IRISH INSURANCE FEDERATION 7 ANNUAL REPORT



About the IIF

The Irish Insurance Federation (IIF) was founded in 1986, and is the representative body for insurance companies in Ireland. The IIF has 62 member companies, which employ over 14,000 people. This includes insurers serving both the domestic market and writing business in overseas markets from a base in Ireland. Collectively, IIF members write over 95% of all life and non-life insurance business in Ireland.

As the voice of insurance companies in Ireland, IIF's key functions include:

- Representing its members' interests to Government, state agencies, regulatory bodies; public representatives; other national interest groups, the media and the general public;
- Representing the position of members at a European level, particularly via Comite European des Assurances, the European association for national insurance company representative bodies;
- Keeping members abreast of relevant policy and regulatory developments and providing a forum for member debate on such issues;
- Providing information to Government, the wider policy-making community and the public about insurance.



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Officers and Management



JOHN O'NEILL President



MICHAEL LEAHY
Vice President



BRENDAN MURPHY
Vice President



MICHAEL KEMP
Chief Executive



MICHAEL HORAN Non-Life Insurance Manager



JENNIFER HOBAN Life Assurance Manager



CARMEL MULROYPublic Affairs Manager



PAUL MACDONNELL Regulation and Planning Manager



NIALL DOYLE Corporate Affairs Manager



AJAY PATHAK Research and Technical Resources Manager

Board and Management Committees

Board 06/07

John O'Neill (President)

Michael Leahy (Deputy President)

Brendan Murphy

Tom Barry

Rachel Panagiodis

Stuard Life

Hansard Europe

Stuart Purdy

Kevin Murphy

Allianz Ireland

Canada Life

Hansard Europe

Hibernian Group

Kevin Murphy

Paul Donaldson Royal & SunAlliance
Maurice O'Connell External Board Member

Life Management Committee 06/07

Jonathan Goold (Chair) Acorn Life

Brian Forrester Bank of Ireland Life /New Ireland Assurance

Michael Brennan Eagle Star Life

Stuart Purdy Hibernian Life & Pensions
Dervla Tomlin Irish Life & Permanent

Michael Leahy Standard Life

Non-Life Management Committee 06/07

John O'Neill (Chair)

Brendan Murphy

Robert Rheel

Desmond Campbell

Dick O'Driscoll

AXA Ireland

Allianz Ireland

Eagle Star Insurance

Ecclesiastical Insurance

Hibernian General Insurance

Paul Donaldson Royal & SunAlliance

(As at 31.12.2006)

In addition to the Board and the Life and Non-Life Management Committees, a wide range of other committees and working groups meet throughout the year, dealing with specialist areas.

Board Sub Committees

Codes and Standards, Risk Improvement and Cost Reduction Distribution and Intermediary Relations EU and International Affairs Political, Media and Communications Regulatory, Legislative and Fiscal

Life Committees & Working Groups

International Life Assurance Committee Pensions Committee Tax, Actuarial and Finance Committee Underwriting and Claims Committee

Non-Life Committees & Working Groups

Claims and Legal Committee Commercial Insurances Committee Personal Insurances Committee Anti-Fraud Working Group



President's Statement

The Federation maintained a high level of activity in 2006 against a background of continued rate reductions in non-life insurance, with motor insurance rates falling by more than 10% during the year, according to CSO data (with further reductions evident in the first quarter of 2007). IIF's own 2006 survey of private motor insurance rates found an average fall in the cost of cover of 45% over the previous three years.

Paradoxically, it is sometimes easier for an organisation like the IIF to maintain a high public profile in times of adversity, as it is in demand to explain the factors underlying pricing and, on occasion, capacity shortages. We are trying to use the more benign current climate to advance the image of the industry and to put us more on the "front foot" in dealing with politicians, regulators and the media.

Whilst 2006 was a good year for both consumers and insurers, with prices down and profitability high, we must be aware that negative trends are never very far away. The environment in which we operate is very susceptible to claims cost increases associated with general inflation, and to more specific factors such as medical cost inflation and increases in vehicle repair costs. Reforms such as the introduction of the PIAB have been very welcome and have helped to curb excessive costs, but we still face very high legal and other claims handling costs, and Irish personal injury damages are still among the highest in Europe.

