



An Bille um Rialáil Leictreachais (Leasú) (Uimh. 3), 2026
Electricity Regulation (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2026

Meabhrán Miniúcháin
Explanatory Memorandum



AN BILLE UM RIALÁIL LEICTREACHAIS (LEASÚ)
(UIMH. 3), 2026
ELECTRICITY REGULATION (AMENDMENT)
(NO. 3) BILL 2026

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Purpose of the Bill

The purpose of this Bill is to enable the Commission for Regulation of Utilities to prioritise certain developments for utility connections, rather than on the current first come first served basis. This follows on from the Commission notice “Guidance on efficient and timely grid connections” of 10 December 2025.

Background

The current model for grid connection operates on a ‘first come, first served’ basis. In recent years, increasing demand for electricity connections has led to constraints on the national grid. Competing demands for connection across housing, industry, renewable energy, and strategic infrastructure have highlighted the need for a structured and policy-driven approach to prioritisation.

This Bill provides a legislative basis for prioritisation criteria, ensuring that decisions of the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) and system operators are aligned with broader public policy objectives. It also enables more effective management of the grid connection pipeline

Provisions of the Bill

Section 1 amends section 34 of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999 by providing—

- for an order of priority to apply to applications made for connection to or use of the transmission or distribution system, and
- for the Minister to cause periodic reports (at least once a year) to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas that assess the national capacity in respect applications for connection to and use of the transmission or distribution system.

Section 2 contains the short title.

*Pa Daly, TD, Rose Conway-Walsh, TD, Réada Cronin, TD,
Meán Fómhair, 2026.*