

# Donations to TDs, Senators and MEPs in 2020



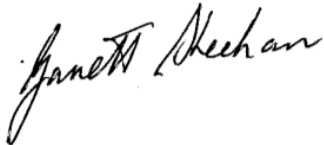
**Coimisiún um Chaighdeáin in Oifigí Poiblí**  
**Standards in Public Office Commission**

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## Foreword

On behalf of the Standards in Public Office Commission, 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.



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Justice Garrett Sheehan  
Chairperson  
December 2021

## 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 in Public Office Commission (the Commission) a donation statement, a certificate of monetary donations, a statutory declaration and, where appropriate, a bank statement in respect of the previous year.

It is an offence to fail to make the necessary returns by the statutory deadline. 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 ongoing 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 2020.

Details of donations disclosed and made are provided in the appendices to this report.

## Chapter 2: General information

The Commission has published guidelines for TDs, Senators and MEPs (collectively referred to herein as “members”) on donations setting out the requirements relating to various matters such as the acceptance and disclosure of donations, prohibited donations and political donation accounts. The guidelines (summarised in the following table) are available on the Commission's website, [www.sipo.ie](http://www.sipo.ie).

### Summary donation table for TDs, Senators and MEPs

<b>Political donations account</b>	On receipt of a donation of in excess of <b>€100</b> a political donations account must be opened (if one has not already been opened) by a TD, Senator or MEP.
<b>Cash donations</b>	<b>€200</b> is the maximum cash donation that may be accepted by a TD, Senator or MEP in any calendar year from a donor.
<b>Corporate donors</b>	<b>€200</b> 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. A political party that wishes to make a donation for political purposes in excess of <b>€200</b> in a calendar year must register as a corporate donor with the Commission before making such a donation.
<b>Individual donors</b>	All donations received by a TD, Senator or MEP exceeding <b>€600</b> must be disclosed on the donation statement.
<b>Maximum donation</b>	<b>€1,000</b> is the maximum donation that may be accepted by a TD, Senator or MEP in a particular year from an individual or corporate donor
<b>Multiple donations</b>	Where a donor makes a donation 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 <b>€1,500</b> , he/she is required to submit a donation form to the Commission under Section 24 (1A)
<b>Prohibited donations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any donation that exceeds the above noted limits</li> <li>• An anonymous donation exceeding <b>€100</b> cannot be accepted</li> <li>• Foreign donations, of any value, cannot be accepted from outside the island of Ireland, other than from an Irish citizen</li> </ul>

Note: additional donation rules apply for political parties and third parties. Please see [www.sipo.ie](http://www.sipo.ie) for further information.

## Chapter 3: Donations disclosed

The table in Appendix 1 provides a summary of donations disclosed. Individual donation statements can be viewed on the Commission's website.

A total of 263 members and former members were required to furnish donation statements in respect of 2020, as follows –

- 160 TDs
- 60 Senators
- 13 MEPs
- 18 former TDs
- 12 former Senators.

### **Returns received**

All members were obliged to furnish their donation statements by 31 January 2021. Where the Commission finds a minor error or omission in a donation statement, it will furnish details of the error or omission to the member and will notify the member that he/she has 14 days from the date of the notice in which to correct the error or make good the omission.

All members have substantively complied with some minor queries still outstanding. These queries are being pursued. As all are in substantive compliance, no files were referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Twenty Oireachtas members received donations in excess of €200 from their political parties which had not registered with the Commission as corporate donors at the time the party made the donations. The Act requires that where a donation in excess of €200 is received from an unregistered corporate donor, he/she must either return the donation or the part in excess over €200 to the donor, or remit the donation to the Commission.

The Commission wrote to each of the relevant members to advise them of their obligations and of the necessary steps to achieve compliance. At the time of drafting, all have subsequently returned, or are in the process of returning, the excess over €200 or the entire donation to their party. Details are set out in the table at Appendix 3 below.

The table in Appendix 1 shows that donations with a total value of €92,454 were disclosed by members in respect of 2020. When refunds are taken into account, the net total for donations received was €64,875. This is an increase from the 2019 equivalent figure, which was €13,645. The general election held in February 2020 is the likely reason for the increase in the value of donations disclosed.

## Chapter 4: Donations disclosed by donors under section 24 (1A)

Section 24 (1A) of the Act provides that an individual must furnish a donation statement and a statutory declaration to the 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.

Ten donation statements from individual donors were received in respect of 2020. The table at Appendix 2 sets out the details of the donations disclosed. Donations with a total value of **€39,189** were disclosed by the 10 donors in respect of 2020. The equivalent figure for 2019 was €44,685.

