

The Editor Irish Examiner and The Echo response to the proposed changes to the Companies Act 2014 and related legislation:

We note with concern the proposal to restrict access to the residential addresses of company directors and secretaries, as part of changes proposed to the Companies Act 2014 and related legislation.

Part of journalism's role as a pillar of democratic norms and good governance is to be a 'watchdog' in the public interest in the corporate sphere. This relies on having access without unnecessary impediment to the kind of information at issue in the proposed changes, such as identifying details (including addresses) for company directors and secretaries that allow our journalists to track ownership and influence across individual companies, whose links might otherwise go unknown. Knowing a director's address is essential in identifying certain individuals, given so many people can share the same name. Inability to distinguish between individuals heightens the risk of inaccuracy in our reporting, and of defamation claims in the event the 'wrong' individuals are identified in our articles.

The Irish Examiner has made use of these details in innumerable stories on our news and business desks; indeed in an era of misinformation it is records such as these that provide a much-valued resource of verified and verifiable fact, independent of spin and misdirection.

We strongly support the Newsbrands proposal that journalists be added to the proposed list of entities granted full access to residential addresses of company directors and secretaries.

Regards,
Editor Irish Examiner and The Echo

December 2025