leas níos fearr a bhaint astu. Is féidir tuilleadh eolais a fháil ag www.innovaccess.eu.

COMHAR LE OHIM AGUS TIONSCADAL PACÁISTE BOGEARRAÍ

Tá ionadaíocht ag Oifig na bPaitinní in Eirinn ar Ghrúpa Oibre thionscadal Phacáiste Bogearraí an OCMI. Tá se mar aidhm ag an dtionscadal seo sraith uirlisí nua-aimseartha, gréasánbhunaithe a fhorbairt agus a fheidhmiú ag tacú le saolré trádmharcanna agus dearáí.

Baineann an chéad chuid den tionscadal le hiarratais ar thrádmharcanna a chomhdú go leictreonach. Ba sa chéad ráithe de 2014 a cuireadh an córas nua i bhfeidhm san Oifig Éireannach. Cuimseoidh an tionscadal sin an fheidhmiúlacht atá ar fáil trí thionscadail eile de chuid Chiste Comhair OHIM. Mórthairbhe a bhaineann leis an gcóras d'úsáideoirí is ea an dearbhú a fhaigheann siad go nglacfaidh an Oifig le haon téarmaí a roghnaíonn siad ón liosta ceadaithe aicmithe comhchuibhithe in TMclass. Cabhróidh sé sin leis an bpróiseas iarratas a chuíchóiriú agus tabharfaidh sé leibhéal intuathachta d'úsáideoirí. Cuirfidh sé ar chumas na hOifige freisin cinneadh níos tapa a dhéanamh ar iarratas ar chosaint trádmhairc. Cabhróidh an córas freisin leis an bpróiseas scrúdúcháin agus déanfar cinntí níos tapa ar iarratais ar chosaint trádmhairc mar thoradh air.

Tá súil ag an Oifig obair a chur i gcrích ar dhá chás eile FSP in 2014; is iad sin; Designview agus Ríomhchomhdúchán Dearaí.

CLÁR CÓINEASAITHE OHIM

Le linn na bliana, ghlac an Oifig páirt i gClár Cóineasaithe OHIM, a fhéachann le cleachtas agus le nósanna imeachta a chomhchuibhiú ar fud gach Oifige Trádmharcanna sa Chomhphobal Eorpach i réimsí nach dteastaíonn aon athrú reachtaíochta uathu. Is é aidhm an chlár ná soiléireacht, cinnteacht dhlíthiúil, cáilíocht agus inúsáidteacht a bhunú agus a chur in iúl don iarratasóir agus do na hoifigí rannpháirteacha araon i roinnt réimsí tábhachtacha. Sa bhliain 2013, leanadh de bheith ag obair ar chúig thionscadal a bhain go sonrach le trádmharcanna agus ghlac baill foirne na hOifige seo páirt sna Grúpaí Oibre do gach ceann acu. Is iad seo a leanas na cúig thionscadal sin:

CP1 – Aicmiú earraí agus seirbhísí a chomhchuibhiú;

CP2 – Cinn Aicmiú Nice a Chóineasú;

CP3 – Glanfhórais le diúltú i ndáil le marcanna fíoracha;

CP4 – Raon na cosanta do mharcanna dubha agus bána;

CP5 – Cleachtas a chóineasú maidir le forais choibhneasta le diúltú a rochtain maidir leis an dóchúlacht go mbeidh mearbhall ann

Rinneadh dul chun cinn ar gach ceann de na tionscadail agus thángthas ar chomhaontú maidir leis na príomh-shaincheistean. Eisíodh Teachtaireachtaí Coiteanna maidir le cur chun feidhme a dhéanamh ar athruithe i sreabhadh cleachtais ón gcás ‘Aistritheoir MI’ agus ar chleachtas nua a bhain le Léirithe Ginearálta ar Chinn Aicmiú Nice. D’fhoilsigh an Oifig nóta freisin maidir le Sonraí Ginearálta Do-Ghlactha Aicmiú Nice.

Cuireadh tús le linn 2013 le hobair chun cleachtas a chóineasú i ndáil le Dearaí agus tá an Oifig páirteach sa chéad dá thionscadal – Tionscadal CP6 (Léiriú Grafach Dearaidh), arb é is aidhm dó cleachtas a chomhchuibhiú i ndáil le léiriú grafach iarratais dearaidh, agus Tionscadal CP7 (Sonraí Táirgí a Chomhchuibhiú), a dhíreoidh ar bhunachar sonraí comhchuibhithe um léiriú táirgí a chruthú. Ag deireadh an Chláir, táthar ag súil go mbeidh seirbhís níos fearr á soláthar ag an Oifig seo, rud lena ngabhfadh cur chuige níos comhsheasmhaí agus níos trédhearcaí agus leibhéil mhéadaithe tuarhachta (agus cinnteacht i réimsí cuí) d’úsáideoirí, rud a mhéadóidh an dóchúlacht go “n-éireoidh linn sa chéad ásc”.

FOILSEACHÁIN

Suíomh gréasáin Oifig na bPaitinní: www.patentoffice.ie

Soláthraíonn an suíomh gréasáin réamhrá ginearálta do mhaoin intleachtúil agus eolas sonrach ar conas do smaointe a chosaint agus tá rannán ann ar MI do ghnó.

Áirítear ar an ábhar atá foilsithe ar an ngréasán tuarascálacha bliantúla ó bhlianta roimhe seo, réimse de leabhráin fhaisnéise MI, ráiteas reatha straitéise na hOifige agus plean gníomhaíochta seirbhíse do chustaiméirí agus gach reachtaíocht phríomha agus thánaisteach a rialaíonn feidhmeanna Oifig na bPaitinní.

Tá na seirbhísí seo a leanas ar fáil ar líne:

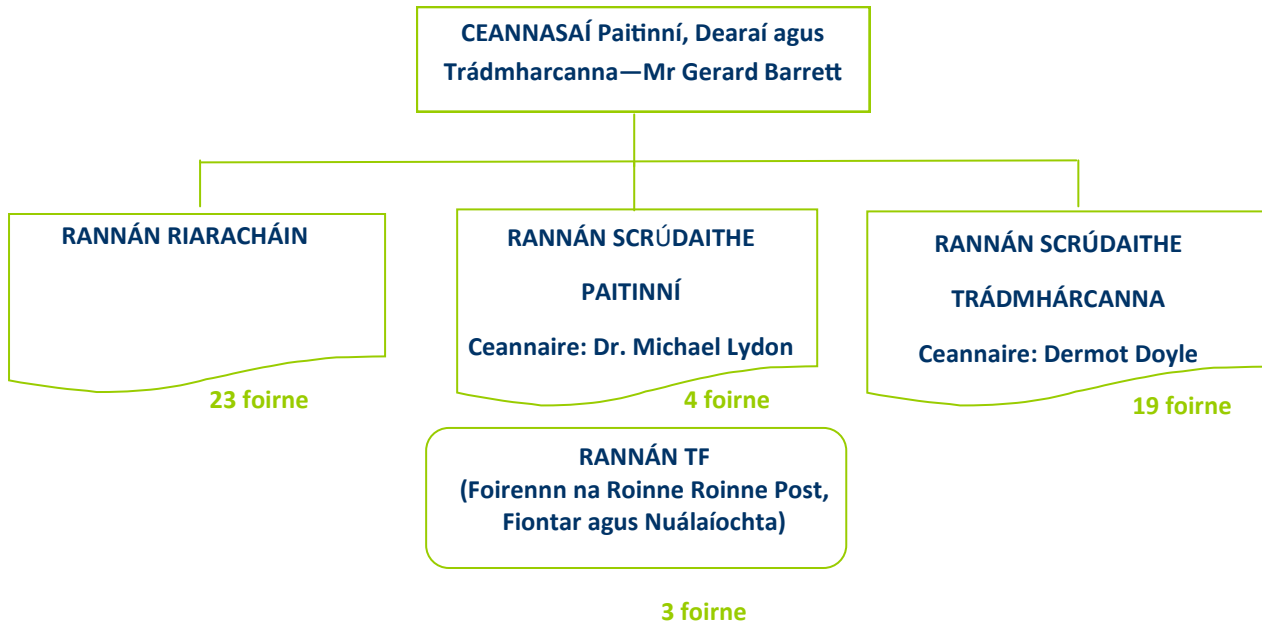
- Cláir agus Bunachair Sonraí d’Amharc agus do Chuardach – cuardach do phaitinní, trádhmarcanna, dearáí
- Rochtain agus amharc ar chlár chomhlachtaí cheadúnaithe chóipchirt
- Rochtain agus amharc ar chlár na ngníomhairí paitinne agus trádhmarcanna
- Íoc do tháillí paitinne, trádmhairc nó dearaidh ar líne.
- Íoc do tháillí ceadaithe paitinne agus cláraithe trádmharc ar líne
- Amharc ar chinntí an Rialtóra i gcásanna trádhmarcanna idirpháirtíoch

