

Donations to TDS, Senators and MEPs 2017

*furnished to the Standards in Public Office Commission by Members of
both Houses of the Oireachtas and Members of the European
Parliament, pursuant to section 24 of the Electoral Act 1997, as
amended*

*Report by the Standards in Public Office Commission
to the Ceann Comhairle in accordance with section 4(1) of the Electoral
Act 1997*



Coimisiún um Chaighdeán in Oifigí Poiblí
Standards in Public Office Commission

April 2018

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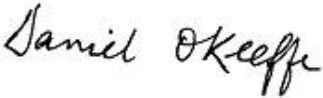
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Foreword

I am pleased to furnish this report to the Ceann Comhairle in accordance with the provisions of section 4(1) of the Electoral Act 1997, as amended (the Act). The donation statements/statutory declarations described in the report were furnished to the Standards in Public Office Commission pursuant to section 24 of the Act. The certificates of monetary donations/statutory declarations and statements from financial institutions were furnished pursuant to section 23B of the Act.



Justice Daniel O'Keeffe
Chairperson
Standards in Public Office Commission
April 2018

Chapter 1 Introduction

Each person who during a calendar year is a Member of Dáil Éireann (TD), a Member of Seanad Éireann (Senator) or a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) is required, by 31 January of the following year, to furnish to the Standards Commission a donation statement/certificate of monetary donations/statutory declaration and, where appropriate, a bank statement in respect of the previous year.

The Standards Commission may present a report in relation to such political donations to the Ceann Comhairle.

Where a donation exceeding the permissible limit is received, then the part exceeding the relevant limit must, within fourteen days of receipt, be returned to the donor or surrendered to the Standards Commission.

It is an offence if a Member fails to return the donation statement/statutory declaration and certificate of monetary donations/statutory declaration, along with a statement from a financial institution by 31 January. Where a person is guilty of an offence under this section, he/she is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €2,500 and to an on-going fine not exceeding €500 per day for each day, after a conviction, on which the statutory returns are still outstanding.

This report concerns the statutory returns furnished by TDs, Senators and MEPs in respect of 2017.

The relevant details relating to donations disclosed are given in the Appendices.

Chapter 2 General information relating to donations

In addition to the summary table below, the Standards Commission has published guidelines for TDs, Senators and MEPs on donations setting out the requirements relating to various matters such as the acceptance and disclosure of donations, prohibited donations and political donation accounts. These are available on the Commission's website - www.sipo.ie.

Summary donation table

Political donations account	On receipt of a donation of €100 a political donations account must be opened (if one has not already been opened) by a TD, Senator or MEP.
Cash donations	€200 is the maximum cash donation that may be accepted by a TD, Senator or MEP in any calendar year from a donor.
Corporate donors	€200 is the maximum donation that may be accepted by a TD, Senator or MEP in any calendar year from a corporate donor unless the corporate donor is registered in the Register of Corporate Donors maintained by the Commission
Individual donors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All donations received by a TD, Senator or MEP exceeding €600 must be disclosed on the Donation Statement.• €1000 is the maximum donation that may be accepted by a TD, Senator or MEP in a particular year from an individual or corporate donor
Multiple donations	Where a donor gives to two or more recipients (multiple members of the same party or to one or more party members and the party itself), the aggregate value of which exceeds €1,500 , he/she is required to submit a 24(1a) donation form to the Commission
Prohibited donations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An anonymous donation exceeding €100 cannot be accepted• Foreign donations, of any value, cannot be accepted from outside the island of Ireland, other than from an Irish citizen

Note: additional donation rules apply for political parties and third parties, please see www.sipo.ie for further information

Chapter 3 Donations disclosed

The table in Appendix 1 provides a summary of donations disclosed. Individual donation statements are on the Commission's website - www.sipo.ie.

A total of 229 Members were required to furnish donation statements in respect of 2017, as follows –

- 158 TDs
- 60 Senators
- 11 MEPs

Returns received

All Members were obliged to furnish their donation statements by 31 January 2018.

