

Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026

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Abstract

The *Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026* was published on 19 June 2026. The Bill aims to give full effect to the *Regulation (EU) 2024/1689* of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act). The Bill also proposes amendments for this purpose to the *Central Bank Act 1942*, *Communications Regulation Act 2002*, *Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2014*, and *Freedom of Information Act 2014*.



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Executive Summary

- The [Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026](#) and [Explanatory Memorandum](#) were published on 19 June 2026. The Bill contains 139 sections in ten Parts, with four Schedules.
- The Bill aims to give full effect to the [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1689](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act). The Bill also proposes amendments for this purpose to the [Central Bank Act 1942](#), [Communications Regulation Act 2002](#), [Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2014](#), and [Freedom of Information Act 2014](#).
- The Bill is a national implementation measure. It provides the enforcement and institutional infrastructure: the Office, the competent authorities, the adjudication system and the criminal penalties, through which the EU AI Act will operate in Ireland.
- The Bill is scheduled for Second Stage debate on Wednesday 24 June 2026 in Dáil Éireann.
- The General Scheme of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill was published on [4 February 2026](#). The [General Scheme of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026](#) was [referred](#) by the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment to the Joint Committee on Enterprise, Tourism and Employment on Wednesday 28 January 2026. The General Scheme of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026 was referred to the Joint Committee together with the [General Scheme of the Data Bill 2025](#). According to a [letter](#) provided with the general schemes, it was the Minister's intention to combine these two general schemes into one Bill during the drafting process. The provisions of the General Scheme of the Data Bill, however, have not been incorporated into the provisions of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026.
- The Joint Committee held a number of public hearings in relation to these two general schemes with selected stakeholders on [4 February 2026](#), [15 April 2026](#), [6 May 2026](#) and [13 May 2026](#). The Joint Committee also opened a [public consultation](#) on the pre-legislative scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026 and a [public consultation](#) on the pre-legislative scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Data Bill 2025.
- At the time of writing, the outcome of these public consultations and a Report on pre-legislative scrutiny (PLS) on the General Scheme of the Regulation of the Artificial Intelligence Bill have not yet been published by the Joint Committee.
- While the intention was to include information on comparative AI governance structures in other Member States within the *Bill Digest*, due to time constraints, this was not possible in the detail planned.

Contents

Executive Summary	2
Glossary and abbreviations	6
Introduction.....	8
Legal context	11
Overview of the AI Act.....	11
Digital Omnibus on AI	14
National actions to give further effect to AI Act in Ireland	15
Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA).....	21
Legislative proposal	22
Principal provisions of the Bill.....	22
Part 1 Preliminary and General	22
Part 2 <i>Oifig IS na hÉireann</i>	22
Part 3 Single Point of Contact, AI Register, Sandboxes, Real World Testing and Data Protection.....	27
Part 4 Relevant Market Surveillance Authorities and Relevant Competent Authorities .	32
Part 5 Supervision and Enforcement	35
Part 6 Adjudication and Administrative Fines	38
Part 7 Penalties and Miscellaneous Provisions	46
Part 8 Application to Central Bank of Ireland.....	47
Part 9 Amendment of Act of 2014.....	48
Part 10 Miscellaneous Amendments	49
Pre-legislative scrutiny	50
Overview of pre-legislative scrutiny (PLS).....	50

Table of Tables

Table 1 Glossary and abbreviations 6

Table 2 Timeline of implementation of the EU AI Act 13

Table 3 Maximum administrative fines under Article 99 of the EU AI Act 42

Table of Figures

Figure 1 EU AI Act Risk-based Approach to Regulation..... 12

Glossary and abbreviations

Table 1 Glossary and abbreviations

Term	Meaning
1942 Act	<i>Central Bank Act 1942</i>
2014 Act	<i>Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2014</i>
2025 Regulations	European Union (Artificial Intelligence) (Designation) Regulations 2025, S.I. 2025/366
AI	Artificial Intelligence
Bill	Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026
C&AG	Comptroller and Auditor General
CCPC	Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
Central Bank	Central Bank of Ireland
Department	Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment
EU AI Act	Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations (EC) No 300/2008, (EU) No 167/2013, (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1139 and (EU) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, (EU) 2016/797 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Artificial Intelligence Act)
Joint Committee	Joint Committee on Enterprise, Tourism and Employment
Minister	Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment
MSA	Market surveillance authority
Office	Oifig IS na hÉireann

Term	Meaning
PAC	Committee of Public Accounts

Source: Compiled by the Library & Research Service

Introduction

The Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026 ('the Bill') was [initiated](#) on 19 June 2026 and scheduled for Second Stage debate on Wednesday 24 June 2026 in Dáil Éireann. The Bill contains 139 sections in ten Parts, with four Schedules and aims to give full effect to the [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending Regulations \(EC\) No 300/2008, \(EU\) No 167/2013, \(EU\) No 168/2013, \(EU\) 2018/858, \(EU\) 2018/1139 and \(EU\) 2019/2144 and Directives 2014/90/EU, \(EU\) 2016/797 and \(EU\) 2020/1828 \(Artificial Intelligence Act\) \(the 'EU AI Act'\)](#).

The General Scheme of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill was published on [4 February 2026](#) and listed in the [Spring Legislation Programme 2026](#) as a Bill for Priority Drafting. The General Scheme of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026 was referred to the Joint Committee together with the [General Scheme of the Data Bill 2025](#). According to a [letter](#) provided with the general schemes, it was the Minister's intention to combine these two general schemes into one Bill during the drafting process. In the [Summer Legislation Programme 2026](#), the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill was combined with the Non-Personal Data Bill 2026 (formerly the Data Bill) into a single Bill and renamed the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill and Non-Personal Data Bill 2026. The combined Bill was listed as Priority Publication. The provisions of the General Scheme of the Data Bill, however, have not been incorporated into the provisions of the published Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026.

The EU AI Act, which is a Regulation, is directly applicable in Member States which means that once it enters into force, "its legal effects are simultaneously, automatically and uniformly binding in all the national legislations".¹ While many of the obligations of the EU AI Act apply directly, some of the provisions require the implementation of national legislative measures. The Bill gives further effect to [Government Decisions](#), which determined that Ireland will adopt a distributed model of competent authorities for the EU AI Act, using established sectoral regulatory authorities, with a designated central authority to provide coordination and a number of centralised functions. The designation of competent authorities was subsequently given legal effect via [SI No. 366/2025](#) on 29 July 2025. These will be explained further in the section on legal context. The Bill should be read in conjunction with the EU AI Act and [SI No. 366/2025](#).

The Bill is a national implementation measure. It provides the enforcement and institutional infrastructure: the Office, the competent authorities, the adjudication system and the criminal penalties, through which the EU AI Act will operate in Ireland. The Bill does not itself create

¹ EURlex, Glossary of Summaries, '[Regulation](#)' (webpage accessed on 16 June 2026). Regulations are directly applicable per [Article 288](#) of the Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union [2021] OJ C326/47.

the obligations that apply to providers and deployers of AI systems; those obligations are already in Irish law by virtue of the EU AI Act, which is directly applicable. The Bill's enactment is necessary to designate the authorities who will enforce those existing obligations.

In a [press release](#) announcing Government approval to publish the Bill, it stated that the “Bill is a technical implementing measure and does not add to the obligations placed on regulated entities by the EU Regulation.”² Some of the key provisions of the Bill include the establishment of Oifig IS na hÉireann as an independent statutory entity acting as the single point of contact, supervision and enforcement powers given to Market Surveillance Authorities (MSAs) with independent adjudication and court oversight, as well as the introduction of a general administrative sanctions regime.³ Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, Peter Burke, stated that:

The publication of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026 is a landmark moment for Ireland's digital regulatory framework ...

*The Bill establishes the AI Office of Ireland as a strong, independent institution at the centre of our AI regulatory system and empowers our Competent Authorities with the investigative and sanctions tools they need.*⁴

This *Bill Digest* will provide:

- a short overview of the legal context including a high-level summary of the EU AI Act, national actions taken to fully give effect to the EU AI Act in Ireland as well as forthcoming amendments to the EU AI Act.
- an overview of selected key provisions including the establishment of Oifig IS na hÉireann, the functions and enforcement powers of market surveillance authorities, the adjudication process, and penalties and offences created under the Bill.
- a short summary of the pre-legislative scrutiny (PLS) process. At the time of writing, the report on PLS for the General Scheme of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill has not been published.

² Department of Enterprise, Tourism, and Employment, ‘[Publication of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026](#)’, *Press Release*, 17 June 2026.

³ Department of Enterprise, Tourism, and Employment, ‘[Publication of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026](#)’, *Press Release*, 17 June 2026.

⁴ Department of Enterprise, Tourism, and Employment, ‘[Publication of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026](#)’, *Press Release*, 17 June 2026.

BOX 1: Relevant L&RS Publications

- Library & Research Service, ‘[Blog Post on Artificial Intelligence | Statements in Dáil Éireann](#)’ (internal only), 14 January 2026.
- Library & Research Service, ‘[Blog Post on EU Digital Omnibus Package | Resources for Members](#)’, (internal only), 24 November 2025.
- Library & Research Service, ‘[How AI can impact human rights and equality](#)’ Research Matters (March 2025).
- Library & Research Service ‘[Spotlight on Artificial Intelligence: Background and overview of the current regulatory landscape in Ireland and the EU](#)’ (October 2024).

Legal context

Overview of the AI Act

This section provides a brief overview of the AI Act but Members are advised to read the [EU AI Act](#) itself as well as the Library & Research Service, ‘[Spotlight on Artificial Intelligence](#)’ (October 2024) for a more in depth exploration of the regulatory landscape in Ireland and the EU. The EU AI Act was published in the [Official Journal of the European Union on 12 July 2024](#), entered into force on 1 August 2024⁵ and contains 113 articles, 13 annexes and runs to almost 150 pages. The AI Act itself states that the Regulation will apply from 2 August 2026.⁶ The EU AI Act is “the first-ever comprehensive legal framework on AI worldwide”,⁷ which lays down harmonised risk-based rules for AI. Article 1 of the AI Act sets out the purpose of the Regulation:

to improve the functioning of the internal market and promote the uptake of human-centric and trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI), while ensuring a high level of protection of health, safety, fundamental rights enshrined in the Charter, including democracy, the rule of law and environmental protection, against the harmful effects of AI systems in the Union and supporting innovation.⁸

Article 2 of the EU AI Act deals with the scope, which applies to both public and private actors within the EU and outside the EU, once the AI system is placed on the EU market or its output is used in the EU. The EU AI Act officially regulates providers and regulators. Areas which are outside the scope of the EU AI Act include free and open-source AI systems (unless they are high-risk or prohibited), AI developed for the sole purpose of scientific research and development prior to market placement, or exclusively for military, defence, or national security purposes, regardless of whether it is a public or private entity.⁹

The EU AI Act takes a risk-based approach to AI regulation. It does not apply to all AI systems but introduces rules for AI systems based on the level of risk they can pose. The following figure outlines this approach.

⁵ European Commission, ‘[European Artificial Intelligence Act comes into force](#)’, 01 August 2024 (accessed 16 June 2026).

⁶ Recital 179, p.44 of the [EU AI Act](#).

