

# Donations to Political Parties

## 2016

*Report to the Chairman of Dáil Éireann pursuant  
to section 4(1) of the Electoral Act 1997*



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

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## Foreword

I am pleased to furnish this report to the Ceann Comhairle (Chairman of Dáil Éireann) in accordance with section 4(1) of the Electoral Act 1997, as amended. The report relates to annual donation statements/certificate of monetary donations and statutory declarations, in respect of 2016, furnished to the Standards in Public Office Commission by political parties pursuant to section 24 of the Act.



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Justice Daniel O'Keeffe  
Chairperson  
Standards in Public Office Commission  
June 2017

## Chapter 1 Introduction

Not later than 31 March each year, political parties are required by section 24(1)(b) of the Act to furnish a donation statement covering the previous calendar year to the Commission. During 2016 there were 20 political parties registered to contest Dáil or European elections that were obliged to furnish a donation statement for 2016. All registered political parties are obliged to furnish their donation statements by 31 March 2017. 12 political parties had complied fully with the statutory requirements by the 31 March deadline, all others were late. 7 of the 8 outstanding political parties had complied with the legislation by 2 May 2017.

A list of political parties that were issued a donation statement by the Commission is available at Appendix 1.

## Chapter 2 Donations disclosed by political parties

The donation statement provided by a political party must show whether or not, in the preceding calendar year, the party received a donation or donations exceeding €1,500 from the same source. Disclosed donations should include the name, description and postal address of the person by or on whose behalf the donation was made.

The maximum value of donations that a political party may accept from the same person in the same calendar year is €2,500. A party may not accept a corporate or business donation in excess of €200 unless the donor is registered with the Commission as a Corporate Donor. A political party is also precluded from accepting foreign donations from an individual (other than an Irish citizen) who resides outside the island of Ireland. Similarly, no donation of any value, may be accepted from a body corporate or an unincorporated body of persons which does not keep an office in the island of Ireland from which at least one of its principal activities is directed.

### Amount of donations disclosed by political parties

The total value of donations disclosed by parties during 2016 was **€163,640**. Appendix 2 shows in detail the donations disclosed by political parties for 2016. A summary of the donations disclosed is shown below:

| Party  | Total Donations disclosed<br>€ |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Anti - Austerity Alliance – People Before Profit | 4,800.00                       |
| Fine Gael  | 65,324.00                      |
| Green Party                                      | 6,500.00                       |
| Labour Party                                     | 4,900.00                       |
| Sinn Féin  | 32,883.00                      |
| Social Democrats                                 | 5,000.00                       |
| Socialist Party                                  | 39,518.00                      |
| Workers and Unemployed Action                    | 4,715.00                       |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>163,640.00</b>              |

## Chapter 3 Accounting Units

The treasurer or any other person responsible for dealing with donations to a branch or other subsidiary organisation of a political party must open and maintain a political donations account in a financial institution in the State and lodge to that account any donations received.

By 31 March each year, the responsible person must furnish to the Standards Commission:

- \* a statement from the financial institution where the political donations account was opened specifying the transactions that have taken place in relation to the account during the preceding year (bank statement), and
- \* a certificate (Certificate of Monetary Donations) signed by him/her, stating that all monetary donations received during the preceding year were lodged to the account and that all amounts debited from the account were used for political purposes, and
- \* a statutory declaration, signed by him/her stating that, to the best of the person's knowledge and belief, the certificate is correct in every material respect and that all reasonable action has been taken in order to satisfy him/herself as to the accuracy of the certificate.

It is an offence, under Section 25(1) (c) of the Act, for the treasurer/responsible person of an accounting unit to fail to comply with this requirement.

The Commission notes that the provision of relevant documentation by accounting units has improved. 87% of accounting units had submitted their returns to the Standards Commission by the deadline date of 31 March 2017. The equivalent figure for 2016 was 78%.