An Iris Oifigiúil

Tá innéacs inchuadaithe ag gach eagrán den Iris, in éineacht le heolas ar ghníomhaíochtaí a bhaineann le hiarratais agus clárú paitinní, trádhmarcanna agus dearáí. Mar shampla, is féidir leat féachaint ar shonraí de thrádhmarcanna agus dearáí san Iris ar glacadh leo. Tá mionsonraí san Iris freisin ar phaitinní ar cuireadh isteach orthu, a foilsíodh agus a tugadh, ar a n-áirítear paitinní a tugadh faoi Choinbhinsiún Paitinne na hEorpa ag ainmniú Éire.

Tá eolas san Iris freisin mar fhógraí oifigiúla, mionsonraí ar mhódhanna íocaíochta táillí reachtúla agus uaireanta oscailte Oifig na bPaitinní. I rith 2012, tugadh saoráid idirghníomhach i gceist maidir leis an irisleabhar ar líne a cheadaíonn d’údáideoirí rochtain a fháil ar an gClár agus aon phaitinn, trádmharc nó dearadh ar leith atá san irisleabhar a bhaint amach trí chliceáil ar an hipearnasc laistigh den irisleabhar.

Eagrú, Struchtúr agus Pearsanra



FOIREANN AR SEIRBHÍS AR AN 31 NOLLAIG 2013

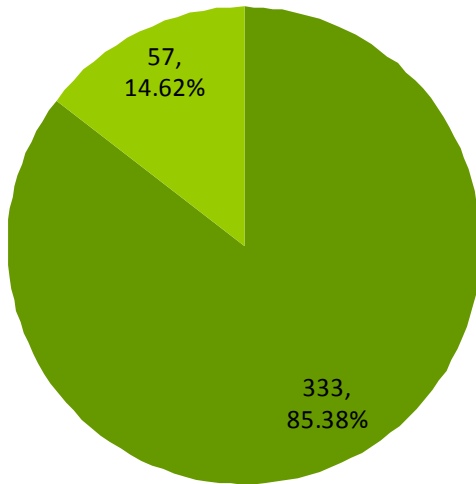
Líon na bpost	Foireann
1	Ceannasaí
1	Príomhoifigeach Cúnta
1	Scrúdaitheoir Sinsearach Paitinne
4	Ardoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin
1	Oifigeach Riaracháin
3	Scrúdaitheoir Paitinne
17	Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin
1	Oifigeach Foirne
17	Oifigeach Cléireachais
1	Oifigeach Seirbhísí
47	

A chuimsíonn 14 foirne (2 Ardoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin, 6 Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin, 1 Oifigeach Riaracháin agus 5 Oifigeach Cléireachais) a bhain feidhm as scéim oibre i bpáirt a cheadaíonn patrúin éagsúla tinnrimh. Bhain triúr feidhm as scéim teileaoibre a cheadaíonn dóibh cuid dá ndualgas a chomhlíonadh ó bhaile ar feadh cuid den tseachtain. Ar an 31ú Nollag 2013 bhí comhionann le 42.1 phost iomlán san Oifig.

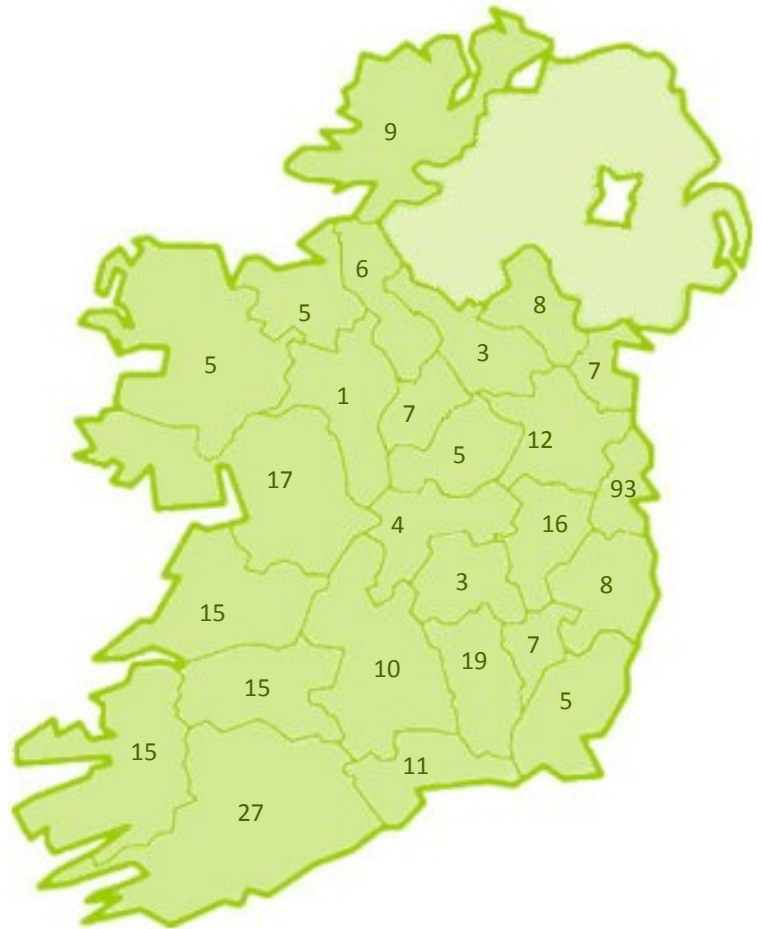
Solátharíonn an Roinn Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta seirbhísí teicneolaíochta faisnéise don Oifig. Ina theannta sin tá triúr ball d'fhoireann Aonaid TF an Roinn (1 AF, 1 OF agus 1 OC) ag soláthar seirbhísí teicneolaíochta faisnéise don Oifig.

Staidreamh Gnó - PAITINNÍ

Iarratais Náisiúnta ar Phaitinní ón tír den chéad iarratasóir



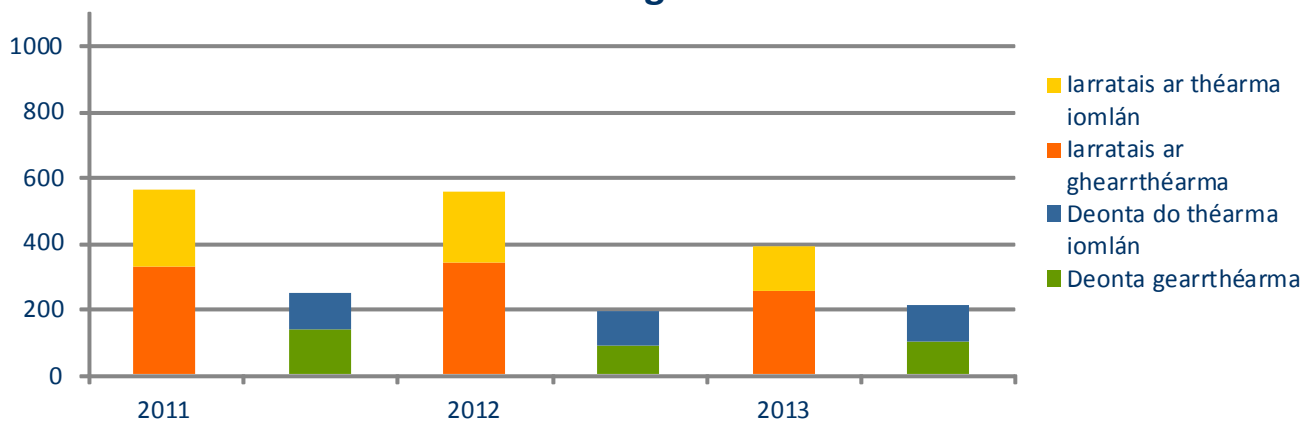
■ Iarratasóirí IE
■ Iarratasóirí Eachtrannacha



