

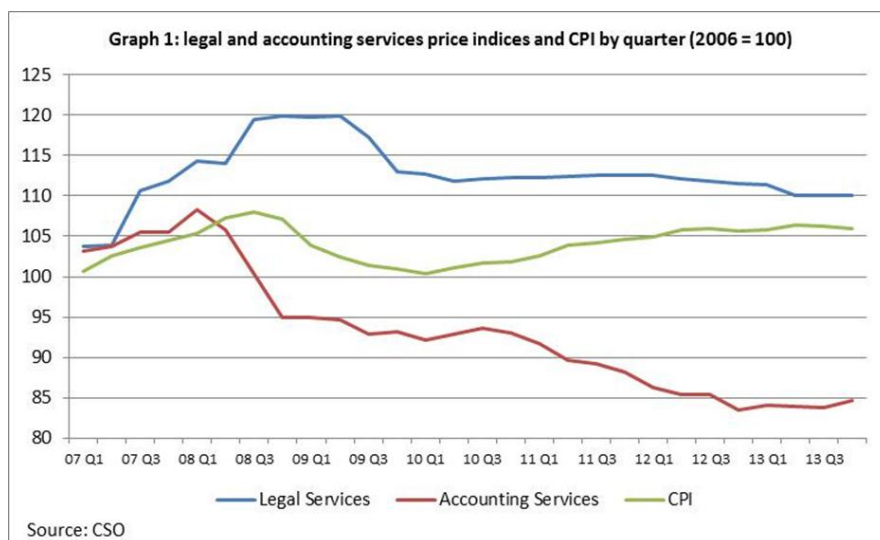
1. "The cost of enforcing contracts is high. Lawyer fees represent the majority of these costs, at 18.8 percentage points."

This statement is based on the World Bank's *Doing Business 2014*, which you can find at www.doingbusiness.org. The specific figure of 18.8% (attorney costs as % of claim) can be found at www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreeconomies/ireland#enforcing-contracts. The overall cost of enforcing contracts is reported at 26.9% of the claim, implying that lawyer fees represent 70% of total enforcement costs. The World Bank's *Doing Business* provides measures of business regulations for local firms in 189 economies and selected cities at the subnational level. This means that the 18.8% figure for Ireland can be compared with all EU Member States and other jurisdictions. The methodology of the *Doing Business* indicator is explained in details on the website, and you will find the methodological notes on the "enforcing contract" indicator (which includes the attorney costs as % of claim) at www.doingbusiness.org/methodology/enforcing-contracts.

2. "Unlike for other professional services, legal services costs have failed to adjust downwards since the onset of the crisis, in part due to insufficient competition."

Data from the Central Statistics Office show the evolution of legal services costs (as an index value, similarly to the consumer price index) in recent years. Similar data is compiled for other professional services, including accounting services. The data is plotted in the chart below, which shows that the legal services costs price index remains higher in Q4 2013 than in Q1 2007. This is in sharp contrast with for instance accounting services, for which the price index declined by more than 15% during the same period. The graph below is reported in the Commission Staff Working Paper, which can be found at ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/country-specific-recommendations/index_en.htm. In addition, you will also be aware of the competition issues in the legal services profession as raised by Ireland's Competition Authority in its 2006 report, which you can find at:

www.tca.ie/images/uploaded/documents/Solicitors%20and%20barristers%20full%20report.pdf



3. *"Judicial and court administrative resources to implement active pre-trial case management are very limited, which may be contributing to delays in the delivery of justice and raise costs."*

This statement is based on data from the Council of Europe (European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice - CEPEJ). This includes data on the number of Court support staff per 100 000 people, the proportion of the whole justice system budget allocated to the Courts, the evolution of annual budget allocations to the Court Services over the past few years, and the number of professional judges per 100 000 people. You can find the information at www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/cepej/evaluation/default_en.asp.

4. *"There are significant gaps in Ireland's ability to collect data on the quality and efficiency of the justice system."*

This statement is based on the European Commission's EU Justice Scoreboard. It was published for the first time in 2013, and the 2014 scoreboard was published on 17 March 2014. You can find these documents at ec.europa.eu/justice/effective-justice/scoreboard/index_en.htm.