## Table of Accounting Units returns received in respect of 2016

| Political Party               | Total amount of accounting units | Returns Received before deadline | Returns Received After deadline |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Fine Gael                     | 41                               | 38                               | 3                               |
| Fianna Fáil                   | 36                               | 36                               | 0                               |
| Labour Party                  | 32                               | 25                               | 7                               |
| Sinn Féin                     | 14                               | 13                               | 1                               |
| Green Party                   | 13                               | 13                               | 0                               |
| AAA-PBP                       | 11                               | 8                                | 3                               |
| Catholic Democrats            | 1                                | 0                                | 1                               |
| Communist Party of Ireland    | 1                                | 1                                | 0                               |
| Direct Democracy Ireland      | 1                                | 1                                | 0                               |
| Fis Nua                       | 1                                | 1                                | 0                               |
| Identity Ireland              | 1                                | 0                                | 1                               |
| Independents 4 Change         | 1                                | 0                                | 1                               |
| Irish Democratic Party        | 1                                | 0                                | 1                               |
| Kerry Independent Alliance    | 1                                | 0                                | 1                               |
| Renua Ireland                 | 1                                | 1                                | 0                               |
| Social Democrats              | 1                                | 1                                | 0                               |
| Socialist Party               | 1                                | 1                                | 0                               |
| Workers Party                 | 1                                | 0                                | 1                               |
| Workers and Unemployed Action | 1                                | 1                                | 0                               |
| United People                 | 1                                | 0                                | 1                               |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>161</b>                       | <b>140</b>                       | <b>21</b>                       |

## Funds held by accounting units in 2016

Accounting units are not required to submit a donation statement to the Commission. This makes it difficult for the Commission to ascertain the source of monies held in accounting units' political donations account. The aggregate closing balance held by accounting units in relation to 2016 was €583,883.43. The Commission continues to be of the view that further refinement of the legislation is required to ensure that there is full transparency in respect of accounting units.

## Chapter 4 Publication of Statutory Documentation

In accordance with section 24(7)(a) of the Act, the Commission has today laid the donation statements/statutory declarations furnished by political parties before each House of the Oireachtas.

In accordance with section 73 of the Act, the Commission has made the donation statements/statutory declarations available for public inspection and copying at its offices on 18 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2. The information is also available on the Commission's website [www.sipo.ie](http://www.sipo.ie).



## Appendix 1 Registered Political Parties

|  |
|--|
| Anti Austerity Alliance – People Before Profit |
| Catholic Democrats                             |
| Communist Party of Ireland                     |
| Direct Democracy Ireland                       |
| Fianna Fáil                                    |
| Fine Gael                                      |
| Fís Nua  |
| Green Party                                    |
| Identity Ireland                               |
| Independents 4 Change                          |
| Irish Democratic Party                         |
| Kerry Independence Alliance                    |
| Labour Party                                   |
| Renua  |
| Sinn Féin                                      |
| Social Democrats                               |
| Socialist Party                                |
| Workers' Party                                 |
| Workers and Unemployed Action                  |
| United People                                  |

## Appendix 2

### Details of donations disclosed by political parties for 2016

#### Anti - Austerity Alliance – People Before Profit

| <b>Name &amp; address of donor</b>                          | <b>Description of donor</b> | <b>Value of donation</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Branch 5 UNITE – The<br>Union<br>Keyser Street<br>Waterford | Trade Union Branch          | €2,500.00                |
| Kieran Allen, 31 Whitworth<br>Road, Drumcondra, Dublin<br>9 | Individual                  | €2,300.00                |
| <b>Total</b>  |                             | <b>€4,800.00</b>         |

