



Our Ref: PQ 55160/25

20th October 2025

Mr. Peadar Tóibín T.D.

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Dear Peadar,

I refer to Parliamentary Question 55160/25 answered on the 14th October 2025:

“To ask the Minister for Enterprise; Tourism and Employment to provide a list of all studies, research and reports commissioned by his Department that were outsourced, in each of the past five years, in tabular form; the names of the companies to which each study, research and report was outsourced; the total cost for each; the number of reports finalised and presented to him that have yet to be released by his Department; the dates on which any such reports yet to be released were first provided to him; and if he will make a statement on the matter.”

The response indicated that additional time would be needed to obtain the requested information. This information has now been collated and is set out in tabular form attached.

My Department considers engaging consultancy services in cases where there is not the necessary expertise to deliver a project in-house, in cases where an external assessment is deemed essential, or in cases where a project must be completed within a short time scale, and although the expertise or experience may be available in-house, performing the task would involve a prohibitive opportunity cost. My Department complies with the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation guidelines for engagements of consultants by the civil service, having regard to public procurement guidelines.

With regard to the release of reports, my Department endeavours to publish commissioned reports wherever possible, however, some reports relate to internal matters of the Department, to commercially or otherwise sensitive matters, or are considered technical advice which contributes to broader policy making. In such instances, these reports are not ordinarily published.

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

2021*			
* Tables include Studies, Research or Reports commissioned from 2021 onwards.			
Consultancy Company/Research Partner	Study, Research or Report	Release Status	Expenditure (€) (all amounts are inc. VAT)
Insight Consulting	Annual Business Survey of Economic Impact (ABSEI)	Published March 2021	49,444
Insight Consulting	Annual Employment Survey (AES)	Published March 2021	19,161
Bizmaps	Geocoding for surveys	Part of ABSEI/AES published March 2021	7,355
Grant Thornton	Development of an Evidence Base to Support the Development of a National Clustering Policy and Framework	Published 22 March 2023	97,474
KPMG Future Analytics	Trends, Opportunities, Challenges, and Drivers of Change, Future of the Irish Retail Sector	Published 5 Oct 2022	49,126
Melyn Consulting	Review of Export Supports for SMEs	Report for Departmental advice	21,525
SQW Limited	Review of the Future Growth Loan Scheme	Published 5th August 2022	56,398
Grant Thornton	Review of Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund	Report for Departmental advice	42,650
University of Strathclyde	Redrawing of Regional Aid map	Report for Departmental advice	5,520
Grant Thornton	Connected Teams Action Plan	Published 30 November 2021	55,181
Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors	Services re: DETE Audit Capacity	Advice for Department	16,505
Individual Legal Researchers	Review of Grocery Goods legislation	Advice for Department	4,000
Individual Legal Researchers	Research on EU Directive on Consumers Interests	Advice for Department	14,600
Individual Legal Researchers	Legal research on Company Law	Advice for Department	33,131
Individual Legal Researchers	Legal research on Transposition of EU Directive on Consumers Interests	Advice for Department	12,200

Nathan Dunleavy	Legal Advice on Competition Amendment Bill	Advice for Department	9,255
ESRI	DETE-ESRI Joint Research Programme 2021- 2024	First ESRI Working paper published Jan 23 'Firm-level attitudes and actions to the "Twin Transition" challenges of digitalisation and climate change'. A second paper was published in January 2024 ' Entrepreneur characteristics and determinants of self-employment across Europe'. A third paper ' The Implications of High Energy and Carbon Prices on Irish Firms' was published in April 2024.	227,178 (over three years)
OECD	IE contribution towards Study on the impact of Artificial Intelligence on the labour market	Published January 2021	100,000

2022			
Consultancy Company/Research Partner	Study, Research or Report	Release Status	Expenditure (€)
Insight Statistical Consulting	Annual Employment Survey	Published March 2022	14,815
Insight Statistical Consulting	Annual Business Survey of Economic Impact	Published March 2022	49,445
OECD	Recent Developments in Entrepreneurship Training: Implications for Inclusive Entrepreneurship in Ireland	Published 15 December 22	25,000
1. KPMG 2. Performance Solutions 3. KPMG	Regional Enterprise Plans Research Projects 1. Midlands Ireland Value Proposition 2. Session Planning, Delivery and Report on Outputs 3. Agri-Food sector in the North-East	1. Published 2022 by Midlands Ireland 2. Facilitation Services - Not Report Producing 3. DETE provided funding for NE REP to commission analysis. Research intended to help direct future activity in the regions and potential areas of future focus for the REP and has not been published.	1. €7,484.83 2. €2,500.00 3. 22,755.50 over 2023 and 2024
Amarach Research	Survey of Public Attitudes to Trade and Inward Investment	Report for Departmental advice	22,632
SQW Limited	Evaluation of State Supports for Equity Investment in Start ups	A copy of the executive summary and report recommendations were published on 15 August 2024. Full report submitted to	132,768