At the same time, margins have become very tight for our life members and there are a number of regulatory and policy challenges, most particularly in the area of pensions, to be addressed. The IIF has been to the forefront in raising public consciousness of the importance of adequate retirement provision and in addressing the policy options for the future as Ireland comes to terms with the economic and demographic realities of future pension provision in both the public and private sectors.

In the domestic market non-life premium volume (GWP) fell by 1.7% in 2006. This underlines the significant and continuing rate cuts in both commercial lines and private motor, against a background of continued economic expansion and consequent increased exposure for insurers.

Regular premium life and pensions sales increased by 7.5%, with single premium business up by a massive 41.7% (single premium). Overall, annual premium equivalent (A.P.E.) new business reached €1.935 bn., up 21.7% on 2005.

The pace of new EU legislation slowed down. The EU Commission's focus switched from initiating new legislation to ensuring that existing measures are being properly implemented by Member States and verifying that the single market for financial services providers and intermediaries is being realised in practice.

However, there were significant regulatory developments at national level, with the finalisation of the Financial Regulator's Consumer Code of Practice and new competency rules for insurance company and intermediary staff who deal with the public. These regulatory initiatives will form the cornerstones of the new regulatory landscape, together with key proposals to be introduced in the coming years. These new initiatives include the new "Solvency II" supervisory regime, the Financial Regulator's forthcoming review of the rules on transparency and the remuneration of intermediaries, and more frequent reporting of financial data to the supervisor by insurers. Such changes will necessitate additional changes in corporate governance and greater use of company-specific internal models for the assessment and management of risk.

We face a broad range of long-term challenges. These include such issues as the financial consequences of climate change, the pressing need for a viable strategy for incentivising adequate retirement provision in co-operation with Government and the social partners, and the continued development of Ireland as a base for internationally-traded financial services. These are all broad policy issues for Government and the Regulator, IIF has a vital role to play on behalf of the market in raising awareness of them and finding solutions. We will continue to play our part in promoting dialogue between our members and public representatives and authorities.

I have been proud to act as President of the IIF for the last year and I would like to express my thanks to members of the Board, the Management Committees and the wider membership of the Federation for their support and co-operation. In particular, I would like to thank the Life and Non-Life Vice-Presidents, Michael Leahy and Brendan Murphy and the staff of the secretariat for their efforts on behalf of the market over the past year. The incoming officers have my best wishes for continuing success in addressing the considerable challenges ahead over the coming twelve months.

JOHN O'NEILL

President

Chief Executives's Report

The focus of IIF's activities in 2006 continued to be on regulation, Government policy and legislation, media and consumer relations, and international affairs.

In the area of regulation, highlights included the finalization of the long-awaited Consumer Code and the new mandatory competency regime for staff of financial services firms. We continued to draw attention to important matters of national policy including the pensions gap and the inadequate response of the State to climate change and the associated increase in flood risk. We serviced a continuing high level of media interest in our industry and upgraded our website to provide a much more user-friendly experience for both casual browsers and customers with specific insurance queries, backed up by our invaluable phone-based Information Service. In Europe we represented the Irish domestic and international market's views on a range of current topics to the EU institutions and through our membership of CEA. In particular we helped our members to focus on the supervisory changes that are coming with the Solvency II legislative project.

In this part of the Annual Report I have picked out a few key topics of interest to the broad membership for comment, supplementing the President's remarks above, and the more specific life and non-life reports which follow.

Regulation

Following a busy 2005 for pre-regulatory consultation, 2006 saw a number of regulatory initiatives come to fruition. The Consumer Protection Code of Practice was finalized and partially implemented during the year. Whilst there will undoubtedly be issues of interpretation arising when the Code is fully in force from mid-2007, our members are supportive of the final text of the Code which went through a lengthy and transparent consultation phase. Our views were given due weight by the Regulator and a number of changes to improve the Code and its clarity were incorporated in the final version.

