

European Parliament Election 23 May 2014

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

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Foreword

I am pleased to furnish this report to the Chairman of Dáil Éireann (Ceann Comhairle) in accordance with the provisions of section 4(1) of the Electoral Act 1997, as amended (the Act).

The Election Expenses Statements/Statutory Declarations referred to in the report were furnished to the Standards in Public Office Commission (the Commission) pursuant to section 36 of the Act. Donation Statements/Statutory Declarations referred to in the report were furnished pursuant to section 24 of the Act, while the Certificates of Monetary Donations/Statutory Declarations and statements from financial institutions were furnished pursuant to section 23B of the Act.

Justice Daniel O’Keeffe
Chairperson

September 2014

Chapter 1 Introduction

This report concerns the Commission’s supervision of the European Parliament elections of 23 May 2014 and is being furnished to the Ceann Comhairle in accordance with section 4(1) of the Act.

As provided in Parts IV and V of the Act, all election agents at the election were required, within 56 days after polling day, (i.e., by 18 July 2014) to furnish the Commission with:

- an Election Expenses Statement/Statutory Declaration;

and all unsuccessful candidates were required to furnish the Commission with:

- a Donation Statement/Statutory Declaration; and
- a Certificate of Monetary Donations/Statutory Declaration and bank statement.

This report concerns the statutory returns furnished in respect of the candidacy of the forty one candidates at the European Parliament election 2014.

Section 4(1) of the Act provides that the Commission shall consider every statement furnished to it and may, where it considers it appropriate to do so, furnish a report to the Ceann Comhairle on any matter arising in relation to Donation Statements and Election Expenses Statements furnished to it under the Act.

In considering the statements referred to above, the Commission had regard to the Guidelines it issued in advance of the European Parliament election and it examined all the statements to ensure compliance with the Guidelines and the legislation. Following an examination of the statements received, the Commission is satisfied that:

- no candidate exceeded the expenditure limit,
- no candidate received a reimbursement of election expenses in respect of expenditure that was not an election expense and
- that no prohibited donations were disclosed by candidates.

In accordance with section 4 of the Act the Commission's report must be laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

The relevant details relating to donations and expenses in relation to the election are given in Chapter 3. Political parties incurred election expenses nationally of €129,764 and expenditure in relation to individual candidates of €1,545,082. Election agents incurred expenses totalling €1,207,483. The reported total of all the election expenses was €2,882,329 and is detailed in Chapter 3. Only six of the forty one candidates reported the receipt of donations, totalling €23,649.

Chapter 2 General information relating to the European Parliament Election

The Commission published Guidelines for the European Parliament election 2014 for candidates, election agents and national agents and issued a copy to each candidate, election agent and national agent. The Guidelines set out the requirements relating to various matters such as the acceptance and disclosure of donations, prohibited donations, political donation accounts and spending at the election. Further information is on www.sipo.gov.ie

Useful Information

Relevant amounts

€100	On receipt of a donation of this value, a political donations account must be opened by a candidate (if one has not already been opened)
€100	An anonymous donation exceeding this amount cannot be accepted
€600	All donations exceeding this amount must be disclosed by a candidate to the Standards Commission
€1,500	All donations exceeding this amount must be disclosed by a political party to the Standards Commission
€1,000	Maximum donation that may be accepted by a candidate
€2,500	Maximum donation that may be accepted by a political party

€38,092.14	Maximum reimbursement that may be claimed by a candidate
€230,000	Spending limit for European parliament election

Relevant dates

03/04/2014 - 23/05/14	Election period
07/07/14	Date by which claims for payment of election expenses, from suppliers, must be received by the election agent
18/07/14	Date by which Donation Statements and Election Expenses Statements must be furnished to the Standards Commission

Section 21 of the Electoral Act provides for the reimbursement of election expenses to qualified candidates. In order to qualify, candidates at a Dáil bye-election must either –

- 1) have been elected, or
- 2) if not elected, have exceeded, at any stage of the counting of votes at the election, one quarter of the quota.

Twenty five candidates at the election qualified for a reimbursement of their election expenses. The maximum amount which may be reimbursed to a qualified candidate is the lesser of €38,092.14 or the actual expenses incurred by/on behalf of the candidate. The relevant details are set out in Chapter 3.

