

**Exchequer Funding under the
Parliamentary Activities Allowance Legislation
in 2019**

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



Coimisiún um Chaighdeán in Oifigí Poiblí
Standards in Public Office Commission

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Foreword

As requested by the Standards in Public Office Commission, I present this 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. The statements of expenditure and public auditors' reports in respect of 2019 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.

Sherry Perreault
Head of Ethics and Lobbying Regulation
Secretary to the Commission
December 2020

Chapter 1: Introduction

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

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

The allowance is known colloquially as the "parliamentary activities allowance" (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 2019 furnished to the Standards Commission by the parliamentary leaders of eight political parties, 15 independent Senators and 19 independent TDs who received the allowance in 2019.

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.

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 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 Standards 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 2019 reporting period was 30 April 2020.

The leaders of the following eight political parties were required to furnish a statement to the Standards Commission:

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

In addition, 15 independent Senators and 19 independent TDs were required to furnish a statement to the Standards Commission.

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 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.

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

The Standards 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 Standards Commission and be made available for public inspection and copying at the Commission's offices, 6 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2, D02 W773.

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission's offices are closed to callers. It is therefore not possible to provide for public inspection in person. Copies can be made available on application to the Commission via email at info@sipo.ie or by telephone at (01) 639-5666.

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

Table 1 of the Appendix provides details of funding available to the Parliamentary leaders of qualified political parties under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2019.

Table 2 of the Appendix shows the breakdown by category and by political party of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance in 2019.

Table 3 of the Appendix provides details of funding available to independent TDs under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2019.

Table 4 of the Appendix shows the breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2019 by each independent TD.

Table 5 of the Appendix provides details of funding available to independent Senators under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2019.

Finally, table 6 of the Appendix shows the breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2019 provided by each independent Senator.

Chapter 3: Parliamentary Activities Allowance - rates of payment during 2019

The Parliamentary Activities Allowance is paid to parliamentary party leaders and elected non-party members of the Dáil and Seanad by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

The annual allowance payable in 2019 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.

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 in 2019 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 2019 to the leaders of the eight qualifying parties was €7,510,214.

The funding made available to non-party members of the Dáil during 2019 amounted to €682,098.

The funding made available to non-party members of the Seanad during 2019 amounted to €315,675.

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 2019

Political Parties	Total received for 2019	Brought forward from 2018	Total available for 2019	Total expenditure 2019	Balance carried forward to 2020
	€	€	€	€	€
Fianna Fáil	2,426,702	55,837	2,482,539	2,980,532	—
Fine Gael	1,975,514	600,263	2,575,777	2,383,932	191,845
Green Party	164,465	258,176	422,641	242,770	179,871
Independents 4 Change	195,573	41,383	236,956	202,584	34,372
Labour Party	618,932	876,408	1,495,340	686,735	808,605
Sinn Féin	1,549,717	158,515	1,708,232	1,478,974	229,258
Social Democrats	193,104	68,961	262,065	182,938	79,127
Solidarity-PBP	386,208	113,002	499,210	369,735	129,474
Total	7,510,214	2,172,544	9,682,759	8,528,201	1,652,551

Table 2 – Breakdown by category and by political party of expenditure of the allowance in 2019

Category	Fianna Fáil	Fine Gael	Green Party	Independents 4 Change	The Labour Party	Sinn Féin	Social Democrats	Solidarity- People Before Profit	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
a	2,723,948	223,071	4,938	136,997	556,851	1,384,767	170,803	10,234	5,211,610
b	—	—	—	3,758	—	—	—	—	3,758
c	—	238,344	8,690	10,986	—	—	1,323	—	259,343
d	—	124,330	2,708	—	127,049	44,379	2,692	—	301,158
e	182,456	86,492	—	16,089	—	—	8,120	—	293,156
f	—	—	—	—	2,835	23,838	—	—	26,673
g	—	1,711,695	226,434	—	—	25,990	—	—	1,964,119
h	30,000	—	—	6,000	—	—	—	—	36,000
i	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	359,295	359,295
j	44,128	—	—	28,755	—	—	—	206	73,089
k	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2,980,532	2,383,932	242,770	202,584	686,735	1,478,974	182,938	369,735	8,528,201

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 2019

Name of TD	Total received for 2019	Brought forward from 2018	Total available for 2019	Total expenditure 2019	Balance carried forward to 2020
	€	€	€	€	€
Canney, Seán	37,037	17,163	54,200	14,929	39,271
Collins, Michael	37,037	—	37,037	37,037	—
Connolly, Catherine	37,037	50,131	87,168	36,339	50,829
Fitzmaurice, Michael	37,037	27,892	64,929	37,351	27,578
Grealish, Noel	37,037	46,880	83,917	27,136	56,780
Halligan, John	37,037	4,512	41,549	40,273	1,276
Harty, Michael	37,037	53,838	90,875	25,900	64,975
Healy, Seamus	15,432	33,927	49,359	29,049	20,311
Healy Rae, Danny	37,037	14,728	51,765	46,222	5,543
Healy Rae, Michael	37,037	20,547	57,584	43,672	13,912
Lowry, Michael	37,037	47,680	84,717	72,239	12,478
McGrath, Finian	37,037	34,107	71,144	50,032	21,112
McGrath, Mattie	37,037	54,813	91,850	24,702	67,147
Moran, Kevin	37,037	4,065	41,102	36,202	4,900
Naughten, Denis	37,037	51,358	88,395	6,442	81,953
O'Sullivan, Maureen	37,037	44,319	81,356	54,001	27,355
Pringle, Thomas	37,037	2,837	39,874	37,218	2,657
Ross, Shane	37,037	61,834	98,871	26,017	72,854
Zappone, Katherine	37,037	9,954	46,991	28,492	18,498
Total	682,098	580,586	1,262,684	673,254	589,430