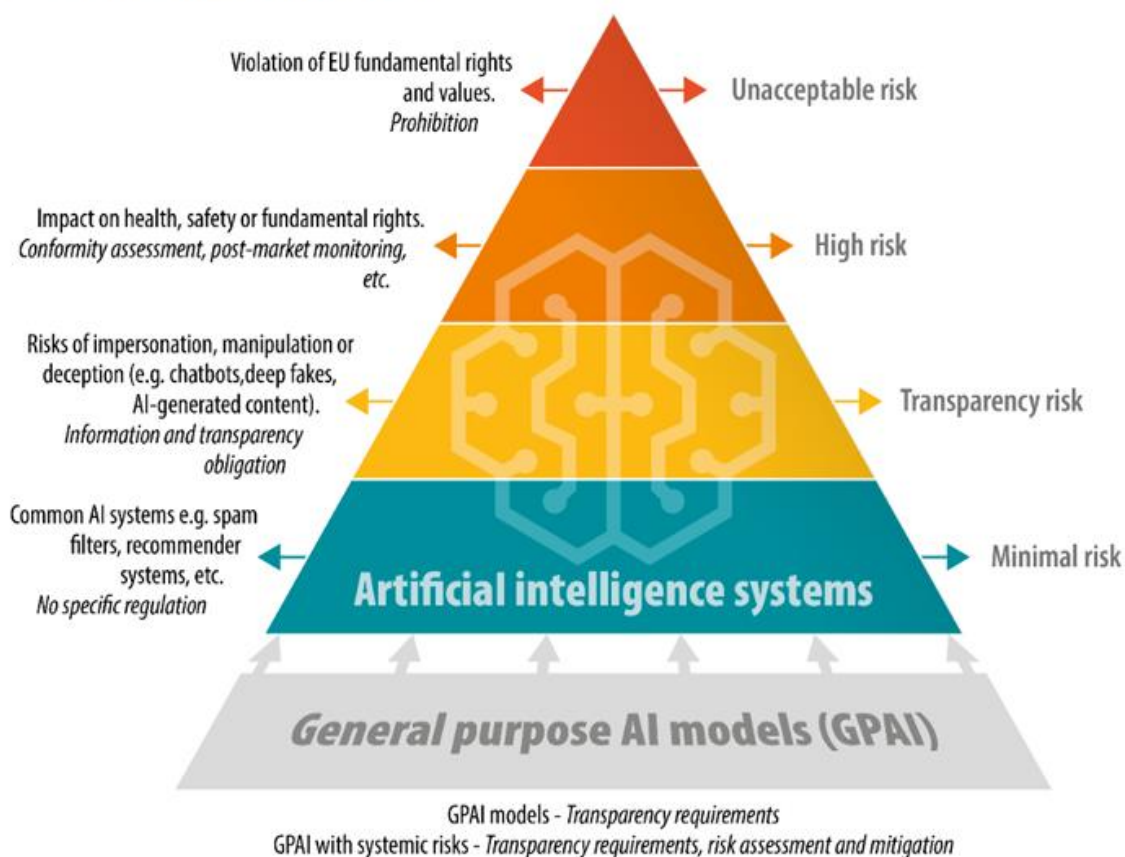
⁷ ‘[AI Act](#)’, *European Commission*, (webpage accessed on 16 June 2026).

⁸ Article 1 of the [EU AI Act](#).

⁹ Exceptions to the scope of the EU AI Act do not extend to providers of general-purpose AI models (GPAI) with systemic risks even where free and open-source.

Figure 1 EU AI Act Risk-based Approach to Regulation

EU AI act risk-based approach



Source: Reproduced from Tambiama Madiaga with graphic by Sami Chadri, 'Briefing EU Legislation in Progress - Artificial intelligence act', European Parliamentary Research Service, March 2024 at 7.

Most AI systems pose limited to no risk such as spam filters, while those that carry unacceptable risk to fundamental rights are strictly prohibited.¹⁰ Certain categories of AI are permitted but must meet specific transparency requirements. This means users should be informed that they are interacting with a machine, for instance chatbots, or it should be reasonably obvious within the context and circumstances of the user experience.¹¹

¹⁰ Article 5 of the [EU AI Act](#) prohibits eight practices including social scoring, emotion recognition in workplaces and education institution, and real-time remote biometric identification for law enforcement purposes in publicly accessible space. They became effective in February 2025. [Guidelines on the prohibited artificial intelligence practices established by the EU AI Act](#) were also published in February 2025.

¹¹ Article 50 of the [EU AI Act](#).

High-risk AI systems are AI systems that pose serious risks to health, safety or fundamental rights. Chapter III of the EU AI Act deals with requirements for high-risk AI systems before they can go on the market including, but not limited to, adequate risk assessment, data governance, technical documentation, appropriate human oversight and transparency, and provision of information to deployers. Annex III of the EU AI Act contains a list of AI systems which are considered high-risk including critical infrastructure; education and vocational training; employment, workers management and access to self-employment; and migration, asylum, and border control management, among others.¹²

Chapter V of the EU AI Act deals with General Purpose AI models (GPAI) which could carry systemic risks if they are very capable or widely used.¹³ GPAI models are those trained with a large amount of data sets, that can perform a wide range of distinct tasks and can be integrated into further applications or systems.¹⁴ Chapter V sets out obligations of providers for GPAI models including transparency, cybersecurity and copyright requirements. The European Commission, through its AI Office, is responsible for enforcing these provisions.¹⁵ The [General-Purpose AI Code of Practice](#) (a voluntary code)¹⁶ was made available on 10 July 2025 and details the manner in which providers of general-purpose AI models and of general-purpose AI models with systemic risk may comply with their obligations under the AI Act.

The provisions of the EU AI Act apply in a phased manner, and the following table provides an overview of the key implementation dates in the EU AI Act.

Table 2 Timeline of implementation of the EU AI Act

Date	Action
12 July 2024	Publication of AI Act in the Official Journal.
1 August 2024	AI Act enters into force
2 February 2025	Rules on Prohibited AI systems take effect.

¹² The Commission can amend or add to the list as per Article 7 of the [EU AI Act](#).

¹³ European Commission, '[AI Act](#)', webpage (last accessed 18 June 2026).

¹⁴ GPAI models are defined in Article 3 of the [EU AI Act](#).

¹⁵ Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, '[EU Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Act](#)', webpage (last accessed 18 June 2026).

¹⁶ As per Article 56 of the [EU AI Act](#).

2 May 2025	Codes of Practice for General Purpose AI systems must be drafted at a Union level.
2 August 2025	Rules on General Purpose AI systems take effect. Chapter XII penalty provisions apply, except Article 101/
2 August 2026	Ban on AI systems that generate non-consensual sexual and intimate content or child sexual abuse material takes effect.¹⁷
2 December 2027¹⁸	Rules on Annex III High Risk systems and establishment of regulatory sandboxes take effect.
2 August 2028¹⁹	Rules on Annex I High Risk AI systems take effect.

Source: Compiled by the Library & Research Service from the EU AI Act²⁰ and [Adopted Plenary Text on Simplification of the implementation of harmonised rules on artificial intelligence](#) (Digital Omnibus on AI)

Digital Omnibus on AI

On 19 November 2025, the European Commission adopted a proposal called ‘[the Digital Omnibus](#)’ which comprises of two digital omnibus proposals – one covering data, cybersecurity and privacy rules and the other targeting amendments to the AI Act (the ‘Digital Omnibus on

¹⁷ Such AI systems often termed ‘nudifier apps’ will be added to the list of prohibited AI practices as part of the Digital Omnibus on AI. See European Parliament, ‘[AI Act: EP approves simplification measures and “nudifier” app ban](#)’, *Press Release*, 16 June 2026.

¹⁸ Extended from 2 August 2027 by amendments as part of the Digital Omnibus on AI. See European Parliament, ‘[AI Act: EP approves simplification measures and “nudifier” app ban](#)’, *Press Release*, 16 June 2026.

¹⁹ Extended to 2 August 2027 by amendments as part of the Digital Omnibus on AI. See European Parliament, ‘[AI Act: EP approves simplification measures and “nudifier” app ban](#)’, *Press Release*, 16 June 2026.

²⁰ This originally appeared in the L&RS [Spotlight on Artificial Intelligence: Background and overview of the current regulatory landscape in Ireland and the EU](#) (October 2024) and has been updated to reflect recent changes with the Digital Omnibus. These dates reflect the Digital Omnibus text approved by Parliament on 16 June 2026; formal Council adoption and entry into force remained pending at the time of writing.

AI’).²¹ The simplification and codification of legislation is a part of the European Commission’s plan for competitiveness (see [Commission’s priorities for 2024-2029](#) and [Political Guidelines for the Next European Commission 2024-2029](#)). The 2024 report on [The Future of European Competitiveness](#) by Mario Draghi (the former President of the European Central Bank (ECB)) “attributes the competitiveness deficit of the EU in part to administrative burdens and regulatory inconsistencies”²² and the Digital Omnibus attempts to address this.

The EU co-legislators reached a trilogue agreement on the Digital Omnibus on AI on 7 May 2026 with Parliament approving the agreement on 16 June 2026.²³ At the time of writing, formal Council adoption remained outstanding. Some of the key amendments agreed upon, and reflected in the timeline implementation table above, include:

- prohibit AI practices generating non-consensual intimate or sexual content and child sexual abuse material
- set fixed deadlines for the delayed application of high-risk AI rules - 2 December 2027 for stand-alone high-risk AI systems, and 2 August 2028 for high-risk AI systems embedded in products.
- obligation to mark AI-generated content was delayed to 2 December 2026 for systems on the market before 2 August 2026.
- remove AI enabled machinery products from the direct applicability of the AI Act’s high-risk regime.²⁴

National actions to give further effect to AI Act in Ireland

As the EU AI Act is a regulation, it is directly applicable.²⁵ However, Member States are required under this Regulation to:

²¹ European Commission, ‘[An agile Digital Rulebook for the EU](#)’, webpage, (last accessed 19 June 2026).

²² European Commission, ‘[An agile Digital Rulebook for the EU](#)’, webpage, (last accessed 19 June 2026).

²³ Maria Niestadt, ‘[Digital Omnibus on AI](#)’, European Parliamentary Research Service, June 2026, at p.7-8.

²⁴ Maria Niestadt, ‘[Digital Omnibus on AI](#)’, European Parliamentary Research Service, June 2026, at p.7.

²⁵ Regulations are directly applicable per [Article 288](#) of the Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union [2021] OJ C326/47.

- establish or designate as **national competent authorities** at least one notifying authority and at least one market surveillance authority (MSA) for the purposes of the EU AI Act by 2 August 2025 (see Box 2 below).²⁶ Member States are required to ensure that these competent authorities have “adequate technical, financial and human resources” as well as infrastructure to enable these authorities to complete effectively their tasks under the EU AI Act.²⁷
- establish or designate **at least one notifying authority** responsible for establishing and undertaking the necessary procedures for the assessment, designation and notification of conformity assessment bodies and for the monitoring of these conformity assessment bodies (see Box 2 below).²⁸
- designate a MSA to act as the **single point of contact** for the EU AI Act.²⁹
- ensure that their competent authorities establish at least one **AI regulatory sandbox** at national level, which is required to be operational by 2 August 2026.³⁰ An AI regulatory sandbox established under Article 57 will offer a “controlled environment” for developing, training, testing and validating AI systems before they are placed on the market or put into service. These sandboxes may include supervised real world testing conditions.³¹

²⁶ Article 70(1) of the [EU AI Act](#). Under Article 70(2), Member States are required to inform the European Commission of the identity of the notifying authorities and the market surveillance authorities and their roles. Member States are also required to make publicly available information on how competent authorities and single points of contact can be contacted electronically by 2 August 2025. See European Commission, ‘[Market Surveillance Authorities under the AI Act](#)’, 26 September 2025 (last accessed 17 June 2026).

²⁷ Article 70(3) of the [EU AI Act](#).

²⁸ Article 28 of the [EU AI Act](#).

²⁹ Article 70(2) of the [EU AI Act](#).

³⁰ Article 57 of the [EU AI Act](#).

³¹ Article 57(5) of the [EU AI Act](#). Article 3 defines an ‘AI regulatory sandbox’ as a “controlled framework set up by a competent authority which offers providers or prospective providers of AI systems the possibility to develop, train, validate and test, where appropriate in real-world conditions, an innovative AI system, pursuant to a sandbox plan for a limited time under regulatory supervision”.

