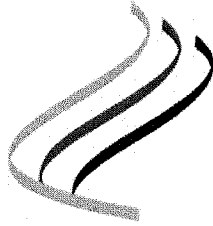


**Exchequer funding of political parties  
in 2015  
under the  
parliamentary activities allowance legislation**



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

*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*

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**June 2016**

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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 of the Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices Act 1938 as amended by the Oireachtas (Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices)(Amendment) Act 2014 (the Act). The statements of expenditure and public auditors' reports in respect of 2015 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  
Chairman

June 2016

## Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 The payment of an annual allowance to one or more leaders of parliamentary parties (in relation to expenses arising from the parliamentary activities, including research, of the party) has been provided for and regulated in a succession of Acts beginning with the Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices Act 1938. Party leaders are required to furnish to the Standards in Public Office Commission (the Standards Commission) an annual statement of expenditure from the allowance.

1.2 A similar allowance became payable to independent members of the Dáil and Seanad under the Oireachtas (Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices) (Amendment) Act 2001.

1.3 The Oireachtas (Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices) (Amendment) Act 2014 reduced the level of payments and for the first time provided that independent members are now required to furnish to the Commission an annual statement of expenditure. The allowance is now known as the Parliamentary Activities Allowance (PAA).

1.4 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. Following the general election of 2011 and subsequent bye-elections, the parliamentary leaders of seven political parties qualified to receive the allowance.

1.5 This report concerns the statements of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance for the year 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015, furnished to the Standards Commission by the parliamentary leaders of the eight (see 2.2 below) political parties qualified to receive the allowance during 2015 and the 12 independent Senators and 15 independent TDs who received payments in the same period.

1.6 If a qualifying party forms part of the Government, then the combined allowances in respect of its members of the Dáil only are reduced by one-third. This reduction applied to the allowances received in 2015 by Fine Gael and The Labour Party.

1.7 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 the party leaders and independent members**

### **Background**

2.1      The Act provides that parliamentary party leaders must prepare, or cause to be prepared, not more than 120 days after the end of the financial year in which an allowance has been paid, i.e., 30 April, 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 Standards Commission within this 120 day period. The allowance shall not be paid unless the statement and auditor's report have been received by the Standards Commission not more than 120 days after the end of the financial year to which the statement and auditor's report relate. The deadline of 30 April will be extended by any period for which Dáil Éireann stands dissolved which coincides with that period. The Dáil was dissolved on 3 February and the new Dáil reconvened on 10 March. Therefore, this year the deadline for receiving returns was 5 June 2016.

2.2      The leaders of the following 8 political parties were required to furnish a statement to the Standards Commission. Anti-Austerity Alliance and People before Profit Alliance amalgamated at end August 2015, to become Anti-Austerity Alliance/People before Profit and all three parties received funding in 2015. The 8 parties are:

- Anti-Austerity Alliance,
- Fianna Fáil,
- Fine Gael,
- People before Profit Alliance,
- Anti-Austerity Alliance/People before Profit,
- Sinn Féin,
- Stop the Water Tax – Socialist Party
- The Labour Party.

In addition, twelve independent Senators and fifteen independent TDs were required to furnish a statement to the Standards Commission. (Only 14 TDs were required to furnish a statement in 2014 as Mr Michael Fitzmaurice TD did not claim any allowance in 2014 and made his first claim in 2015 which included arrears in respect of 2014.)

2.3      A statement of expenditure/auditor's report was received by the Standards Commission from each of the parliamentary leaders of the qualifying parties, from the twelve independent Senators and the fifteen independent TDs within the specified period.

2.4      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 parliamentary party leaders and independent members to state on their statement of expenditure that the allowance has not been used for electoral or referendum purposes and each one has done so.

2.5      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.

2.6      The Standards Commission, having considered the statements of expenditure/auditors' reports, is now satisfied that the provisions referred to at 2.5 above, have been complied with.

2.7      The Standards Commission is required to lay a copy of its report to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform 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).

2.8 Details of the allowances paid in 2015 to the parliamentary party leaders are shown in Table 1 of the Appendix.

2.9 Table 2 of the Appendix shows the breakdown given by each political party leader of expenditure of the allowance during 2015.

2.10 Details of the allowances paid to independent TDs, during 2015, are shown in Table 3 of the Appendix.

2.11 Table 4 of the Appendix shows the breakdown given by each independent TD of expenditure of the allowance during 2015.

2.12 Details of the allowances paid to independent Senators, during 2015, are shown in Table 5 of the Appendix.

2.13 Table 6 of the Appendix shows the breakdown given by each independent senator of expenditure of the allowance during 2015.

### **Chapter 3      Parliamentary Activities Allowance - rates of payment during 2015**

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

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

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

- €42,089 per member elected or nominated for each of the first five members
- and
- €21,045 for each member elected or nominated over 5 members.

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.

The total funding made available in 2015 to the Parliamentary Party Leaders of the eight qualifying parties amounted to €6,830,058.