The new mandatory Competency Testing regime for staff of insurers and other financial services companies and intermediaries was also finalized during the year and came into full effect from the beginning of 2007. The new requirements again represent a practical and balanced solution, in our view, and will help to promote greater public confidence in the expertise of salespeople and other professionals in our market with whom they deal.

More consultations were carried out on proposed new requirements for Directors' Compliance Statements, Corporate Governance Standards and the introduction of Quarterly Reporting to the supervisor, but no new rules have yet been agreed.

In October the FR asked the IIF to review a draft consultation paper on Compliance Statements and related Auditors' Reports. The IIF responded with some initial comments and subsequently met the FR to discuss our response and the issues. We made a further submission in December on a number of issues raised at the meeting, and are awaiting further developments.

In November the Financial Regulator published its response to the results of its consultation on intermediary remuneration and transparency (CP9).

The main points are:

How to measure charges/costs:

Stating Reduction in Yield may be the best method to measure the impact of charges on investment products;

Differential Pricing:

Competition between channels of business should be encouraged — the impact of differential pricing is to be considered further;

Fees vs. Commissions:

The Regulator does not intend to limit the form of compensation that intermediaries can receive as this could inhibit competition. It will consider additional disclosure requirements in relation to non-standard commissions — such as indemnity commission, overriders and payment of commission on automatic premium increases. The IIF Code of Practice on Intermediary Incentives together with the Consumer Protection Code provide adequate safeguards for consumers;

Life Disclosure Regulations:

The existing Disclosure Regulations should be made more consumer-friendly;

Pension Schemes:

'There may be advantages' to including trustees of occupational pension schemes within a new disclosure regime — this will be considered further;

Life assurance protection products and non-life insurance:

Following the recommendations of the Competition Authority and the conclusions of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Enterprise and Small Business that buyers of non-life insurance should be informed of the remuneration the intermediary receives the Regulator believes that disclosure of commissions for non-life insurance is desirable;

Non-insurance investment products:

The same disclosure requirements should apply to non-insurance products that compete with insurance products.

The Financial Regulator intends to prioritise progress on this project. The goal is to establish common transparency/disclosure standards across the entire financial services sector for similar products where possible. However, the Regulator's Strategic Plan for 2007 — 09 does not envisage finalisation of a new regulatory code in this area until 2009.

Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) is now carried out by the Financial Regulator, in common with Departments of State proposing new legislation, but the efficacy and value of the current process has not, in our view, been adequately demonstrated. IIF have been developing an alternative approach, which we hope will influence the process used by the Regulator in the future. As a quantitative analysis of the potential costs and benefits of any regulatory or legislative change is so difficult to do with any degree of accuracy, our proposals are based on qualitative analysis of the legal or regulatory deficiency which is to be addressed and a critical assessment of how it can best be remedied, including consideration of alternatives to the measure proposed.

Government Departments and Agencies

We continue to liaise with a number of Government Departments and Agencies in addition to the Financial Regulator. In particular we had dealings in 2006 with the Department of Finance in relation to Budget and Finance Act issues, the financial services legislation consolidation and simplification project and implementation of the EU Insurance Mediation Directive, amongst other topics.

We also maintained regular contacts with the Dept. of Social and Family Affairs, especially in relation to pensions reform; the Department of Justice (implementation of EU Equal Treatment Directive, legal costs reforms); the Department of Transport (road safety policy, implementation of EU Motor Directives, upgrading of the National Vehicle File); the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment and the Health & Safety Authority (workplace safety); the Garda Siochana (road traffic law enforcement); the Pensions Board; the Road safety Authority; and Revenue.

Taoiseach's Insurance Committee

We continue to be represented on the Insurance Committee of the Department of An Taoiseach, which operates under the aegis of the Clearing House Group. The mandate of the Committee ended in December 2006, but IIF was again asked to nominate a representative to the new insurance group for 2007 — 2009. The Committee made a significant contribution to the Clearing House Group's report on the development of the international financial services sector, "Sustaining Progress", whose conclusions and recommendations will form the blueprint for the work of the insurance and other sectoral committees for the foreseeable future. It is expected that there will be a particular focus on streamlining regulatory procedures a sub-committee is already examining issues arising from the EU's Solvency II project — and on improving the global marketing of Ireland as a base for financial services firms.