- identify the **fundamental rights protection public authorities** or bodies which are responsible for supervising or enforcing the respect of obligations under EU law protecting fundamental rights, including the right to non-discrimination, in relation to the use of high-risk AI systems referred to in Annex III.³² Member States are required to identify these fundamental rights protection public bodies by 2 November 2024.³³ These authorities are provided with certain powers under the EU AI Act to ensure that they can “fulfil their mandate if there are fundamental rights violations caused by AI systems”.³⁴
- lay down **rules on penalties and other enforcement measures**, which may include warnings and non-financial measures, that are applicable to infringements of the EU AI Act by operators and to notify the European Commission of these rules and enforcement measures by 2 August 2025.³⁵ Chapter XII sets out maximum applicable penalties under the EU AI Act and will be explored later in this paper.

BOX 2: National competent authorities, market surveillance authorities and notifying authorities under the EU AI Act

As set out above, Member States are required to establish or designate **national competent authorities**. National competent authorities fall into two types:

- **Market surveillance authorities**, which are responsible for supervising and enforcing compliance with the “rules for AI systems, including prohibitions and rules for high-risk AI” and
- **Notifying authorities** which are responsible for assessing, designating and supervising notified bodies. Notified bodies are independent conformity assessment bodies that are notified under the EU AI Act and are responsible for undertaking pre-market conformity assessments for high-risk AI.

Source: Library and Research Service based on [EU AI Act](#) and European Commission (2026) [Governance and enforcement of the AI Act](#).

With regards to the Irish context, in May 2024, the then Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment opened a [public consultation](#) on the implementation of the EU AI Act in Ireland.

³² Article 77 of the [EU AI Act](#).

³³ Article 77(2) of the [EU AI Act](#).

³⁴ Per European Commission, ‘[Fundamental rights protection authorities with special powers under the AI Act](#)’, 25 July 2025 (last accessed 17 June 2026) and Article 77 of the [EU AI Act](#). For example, in relation to the use of high-risk AI systems set out in Annex III of the EU AI Act, Article 77(1) provides that these fundamental rights protection authorities shall have the “... power to request and access any documentation created or maintained under this Regulation in accessible language and format when access to that documentation is necessary for effectively fulfilling their mandates within the limits of their jurisdiction”.

³⁵ Article 99 of the [EU AI Act](#).

This consultation sought to inform the approach taken in Ireland to implementation “specifically in relation to the configuration of national competent authorities required for implementation”.³⁶ A [summary report](#) of the submissions received as well as a [consolidation](#) of the submissions received were published following this consultation.

On 4 March 2025, the Irish Government approved a recommendation from the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment (“the Minister”) that a “distributed model of implementation” to the EU AI Act would be taken in Ireland.³⁷ Using this model, the Government proposed to avail of the knowledge and expertise of existing sectoral regulators.³⁸ In a March 2025 [press release](#), eight public bodies to be designated as competent authorities were named including, but not limited to, the Central Bank of Ireland, Commission for Communications Regulation, and the Commission for Railway Regulation.³⁹ It was noted that additional competent authorities and a lead regulator responsible for coordinating enforcement would be designated by another Government decision.⁴⁰

The [European Union \(Artificial Intelligence\) \(Designation\) Regulations 2025, S.I. 2025/366](#) (‘2025 Regulations’), which were published in *Iris Oifigiúil* on 29 July 2025, provide for the designation of national competent authorities, market surveillance authorities, notifying authorities and the single point of contact for the purposes of the EU AI Act.

Under these regulations, the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, the Minister for Transport, the Health Products Regulatory Authority and the Commission for Communications Regulation are designated as notifying bodies for the purposes of Article 28 of the EU AI Act. Each of these notifying bodies have a specific remit in respect of different points set out in

³⁶ Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, ‘[Public Consultation on National Implementation of EU Harmonised Rules on Artificial Intelligence \(AI Act\)](#)’, 21 May 2024 (last accessed 17 June 2026).

³⁷ Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, ‘[Ministers Burke and Smyth welcome government approval of roadmap for implementing the EU Artificial Intelligence Act](#)’, *Press Release*, 5 March 2025 (last accessed 17 June 2026).

³⁸ Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, ‘[Ministers Burke and Smyth welcome government approval of roadmap for implementing the EU Artificial Intelligence Act](#)’, *Press Release*, 5 March 2025 (last accessed 17 June 2026).

³⁹ The eight public bodies to be designated as competent authorities per this [press release](#) were named as follows: Central Bank of Ireland, Commission for Communications Regulation, the Commission for Railway Regulation, Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, Data Protection Commission, Health and Safety Authority, Health Products Regulatory Authority, and the Marine Survey Office of the Department of Transport

⁴⁰ Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, ‘[Ministers Burke and Smyth welcome government approval of roadmap for implementing the EU Artificial Intelligence Act](#)’, *Press Release*, 5 March 2025 (last accessed 17 June 2026).

relation to EU harmonisation legislation in Annex I Section A of the EU AI Act and this remit is set out in regulation 5 of the 2025 Regulations.⁴¹

In addition, the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment is designated as the single point of contact for the purposes of Article 70(2) of the [EU AI Act](#) per regulation 6 of the 2025 Regulations.⁴² A national single point of contact within the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment was established “to streamline coordination between Irish regulators, the European Commission, and stakeholders”.⁴³ However, as will be discussed further below, the Bill proposes to designate the new Office, Oifig IS na hÉireann, as the single point of contact for Ireland and to revoke regulation 6 of the 2025 Regulations.⁴⁴ It is intended that the new Office will “act as the central and co-ordinating authority for the AI act in Ireland”.⁴⁵

The 2025 Regulations also designated the following market surveillance authorities as national competent authorities for the purposes of Article 70(1) of the EU AI Act:

- Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment
- Health and Safety Authority
- Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
- Marine Survey Office
- Commission for Communications Regulation
- Commission for Railway Regulation
- Health Products Regulatory Authority⁴⁶

The Central Bank of Ireland and the Data Protection Commission are designated as market surveillance authorities for the purposes of Article 74(6) and Article 74(8) of the [EU AI Act](#) respectively.⁴⁷

In July 2025, the Government agreed to designate an additional five market surveillance authorities. Per the [General Scheme of the Regulation of the Artificial Intelligence Bill](#), these additional five market surveillance authorities are being designated by an amendment to the

⁴¹ [European Union \(Artificial Intelligence\) \(Designation\) Regulations 2025, S.I. 2025/366](#), regulation 5.

⁴² [European Union \(Artificial Intelligence\) \(Designation\) Regulations 2025, S.I. 2025/366](#), regulation 6.

⁴³ Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, ‘Ireland leads the way in EU AI regulation’, 16 September 2025 (last accessed 18 June 2026).

⁴⁴ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 42.

⁴⁵ Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, ‘Ireland leads the way in EU AI regulation’, 16 September 2025 (last accessed 18 June 2026).

⁴⁶ [European Union \(Artificial Intelligence\) \(Designation\) Regulations 2025, S.I. 2025/366](#), regulation 3 and Schedule.

⁴⁷ [European Union \(Artificial Intelligence\) \(Designation\) Regulations 2025, S.I. 2025/366](#), regulation 4.

2025 regulations.⁴⁸ According to the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, as of 16 September 2025, the competent authorities designated for the purposes of the EU AI Act are as follows:

- Central Bank of Ireland
- Coimisiún na Meán
- Commission for Communications Regulation
- Commission for Railway Regulation
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities
- Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
- Data Protection Commission
- Health and Safety Authority
- Health Products Regulatory Authority
- Health Services Executive
- Marine Survey Office of the Department of Transport
- Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment
- Minister for Transport
- National Transport Authority
- Workplace Relations Commission⁴⁹

Additionally, per the European Commission [website](#), the following fundamental rights protection authorities with special powers under the AI Act have been identified with regards to Ireland:

- An Coimisiún Toghcháin
- Coimisiún na Meán
- Data Protection Commission
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman
- Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
- Ombudsman

⁴⁸ See the Explanatory Note to Head 38 of the [General Scheme of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026](#).

⁴⁹ Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, 'Ireland leads the way in EU AI regulation', 16 September 2025 (last accessed 18 June 2026).

- Ombudsman for Children
- Office of the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces.⁵⁰

Section 53 of the Bill, which seeks to define “relevant fundamental rights public body”, lists these bodies as the relevant fundamental rights public bodies for the purposes of Part 4 of the Bill, along with other such bodies as may be prescribed by the Minister.

While the intention was to include information on comparative AI governance structures in other Member States, due to time constraints, this was not possible in the detail planned. In considering the above, however, it may be noted that Spain is the first EU member state to have set up a dedicated AI supervision agency - the [Spanish Agency for the Supervision of Artificial Intelligence \(AESIA\)](#). As noted on AESIA’s website:

*it acts as the relevant Market Surveillance Authority; also as a single point of contact with Europe working in coordination with the European Union AI Office; and has also entrusted tasks in support of innovation, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, including start-ups.*⁵¹

Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA)

At the time of writing, a Regulatory Impact Analysis for the Bill does not appear to be publicly available. However, the then Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment published an [SME Test](#) for the EU AI Act in February 2025. In this SME Test, it was noted that the EU AI Act is a regulation and as such, the requirements placed on regulated entities, including SMEs are set under EU law. In relation to the national approach to giving full effect to the EU AI Act, the Department stated as follows:

*... national implementing legislation will be technical, necessary to give full effect to the supervision and enforcement provisions of the Regulation. National legislation will neither add to, nor alter, the obligations placed on the regulated entities by the Regulation.*⁵²

⁵⁰ European Commission, ‘[Fundamental rights protection authorities with special powers under the AI Act](#)’, 25 July 2025 (last accessed 18 June 2026).

⁵¹ AESIA, ‘[AESIA launches its new official website](#)’, *Press release*, 3 February 2025. France also announced on 31 January 2025, the creation of the National Institute for the Evaluation and Security of Artificial Intelligence (INESIA) which without creating a new legal structure, brings together the national players in assessment and safety of AI – see [The Government announces the creation of the National Institute for the Evaluation and Security of Artificial Intelligence \(INESIA\) – Press – Ministry of Finance](#). In Estonia, Eesti.ai is an initiative led by a specific team at the Estonian Government Office, together with the Eesti.ai Advisory Board of entrepreneurs and experts and a cross-ministerial working group – see [Eesti.ai initiative | Riigikantselei](#).

⁵² Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence \(Artificial Intelligence Act\): SME Test](#), February 2025 (last accessed 19 June 2026).

Legislative proposal

The Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026 ('the Bill') contains 10 Parts and 139 Sections, with 4 Schedules. As noted in the introduction, the Bill aims to give full effect to the [EU AI Act](#) and proposes amendments for this purpose to the [Central Bank Act 1942](#), [Communications Regulation Act 2002](#), [Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2014](#), and [Freedom of Information Act 2014](#). This section of the Bill Digest examines the principal provisions of the Bill. Due to the length of the Bill and the time available to prepare this Bill Digest, this section does not provide a comprehensive analysis of every provision of the Bill.

Principal provisions of the Bill

Part 1 Preliminary and General

Part 1 contains five sections.

Section 1 contains standard provisions for the short title and commencement of the Bill, providing that the Bill if enacted will come into operation via Ministerial order or orders.

Section 2 sets out definitions for the purposes of the Bill.

The 'Minister' for the purposes of this Bill refers to the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment. This can be distinguished from the term 'relevant Minister' which refers to the Minister under whose remit the 'relevant market surveillance authority' falls.

A 'relevant market surveillance authority' refers to an authority that is designated as a market surveillance authority in the State via the [European Union \(Artificial Intelligence\) \(Designation\) Regulations 2025, S.I. 2025/366](#).

Similarly, a 'relevant competent authority' refers to an authority that is designated as a competent authority in the State via the [European Union \(Artificial Intelligence\) \(Designation\) Regulations 2025, S.I. 2025/366](#).

Section 3 provides the Minister with the power to make regulations for any matter referred to in the Bill. Regulations made under this Bill would be required to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas and may be annulled within twenty-one sitting days after the regulation is laid by resolution passed in either House.

Section 4 relates to the service of documents, including by electronic means whilst **Section 5** provides for the payment of Ministerial expenses incurred under this Bill from moneys provided by the Oireachtas, subject to sanction by the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation.

Part 2 Oifig IS na hÉireann

This Part contains five chapters.

