

**Exchequer Funding under the
Parliamentary Activities Allowance Legislation
in 2016**



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

*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*

**Standards in Public Office Commission
18 Lower Leeson Street
Dublin 2**

Telephone: (01) 6395666

E-Mail: sipo@sipo.ie

Website: www.sipo.ie

Twitter: @SIPOCIreland

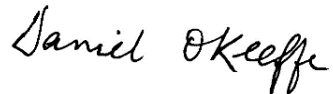
July 2017

Table of Contents

	Foreword
Chapter 1	Introduction
Chapter 2	Statements of Expenditure furnished by the Party Leaders/Independent Members
Chapter 3	Parliamentary Activities Allowance - rates of payment during 2016
Appendix	Table 1: Details of funding available to the Parliamentary Leaders under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2016
	Table 2: Breakdown by category and by political party of expenditure of the allowance in 2016
	Table 3: Details of funding available to independent TDs under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2016
	Table 4: Breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016 given by each independent TD
	Table 5: Details of funding available to the independent members of the Seanad under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2016
	Table 6: Breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016 given by each independent member of the Seanad

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 as amended by the Oireachtas (Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices)(Amendment) Act 2014. The statements of expenditure and public auditors' reports in respect of 2016 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.



Justice Daniel O'Keefe
Chairperson
Standards in Public Office Commission
July 2017

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 The payment of an annual allowance to one or more leaders of parliamentary parties (in relation to expenses arising from the parliamentary activities, including research, of the party) has been provided for and regulated in a succession of Acts beginning with the Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices Act 1938. Party leaders are required to furnish to the Standards in Public Office Commission (the Standards Commission) an annual statement of expenditure from the allowance.

1.2 A similar allowance became payable to independent members of the Dáil and Seanad under the Oireachtas (Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices) (Amendment) Act 2001.

1.3 The Oireachtas (Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices) (Amendment) Act 2014 reduced the level of payments and for the first time provided that independent members are now required to furnish to the Commission an annual statement of expenditure. The allowance is now known as the Parliamentary Activities Allowance (PAA).

1.4 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. Following the general election of February 2016, the parliamentary leaders of 9 political parties qualified to receive the allowance.

1.5 This report concerns the statements of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance for the period 1 January to 31 December furnished to the Standards Commission by the parliamentary leaders of the 9 political parties, 21 independent Senators (7 former) and 23 independent TDs (1 former) who received the allowance in 2016.

1.6 Where a qualifying party forms part of the Government, the combined allowances in respect of its members of the Dáil (only) are reduced by one-third. This reduction was applied to payments made to the Fine Gael Party in 2016, and also to payments made to the Labour Party until the formation of the Government of the 32nd Dáil in May 2016.

1.7 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 the party leaders and independent members

Background

2.1 The Act provides that parliamentary party leaders must prepare, or cause to be prepared, not more than 120 days after the end of the financial year in which an allowance has been paid, a statement of any expenditure from the allowance. 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. The allowance shall not be paid unless the statement and auditor's report have been received by the Standards Commission not more than 120 days after the end of the financial year to which the statement and auditor's report relate. The deadline for receiving returns was 30 April 2017.

2.2 The leaders of the following 9 political parties were required to furnish a statement to the Standards Commission.

- Anti-Austerity Alliance/People before Profit
- Fianna Fáil
- Fine Gael
- Green Party
- Independents 4 Change* (formerly Independents for Equality Movement)
- Sinn Féin
- Social Democrats
- Socialist Party
- The Labour Party.

** Independents 4 Change registered as a party on 16 October 2015.*

In addition, 21 independent Senators and 23 independent TDs were required to furnish a statement to the Standards Commission. (Only 15 TDs and 12 Senators were required to furnish a statement in 2015).

2.3 A statement of expenditure/auditor's report was received by the Standards Commission from all required to submit.

2.4 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. All have complied with this requirement.

2.5 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.

2.6 The Standards Commission, having considered the statements of expenditure/auditors' reports, is now satisfied that the provisions referred to at 2.5 above have been complied with.

