

Statements of expenditure of parliamentary activities allowances 2022

Report to the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform in accordance with Section 10D of the Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices Act 1938



Coimisiún um Chaighdeáin in Oifigí Poiblí
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Foreword

I am pleased to furnish this report to the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform, in accordance with section 10D of the Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices Act 1938. The statements of expenditure and public auditors' reports in respect of 2022 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.



Garrett Sheehan
Chairperson
Standards in Public Office Commission
December 2023

Chapter 1: Introduction

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

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

The allowances are referred to generally as 'parliamentary activities allowances' (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 2022 furnished to the Commission by the parliamentary leaders of nine political parties, nineteen independent TDs and ten independent Senators who received allowances in 2023.

The Commission does not have a role in the allocation of this allowance, but does have a supervisory role in relation to its expenditure. It receives statements of expenditure of the allowances, reviews them for compliance and consults as needed the parliamentary party leaders/independent members where queries arise. The Commission must furnish a report on the statements to the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform and lay a copy of its report before the Houses of the Oireachtas. It must also facilitate inspection and copying of the statements on request.

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. The statement must be audited by a public auditor and must be submitted with the auditor's report to the Commission within 120 days after the end of the financial year in which an allowance has been paid. 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 2022 reporting period was 30 April 2023.

The leaders of the following nine political parties were required to furnish statements to the Commission in respect of 2022:

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

In addition, ten independent Senators and nineteen independent TDs were required to furnish statements to the Commission for 2022.

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 Commission must furnish a report to the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery 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.

Based on the information provided, the Commission is satisfied that no evidence exists of non-compliance with the above provisions.

The Commission is required to provide a copy of its report to the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform and to lay it before each House of the Oireachtas. A copy of the statements and auditors' reports received must be retained by the Commission and be made available for public inspection and copying at the Commission's offices.

The statements and auditors' reports are available at www.sipo.ie.

The Commission will also make copies of the statements and reports available for public inspection, without charge, at its office at 6 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, D02 W773, during normal working hours. If you wish to inspect the statutory documentation, please contact the Commission via email at info@sipo.ie or by telephone at (01) 639-5666.

The Appendix to this report provides the following details for 2022:

- Table 1 provides details of funding available to the Parliamentary leaders of qualified political parties
- Table 2 shows the expenditure breakdown by category and by political party
- Table 3 provides details of funding available to independent TDs
- Table 4 shows the breakdown of expenditure by category and independent TD
- Table 5 provides details of funding available to independent Senators, and
- Table 6 shows the breakdown of expenditure by category and independent Senator.

Chapter 3: Parliamentary activities allowance - rates of payment during 2022

The Parliamentary activities allowance is paid to parliamentary party leaders and elected non-party members of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann by the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform.

The allowance increases in line with general pay increases in the Civil Service and is not subject to income tax. The annual allowances payable as of 1 January 2022 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.

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

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 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 €38,882 while elected or nominated non-party members of Seanad Éireann received an annual allowance of €22,094.

Total funding in 2022 to the leaders of the nine qualifying parties was €7,992,122.

Funding made available to non-party members of the Dáil amounted to €738,759.

Funding made available to non-party members of the Seanad amounted to €215,723.

Appendix: Funding and expenditure details

Note: totals may not match due to rounding.

Table 1 – Details of funding available to the Parliamentary Leaders of qualified political parties under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2022

Political Parties	Closing Balance 2021 €	Total received for 2022 €	Expenditure in 2022 €	Closing Balance 2022 €
Aontú	19,229	67,577	71,938	14,867
Fianna Fáil	177,998	1,889,951	2,023,729	44,220
Fine Gael	628,993	1,707,380	1,783,894	552,479
Green Party	106,263	699,340	805,602	0
Independents 4 Change	33,010	111,764	108,656	36,118
Labour Party	750,324	649,785	515,964	884,145
People Before Profit/Solidarity	279,756	337,884	288,871	328,769
Sinn Féin	1,492,870	2,122,980	1,588,301	2,027,549
Social Democrats	284,551	405,461	244,484	445,529
Total	3,772,993	7,992,121	7,431,439	4,333,675

Table 2 – Breakdown by category and by political party of expenditure of the allowance in 2022

Category	Aontú €	Fianna Fáil €	Fine Gael €	Green Party €	Independents 4 Change €	The Labour Party €	People Before Profit/Solidarity €	Sinn Féin €
a	11,160	1,859,755	122,876	215,633	43,452	514,300	25,824	1,050,760
b	13,770	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
c	-	17,202	153,458	-	44,208	-	-	58,317
d	725	-	103,969	16,778	19,196	1,664	-	306,331
e	10,750	123,860	45,094	-	1,800	-	-	44,280
f	-	-	-	18,013	-	-	-	93,164
g	-	-	1,358,497	555,178	-	-	-	35,449
h	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
i	25,772	-	-	-	-	-	263,047	-
j	9,454	22,912	-	-	-	-	-	-
k	308	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	71,938	2,023,729	1,783,894	805,602	108,656	515,964	288,871	1,588,301