Chapter 1 (**sections 6 to 11**) seeks to provide for the establishment of Oifig IS na hÉireann, which is also referred to as the ‘Office’. The Bill proposes that the Office will be established by ministerial order and will be a body corporate.⁵³ As noted earlier in this Digest, the Office is intended to be “Ireland’s central coordinating authority for the implementation of the AI Act”.⁵⁴ The establishment of a national AI office is not specifically required by the [EU AI Act](#) and instead follows a Government decision to pursue a “a distributed model of competent authorities for the EU AI Act, with a designated central authority to provide coordination and a number of centralised functions”.⁵⁵

Section 9 of the Bill sets out the functions of the Office, which are proposed to include, but not be limited to:

- coordination of the activities of relevant competent authorities in Ireland in order to foster “consistent implementation and supervision” of the EU AI Act,
- aiding co-operation and information sharing between these relevant competent authorities in Ireland and supporting joint investigation and enforcement activities by these authorities,
- promoting and fostering AI innovation and literacy,
- increasing public awareness regarding the use of AI systems and the rights and obligations under the EU AI Act,
- facilitating competent authorities in Ireland in accessing “technical, legal and regulatory expertise in the field of AI”,
- providing advice to the Minister on any matter related to the Office’s functions, and
- carrying out additional functions that may be conferred on the Office by an order by the Minister under section 10.

Under Article 70(3) of the [EU AI Act](#), Member States are required to ensure that their national competent authorities have adequate resources, including technical resources, and these authorities are required to have “... a sufficient number of personnel permanently available whose competences and expertise shall include an in-depth understanding of AI technologies, data and data computing, personal data protection, cybersecurity, fundamental rights, health and safety risks and knowledge of existing standards and legal requirements”. The function of the Office to facilitate access to expertise may be intended to satisfy this requirement.

Section 9(2) of the Bill sets out the matters that the Office would be required to have regard to when undertaking its functions. These are:

⁵³ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 7 and 8.

⁵⁴ Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, ‘[Publication of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026](#)’, 17 June 2026 (last accessed 18 June 2026).

⁵⁵ Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, ‘[Ireland leads the way in EU AI regulation](#)’, 16 September 2025 (last accessed 18 June 2026).

- the aim of adopting a “coherent, harmonised and effective approach” to implementing the EU AI Act,
- the necessity to ensure that the governance and implementation of the EU AI Act is “consistent and effective”, and
- the “policies and objectives of the Government and any Minister of the Government insofar as the policies and objectives may affect or relate to the functions of the Office”.

Under Section 9(5), it is proposed that, subject to the Bill, the Office will be “independent in the performance of its functions”. Notwithstanding this, related to matters outlined above, under section 11 of the Bill the Minister may give a direction to the Office in writing to require the Office to “comply with such policies of the Government relating to AI, insofar as those policies are relevant to the performance of those functions, as are specified in the direction”. The Minister shall not give a direction in respect of any of the provisions in Part 6 (Adjudication and Administrative Fines) and the functions captured under these directions would not include the functions of the Office in coordinating activities of relevant competent authorities, aiding co-operation and information sharing between these relevant competent authorities, or facilitating competent authorities in Ireland in accessing expertise.⁵⁶ A copy of such a direction would be required to be laid before each House of the Oireachtas, and the Office would be required to comply with this written direction.⁵⁷

Chapter 2 (**sections 12 to 23**) relates to the Board of the Office, including the Board’s establishment and membership, the terms of appointment of members, resignation of members, removal of a member of the Board, and the committees of the Board.

Section 12 proposes that the Board will have seven members, including a chairperson. The first chairperson and first ordinary members shall be designated by the Minister and where they are designated by the Minister before this section comes into operation, these members shall stand as appointed on the coming into operation of this section. The chairperson and members that are to be appointed by the Minister after those first designated shall be appointed following recommendations from the Public Appointments Service under section 13.

The terms of appointment for the chairperson and members of the Board are proposed in section 14. Varying terms of appointment are set out in relation to the first ordinary members appointed by the Minister, thereby staggering vacancies arising on the Board. Ordinary members appointed may serve up to two consecutive terms and may not hold office for a

⁵⁶ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 11(4) and (5).

⁵⁷ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 11.

period of more than eight years. Subject to section 17⁵⁸ and section 18⁵⁹, members of the Board shall hold office in accordance with the terms and conditions determined by the Minister with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation.⁶⁰

Members of the board would be able to resign their position by notice in writing to the Minister at any time per section 15 and may be removed by the Minister in accordance with section 19. The grounds for removal include, but are not limited to, the member having, in the view of the Minister, a conflict of interest “of such significance” that the member should no longer hold office. Section 23 seeks to require a member of the Board or a member of a committee of the Board, which is established under section 21,⁶¹ to disclose a material interest to the Board or the committee of the Board where that member or a connected person has a material interest in any matter that is to be considered by the Board or the committee of the Board.⁶² Under this section, the member would be prohibited from being a part of deliberations of the matter and would be required to leave a meeting whilst it is being discussed. This member would also be prohibited from influencing the decision, making recommendations or voting on this matter.⁶³ A member of the Board or a member of a committee of the Board who fails to disclose a

⁵⁸ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 17 precludes a member of either House of the Oireachtas, of the European Parliament or of a local authority from being appointed as a member of the Board or a member of a committee of the Board whilst in office. If a member of the Board or a member of a committee of the Board is appointed to the Houses of the Oireachtas, European Parliament or local authority, he or she is required to cease their position as member of the Board or committee of the Board. Similar restrictions apply to the appointment of the CEO of the Office under section 31.

⁵⁹ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 18 sets out the grounds upon which a person is ineligible to be appointed as a member of the Board and the grounds upon which a person appointed shall cease to be a member.

⁶⁰ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 14(6).

⁶¹ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 21 provides that the Board may establish committees that are made up in whole or part of members of the board or members of staff of the office or members who are not such members. The role of the committee of the Board is to “assist and advise it in relation to the performance of any of the functions of the Office”.

⁶² Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 23(8) states that the meaning of ‘connected person’ and ‘material interest’ in this section is to have the same meaning as set out in section 2 of the *Ethics in Public Office Act 1995*.

⁶³ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 23(2). Per section 23(4), a failure to disclose a material interest would not invalidate a contract entered into by the Board or committee of the Board or decision of the Board or of the committee of the Board. The decision of the Board or committee will be considered as always being valid if the decision is confirmed by the Board or committee without the member who failed to disclose the material interest present.

material interest may be subject to an action under this section, which may include removal from the Board or committee.⁶⁴

Chapter 3 (**sections 24 to 33**) relates to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Office including the appointment of the CEO, the functions of the CEO and the accountability of the CEO to the Committee on Public Accounts and other Houses of the Oireachtas Committees.

Section 24 seeks to provide for the appointment of the CEO of the Office by the Board, with the consent of the Minister. The first CEO may be designated by the Minister before the establishment day. The term of appointment of the CEO shall not exceed five years and the CEO would be eligible for reappointment but may not hold office for an aggregate period that is more than ten years.⁶⁵ The proposed functions of the CEO are set out in section 25 and this section specifies that the CEO shall be accountable to the Board for the “efficient and effective management of the Office and for the due performance of his or her functions” and would be required to provide the Board with such information as the Board would require in relation to the performance of his or her functions.⁶⁶ As the CEO is proposed to be appointed by the Board, with ministerial consent, resignation by the CEO would involve notice in writing to both the Board and the Minister.⁶⁷ The Board may remove the CEO from office in accordance with section 28. In considering whether to remove the CEO from office, the Board is required to take into account representations made by the CEO to the Board as well as the view of the Minister and other such matters as the Board considers relevant.⁶⁸

Section 32 seeks to provide for accountability of the CEO of the Office to the Committee of Public Accounts (PAC). Under this section, the CEO shall give evidence to PAC whenever required in writing in relation to:

- transactions recorded or required to be recorded in accounts of the Office that are subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General (‘C&AG’),
- the “economy and efficiency” of the Office in relation to its use of resources,
- the methods and processes used by the Office to evaluate its operational effectiveness, and
- any matter affecting the Office that is referred to in a special report or other report specified in this section that is prepared by the C&AG.

According to the [Explanatory Memorandum](#) to the Bill, this section “reinforces parliamentary oversight of public expenditure and organisational performance”. The “financial

⁶⁴ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 23(6) and (7).

⁶⁵ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 24.

⁶⁶ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 25.

⁶⁷ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 27.

⁶⁸ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 28(4).

accountability” of the Office is provided for under section 39, which seeks to place the accounts of the Office under the auditing remit of the C&AG.⁶⁹

Section 33 seeks to provide that for the requirement for the CEO of the Office to appear in front of an Oireachtas Committee other than the PAC on receipt of a request in writing. The CEO would not be required to provide an account before an Oireachtas Committee on any matter that is subject to proceedings before a court or tribunal in the State and shall inform the Oireachtas Committee of their opinion that this is the case. The CEO may apply to the High Court for a determination regarding his or her appearance before the Oireachtas Committee if the Oireachtas Committee does not withdraw its request. If the High Court determines that this exemption from appearance does not apply, then the CEO will be required to attend the Oireachtas Committee to provide an account on the matter.⁷⁰

Chapter 4 (**sections 34 to 36**) relates to the staff of the Office, the engagement of consultants and advisors by the Office, and the prohibition on the unauthorised disclosure of confidential information.

The Office may, with the approval of the Minister and the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation, appoint as many members of staff as the Office deems appropriate.⁷¹ Under Section 35, the Office may also engage consultants and advisors for time periods determined by the Office. These consultants and advisors would be paid by the Office out of moneys at its disposal whilst taking into account guidelines issued by the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation.⁷²

Chapter 5 (**sections 37 to 40**) relates to the accountability and funding of the Office including the preparation of accounts and the annual report by the Office and the development of a strategy statement every three years.

Part 3 Single Point of Contact, AI Register, Sandboxes, Real World Testing and Data Protection

This Part contains five chapters.

Chapter 1 (**section 41**) is an interpretation section for this Part and sets out that the meaning of the terms “AI Register” and “sandbox” as being in accordance with sections 43 and 46 respectively of the Bill.

⁶⁹ See the [Explanatory Memorandum](#) to the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026.

⁷⁰ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 33.

⁷¹ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 34.

⁷² Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 35.

Chapter 2 (**sections 42 to 45**) relates to the designation of the single point of contact for Ireland and the establishment of an AI register. As noted earlier in this Digest, the Bill proposes to designate the Office as the single point of contact for the purposes of Article 70(2) of the [EU AI Act](#). Section 42 also seeks to revoke regulation 6 of 2025 Regulations, which currently designate the Minister as the single point of contact.⁷³

Section 43 seeks to require the Office to establish an AI register which shall contain details regarding:

- all incidences of prohibited AI practices in the State under Article 5 of the [EU AI Act](#);⁷⁴
- all serious incidents of high-risk AI systems in the State, which are reported by providers of high-risk AI systems in accordance with Article 73 of the [EU AI Act](#);⁷⁵
- high-risk AI systems referred to in point 2 of Annex III in accordance with Article 49(5) of the [EU AI Act](#). These are high-risk AI Systems in the area of critical infrastructure that are required to be registered at a national level;⁷⁶
- any other AI-related incidents or notifications in the State that are required to be reported under the [EU AI Act](#).

The Office would be required under section 43 of the Bill to keep this register secure, in an accessible format and updated regularly. According to the [General Scheme of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill](#), this register “will serve as a centralised repository of compliance and enforcement data, supporting transparency, coordination, and oversight”.⁷⁷

Section 44 seeks to allow the Office to cooperate with and enter co-operation agreements with a body established outside of the State if the body performs similar functions as the Office. The co-operation is in the interests of the Office in discharging its functions, including its functions as single point of contact, effectively. This co-operation may be with a body that is designated as a national competent authority in another Member State under Article 70 of the [EU AI Act](#).

⁷³ [European Union \(Artificial Intelligence\) \(Designation\) Regulations 2025, S.I. 2025/366](#), regulation 6.