2.7 The Standards Commission is required to lay a copy of its report to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform 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. The statements of expenditure/ auditors' reports furnished to the Standards Commission may be inspected and copied by members of the public at the offices of the Standards Commission, 18 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2. The information is also available at www.sipo.ie.

2.8 Details of funding available to the Parliamentary Leaders of Qualified Political Parties under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2016 are shown in Table 1 of the Appendix.

2.9 Table 2 of the Appendix shows the breakdown by category and by political party of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance in 2016.

2.10 Details of funding available to independent TDs under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2016 are shown in Table 3 of the Appendix.

2.11 Table 4 of the Appendix shows the breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2016 by each independent TD.

2.12 Details of funding available to independent Senators, under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2016 are shown in Table 5 of the Appendix.

2.13 Table 6 of the Appendix shows the breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2016 provided by each independent Senator.

Chapter 3 Parliamentary Activities Allowance - rates of payment during 2016

The annual allowance paid to parliamentary party leaders in respect of members of Dáil Éireann was as follows –

- €64,368 per member for each of the first 10 members elected,
- €51,493 per member for each member elected from 11 to 30 members and
- €25,754 for each member elected over 30 members.

The annual allowance paid to parliamentary party leaders in respect of members of the Seanad was –

- €42,089 per member elected or nominated for each of the first five members
- and
- €21,045 for each member elected or nominated over 5 members.

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.

At the time of writing this report the total funding made available in 2016 to the Parliamentary Party Leaders of the nine qualifying parties amounted to €7,214,858.

The funding made available to non-party members of the Dáil during 2016 amounted to a total of €640,887.

The funding made available to non-party members of the Seanad during 2016 amounted to a total of €249,159.

APPENDIX

Table 1

Details of funding available to the Parliamentary Leaders of Qualified Political Parties under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2016

Funding	Total received for 2016	Brought forward from 2015	Total available for 2016	Total expenditure	Balance carried forward to 2017
	€	€	€	€	€
Fianna Fáil	2,247,031	Nil	2,247,031	2,089,798	157,233
Fine Gael	1,931,641	719,263	2,650,904	2,370,785	280,119
Sinn Féin	1,415,300	80,050	1,495,349	1,033,066	462,283
The Labour Party	733,037	1,398,284	2,131,321	1,339,050	792,271
AAA-PBP	350,100	31,695	381,795	330,045	51,750
Independents 4 Change	220,203	Nil	220,203	129,566	90,637
Social Democrats	165,152	Nil	165,152	87,159	77,993
Green Party	138,853	Nil	138,853	3,650	135,203
Socialist Party	13,541	3,601	17,141	17,140	-
Total	7,214,858	2,232,893	9,447,749	7,400,260	2,047,489

Note: the figures above have been rounded

Table 2

Breakdown by category and by political party of expenditure of the allowance in 2016

Category	AAA-PBP	Fianna Fáil	Fine Gael	Green Party	Independents 4 Change	Sinn Féin	Social Democrats	Socialist Party	The Labour Party
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
a	36,020	1,909,276	214,213	Nil	107,854	576,488	49,173	513	1,191,115
b	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
c	Nil	11,063	109,302	3,650	Nil	28,013	Nil	Nil	19,237
d	Nil	Nil	209,109	Nil	870	351,059	4,967	Nil	128,698
e	Nil	116,401	71,686	Nil	3,035	Nil	32,387	Nil	Nil
f	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
g	470	Nil	1,766,475	Nil	Nil	77,506	Nil	Nil	Nil
h	Nil	30,000	Nil	Nil	3,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
i	287,410	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	16,628	Nil
j	6,146	23,058	Nil	Nil	14,807	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
k	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	633	Nil	Nil
Total	330,046	2,089,798	2,370,785	3,650	129,566	1,033,066	87,160	17,141	1,339,050

