

THE IRISH TIMES

THE IRISH TIMES BUILDING | 24-28 TARA STREET | DUBLIN 2 | D02 CX89 | IRELAND | TEL +353 1 920 3900

December 19th, 2025.

To whom it may concern,

I write in support of the NewsBrands submission on the changes proposed to the Companies Act 2014 and related legislation.

At The Irish Times, we are extremely concerned that the proposal to restrict access to the residential addresses of company directors and secretaries will have a chilling effect on investigative journalism and our reporting on corporate wrongdoing. The ability to confirm a director's home address is frequently a key determinant in having the certainty to publish significant stories of legitimate public interest as it enables journalists to avoid wrongly identifying people with the same name but a different home address.

A home address is often central to showing that the same individual is concerned with companies that might otherwise not be known to be linked, or that members of the same family are involved with various companies. Restricting journalists' access to that information benefits individuals who want to conceal their ownership, control or activities, while they nevertheless make use of incorporation and avail of the benefits that go with it. It is very likely that following the introduction of the proposed reforms, some directors will use a PO box or a services office address or indeed a different address for each company registration. Already, some directors register variations of the same name with the Companies Registration Office, with the only common thread for that person being their residential address. Allowing directors to also use different addresses will make it virtually impossible to accurately identify corporate links between people who seek to use the rules to conceal such links.

"Follow the money" is one of the grounding principles of investigative journalism. If a reporter cannot confirm directors' identities and track individuals' involvement in various companies, then they can no longer follow the money. Access to the addresses of directors also enables reporters to determine if an officer of a company has moved their tax domicile offshore. Removing access to director's home addresses will impact on the ability to scrutinise the financial and policy influence of the wealthiest and most powerful individuals, which is essential for holding them accountable and for informed public debate. Residential address information is frequently key to accurate and responsible reporting.

DIRECTORS: JAMES GARVEY (CHAIRMAN) | GARRY MORONEY (CEO) | MAEVE CARTON | ADELE COOPER | CATHERINE DAY | WILLIAM EMMOTT | CONOR GOODMAN | JOHN HEGARTY | RUADHÁN MAC CORMAIC | DAVID MARTIN | MICHAEL SHEEHAN |

In considering our submission, we ask you to keep in mind the legally protected role of journalism in holding power to account and as the eyes and ears of the public which has been explicitly and consistently recognised by the Irish and European Courts. Access to the 'usual residential address' of relevant officers should not be subject to the same barriers that prevent journalists from obtaining information in respect of individuals on the register of beneficial owners, as that would be of little value. We urge you to adopt the Newsbrands proposal that journalists be added to the proposed list of entities granted full access to residential addresses of company directors and secretaries.

Yours sincerely,



Editor