



An Bille um Rialáil Leictreachais (Leasú), 2026
Electricity Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2026

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated



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ACT REFERRED TO

Electricity Regulation Act 1999 (No. 23)



AN BILLE UM RIALÁIL LEICTREACHAIS (LEASÚ), 2026
ELECTRICITY REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2026

Bill

entitled

An Act to amend the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 to give the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) the legislative remit to monitor wholesale and retail prices in the energy market; to increase the frequency and level of reporting; to monitor and regulate hedging practices; to strengthen its powers to monitor anti-competitive behaviour of gas and electricity suppliers; to give it an expanded role in consumer protection; to strengthen its power to address energy affordability; and to provide for related matters. 5 10

Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:

PART 1

PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL

Definitions 15

1. In this Act—

“Act of 1999” means the Electricity Regulation Act 1999;

“Hedging practices” means the financial strategies employed by energy market participants to manage and mitigate risks associated with price volatility and fluctuations in the energy market; 20

“The Commission” means the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities;

“Minister” means the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications.

Short title and commencement

2. (1) This Act may be cited as the Electricity Regulation (Amendment) Act 2026.

(2) This Act comes into operation 3 months after the date of its passing or on such earlier date or dates than the said 3 months as the Minister may by order appoint and different dates may be so appointed for different purposes and different provisions. 25

PART 2

MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE ACT OF 1999

Monitoring wholesale and retail prices in the energy market

3. The Act of 1999 is amended in section 9, subsection (1), paragraph (da) by the insertion of the following after subparagraph (xiii): 5

- “(xiv) the average price of natural gas and electricity supply and the average margin received by natural gas and electricity suppliers,
- (xv) changes in prices paid by domestic and business customers on the retail market,”.

Monitoring and regulation of hedging practices and increased reporting on monitoring and regulatory responsibilities in the energy market 10

4. The Act of 1999 is amended in section 9, subsection (1) by the insertion of the following after paragraph (dr):

- “(ds) to report annually on the compliance of electricity and gas transmission and distribution operators with an agreed code of conduct and an evaluation of the independence of these networks, 15
- (dt) to report monthly the average price of natural gas and electricity supply and the average margin received by natural gas and electricity suppliers,
- (du) to report on a quarterly basis on the functioning of the retail electricity and gas markets, including an examination of changes in prices paid by domestic and business customers on the retail market, 20
- (dv) to monitor and regulate hedging practices within the energy market which shall include— 25
 - (i) issuing guidelines, directives, and regulations to govern and oversee hedging practices undertaken by energy market participants, with the aim of promoting transparency, fairness, and stability in energy markets,
 - (ii) establishing a mechanism for the regular reporting of hedging activities by energy market participants, as well as the disclosure of relevant information regarding hedging strategies and positions, 30
 - (iii) conducting audits, investigations, and inspections to ensure compliance with the regulations and guidelines pertaining to hedging practices, 35
 - (iv) collaborating with relevant industry stakeholders, including energy market participants, consumers, and government, to develop and implement effective mechanisms for the monitoring and regulation of hedging practices, 40

- (v) reporting annually on its activities and findings related to the monitoring and regulation of hedging practices, while ensuring the protection of sensitive commercial information,
- (vi) enforcement measures including fines, penalties, and corrective measures.”.

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Monitoring and regulation of anti-competitive behaviour in the energy market

5. The Act of 1999 is amended in section 9, subsection (1) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (x):

- “(y) to initiate investigations into alleged or suspected anti-competitive behaviours within the energy sector, whether on its own initiative, upon receipt of complaints from market participants, consumers, or other stakeholders or upon request by the government which shall include— 10
- (i) collecting information, documents, records, or data from any energy market participant, supplier, distributor, or any other relevant entity, within a specified timeframe, 15
- (ii) conducting on-site inspections, audits, and interviews as necessary to gather evidence and assess the nature and extent of alleged anti-competitive behaviours,
- (iii) issuing interim orders to cease suspected anti-competitive behaviours under investigation to mitigate their effects, pending conclusion of the investigation, 20
- (iv) imposing fines, penalties, or other appropriate sanctions on entities found to have engaged in anti-competitive practices, taking into consideration the severity and impact of such practices on competition and consumers.”. 25

Protection from unfair pricing, restrictive pricing and anti-competitive behaviours in the energy market

6. The Act of 1999 is amended in section 9, subsection (5) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (f):

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- “(g) to ensure that energy consumers are protected from unfair pricing, restrictive practices and anti-competitive behaviours, and that consumer interests are considered in all regulatory decisions made by the Commission.”.

Monitoring and regulation of hedging and anti-competitive behaviour in the energy market

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7. The Act of 1999 is amended in section 9 by insertion of the following after subsection (6):

- “(7) Without prejudice to any provision of this Act, regulations or schemes under this Act may contain such incidental, supplementary and 40

consequential provisions as appear to the Minister or the competent authority having consulted with the Minister, as the case may be, to be necessary or expedient for the purposes 9 (1)(dv) and 9 (1)(y).”.

Affordability of energy supply

8. The Act of 1999 is amended in section 10A, subsection (1), paragraph (b), by insertion of 5
the following after subparagraph (iv):

“(v) the affordability of energy supply,”.

BILLE

(mar a tionscnaíodh)

dá ngairtear

Acht do leasú an Achta um Rialáil Leictreachais, 1999 chun go dtabharfar don Choimisiún um Rialáil Fónais (CRF) an sainchúram reachtach chun faireachán a dhéanamh ar phraghsanna mórdhíola agus miondíola sa mhargadh fuinnimh; do mhéadú mhinicíocht agus leibhéal an tuairiscithe; do dhéanamh faireachán agus rialáil ar chleachtais fálaíthe; do neartú na gcumhachtaí atá aige chun faireachán a dhéanamh ar iompraíocht fhrithiomaíoch soláthróirí gáis agus leictreachais; do thabhairt ról leathnaithe dó i gcosaint tomhaltóirí; do neartú na cumhachta atá aige chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar inacmhainneacht fuinnimh; agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

*Na Teachtaí Pá Ó Dálaigh, Dara Ó Ruairc,
Lughaidh Ó hEára agus Réada Ní Chróinín a thug
isteach,*

5 Márta, 2026

BILL

(as initiated)

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An Act to amend the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 to give the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) the legislative remit to monitor wholesale and retail prices in the energy market; to increase the frequency and level of reporting; to monitor and regulate hedging practices; to strengthen its powers to monitor anti-competitive behaviour of gas and electricity suppliers; to give it an expanded role in consumer protection; to strengthen its power to address energy affordability; and to provide for related matters.

*Introduced by Deputies Pa Daly,
Darren O'Rourke, Louis O'Hara
and Réada Cronin,*

5th March, 2026

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR
Le ceannach díreach ó

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