Note: the figures above have been rounded

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 2016

Name of TD	Total amount received 1 Jan to 31 Dec 2016	Amount carried forward from 2015	Total Amount	Amount spent in 2016	Amount carried forward to 2017
	€	€	€	€	€
Canney, Sean	31,676	Nil	31,676	11,861	19,815
Collins, Michael	31,676	Nil	31,676	31,676	Nil
Connolly, Catherine	30,864	Nil	30,864	500	30,364
Donnelly, Stephen	3,797	3,441	7,237	4,489	2,748
Fitzmaurice, Michael	35,473	13,957	49,429	35,920	13,509
Fleming, Tom	3,797	3,696	7,493	7,493	Nil
Grealish, Noel	35,473	19,434	54,906	31,918	22,989
Halligan, John	35,473	- 693	34,780	33,541	1,239
Harty, Michael	30,864	Nil	30,864	6,600	24,264
Healy, Seamus	35,473	10,822	46,295	28,545	17,749
Healy Rae, Danny	12,346	Nil	12,346	11,443	903
Healy Rae, Michael	35,473	18,478	53,951	38,623	15,328
Lowry, Michael	35,473	31,077	66,550	21,920	44,630
McGrath, Finian	35,473	29,267	64,740	33,331	31,409
McGrath, Mattie	35,473	22,088	57,561	32,513	25,048
Moran, Kevin	31,676	Nil	31,676	26,421	5,255
Murphy, Catherine	3,797	2,291	6,088	6,129	Nil
Naughten, Denis	31,676	Nil	31,676	17,272	14,404
O'Sullivan, Maureen	35,473	9,306	44,779	16,939	27,839
Pringle, Thomas	35,473	11,149	46,621	35,881	10,740
Ross, Shane	35,473	24,193	59,666	19,044	40,623
Wallace, Michael	3,797	14,506	18,303	8,131	10,172
Zappone, Katherine	34,722	Nil	34,722	34,938	Nil
Total	640,887	213,011	853,898	495,127	359,028

Note: the figures above have been rounded

Table 4

Breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2016 given by each independent TD

Category	a	b	c	d	e	f	Total	Balance c/fwrtd to 2017
Name of TD	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Canney, Seán	Nil	938	284	6,150	Nil	4,489	11,861	19,815
Collins, Michael	7,177	4,665	10,649	3,498	5,688	Nil	31,676	Nil
Connolly, Catherine	Nil	500	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	500	30,364
Donnelly, Stephen	269	Nil	4,143	Nil	Nil	77	4,489	2,748
Fitzmaurice, Michael	Nil	3,620	20,200	12,100	Nil	Nil	35,920	13,509
Fleming, Tom	770	6,723	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	7,493	Nil
Grealish, Noel	246	2,332	4,589	24,750	Nil	Nil	31,918	22,989
Halligan, John	7,402	8,892	4,100	5,768	5,180	2,199	33,541	1,239
Harty, Michael	Nil	Nil	Nil	6,600	Nil	Nil	6,600	24,264
Healy, Seamus	27,755	Nil	Nil	590	Nil	200	28,545	17,749
Healy Rae, Danny	Nil	5,250	6,066	Nil	Nil	127	11,443	903
Healy Rae, Michael	Nil	31,248	5,369	511	Nil	1,496	38,623	15,328
Lowry, Michael	Nil	5,000	Nil	16,920	Nil	Nil	21,920	44,629
McGrath, Finian	Nil	60	Nil	19,531	12,663	1,077	33,331	31,409
McGrath, Mattie	92	19,036	11,990	Nil	Nil	1,396	32,513	25,048
Moran, Kevin	6,730	9,655	950	2,213	3,525	3,348	26,421	5,255
Murphy, Catherine	4,280	65	284	1,500	Nil	Nil	6,129	Nil
Naughten, Denis	6,516	Nil	10,756	Nil	Nil	Nil	17,272	14,404
O'Sullivan, Maureen	Nil	1,270	Nil	14,172	Nil	1,497	16,939	27,839
Pringle, Thomas	608	18,831	16,443	Nil	Nil	Nil	35,881	10,740
Ross, Shane	257	1,907	Nil	590	12,349	3,941	19,044	40,623
Wallace, Michael	1,400	2,160	Nil	2,000	2,571	Nil	8,131	10,172
Zappone, Katherine	Nil	1,720	98	30,198	Nil	2,923	34,938	Nil
Total	63,500	123,871	95,920	147,091	41,976	22,769	495,127	359,028

