

HOW TO RAISE A QUESTION AND APPLY FOR A PTI DETERMINATION

1. Check out the Determinations on the PTI website, then identify a new question that you need legal clarity on, and reduce it to its most elementary form. Complex questions are slow and problematic to process. Better to have two or three discrete questions as separate *simple* submissions – rather than a complicated 3-part question, for example.
2. Compose the question in so that the final Determination can be used by others. Broad, general questions are better than case-specific ones for example, because the resulting Determination document will then be useful to more people in similar circumstances.
3. Research the respective ‘positive’ (written) laws that apply, and copy-and-paste whatever texts, judgments, decisions, rulings, directives, acts, laws and/or statutes that you can find online into a m-word document (or something similar so that we can easily edit the text). Then, do your best to place those quotes in the following order.
 - (i) International law including European Law (European Court of Justice ‘ECJ’ / European Court of Human Rights ‘ECHR’ / European Union Law etc)
 - (ii) The (current) Irish Constitution (with respect to conflicts between translations)
 - (iii) Irish Legislation (Acts, Laws & Statutes, passed by the Oireachtas)
 - (iv) Case Law (opinions/decisions made by individual judges in specific cases)
 - (v) Common Law (which is closely related to historical case law)
 - (vi) Statutory Instruments such as; Ministerial Orders; Governmental Regulations; Operational Rules; Bye-Laws; Departmental Protocols & Admin Procedures.
 - (vii) Court Rules which are NOT embedded in any of the above formats.
4. This will give you (possibly) quite a lengthy document which you should send in to research@ptirl.com for review. We may then edit or amend your research document to form the text of a final Determination, which then gets voted on by the PTI Findings Committee acting as a peoples’ jury – to qualify and endorse that Determination.
5. Your research document can contain ‘necessary clarifications’ or translations of Latin (legalese) for example, but should NOT otherwise contain your own personal opinions or other subjective commentary (unless you are legally qualified as per 3.(iv) above).
6. Ideally, what you are trying to achieve in your research document is:
 - **A clear and unambiguous answer** (or a series of law-based answers) specific to the question posed which can be easily ratified by PTI Council and converted into a 1-4 page final published Determination.
7. Please note that any issues that are either too complex or too ambiguous (especially during the early stages of the PTI) may have to be shelved if they get bogged down in too much discussion. The immediate, pressing objective is to raise as many simple, straightforward questions as possible – so as to populate the PTI website with law-based Determinations that are; (i) available to the general public; (ii) that provide ‘legal certainty’; (iii) that are self-evident, authoritative and legally unassailable; and (iv) that will continue to build pressure on the authorities and on the mainstream media to tackle the fundamental question as to the *proven* absence of the Rule of Law in Ireland?!