Inter-Association Network

The Inter-Association Network of financial services representative associations continues to provide a useful forum for exchange of views and a platform for agreement of joint submissions on regulatory and legislative issues of common concern to the various subsectors in the financial services market. The Network held regular meetings during 2006 and provided opportunities for face-to-face discussions with regulators, civil servants etc. on current topics.

Media, Publications and Events

IIF dealt with a wide range of non-life media queries during 2006 on topics such as motor and commercial pricing trends, market profitability, fraud (especially the impact of the IIF anti-fraud campaign), the impact of the Personal Injuries Claims Board and other reforms on claims costs, road and workplace safety, and the potential insurance consequences of climate change. In life and pensions the most common topics of interest were investment performance, pre-sale disclosure, market statistics, endowment mortgages and dormant accounts.

IIF publications during 2006 included:

- The Annual Report published in May, coinciding with the AGM and Annual Lunch;
- The Factfile was published in September;
- Insurance Update newsletter (2 editions);
- Insurance Watch members' e-zine,
 5 editions).

A new IIF website was developed in 2006, to meet the needs of three key stakeholders: IIF members; the media and consumers. The Consumer Information Centre which was developed as part of the site contains useful information for consumers on all personal insurance products in the form of FAQs, guides and soft copies of existing IIF consumer information leaflets.

A well-received seminar on pensions was held in November with the aim of creating a platform to progress the debate on the need for pension reform. Life Strategies was commissioned to update previous research on the extent of the retirement savings gap and to evaluate and cost various pension reform options. Attitudinal research commissioned by IIF and carried out by Lansdowne Market Research was also launched at the event.

Information Service

The IIF's Insurance Information Service again experienced a decrease in the total number of queries and complaints received, reflecting a continuing benign pricing environment and an increasingly financially sophisticated and educated public. Total contacts were down 7.6% in 2006, to 9,854. Of this number 9,058 clients of the IIS had insurance queries (down 6.2%); and 796 complaints were registered (down 20.6%, following a fall in complaints of a similar order the previous year).

Motor insurance again provided the main area for complaints and queries. Overall, non-life accounted for over 87% of complaints (cf. 89% in 2005). Premium queries and claims settlement issues were the main topics for written complaints for 2006.

In addition to private callers, the IIS receives a significant volume of enquiries from the Office of the Director of Consumer Affairs (ODCA), Government Departments, citizens' advice bureaux, the Financial Services Ombudsman's office, the Consumers' Association of Ireland, the Gardaí, solicitors, the Financial Regulator and the Pensions Board. The Insurance Confidential hotline, created in February 2003 for members of the public to report suspected insurance fraud, continued to receive a considerable number of calls, which resulted in the reporting of 432 new cases in 2006, as well as updated information on previously reported cases. The success of the hotline can be gauged from continuing reports of an overall reduction in fraudulent claims made against insurers.

MICHAEL KEMP

Chief Executive

Life Assurance Issues

National Pension Review

During 2006, the issue of pensions continued to attract significant attention. The National Pensions Review was published in January and key recommendations included the introduction of matching contributions by Government for PRSAs and higher rate tax relief for all personal pension contributors. Later in the year the Pensions Board, at the request of the Minister, produced an additional report on how a mandatory or quasi-mandatory pensions system might work.

IIF's contribution to the debate during 2006 was substantial and reiterated our position on:

- The simplification of the PRSA sales process;
- Tax incentives for translating SSIAs into pension plans;
- Children's pensions;
- Limited access to pension funds prior to retirement;
- Compulsory financial literacy education on the second level curriculum;
- Approved Retirement Funds for everyone; and
- For pension contributions, either a tax-credit or tax-relief at the higher rate for all tax payers.