Where the Standards Commission finds a minor error or omission in a donation statement, it will furnish details of the error or omission to the member/MEP and will notify the member/MEP that he/she has 14 days from the date of the notice in which to correct the error or make good the omission.

215 Members had fully complied with the statutory requirements by the 31 January deadline. Fourteen were late. All 229 members had substantively complied by 8 February 2018, with some minor queries still outstanding. These queries were subsequently resolved.

As all are in substantive compliance, no files were sent to An Garda Síochána for prosecution.

The table in Appendix 1 shows that net donations with a total value of **€6,360** were disclosed by Members in respect of 2017.

Chapter 4 Donor Statements

Section 24(1A) of the Act provides that an individual must furnish a donation statement/statutory declaration to the Standards Commission if he/she, in a particular year, makes donations exceeding €1,500 in aggregate value to two or more persons who were members of the same political party when the donations were made, or to a political party and to one or more of its members. The donation statement must give details of the donations and the persons to whom they were made, and must be furnished by 31 January of the following year.

If a donor does not intend to comply with this requirement and a Member or a party is aware of this, the member/party is prohibited from accepting a donation from that individual.

Two donation statements from individual donors were received in respect of 2017. The table in Appendix 2(a) sets out the details of the donations disclosed. Donations with a total value of **€4,245** were disclosed by the two donors in respect of 2017.

Chapter 5 Publication of Donation Statements furnished to the Standards Commission

The Standards Commission has today laid the donation statements referred to in this report before each House of the Oireachtas, pursuant to section 24(7)(a) of the Electoral Act 1997, as amended.

The donation statements received are now available on the Commission's website. A copy of this report and accompanying press release are also available on the website - www.sipo.ie.

Certificates of monetary donations, statutory declarations and accompanying bank statements are not required to be laid before the Houses and are not available for public inspection as per Section 23B(8) of the Electoral Act 1997, as amended.

Appendix 1 - Donations disclosed by Members

Party	Member	Donor	Total Value of Donations €
Fianna Fáil	James Lawless TD	Peter Kenny, 9 South Main Street, Naas, Co. Kildare	805
	Micheál Martin TD	*Fianna Fáil, 65/66 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2	1,000
	Michael Mc Grath TD	* Fianna Fáil CDC Cork South Central, C/O David Lohan, Secretary FF CDC, 5 Lower Glenrichmond, Sallybrook, Glanmire, Co. Cork	1,000
	Darragh O'Brien TD	Carol Wright, Anna Livia, Streamstown, Malahide, Co. Dublin	800
Fine Gael	Kate O'Connell TD	Emma Keane, 33 Brighton Square, Rathgar, Dublin 6	760
Labour	Alan Kelly TD	** Michael Madden, 10 Graham Court, Rye, New York, 10580, USA	995
Sinn Féin	Senator Pádraig Mac Lochlainn	* Donegal Office Services, High Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	1,000
Total			6,360

* Registered Corporate Donor

** Note Irish Citizen

Appendix 2 - Donations disclosed by Section 24(1A) Donors – listed by party

Recipient Party	Recipient of donation	Donor	Total Value of donations €
Labour Party	Alan Kelly TD	* Michael Madden, 10 Graham Court, Rye, New York 10580, USA	995
	Tipperary Labour Party, c/o Liam Gleeson, 19 Old Road, Silvermines, Co. Tipperary		1,490
Social Democrats	Sinead Halpin, Greengates, Mayfield Park, Old Youghal Road, Cork	Kodzo Selormey, C4 Douglas Hyde House, Middle Glanmire Road, Montenotte, Cork	400
	Ciaran McCarthy, 4 Leesdale Drive, Ballincollig		400
	Cork North Central Social Democrats, C4 Douglas Hyde House, Middle Glanmire Road, Montenotte, Cork		650
	Social Democrats, 20 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2		50
	Cork North Central Social Democrats, C4 Douglas Hyde House, Middle Glanmire Road, Montenotte, Cork		190 (Donation in kind - meeting room hire)
	Cork North Central Social Democrats, C4 Douglas Hyde House, Middle Glanmire Road, Montenotte, Cork		70 (Donation in kind - Event prizes)
	Total		

*Irish Citizen