⁷⁴ Article 5 of the [EU AI Act](#) prohibits eight practices including social scoring, emotion recognition in workplaces and education institutions, and using AI systems to make risk assessments of persons to predict their risk of committing a criminal offence.

⁷⁵ Article 73 of the [EU AI Act](#) requires providers of high-risk AI systems that are placed on the EU market to report any serious incident to the market surveillance authorities of the Member State where the incident occurs.

⁷⁶ Article 49(5) of the [EU AI Act](#) requires high-risk AI systems referred to in point 2 of Annex III to be registered at national level. Point 2 of Annex III states “Critical infrastructure: AI systems intended to be used as safety components in the management and operation of critical digital infrastructure, road traffic, or in the supply of water, gas, heating or electricity”.

⁷⁷ See the explanatory note to Head 37 of the [General Scheme of Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2025](#).

The Office may provide the Minister with a copy of the agreement and may publish the agreement on its website, subject to consent and agreed redactions.⁷⁸

Section 45 seeks to provide for the establishing of a co-operation forum to allow for “co-operation, coordination and information exchange” between competent authorities in the State that are responsible for the supervision and enforcement of the EU AI Act.

Chapter 3 (**sections 46 to 47**) relates to the establishment and usage of an AI regulatory sandbox. Under Article 57 of the [EU AI Act](#), Member States are required to ensure that their competent authorities establish at least one AI regulatory sandbox at national level and this sandbox is required to be operational by 2 August 2026. An AI regulatory sandbox, as noted earlier in the Digest, offers a “controlled environment” for developing, training, testing and validating AI systems before they are placed on the market or put into service.⁷⁹

Section 46 of the Bill seeks to provide for the establishment of one or more AI regulatory sandboxes by the Office. The Minister, following consultation with each relevant Minister, may make regulations to provide the establishment of a sandbox. These regulations may include provisions relating to, but not limited to, setting conditions and criteria for the assessment and selection of applicants to use the sandbox and regarding the monitoring and coordination of activities within the sandbox.⁸⁰ In the [General Scheme of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill](#), the development of regulations by the Minister was not included in Head 35. Rather, the Office was proposed to have discretion under this Head in relation to the issuing of guidelines and procedures for the operation of a national AI regulatory sandbox and the Office could provide SMEs, including start-ups, with “priority access to the AI regulatory sandboxes” where they fulfil the relevant eligibility conditions and selection criteria. Such priority access for SMEs is required under Article 62(1)(a) of the [EU AI Act](#). However, this provision is not reflected in section 46 of the Bill.

In considering section 46, it should be noted that under Article 58 of the [EU AI Act](#), the European Commission is required to adopt implementing acts to specify the “detailed arrangements for the establishment, development, implementation, operation and supervision of the AI regulatory sandboxes”. These implementing acts are intended to “avoid

⁷⁸ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 44(3).

⁷⁹ Article 57(5) of the [EU AI Act](#). Article 3 defines an ‘AI regulatory sandbox’ as a “controlled framework set up by a competent authority which offers providers or prospective providers of AI systems the possibility to develop, train, validate and test, where appropriate in real-world conditions, an innovative AI system, pursuant to a sandbox plan for a limited time under regulatory supervision”.

⁸⁰ Where the AI regulatory sandbox involves testing in real world conditions, national competent authorities are required under Article 58(4) of the [EU AI Act](#) to “specifically agree the terms and conditions of such testing and, in particular, the appropriate safeguards with the participants, with a view to protecting fundamental rights, health and safety”. In addition, where appropriate, national competent authorities are required under this provision to cooperate with other national competent authorities with a view to ensuring consistent practices across the Union.

fragmentation” across the EU.⁸¹ As of the 14 December 2025, a Draft Implementing Act on the establishment, development, implementation, operation and supervision of AI regulatory sandboxes has been prepared by the Comitology Committee responsible for the implementing acts under the EU AI Act.⁸²

Section 47 provides that personal data that is lawfully collected for other purposes may be processed for the sole purpose of developing, training and testing certain AI systems in a sandbox in accordance with Article 59 of the [EU AI Act](#).⁸³ If a sandbox involves the processing of personal data or falls within the supervisory remit of the Data Protection Commission (DPC), then under section 47 the Office would be required to ensure, in accordance with Article 57(10) of the [EU AI Act](#), that the DPC is linked with the operation of the sandbox and involved in the supervision of aspects of the sandbox relevant to data protection.⁸⁴

Chapter 4 (**sections 48 to 50**) relates to real world testing of AI.

Under Article 60 of the [EU AI Act](#), providers or prospective providers of high-risk AI systems listed in [Annex III](#) may test their high-risk AI systems in real world conditions outside of AI regulatory sandboxes in accordance with the conditions set out in this Article. Providers are required to submit a testing plan to market surveillance authorities in the Member State where the real-world testing is to be conducted to seek approval. The testing period under this Article is limited to six months, which may be extended once, and the subjects of the testing should be appropriately safeguarded if they are persons who belong to vulnerable groups due to their age or disability.

Section 48 of the Bill seeks to permit providers or prospective providers to apply to a relevant market surveillance authority to conduct testing of high-risk AI systems in real world

⁸¹ Article 58(1) of the [EU AI Act](#).

⁸² The relevant committee is the Artificial Intelligence Committee (C129100) under DG CNECT of the European Commission. See European Commission, ‘[Draft Implementing Act on the establishment, development, implementation, operation and supervision of AI regulatory sandboxes](#)’, D111933/01, 14 December 2025 (last accessed 19 June 2026).

⁸³ Article 59 of the [EU AI Act](#) sets out the conditions that are required to be satisfied to permit the use of personal data collected for other purposes for the purposes of developing, training and test certain AI systems in a sandbox. These conditions include, but are not limited to, that the AI systems are being developed to safeguard “substantial public interest by a public authority or another natural or legal person” in areas such as public health and public safety and the safety and resilience of transport systems and mobility.

⁸⁴ Article 57(10) of the [EU AI Act](#) states “National competent authorities shall ensure that, to the extent the innovative AI systems involve the processing of personal data or otherwise fall under the supervisory remit of other national authorities or competent authorities providing or supporting access to data, the national data protection authorities and those other national or competent authorities are associated with the operation of the AI regulatory sandbox and involved in the supervision of those aspects to the extent of their respective tasks and powers”.

conditions in accordance with Article 60. The relevant MSA will determine the form and manner of application and can permit or refuse to permit the application to conduct testing of the high-risk AI system in real world conditions.⁸⁵

Under Article 76 of the [EU AI Act](#), MSAs shall have the competences and powers to ensure that testing in real world conditions is in accordance with the EU AI Act. Article 76(3) provides that where a MSA is informed by the prospective provider, the provider or any third party of a serious incident or has other grounds for considering that the conditions set out in Articles 60 and 61 are not met, it can suspend or terminate testing in real world conditions or require the provider or prospective provider and deployer or prospective deployer to modify any aspect of the testing in real world conditions.

Section 49 of the Bill seeks to provide for a ‘proposal’ procedure, whereby a relevant MSA would be required to notify the provider or prospective provider in writing where the relevant market surveillance authority proposes, in accordance with Article 76(3), to “suspend, terminate or require the modification of any aspect of testing permitted under section 48”. The provider or prospective provider may make representations to the relevant MSA within fourteen working days and on receiving representations, the relevant market surveillance authority would decide whether or not to proceed with the proposal.⁸⁶

Section 50 of the Bill proposes a procedure whereby a provider or prospective provider may, within fourteen working days, request a review in writing of:

- a refusal by the relevant market surveillance authority of an application for real-world testing under section 48(4)(b) or
- the decision of the relevant market surveillance authority to proceed with the proposal to suspend, terminate or require the modification of any aspect of testing under section 49(4)(b).

On receipt of a review request, the relevant MSA would be required to appoint an independent reviewer to carry out the review and this reviewer may recommend that the refusal or decision should be affirmed or should be reconsidered by the relevant MSA.⁸⁷

Chapter 5 (**sections 51 to 52**) relates to data protection, including the processing of personal data and special categories of personal data by the Office and the power of the Minister to make regulations concerning data protection after consultation with the Office.

⁸⁵ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 48.

⁸⁶ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 49(4) provides that if no representations are received, the proposal of the relevant market authority shall come into effect fourteen working days from the date that notice is given to the provider or prospective provider.

⁸⁷ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 50.

Part 4 Relevant Market Surveillance Authorities and Relevant Competent Authorities

This Part contains four chapters.

Chapter 1 (**section 53**) is an interpretation section for this Part. As noted earlier in the Digest, section 53 proposes to define “relevant fundamental rights public body” and sets out a list of the relevant fundamental rights bodies. This list is set out earlier in this Digest.

Chapter 2 (**sections 54 to 62**) relates to the general obligations of MSAs, including in relation to derogations from conformity assessments and the reporting of serious incidents.

Section 54 seeks to prohibit the contravention of Article 78 of the [EU AI Act](#) by a relevant MSA, a member of staff of a relevant MSA, a person working under the supervision of a relevant MSA or any other person involved in the application of the EU AI Act. Article 78 requires the European Commission, market surveillance authorities and notified bodies and any other natural or legal person involved in the application of the EU AI Act to respect the confidentiality of information and data obtained in carrying out their tasks and activities.⁸⁸ Section 54 of the Bill seeks to make it an offence if a person contravenes this section without a reasonable excuse.

Sections 55 and 56 of the Bill relate to the derogation from the conformity assessment under the EU AI Act. The conformity assessment under the EU AI Act is a “legal obligation, which must be fulfilled before a high-risk AI system is placed on the market”.⁸⁹ The aim of this assessment is to promote the accountability of AI providers.⁹⁰ The procedure for the conformity assessment is set out in Article 43, whilst Article 46 of the [EU AI Act](#) provides for a derogation from Article 43. Article 46(1) and (2) provides:

⁸⁸ Per Article 78(1) of the [EU AI Act](#).

⁸⁹ Eva Thelisson and Himanshu Verma, ‘Conformity assessment under the EU AI act general approach’, *AI and Ethics*, 2024, 4, pp.113-121. Article 3(20) defines a ‘conformity assessment’ as the “process of demonstrating whether the requirements set out in Chapter III, Section 2 relating to a high-risk AI system have been fulfilled”.

⁹⁰ Eva Thelisson and Himanshu Verma, ‘Conformity assessment under the EU AI act general approach’, *AI and Ethics*, 2024, 4, pp.113-121.

By way of derogation from Article 43 and upon a duly justified request, any market surveillance authority may authorise the placing on the market or the putting into service of specific high-risk AI systems within the territory of the Member State concerned, for exceptional reasons of public security or the protection of life and health of persons, environmental protection or the protection of key industrial and infrastructural assets. That authorisation shall be for a limited period while the necessary conformity assessment procedures are being carried out, taking into account the exceptional reasons justifying the derogation. The completion of those procedures shall be undertaken without undue delay.

In a duly justified situation of urgency for exceptional reasons of public security or in the case of specific, substantial and imminent threat to the life or physical safety of natural persons, law-enforcement authorities or civil protection authorities may put a specific high-risk AI system into service without the authorisation referred to in paragraph 1, provided that such authorisation is requested during or after the use without undue delay. If the authorisation referred to in paragraph 1 is refused, the use of the high-risk AI system shall be stopped with immediate effect and all the results and outputs of such use shall be immediately discarded.⁹¹

Section 55 of the Bill provides for this derogation in relation to placement onto the Irish market or the putting into service of specific high-risk AI systems in the State following receipt by a relevant MSA of a duly justified request. The relevant MSA may refuse an authorisation under Article 46 and would be required to notify the applicant in writing who may make representations under section 56.⁹² Where the relevant MSA grants an authorisation, it would be required under section 55 to notify the Office and, in accordance with Article 46(3) of the [EU AI Act](#), to inform the European Commission and other Member States that an authorisation was issued.⁹³

Article 46(4) of the [EU AI Act](#) provides that if no objections are raised by a Member State or the European Commission against an authorisation being issued with fifteen calendar days of being informed, the authorisation shall be deemed justified. However, if an objection is raised within the fifteen calendar days by another Member State or the European Commission considers the authorisation is contrary to EU law or that the conclusion of the Member State regarding compliance of the system is unfounded, under Article 46(5) the European Commission shall enter into consultations with the relevant Member State without delay. Where such consultations are entered, the relevant MSA in Ireland would be required under section 55(4) of the Bill to notify the operators concerned without delay.

