

Question for written answer E-003385/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Cynthia Ní Mhurchú (Renew)

Subject: The General Data Protection Regulation and procurement payment data

In Ireland, the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) ceased collecting procurement-addressable expenditure data from public bodies following legal advice relating to obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The Irish Government has stated that the OGP has ‘no legal basis or ability’ to access such data and that data protection issues remain under examination^{1,2}.

Public procurement payment data is essential to determine how much public bodies actually paid, to whom, for what purpose, and whether expenditure can be linked to the procurement process that authorised it.

1. Does the Commission consider that the GDPR prevents a Member State, or a central public authority within a Member State, from collecting and processing public procurement payment data for the purposes of reviewing, analysing and managing public expenditure?
2. Does the Commission agree that, as a general principle, public authorities must be able to process the expenditure data necessary to discharge their ordinary public financial management, audit, transparency, fraud-risk monitoring and policy functions, subject to appropriate data protection safeguards?
3. Does the Commission consider that the GDPR should be interpreted in a way that prevents public authorities from maintaining effective oversight of public expenditure?

Submitted: 31.8.2026

¹ <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2025-06-24/337/>.

² https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2026-03-18/492/#pq_492.