

Ireland

Last update: 15/03/2021

Membership to the Council of Europe	5 May 1949
Entry into force of the European Convention on Human Rights	3 September 1953
First case under supervision of execution	Lawless (332/57) Judgment final on 14 November 1960
Total number of cases transmitted for supervision since the entry into force of the Convention	32
Total number of cases closed by final resolution	29

MAIN ISSUES BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS - ONGOING SUPERVISION*

> Protection against ill-treatment – specific situations

State's failure to protect children from the consequences of sexual abuse committed by teachers in a National School owned and managed by the Catholic Church; absence of a mechanism of effective State control against the risks of such abuse; lack of effective remedy to complain about the State's failure to protect against sexual abuse.

O'Keeffe (35810/09)
Judgment final on 28/01/2014

Status of execution
Standard supervision

> Length of judicial proceedings

Excessive length of criminal and civil proceedings and lack of effective remedies.

McFarlane group (31333/06+)
Judgment final on 10/09/2010

Status of execution
Enhanced supervision

* Detailed information concerning the Committee of Ministers' supervision of the execution of judgments and decisions of the European Court of Human Rights, notably the distinction between enhanced and standard supervision, are available on [the website of the Department for the Execution of Judgments](#).

SUPERVISION CLOSED - MAIN REFORMS ADOPTED **

> Access to a court

Introduction of a scheme of Civil Legal Aid and Advice in matters of family law, including maintenance and separation cases, thus ensuring an effective right to access to court.

Airey (6289/73)
Judgment final on 09/10/1979

Final Resolution
ResDH(81)8

> Protection of private life

Introduction of a legal and regulatory framework in 2013 in order to establish whether women qualify for a lawful abortion in Ireland: abortions are to be carried out by two medical practitioners who jointly certify that there is a real and substantial risk of loss of the woman's life from a physical illness; an urgent procedure and a review procedure before a committee composed of medical practitioners are also provided.

A., B. and C. (25579/05)
Judgment final on 16/12/2010

Final Resolution
CM/ResDH(2014)273

Decriminalisation of homosexual relationships between consenting male adults, following the adoption of the new Criminal Law Act 1993.

Norris (10581/83)
Judgment final on 26/10/1988

Final Resolution
ResDH(93)62

The rights of all children, whether born within or outside of wedlock, were equalised in the areas of guardianship, maintenance and property rights.

Johnston and Others (9697/82)
Judgment final on 18/12/1986

Final Resolution
ResDH(88)11

Creation in 2011 of a statutory framework for the High Court when dealing with cases concerning non-offending children in need of special care; the High Court orders the placement in Special Care Units providing for secure residential service to children and young people in need of specialised targeted intervention. The detention by order of the High Court of a child in a Special Care Unit is considered as a last resort, for as short a time as possible, when other forms of residential or community care are considered unsuitable.

D.G. (39474/98)
Judgment final on 16/08/2002

Final Resolution
CM/ResDH(2014)234

Introduction of a right to obtain compensation for unlawful detention as a result of a judicial act following amendments in 2014 to "The European Convention on Human Rights Act 2003".

> Freedom of expression and information

Introduction of the possibility to obtain or make available, in the country, information about abortion services lawfully available abroad, was introduced through amendments of the Constitution in 1992.

Open Door and Dublin Well Woman (14234/88+)
Judgment final on 29/10/1992

Final Resolution
CM/ResDH(96)368

** This section may also include certain major reforms already implemented in the context of cases still pending.

For a thorough overview of reforms adopted since the entry into force of Protocol No. 11 in 1998 see the [Annual Report 2015](#), Part IV "Main achievements". As regards the period 1959-1998, see the overview provided by the European Court in its special publication "Survey : 40 years of activity", section IV "Effects of judgments and decisions" – both documents, together with a number of additional ones, are available also on the website of the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights.

SUPERVISION CLOSED - MAIN REFORMS ADOPTED**

Admission into evidence of statements obtained as a result of a statutory demand is inadmissible except when the trial judge decided that the confession was voluntary.

