

28 September 2022

Ciara Loftus
HR Manager
ByrneWallace LLP
88 Harcourt Street,
Dublin 2

Dear Ms Loftus,

I am writing to apply for the ByrneWallace trainee programme. My experience provides me with certainty that I am suited to a collaborative and challenging career as a solicitor, and I want to fulfil this ambition at ByrneWallace. The unique position of the firm by simultaneously being established in reputation, reflected by Legal 500 rankings and the calibre of clients, and quickly growing, which is emphasised through recent promotions, is something I would love to be a part of.

After graduating from Gonville and Caius College at the University of Cambridge, I worked as a paralegal for Chancery Court Tax Chambers for three years. I enjoyed this work immensely which facilitated my success in the role, culminating in both the full sponsorship of my English bar qualifications which I completed alongside my full-time job, and my receipt of the team member of the year award. Ultimately, however, it affirmed that I want to pursue a career as a solicitor, for two specific reasons.

Firstly, I believe a career as a solicitor offers more continuous challenge, which I have always sought out, as I know it to motivate me. The crux of my enjoyment of tax law was the challenge of the rigorous analytical application of tax legislation to complex scenarios. I believe joining a commercial firm provides a better opportunity to sustain this enjoyment, by ensuring I am continually challenged. This is particularly true at ByrneWallace due to the uniquely broad range of tax clients the firm has, and amplified by the variety of practice areas I would be exposed to in training. This breadth is necessary to develop the commercial awareness needed to offer pragmatic tax advice. My experience spans across advisory and contentious matters, but is mostly limited to high net worth private client issues. The broader variety of commercial contexts in which ByrneWallace advises demands more dexterity. This breadth is further expanded because ByrneWallace is the one of the only leading Irish firms to provide front end tax advice. To solidify my knowledge of tax law to allow me to meet this challenge, I have just completed my LL.M specialising in Taxation at the London School of Economics.

Secondly, while completing my LL.M I was selected and employed by the university to assist my professor, Dr Michael Blackwell, in a research project funded by PwC on HMRC's use of the appellate process. This experience confirmed that I am more suited to working as part of a team, something my background in team sports, debating and charity work ingrained within me. I have played basketball and rowed competitively. I completed a charity climb of Mount Kilimanjaro, spent two months in Nepal on school rebuilding and volunteered to work weekly in an onsite prison rehabilitation programme. The emphasis of all the trainees on the colligate atmosphere of ByrneWallace confirmed that it is a place where I would feel both motivated and supported to build my career.

I have decided to relocate from London to Dublin, and have secured an inhouse paralegal position while I pursue the FE-1 exams, which I aim to complete in 2023. Thank you for taking the time to consider my application, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
Soracha Henderson