Table 4 – Breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2019 given by each independent TD

Category	a	b	c	d	e	f	Total
Canney, Seán	—	12,500	887	221	—	1,321	14,929
Collins, Michael	16,530	8,197	4,580	3,950	3,780	—	37,037
Connolly, Catherine	6,740	26,101	3,089	—	—	409	36,339
Fitzmaurice, Michael	—	25,551	—	11,800	—	—	37,351
Grealish, Noel	246	—	6,890	20,000	—	—	27,136
Halligan, John	11,000	10,500	—	2,812	10,875	5,086	40,273
Harty, Michael	—	—	—	25,900	—	—	25,900
Healy, Seamus	28,581	—	—	467	—	—	29,049
Healy Rae, Danny	—	21,570	22,046	615	—	1,991	46,222
Healy Rae, Michael	—	30,391	—	12,446	—	835	43,672
Lowry, Michael	—	29,505	—	42,734	—	—	72,239
McGrath, Finian	—	34,065	—	1,782	11,378	2,807	50,032
McGrath, Mattie	8,711	570	12,375	890	—	2,155	24,702
Moran, Kevin	70	31,010	726	492	2,640	1,264	36,202
Naughten, Denis	246	1,957	3,724	—	515	—	6,442
O'Sullivan, Maureen	26,376	18,614	5,049	2,100	—	1,862	54,001
Pringle, Thomas	355	6,003	30,860	—	—	—	37,218
Ross, Shane	—	2,438	—	615	16,697	6,266	26,017
Zappone, Katherine	—	1,835	—	23,752	—	2,906	28,492
Total	98,855	260,806	90,228	150,577	45,885	26,903	673,254

*Amounts in Euro

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 2019

Name of Senator	Total received for 2019	Brought forward from 2018	Total available for 2019	Total expenditure 2019	Balance carried forward to 2020
	€	€	€	€	€
Black, Frances	21,045	21,202	42,247	29,680	12,567
Boyhan, Victor	21,045	25,116	46,161	9,840	36,321
Craughwell, Gerard	21,045	13,765	34,810	15,853	18,956
Dolan, John	21,045	29,804	50,849	29,820	21,030
Freeman, Joan	21,045	18,980	40,025	22,436	17,590
Higgins, Alice Mary	21,045	18,772	39,817	22,911	16,906
Kelleher, Collette	21,045	14,569	35,614	33,533	2,081
Lawless, Billy	21,045	7,347	28,392	25,367	3,024
Marshall, Ian	21,045	13,713	34,758	4,206	30,551
McDowell, Michael	21,045	50,956	72,001	51,003	20,998
Mullen, Ronan	21,045	—	—	21,051	—
Norris, David	21,045	18,003	39,048	9,988	29,060
Ó Ceidigh, Pádraig	21,045	29,901	50,946	21,235	29,711
O'Donnell, Marie Louise	21,045	24,404	45,449	15,917	29,533
Ruane, Lynn	21,045	2,962	24,007	23,972	36
Total	315,675	289,495	584,125	336,813	247,312

Table 6 – Breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2019 provided by each independent member of the Seanad

Category	a	b	c	d	e	f	Total
Black, Frances	2,957	—	26,723	—	—	—	29,680
Boyhan, Victor	600	—	8,644	596	—	—	9,840
Craughwell, Gerard	1,117	—	14,113	85	—	539	15,853
Dolan, John	2,653	—	9,354	17,749	—	63	29,820
Freeman, Joan	1,827	4,096	12,515	2,891	—	1,107	22,436
Higgins, Alice Mary	1,158	3,570	17,711	—	—	472	22,911
Kelleher, Collette	—	25	19,648	13,860	—	—	33,533
Lawless, Billy	10,031	—	9,183	—	2,214	3,940	25,367
Marshall, Ian	600	—	3,176	431	—	—	4,206
McDowell, Michael	600	1,192	4,717	431	44,063	—	51,003
Mullen, Ronan	596	14,984	5,259	—	—	212	21,051
Norris, David	—	—	—	9,988	—	—	9,988
Ó Ceidigh, Pádraig	1,185	6,813	10,010	1,098	—	2,128	21,235
O'Donnell, Marie Louise	—	449	13,034	1,961	—	473	15,917
Ruane, Lynn	464	14,541	8,967	—	—	—	23,972
Total	23,787	45,670	163,055	49,089	46,277	8,934	336,813

*Amounts in Euro

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.