		Minister on 2 July 2024.	
Indecon	International Financial Services – Expert Group on future Skills Needs (EGFSN) Report	Published 3 May 2024	100,367
Cruinn Advisory	Skills Needs in the Biopharma Sector - EGFSN Report	Published 26 April 2024	96,943
Landfall Strategy Group	Review of Industrial & Enterprise Policy in Small Advanced Economies and Implications for Irish Enterprise Policy	May 2022	52,539
Irish Centre for Diversity	Investors in Diversity Certification	Certified in November 2022	10,073
LGMA/Mazars	Review of Research Grants and Audit of Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid	Not published, for internal advice. Submitted to Minister 8 December 2022	63,714
EY	Review of the Restart Grant	Not published, report for internal advice. Submitted to Minister 1 September 2022	114,193
Chris O'Toole	DETE Legal Advice 2022-2023	Advice for Department	10,360
Individual Legal Researchers	Legal Research EU Directive on Collective Redress 2022-2023	Advice for Department	64,745
Rory O'Connor	Competition Amendment Bill 2022 Drafting	Advice for Department	8,610
Mc Cann FitzGerald and Elvinger Hoss Prussen	Advice on Long Term Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme	Report for Departmental advice	23,994 and 15,886.70
Stratis	Review of Employment Rights Matter	Report for Departmental advice	23,370
1. Tipperary Energy Agency 2. Tyndall National Institute	Shannon Estuary Taskforce - two research reports: 1. Assessment of Opportunities for Decarbonisation of Process Heat 2. Expert assessment for the scaling up of rooftop PV	Reports for advice of the Shannon Estuary Taskforce	1. 30,319.75 2. 29,175.60
Ernst & Young	Consultant's report on organisational capacity and agility (Consumer Policy)	Report for Departmental advice	50,532

MJ Flood	Planning Services for Microsoft Teams voice	IT Report for Departmental advice	11,316.00
Ward Solutions	IT systems security testing - Internal report not intended for publication	IT Report for Departmental advice	8,118.00
Ward Solutions	IT systems security testing - Internal report not intended for publication	IT Report for Departmental advice	8,686.88
Ward Solutions	IT systems security testing - Internal report not intended for publication	IT Report for Departmental advice	7,149.38

2023			
Consultancy Company/Research Partner	Study, Research or Report	Release Status	Expenditure (€)
Insight Statistical Consulting	ABSEI	Published March 2023	51,808
Insight Statistical Consulting	AES	Published March 2023	17,048
Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions	Shannon Estuary Taskforce report: Floating Windfarms	Report for advice of the Shannon Estuary Taskforce	29,336
SecondEdge – Technology Solutions Ltd	REPS project: Midland ICT Cluster Action Plan (work under the Regional Enterprise Plans)	Published April 2023 by Midlands Ireland	17,163
Bearing Point	REPS project: North-West Regional Enterprise 2024 Data Repository Project. The Department provided funding for the North-West REP to commission consultancy services in support of the NW Regional Enterprise Plan.	The research was intended to help direct focus of future activity in the region and potential areas of future focus for the Regional Enterprise Plan and has not been published.	8,610
GeoDirectory	Geocoding 2023	Published as part of ABSEI and AES	2,297
EY	EGFSN: Skills required for Modern Methods of Construction	Published 29 July 2024	135,096
RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd	Embodied Carbon in The Construction Sector	Research for Procurement Guidance published 28 June 2024	151,774
OECD	Globalisation of start-ups via incubators and accelerators	Published 23 October 2024	150,000
KPMG	Metrics for MMC adoption in Ireland	Unpublished report with methodological findings that is feeding into ongoing work. It was presented to the Housing for All Industry Capability Working Group on 4 April 2025.	91,906
Indecon	Trade and the Digital Transition	Advice for Department, now under DFAT	99,015

Implement Consulting	Ireland's utilisation of EU Free Trade Agreements	Advice for Department, now under DFAT	79,999
Praesto Consulting IE Ltd	Tableau Consultancy – Employment Permits	IT advice for Department	3,002
KPMG	Access to Employment Permits for Healthcare Assistants	Published 20 Dec 2024	78,014
VVA/ EY	Catalogue of Online Intermediary Service Providers in Ireland	Exploratory study for Departmental advice. No policy elements associated with the research- it was purely a technical exercise.	49,950
Implement Consulting	Mapping Ireland's Trade Dependencies	Advice for Department, now under DFAT	177,039
RSM Ireland Business Advisory	Protected Disclosures Reviews	Advice for Department	11,919
Everoze Partners Limited	Comparative Analysis Offshore Wind Industrialisation Strategies	8 March 2024: Main findings published as part of Powering Prosperity. Full report: For consideration of DETE officials.	26,142
Ward Solutions	IT systems security testing - Internal report not intended for publication	IT Report for Departmental advice	9,932.25

