



Compliance Update - Act now to ensure compliance with the Criminal Justice (Corruption Offences) Act 2018

August 2018

Introduction and Overview

Following the signing of a commencement order on 30 July 2018, the [Criminal Justice \(Corruption Offences\) Act 2018](#) (the "Act") is now in force. The Act represents a comprehensive overhaul of the Irish anti bribery and corruption ("ABaC") regime. A detailed overview of the Act, including detail on the Act's criminal penalties and extra-territorial effect, is set out in our previous advisory available [here](#). In order to ensure your company, board and senior management mitigate the risk of a breach of the Act, we have set out below key steps that you should take immediately.

Steps to Protect your Company, Board and Senior Management

It is a defence to proceedings under the Act for a company to prove that "it took all reasonable steps and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence". In practice, to ensure this defence is available to your company, you should take steps including:

- » put in place (or update your existing) ABaC policy with reference to the Act;
- » ensure your compliance officer (or another suitable member of staff) is assigned ownership of the company's ABaC policy and framework, with appropriate reporting to the board;
- » ensure your board/senior management consider and receive training on your company's ABaC policy;
- » consider if wider staff training is required; and
- » update (or implement) a gifts and entertainment register for your company.

Walkers Compliance Offering

Walkers Regulatory and Compliance Team have prepared precedent ABaC policies and training materials to help ensure that your company will have a compliance framework in place that meets the requirements of the Act. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact a member of our team below.



Eoin O'Connor
Partner, Regulatory
T: +353 1 470 6664
E: eoin.oconnor@walkersglobal.com



Shane Martin
Regulatory Compliance Director
T: +353 1 470 6673
E: shane.martin@walkersglobal.com



Niall Esler
Consultant, Regulatory
T: +353 1 863 8517
E: niall.esler@walkersglobal.com



Conor Daly
Associate, Regulatory
T: +353 1 470 6684
E: conor.daly@walkersglobal.com



Bill Laffan
Associate, Regulatory
T: +353 1 863 8511
E: bill.laffan@walkersglobal.com

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