Iarratais ar Phaitinní faoi contae í 2013

BLIAIN	IARRATAIS FAIGHTE			PAITINNÍ DEONTA		
	Ar Théarma Iomlán (20 bliain)	Ar Ghearr-théarma (10 mbliana)	IOMLÁN	Do Théarma Iomlán 20 bliain	Do Ghearr-théarma (10 mbliana)	IOMLÁN
2011	230	331	561	114	136	250
2012	216	338	554	101	89	190
2013	135	255	390	116	98	214

Iarratais ar Phaitinní agus Deontais 2011-2013



Ar an an 31 Nollaig 2013, bhí 1,297 iarratas san iomlán ar feitheamh idir lámha. Díobh seo, bhí 286 iarratas ag fanacht go gcuirfí isteach fianaise ar nuagacht.

Fuarthas 333 iarratas ó iarratasóirí sa Stát i 2013 i gcomparáid le 492 i 2012.

Paitinní a deonadh i 2013 a raibh feidhm leo sa Stát

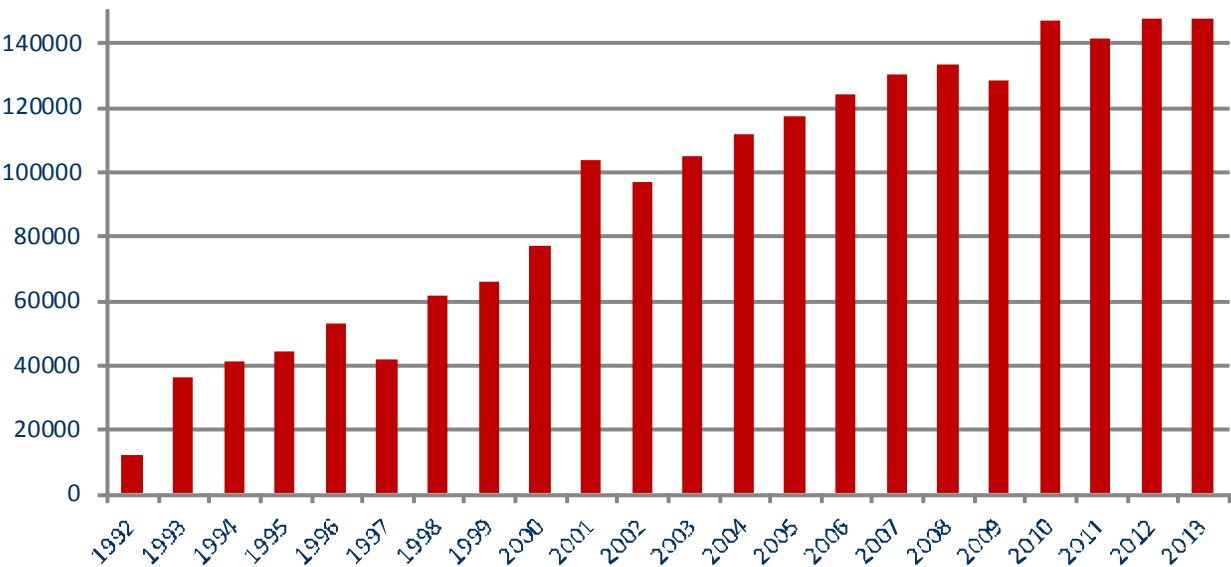
2013	Líon	Líon na bpaitinní a deonadh d'iarratasóirí ó laistigh den Stát	% de na paitinní a deonadh d'iarratasóirí ó laistigh den Stát
Deonta ag an Oifig	214	155	72%
Deonta ag EPE	56,025	197	0.35%
Iomlán Deonta	56,239	352	0.62%

Níl iarratais Eorpacha le sainiú ar Éirinn (cuireadh an deis seo ar fáil don chéad uair i 1992) san áireamh sna cairteanna thuas ach seo thíos na figiúirí fana gcoinne:-

BLIAIN	Comhadaithe	BLIAIN	Comhadaithe	BLIAIN	Comhadaithe
1992	11,755	2000	76,806	2008	133,248
1993	35,762	2001	103,659	2009	128,378
1994	40,705	2002	96,779	2010	146,726
1995	44,161	2003	104,529	2011	141,373
1996	52,755	2004	111,537	2012	147,551
1997	41,875	2005	117,096	2013	147,487
1998	61,584	2006	123,912		
1999	65,708	2007	129,890		

Iontráladh na paitinní seo i gClár Náisiúnta na bPaitinní. Tá an seasamh céanna dlíthiúil acu in Éirinn is a bheadh dá mbeidís deonta ag m'Oifig-se.

Iarratais Eorpacha a rinne sainiú ar Éirinn



Nithe eile a bhaineann le Clár na bPaitinní

	2011	2012	2013
Paitinní agus iarratais ar phaitinní ina n-ábhar sannta (Alt 85 d'Acht na bPaitinní 1992)	826	932	833
Paitinní cúlghairthe	0	0	0
Paitinní tugtha suas	0	3	3
Paitinní tite ar lár	23,307	32,193	41,337
Paitinní curtha ar ais	15	14	18
Paitinní athnuaite	42,023	42,586	42,242
Paitinní éagtha	467	636	979
Paitinní i bhfeidhm	88,044	96,899	110,486

Éisteachtaí agus Ilnithe

	2011	2012	2013
Éisteachtaí	1	0	0
Iarratais Idirnáisiúnta um Comhoibriú Paitinne (PCT) a fuarthas le cur chuig WIPO	67	54	26
Iarratais ar Phaitinní Eorpacha a fuarthas le cur chuig EPO	27	7	1

Iarratais ar Dheimhnithe Cosanta Forlíontacha

Fuarthas 63 iarratas san iomlán ar Dheimhnithe Cosanta Forlíontacha i rith na bliana faoi Rialacháin na gComhphobal Eorpacha (Deimhnithe Cosanta Forlíontacha), 1992 (míochaineach) agus 1996 (táirgí cosanta plandaí).

I rith na bliana, deonadh 29 deimhniú (cosaint míochaineach agus plandaí), diúltaíodh do 3 iarratas agus tarraingíodh siar 8 iarratas. Ag deireadh na bliana bhí 146 iarratas ar feitheamh.

Clár na nGníomhairí Paitinne

Ag deireadh na bliana 2013, bhí 84 duine aonair agus 5 comhpháirtíochtaí iontráilte i gClár na nGníomhairí Paitinne.