#### Fine Gael

| <b>Name and address of donor</b> | <b>Description of donor</b> | <b>Value of donation</b> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Maria Bailey, TD                 | Individual                  | €1,658.00                |
| Richard Bruton, TD               | Individual                  | €2,211.00                |
| Senator Colm Burke               | Individual                  | €1,590.00                |
| Catherine Byrne, TD              | Individual                  | €2,052.00                |
| Ciaran Cannon, TD                | Individual                  | €1,585.00                |
| Joe Carey, TD                    | Individual                  | €1,515.00                |
| Deirdre Clune, MEP               | Individual                  | €1,611.00                |
| Marcella Corcoran<br>Kennedy, TD | Individual                  | €1,646.00                |
| Simon Coveney, TD                | Individual                  | €2,459.00                |
| Jim Daly, TD                     | Individual                  | €1,515.00                |
| Pat Deering, TD                  | Individual                  | €1,585.00                |
| Regina Doherty, TD               | Individual                  | €2,229.00                |
| Paschal Donohoe, TD              | Individual                  | €1,722.00                |
| Bernard Durkan, TD               | Individual                  | €2,424.00                |
| Damien English, TD               | Individual                  | €1,778.00                |
| Frances Fitzgerald, TD           | Individual                  | €1,827.00                |
| Charles Flanagan, TD             | Individual                  | €1,701.00                |

|                            |            |                   |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Simon Harris, TD           | Individual | €2,049.00         |
| Brian Hayes, MEP           | Individual | €1,860.00         |
| Martin Heydon, TD          | Individual | €1,798.00         |
| Heather Humphreys, TD      | Individual | €1,705.00         |
| Paul Kehoe, TD             | Individual | €1,729.00         |
| Sean Kelly, MEP            | Individual | €2,060.00         |
| Enda Kenny, TD             | Individual | €1,701.00         |
| Sean Kyne, TD              | Individual | €1,581.00         |
| Helen McEntee, TD          | Individual | €1,686.00         |
| Mairead McGuinness, MEP    | Individual | €1,598.00         |
| Joe McHugh, TD             | Individual | €1,641.00         |
| Mary Mitchell-O'Connor, TD | Individual | €1,559.00         |
| Eoghan Murphy, TD          | Individual | €1,518.00         |
| Hildegarde Naughton, TD    | Individual | €1,501.00         |
| Michael Noonan, TD         | Individual | €2,193.00         |
| Patrick O'Donovan, TD      | Individual | €1,600.00         |
| Fergus O'Dowd, TD          | Individual | €1,581.00         |
| John Paul Phelan, TD       | Individual | €1,585.00         |
| David Stanton, TD          | Individual | €1,570.00         |
| Leo Varadkar, TD           | Individual | €1,701.00         |
| <b>Total</b>               |            | <b>€65,324.00</b> |

### Green Party

| <b>Name and address of donor</b>                               | <b>Description of donor</b> | <b>Value of donation</b> |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. Brian Hurley, 63 Greenlawns, Skerries, Co. Dublin          | Individual                  | €2,500.00                |
| Mr. John Monahan, Ocean Heights, Top Road, Co. Sligo           | Individual                  | €2,000.00                |
| Mr. Frank Keogh, 2 County Brook Lawns, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow | Individual                  | €2,000.00                |
| <b>Total</b>   |                             | <b>€6,500.00</b>         |

## Labour Party

| Name and address of donor     | Description of donor | Value of donation |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| SIPTU, Liberty Hall, Dublin 1 | Trade Union          | €2,500.00         |
| Brendan Howlin, TD            | Individual           | €2,400.00         |
| <b>Total</b>                  |                      | <b>€4,900.00</b>  |

## Sinn Féin

| Name & address of donor                                | Description of donor | Value of donation |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|
| Senator Niall Ó Donnghaile                             | Individual           | €2,500.00         |
| Senator Fintan Warfield                                | Individual           | €2,500.00         |
| Liadh Ní Riada, MEP                                    | Individual           | €2,500.00         |
| Lynn Boylan, MEP                                       | Individual           | €2,500.00         |
| Matt Carthy, MEP                                       | Individual           | €2,500.00         |
| Pearse Doherty, TD                                     | Individual           | €2,499.00         |
| Donnchadh Ó Laoighaire, TD                             | Individual           | €1,845.00         |
| Imelda Munster, TD                                     | Individual           | €1,845.00         |
| Gerry Adams, TD  | Individual           | €1,845.00         |
| Aengus O'Snodaigh, TD                                  | Individual           | €2,500.00         |
| Carol Nolan, TD  | Individual           | €2,500.00         |
| Mary Lou McDonald, TD                                  | Individual           | €2,500.00         |
| Senator Rose Conway Walsh,                             | Individual           | €2,500.00         |
| Marcus Mac Ruairí, 27 Ardraccon, Dún Pádraig, BT30 6TZ | Individual           | €2,349.00         |
| <b>Total</b>   |                      | <b>€32,883.00</b> |

