

BILLE NA gCUIDEACHTAÍ (LEASÚ), 1999 COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1999

Mar a tionscnaíodh As initiated

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

- 1. Amendment of section 21 of Companies Act, 1990.
- 2. Short title, collective citation and construction.

Acts Referred to

Companies Act, 1990 Companies Acts, 1963 to 1990 Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Acts, 1921 to 1998 1990, No. 33



BILLE NA gCUIDEACHTAÍ (LEASÚ), 1999 **COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1999**

BILL

entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW RELATING TO COMPANIES AND TO PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE OIREACHTAS AS FOLLOWS:

1.—Section 21 of the Companies Act, 1990, is hereby amended by Amendment of the insertion in subsection (3) of section 21, after paragraph (f), of 10 the following paragraph:

section 21 of Companies Act,

- "(ff) a tribunal of inquiry to which the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Acts, 1921 to 1998, apply,".
- 2.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Companies (Amendment)
 Short title, collective citation and construction. Act, 1999.

(2) This Act and the Companies Acts, 1963 to 1990, may be cited together as the Companies Acts, 1963 to 1999, and shall be construed together as one Act.



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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Purpose of the Bill

The purpose of the Bill is to amend the Companies Act, 1990, by permitting the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to disclose certain information, books and documents to a tribunal of inquiry.

Section 19 of the Act of 1990 confers a power on the Minister to require production of the books and documents of a company to an authorised officer in certain circumstances. By section 21, no information or records thereby obtained should be published or disclosed except to a "competent authority". That expression is defined as including the Minister and the Minister for Finance and their officers, any court of competent jurisdiction, any supervisory authority within the meaning of certain EU regulations, and the Central Bank. The purpose of this Bill is to add a tribunal of inquiry to the list of "competent authorities" to which the Minister may disclose information obtained under the Act of 1990.

Provisions of the Bill

Section 1 amends section 21 of the Act of 1990 by adding to the list of competent authorities set out in that section a tribunal of inquiry to which the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Acts, 1921 to 1998, has been applied.

Section 2 is a standard provision dealing with the short title, collective citation and construction of the Bill.

An Teachta Pádraig Ó Coinín, Feabhra, 1999.