

**Exchequer Funding under the  
Parliamentary Activities Allowance Legislation  
in 2018**

*Report to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in accordance with Section 10D of the Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices Act 1938 as amended by the Oireachtas (Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices) (Amendment) Act 2014*



**Coimisiún um Chaighdeán in Oifigí Poiblí**  
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## Foreword

I am pleased to furnish this report to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, in accordance with section 10D of the Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices Act 1938, as amended by the Oireachtas (Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices)(Amendment) Act 2014. The statements of expenditure and public auditors' reports in respect of 2018 referred to in the report were furnished to the Standards in Public Office Commission pursuant to sections 10B(1) and 10B(6) of the Act.



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Justice Daniel O'Keeffe

Chairperson

Standards in Public Office Commission

August 2019

## Chapter 1: Introduction

Annual allowances are paid to leaders of parliamentary parties in relation to expenses arising from the party's parliamentary activities, including research. Party leaders are required to furnish to the Standards in Public Office Commission (the Standards Commission) annual statements of expenditure for these allowances.

Independent members of the Dáil and Seanad also receive these allowances and are required to furnish statements.

The allowance is known colloquially as the “parliamentary activities allowance” (PAA).

A qualifying party is defined in the Act as a political party, registered in the Register of Political Parties, which contested the last preceding general election or any subsequent bye-elections and which had at least one member elected to Dáil Éireann or elected or nominated to Seanad Éireann.

This report concerns the statements of expenditure of the allowance for the period 1 January to 31 December 2018 furnished to the Standards Commission by the parliamentary leaders of eight political parties, 15 independent Senators and 19 independent TDs who received the allowance in 2018.

Where a qualifying party forms part of the Government, the combined allowances in respect of its members of the Dáil (only) are reduced by one-third.

The Standards Commission does not have a role in the allocation of this allowance, but does have a supervisory role in relation to expenditure of the allowance. It must receive and consider statements of expenditure of the allowance and consult, if necessary, with the parliamentary party leaders/independent members on matters contained in their statements. The Standards Commission must furnish a report to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform on the statements received by it and lay a copy of its report before the Houses of the Oireachtas. It must also facilitate the inspection and copying of the statements furnished to it.

## Chapter 2: Statements of expenditure furnished by party leaders & independent members

### **Background**

The Act provides that parliamentary party leaders must prepare, or cause to be prepared, a statement of any expenditure from the allowance. This must be done not more than 120 days after the end of the financial year in which an allowance has been paid. The statement must be audited by a public auditor and must be submitted with the auditor's report to the Standards Commission within this 120 day period. Payment of the allowance ceases if the statement and auditor's report for the year of account are not received within 120 days of year end.

The deadline for receiving returns for the 2018 reporting period was 30 April 2019.

The leaders of the following eight political parties were required to furnish a statement to the Standards Commission:

- Fianna Fáil
- Fine Gael
- Green Party
- Independents 4 Change
- Labour Party
- Sinn Féin
- Social Democrats
- Solidarity/People before Profit

In addition, 15 independent Senators and 19 independent TDs were required to furnish a statement to the Standards Commission.

In accordance with the Act, the funding received may not be applied to, or be used to recoup, election or referendum expenses. The Commission requires that parliamentary party leaders and independent members state on their statement of expenditure that the allowance has not been used for electoral or referendum purposes.

The Standards Commission must furnish a report to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform on the statements and auditors' reports received indicating:

- (i) whether the statements and auditors' reports have been submitted by the specified time limit,
- (ii) whether any expenditure is disclosed which was used to recoup election or referendum expenses and
- (iii) whether the statements comply with Sections 10 (e.g. paid in accordance with the proper rates, etc.) and 10B (a statement of expenditure has been furnished, etc.) of the Act.

The Standards Commission is satisfied as to compliance with the above provisions.

The Standards Commission is required to provide a copy of its report to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to lay before each House of the Oireachtas. A copy of the statements and auditors' reports received must be retained by the Standards Commission and be made available for public inspection and copying. The statements of expenditure/ auditors' reports furnished to the Standards Commission may be inspected and copied by members of the public at the offices of the Standards Commission, 18 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2. The information is also available at [www.sipo.ie](http://www.sipo.ie).

Details of funding available to the Parliamentary leaders of qualified political parties under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2018 are shown in Table 1 of the Appendix.

Table 2 of the Appendix shows the breakdown by category and by political party of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance in 2018.

Details of funding available to independent TDs under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2018 are shown in Table 3 of the Appendix.

