



Our Ref: PQ 63619/25

25th November 2025

Mr. Malcom Byrne T.D.

Dáil Éireann

Leinster House

Kildare Street

Dublin 2

Dear Malcom,

I refer to Parliamentary Question 63619/25 answered on the 18th November 2025:

“To ask the Minister for Enterprise; Tourism and Employment the total legal costs in defending Judicial Reviews of planning decisions involving his Department and/or agencies within the aegis of his Department for each of the years 2020 to 2024 and to date in 2025; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Identical Question(s): to all Depts”.

The Minister answered the PQ as follows:

“Litigation is dealt with on behalf of the Department by the Attorney General’s Office, the Chief State Solicitor’s Office or the State Claims Agency who engage lawyers to act for my Department where necessary. The legal costs arising in such litigation are not managed by my Department.

The information requested from agencies under the aegis of my Department, is an operational matter for the agencies themselves. I have referred the Deputy’s question to the Agencies and have requested that a response should issue within 10 days.”

The response indicated that additional time would be needed to obtain the requested information from the agencies. This information has now been collated and it is a nil obs from all agencies of my Department.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Burke'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Peter' written in a more compact, stylized manner and the last name 'Burke' written in a more open, flowing script.

Peter Burke T.D.

Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment

1. IT service contracts awarded to private consultancy firms 2012 – present

Year	Number of Contracts	Total Cost
2016	1	€42,937
2017	1	€44,226
2018	2	€111,717
2019	2	€65,633

2. Audit service contracts awarded to private consultancy firms 2012 – present

Year	Number of Contracts	Total Cost
2014	1	€8,610
2015	2	€17,804
2016	2	€30,504
2017	1	€50,088
2018	1	€54,000
2019	2	€80,317
2020	1	€8,349
2021	2	€38,158
2022	1	€47,970
2023	0	0
2024	2	€80,070
2025 to date	1	€10,793

3. Management consultancy contracts (including research and reports) awarded to private consultancy firms 2012 – present

Year	Number of Contracts	Total Cost
2012	2	€164,290
2013	2	€41,045
2014*	20	€961,018
2015	7	€383,777
2016	8	€488,071
2017	14	€1,151,341
2018	8	€414,619
2019	8	€449,382
2020	10	€836,729
2021	8	€390,959
2022	12	€687,844
2023	13	€955,180
2024	12	€765,037
2025 to date	6	€423,581

*in 2014, the functions of Forfás, the National Policy Advisory Board, were transferred to DETE including responsibility for their commissioned consultancy and research projects.