



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

Meabhrán Miniúcháin
Explanatory Memorandum



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ELECTRICITY REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2026

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Introduction

The Electricity Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2023 seeks to make amendments to the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 to give the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) increased powers to monitor and regulate the energy market. These include the legislative remit to oversee hedging practices, increased powers to monitor and sanction instances of anti-competitive behaviour, enhanced measures to address consumer protection and a new mandate to incorporate energy affordability into their policy priorities. The Bill also provides for increased transparency via a range of new regular reporting responsibilities.

PART 1

PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL

- **Short title and commencement** - This section notes the short title of the Bill. It provides that it shall come into operation on such day or days as the Minister may by order; and such day or days shall not be later than 3 months from the date on which the Act is signed into law.
- **Definitions** – This section sets out that the Electricity Regulation Act 199 is the act that is amended by the Bill, that the Minister means the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and that the Commission means the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities. It also sets out the definition “hedging practices” that the bill gives the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities the power to monitor and regulate.

PART 2

MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE ACT OF 1999

- The **Amendment to Section 9 (1) (da) of the Act of 1999** expands the data Commission for the Regulation of Utilities must observe to monitor the level and effectiveness of market opening and the development of competition in the supply of electricity and gas to final customers namely the the average price of natural gas and electricity supply and the average margin received by natural gas and electricity suppliers and changes in prices paid by domestic and business customers on the retail market.
- The **Amendment to Section 9 (1) (dr) of the Act of 1999** expands the Commission for the Regulations of Utilities functions to monitor

and regulate hedging responsibilities and introduces new regular reporting responsibilities 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, to report monthly the average price of natural gas and electricity supply and the average margin received by natural gas and electricity suppliers and 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.

- The **Amendment to Section 9(1)(x) of the Act of 1999** Commission for the Regulation of Utilities functions to monitor and regulate anti-competitive behaviour in the energy market, bringing it in line with the powers of the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission which monitors and regulates competition in other markets, whereas that role is carried out by the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities in the energy market.
- The **Amendments to Section 9(5)(f) of the Act of 1999** expands the functions of the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities to ensure that 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 thus enhancing consumer protection.
- The **Amendment to Section 9(6) of the Act of 1999** endows the Minister with the authority to make changes as are necessary or introduce secondary legislation to give effect or to amend any provisions of the Bill.
- The **Amendment to Section 10A(1)(b)** endows the Minister with the authority to issue policy direction to the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities based on the affordability of energy supply.

Pa Daly TD, Darren O'Rourke TD, Réada Cronin TD, Louis O'Hara TD, Márta, 2026