

Control of Exports Bill 2023

Dáil Committee Stage 28 June 2023 9.30am

Opening Remarks

- Thank you Chair, I am pleased to have the opportunity to discuss the Control of Exports Bill with Committee members today.
- I am joined by Department officials Dr. Eamonn Cahill, Principal, Ms. Carol Toolan, Assistant Principal and Mr. Matthew Geoghegan, Administrative Officer.
- The Bill we scrutinize today will repeal and replace the Control of Exports Act 2008 and ensure that Ireland continues to operate a robust framework for regulating the export of controlled items, principally dual-use and military items.
- Export controls are a multi-lateral, global mechanism that contribute to international peace and security and seek to prevent the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.
- Controls take the form of a legal obligation on exporters to obtain prior authorisation, that is an export license, to export designated items to other countries.
- The current Act must be updated to reflect the significant advances in technology, new developments in business practices, updates to EU instruments, and the evolved geo-political risk landscape.
- Deputies will recall from Second Stage Reading that the Bill aims to ensure that Ireland has a sound legal basis for administering export controls by providing for:
 - controls related to dual-use items;
 - controls related to military items;
 - establishment of a National Military Export Control List;
 - rules and conditions for obtaining and using authorisations;

- establishment of an independent adjudication panel to hear appeals and disclosure requests;
 - an effective enforcement capability for Authorised Officers;
 - establishment of a comprehensive set of offences for infringements of the controls; and,
 - proportionate, graduated and dissuasive penalties for breaches.
- I would like to acknowledge the broad support for the Bill thus far throughout Dáil Stages and look forward to progressing further.
 - Today I bring some technical amendments, primarily typographical or punctuation corrections.
 - I will address each as they arise during our scrutiny of the Bill.