

# Statements of expenditure of parliamentary activities allowances 2021

*Report to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform in accordance with Section  
10D of the Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices Act 1938*



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

**Standards in Public Office Commission**  
**6 Earlsfort Terrace**  
**Dublin 2**  
**D02 W773**

**Telephone: (01) 6395666**  
**E-Mail: [info@sipo.ie](mailto:info@sipo.ie)**  
**Website: [www.sipo.ie](http://www.sipo.ie)**  
**Twitter: [@SIPOCIreland](https://twitter.com/SIPOCIreland)**

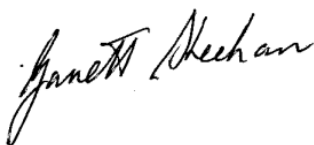
**August 2022**

## Table of Contents

Foreword.....	3
Chapter 1: Introduction.....	4
Chapter 2: Statements of expenditure furnished by party leaders & independent members.....	5
Chapter 3: Parliamentary Activities Allowance - rates of payment during 2021.....	8
Appendix: Funding and expenditure details.....	9

## 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. The statements of expenditure and public auditors' reports in respect of 2021 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  
August 2022

## 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 2021 furnished to the Commission by the parliamentary leaders of nine political parties, nineteen independent TDs and nine independent Senators who received the allowance in 2021.

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 allowance, 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 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. 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 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 2021 reporting period was 30 April 2022.

The leaders of the following nine political parties were required to furnish a statement to the commission in respect of 2021:

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

In addition, nine independent Senators and nineteen independent TDs were required to furnish a statement to the Commission for 2021.

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 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 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](http://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](mailto:info@sipo.ie) or by telephone at (01) 639-5666.

The Appendix to this report provides the following details for 2021:

- 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 2021

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 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 2021 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 €37,037 while elected or nominated non-party members of Seanad Éireann received an annual allowance of €21,045.

Total funding in 2021 to the leaders of the nine qualifying parties was €7,613,285.

Funding made available to non-party members of the Dáil amounted to €705,461.

Funding made available to non-party members of the Seanad amounted to €189,878.



## 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 2021**

	Closing balance 2020	Total received in 2021	Expenditure in 2021	Closing balance 2021
Political Parties	€	€	€	€
Aontú	28,702	64,529	74,003	19,229
Fianna Fáil	—	1,798,390	1,620,392	177,998
Fine Gael	362,959	1,629,776	1,363,743	628,993
Green Party	248,372	667,799	809,908	106,263
Independents 4 Change	40,646	106,723	114,359	33,010
People Before Profit/Solidarity	193,193	322,645	236,083	279,756
Sinn Féin	851,993	2,027,231	1,386,355	1,492,870
Social Democrats	205,927	387,174	308,550	284,551
The Labour Party	713,596	609,016	572,288	750,324
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,645,389</b>	<b>7,613,285</b>	<b>6,485,680</b>	<b>3,772,993</b>

**Table 2 – Breakdown by category and by political party of expenditure of the allowance in 2021**

Category	a €	b €	c €	d €	e €	f €	g €	h €	i €	j €	k €	Total €
Aontú	19,280	14,100	—	1,175	12,000	—	—	—	27,448	—	—	74,003
Fianna Fáil	1,431,037	—	31,830	—	154,334	—	—	—	—	3,191	—	1,620,392
Fine Gael	119,591	—	101,687	48,268	44,440	—	1,049,757	—	—	—	—	1,363,743
Green Party	176,221	—	2,750	23,288	—	—	597,900	—	9,750	—	—	809,909
Independents 4 Change	40,219	—	32,812	25,000	16,327	—	—	—	—	—	—	114,358
People Before Profit/Solidarity	22,941	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	213,142	—	—	236,083
Sinn Féin	939,896	—	59,543	228,234	44,180	85,351	29,151	—	—	—	—	1,386,355
Social Democrats	302,628	—	—	5,922	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	308,550
The Labour Party	385,764	—	—	186,524	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	572,288
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,437,577</b>	<b>14,100</b>	<b>228,622</b>	<b>518,411</b>	<b>271,281</b>	<b>85,351</b>	<b>1,676,808</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>250,340</b>	<b>3,191</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6,485,681</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 2021**