The Standards Commission must certify to the Minister for Finance that a candidate is eligible for a reimbursement of his/her election expenses and that an Election Expenses Statement, completed in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Guidelines published by the Standards Commission, has been furnished to the Standards Commission in relation to the candidate. The Standards Commission is also required to notify the Minister for Finance of the expenditure incurred by each candidate and of the reimbursement due in each case.

Chapter 3 Donations and election expenses disclosed

Total donations disclosed amounted to €23,649. Successful candidates were not required to disclose any donations which they may have received. Such disclosures will be required of successful candidates in their annual returns at end of 2014. The total of election expenses (election agent plus national agent plus party “national” spend) reported was €2,882,329. The tables below give all the relevant details relating to donations and expenses in relation to the election.

Donations and Election Expenses disclosed in respect of candidates

CD = Catholic Democrats (the National Party); DDI = Direct Democracy Ireland; FF = Fianna Fáil; FG = Fine Gael; FN = Fís Nua; GP = Green Party – Comhaontas Glas; Lab = Labour; NP = Non Party; PbPA – People before Profit Alliance; SF = Sinn Féin; StWT - SP = Stop the Water Tax - Socialist Party; N/A = Not Applicable – successful candidate (see above); N/S = Not submitted (see Chapter 4).

Dublin

Candidate	Election Agent	Value of Donations Received	Election Expenses Incurred by Election Agent	Election Expenses incurred by National Agent	Maximum amount of reimbursement of election expenses to which candidate is entitled
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Boylan, Lynn – SF	Keane, Brian	N/A	€13,261	€48,712	€38,092
Childers, Nessa – NP	Pym, Maggie	N/A	€106,777	NIL	€38,092
Costello, Emer – Lab	Humphreys, Richard	€1,000	€81,594	€120,440	€38,092
Darcy, Tom - DDI	Candidate	N/S	N/S	NIL	NIL
Fitzpatrick, Mary – FF	Curran, John	€1,000	NIL	€218,545	€38,092
Hayes, Brian – FG	Mitchell, John	N/A	€93,661	€52,448	€38,092
Murphy, Paul – StWT – SP	Higgins, Joe	€10,000	€84,140	NIL	€38,092
Ryan, Eamon - GP	Candidate	NIL	€42,756	NIL	€38,092
Smith, Bríd – PbPA	Smith, Mary	NIL	€43,590	NIL	€38,092
Tallon, Jim - NP	Candidate	N/S	N/S	NIL	NIL
Whitehead, Raymond – DDI	Dalgarno, Conor	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Wise, Damon Matthew – FN	Nutty, Dr. Ben	NIL	€297	NIL	NIL
TOTAL		€12,000	€466,076	€440,145	€304,736

The individual Donation Statements and Election Expenses Statements are available on the Commission's website (www.sipo.gov.ie).

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Midlands North West

Candidate	Election Agent	Value of Donations Received	Election Expenses Incurred by Election Agent	Election Expenses incurred by National Agent	Maximum amount of reimbursement of election expenses to which candidate is entitled
Byrne, Senator Thomas – FF	Farrelly, Martin	NIL	€2,860	€106,322	€38,092
Carthy, Matt – SF	McManus, Chris	N/A	€19,988	€94,347	€38,092
Dearey, Mark - GP	Fitzgerald, Dr Caroline	NIL	€3,270	NIL	NIL

Fay, T J - NP	Candidate	NIL	€3,600	NIL	NIL
Fitzsimmons, Mark – NP	Candidate	N/S	N/S	NIL	NIL
Flanagan, Luke “Ming” - NP	Kelly, Jimmy Peter	N/A	€38,093	NIL	€38,092
Gallagher, Pat “The Cope” – FF	Campbell, Hugh	NIL	€47,864	€113,564	€38,092
Gilroy, Ben - DDI	Dalgarno, Conor	N/S	NIL	NIL	NIL
Harkin, Marian – NP	Gilmartin, Michael	N/A	€73,417	NIL	€38,092
Higgins, Jim - FG	Glavey, Noreen	NIL	€12,344	€69,273	€38,092
Higgins, Lorraine - Lab	Power, Conor	NIL	NIL	€100,079	€38,092
McGuinness, Mairead - FG	Greene, Jim	N/A	€69,569	€23,181	€38,092
Mullen, Rónán - NP	Dockery, Louis	€10,500	€92,748	NIL	€38,092
NicFhearraigh, Cordelia - FN	Candidate	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL		€10,500	€363,753	€506,766	€342,828

The individual Donation Statements and Election Expenses Statements are available on the Commission's website (www.sipo.gov.ie).