Table 4 of the Appendix shows the breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2018 by each independent TD.

Details of funding available to independent Senators under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2018 are shown in Table 5 of the Appendix.

Table 6 of the Appendix shows the breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2018 provided by each independent Senator.

## Chapter 3: Parliamentary Activities Allowance - rates of payment during 2018

The Parliamentary Activities Allowance is paid to parliamentary party leaders and elected non-party members of the Dáil and Seanad by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

The annual allowance payable in 2018 to parliamentary party leaders in respect of members of Dáil Éireann was as follows –

For government parties –

- €42,912 per member for each of the first 10 members elected,
- €34,329 per additional elected member from 11 to 30 members, and
- €17,169 for each member elected over 30 members.

For non-government parties –

- €64,368 per member for each of the first 10 members elected,
- €51,493 per additional elected member from 11 to 30 members, and
- €25,754 for each member elected over 30 members.

The annual allowance payable in 2018 to parliamentary party leaders in respect of members of the Seanad was –

- €42,089 for each of the first five members elected or nominated, and
- €21,045 for each additional member elected or nominated.

Elected non-party members of Dáil Éireann received an annual allowance of €37,037 while elected or nominated non-party members of Seanad Éireann received an annual allowance of €21,045.

Total funding in 2018 to the leaders of the eight qualifying parties was €7,587,820.

The funding made available to non-party members of the Dáil during 2018 amounted to €703,704.

The funding made available to non-party members of the Seanad during 2018 amounted to €309,121.

## Appendix: Funding and expenditure details

**Table 1 – Details of funding available to the Parliamentary Leaders of qualified political parties under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2018**

<b>Political Parties</b>	<b>Total received for 2018</b>	<b>Brought forward from 2017</b>	<b>Total available for 2018</b>	<b>Total expenditure 2018</b>	<b>Balance carried forward to 2019</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b>Fianna Fáil</b>	2,433,946	196,291	2,630,237	2,574,400	<b>55,837</b>
<b>Fine Gael</b>	1,978,646	649,502	2,628,148	2,027,885	<b>600,263</b>
<b>Green Party</b>	170,825	235,353	406,178	148,002	<b>258,176</b>
<b>Independents 4 Change</b>	257,472	62,232	319,704	278,321	<b>41,383</b>
<b>The Labour Party</b>	618,932	986,732	1,605,664	729,256	<b>876,408</b>
<b>Sinn Féin</b>	1,548,687	438,317	1,987,004	1,828,489	<b>158,515</b>
<b>Social Democrats</b>	193,104	104,920	298,024	229,063	<b>68,961</b>
<b>Solidarity-PBP</b>	386,208	105,512	491,720	378,719	<b>113,001</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,587,820</b>	<b>2,778,859</b>	<b>10,366,679</b>	<b>8,194,135</b>	<b>2,172,544</b>



**Table 2 – Breakdown by category and by political party of expenditure of the allowance in 2018**

Category	Fianna Fáil	Fine Gael	Green Party	Independents 4 Change	Labour Party	Sinn Féin	Social Democrats	Solidarity- People Before Profit	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
<b>a</b>	2,162,023	351,809	4,707	201,847	515,542	1,437,577	211,397	9,943	<b>4,894,845</b>
<b>b</b>	—	—	—	9,386	—	—	—	—	<b>9,386</b>
<b>c</b>	39,539	191,342	15,798	2,766	—	24,812	—	—	<b>274,257</b>
<b>d</b>	—	131,459	2,982	—	195,024	316,626	14,666	—	<b>660,757</b>
<b>e</b>	305,353	73,907	—	—	—	—	3,000	—	<b>382,260</b>
<b>f</b>	—	—	—	—	18,690	—	—	—	<b>18,690</b>
<b>g</b>	—	1,279,368	124,515	—	—	49,474	—	—	<b>1,453,357</b>
<b>h</b>	30,000	—	—	6,000	—	—	—	—	<b>36,000</b>
<b>i</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	368,169	<b>368,169</b>
<b>j</b>	37,485	—	—	58,322	—	—	—	607	<b>96,414</b>
<b>k</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>—</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,574,400</b>	<b>2,027,885</b>	<b>148,002</b>	<b>278,321</b>	<b>729,256</b>	<b>1,828,489</b>	<b>229,063</b>	<b>378,719</b>	<b>8,194,135</b>