Name of TD	Closing balance 2020 €	Total received in 2021 €	Expenditure in 2021 €	Closing balance 2021 €
Berry, Cathal	8,009	37,130	43,984	1,155
Canney, Seán	44,779	37,130	27,598	54,311
Collins, Michael	3,635	37,130	35,484	5,280
Connolly, Catherine	50,930	37,130	51,771	36,288
Fitzmaurice, Michael	43,836	37,130	44,113	36,853
Fitzpatrick, Peter	3,304	37,130	38,500	1,933
Grealish, Noel	82,661	37,130	26,597	93,194
Harkin, Marian	1,193	37,130	34,000	4,322
Healy Rae, Danny	2,391	37,130	34,932	4,589
Healy Rae, Michael	7,528	37,130	34,575	10,082
Lowry, Michael	32,881	37,130	1,482	68,528
McGrath, Mattie	69,050	37,130	25,751	80,429
McNamara, Michael	1,718	37,130	37,136	1,712
Murphy, Verona	11,736	37,130	11,520	37,345
Naughten, Denis	107,423	37,130	12,370	132,182
Nolan, Carol *	—	37,130	14,080	—
O'Donoghue, Richard	20,609	37,130	37,596	20,143
Pringle, Thomas	4,497	37,130	25,643	15,984
Shanahan, Matt	23,380	37,130	19,129	41,380
<b>Total</b>	<b>519,560</b>	<b>705,461</b>	<b>556,260</b>	<b>645,712</b>

\*Deputy returned their remaining balance for 2021

**Table 4 – Breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2021 given by each independent TD**

Category	a €	b €	c €	d €	e €	f €	Total €
Berry, Cathal	3,378	16,126	791	23,690	—	—	43,984
Canney, Seán	—	14,625	727	12,246	—	—	27,598
Collins, Michael	—	8,850	19,428	6,032	1,175	—	35,484
Connolly, Catherine	5,250	46,152	—	369	—	—	51,771
Fitzmaurice, Michael	—	21,525	—	22,588	—	—	44,113
Fitzpatrick, Peter	—	31,750	6,750	—	—	—	38,500
Grealish, Noel	246	800	1,236	24,315	—	—	26,597
Harkin, Marian	—	—	19,000	15,000	—	—	34,000
Healy Rae, Danny	—	16,050	18,267	615	—	—	34,932
Healy Rae, Michael	—	33,345	—	1,230	—	—	34,575
Lowry, Michael	—	800	—	682	—	—	1,482
McGrath, Mattie	2,426	14,638	4,143	4,544	—	—	25,751
McNamara, Michael	420	—	—	36,716	—	—	37,136
Murphy, Verona	—	7,303	—	4,218	—	—	11,520
Naughten, Denis	246	3,960	3,952	4,212	—	—	12,370
Nolan, Carol	—	14,080	—	—	—	—	14,080
O'Donoghue, Richard	4,883	32,712	—	—	—	—	37,596
Pringle, Thomas	802	13,870	10,971	—	—	—	25,643
Shanahan, Matt	4,914	800	4,500	2,869	2,630	3,416	19,129
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,564</b>	<b>277,386</b>	<b>89,763</b>	<b>159,324</b>	<b>3,805</b>	<b>3,416</b>	<b>556,260</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 2021**

Name of Senator	Closing balance 2020 €	Total received in 2021 €	Expenditure in 2021 €	Closing balance 2021 €
Black, Frances	29,587	21,098	11,634	39,051
Boyhan, Victor	50,158	21,098	9,565	61,690
Craughwell, Gerard	21,192	21,098	26,401	15,889
Higgins, Alice Mary	13,252	21,098	22,200	12,149
Keogan, Sharon	11,905	21,098	24,495	8,508
McDowell, Michael	36,027	21,098	4,980	52,145
Mullen, Rónán	—	21,098	21,098	—
Norris, David	37,943	21,098	8,325	50,716
Ruane, Lynn	632	21,098	21,216	514
<b>Total</b>	<b>200,698</b>	<b>189,878</b>	<b>149,914</b>	<b>240,662</b>

**Table 6 – Breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2021 provided by each independent member of the Seanad**

Category	a €	b €	c €	d €	e €	f €	Total €
Black, Frances	—	10,620	522	492	—	—	11,634
Boyhan, Victor	3,080	—	5,809	677	—	—	9,565
Craughwell, Gerard	1,811	420	8,529	14,711	—	930	26,401
Higgins, Alice Mary	3,825	9,277	8,606	492	—	—	22,200
Keogan, Sharon	887	20,251	2,557	800	—	—	24,495
McDowell, Michael	2,376	—	2,120	484	—	—	4,980
Mullen, Rónán	2,175	13,975	4,665	—	—	282	21,098
Norris, David	—	—	—	8,325	—	—	8,325
Ruane, Lynn	1,402	10,591	7,033	2,124	—	66	21,216
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,556</b>	<b>65,133</b>	<b>39,842</b>	<b>28,104</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,278</b>	<b>149,913</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;
- f) entertainment.