



Our Ref: PQ 32561/25

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025

Mr. Peadar Tóibín T.D.

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Dear Peadar,

I refer to Parliamentary Question 32561/25 (copied below) for answer on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025, where I indicated that additional time was needed for the Companies Registration Office (CRO) to compile the requested information.

*“To ask the Minister for Enterprise; Tourism and Employment the number of SMEs which have closed in the State in each of the past ten years, and to date in 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”*

At the outset, I should clarify that the information available to my Department relates to companies registered with the Companies Registration Office (CRO). This does not include businesses operating as sole traders or unincorporated entities.

Businesses can close for a variety of reasons and the information available to the CRO relates to filings of those companies voluntarily struck off the companies register and those notifying the CRO when entering liquidation. Voluntary strike-off is available to a company that ceases to trade, or has never traded, has no assets in excess of €150 and has no outstanding creditors. It should be noted that liquidation cover situations where a company may be solvent, and pursue a members’ voluntary liquidation, or insolvent and is subject to a creditors’ voluntary liquidation or a Court ordered liquidation.

I am informed by the Registrar of Companies that she is unable to provide an accurate breakdown on the number of SMEs that have closed in the past ten years. The obligation to identify company size (micro, small, medium, or large) is in a company’s annual return and this requirement was introduced by the Companies Act 2014 (Forms) Regulations 2018 (SI No. 95 of 2018).

Whilst a company must have all outstanding annual returns up to date when applying for a voluntary strike-off, a company is not required to submit annual returns where a liquidator is appointed and as result, a company’s’ annual return may not be up to date and the information on size is not available to the Registrar.

The CRO has provided data on the closure of all companies for the past ten years in the table below.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Liquidations</b>	<b>Voluntary strike-off</b>	<b>Total</b>
2015	1,850	4,235	6,085
2016	1,754	5,137	6,891
2017	1,760	5,494	7,254
2018	1,812	5,508	7,320
2019	2,150	6,025	8,175
2020	1,889	5,479	7,368
2021	1,800	7,033	8,833
2022	1,808	6,373	8,181
2023	2,389	6,227	8,616
2024	4,433	6,737	11,170
Up to 31/05/2025	1,796	3,353	5,149

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Burke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Peter Burke T.D.**  
**Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment**