



**DAVD CARTHY**

Managing Partner  
DLA Piper

**ACTIVITY** DLA Piper established its operations in Ireland in 2019 and we've since grown to a full-service law firm. As the leading global law firm in Ireland, we have a team of over 110 lawyers and business professionals, with plans to double our headcount in the coming years. We have experienced significant growth across our platform of practices and sectors, and in 2021 we moved into a six-floor, 30,000 sq. ft office on Molesworth Street to accommodate our growing headcount.

As a firm, we are particularly proud of the culture we have developed as we have grown – inclusive, entrepreneurial, collaborative with a global mindset. In recent months, we've seen a trend whereby the talent is approaching us as they can see that DLA Piper is different to other law firms in Ireland, which is encouraging for our growth.

**REGULATION** As a global law firm, we see the benefits of well-regulated markets. Strong regulation is typically well drafted, clear and unambiguous – and this tends to

**'We are different to other law firms'**

encourage enterprise. Successful sectors of the Irish economy such as financial services, life sciences and technology can clearly trace that success back to strong, clear and consistent regulatory environments.

On the other hand, what stifles enterprise is lack of predictability or clarity. We've seen elements of this unpredictability in the energy, construction and health sectors in Ireland where regulations are applied inconsistently, or where there is a lack of harmonisation across the EU. National legislation which goes over and beyond what is required at EU level can hamper competition and hinder innovation and enterprise.

**OUTLOOK** As a global law firm, we work with clients in economies around the world. While the global outlook is uncertain due to inflation management and the geopolitical environment, we remain confident in our growth strategy.

**'Opportunities will be there for the taking'**

**FEARGAL BRENNAN**

Managing Partner  
ByrneWallace

**ACTIVITY** As a full-service law firm, ByrneWallace's long-term strategy continues to focus on our range of specialist services that we advise clients on. We are consistently recognised for our partner-led approach, which fosters greater collaboration across practice areas. This enables us to build a stronger connection with our clients, ensuring they benefit from an uncomplicated, timely and cost-effective solution for all their legal needs.

Advising our public and private sector clients on the implications of cybersecurity and data breaches continues to be a key focus for the firm. In addition, our Property team was a key player in the recent launch of a suite of Irish green lease clauses introduced

to promote a sustainable approach to the operation of buildings, often reflecting their corporate ESG policies.

Our M&A team has expanded significantly in recent years to become one of the largest Corporate departments in Ireland, with a broad-based practice and a particular focus on cross-border acquisitions and disposals, and fundraisings, with specialist expertise in the technology and life sciences sectors.

**OUTLOOK** Although current market conditions are volatile, the year so far has demonstrated there are significant opportunities for M&A transactions and our Corporate department has been very busy. Companies will need to have robust strategies and financial plans in place to support M&A activity, and pricing and valuations will be an issue in ways that differ from previous years. Opportunities will be there for the taking – people will just need to have their wits about them.

The cost of finance is having an obvious impact on activity levels within the property market as parties are re-assessing yields, and there is a lot of recalibration of price. This is of course not the only factor, as rising construction costs and the inevitable delays in the planning system are rendering some projects unviable from the start.