## Chapter 5: Publication of donation statements

The 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 Act, and the documents are available on the Oireachtas website, [www.oireachtas.ie](http://www.oireachtas.ie).

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 Commission's website, [www.sipo.ie](http://www.sipo.ie).

Section 73 of the Act requires the Commission to make the documents available for public inspection at its offices at 6 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, D02 W773. In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission's offices are closed to callers. It is therefore not possible to provide for public inspection at this time. When the offices have been reopened, the documents will be made available for public inspection. Copies can be made available on application to the Commission via email at [info@sipo.ie](mailto:info@sipo.ie) or by telephone at (01) 639-5666.



## Appendix 1 - Donations disclosed by members

Member	Party	Number of donations	Value of donations	Donations returned to donors
			€	€
James Browne TD	Fianna Fáil	2	1,900	1,850
Dara Calleary TD	Fianna Fáil	1	2,000	1,800
Senator Shane Cassells*	Fianna Fáil	1	1,000	—
Senator Lorraine Clifford-Lee	Fianna Fáil	1	1,000	800
Niall Collins TD	Fianna Fáil	1	1,000	—
Patrick Costello TD	Green Party	1	1,000	800
Cathal Crowe TD	Fianna Fáil	1	1,000	—
Senator Ollie Crowe	Fianna Fáil	1	1,000	800
Pa Daly TD	Sinn Féin	2	1,652	652
Michael D'Arcy*	Fine Gael	3	3,000	—
Senator Aisling Dolan	Fine Gael	1	4,793	4,593
Stephen Donnelly TD	Fianna Fáil	6	6,000	—
Francis Noel Duffy TD	Green Party	1	1,000	800
Frank Feighan TD	Fine Gael	1	1,000	800
Joe Flaherty TD	Fianna Fáil	1	2,005	1,005
Gary Gannon TD	Social Democrats	2	2,000	—
Senator Pippa Hackett*	Green Party	1	1,000	800
Senator Alice Mary Higgins	Non Party	2	1,290	—
Neasa Hourigan TD	Green Party	1	1,000	800
Heather Humphreys TD	Fine Gael	1	750	—
Alan Kelly TD	Labour Party	2	1,990	—
John Lahart TD	Fianna Fáil	1	1,000	800
James Lawless TD	Fianna Fáil	3	3,000	—
Josepha Madigan TD	Fine Gael	2	1,500	—
Catherine Martin TD	Green Party	1	680	480
Micheál Martin TD	Fianna Fáil	1	1,000	800
Steven Matthews TD	Green Party	1	1,000	800
Paul McAuliffe TD	Fianna Fáil	1	1,000	—
Helen McEntee TD	Fine Gael	3	4,200	3,600
Michael McGrath TD	Fianna Fáil	1	1,000	800
Senator Rebecca Moynihan*	Labour Party	2	1,599	—
Senator Rónán Mullen	Non Party	4	4,000	—
Catherine Murphy TD	Social Democrats	1	1,000	—

Paul Murphy TD	Solidarity/People Before Profit	2	2,000	—
Verona Murphy TD	Non Party	1	1,000	—
Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD	Fianna Fáil	1	1,000	800
Ged Nash TD	Labour Party	1	950	—
Malcolm Noonan TD	Green Party	1	1,000	800
Marc Ó Cathasaigh TD	Green Party	1	1,000	—
Aodhán Ó Ríordáin TD	Labour Party	6	5,364	—
Darragh O'Brien TD	Fianna Fáil	1	1,000	800
Joe O'Brien TD	Green Party	2	2,000	800
Cian O'Callaghan TD	Social Democrats	1	750	—
Fergus O'Dowd TD	Fine Gael	2	1,882	—
Roderic O'Gorman TD	Green Party	2	2,000	800
Christopher O'Sullivan TD	Fianna Fáil	3	3,000	—
Maurice Quinlivan TD	Sinn Féin	1	950	—
Neale Richmond TD	Fine Gael	1	1,000	—
Eamon Ryan TD	Green Party	1	1,000	800
Matt Shanahan TD	Non Party	6	5,200	—
Ossian Smyth TD	Green Party	1	1,000	—
Senator Mark Wall*	Labour Party	1	1,000	—
Senator Barry Ward*	Fine Gael	1	1,000	—
<b>Total</b>			<b>92,454</b>	<b>27,579</b>