⁹¹ Article 46(1) and (2) of the [EU AI Act](#).

⁹² Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, sections 55 and 56.

⁹³ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 50(3).

Under Article 46(5) of the [EU AI Act](#), these operators are required to be consulted and to have the opportunity to present their views. Having regard to these views, the European Commission shall then decide whether the authorisation is justified. Under Article 46(6), if the European Commission determines that an authorisation is unjustified then it is required to be withdrawn by the MSA of the Member State concerned.

Section 57 of the Bill relates to reporting of serious incidents. It proposes that where a relevant MSA receives a notification related to a serious incident, the relevant MSA shall inform the relevant fundamental rights public bodies in accordance with Article 73(7). Article 73 of the [EU AI Act](#) requires providers of high-risk AI systems that are placed on the EU market to report any serious incident to the MSAs in the Member States where the incident occurred.

Section 57(3) of the Bill seeks to require the Health Products Regulatory Authority to be notified of serious incidents for high-risk AI systems involving medical devices or safety components.⁹⁴

Section 58 of the Bill relates to relevant MSAs seeking access to documentation, training, validation and testing data sets from a provider in accordance with Article 74(12) of the [EU AI Act](#) and reasoned requests by these authorities to seek access to the source code of a high-risk AI system in accordance with Article 74(13). A provider shall be required to provide access where the request is made in accordance with Article 74(12) and when the conditions under 74(13) are fulfilled respectively. Section 58(3) of the Bill proposes to make it an offence if a provider does not provide access when requested under this section.

Section 59 of the Bill relates to requests by fundamental rights public bodies under Article 77(1) to access any documentation created or maintained under the EU AI Act in relation to the use of high-risk AI systems referred to in Annex III of the [EU AI Act](#) when access to this documentation is necessary for effectively fulfilling the mandates of these bodies in Ireland. Section 59(1) seeks to require the fundamental rights public bodies making a request to inform the relevant MSA of that request as soon as is reasonably practicable.

If the documentation provided is insufficient to determine whether or not an infringement of EU law protecting fundamental rights has occurred, the fundamental rights public body may make a reasoned request to the MSA under Article 77(3). Section 59(2) of the Bill seeks to require this reasoned request to be made in a prescribed form and manner and include a “statement of the grounds upon which the relevant fundamental rights public body is of the view that there may be an infringement of obligations under European Union law protecting fundamental rights”. On receipt of the reasoned request, the relevant market authority would then be required to consider the reasoned request and to inform the relevant fundamental rights public body of the actions it proposes to take.⁹⁵

⁹⁴ Per the [Explanatory Memorandum](#) to the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026.

⁹⁵ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 59(3).

Section 60 seeks to require copies of annual reports that are made to the European Commission under Article 74(2) to be provided to the Office and the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission ('CCPC'). Article 74(2) of the [EU AI Act](#) relates to reporting obligations by MSAs under Article 34(4) of [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1020](#), the Market Surveillance Regulation. According to the [Explanatory Memorandum](#) to the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, this section of the Bill "supports central oversight and coordination across the regulatory system and ensures consistency with EU reporting obligations".

Section 61 sets out the procedure for complaints concerning infringements of the EU AI Act to a relevant MSA or the Office in accordance with Article 85.

Chapter 3 (**sections 63 to 64**) provides for the development of co-operation agreements between MSAs and the prohibition on the disclosure of confidential information obtained by competent authorities.

Section 63 seeks to provide for the development of co-operation agreements between MSAs or between a MSA and a prescribed body⁹⁶ for the purposes of facilitating co-operation between them in their performance of their respective functions related to supervision and enforcement.

Section 64 seeks to prohibit the disclosure of confidential information by a member of staff of the competent authority or a consultant or advisor engaged by the relevant competent authority or their staff or another person providing services to the competent authority where the information is obtained whilst performing functions under the Bill or the EU AI Act.

Chapter 4 (**sections 65 to 66**) relates to data protection in relation to relevant competent authorities, including the processing of personal data and special categories of personal data by a relevant competent authority and the power of the Minister to make regulations concerning data protection after consultation with the relevant competent authority.

Part 5 Supervision and Enforcement

Part 5 (sections 67 to 77) of the Bill seeks to provide for the supervision and enforcement powers of MSAs including a variety of orders they can issue. Section 67 provides relevant definitions. Section 68 sets out the procedure for the appointment of authorised officers by MSAs to enforce the Bill, once enacted, and the EU AI Act, including the requirement to have a warrant for their appointment as well as terms of cessation. Section 69 provides for the

⁹⁶ Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, section 63(9)(a) defines a 'prescribed body' as meaning "each of the following: (i) the Office; (ii) a relevant fundamental rights public body; (iii) the Commission for Aviation Regulation; (iv) the Irish National Accreditation Board; (v) An Garda Síochána; (vi) Revenue Commissioners; (vii) a body prescribed by the Minister."

indemnification of authorised officers where they have discharged their duties in good faith and according to terms and conditions determined by the MSA.

Section 70 of the Bill sets out the powers of authorised officers. Such powers include entry (if necessary, by the use of reasonable force), search, inspection, seizure, and access to data systems in relation to relevant AI products or relevant material.⁹⁷ This includes acquiring samples of relevant AI products, under a cover identity to identify non-compliance with the Bill, once enacted, or the EU AI Act (section 70(l)(iii)). Authorised officers must not enter a dwelling without the consent of the occupier, or without consent, with a warrant from the District Court (section 70(3)). Section 70(10) provides that a person will be guilty of an offence where they obstruct or interfere with an authorised officer exercising their powers, or without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with a request or a requirement of an authorised officer. According to section 121 of the Bill, a person found guilty of an offence under section 70(10) would be liable on summary conviction, to a class A fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or both, or on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €250,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years, or both.

Authorised officers may issue a contravention notice⁹⁸ where they reasonably suspect that a person is infringing or has infringed the EU AI Act. The contravention notice must, among other things:

- specify the grounds for the opinion
- specify the provision or provisions to which the contravention notice applies
- outline corrective actions to be taken including remedying the breach, withdrawing, recalling, or destroying the AI product
- include information regarding the making of an appeal
- be signed and dated by the authorised officer.

An appeal to the District Court can be taken no later than fourteen working days from the day following the day on which the notice is served. Failure or refusal to comply with a contravention notice without reasonable excuse will be an offence.

⁹⁷ Section 70(11) of the Bill states that “relevant material” means any information, device, part, component, element, substance or process used in the manufacture, design, development, deployment, importation or distribution of a relevant AI product.

⁹⁸ This section applies to Article 16 (Obligations of providers of high-risk AI systems), Article 23 (Obligations of importers), Article 24 (Obligations of distributors), Article 26 (Obligations of deployers of high-risk AI systems), Article 27(3) (Fundamental rights impact assessment for high-risk AI systems) and Article 50 (Transparency obligations for providers and deployers of certain AI systems) of the EU AI Act.

An authorised officer may issue a prohibition order⁹⁹ where a person has infringed Article 5 of the [EU AI Act](#),¹⁰⁰ or a relevant AI product presents a risk to the health or safety of persons, to fundamental rights, or to other aspects of public interest protection. The prohibition notice, must, among other things:

- specify the relevant provisions of the EU AI Act which the suspected infringement relates to
- direct the restriction, withdrawal, recall, or destruction of the relevant AI product
- signed and dated by the authorised officer

An appeal to the District Court may be taken not later than seven working days from the day on which the prohibition notice is served. The prohibition notice can take immediate effect, and an appeal does not automatically suspend the prohibition notice but the appellant may apply to the District Court to have it suspended until the appeal is disposed of. Failure or refusal to comply with a prohibition notice within the period specified, without reasonable excuse will be an offence. The penalties are set out under section 121 of the Bill and are outlined in the relevant section of the Principal Provisions.

Notwithstanding the contravention and prohibition notices, an authorised officer may seize and destroy or otherwise dispose of any relevant AI product that appears to present a risk, to health, safety, fundamental rights, or public interests.¹⁰¹ The costs of seizure, destruction or disposal may be recovered from the operator or person in control of the product. In this context, ‘dispose’ includes surrender of the relevant AI product to An Garda Síochána or return to the operator of the product to withdraw or recall it. The authorised officer must notify the affected person in writing, including reasons and right of appeal under section 77 of the Bill.

Under section 74 of the Bill, an authorised officer may apply to the District Court for a forfeiture order of a relevant AI product on the grounds that the relevant AI product, when properly stored and used for its intended purpose, endangers the health and safety of persons. It must be disposed of or destroyed in accordance with the directions of the District Court and a product subject to a forfeiture order may be seized by the relevant MSA. An appeal may be taken to the Circuit Court with a further appeal on a point of law to the High Court.

Where an authorised officer considers that there are no other effective means to eliminate a serious risk, they may issue a “notice for removal of content to eliminate serious risk”¹⁰² to the

⁹⁹ Section 72 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹⁰⁰ Article 5 of the [EU AI Act](#) prohibits eight practices including social scoring, emotion recognition in workplaces and education institution, and real-time remote biometric identification for law enforcement purposes in publicly accessible space. They became effective in February 2025. [Guidelines on the prohibited artificial intelligence practices established by the EU AI Act](#) were also published in February 2025.

¹⁰¹ Section 73 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹⁰² Section 75 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

operator of a relevant AI product. This may involve the removal of content from an online interface, an explicit warning when accessing an online interface or restriction to access by information society service providers to the online interface. Compliance must be within the time specified in the notice and as with the other notices there is a right of appeal under section 77 of the Bill.

A relevant MSA can take part in joint activities or joint investigations in accordance with Article 74(11) of the EU AI Act¹⁰³ and assign such authorised officers as it considers necessary to assist in such activities or investigations.¹⁰⁴ Authorised officers may enter premises, with a District Court warrant, using reasonable force where necessary to conduct inspections in a joint investigation. The warrant is issued based on sworn information which must include a statement that the information is being provided in relation to an inspection under Article 74(11) of the [EU AI Act](#) and sufficient information to enable the judge of the District Court to consider the matter.

There is a right of appeal under section 77 of the Bill to the appropriate court, where a person is aggrieved by a measure taken to seize and dispose of unsafe relevant AI products under section 73 or a notice for removal of content to eliminate serious risk under section 75. This appeal must be taken within fourteen working days of notification of infringement under section 73 or 75 of the Bill. The relevant MSA must be notified of the appeal, and the measure or notice remains in force until the appeal is heard. The Court may confirm, vary, or set aside the measure. The appropriate court is chosen in the case of an appeal under section 73 of the Bill depending on the value of the products involved¹⁰⁵ or in any other case, the High Court. Where the appeal relates to a notice under section 75, the High Court will be the appropriate court.

Part 6 Adjudication and Administrative Fines

Part 6 contains nine Chapters.

¹⁰³ Article 74(11) of the EU AI Act provides that MSAs and the Commission must be able to propose joint activities, including joint investigations, to be conducted by MSAs or MSAs jointly with the Commission, that have the aim of promoting compliance, identifying non-compliance, raising awareness or providing guidance with respect to specific categories of high-risk AI systems that are found to present a serious risk across two or more Member States in accordance with Article 9 of [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on market surveillance and compliance of products and amending Directive 2004/42/EC and Regulations \(EC\) No 765/2008 and \(EU\) No 305/2011](#). The AI Office must provide coordination support for joint investigations.

¹⁰⁴ Section 76 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹⁰⁵ The civil jurisdiction of the District Court is where the claim or award does not exceed €15,000, while the Circuit Court is where the claim does not exceed €75,000 and the market value does not exceed €3,000,000 – see [Courts Service of Ireland](#).