This was supplemented in the latter part of the year by the publication of independent research, which was launched at IIF's pensions conference in November. This highlighted the increase in the Savings Gap from €6bn to €7.4bn, gave a detailed overview of the pension benefits currently available in Ireland and recommended the following policy initiatives:

- A gradual increase in the retirement age over the next several decades;
- A universal state pension based on age and residency alone;

 That if a form of mandatory pension had to be introduced it should be what is known as 'auto-enrolment' or 'soft mandatory', with matching contributions from the social partners, access to the fund prior to retirement and managed by the industry.

The net exchequer impact of these proposals was costed and showed a substantial improvement over the current system. IIF's soft-mandatory system also increased coverage to the Pension Board's target of 70% and increased adequacy to over 50% based on maximum contributions. The proposals were submitted to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs for consideration in the Green Paper to be published in 2007.

Endowment Mortgages

In late 2005, the Financial Regulator asked IIF members to review the content of letters sent to the holders of endowment mortgages and to consider increasing the frequency of such communications.

In response, IIF life assurance members agreed that all companies would undertake to issue annual communications to policyholders with effect from 1st April 2006. IIF worked with the Regulator to agree the main areas to be covered in the letters.

Life Assurance Taxation

The Finance Act 2005 made significant changes to the life assurance exit tax regime which was introduced in 2001. The provision was made subject to a Commencement Order to allow time for discussion of practical problems and further provisions were introduced in the 2006 and 2007 Finance Acts as a result of ongoing discussions between IIF and the Department of Finance and Revenue.

The new regime provides that, in addition to the exit tax charge which currently arises when a policy is cashed in, a new "deemed disposal" tax charge will arise on each eighth anniversary of the policy.

This applies to policies taken out from 2001 and will impact for the first time in 2009.

During the year, IIF also had discussions with Revenue about the practical implications of the new "deemed distribution" charge to apply to Approved Retirement Funds from the end of 2007.

Revenue Investigation

Towards the end of 2004, Revenue announced its intention to carry out an investigation into the holders of single premium insurance policies. During 2005 and 2006 IIF met with Revenue on a number of occasions to discuss industry issues relating to the investigation.

IIF has highlighted at all stages that the investigation related solely to source of funds invested in life offices' legitimate products and that the industry's own role was not under scrutiny, as all tax due on life funds had been paid. Following an initial sampling exercise, Revenue proceeded in June 2006 to obtain High Court orders in respect of certain single premium policies on the basis of which detailed policyholder information was passed by insurers to Revenue.

Disability Act 2005

Part 4 of the Disability Act came into effect on 31st December 2005. It provides for a complete ban on access to genetic test results by insurers. The Act also provides that the use of family history information could be made subject to separate regulations under the Data Protection Acts. IIF has highlighted the likely negative impact of any restrictions in this area on the cost and availability of certain types of cover.

A consumer leaflet was drafted outlining the provisions of the legislation and giving an overview of the life assurance underwriting process.

Hepatitis C/HIV Scheme

In 2006, legislation was passed providing for the establishment of a scheme to help people who had contracted Hepatitis C/HIV from contaminated blood products to obtain life cover. IIF has helped provide feedback on the proposals from the insurance industry. Work on establishing the scheme is progressing.

Money Laundering

During the year, IIF continued to participate in the Government Money Laundering Steering Group chaired by the Department of Finance.

A submission was made to the Department's Regulatory Impact Assessment in relation to the transposition into Irish law of the 3rd Money Laundering Directive (which must be done by December 2007).

Special Savings Incentive Accounts

During the year, IIF facilitated further discussions between Revenue and representatives of life assurance SSIA Qualified Fund Managers about various administration issues including the procedures to apply to maturities in 2006/2007 and practical issues arising from the incentive scheme to encourage holders of SSIAs to reinvest the proceeds in approved pension products.

ICCL Review

During 2006, IIF continued to participate on a Government working group, chaired by the Department of Finance, to review certain aspects of the operation of the investor compensation scheme in the light of the collapse of W & R Morrogh Stockbrokers. The Group's report was published in November 2006.