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 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 2022

TD	Closing Balance 2021 €	Total received in 2022 €	Expenditure in 2022 €	Closing balance 2022 €
Berry, Cathal	1,155	38,882	39,334	703
Canney, Séan	54,311	38,882	29,884	63,309
Collins, Michael	5,280	38,882	37,782	6,380
Connolly, Catherine	36,288	38,882	30,578	44,593
Fitzmaurice, Michael	36,853	38,882	41,565	34,170
Fitzpatrick, Peter	1,933	38,882	33,300	7,516
Grealish, Noel	93,194	38,882	32,239	99,837
Harkin, Marian	4,322	38,882	34,750	8,455
Healy Rae, Danny	4,589	38,882	38,245	5,226
Healy Rae, Michael	10,082	38,882	41,294	7,671
Lowry, Michael	68,528	38,882	34,480	72,931
McGrath, Mattie	80,429	38,882	53,378	65,933
McNamara, Michael	1,712	38,882	28,404	12,190
Murphy, Verona	37,345	38,882	17,344	58,884
Naughten, Denis	132,182	38,882	32,291	138,774
Nolan, Carol*	-	38,882	10,838	-
O'Donoghue, Richard	20,143	38,882	47,790	11,235
Pringle, Thomas	15,984	38,882	36,503	18,364
Shanahan, Matt	41,380	38,882	27,247	53,016
Total	645,712	738,763	647,247	709,184

*Deputy returned their remaining balance for 2022

Table 4 – Breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2022 given by each independent TD

Category	a	b	c	d	e	f	
Berry, Cathal	0	17,960	1,674	19,700	0	0	39,334
Canney, Séan	0	14,650	2,838	12,246	0	150	29,884
Collins, Michael	5,850	14,400	11,627	2,635	3,270	0	37,782
Connolly, Catherine	3,000	27,209	0	369	0	0	30,578
Fitzmaurice, Michael	0	11,337	0	28,778	1,450	0	41,565
Fitzpatrick, Peter	0	27,900	5,400	0	0	0	33,300
Grealish, Noel	246	800	7,193	24,000	0	0	32,239
Harkin, Marian	0	1,000	16,250	17,500	0	0	34,750
Healy Rae, Danny	875	24,200	12,555	615	0	0	38,245
Healy Rae, Michael	0	40,142	0	766	0	386	41,294
Lowry, Michael	0	18,450	0	16,030	0	0	34,480
McGrath, Mattie	2,312	34,112	9,739	6,784	0	432	53,378
McNamara, Michael	0	0	0	0	28,404	0	28,404
Murphy, Verona	0	12,200	3,934	1,210	0	0	17,344
Naughten, Denis	2,046	7,642	11,971	10,633	0	0	32,291
Nolan, Carol*	0	10,645	0	0	0	193	10,838
O'Donoghue, Richard	4,348	42,816	150	0	0	476	47,790
Pringle, Thomas	664	17,947	17,892	0	0	0	36,503
Shanahan, Matt	7,125	2,880	7,245	4,200	5,797	0	27,247
Total	26,467	326,290	108,468	145,465	38,921	1,637	647,247

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 2022

Senator	Closing balance 2021 €	Total received for 2022 €	Expenditure in 2022 €	Closing balance €
Black, Frances	39,051	22,094	19,995	41,149
Boyhan, Victor	61,690	22,094	18,870	64,914
Clonan, Tom	0	16,877	14,993	1884
Craughwell, Gerard	15,889	22,094	28,531	9,451
Higgins, Alice Mary	12,149	22,094	18,164	16,049
Keogan, Sharon	8,508	22,094	18,300	12,302
McDowell, Michael	52,145	22,094	6,912	67,327
Mullen, Rónán	0	22,094	22,094	0
Norris, David	50,716	22,094	13,115	59,695
Ruane, Lynn	514	22,094	22,609	0
Total	240,662	215,722	183,614	272,771

Table 6 – Breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2022 provided by each independent member of the Seanad

Category	a	b	c	d	e	f	Total
Black, Frances	0	17,600	214	2,181	0	0	19,995
Boyhan, Victor	5,525	0	13,345	0	0	0	18,870
Clonan, Tom	887	18	12,626	1,290	0	172	14,993
Craughwell, Gerard	1,918	725	25,409	0	0	479	28,531
Higgins, Alice Mary	2,411	6,276	8,985	492	0	0	18,194
Keogan, Sharon	0	7,855	8,845	1,600	0	0	18,300
McDowell, Michael	1,261	4,466	1,185	0	0	0	6,912
Mullen, Rónán	4,812	9,681	7,478	0	0	123	22,094
Norris, David	0	0	0	13,115	0	0	13,115
Lynn, Ruane	1,079	7,441	12,679	695	0	716	22,609
Total	17,894	54,062	90,765	19,372	0	1,490	183,613

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.