Chapter 1 (**section 78**) of Part 6 seeks to provide for several definitions including “adjudication proceedings” to mean “any process, including an oral hearing, by which an adjudicator considers a matter referred to an adjudicator” and “notified person” to mean “a person on whom a notice of suspected non-compliance is served”. It also defines “applicable market surveillance authority” to mean each of the following relevant market surveillance authorities:

- (a) Coimisiún na Meán;
- (b) the Commission for Railway Regulation;
- (c) the Commission for Communications Regulation;
- (d) the Commission for Regulation of Utilities;
- (e) the Data Protection Commission;
- (f) the Health and Safety Authority;
- (g) the Health Products Regulatory Authority;
- (h) the Health Service Executive;
- (i) the Marine Survey Office of the Department of Transport;
- (j) the National Transport Authority;
- (k) the Workplace Relations Commission.¹⁰⁶

Chapter 2 (**sections 79 to 86**) of the Bill seeks to provide for the preliminary procedure before referral for adjudication. This includes requiring an authorised officer to issue a notice of suspected non-compliance to formally initiate enforcement proceedings. Such notice must include grounds on which the authorised officer suspects that there has been an infringement and the information relied on as well as inform the person of the right to make submissions.¹⁰⁷ A supplemental notice may be served on the notified person where new information has come to light or any other reason materially affecting the notice of suspected non-compliance, and an authorised officer may serve a notice informing the notified person that they no longer suspect the person of infringing the EU AI Act.¹⁰⁸ An MSA may publish online a notice of suspected non-compliance but must not publish personal data.¹⁰⁹

The Bill seeks to provide that following consideration of submissions and evaluation of evidence, where the authorised officer determines that a suspected infringement persists, the

¹⁰⁶ Section 78 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹⁰⁷ Section 79 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹⁰⁸ Section 80 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹⁰⁹ Section 81 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

matter may be referred for adjudication.¹¹⁰ A matter may be referred for adjudication by an authorised officer with the consent of the relevant MSA, by notice in writing to the Office. As soon as possible after the notice is received, the Office must assign an adjudicator in accordance with Schedule 2 which sets out the process for the assignment of adjudicators. The authorised officer and relevant MSA must be informed in writing of the adjudicator assigned to the matter.¹¹¹ The relevant MSA must disclose to the adjudicator and the “adjudication subject”¹¹² all relevant material including evidence of infringement, any notices issued, and summary of submissions if received.¹¹³ A matter may be withdrawn before a determination is made¹¹⁴ and an MSA may share certain documents to such persons it feels appropriate, subject to appropriate exclusions or redactions.¹¹⁵

Chapter 3 (**sections 87 to 95**) of the Bill seeks to provide for the role and powers of adjudicators following referral. This includes that an adjudicator must be independent, resolve any issue of fact relevant to a matter and exercise their powers to make a finding.¹¹⁶ The adjudicator must formally notify the adjudication subject as soon as possible after a matter is referred and advise that written submissions can be made within thirty days or longer as specified by the adjudicator.¹¹⁷ An adjudicator can require the production of evidence and information and where a direction is not complied with, can apply to the High Court to order compliance. A person will be found guilty if they fail to comply with a direction or destroys evidence or records requested.¹¹⁸ Adjudicators have the power to obtain information from third parties where necessary, and the adjudication subject may make submissions on such information within a timeframe specified by the adjudicator.¹¹⁹

An adjudicator may hold an oral hearing where a dispute as to the facts of the matter cannot be resolved through written submissions. Any such oral hearing must be conducted in accordance with the rules set out in Schedule 1 of the Bill.¹²⁰ Adjudicators, either on their own initiative or

¹¹⁰ Section 82 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹¹¹ Section 83 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹¹² This is the person referred to in section 82 of the Bill who is suspected of an infringement.

¹¹³ Section 84 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹¹⁴ Section 85 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹¹⁵ Section 86 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹¹⁶ Section 87 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹¹⁷ Section 88 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹¹⁸ Section 89 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹¹⁹ Section 90 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹²⁰ Section 91 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill. Rules set out for oral hearings under Schedule 1 of the Bill include that oral hearings may be held by remote hearing, in special circumstances can be held otherwise than in public or partly so, an adjudicator may by written notice request witness attendance and may take evidence on oath or affirmation. It also provides for offences where false or

at a party's request, may refer disputed points of law to the High Court. An adjudicator must not make a finding during this time or one which is inconsistent with the High Court's final decision.¹²¹ Section 93 of the Bill provides that the Office may make rules on the conduct of adjudication proceedings. Each party must bear their own costs¹²² and it is an offence to knowingly provide false or misleading information or evidence.¹²³

Chapter 4 (**sections 96 to 98**) of the Bill seeks to provide for the treatment of evidence and information in relation to adjudication proceedings. It sets out an evidential framework including admissibility of evidence and weight to be given to it, including reasonably drawn inferences. The provisions of Chapter 3 of Part 3 of the *Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020* will apply to proceedings under Chapter 4 subject to modification for it being adjudication rather than court proceedings. As the *Explanatory Memorandum* advises this section "mirrors court-based standards, thereby enhancing the credibility and robustness of the process."¹²⁴ Section 97 of the Bill provides that information generated in investigations or adjudication proceedings must not be used or relied upon in court proceedings until the adjudication finding is confirmed. This does not apply to an application for a forfeiture order or a related appeal, or an appeal of a contravention notice, prohibition notice or under section 77 of the Bill. An adjudicator must not disclose confidential information, and it will be an offence to do so unless it is for certain reasons including but not limited to protected disclosure or assisting An Garda Síochána in relation to an offence.¹²⁵

Chapter 5 (**sections 99 to 104**) of the Bill provides for the process of findings of adjudicators. This includes that a finding whether the suspected infringement has been committed must be determined on the balance of probabilities. When determining the finding, the adjudicator must consider all submissions, evidence, and materials provided during the proceedings as well as any relevant prior adjudications confirmed by the High Court.¹²⁶ Section 100 of the Bill provides that where an adjudicator had made a finding that a person has infringed a provision of the *EU AI Act* referred to in paragraph (3), (4) or (5) of Article 99 of it, they must make a finding as to the amount of the administrative fine to be imposed on the person and specify a deadline for payment. Adjudicators must produce a written, reasoned notice of finding which

misleading sworn evidence is given, persons refuse to attend or give evidence at an oral hearing or disclose information that is commercially sensitive, personal data or would prejudice an ongoing Garda investigation.

¹²¹ Section 92 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹²² Section 94 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹²³ Section 95 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹²⁴ Section 96 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹²⁵ Section 98 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹²⁶ Section 99 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

includes reasons for the finding, details of the infringement and any penalty imposed. The relevant MSA must be notified and provided with the notice of finding.¹²⁷

The relevant MSA must either adopt an adjudicator’s finding or decline to do so where it is not satisfied a breach has occurred within fourteen working days from receipt of the notice of finding. Where a finding is adopted, the relevant MSA must notify the adjudication subject in writing and provide the written record of the finding and advise that any administrative fine will only take effect if confirmed by the High Court and set out the right of appeal. The MSA must also advise that in the absence of an appeal, it will apply to the High Court for confirmation of the adjudication finding. Where the MSA declines to adopt the finding, it must notify the adjudication subject and take no further action in relation to the matter.¹²⁸ A relevant MSA can publish the written record of its finding referred to on a website maintained by it or on its behalf, subject to such exclusions or redactions as it considers appropriate.¹²⁹ Section 104 provides that it will be an offence for a person to disclose the existence or the content of a notice of finding prior to publication of the notice without the prior authorisation of the relevant MSA.¹³⁰

Chapter 6 (**sections 105 to 106**) of the Bill provides for administrative fines for infringements of the EU AI Act. It provides that where an adjudicator finds that an administrative fine should be imposed, they must determine the amount of the fine in accordance with section 105 of the Bill. The fines must align with the limits set by Article 99 of the [EU AI Act](#) and different maximum thresholds apply depending on the nature of the infringement. The following table sets out the penalties applicable dependent on the infringement category.

Table 3 Maximum administrative fines under Article 99 of the EU AI Act

Provision	Infringement	Maximum fine
Prohibited practices (Article 99 (3))	Non-compliance with the prohibition of AI practices in Article 5	Up to €35m or 7% of the total worldwide annual turnover of the preceding financial year (whichever is higher) for infringements on prohibited practices or non-compliance related to requirements on data.

¹²⁷ Section 101 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹²⁸ Section 102 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹²⁹ Section 103 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹³⁰ Section 104 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

Article 99(4)	Non-compliance with listed obligations of operators or notified bodies (other than Article 5)	Up to €15 million or, for an undertaking, up to 3% of total worldwide annual turnover for the preceding financial year, whichever is higher
Article 99(5)	Supplying incorrect, incomplete or misleading information to notified bodies or national competent authorities in reply to a request	Up to €7.5 million or, for an undertaking, up to 1% of total worldwide annual turnover for the preceding financial year, whichever is higher
Article 99(6)	SMEs, including start-ups	Each fine is capped at the lower of the relevant percentage or amount in Article 99(3)(5)
Section 105(5)(a) of the Bill	Public body (within the meaning of section 10 of the Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019)	Fine must not exceed €1,000,000
Article 101 (separate regime)	Providers of GPAI models — enforced by the European Commission, not under section 105	Up to €15 million or up to 3% of total worldwide annual turnover. Keep separate from the national table above.

Source: Developed by the Library & Research Service from the EU AI Act¹³¹

Notwithstanding the general limits under EU regulations, there are specific limits for public bodies (must not exceed €1,000,000) and SMEs including start-ups. In determining the amount of the fine, the adjudicator must ensure that the fine is “effective, proportionate and

¹³¹ This originally appeared in the L&RS [Spotlight on Artificial Intelligence: Background and overview of the current regulatory landscape in Ireland and the EU](#) (October 2024).

dissuasive”, having regard to relevant factors and guidance.¹³² Before finalising the fine, the adjudicator must invite the concerned parties to provide written submissions and take those submissions into account. Administrative fines must be paid to the Exchequer in such manner as the Minister for Finance may direct.¹³³

Chapter 7 (**sections 107 to 109**) of the Bill sets out the procedure for appeals against an adjudication. An adjudication subject has a right of appeal to the High Court no later than twenty-eight working days from the day on which the notice of the adjudication finding is served, although this period can be extended in certain circumstances where the High Court is satisfied.¹³⁴

Section 108 of the Bill provides for procedural rules for appeals including that the respondent to an appeal must be the relevant MSA who adopted the adjudication finding. The appellant must notify the respondent that an appeal has been made and the grounds on which it has made the appeal, on the same date as the appeal is made. The appellant must set out all grounds of appeal in law and fact and furnish all supporting documents and evidence to the High Court. The High Court can confirm the adjudication or annul it, in whole or in part, where there is a serious error of law or fact, or a failure to comply with fair procedures, and can remit or vary the decision. The High Court must determine appeals as promptly as possible and where an administrative fine is upheld or imposed, the High Court may specify a payment date. Section 109 provides that no appeal lies to the Court of Appeal from the High Court, save for when the High Court grants leave to appeal where the decision involves a point of law of exceptional public importance, and it is in the public interest to do so.

Chapter 8 (**sections 110 to 115**) of the Bill provides for the process of confirmation of adjudication. This includes that where no appeal is made within the prescribed period, the relevant MSA must apply to the High Court to confirm the adjudication as soon as possible after the appeal period has passed. The MSA must submit to the court, the adjudication along with all documents and evidence considered by the adjudicator. The MSA must notify the adjudication subject within seven working days and provide them with copies of all materials filed with the High Court.¹³⁵ Section 111 of the Bill provides that the High Court must confirm an adjudication unless it finds a fundamental and manifest error of law, or that the fine imposed is clearly excessive or disproportionate. Where there is an error of law, the High Court must send the matter back to an adjudicator to reconsider, with appropriate directions. If only the fine is excessive, the Court may substitute a lower fine and confirm the adjudication on that

¹³² Article 99(7) of the EU AI Act sets out ten different factors and guidance, which must be taken into account including the nature, gravity, and duration of the infringement and of its consequences; the size, the annual turnover and market share of the operator committing the infringement; and the intentional or negligent character of the infringement.