AICMIÚ AR NA PAITINNÍ A DHEONAIGH AN OIFIG SA BHLIAIN DAR CHRÍOCH 31 NOLLAIG 2013 DAR LEIS AN AICMIÚ IDIRNÁISIÚNTA PAITINNE (AIP)

Nóta ar Aicmiú Paitinne

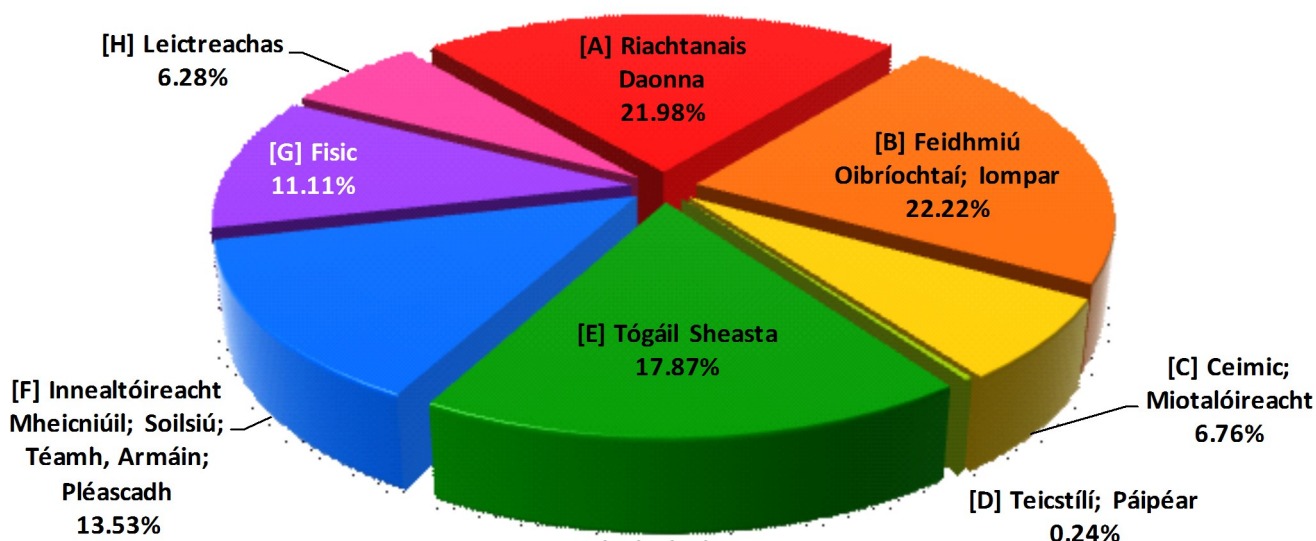
Déantar aicmiú ar phaitinní bunaithe ar a n-ábhar teicniúil. Ceadáíonn aicmiú den chineál sin aisghabháil paitinní de réir nádúr na n-aireagán a nochtar iontu. Is é an tAicmiú Idirnáisiúnta Paitinne (AIP) an córas caighdeánach do rangú paitinne. Tá sé comhdhéanta de thart ar 70,000 siombal aicmithe roinnte ar 8 rannóg bunúsacha (A go H), a bhaineann le cineálacha difriúla bunúsacha teicneolaíochta. I 2013, bhí sé ina 11ú eagrán (Int. Cl. (2011)).

Tugtar cód aicmithe ar gach ní airgtheach i bpaitinn. Is féidir dhá aireagán nó níos mó a bheith i bpaitinn chomh fada is atá leorghaol eatarthu; mar shampla, comheascán nua ceimice agus a úsáid mar mhíochaine nó mar luibhicíd, nó léasar nua agus a úsáid i máinliacht súl nó léamh sonraí. Dá réir sin, is féidir go dteastódh líon áirithe siombal aicmiúcháin lena n-ábhar ar fad a chlúdach. Déanann an tábla agus an graf atá leis seo comhordú ar líon iomlán na n-aicmí a leithdháileadh do phaitinní i 2013. Seasann gach rangú ar leith do ní airgtheach a nochtar i bpaitinn, agus dá bhrí sin is ionann seo cuid mhaith agus cuntas scóir ar airgtheacht. Tá na haicmí curtha i ngrúpaí de réir rannóga AIP.

AICMIÚ	An líon deonuithe san Aicmiú *
A. RIACHTANAIS DAONNA m.sh. Ábhair bia, Sláinte, Nithe Pearsanta.	91
B. FEIDHMIÚ OIBRÍOCHTAÍ; IOMPAR: m.sh. Teicneolaíocht múnlaíthe, priontála, feithicle.	92
C. CEIMIC; MIOTALÓIREACHT	28
D. TEICSTÍLÍ; PÁIPÉAR	1
E. TÓGÁIL SHEASTA: m.sh. Foirgníocht, druileáil, mianadóireacht.	74
F. INNEALTÓIREACHT MHEICNIÚIL; SOILSIÚ; TÉAMH, ARMÁIN; PLÉASCADH	56
G. FÍSIC: m.sh. Optaic, ríomhaireacht, fisic núicléach.	46
H. LEICTREACHAS: m.sh. Ciorcaid leictreonacha, giniúint agus dáileadh leictreachais.	26

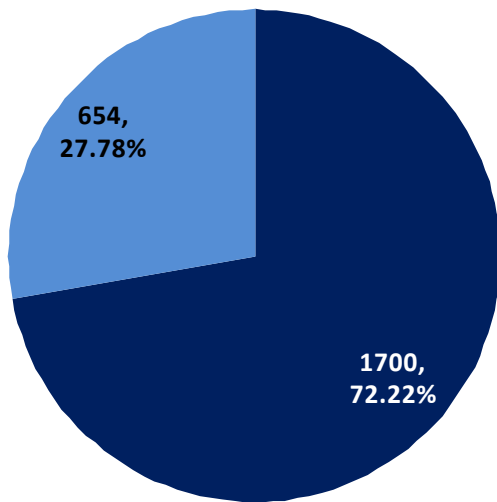
* Nóta:- Toisc gur féidir paitinn a dheontar a bheith aicmithe i níos mó ná réimse amháin teicneolaíochta, beidh líon na rangaithe ina mbeidh aireagán níos mó ná líon na bpaitinní a dheontar.

Aicmithe de réir Choidanna IPC do Phaitinní Deonaithe in 2013

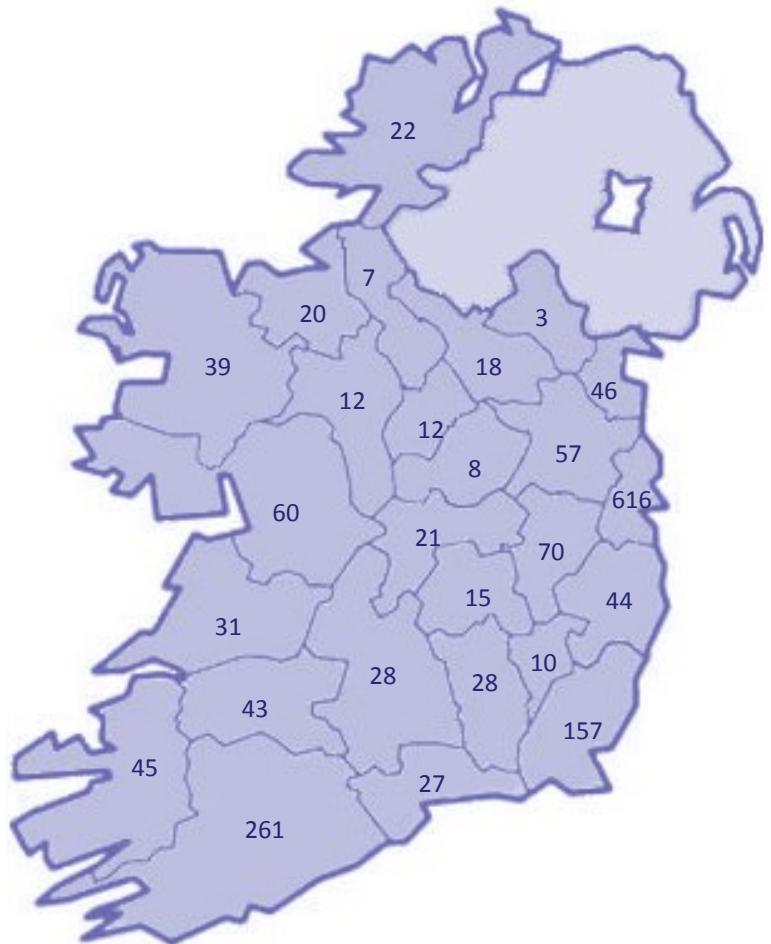


Staidreamh Gnó - TRÁD MHARCANNA

Iarratais Náisiúnta
Trádmharcanna ón tír den chéad
iarratasóir



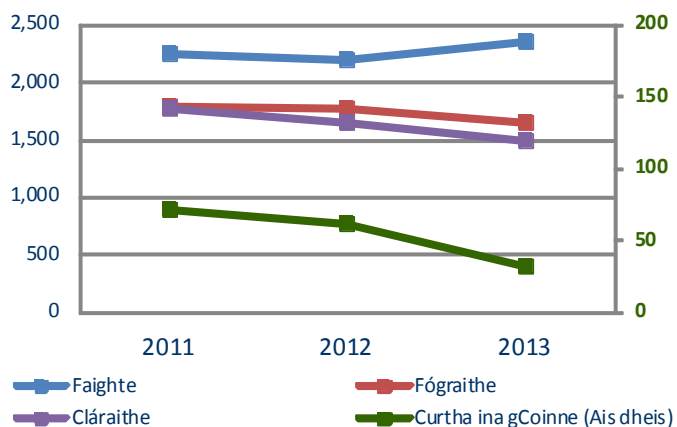
■ Iarratasóirí IE
■ Iarratasóirí Eachtrannacha