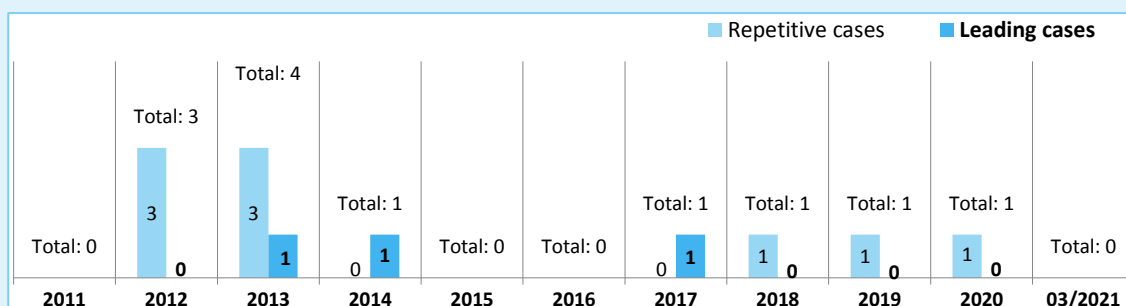
Quinn and Heaney and McGuinness
(36887/97)
Judgment final on 21/03/2001

Final Resolution
CM/ResDH(2003)149

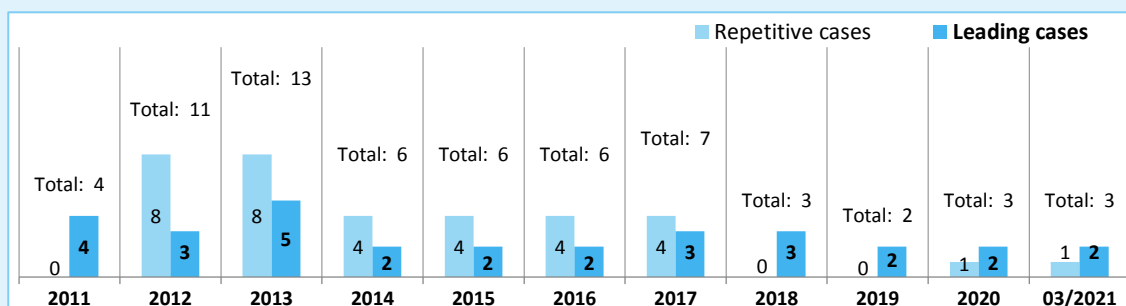
STATISTICS***

New cases

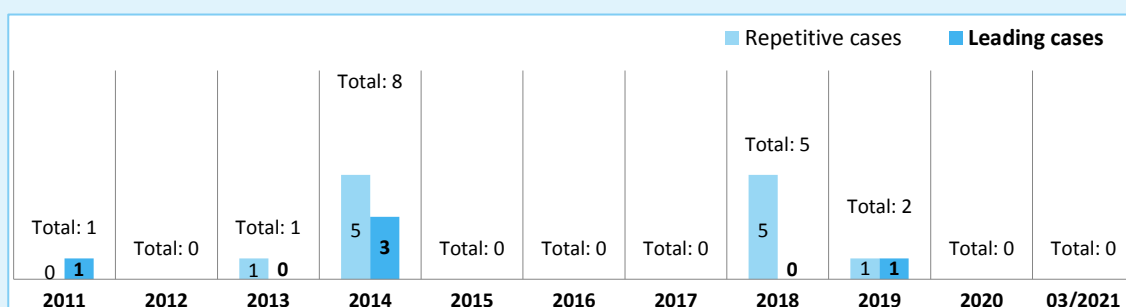
(judgments transmitted for supervision of their execution during the year)



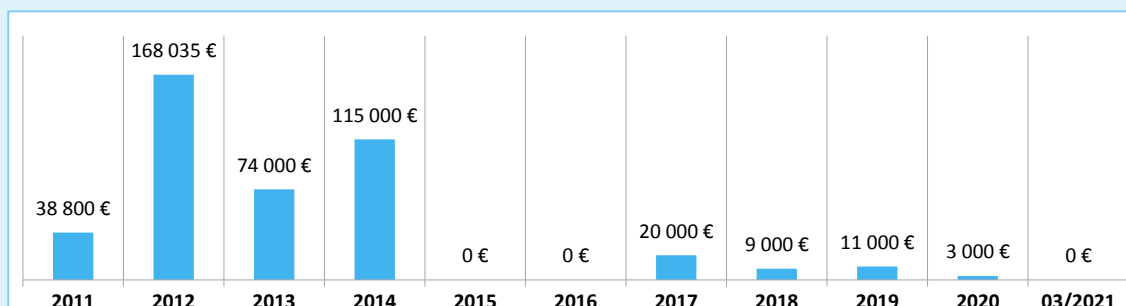
Pending cases



Cases closed by final resolution



Just satisfaction awarded by the European Court



*** Detailed statistics are available in the [annual reports](#) of the Committee of Ministers. Figures are reported as they appear in the annual report for each year.