\* Donations previously disclosed at the Dáil General Election 2020

## Appendix 2 - Donations disclosed by donors under section 24 (1A)

Donor	Recipient of donation	Detail of donations €	Total value of donations €
Mick Barry TD	Ruth Coppinger	1,000	3,450
	Cllr. Sandra Fay	650	
	Solidarity/People Before Profit	1,800	
Declan Kelly	Tipperary Labour Party	1,490	2,485
	Alan Kelly TD	995	
Michael Madden	Tipperary Labour Party	1,480	2,475
	Alan Kelly TD	995	
Cllr. Kieran Mahon	Cllr. Sandra Fay	1,000	3,000
	Mary Cahillane	1,000	
	Ruth Coppinger	1,000	
Anne Mulligan	Mary T Sweeney	1,000	2,500
	Aontú	1,500	
Liam Mulligan	Mary T Sweeney	1,000	2,500
	Aontú	1,500	
Mick Murphy	Ruth Coppinger	1,000	6,629
	Mick Barry TD	1,000	
	Cllr. Sandra Fay	1,000	
	Mary Cahillane	1,000	
	Terry Kelleher	723	
	Conor Burke	517	
	Dominic Parker	517	
	Rita Harrold	517	
	Michael O'Brien	356	
Jack O'Connor	Wicklow Constituency Council	2,500	4,500
	Cllr. Paul O'Brien	1,000	
	Senator Mark Wall	1,000	
SIPTU	Aengus O'Maolain	950	6,650
	Emmett Smith	950	
	Ged Nash TD	950	
	Joan Burton	950	
	Michael O'Brien	950	
	Maurice Quinlivan TD	950	
	Cllr. Denis Hynes	950	
David Walker	Roderic O'Gorman TD	1,000	5,000
	Aodhán Ó Riordáin TD	1,000	
	Kevin Humphreys	1,000	
	Ciarán Ahern	1,000	
	Senator Rebecca Moynihan	1,000	
<b>Total</b>		<b>39,189</b>	<b>39,189</b>

## Appendix 3 - Excess donations returned by Members

Member	Party	Donor	Details
James Browne TD	Fianna Fáil	Enniscorthy Fianna Fáil	€950 received €950 excess returned
		Sean Browne FF Cumann	€950 received €900 excess returned
Dara Calleary TD	Fianna Fáil	Fianna Fáil, Ballina	€2,000 received €1,800 excess returned
Senator Lorraine Clifford-Lee	Fianna Fáil	Fianna Fáil CDC, Dublin Fingal	€1,000 received €800 excess returned
Patrick Costello TD	Green Party	Green Party	€1,000 received €800 excess returned
Senator Ollie Crowe	Fianna Fáil	Fianna Fáil	€1,000 received €800 excess returned
Pa Daly TD	Sinn Féin	EF Signs	€652 received €652 returned
Senator Aisling Dolan	Fine Gael	Fine Gael Roscommon-Galway Constituency	€4,793 received €4,593 excess returned
Francis Noel Duffy TD	Green Party	Green Party	€1,000 received €800 excess returned
Frank Feighan TD	Fine Gael	Fine Gael Carrick-on-Shannon District	€1,000 received €800 excess returned
Joe Flaherty TD	Fianna Fáil	Declan O'Flaherty	€2,005 received €1,005 excess returned
Senator Pippa Hackett	Green Party	Green Party	€1,000 received €800 excess returned
Neasa Hourigan TD	Green Party	Green Party	€1,000 received €800 excess returned
John Lahart TD	Fianna Fáil	Fianna Fáil, Dublin South West	€1,000 received €800 excess returned
Catherine Martin TD	Green Party	Green Party Dublin Rathdown	€680 received €480 excess returned
Micheál Martin TD	Fianna Fáil	Fianna Fáil Cork South Central	€1,000 received €800 excess returned
Steven Matthews TD	Green Party	Green Party	€1,000 received €800 excess returned
Helen McEntee TD	Fine Gael	Ashbourne Visitor Centre	€1,400 received €1,200 excess returned
		Ashbourne Oil Company	€1,400 received €1,200 excess returned
		Irish Bison Ltd	€1,400 received €1,200 excess returned
Michael McGrath TD	Fianna Fáil	Fianna Fáil Cork South Central	€1,000 received €800 excess returned

Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD	Fianna Fáil	Plazamont	€1,000 received €800 excess returned
Malcolm Noonan TD	Green Party	Green Party	€1,000 received €800 excess returned
Darragh O'Brien TD	Fianna Fáil	Fianna Fáil CDC, Dublin Fingal	€1,000 received €800 excess returned
Joe O'Brien TD	Green Party	Green Party	€1,000 received €800 excess returned
Roderic O'Gorman TD	Green Party	Green Party	€1,000 received €800 excess returned
Eamon Ryan TD	Green Party	Green Party, Dublin Bay South	€1,000 received €800 excess returned