

# Donations to TDs, Senators and MEPs in 2018



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

Standards in Public Office Commission  
18 Lower Leeson Street  
Dublin 2  
D02HE97  
Telephone: (01) 6395666  
E-Mail: [sipo@sipo.ie](mailto:sipo@sipo.ie)  
Website: [www.sipo.ie](http://www.sipo.ie)  
Twitter: [@SIPOCIreland](https://twitter.com/SIPOCIreland)

*April 2019*

## Foreword

I am pleased to furnish this report to the Ceann Comhairle in accordance with the provisions of section 4(1) of the Electoral Act 1997, as amended (the Act). The donation statements/statutory declarations described in the report were furnished to the Standards in Public Office Commission pursuant to section 24 of the Act. The certificates of monetary donations/statutory declarations and statements from financial institutions were furnished pursuant to section 23B of the Act.



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Justice Daniel O'Keefe  
Chairperson  
Standards in Public Office Commission  
April 2019

## Chapter 1: Introduction

Each person who, during a calendar year, is a member of Dáil Éireann (TD), a member of Seanad Éireann (Senator) or a member of the European Parliament (MEP) is required, by 31 January of the following year, to furnish to the Standards Commission a donation statement/certificate of monetary donations/statutory declaration and, where appropriate, a bank statement in respect of the previous year.

It is an offence to fail to make the necessary returns by the statutory deadline. Where a person is guilty of an offence under this section, he/she is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €2,500 and to an ongoing fine not exceeding €500 per day for each day, after a conviction, on which the statutory returns are still outstanding.

This report concerns the statutory returns furnished by TDs, Senators and MEPs in respect of 2018.

The relevant details relating to donations disclosed are given in the Appendices.

## Chapter 2: General information

In addition to the summary table below, the Standards Commission has published guidelines for TDs, Senators and MEPs (collectively referred to herein as “members”) on donations setting out the requirements relating to various matters such as the acceptance and disclosure of donations, prohibited donations and political donation accounts. These are available on the Commission's website, [www.sipo.ie](http://www.sipo.ie).

### Summary donation table for TDs, Senators & MEPs

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Political donations account</b> | On receipt of a donation of <b>€100</b> a political donations account must be opened (if one has not already been opened) by a TD, Senator or MEP.  |
| <b>Cash donations</b>              | <b>€200</b> is the maximum cash donation that may be accepted by a TD, Senator or MEP in any calendar year from a donor.  |
| <b>Corporate donors</b>            | <b>€200</b> is the maximum donation that may be accepted by a TD, Senator or MEP in any calendar year from a corporate donor unless the corporate donor is registered in the Register of Corporate Donors maintained by the Commission  |
| <b>Individual donors</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All donations received by a TD, Senator or MEP exceeding <b>€600</b> must be disclosed on the Donation Statement.</li><li>• <b>€1,000</b> is the maximum donation that may be accepted by a TD, Senator or MEP in a particular year from an individual or corporate donor</li></ul> |
| <b>Multiple donations</b>          | Where a donor makes a donation to two or more recipients (multiple members of the same party or to one or more party members and the party itself), the aggregate value of which exceeds <b>€1,500</b> , he/she is required to submit a donation form to the Commission under Section 24(1a)                                |
| <b>Prohibited donations</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any donation that exceeds the above noted limits</li><li>• An anonymous donation exceeding <b>€100</b> cannot be accepted</li><li>• Foreign donations, of any value, cannot be accepted from outside the island of Ireland, other than from an Irish citizen</li></ul>              |

Note: additional donation rules apply for political parties and third parties. Please see [www.sipo.ie](http://www.sipo.ie) for further information.

## Chapter 3: Donations disclosed

The table in Appendix 1 provides a summary of donations disclosed. Individual donation statements can be viewed on the Commission's website: [www.sipo.ie](http://www.sipo.ie).

A total of 230 members were required to furnish donation statements in respect of 2018, as follows –

- 158 TDs
- 60 Senators
- 1 Former Senator
- 11 MEPs

### Returns received

All members were obliged to furnish their donation statements by 31 January 2019.

Where the Standards Commission finds a minor error or omission in a donation statement, it will furnish details of the error or omission to the member and will notify the member that he/she has 14 days from the date of the notice in which to correct the error or make good the omission.

By the 31 January deadline, 216 members had fully complied with the statutory requirements. Fourteen were late. All 230 members had substantively complied by 13 February 2019, with some minor queries still outstanding. These queries were subsequently resolved.

As all are in substantive compliance, no files were referred to An Garda Síochána for enforcement.

The table in Appendix 1 shows that net donations with a total value of **€6,480** were disclosed by members in respect of 2018.

