



NUMBER OF SOLICITORS SEEKING A 'BREXIT BACKSTOP' CONTINUES TO GROW

2019 marks another record year for Brexit admissions to the Roll of Solicitors from our neighbouring jurisdictions.

Ken Murphy reports

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NO LESS THAN 1,817 NEW SOLICITORS FROM ENGLAND AND WALES HAD THEIR NAMES ENTERED ON THE ROLL OF SOLICITORS IN IRELAND – A MASSIVE INCREASE (+163%) ON THE 690 NEW ENTRANTS OF 2018

This is the fourth successive year in which the December *Gazette* has published lists of the law firms whose England-and-Wales qualified solicitors have taken out an additional qualification by entering their names on the Roll of Solicitors in Ireland.

In addition, this year as last year, this *Gazette* publishes a table with the number of those solicitors who have taken out an Irish practising certificate for the practice year 2019.

Since December 2018, two separate dates on which Brexit was due to be 'done' have come and gone. Perhaps these missed Brexit dates were additional drivers of numbers, but, for whatever reason, 2019 had already been a record year for admissions from our neighbouring jurisdictions.

Most notably, there was an all-time record number from England and Wales. No less than 1,817 new solicitors from that jurisdiction had their names

entered on the Roll of Solicitors in Ireland, representing a massive increase (+163%) on the 690 new entrants of 2018.

Milestones

A number of milestones were reached in 2019 with, as of 12 November 2019, no fewer than 4,000 new admissions from our three neighbouring jurisdictions having occurred since 1 January 2016 (see table, below).

A current trend, however, is that the tide is abating somewhat. We are down to 100 pending admissions now, compared with the more than 200 consistently seen until the summer period. This may reflect the Brexit extensions, or the confirmation by the Solicitors Regulation Authority in England and Wales that reciprocal admissions with Ireland will continue, post-Brexit.

Another major milestone passed in the middle of 2019 was the entry of 20,000 names on the Roll of Solicitors in Ireland, the

first time this figure has been reached. Approximately 20% of all the names on the Roll of Solicitors in this jurisdiction are now practitioners who originally qualified in England and Wales, and whose names have been entered on the Roll here since 1 January 2016.

Biggest increase

The firm that scores the largest increase in this year's table is Linklaters LLP, which has grown its number of solicitors on the Roll by 206 to 259. (This compares with 53 in 2018.)

Allen & Overy LLP, however, tops the table, with a total of 297 solicitors on the roll as we go to press – an increase of 187 practitioners compared with last year's figure of 110. Of these, 183 solicitors hold Irish practising certificates in 2019.

The firm that topped the table in December 2016 was Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, whose number on the Roll has

ADMISSIONS (1 JANUARY 2016 TO 12 NOVEMBER 2019)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total (TO 12 NOV)	Applications being processed
English & Welsh solicitors	806	547	690	1,817	3,837	100
Northern Irish solicitors	27	29	43	56	155	0
Scottish solicitors	0	0	4	4	8	0
Total	833	576	737	1,877	4,000	100



PICTURE: CIAN REDMOND

increased to 162 (as of now) from 131 in 2018.

Eversheds Sutherland LLP – the only firm other than DLA Piper LLP and Pinsent Mason

LLP to actually have an office in this jurisdiction – is now third in the table (165), having topped it last year.

What will happen in 2020?

Perhaps this trend will settle down, or even cease. As with everything to do with Brexit, predictions are impossible to make with any certainty. [E](#)

TOP 20 'BREXIT TRANSFER' FIRMS 2018		TOP 20 'BREXIT TRANSFER' FIRMS 2019		IRISH PC 2019		
1	Eversheds Sutherland LLP	132	1	Allen & Overy LLP	297	183
2	Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP	131	2	Linklaters LLP	259	17
3	Allen & Overy LLP	110	3	Eversheds Sutherland LLP	165	62
4	Slaughter & May	109	4	Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP	162	64
5	Latham & Watkins LLP	92	5	Latham & Watkins LLP	161	18
6	Linklaters LLP	53	6	Slaughter & May	148	20
7	Herbert Smith Freehills LLP	44	7	White & Case LLP	87	13
8	Hogan Lovells LLP	43	8	DLA Piper LLP	85	21
9	Bristows LLP	35	9	Dentons LLP	71	11
10	Google UK Ltd	34	10	Herbert Smith Freehills LLP	62	11
11	Clifford Chance LLP	28	11	Clifford Chance LLP	55	5
12	DLA Piper LLP	26	12	Hogan Lovells LLP	52	25
13	Baker MacKenzie LLP	22	13	Norton Rose Fulbright LLP	45	3
14	Pinsent Mason LLP	19	14	Baker MacKenzie LLP	44	12
15	Gibson Dunne & Crutcher LLP	17	15	Pinsent Mason LLP	42	35
16	Fieldfisher LLP	15	16	Google UK Ltd	38	2
16	Ashursts LLP	15	17	Bristows LLP	37	5
16	Travers Smith LLP	15	18	Bird & Bird LLP	36	27
16	White & Case LLP	15	19	Skadden Arps Meagher & Flom LLP	34	0
20	Bird & Bird LLP	13	20	BNP Paribas	32	1
20	Shearman & Sterling LLP	13				
20	CMS Cameron McKenna LLP	13				
20	Norton Rose Fulbright LLP	13				

THE MIDDLE OF 2019 MARKED THE ENTRY OF 20,000 NAMES ON THE ROLL OF SOLICITORS IN IRELAND – THE FIRST TIME THIS FIGURE HAS BEEN REACHED