



**An Bille Seirbhísí Poist agus Teileachumarsáide (Leasú),
2026**
**Postal and Telecommunications Services (Amendment)
Bill 2026**

Meabhrán Mínitheach agus Airgeadais
Explanatory and Financial Memorandum



**AN BILLE SEIRBHÍSÍ POIST AGUS TEILEACHUMARSÁIDE
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POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2026**

EXPLANATORY AND FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Introduction

The purpose of this bill is to provide a legal basis for funding to be paid from the Department of Culture Communications and Sport vote for the purpose of supporting the nationwide Post Office Network. Government has agreed that funding of €15m per annum for a period of 2026-2030 is to be provided.

This proposed funding is to be provided on the basis that it will be used to fund an Service of General Economic Interest. Previous funding was provided to An Post on the basis of services entrusted to An Post, namely the provision of counter services for the company's own and Government business, pursuant to Section 12(1)(d) of the Postal and Telecommunications Services Act 1983 (The Principal Act). Under Section 12(1)(b) of the Principal Act, the object of the company is described as meeting the industrial, commercial, social and household needs of the State and satisfying all reasonable demands for such services throughout the State. This is facilitated through the provision of a nationwide network of post offices as provided for under Section 12(1)(d).

This bill provides for an uplift in funding currently allowed under section 29A of the principal act, by increasing the amount by a total of €75m in line with the agreed funding. The bill will be commenced upon enactment.

Provisions of the Bill

Section 1 – Section one provides for the legal basis of the agreed funding of €15m per annum for the term of 2026-2030, by amending section 29A of the Principal Act and increasing the amount allowed under the act by €75m (i.e. €15m per annum for 5 years). Section 29A currently permits the Minister, with the consent of MPER, to make available up to €30,000,000 for the Post Office Network. This reflects the 2023-25 scheme and the €30m was fully paid at end 2025, requiring a new amount be provided to enable the new scheme to support the post office network.

Section 2 – This section deals with the short title and citation of the bill.

Implications for the Exchequer

The funding provided for in this bill will have a total cost of €75m. In line with the Government decision on this matter, the funding will be provided for from the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport's existing National Development Plan allocation.

Current Year Cost - As per the Government agreement, €15m is to be provided each year for the agreed term.

Next Year Cost - As per the Government agreement, €15m is to be provided each year for the agreed term.

Full Year Cost – The total funding cost is to be €75m.

Number of Years before full cost is met – The agreed term of the funding is 2026-2030, the funding will be fully dispersed by year end 2030.

Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications for An Post. Postmasters are independent SMEs contracted by An Post to run post offices across Ireland. The terms under which Postmasters contract with An Post is a matter between the Postmasters and An Post and any negotiations are a matter for both parties directly.

*An Roinn Cultúir, Cumarsáide agus Spóirt
Meitheamh, 2026.*