The funding made available to non-party members of the Dáil during 2015 amounted to a total of €561,728.

The funding made available to non-party members of the Seanad during 2015 amounted to a total of €252,540.

## APPENDIX

**Table 1**

*Details of funding available to the Parliamentary Leaders of Qualified Political Parties under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2015*

Funding	Total received for 2015	Brought forward from 2014	Total available for 2015	Total expenditure 2015	Balance carried forward to 2016
	€	€	€	€	€
<b>Anti-Austerity Alliance</b>	48,276	8,939	57,215	32,297	24,918*
<b>Fianna Fáil</b>	1,538,415	40,008	1,578,423	1,578,423	Nil
<b>Fine Gael</b>	2,394,394	889,033	3,283,427	2,564,164	719,263
<b>People before Profit Alliance</b>	85,824	36,240	122,064	93,137	28,927*
<b>AAA/PBP</b>	64,368	53,845**	118,213	86,518	31,695
<b>Sinn Féin</b>	975,919	39,686	1,015,605	935,555	80,050
<b>Stop the Water Tax – Socialist Party</b>	132,092	30,609	162,701	159,101	3,600
<b>The Labour Party</b>	1,590,770	1,741,970	3,332,740	1,934,456	1,398,284
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,830,058</b>	<b>2,840,330</b>	<b>9,670,388</b>	<b>7,383,651</b>	<b>2,286,737</b>

\*Carried forward to AAA/PBP (Anti Austerity Alliance/People before Profit) at end of August

\*\*Brought forward from AAA and PBPA at end of August



**Table 2***Breakdown by category and by political party of expenditure of the allowance in 2015*

	AAA	Fianna Fáil	Fine Gael	PBPA	AAA/PBPA	Sinn Féin	S the WT SP	The Labour Party
<b>a</b>	6,162	1,483,507	119,481	67,729	52,948	629,205	42,409	1,490,350
<b>b</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,800	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>c</b>	Nil	6,658	Nil	Nil	Nil	38,959	1,203	262,475
<b>d</b>	Nil	Nil	251,425	Nil	Nil	172,298	20,450	181,631
<b>e</b>	Nil	39,437	178,604	Nil	Nil	Nil	861	Nil
<b>f</b>	Nil	Nil	205,611	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>g</b>	Nil	Nil	1,809,043	Nil	Nil	95,093	Nil	Nil
<b>h</b>	Nil	30,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>i</b>	25,509	Nil	Nil	17,601	22,387	Nil	93,012	Nil
<b>j</b>	626	18,821	Nil	7,807	9,124	Nil	1,166	Nil
<b>k</b>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	259	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,297</b>	<b>1,578,423</b>	<b>2,564,164</b>	<b>93,137</b>	<b>86,518</b>	<b>935,555</b>	<b>159,101</b>	<b>1,934,456</b>

**S the WT SP = Stop the Water Tax - Socialist Party****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 and
- (k) entertainment.

**Table 3**

*Details of funding available to independent TDs under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2015*

<b>Name of TD</b>	<b>Total amount received 2015</b>	<b>Amount carried forward from 2014</b>	<b>Total Amount for 2015</b>	<b>Amount spent in 2015</b>	<b>Amount brought forward to 2016</b>
	€	€	€	€	€
Donnelly, Stephen	37,037	Nil	37,037	33,596	3,441
Fitzmaurice, Michael	43,210*	Nil	43,210	29,254	13,956
Fleming, Tom	37,037	16,687	53,724	50,027	3,697
Grealish, Noel	37,037	14,561	51,598	32,164	19,434
Halligan, John	37,037	4,690	41,727	42,419	(692)
Healy, Seamus	37,037	3,550	40,587	29,765	10,822
Healy Rae, Michael	37,037	10,753	47,790	29,312	18,478
Lowry, Michael	37,037	68	37,105	6,028	31,077
McGrath, Finian	37,037	14,201	51,238	21,971	29,267
McGrath, Mattie	37,037	11,212	48,249	26,161	22,088
Murphy, Catherine	37,037	470	37,507	35,215	2,292
O'Sullivan, Maureen	37,037	7,374	44,411	35,105	9,306
Pringle, Thomas	37,037	2,900	39,937	28,788	11,149
Ross, Shane	37,037	5,934	42,971	18,778	24,193
Wallace, Michael	37,037	10,399	47,436	32,930	14,506
<b>Total</b>	<b>561,728</b>	<b>102,799</b>	<b>664,527</b>	<b>451,513</b>	<b>213,014</b>