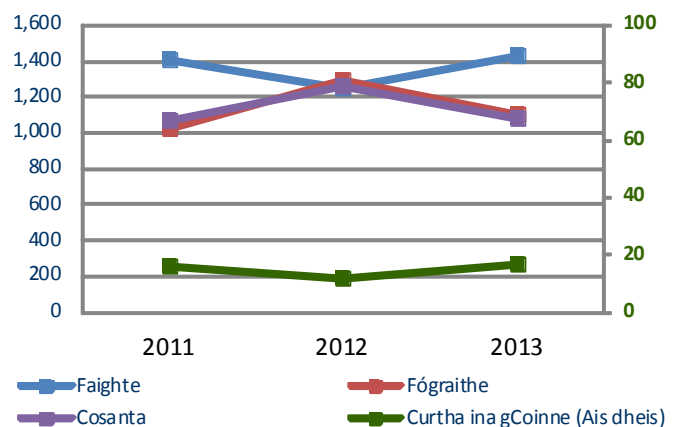
Iarratais ar Thrádmharcanna faoi contae í 2013

BLIAIN DAR CHRÍOCH	Iarratais Náisiúnta				Clárúcháin Idirnáisiúnta ina sainíodh Éire			
	Iarratais a Fuarthas	Fógraithe	Curtha ina gCoinne	Dearaí cláraithe	Iarratais a Fuarthas	Fógraithe	Curtha ina gCoinne	Cosanta
2011	2,251	1,803	71	1,783	1,410	1,021	16	1,069
2012	2,210	1,781	61	1,648	1,250	1,290	12	1,260
2013	2,354	1,650	32	1,486	1,427	1,103	17	1,075

Trádmharcanna Náisiúnta 2011 – 2013



Trádmharcanna Idirnáisiúnta 2011 – 2013



Nithe eile a bhaineann le Clár na dTrádmharc

	2011	2012	2013
Líon na dtrádmharc ina n-ábhar sannta	1,853	1,427	1,458
Líon na gceadúnas ar thrádmhairc taifeadta sa chlár	66	50	6
Clárúcháin Trádmharc asbhainte de dheasca neamhíocaíocht na dtáillí athnuachana	3,684	3,824	3,395
Clárúcháin trádmharc tugtha suas	29	12	7
Clárúcháin trádmharc tugtha ar ais	13	8	8
Clárúcháin trádmharc athnuaite	4,270	4,874	4,053
Trádmhairc Náisiúnta cúlghairthe go hiomlán nó i bpáirt	5	7	9
Trádmhairc Idirnáisiúnta cúlghairthe go hiomlán nó i bpáirt	0	5	3
Trádmhairc Náisiúnta fógraithe neamhbhailí	2	0	1
Trádmhairc Idirnáisiúnta fógraithe neamhbhailí	0	0	0
Trádmhairc náisiúnta cláraithe i bhfeidhm	65,884	63,674	61,737
Trádmhairc Idirnáisiúnta i bhfeidhm	23,740	23,964	22,988
Iomlán na dTrádmharc i bhfeidhm	89,624	87,638	84,725

Éisteachtaí agus Ilnithe

	2011	2012	2013
Éisteachtaí (<i>ex-parte</i>)	6	6	6
Éisteachtaí (<i>idir-partes</i>)	15	7	12
Eisteachtai (<i>idir-partes ar mhodh aighneacht i scríbhinn</i>) **	n/a	7	14
Iarratais le hiarratais Trádmhairc na bPobal Eorpacha a aistriú go hiarratais náisiúnta	60	42	32
Iarratais idirnáisiúnta trádmhairc ina raibh Éire ina hOifig Tionscnaimh comhadaithe atá curtha chuig WIPO	63	46	70
Iarratais Chomhphobail comhadaithe tríd an Oifig agus a cuireadh ar aghaidh chuig an Oifig um Chomhchuibhiú sa Mhargadh Inmheánach (OHIM)	1	1	0

****Léirítear san fhíor seo líon na n-imeachtaí idir na páirtithe a cinneadh bunaithe ar aighneachtaí i scríbhinn in ionad bheith i láthair ag éisteacht. Tugadh an nós imeachta sin isteach den chéad uair in 2012.**

Clár na nGníomhairí Trádmhairc

Ag deireadh na bliana 2013, bhí 205 duine aonair agus 4 comhpháirtíocht iontráilte ar an gClár.

**AICMIÚ IDIRNÁISIÚNTA AR EARRAÍ AGUS AR SHEIRBHÍSÍ INA GCUIRTEAR NA
MARCANNA A CLÁRAÍODH IN 2013**

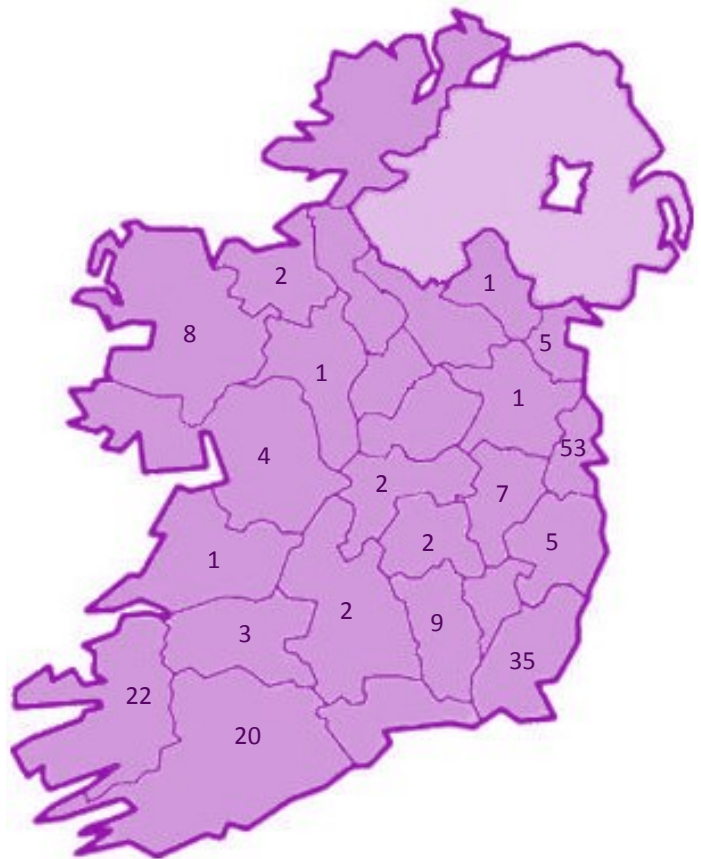
Rinne conradh iltaobhach ar a ghairtear “Comhaontú Nice Maidir le hAicmiú Idirnáisiúnta Earraí agus Seirbhísí chun Críocha Clárú Marcanna”. Tá Aicmiúchán Nice comhdhéanta de 45 ceannteideal aicmiúcháin a dhéanann cur síos an-leathan ar nádúr na n-earraí nó na seirbhísí atá i ngach ceann de na 34 aicme earraí agus na 11 aicme seirbhísí inar féidir trádmharcanna a chur. Riarann An Eagraíocht Domhanda um Maoin Intleachtúil (WIPO) an t-aicmiúchán agus tá an t-eagrán reatha (an deichiú ceann) i bhfeidhm ó Eanáir 1, 2012.