¹³³ Section 106 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹³⁴ Section 107 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹³⁵ Section 110 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

basis. Alternatively, where the Court considers the interests of justice so require, it may remit the matter for reconsideration by an adjudicator, including by a different adjudicator or on a limited issue.

The High Court must only rely on evidence that was before the adjudicator in the relevant adjudication and must accept the findings of fact in the adjudication as final.¹³⁶ Where an adjudication subject consents to the confirmation of an adjudication, the application for confirmation may be made *ex parte*.¹³⁷ Section 114 of the Bill provides that adjudications only take legal effect with High Court confirmation, subject to any appeal. An administrative fine imposed in an adjudication finding can be enforced directly as a judgment debt without further court proceedings. However, where the fine is not paid and an application is made by the MSA, the High Court may compel payment or grant necessary injunctive relief, without requiring an undertaking as to damages. The relevant MSA may publish an adjudication confirmed by the High Court on a website maintained by it or on its behalf, subject to such redactions or exclusions as it considers appropriate.¹³⁸

Chapter 9 (**sections 116 to 120**) of the Bill provides for the nomination and appointment of adjudicators, including that the Office must nominate, for appointment by the Minister, persons for adjudicators. The Office must not nominate an authorised officer, and the Minister must prescribe the criteria required to become an adjudicator, taking into account the adjudicators' functions and the need for their independence in doing so.¹³⁹ Section 117 of the Bill provides for a formal appointment process of adjudicators by the Minister, whereby a nominated person must be appointed by the Minister unless they consider them lacking the required qualifications or necessary independence for the role. An adjudicator holds office for a term specified by the Minister, may resign at any time, and can be removed by the Government for incapacity, misconduct, prolonged non-performance, or serious conflicts of interest. Appointment as an adjudicator does not make them a civil servant or an employee of the Office.

Adjudicators must act independently, and where it is not possible to remain independent in certain proceedings, must recuse themselves and notify the Office and parties concerned.¹⁴⁰ Section 119 of the Bill provides that the Minister must, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation, prescribe the terms of a contract to be entered into between the relevant MSA and the adjudicator, including

¹³⁶ Section 112 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹³⁷ Section 113 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹³⁸ Section 115 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹³⁹ Section 116 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹⁴⁰ Section 118 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

the terms of engagement and performance of functions as well as payment terms. The Office must maintain a register of adjudicators.¹⁴¹

Part 7 Penalties and Miscellaneous Provisions

Part 7 of the Bill (**sections 121 to 127**) provides for criminal offences and associated penalty regime under the Bill as well as miscellaneous provisions. Section 121 provides for the criminal offences and associated penalty regime under the Bill, dependent on the severity of the action. It provides that a person guilty of an offence under the following sections:

- disclosure of confidential information (section 36(3), 64(3))
- obstruction or failure to comply with direction of authorised officer (70(10)),
- failure to comply with a notice for removal of content to eliminate serious risk (75(4)),
- intentional destruction/concealment of evidence or records (89(3)(b)),
- provision of false/misleading evidence to adjudicator (95)
- unauthorised disclosure of confidential information by adjudicators (98(3))
- disclosure of existence or content of an adjudication finding to any other person, prior to publication of it by the MSA (104(2)(a))

is liable on summary conviction, to a class A fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months, or both, or on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €250,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years, or both.

Section 121 also provides the penalty for an offence under section 54(2) of the Bill, which provides that MSAs, and associated persons must comply with Article 78 of the [EU AI Act](#). Article 78 of the EU AI Act provides that the European Commission, MSAs and notified bodies and any other natural or legal person involved in the application of the EU AI Act, must, in accordance with Union or national law, respect the confidentiality of information and data obtained in carrying out their functions. An offence under section 83(3)(a) occurs when a party fails to comply with the direction of an adjudicator. Both of these offences are liable on summary conviction, to a class A fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or both, or on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €50,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both.

Finally, an offence under section 58(3) of the Bill which involves failure of providers to provide access when requested by MSAs to documentation, data, and source code of high-risk AI systems will be liable on summary conviction to a class A fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or both. This penalty also applies to section 71(10) of the Bill which provides for an offence where there is failure to comply with a contravention notice without

¹⁴¹ Section 120 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

reasonable excuse and section 72(12) which provides for an offence where there is failure to comply without reasonable excuse with a prohibition notice within a specified period.

Section 122 provides for a defence where a person can show they took all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with the Bill, once enacted, or the EU AI Act. As stated in the [Explanatory Memorandum](#), “this reflects a standard due diligence defence in regulatory enforcement.” Section 123 of the Bill provides for liability to be extended where offences are committed by body corporates, including to directors, managers, and officers where offences involve consent, connivance, approval or wilful neglect. It also extends to members who manage the affairs of a body corporate as if he or she were a director or manager of the body corporate.

Relevant MSAs may prosecute offences summarily (in the District Court) and where a person is convicted of an offence, the Court must (unless satisfied that there are special and substantial reasons for not doing so) order the person to pay the relevant MSA’s reasonably incurred costs and expenses.¹⁴² Section 125 of the Bill provides that summary proceedings for an offence may be instituted at any time within twelve months from the date on which the offence was alleged to have been committed. Section 126 provides that statements compelled during investigations or adjudication are generally inadmissible in criminal proceedings, but this does not apply to certain offences such as obstructing/interfering with an authorised officer exercising their powers or non-compliance with the request/requirement of an authorised officer as set down under section 70(10) of the Bill.¹⁴³ Section 127 of the Bill provides for the protection of privileged legal material from disclosure. In this section ‘privileged legal material’ “means information which, in the opinion of the High Court, a person is entitled to refuse to produce on the grounds of legal professional privilege”. Section 127 sets out the process where the disclosure of information may be compelled including safe handling and storage pending a High Court determination of privilege. It also provides procedures for resolving privilege claims and safeguarding confidential material.

Part 8 Application to Central Bank of Ireland

Part 8 (**sections 128 to 133**) applies to the Central Bank of Ireland (the ‘Central Bank’) and seeks to make amendments to the [Central Bank Act 1942](#) (‘1942 Act’). This Part provides that Part 5 (Supervision and Enforcement), Part 6 (Adjudication and Administrative Fines) and Part 7 (Penalties and Miscellaneous Provisions) of the Bill shall not apply to the Central Bank.¹⁴⁴ Sections 130 and 131 of the Bill provide for amendments to section 2 and section 33AK of the 1942 Act respectively to include references to the EU AI Act. Section 132 seeks to amend Schedule 2 of the 1942 Act in relation to designated enactments and designated statutory

¹⁴² Section 124 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

¹⁴³ The other offences are failure to comply with a request under section 90; an offence under section 95; an offence under paragraph 15 of Schedule 1; proceedings for perjury in circumstances where the statement or admission was provided on oath or affirmation.

¹⁴⁴ Section 129 of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

instruments to include reference to Part 4 of the Bill as enacted (Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Act 2026). According to the [Explanatory Memorandum](#) to the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026, this section of the Bill is intended to bring “relevant AI Act-contraventions” within the remit of the Central Bank’s “administrative sanctions framework”.

Section 133 of the Bill proposes the administrative fines that may be imposed by the Central Bank under the 1942 Act in relation to a contravention of the Bill, as enacted, or infringements of the EU AI Act as outlined in this section. These fines may be imposed by the Central Bank following either an inquiry under [section 33AO](#) or [section 33AR](#) of the 1942 Act or in accordance with [section 33AR](#) or [section 33AV](#) of the 1942 Act. Section 133(2) of the Bill states that the power of the Central Bank to impose any of the administrative fines set out in Article 99 of the [EU AI Act](#) “... is in addition to and not in substitution for its power to impose any of the sanctions specified in section 33AQ of the [1942 Act]”.

Part 9 Amendment of Act of 2014

Part 9 (**sections 134 to 137**) seeks to make amendments to the [Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2014](#) (‘2014 Act’).

Section 134 proposes to amend section 2 of the 2014 Act to include definitions for “Artificial Intelligence Regulation”, “Artificial Intelligence Regulation infringement”, “Artificial Intelligence Regulation investigation”, “Member State competent authority” and “relevant regulation”.

Section 135 proposes to amend section 10 of the 2014 Act (Functions of Commission) to include the carrying out of an AI Regulation investigation into any suspected AI Regulation infringement as a function of the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (‘CCPC’). This investigation can be on the initiative of the CCPC or as part of its market surveillance activities, in response to a complaint or on the request of a competent authority designated for the EU AI Act in another Member State or a public authority in another Member State.

Section 136 proposes to insert a new Part 2A (Administrative Fines) into the 2014 Act, which contains new sections 46A to 46R. These sections include provisions relating to, but not limited to:

- investigations into suspected infringements of the EU AI Act and reporting by authorised officers,
- decisions that may be taken by the CCPC regarding whether or not there has been an infringement of the EU AI Act and if so, whether or not to impose an administrative fine,
- administrative fines that may be imposed by the CCPC under this Part and
- enforcement of investigatory powers.

Part 10 Miscellaneous Amendments

Part 10 (**sections 138 to 139**) seeks to make amendments to the *Communications Regulation Act 2002* ('2002 Act') and the *Freedom of Information Act 2014*.

Section 138 proposes to amend section 10 of the 2002 Act (Functions of Commission) to include monitoring and ensuring compliance with the EU AI Act and the Bill as enacted (Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Act 2026) as a function of the Commission for Communications Regulation.

Section 139 proposes to amend Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2014* to include reference to Oifig IS na hÉireann. If enacted, section 6 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2014* would not include a reference to Oifig IS na hÉireann in the performance of its functions under the Bill as enacted (Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Act 2026) other than "... in so far as it relates to records concerning the general administration of those functions".

Pre-legislative scrutiny

Overview of pre-legislative scrutiny (PLS)

The Joint Committee on Enterprise, Tourism and Employment ('Joint Committee') undertook pre-legislative scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Bill. In accordance with the Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann, the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment ('the Minister') referred the [General Scheme of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026](#) to the Joint Committee on Wednesday 28 January 2026.¹⁴⁵ The General Scheme of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026 was referred to the Joint Committee together with the [General Scheme of the Data Bill 2025](#), as it was the Minister's intention to combine these two general schemes into one Bill during the drafting process.¹⁴⁶ The provisions of the General Scheme of the Data Bill were not incorporated into the provisions of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill.

The Joint Committee held a number of public hearings in relation to these two General Schemes with selected stakeholders on [4 February 2026](#), [15 April 2026](#), [6 May 2026](#) and [13 May 2026](#). The Joint Committee also opened a [public consultation](#) on the Pre-legislative Scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026.¹⁴⁷ The Joint Committee sought evidence and recommendations on the General Scheme including,

- How AI should be regulated in Ireland
- The role of the new AI Office of Ireland
- Impacts on businesses, workers, consumers, and public services
- Safeguards for people's rights and protections
- Practical considerations or suggestions for improvement.¹⁴⁸

At the time of writing, the outcome of this public consultation and a Report on pre-legislative scrutiny (PLS) on the General Scheme of the Regulation of the Artificial Intelligence Bill have not yet been published by the Joint Committee.

¹⁴⁵ Senator Mary Fitzpatrick, [General Schemes of Regulation of Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026 and Data Bill 2025: Discussion](#), Joint Committee on Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, 4 February 2026 (last accessed 19 June 2026).

¹⁴⁶ Joint Committee on Enterprise, Trade and Employment, 'Briefing note, Peter Burke T.D., Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment', 28 January 2026, published 4 March 2026 (last accessed 19 June 2026).

¹⁴⁷ The Joint Committee opened a separate [Public Consultation on the Pre-legislative Scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Data Bill 2025](#).

¹⁴⁸ See the [Public consultation on the Pre-legislative Scrutiny of the General Scheme of the Regulation of the Artificial Intelligence Bill 2026](#).