## Social Democrats

| Name and address of donor   | Description of donor | Value of donation |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| Michael Chadwick, Carrigoona House, Rocky Valley Drive, Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow | Individual           | €2,500.00         |
| Richard Speedie, 22 Aspen Lawn, Clonsilla, Dublin 15                              | Individual           | €2,500.00         |
| <b>Total</b>  |                      | <b>€5,000.00</b>  |

## Socialist Party

| <b>Name and address of donor</b>                             | <b>Description of donor</b> | <b>Value of donation</b> |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Naoimh Maloney Mahon, 7 Bolbrook Grove, Tallaght, Dublin 24  | Individual                  | €1,040.00                |
| Marion O'Sullivan, 69 Duns court, Bishoptown, Cork           | Individual                  | €2,136.00                |
| Mike Murphy, 23 Lisadell, Maryborough, Cork                  | Individual                  | €2,400.00                |
| Mick Murphy, 78 Whitechurch Way, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16      | Individual                  | €1,188.00                |
| John Burtchell, 5 Saddlers, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15            | Individual                  | €1,800.00                |
| Anthony Hetherington, 136 Kilbarry Place, Cork               | Individual                  | €2,160.00                |
| James Touhy, Flat 2, Newenham Street, Limerick               | Individual                  | €1,700.00                |
| Helen Redwood, 185 Castlecurragh Vale, Dublin 15             | Individual                  | €1,690.00                |
| Donal Griffin, 4 Chancery Hall, North King Street, Dublin 7  | Individual                  | €1,800.00                |
| Paul Murphy, TD  | Individual                  | €2,496.00                |
| Joe Higgins, 155 Briarwood Close, Mulhuddart. Dublin 15      | Individual                  | €2,499.00                |
| Terry Kelleher, 9 Hillside Close, Skerries, Co. Dublin       | Individual                  | €1,681                   |
| Conor McLiam, 6 Pinewood Avenue, Archers Street, Kilkenny    | Individual                  | €1,800                   |
| Mick Barry, TD   | Individual                  | €2,500                   |
| Ruth Coppinger, TD   | Individual                  | €2,500                   |
| Eleni Vetsika, 9 Hillside Close, Skerries, Co. Dublin        | Individual                  | €1,000                   |
| Diana O'Dwyer, 15 Thor Place, Stonetbatter, Dublin 7         | Individual                  | €1,600                   |
| Michael O'Brien, 65 Robswall, Crescent, Malahide, Co. Dublin | Individual                  | €1,250                   |
| Cian Prendiville, 45 Brookfield Gardens, Limerick            | Individual                  | €2,006                   |
| Lisa Maher, 78 Whitechurch Way, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16       | Individual                  | €2,400                   |

|   |            |                |
|---|------------|----------------|
| Kieran Mahon, 7 Bolbrook Grove, Tallaght, Dublin 24 | Individual | €1,872         |
| <b>Total</b>  |            | <b>€39,518</b> |

### Workers and Unemployed Action

| Name and address of donor                                 | Description of donor      | Value of donation |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Pat English, Cashaniska, Rathronan, Clonmel, Co Tipperary | Individual/<br>Councillor | €2,315.00         |
| Seamus Healy, TD  | Individual/TD             | €2,400.00         |
| <b>Total</b>  |                           | <b>4,715.00</b>   |