Donations and Election Expenses disclosed in respect of candidates

CD = Catholic Democrats (the National Party); DDI = Direct Democracy Ireland; FF = Fianna Fáil; FG = Fine Gael; FN = Fís Nua; GP = Green Party – Comhaontas Glas; Lab = Labour; NP = Non Party; PbPA – People before Profit Alliance; SF = Sinn Féin; StWT - SP = Stop the Water Tax - Socialist Party; N/A = Not Applicable – successful candidate (see above); N/S = Not submitted (see Chapter 4).

South

Candidate	Election Agent	Value of Donations Received	Election Expenses Incurred by Election Agent	Election Expenses incurred by National Agent	Maximum amount of reimbursement of election expenses to which candidate is entitled
Cahill, Richard – NP	Candidate	NIL	€624	NIL	NIL
Clune, Deirdre –FG	Kirby, Denis	N/A	€108,498	€97,963	€38,092
Crowley, Brian - FF	Lawson, Annette	N/A	€30,888	€83,405	€38,092
Godsil, Jillian - NP	Candidate	NIL	€1,046	NIL	NIL

Harris, Simon – FG	O’Brien, John	NIL	NIL	€167,858	€38,092
Hartley, Kieran – FF	O’Donovan, Patrick	NIL	NIL	€91,140	€38,092
Heaney, Theresa - CD	Bennis, Nora	NIL	€8,398	NIL	NIL
Kelly, Seán - FG	Ryan, Una	N/A	€120,866	€16,217	€38,092
NíRiada, Liadh - SF	O’Brien, Jonathan	N/A	€11,214	€40,406	€38,092
O’Flynn, Diarmuid - NP	Candidate	NIL	€21,821	NIL	€21,821
O’Loughlin, Peter - NP	Candidate	NIL	€1,140	NIL	NIL
Ó’Ríordáin, Dónal - FN	Candidate	€799	€799	NIL	NIL
O’Sullivan, Grace - GP	Candidate	NIL	€41,354	NIL	€38,092
Prendergast, Phil - Lab	Gillessen, Mary	NIL	€25,654	€101,182	€38,092
Van De Ven, Jan - DDI	Candidate	€350	5,352	NIL	NIL
TOTAL		€1,149	€377,654	€598,171	€326,557

The individual Donation Statements and Election Expenses Statements are available on the Commission's website (www.sipo.gov.ie).

Election Expenses disclosed in respect of political parties and candidates

Political Party	Party “National” Spend €	Constituency	Candidates’ Election Agent Expenses €	Party spend on individual candidates €	Total Spending €
Catholic Democrats – the National Party	5,321	Dublin			
		Midlands North	NIL	NIL	
		West	NIL	NIL	
		South	8,398	NIL	13,719
Direct Democracy Ireland	NIL	Dublin			
		Midlands North	NIL	NIL	
		West	NIL	NIL	
		South	5,352	NIL	5,352

		Dublin			
		Midlands	NIL	218,545	
		North			
		West	50,724	219,886	
Fianna Fáil	11,206	South	30,888	174,545	705,793
		Dublin			
		Midlands	93,661	52,448	
		North			
		West	81,913	92,454	
Fine Gael	51,086	South	229,364	282,038	882,965
		Dublin			
		Midlands	297	NIL	
		North			
		West	NIL	NIL	
Fís Nua	NIL	South	799	NIL	1,096
		Dublin			
		Midlands	42,756	NIL	
		North			
		West	3,270	NIL	
Green Party – Comhaontas Glas	100	South	41,354	NIL	87,480
		Dublin			
		Midlands	81,594	120,440	
		North			
		West	NIL	100,079	
Labour	NIL	South	25,654	101,182	428,949
		Dublin			
		Midlands	€106,777	NIL	
		North			
		West	207,858	NIL	
Non Party	NIL	South	24,631	NIL	339,266
		Dublin			
		Midlands	43,590	NIL	
		North			
		West	NIL	NIL	
People before Profit Alliance	NIL	South	NIL	NIL	43,590

		South			
		Dublin			
		Midlands	13,261	48,712	
		North			
		West	19,988	94,347	
Sinn Féin	35,078	South	11,214	40,406	263,006
		Dublin			
		Midlands	84,140	NIL	
		North			
		West	NIL	NIL	
Stop the Water Tax – Socialist Party	26,973	South	NIL	NIL	111,113
TOTAL	129,764		1,207,483	1,545,082	2,882,329