1. Is there a monitoring entity of food prices, food price transmission and/or of contractual arrangements along the chain in your country? What is its name? When was it established? Does it look specifically at certain products/sectors?

No

7. If you do not have such a monitoring entity, are data on food prices at different levels of the chain available publicly? Is food price transmission or transparency an important issue for your government, for consumers and for stakeholders along the chain? Is there a plan to set up a monitoring entity? Did you have one in the past and why did it stop operating?

The Central Statistics Office produces data on the Consumer Price Index, Wholesale Price Index and Agricultural Input/output price indices. The latest statistics can be found at: http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/prices/

With regard to the groceries sector, the Government considers that it is important to strike a fair balance between the various players in the grocery goods sector.

There was no food price monitoring entity in operation in the past and there are currently no plans to set up one.

8. Does the private sector have a demand for and willingness to provide greater transparency regarding price formation along the food chain according to your experience?

Yes there is a demand to provide greater transparency on food price formation, particularly amongst farmers and farm organisations.

9. Have you identified impediments to price transmission along the food chain? What policies do you think might help mitigate those impediments? Have policy actions been taken? For example, have measures been taken to ensure that food markets are competitive and integrated in your country? What is your assessment of their effectiveness? Are any future policy initiatives affecting relationships along the food chain in the pipelines?

Ireland is small open economy and its food retail sector is dominated by large multinationals. The food industry is heavily export focused which means they it is less straightforward to implement price transmission monitoring than if we were mainly producing for a domestic market.

The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation is at an advanced stage on the drafting of the Consumer Protection and Competition Bill and the Bill is expected to be statutorily established on the 31st October 2014. The Competition & Consumer Protection Bill contains enabling provisions for regulations which would regulate certain practices in the grocery goods sector. It is silent on prices however and was never intended to set prices or indeed give any information on prices.