



Irish Forest School Association

Setting up your own business as a Forest School leader (2024)

If you start to run your own FS business as a sole trader you must register your business with the [CRO](#) and make a tax return every year.

This means legally you are a freelancer/sole trader. You are the sole beneficiary of your profits, it's less onerous for tax costs and admin and you can hire others to work for you.

You are also responsible for your business' losses, you must make sure you are covered for your legal obligations and you run the risk of losing your assets if you incur outstanding debts.

Professional indemnity insurance, public liability insurance and employers liability insurance must be if you have employees (EL is in case you are sued by your employee/s).

Another option is to set up as a **limited company**. You have to hire an accountant and make annual returns to the Companies Office - but your personal assets are protected from loss or debts as the business is sued, not you personally.

Sourced from Citizens Information webpage:

<https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/employment/types-of-employment/self-employment/step-by-step-guide-to-setting-up-a-business-in-ireland/>

For more information about:

A guide to becoming self-employed see [here](#)

Setting up a business in Ireland see [here](#).

Deciding on a legal structure for your business see [here](#)