### Categories of expenditure

- (a) the general administration of the parliamentary activities of a qualifying party;
- (b) the provision of technical or specialist advice likely to be required in connection with legislative proposals or potential parliamentary initiatives;
- (c) research and training;
- (d) policy formulation;
- (e) the provision of consultant services, including the engagement of public relations services;
- (f) polling or public attitude sampling in connection with parliamentary debates or initiatives;
- (g) the purchase of support services for a parliamentary party from the party;
- (h) the payment to a parliamentary leader of any salary or honorarium in respect of duties arising from his or her activities as such leader as distinct from those of a member of Dáil Éireann or a holder of a Ministerial office;
- (i) the payment to another person of any salary or honorarium in respect of duties arising from the person's activities in a parliamentary party;
- (j) the provision for, or recoupment of, transport and personal expenditure incurred by a parliamentary leader, officers or a parliamentary party spokesperson as a result of their parliamentary party function;
- (k) entertainment.

**Table 3 – Details of funding available to independent TDs under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2018**

<b>Name of TD</b>	<b>Total received for 2018</b>	<b>Brought forward from 2017</b>	<b>Total available for 2018</b>	<b>Total expenditure 2018</b>	<b>Balance carried forward to 2019</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Canney, Seán	37,037	23,291	60,328	43,165	<b>17,163</b>
Collins, Michael	37,037	—	37,037	37,043	—
Connolly, Catherine	37,037	48,733	85,770	35,639	<b>50,131</b>
Fitzmaurice, Michael	37,037	20,544	57,581	29,689	<b>27,892</b>
Grealish, Noel	37,037	36,953	73,990	27,110	<b>46,880</b>
Halligan, John	37,037	1,064	38,101	33,589	<b>4,512</b>
Harty, Michael	37,037	40,301	77,338	23,500	<b>53,838</b>
Healy, Seamus	37,037	25,727	62,764	28,837	<b>33,927</b>
Healy Rae, Danny	37,037	13,781	50,818	36,090	<b>14,728</b>
Healy Rae, Michael	37,037	21,937	58,974	38,427	<b>20,547</b>
Lowry, Michael	37,037	24,359	61,396	13,716	<b>47,680</b>
McGrath, Finian	37,037	42,754	79,791	45,685	<b>34,107</b>
McGrath, Mattie	37,037	44,882	81,919	27,107	<b>54,813</b>
Moran, Kevin	37,037	6,309	43,346	39,281	<b>4,065</b>
Naughten, Denis	37,037	35,100	72,137	20,778	<b>51,358</b>
O'Sullivan, Maureen	37,037	42,271	79,308	34,989	<b>44,319</b>
Pringle, Thomas	37,037	6,501	43,538	40,701	<b>2,837</b>
Ross, Shane	37,037	49,293	86,330	24,496	<b>61,834</b>
Zappone, Katherine	37,037	1,536	38,573	28,620	<b>9,954</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>703,703</b>	<b>485,337</b>	<b>1,189,040</b>	<b>608,461</b>	<b>580,580</b>

**Table 4 – Breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2018 given by each independent TD**

<b>Category</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>Total</b>
Canney, Seán	—	32,314	3,259	6,731	—	862	<b>43,165</b>
Collins, Michael	12,980	7,421	8,473	5,647	2,522	—	<b>37,043</b>
Connolly, Catherine	—	35,639	—	—	—	—	<b>35,639</b>
Fitzmaurice, Michael	—	9,141	5,079	15,469	—	—	<b>29,689</b>
Grealish, Noel	246	—	10,038	16,827	—	—	<b>27,110</b>
Halligan, John	6,068	12,710	1,000	1,772	7,910	4,129	<b>33,589</b>
Harty, Michael	—	—	—	23,500	—	—	<b>23,500</b>
Healy, Seamus	28,369	—	—	467	—	—	<b>28,837</b>
Healy Rae, Danny	—	18,700	16,488	492	—	410	<b>36,090</b>
Healy Rae, Michael	—	31,329	618	4,982	—	1,498	<b>38,427</b>
Lowry, Michael	—	—	—	13,716	—	—	<b>13,716</b>
McGrath, Finian	750	17,645	—	1,575	22,755	2,960	<b>45,685</b>
McGrath, Mattie	14,793	1,462	9,693	481	—	678	<b>27,107</b>
Moran, Kevin	219	27,120	394	492	6,708	4,348	<b>39,281</b>
Naughten, Denis	246	6,643	7,795	6,094	—	—	<b>20,778</b>
O'Sullivan, Maureen	20,783	1,537	6,662	4,280	—	1,727	<b>34,989</b>
Pringle, Thomas	—	20,350	20,350	—	—	—	<b>40,701</b>
Ross, Shane	—	7,251	—	590	10,640	6,015	<b>24,496</b>
Zappone, Katherine	—	588	—	23,450	—	4,582	<b>28,620</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>84,454</b>	<b>229,850</b>	<b>89,849</b>	<b>126,564</b>	<b>50,535</b>	<b>27,209</b>	<b>608,461</b>

