



## An Rialálaí Agraibhia Agri-Food Regulator

### **Media update from An Rialálaí Agraibhia (Agri-Food Regulator)**

**18 July 2024**

The Agri-Food Regulator (Regulator) today provided an update on its activities following the recent publication of its Strategy Statement 2024 – 2026.

Referring to its monitoring and enforcement activities in relation to the Unfair Trading Regulations, the Regulator confirmed that legal proceedings have been issued against a business in the agri-food supply chain in relation to an alleged breach of an unfair trading practice. The Regulator encourages any supplier of agri-food products who feels that they may have been or are subject to an unfair trading practice to contact them.

The Regulator has also, for the first time, carried out a number of on-site compliance inspections using legislative powers available under the Agricultural and Food Supply Chain Act 2023. These inspections seek to ensure that the policies and procedures, systems, internal control mechanisms and arrangements relating to unfair trading practices, and any mechanisms to address deficiencies, in a business are in compliance with the 2023 Act and associated Regulations.

The Regulator confirmed that these inspections, as well as targeted risk-based inspections, will continue to be undertaken as envisaged in the Strategy Statement and the associated Work Programme for 2024.

Finally, the Regulator provided an update on its efforts to publish analysis of information about price and market data in relation to the egg sector supply chain. The Regulator noted that it had started engagement with relevant businesses early this year, with a specific data request issuing on 30<sup>th</sup> April following a consultation period which was initiated on 12<sup>th</sup> March.

Niamh Lenehan, CEO said "I wish to thank those businesses who have actively engaged thus far and have led the way in providing data to the Regulator for the purpose of improving transparency. While I acknowledge and welcome the engagement that has occurred from all businesses from whom the Regulator requested data, unfortunately, not all retail businesses have yet provided the data requested. As a result, it has not been possible for the Regulator to produce the type of report that was envisaged at the beginning of this process.

"We are today, therefore, publishing an initial report on the egg sector using only publicly available data. The Regulator will continue to engage with the businesses involved in the egg sector in the coming weeks and, particularly with those which have not provided the

requested data, with a view to supplementing the report being published today as soon as possible. The Board will be updated on this work at its next meeting in early September. Depending on progress, the Board will consider next steps”.

The initial report on the egg sector can be accessed on the website of the Agri-Food Regulator [here](#).

## **ENDS**

For media queries contact:

Deirdre Sheahan, Drury | [Deirdre.sheahan@drury.ie](mailto:Deirdre.sheahan@drury.ie) | 085 744 2242

Danielle Martin, Drury | [Danielle.martin@drury.ie](mailto:Danielle.martin@drury.ie) | 086 776 1592

About the An Rialálaí Agraibhia:

An Rialálaí Agraibhia (Agri-Food Regulator) is an independent statutory Office established under [the Agricultural and Food Supply Chain Act 2023](#).

The Act outlines the functions assigned to the Regulator under the following headings:

- Fairness and transparency in the agri-food supply chain - in exercising this function, the Agri-Food Regulator will have regard to the circumstances and needs of the agricultural and food sector including, in particular farming, fishing and small food businesses;
- Information and engagement - the Agri-Food Regulator will publish analysis of information about price and market data relating to the agri-food supply chain;
- Compliance with unfair trading law - the Agri-Food Regulator is responsible for enhancing understanding of and compliance with agri-food unfair trading law;
- Enforcement of unfair trading law - the Agri-Food Regulator is responsible for enforcing agri-food unfair trading law and is the designated Enforcement Authority as required under [Directive \(EU\) 2019/633](#);
- Guidelines - the Agri-Food Regulator may, for the purpose of protecting supplier interests, publish guidelines for buyers about supplier protection and trading practices, whether generally or in a particular trade, business or professional sector;
- Review of codes - the Agri-Food Regulator may review codes of practice submitted;
- Information and advice - the Agri-Food Regulator can provide advice to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine about (a) the agricultural and food sector, and (b) agri-food unfair trading law;
- Consideration of legislation - the Minister may consult the Agri-Food Regulator regarding proposals for legislation relating to any aspect of fairness and transparency in the agri-food supply chain.