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**An Bille um an Rialálaí Agraibhia (Leasú), 2026**  
**Agri-Food Regulator (Amendment) Bill 2026**

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*Meabhrán Miniúcháin*  
*Explanatory Memorandum*

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**AN BILLE UM AN RIALÁLAÍ AGRAIBHIA (LEASÚ), 2026**  
**AGRI-FOOD REGULATOR (AMENDMENT) BILL 2026**

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**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

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**Purpose of the Bill**

The purpose of the Agri-Food Regulator (Amendment) Bill 2026 is to amend Section 12 of the Agricultural and Food Supply Chain Act 2023 to strengthen the powers of the Agri-Food Regulator in relation to data collection from businesses operating within the agricultural and food supply chain.

Under the current legislation, the Regulator may “seek” data from businesses, but this wording does not confer any statutory power to compel the provision of such data. This limitation has hindered the Regulator’s ability to make accurate assessments regarding pricing practices, margins, and potential unfair trading practices, including price gouging.

In practice, the Regulator cannot fulfil its role properly because some retailers are refusing to provide market information voluntarily. Section 12(3)(d) does not give the Regulator the authority to demand this information, leaving a significant gap in enforcement and transparency.

The amendment replaces the word “seek” with “compel,” thereby granting the Regulator the authority to compel businesses to provide specified data. This includes prices paid and received, margins, financial and accounting data, throughput of agricultural produce, policy and procedure information, employment status, and salary data.

This change is essential to ensure transparency for consumers and fairness within the supply chain. The Agri-Food Regulator has been seeking this power since September 2024, following repeated concerns about opaque pricing structures and the inability to verify claims of excessive margins.

**Provisions of the Bill**

*Section 1* provides for the short title and commencement of the Bill

*Section 2* amends Section 12(3)(d) of the Agricultural and Food Supply Chain Act 2023 to confer statutory powers on the Regulator to require and obtain data from businesses.

*Jennifer Whitmore, TD,*  
*Eanáir, 2026.*