## Chapter 4: Donations disclosed by donors under s.24(1A)

Section 24(1A) of the Act provides that an individual must furnish a donation statement/statutory declaration to the Standards Commission if he/she, in a particular year, makes donations exceeding €1,500 in aggregate value to two or more persons who were members of the same political party when the donations were made, or to a political party and to one or more of its members. The donation statement must give details of the donations and the persons to whom they were made, and must be furnished by 31 January of the following year.

If a donor does not intend to comply with this requirement and a member or a party is aware of this, the member/party is prohibited from accepting a donation from that individual.

Three donation statements from individual donors were received in respect of 2018. The table in Appendix 2(a) sets out the details of the donations disclosed. Donations with a total value of **€6,302** were disclosed by the three donors in respect of 2018.

## Chapter 5: Publication of donation statements

The Standards Commission has today laid the donation statements referred to in this report before each House of the Oireachtas, pursuant to section 24(7)(a) of the Electoral Act 1997, as amended.

The donation statements received are now available on the Commission's website. A copy of this report and accompanying press release are also available on the website: [www.sipo.ie](http://www.sipo.ie).

Certificates of monetary donations, statutory declarations and accompanying bank statements are not required to be laid before the Houses and are not available for public inspection as per Section 23B(8) of the Electoral Act 1997, as amended.

## Appendix 1 - Donations disclosed by members

| Party        | Member                   | Donor  | Total Value of Donations<br>€ |
|--------------|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Fianna Fáil  | Darragh O'Brien TD       | Leo Neary<br>Station Road<br>Lusk<br>Co. Dublin  | 740                           |
|              |                          | Barry O'Donoghue<br>"Innisfallen"<br>Dublin Road<br>Malahide<br>Co. Dublin                   | 850                           |
|              | Jim O'Callaghan TD       | ** Fianna Fáil<br>Dublin Bay South<br>CDC<br>11 South Dock<br>Street<br>Ringsend<br>Dublin 4 | 1,000                         |
| Independent  | Mattie McGrath TD        | Donal O'Driscoll<br>33 Dargle Road<br>Blackrock<br>Co. Dublin                                | 900                           |
| Labour Party | Alan Kelly TD            | Declan Kelly<br>Castletown<br>Portroe<br>Nenagh<br>Co. Tipperary                             | 995                           |
|              |                          | * Michael Madden<br>10 Graham Court<br>Rye<br>New York<br>10580<br>USA                       | 995                           |
| Sinn Féin    | Pádraig Mac Lochlainn TD | ** Donegal Office<br>Services, High<br>Road, Letterkenny,<br>Co. Donegal                     | 1,000                         |
| <b>Total</b> |                          |  | <b>6,480</b>                  |

\* Irish Citizen

\*\* Registered Corporate Donor



## Appendix 2 - Donations disclosed by donors under s.24(1A)

| Donor  | Recipient of donation   | Total Value of Donations € |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Brendan Heneghan</b><br><b>88 Parkmore Drve</b><br><b>Dublin 6W</b>           | Fine Gael<br>51 Upper Mount Street<br>Dublin 2                            | 204                        |
|  | Fine Gael<br>51 Upper Mount Street<br>Dublin 2                            | 100                        |
|  | Fine Gael<br>Dublin Bay South<br>c/o 51 Upper Mount<br>Street<br>Dublin 2 | 50                         |
|  | Senator Neale Richmond<br>Seanad Éireann<br>Dublin 2                      | 59                         |
|  | E Howe<br>Barrowhouse<br>Athy<br>Co Kildare                               | 250                        |
|  | P F O'Driscoll<br>Rathcormac<br>Co Cork                                   | 550                        |
|  | Senator Catherine Noone<br>Seanad Éireann<br>Dublin 2                     | 56                         |
|  | Cllr E Higgins<br>Brittas<br>Co. Dublin                                   | 37                         |
|  | Cllr A Feeney<br>Dublin City Council<br>Wood Quay<br>Dublin 8             | 516                        |
| <b>Declan Kelly</b><br><b>Castletown</b><br><b>Nenagh</b><br><b>Co Tipperary</b> | Alan Kelly<br>1 Summerhill<br>Nenagh<br>Co Tipperary                      | 995                        |

|   |  |              |
|---|--|--------------|
|   | Tipperary Labour Party<br>c/o Liam Gleeson<br>1 Summerhill<br>Nenagh<br>Co Tipperary                               | 1,490        |
| *Michael Madden<br>10 Graham Court<br>Rye<br>New York<br>10580<br>USA | Alan Kelly<br>1 Summerhill<br>Nenagh<br>Co Tipperary   | 995          |
|   | Joan Freeman<br>Unit 38 Rowan Hamilton<br>Room<br>Docklands Innovation<br>Park<br>128-130 East Wall Road<br>Dublin | 1,000        |
| <b>Total</b>  |  | <b>6,302</b> |

\*Irish Citizen