Aicme	Aicmiúchán Earraí	Líon na marc san	Aicme	Aicmiúchán Earraí	Líon na marc san aicme
1	Táirgí Ceimiceacha, srl.	35	24	Fíocháin (gréasáin), srl.	16
2	Péinteanna, srl.	74	25	Éadaí, ag áireamh Buataisí, Bróga agus Slipéir	84
3	Ullmhóidí Tuartha, srl.	75	26	Lása agus Bróidnéireacht, srl.	10
4	Olaí Tionsclaíochta, srl.	19	27	Cairpéid, srl.	13
5	Substaintí Cógaisíochta, srl.	155	28	Cluichí, srl.	35
6	Miotail Choitianta agus a gcóimhiotail Neamhoibrithe agus Páirt Oibrithe	40	29	Feoil, Iasc, Éineoil agus Géim, srl.	199
7	Meaisíní agus Inneal Úirlisí, srl.	24	30	Caifé, Tae, Cócó, Siúcra, Rís, srl.	205
8	Uirlisí agus Ionstraimí Láimhe, Sceana, srl.	17	31	Táirgí Talmhaíochta, srl.	55
9	Fearas agus Ionstraimí Eolaíochta, srl.	167	32	Beoir, srl.	80
10	Uirlisí Máinliachta, srl.	17	33	Fíonta, Biotáille agus Licéir	53
11	Fearas Soilsithe	30	34	Tobac, srl.	24
12	Feithiclí; Fearas Gluaiseachta ar Thalamh, san Aer agus ar Uisce	19	35	Fógraíocht, Bainistiú Gnó, srl.	198
13	Airm Thine, Lón Lámhaigh agus Diúracáin; Substaintí Pléascacha; Spréachairí	0	36	Árachas, Gnóthaí Airgeadais, srl.	84
14	Miotail luachmhara agus a gCóimhiotail, srl.	28	37	Tógáil Foirgníochta, Deisiúchán, l Seirbhísí suiteála.	47
15	Uirlisí Ceoil (seachas meaisíní cainte agus fearas raidió)	1	38	Teileachumarsáidí	54
16	Páipéar, srl.	158	39	Iompar, Pacáistiú agus Stóráil Earraí, srl.	66
17	Guma Peirc, Cúitiúc, srl.	11	40	Cóiriú Ábhar	18
18	Leathar, srl.	27	41	Oideachas, Siamsaíocht, srl.	245
19	Ábhair Thógála, srl.	28	42	Seirbhísí eolaíochta agus teicneolaíochta	100
20	Troscán, Srl.	32	43	Soláthar bia agus dí	107
21	Acraí Beaga Tí, srl.	54	44	Seirbhísí míochaine, srl.	84
22	Rópaí, srl.	5	45	Seirbhísí pearsanta agus sóisialta	44
23	Snáitheanna	3			

Staidreamh Gnó - DEARAÍ

	2011	2012	2013
Iarratais ar Dhearaí*	46	67	61
Líon na ndearaí iarrtha*	86	187	185
Dearaí cláraithe	112	151	167
Dearaí tite ar lár	74	67	253
Dearaí athnuaithe (Acht 1927)	85	5	0
Dearaí athnuaithe (Acht 2001)	13	127	46
Dearaí i bhfeidhm (Acht 1927)	715	489	351
Dearaí i bhfeidhm (Acht 2001)	937	1,012	1,112

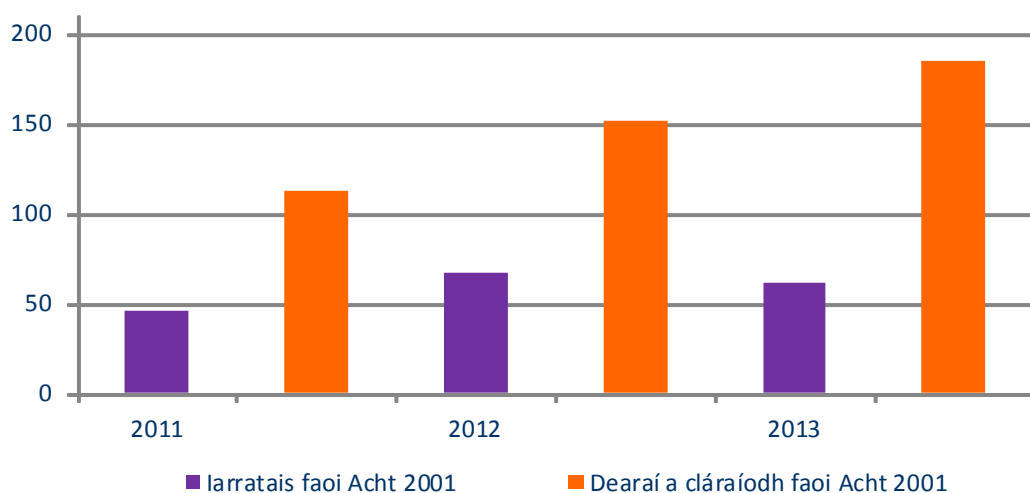
*Nóta- Déanann Riall 19 de Rialacháin um Dhearadh Tionsclaíoch 2002 soláthar gur féidir 2 dhearadh nó níos mó faoi réir ag uaslíon de 100 dearadh a bheith comhcheangailte in aon iarratas amháin ar chlárú dearaí.



Iarratais ar Dhearaí faoi contae í 2013

	2011	2012	2013
Iarratais Chomhphobail comhadaithe trí Oifig na bPaitinní agus a cuireadh ar aghaidh chuig an Oifig um Chomhchuíbhiú sa Mhargadh Inmheánach (O.C.M.I.)	2	3	0

Iarratais Dearaidh agus Clárúcháin 2011 – 2013



DEARAÍ A CLÁRAÍODH FAOI ACHT DEARADH TIONSCLAÍOCH, 2001 I GCAITHEAMH NA BLIANA DAR CHRÍOCH 31 NOLLAIG 2013

Bhunaigh conradh iltaobhach dá ngairtear “Comhaontú Locarnó ag bunú Aicmiúcháin Idirnáisiúnta do Dhearáí Tionsclaíocha” córas aicmiúcháin do dhearáí tionsclaíocha. Tá Aicmiú Locarnó comhdhéanta de liosta de 32 cineál earraí inar féidir dearáí tionsclaíocha a ionchorprú. Riarann An Eagraíocht Domhanda um Maoin Intleachtúil (EDMI) an t-aicmiúchán agus tá an t-eagrán reatha (an naoú ceann) i bhfeidhm ó Eanáir 1, 2009.