\*Includes arrears for 2014

**Table 4**

*Breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2015 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>	<b>Balance c/fwd to 2016</b>
<b>Name of TD</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Donnelly, Stephen	6,689	1,256	14,475	9,155	466	1,555	<b>33,596</b>	<b>3,441</b>
Fitzmaurice, Michael	684	Nil	17,050	11,520	Nil	Nil	<b>29,254</b>	<b>13,956</b>
Fleming, Tom	3,081	24,015	Nil	22,931	Nil	Nil	<b>50,027</b>	<b>3,697</b>
Grealish, Noel	246	Nil	7,993	23,925	Nil	Nil	<b>32,164</b>	<b>19,434</b>
Halligan, John	3,765	6,100	17,934	6,500	4,140	3,980	<b>42,419</b>	<b>(692)</b>
Healy, Seamus	28,996	Nil	Nil	369	Nil	400	<b>29,765</b>	<b>10,822</b>
Healy Rae, Michael	Nil	22,826	4,259	308	Nil	1,919	<b>29,312</b>	<b>18,478</b>
Lowry, Michael	Nil	4,500	Nil	1,528	Nil	Nil	<b>6,028</b>	<b>31,077</b>
McGrath, Finian	4,195	Nil	359	4,922	11,377	1,118	<b>21,971</b>	<b>29,267</b>
McGrath, Mattie	4,700	8,703	6,311	Nil	3,524	2,923	<b>26,161</b>	<b>22,088</b>
Murphy, Catherine	28,179	Nil	5,437	1,599	Nil	Nil	<b>35,215</b>	<b>2,292</b>
O'Sullivan, Maureen	3,081	5,200	Nil	23,324	3,500	Nil	<b>35,105</b>	<b>9,306</b>
Pringle, Thomas	3,081	11,444	13,003	1,260	Nil	Nil	<b>28,788</b>	<b>11,149</b>
Ross, Shane	3,080	Nil	Nil	369	14,056	1,273	<b>18,778</b>	<b>24,193</b>
Wallace, Michael	6,610	16,040	4,500	Nil	Nil	5,780	<b>32,930</b>	<b>14,506</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,387</b>	<b>100,084</b>	<b>91,321</b>	<b>107,710</b>	<b>37,063</b>	<b>18,948</b>	<b>451,513</b>	<b>213,014</b>

#### **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 2015*

<b>Name of Senator</b>	<b>Total amount received in 2015</b>	<b>Amount carried forward from 2014</b>	<b>Total Amount for 2015</b>	<b>Amount spent in 2015</b>	<b>Amount brought forward to 2016</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Barrett, Seán D	21,045	10,523	31,568	31,568	Nil
Coughlan, Eamon	21,045	9562	30,607	17,073	13,534
Craughwell, Gerard	21,045	3,775	24,820	21,836	2,984
Crown, John	21,045	373	21,418	21,418	Nil
MacConghaill, Fiach	21,045	2,865	23,910	15,774	8,136
Mullen, Ronan	21,045	Nil	21,045	21,045	Nil
Norris, David	21,045	8,032	29,077	11,408	17,669
O'Brien, Mary Anne*	21,045	Nil	21,045	Nil	Nil
O'Donnell, Marie Louise	21,045	5,306	26,351	22,364	3,987
Quinn, Fergal	21,045	Nil	21,045	21,045	Nil
Van Turnhout, Jillian	21,045	Nil	21,045	9,390	11,655
Zappone, Katherine	21,045	Nil	21,045	21,045	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>252,540</b>	<b>40,436</b>	<b>292,976</b>	<b>213,966*</b>	<b>57,965*</b>

\*Senator O'Brien returned to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, the full amount of the allowance she received.

**Table 6****Breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2015 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>	<b>Balance c/fwd to 2016</b>
<b>Name of Senator</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Barrett, Seán D	13,571	11,150	3,691	Nil	3,156	Nil	<b>31,568</b>	<b>Nil</b>
Coughlan, Eamon	Nil	3,955	2,460	6,811	800	3,046	<b>17,072</b>	<b>13,534</b>
Craughwell, Gerard	6,519	1,788	7,446	3,839	300	1,945	<b>21,837</b>	<b>2,984</b>
Crown, John	12,144	7,756	1,518	Nil	Nil	Nil	<b>21,418</b>	<b>Nil</b>
MacConghail I, Fiach	Nil	6,697	8,001	308	Nil	768	<b>15,774</b>	<b>8,136</b>
Mullen, Ronan	Nil	9,606	3,939	7,500	Nil	Nil	<b>21,045</b>	<b>Nil</b>
Norris, David	Nil	Nil	Nil	11,408	Nil	Nil	<b>11,408</b>	<b>17,669</b>
O'Brien, Mary Anne	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>
O'Donnell, Marie Louise	1,500	13,184	6,184	615	Nil	881	<b>22,364</b>	<b>3,987</b>
Quinn, Fergal	Nil	21,045	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	<b>21,045</b>	<b>Nil</b>
Van Turnhout, Jillian	Nil	1,195	4,500	2,314	Nil	1,381	<b>9,390</b>	<b>11,655</b>
Zappone, Katherine	Nil	355	2,149	16,519	Nil	2,022	<b>21,045</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,734</b>	<b>76,731</b>	<b>39,888</b>	<b>49,314</b>	<b>4,256</b>	<b>10,043</b>	<b>213,966</b>	<b>57,965</b>

**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.