Financial Planning Diploma Board

In 2006, IIF life members continued their financial support of the Financial Planning Diploma Board. The 2006 grant amounted to €130,664.

JONATHAN GOOLD

Chair Life Management Committee

JENNIFER HOBAN

Life Assurance Manager

Non-Life Insurance Issues

Premiums moved relentlessly downwards in 2006, a continuation of the trend of the past number of years. Motor premiums, for example, have dropped by 45% on average in the past three years as per IIF research, and according to CSO data, motor premiums are lower in real terms now than at any time since 1992. Premiums have also fallen dramatically for businesses over this period as the current downward phase of the insurance cycle continues.

While it is too much to expect this level of premium reductions to persist in the long term, it indicates how far we have come in the last five years through a combination of market initiatives and legislative and procedural reforms. It is difficult to think of any goods or services where prices have reduced on this scale in the last few years. The fact that general inflation is 5.1% at the time of writing throws these premium reductions into even sharper relief.

Road Safety

There were 368 fatalities on our roads in 2006 — a reduction of 28 on the 2005 figure. Increased enforcement by the Gardaí and the introduction of random breath testing in mid-year were major contributory factors to this improvement. The newly established Road Safety Authority (RSA) bedded down over the course of the year and IIF look forward to working with the RSA in future. IIF propose to sponsor appropriate campaigns such as the distribution of the new Rules of the Road to every household in the country over the course of 2007.

Greater enforcement of the law inevitably leads to less speeding and drink-driving, fewer crashes, lower claims costs, lower premiums and less human suffering. It is a simple equation which we believe the public understand. Having said that, one cannot be complacent. In a nationwide survey carried out by Lansdowne Market Research for IIF during 2006, just

over half of motorists believed that they were unlikely to be caught for speeding and drink-driving offences. Although this research was carried out before the introduction of random breath testing, it shows the scale of the challenge involved in transforming the everyday habits of motorists on the road.

It is fair to say that the Government prioritised road safety in 2006 with the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee chaired by An Taoiseach which included the Ministers for Transport, Justice, Health, the Garda Commissioner and the Road Safety Authority. IIF will continue to ensure that enforcement of road traffic law is maintained as a priority by the Government and within An Garda Síochána with the goal of maintaining the declining trend in road accident fatalities.

Young Male Drivers

We are saddened by the continuing high number of fatalities and serious injuries involving young male drivers. One could argue that in previous years high motor insurance premiums for this group — the riskiest group on our roads — acted as a sort of entry barrier restricting the number of young male drivers. While on the one hand IIF are pleased to see that it is now possible for insurers to offer lower premiums to young male drivers, we believe more attention needs to be given at Government level to the need for increased training for young drivers in order to reduce their accident risk. The aim should be to ensure that full licence holders only are allowed to drive unsupervised on the roads. Those on provisional licences should only be on the roads while they are undergoing supervised training as part of a structured learning programme. This is best practice in Europe generally and it makes sense for Ireland to introduce a similar regime so that young drivers, who are increasing in number all the time, have the skills necessary for driving safely. This in turn will help to reduce accident frequency and make our roads safer

Workplace Safety

IIF continued to work with IBEC, the HSA, the CIF and the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) in this area of increasing importance to insurers. Perhaps the most important development came in our support of NISO which is going through a process of fundamental change in its modus operandi. IIF doubled its sponsorship of NISO and persuaded the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment to match this funding during NISO's reorganisation. IIF continue to support the roll-out of the Workplace Safety Initiative and used NISO's national regional structure during 2006 to achieve this. The purpose of the Workplace Safety Initiative is to identify ways of reducing accidents and to improve management of the outcome of accidents by, for example, encouraging rehabilitation and resolving problems in a non-adversarial way. IIF are also supporting the development of NISO's new safety award benchmark which we hope to see piloted in 2007.