\*Amounts in Euro

### Categories of expenditure

- (a) the provision of technical or specialist advice likely to be required in connection with legislative proposals or potential parliamentary initiatives;
- (b) research and training;
- (c) policy formulation;
- (d) the provision of consultant services, including the engagement of public relations services;

- (e) polling or public attitude sampling in connection with parliamentary debates or initiatives; and
- (f) entertainment.

**Table 5 – Details of funding available to the independent members of the Seanad under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2018**

<b>Name of Senator</b>	<b>Total received for 2018</b>	<b>Brought forward from 2017</b>	<b>Total available for 2018</b>	<b>Total expenditure 2018</b>	<b>Balance carried forward to 2019</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Black, Frances	21,045	28,952	49,997	28,795	<b>21,202</b>
Boyhan, Victor	21,045	20,977	42,022	16,926	<b>25,096</b>
Craughwell, Gerard	21,045	9,325	30,370	16,605	<b>13,765</b>
Dolan, John	21,045	27,082	48,127	18,323	<b>29,804</b>
Freeman, Joan	21,045	—	21,045	2,065	<b>18,980</b>
Higgins, Alice Mary	21,045	25,819	46,864	28,092	<b>18,772</b>
Kelleher, Collette	21,045	14,187	35,232	20,663	<b>14,569</b>
Lawless, Billy	21,045	8,374	29,419	22,073	<b>7,347</b>
Marshall, Ian	14,491	—	14,491	779	<b>13,713</b>
McDowell, Michael	21,045	32,674	53,719	2,763	<b>50,956</b>
Mullen, Ronan	21,045	—	21,045	21,045	—
Norris, David	21,045	27,033	48,078	30,074	<b>18,003</b>
Ó Ceidigh, Pádraig	21,045	22,595	43,640	13,739	<b>29,901</b>
O'Donnell, Marie Louise	21,045	9,983	31,028	6,624	<b>24,404</b>
Ruane, Lynn	21,045	3,984	25,029	22,067	<b>2,962</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>309,121</b>	<b>230,986</b>	<b>540,107</b>	<b>250,633</b>	<b>289,474</b>

**Table 6 – Breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2018 provided by each independent member of the Seanad**

<b>Category</b>	<b>a</b>	<b>b</b>	<b>c</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>f</b>	<b>Total</b>
Black, Frances	2,451	—	26,345	—	—	—	<b>28,795</b>
Boyhan, Victor	5,235	—	11,691	—	—	—	<b>16,926</b>
Craughwell, Gerard	3,399	—	12,736	75	—	395	<b>16,605</b>
Dolan, John	1,292	231	8,981	7,428	—	391	<b>18,323</b>
Freeman, Joan	600	—	1,465	—	—	—	<b>2,065</b>
Higgins, Alice Mary	998	1,057	25,881	—	—	157	<b>28,092</b>
Kelleher, Collette	—	590	19,643	431	—	—	<b>20,663</b>
Lawless, Billy	10,031	—	9,199	—	—	2,843	<b>22,073</b>
Marshall, Ian	300	—	479	—	—	—	<b>779</b>
McDowell, Michael	600	—	1,732	431	—	—	<b>2,763</b>
Mullen, Ronan	1,934	16,885	1,965	—	—	262	<b>21,045</b>
Norris, David	—	—	—	30,074	—	—	<b>30,074</b>
Ó Ceidigh, Pádraig	609	6,706	3,196	—	—	3,228	<b>13,739</b>
O'Donnell, Marie Louise	1,042	1,094	2,904	1,305	—	280	<b>6,624</b>
Ruane, Lynn	2,946	13,209	5,911	—	—	—	<b>22,067</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,435</b>	<b>39,771</b>	<b>132,127</b>	<b>39,743</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7,556</b>	<b>250,633</b>

\*Amounts in Euro

### **Categories of expenditure**

- (a) the provision of technical or specialist advice likely to be required in connection with legislative proposals or potential parliamentary initiatives;
- (b) research and training;
- (c) policy formulation;
- (d) the provision of consultant services, including the engagement of public relations services;
- (e) polling or public attitude sampling in connection with parliamentary debates or initiatives;
- (f) entertainment.