Rang	Aicmiúchán	Dearáí Cláraithe
1	Ábhair Bia	9
2	Baill éadaigh agus Mionéadaí	21
3	Earraí Taistil, Cásanna, Parasóil agus Earraí Pearsanta, nach bhfuil sonraithe in áit eile	4
4	Earraí scuaibe	2
5	Earraí Gréasáin Teicstíle, Leatháin Shaorga agus Nádúrtha	0
6	Feistis	26
7	Earraí Tí, nach bhfuil sonraithe in áit eile	3
8	Uirlisí agus Crua-earraí	0
9	Pacáistí agus Gabhdáin d'Iompar nó do Láimhseáil Earraí	5
10	Cloig, Uaireadóirí agus Ionstraimí eile Tomhais, Ionstraimí Seiceála agus Comharthaíochta	1
11	Earraí Maisiúcháin	40
12	Modhanna Iompair nó Árdaithe	2
13	Trealamh do Tháirgeadh, Dáileadh nó Tarchur Leictreachais	0
14	Trealamh chun Taifeadadh, Cumarsáide nó Aisghabháil Faisnéise	4
15	Meaisíní, nach bhfuil sonraithe in áit eile	2
16	Gaireas Fótagrafaíochta, Cineamatagrafaíochta agus Optaice	0
17	Uirlisí Ceoil	1
18	Meaisíní Priontála agus Oifige	0
19	Stáiseanáireacht agus Trealamh Oifige, Ábhair Ealaíontóirí agus Múinteoireachta	5
20	Trealamh Díolacháin agus Fógraíochta, Comharthaí	0
21	Cluichí, Bréagáin, Pubail agus Earraí Spóirt	1
22	Airm, Earraí Piortheicniúla, Earraí chun Fiaigh, Iascaireachta agus Marú Lotnaidí	1
23	Trealamh Dáilithe Leachta, Trealamh Sláintíochta, Téimh, Aerála agus Aerchóirithe, Breosla Soladach	0
24	Trealamh Míochaine agus Saotharlainne	0
25	Aonaid Foirgníochta agus Eilimintí Tógála	13
26	Fearas Soilsithe	2
27	Tobac agus Soláthairtí do Lucht Caite Tobac	0
28	Táirgí Cógaisíochta agus Cosmáide, Earraí agus Fearas Maisiúcháin	5
29	Gléasanna agus Trealamh in aghaidh Guaise Tine, Cosc ar Thionóisc agus chun Tarrthála	0
30	Earraí um Chúram agus Láimhseáil Ainmhithe	3
31	Meaisíní agus Fearas Ullmhúcháin Bia agus Dí, nach bhfuil sonraithe in áit eile	0
32	Siombalacha Grafacha agus Comharthaí, Patrúin Dreacha, Ornadaíocht	22
	IOMLÁN	172*

*Is féidir dearadh a bheith cláraithe i níos mó ná aicme amháin, agus dá bhrí sin sáraíonn líon na ndearaí sna ranganna líon na ndearaí atá cláraithe.

Staidreamh Gnó - CÓIPCHEART

Díospóidí a cuireadh faoi bhráid an Cheannasaí faoin Acht Cóipchirt agus Cearta Gaolmhara, 2000

Faoi Alt 38 den Acht, is féidir díospóidí idir dhaoine a sheinneann taifid fuaime go poiblí agus úinéir an chóipchirt atá sna taifid, maidir le luach saothair chóir iníoctha le húinéir an chóipchirt, a chur faoi bhráid an Rialtóra le cinneadh a dhéanamh.

Faoi Alt 152 den Acht, nuair a éiríonn díospóid idir bhainistíocht scéim cheadúnais maidir le saothar cóipchirt, agus duine a éilíonn gur gá dó nó dí ceadúnas faoin scéim, tig leis an duine sin, nó leis an mbainistíocht an scéim a chur faoi bhráid an Rialtóra le cinneadh a dhéanamh.

	Líon na ndíospóid a cuireadh faoi bhráid an Cheannasaí mar a bhí ar an 31/12/2013	Líon na dtarchur nua a fuarthas in 2013	Líon na gcás ar deineadh coinnead orthu	Cásanna <ul style="list-style-type: none">• tarraingthe siar• a measadh a bheith neamhbhailí• a bhí dúnta	Líon na gcás ar feitheamh ar an 31/12/2013
Díospóidí a cuireadh isteach faoi Alt 38 (4)	0	0	0	0	1
Díospóidí a cuireadh isteach faoi Alt 152	2 ⁽¹⁾	1	0	1	2 ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ I gcás thagairtí Alt 152 a bhí ar feitheamh ag tús na bliana 2013, rinne an t-eadránaí dámhachtain tosaigh an 8 Deireadh Fómhair 2013 agus dámhachtain deiridh an 30 Aibreán 2014.

Cláir: Déanann an tAcht soláthar chomh maith dom leis na Cláir seo a leanas a bhunú agus a chothabháil;

- Clár de na Comhlachtaí Ceadúnúcháin Cóipchirt
- Clár de na Comhlachtaí Ceadúnúcháin um Chearta Maoin Thaibheoirí
- Clár de na Comhlachtaí Ceadúnúcháin um Chearta do Bhunachair Sonraí

Go dtí seo tá 13 comhlacht cláraithe sa Chlár na gComhlachtaí Ceadúnúcháin Cóipchirt agus 1 (ceann amháin) sa Clár de na Comhlachtaí Ceadúnúcháin um Chearta Maoin Thaibheoirí

REACHTAÍOCHT

Tá freagracht ar Aonad Maoine Intleachtúla na Roinne Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta maidir le polasaí agus ullmhú reachtaíochta a bhaineann le maoin intleachtúil.

Reachtaíocht a aghaidh in 2013

CÓIPCHEART

AE (TÉARMA COSANTA CÓIPCHIRT AGUS CEARTA GAOLMHARA ÁIRITHE) I.R. UIMH. 411 DE 2013.

Déantar leis na Rialacháin sin Treoir 2011/77/AE ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gComhairle an 27 Meán Fómhair 2011, lena leasaítear Treoir 2006/116/CE maidir leis an téarma cosanta cóipchirt agus cearta gaolmhara áirithe a thrasú i ndlí na hÉireann. Déantar leis na Rialacháin an téarma cosanta atá ag taibheoirí agus ag léiritheoirí taifeadtaí fuaime a shíneadh ó 50 bliain go 70 bliain. Cuirtear chun feidhme leis na Rialacháin rialacha comhchuibhithe lena rialaítear an téarma cosanta cóipchirt i bpíosaí ceoil ina bhfuil focail i.e. sa chás nach ionann an liriceoir agus an cumadóir.

FAISNÉIS AIRGEADAIS

FÁLTAIS AGUS CAITEACHAS – AN BHLIAIN DAR CHRÍOCH 31 NOLLAIG 2013

Fáltais	€000
Táillí Paitinne (Nótaí 1 & 2)	5,772
Táillí Trádmhairc	1,391
Clárúchán ar Thrádmhairc Idirnáisiúnta – táillí a fuarthas ó WIPO (Nóta 3)	1,247
Táillí Dearaidh	12
Táillí eile	133
Lúide aisíochtaí i leith táillí a íocadh i ndearmad	65
Lúide táillí idirbhearta i leith íocaíochtaí ar-líne le cártaí creidmheasa	111
Fáltais ghlan fabhraithe don Státchiste	8,379

Costais	€000
Tuarastail	1,839
Taisteal & Cothabháil	37
Ilnithe & Focostais	52
Seirbhísí Poist agus Teileachumarsáide	114
Meaisíní Oifige agus Soláthairtí eile Oifige	225
Costais Áitreabh Oifige	88
Foinsí eolais, leabhair, tréimhseacháin, srl.	0
Síntiúis do Chumainn Mhaoine Tionsclaíocha	389
IOMLÁN	2,744

Nóta 1:

Ag teacht leis an gCoinbhinsiún don Phaitinn Eorpach, ina bhfuil Éire rannpháirteach, tá ar Oifig na bPaitinní 50% de na táillí uile athnuachana a fhaightear i leith Paitinní Eorpacha a ndearnathas bailí orthu in Éirinn agus atá iontráilte ar chlár náisiúnta na bpaitinní, a chur chuig Oifig Paitinní na hEorpa.

	[€000]
Táillí Paitinne	10,975
Lúide an cion de na táillí athnuachan paitinne a aistríodh go hOifig na bPaitinní Eorpacha	5,203
Táillí Paitinne glan fabhraithe don Státchiste.	5,772

Nóta 2:

Feidhmíonn Oifig na bPaitinní mar Oifig fháltais d'íarratais ar phaitinní a dhéantar faoin Chonradh Comhair Paitinní agus sa cháilíocht sin faigheann sí táillí le tarchur chuig Oifig Paitinní na hEorpa agus chuig An Eagraíocht Domhanda um Maoin Intleachtúil araon. Ní fhabhraíonn na táillí do Státchiste na hÉireann agus dá bhrí sin níl siad san áireamh sa bhfigiúr ar an bhfáltais glan. Seo a leanas mionsonraí ar na táillí a aistríodh chuig an EPO agus an WIPO i rith 2013:.