Anti-Fraud Measures

IIF enhanced the Insurance Link anti-fraud claims database in 2006 making it easier and guicker for members to search records on the system. In effect Insurance Link has been completely rebuilt and it now deploys the most powerful search algorithms available. Details of claims are entered into the system and a programme is run to identify any "matches" e.g. if the claimant has made multiple claims or if there are any similarities between claims. While matches do not necessarily imply that fraud has taken place, they will alert the insurer to take a closer look at the claims involved. All claims involving personal injury in motor accidents, employer's and public liability insurance, as well as written-off vehicles, household, personal accident and travel insurance are run through the Insurance Link system.

IIF's lo-call hotline, *Insurance Confidential 1890 333 333*, continues to be a very valuable source of information and IIF therefore ran further public awareness campaigns during the year to publicise it. Since its establishment 3,200 cases of suspected fraud have been reported. These break down as follows:

67% motor and liability

21% employer's and public liability

9% property 3% other The many forms of insurance fraud have one common effect — they increase the cost of insurance claims for insurance companies, which in turn increases premiums for policyholders. The good news is that the equation operates in reverse also: if we can stamp out fraud, or at least radically contain it, then insurance premiums will come down to reflect this reduction. It is fair to say that the insurance industry's anti-fraud efforts over the past number of years have been a significant contributory factor to the reduction in premiums over that period. We will continue in 2007 to put the prevention and detection of fraud at the top of our agenda while of course complying with data protection legislation.

Personal Injuries Assessment Board (PIAB)

IIF continue to fully support the PIAB in its efforts to reduce the cost of delivering compensation (i.e. legal and other costs) and the amount of time it takes to finalise a claim while awarding the same level of compensation as the old litigation route. The PIAB has been a good news story for claimants and policyholders alike insofar as claimants obtain compensation more quickly while policyholders benefit from the knock-on effect that reduced legal costs have on claims costs and premiums in general.

Legal Costs Implementation Advisory Group

During the year IIF made submissions to the above Group which was charged by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform with implementing the recommendations of the Legal Costs Working Group whose report was published in January 2006. The Advisory Group reported in early 2007 and the outcome is that a legal costs regulatory body will be charged with the drawing up of guidelines on costs, which we hope will break the link between the size of the award and the size of the fee. In addition, a legal costs assessment office will be established to take over the functions of the existing taxation of costs system. Of course the devil is in the detail but these developments are to be welcomed if they reduce the cost of litigation.

JOHN O'NEILL

Chairman, Non-Life Insurance Management Committee

MICHAEL HORAN

Non-Life Insurance Manager





Gay Byrne, Chair, RSA; Noel Conroy, Garda Commissioner; and Michael Kemp; CEO; IIF launching the "Arrive Alive Campaign" sponsored by IIF and run by the RSA.



Pictured are Gay Byrne, Chair, RSA, receiving a cheque for over €620,000 for the "Better Safer Driver" campaign from IIF's President, John O'Neill.



Pictured is an "insurance fraudster" from IIF's new TV advertising campaign launched in 2006.



Pictured at the launch of a new phase of IIF's campaign on fraud from L to R is Michael Kemp, CEO, IIF; Michael McDowell, T.D., Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform; and Brendan Murphy, CEO, Allianz Insurance Ireland with an "insurance fraudster."



Michael Kemp, CEO, IIF's then outgoing President, Tom Barry; Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen T.D.; and IIF's President for 2006/07, John O'Neill, at IIF's 2006 AGM and Annual Lunch.



A revised Workplace Safety Code, an initiative of IBEC, CIF, ICTU and IIF was launched in June 2006. Pictured L to R are Frank Cuneen, Chair, Workplace Safety Group; Michael Kemp, CEO, IIF; and Tony Briscoe, Assistant Director, Social Policy, IBEC.



Seamus Brennan, T.D., Minster for Family & Social Affairs is pictured with Michael Kemp, CEO, IIF; at a seminar hosted by IIF on pensions in November 2006.



IIF developed a new website during 2006. The website, www.iif.ie contains a wide range of information on IIF and the insurance market in Ireland.



EU and International Review

The following report outlines IIF's activities on behalf of the membership in respect of key developments at EU and international level over the past year.