2024			
Consultancy Company/Research Partner	Study, Research or Report	Release Status	Expenditure (€)
RSM Ireland	Evaluation of IDA Ireland's Regional Property Programme	Report Ongoing	143,787
TU Shannon	REPS project: Midlands Regional Food and Drink Skills Need Audit	Published May 2024 by Midlands Ireland	14,883
Morley Economic	REPS project: Infrastructure impact on enterprise operations in the North-West	Published July 2024	8,868
EY	Strategic Review of Labour in the Meat Processing Sector	Not finalised, will be presented to Minister on finalisation	73,493
Insight Statistical Consulting	ABSEI	Published Feb 2024	55,682
Insight Statistical Consulting	AES	Published Feb 2024	17,134
DCU (Dublin City University)	Organisation Culture Assessment	Report for internal use	60,270
ESRI	Joint DETE ESRI research 2024-2026	Research ongoing	60,000 to date
Arup	Market Opportunities for Timber	Published 15 October 2025	102,606
The Competitiveness Institute	Review of the draft National Clustering Programme	Advice for Department	14,239
RSK ADAS Ltd	Review of Deadweight for Agency Funding	Ongoing	87,522
Indecon	DTIF Stakeholder Review	Report being finalised, will be submitted to Minister once complete.	116,161
Behaviour & Attitudes Limited	Analysis of the statutory sick leave scheme	Published 14 April 2025	61,254
Quadra/Crowleys DFK	Outsource of audits during 2024	Audit services	80,070
IPA	Consultancy Support for DCCoI	Advice for DCCoI	1,230
Indecon	Study of Changes to Sub-minimum Rates (Low Pay Commission)	Ongoing	46,070
Gavin and Doherty Geosolutions Ltd	Sectoral assessment of energy park concepts	Advice for Department	47,680
amarach	Tracking the level of	Published 14 th of	29,828

	sustainability among SMEs	June 2025	
Boylan Engineering	NZIA Mapping Exercise	The report is in the form of an excel sheet and it has not been published. It was not presented to the Minister as its purpose was to support the development work of the Unit.	55,350
amarach	Attitudes to Trade Survey - survey was an action under the Trade and Investment Strategy 2022-2025 and was an element of the communication objective of this strategy and a benchmarking exercise	Not published; its purpose was to guide DETE communications around Trade. An update was provided on this research as part of the Strategy review and included in a Memo for Government.	22,632
UCD	DETE contribution towards UCD Working in Ireland Survey	Survey ongoing	47,199
Waystone Compliance Solutions (IE)	ICT Unit incident response tabletop exercise and report – Internal report not intended for publication. (Work carried out in 2023, paid in 2024.)	IT Report for Departmental advice	10,332.00
Ekco Security	IT systems security testing - Internal report not intended for publication.	IT Report for Departmental advice	9,348.00
Waystone Compliance Solutions (IE)	IT systems security testing - Internal report not intended for publication.	IT Report for Departmental advice	7,749.00
Ekco Security	IT systems security testing - Internal report not intended for publication.	IT Report for Departmental advice	12,269.25
Ekco Security	IT systems security testing - Internal report not intended for publication.	IT Report for Departmental advice	8,001.15
Ekco Security	IT systems security testing - Internal report not intended for publication.	IT Report for Departmental advice	7,595.25

2025 to date			
Consultancy Company/Research Partner	Study, Research or Report	Release Status	Expenditure in 2025 (€) to date
Indecon	Review of the REPs	Ongoing	89,015
SQW Ltd	Market Demand for and Supply of Scaling Finance in Ireland	Published 31 July 2025	116,850
UCD	EGFSN Working in Ireland survey	Ongoing	57,801
Insight Statistical Consulting	ABSEI	Published Feb 2025	36,249
Insight Statistical Consulting	AES	Published Feb 2025	9,011
Crowleys DFK	Outsource of audits during 2025	Audit services for internal use	10,793
Gavin and Doherty Geosolutions Ltd	Green Energy Parks Follow-up	Advice for Department	13,776
Gavin and Doherty Geosolutions Ltd	Development of a regulatory sandbox for offshore wind	Advice for Department	39,359
An Post GeoDirectory DAC	Geocoding	Published as part of ABSEI and AES	1,402
KPMG	Recommendations on mandate and operation of national AI Office	Ongoing	47,970
KPMG	Study on the economic and societal benefits of data centres	Ongoing	30,731
Investors in Diversity	EDI accreditation	Accreditation process ongoing	9,834
Waystone Compliance Solutions (IE)	IT system forensics report - Internal report not intended for publication.	IT Report for Departmental advice	Work ongoing/not yet invoiced
Waystone Compliance Solutions (IE)	IT system security configuration assessment - Internal report not intended for publication.	IT Report for Departmental advice	Work ongoing/not yet invoiced
Ekco Security	IT systems security testing - Internal report not intended for publication.	IT Report for Departmental advice	Work ongoing/not yet invoiced
Waystone Compliance Solutions (IE)	Technology Risk Assessment - Internal report not intended for publication.	IT Report for Departmental advice	Work ongoing/not yet invoiced