	[€000]
Táillí Bunaigh agus Sainithe CCP tarchurtha chuig WIPO, an Ghinéiv.	33
Táillí cuardaigh CCP tarchurtha chuig EPO, Munich.	47
IOMLÁN	80

Nóta 3:

De bhun daingnithe na hÉireann ar an bPrótacal maidir le Comhaontú Maidrid maidir le Clárú Idirnáisiúnta ar Mharcanna (Prótacal Maidrid) ar an 19 Iúil 2001, faigheann an Oifig táillí dlite i leith íarratas Idirnáisiúnta Trádmhairc a lorgaíonn cosaint in Éirinn, ón Eagraíocht Domhanda um Maoin Intleachtúil (WIPO).

SPRIOCANNA FEIDHMIÚCHÁIN 2013

Réimhse Gníomhaíochta agus Leibhéal Bainte Amach

Paitinní

1	Admhálacha foirmeálta a eisiúint ar chomhadú iarrataisí foirfeacha laistigh de 5 lá oibre.	71%	7	Iarrataisí Eorpacha agus PCT agus sonraí bainteach leo a thraschur go dtí EPO/WIPO laistigh de 5 lá oibre ó fhaightear iad.	100%
2	Cóipeanna deimhnithe de dhoiciméid phaitinne a eisiúint laistigh de 5 lá oibre i ndiaidh iarraidh a fháil ar a leithéid.	97%	8	Deonú paitinní gearrthréimhseacha a cheadú laistigh de thréimhse 6 mhí tar éis d'iarratas cuí iomlán a bheith comhdaithe.	97%
3	Eisiúint na dteastas athnuachan paitinne laistigh de 3 lá oibre i ndiaidh fáil na híochaíochta.	100%	9	Tar éis gach doiciméad riachtanach agus freagraí ar agóidí oifigiúla a fháil a bhaineann le hiarratais ar phaitinní, cinneadh a ghlacadh maidir le paitinn a dheonú nó a dhiúltú laistigh de dhá mhí.	94%
4	Iarratais ar chlárú sannaithe a phróiseáil laistigh de 7 lá oibre tar éis iarratas atá comhlánaithe go hiomlán agus i gceart a bheith tagtha isteach.	100%	10	A chinntiú go n-eisítear fógra i dtaobh fabhtaí foirmeálta laistigh de 15 lá oibre tar éis comhdaithe.	92%
5	Dearbhú a eisiúint go bhfuil iarratais ar leasuithe ar chlár na bpaitinní maidir le hainmneacha agus seoltaí iarratasóirí, úinéirí agus gníomhairí paitinne agus seoladh na seirbhíse taifeadta laistigh de 5 lá oibre tar éis iarratas atá comhlánaithe i gceart a fháil.	98%	11	Fógra maidir le lochtanna substainteacha a eisiúint laistigh de 2 mhí ón gcomhdúchán	99%
6	Paitinní a dheonadh laistigh de 5 lá oibre ó fháil na táille deonaithe.	99%	12	90% de na hiarratais neamhrannóige ar fad ar phaitinní a aicmiú lena bhfoilsíú laistigh de 18 mhí tar éis an dáta comhdúcháin tosaíochta.	65%

Deimhnithe Cosanta Forlíontacha

1	Fógra ar mháchailí foirmeálta a eisiúint laistigh de 10 lá oibre ón dáta comhdaithe.	100%	2	Admhála a eisiúint ar iarrataisí foirfeacha DFC ceartchomhdaithe laistigh de 5 lá oibre.	92%
---	--	------	---	--	-----

Dearaí

1	Admhálacha foirmeálta comhdaithe a eisiúint laistigh de 5 lá oibre ar iarratais ar dhearaí atá comhlánaithe i gceart.	67%	4	Deimhnithe athnuachana dearaidh a eisiúint laistigh de 3 lá oibre oibre tar éis an íochaíocht a fháil.	100%
2	Litr tosaigh agóidí / litir glactha a eisiúint laistigh de 12 sheachtain tar éis an t-iarratas a fháil.	100%	5	Deimhnithe clárúcháin dearhtai a eisiúint laistigh de 5 lá oibre tar éis don rannóg scrúdaithe an t-iarratas a ghlacadh	95%
3	Freagra a thabhairt ar 95% de na chomhfhreagras ar iarratais aonair faoi scrúdú laistigh de 5 seachtaine.	100%			

Réimhse Gníomhaíochta agus Leibhéal Bainte Amach

Trádmharcanna

1	Admhálacha foirmeálta a eisiúint ar iarratais ar thrádmharcanna atá comhlánaithe i gceart laistigh de 7 lá oibre.	70%	10	Cóip d'fhógra ar agóid, iarratas ar aisghairm mar gheall ar neamhúsáid, nó dearbhú neamhbhailíochta a eisiúint chuig gach páirtí bainteach leis an chas taobh istigh de 2 seachtain ó fhaightear iad.	100%
2	Iarratais ar shannadh a phróiseáil laistigh de 7 lá oibre tar éis iarratas atá comhlánaithe go hiomlán a fháil.	100%	11	Freagra a thabhairt laistigh de 3 seachtaine ar 95% den chomhfhreagras scríofa ar fad maidir le hiarratais aonair atá á scrúdú.	100%
3	Cóipeanna deimhnithe agus sleachta as Clár na dTrádmharc a eisiúint laistigh de 5 lá tar éis an iarratais.	100%	12	Freagra a thabhairt ar iarrataí aonair ar shíneadh ama roimh an sprioc ama reatha, i gcás go ndéantar na hiarrataí sin tráth nach déanaí ná 2 sheachtain roimh dhul in éag na sprice ama reatha.	100%
4	Deimhnithe athnuachana ar thrádmhairc a chur amach laistigh de 3 lá oibre tar éis an íocaíocht a fháil.	100%	13	Trádmharcanna a chlárú laistigh de 5 lá oibre tar éis an táille clárúcháin	97%
5	Dearbhú a eisiúint go bhfuil taifeadadh déanta ar iarratais ar leasuithe ar Chlár na dTrádmharcanna i ndáil le hainmneacha agus seoltaí úinéirí agus gníomhairí trádmharcanna agus seoladh na seirbhíse laistigh de 5 lá oibre tar éis iarratas atá comhlánaithe i gceart a fháil.	100%	14	Cúinsí scríofa a eisiúint faoi chinntí in éisteachtaí laistigh de 2 mhí tar éis na héisteachta.	75%
6	Glacadh (le haghaidh fógraíocht san Iris) le hiarratais ar thrádmharcanna taobh istigh de 3 mhí ón dáta comhdaithe i gcásanna nár chuir an Oifig aon rud ina gcoinne.	100%	15	Cinnithe in éisteachtaí a eisiúint laistigh de mhí amháin tar éis na héisteachta.	93%
7	Litr tosaigh agóidí/glactha a eisiúint laistigh de 12 sheachtain tar éis iarratas nua a fháil sa Rannóg.	100%	16	Iarratas ar íocaíocht táillí clárúcháin a eisiúint laistigh de 7 lá oibre ó dheireadh na tréimhse inar féidir achomharc a chomhdú sa chás nach bhfuarthas aon fhreasúra.	100%
8	Freagra a thabhairt ar chomhfhreagras ar iarratais indibhidiúla (agóidí, aisghairm, neamhbhailíocht) laistigh de 5 seachtaine.	100%	17	Sa chás go gcinntear an freasúra i bhfabhar an iarratasóra, iarratas ar íocaíocht táillí clárúcháin a eisiúint laistigh de 7 lá oibre ó tharraingt siar an fhreasúra a fhoilsiú	98%
9	Iarratais ar clárúcháin trádmharc idirnáisiúnta a tharchur laistigh de 5 lá oibre tar éis na n-iarratas atá comhlánaithe i gceart	100%			

Ilchineálach

	Admhálacha íocaíochta a eisiúint laistigh de 2 lá oibre ar gach táille (i bhfoirm seice, dréacht bainc nó órdú airgid) a fuarthas.	100%
--	--	------