Insurance Guarantee Schemes

On 1st June 2006, Commissioner Charlie McCreevy postponed his decision on whether to come forward or not with a formal EC proposal on Insurance Guarantee Schemes. It was announced that the decision would be based on the conclusions of a feasibility study to be carried out by an external consultancy. Following this the European Commission engaged an economic consultancy, Oxera, to carry out the feasibility study.

Up until now most of the IIF's engagement with this issue has been via the CEA. The IIF's position is that EU-mandated insurance guarantee schemes are not necessary for Ireland but that if Ireland is required to participate in such a regime then it should allow the current legislative provisions for non-life firms to remain in place. We are currently opposed to a mandated scheme for life but if mandated to adopt a scheme then we would require similar lattitude for a legislative rather than a pre-funded solution.

On the 31st January 2007, the Insurance Guarantee Scheme Working Group of the CEA met and formulated the CEA's concerns with the Commission's proposed guarantee schemes. These include the issue of potential moral hazard and the creation of a non-level playing field between insurers. IIF responded to an Oxera questionnaire on 20th February 2007. Meetings between CEA and Oxera are taking place on a regular basis until the finalisation of the study (due before the end of 2007). The Commission is not expected to take a decision before 2008

In April 2007, IIF began a dialogue with the Department of Finance on this issue.

Solvency II

The proposed Solvency II regime consists of three pillars, only one of which (pillar 1) relates to the quantitative calculation of solvency capital requirements. Pillar 2 covers the elaboration, validation and implementation of internal risk assessment and control models covering a number of risk types and not merely insurance risk; and Pillar 3 will require significant additional disclosure of risk control procedures to regulators, consumers and other stakeholders.

The stated objective of Solvency II is not to increase overall regulatory capital requirements, but to redirect regulatory capital available to reflect overall risk more accurately. It is likely that smaller companies, particularly monoline non-life operations, captives and mutuals will see significant increases in solvency capital requirements, as things now stand. However, each company will have a choice between developing and applying appropriate internal models (subject to validation by the Regulator) and the imposition of a standard capital requirements test. All expert opinion points to the likelihood of the standard test for the solvency and minimum capital requirements (SCR and MCR) being considerably more onerous than the results from use of internal models, and there will therefore be an inbuilt incentive in the new system for companies to develop internal models.

The pace of development of the EU's Solvency II proposals increased during 2006/2007 and it is expected that a draft directive will be published in mid-2007.

The FR introduced its second Quantitative Impact Study (QIS2) on behalf of CEIOPS, the EU Committee of Regulators.

The IIF ran a seminar on Solvency II in conjunction with DIMA on 17th November 2006 for members.

In December 2006, IIF joined the IFSC Solvency II Working Group — which reports to the Insurance Committee of the Dept. of the Taoiseach's IFSC Committee.

In April 2007, CEIOPS launched the third Quantitative Impact Study (QIS3). According to the FR, in a letter sent to CEOs on the 1st March, QIS3 will provide an important insight into the ultimate design and calibration of all of the quantitative elements of the future regulatory system and, because the Commission is expected to publish the first draft of the directive in the summer, QIS3 is the 'last major opportunity' to influence the outcome. QIS3 is focused on improving the quantitative aspects of the Minimum Capital Requirement (MCR) and Solvency Capital Requirement (SCR) under pillar 1, based on refinement of the calibration model used in QIS1 and 2; but will focus more on the development and use of internal models (pillar 2) and the disclosure rules (pillar 3).

DG Competition's Enquiry into Business Insurance

The European Commission launched an enquiry into the European non-life business sector in July 2005 and in January 2007 DG Competition published an interim report on the matter. The key concern of the IIF and of other European trade bodies following this report is that the EC's enquiry could present a threat to the Block Exemption Regulation — which allows insurers to share data under certain circumstances (e.g. for anti-fraud purposes). IIF has suppported the CEA's position with regard to protecting the Block Exemption Regulation. In April 2007, the CEA responded to the Commission emphasising the importance of the Regulation to insurers.

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