Note: the figures above have been rounded

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 2016

Name of Senator	Total Amount Received 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016	Amount carried forward from 2015	Total Amount	Amount spent in 2016	Amount carried forward to 2017
	€	€	€	€	€
Barrett, Sean *	6,645	Nil	6,645	6,708	Nil
Black, Frances	14,400	Nil	14,400	4,835	9,565
Boyhan, Victor	14,400	Nil	14,400	5,457	8,943
Coghlan, Eamon *	6,645	13,534	20,179	Nil	20,179
Craughwell, Gerard	21,045	2,984	24,029	14,456	9,573
Crown, John *	6,645	Nil	6,645	6,645	Nil
Dolan, John	14,400	Nil	14,400	915	13,485
Freeman, Joan	12,565	Nil	12,565	10,902	1,662
Higgins, Alice Mary	14,400	Nil	14,400	6,573	7,827
Kelleher, Colette	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lawless, Billy	8,769	Nil	8,769	1,531	7,238
Mac Conghaill, Fiach *	6,645	Nil	6,645	4,595	2,050
McDowell, Michael	14,400	Nil	14,400	1,806	12,594
Mullen, Rónán	21,045	Nil	21,045	21,045	Nil
Norris, David	21,045	17,669	38,714	12,729	25,985
Ó Ceidigh, Pádraig	12,565	Nil	12,565	5,339	7,226
O'Brien, Mary Ann *	6,645	Nil	6,645	-	6,645
O'Donnell, Marie Louise	19,210	3,987	23,197	16,930	6,267
Quinn, Fergal *	6,645	Nil	6,645	6,645	Nil
Ruane, Lynn	14,400	Nil	14,400	10,783	3,617
Van Turnhout, Jillian *	6,645	11,655	18,300	640	Nil
Total:	249,159	49,829	298,988	138,534	142,856

Note: the figures above have been rounded

* ceased to be a member in 2016 – reporting for relevant period of 2016.

Notes:

Former Senator Van Turnhout returned to the Department of Finance, €17,660.53 of the allowance she received.

Former Senator Mac Conghail, subsequent to forms being received by the Commission, has returned the €2,050 to Department of Finance.

Former Senator Coughlan, subsequent to forms being received by the Commission, has returned the €20,179 to Department of Finance.

Table 6

Breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2016 provided by each independent member of the Seanad

Category	a	b	c	d	e	f	Other	Total	Balance c/fwd to 2017
Name of Senator	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Barrett, Seán *	Nil	4,013	2,695	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6,708	Nil
Black, Frances	1,200	800	Nil	2,830	Nil	Nil	5	4,835	9,565
Boyhan, Victor	467	2,017	1,383	Nil	Nil	1,590	Nil	5,457	8,943
Coughlan, Eamon *	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	20,179
Craughwell, Gerard	1,082	1,123	8,783	27	Nil	3,442	Nil	14,456	9,573
Crown, John *	Nil	3,256	3,389	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6,645	Nil
Dolan, John	Nil	Nil	882	Nil	Nil	Nil	33	915	13,485
Freeman, Joan	8,435	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2,468	Nil	10,902	1,662
Higgins, Alice Mary	Nil	1,433	2,060	3,076	Nil	Nil	4	6,573	7,827
Kelleher, Collette	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lawless, Billy	467	Nil	169	Nil	Nil	895	Nil	1,531	7,238
MacConghail, Fiach *	Nil	1,847	700	1,410	Nil	638	Nil	4,595	2,050
McDowell, Michael	467	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,339	Nil	1,806	12,594
Mullen, Ronan	3,220	12,413	5,387	Nil	Nil	25	Nil	21,045	Nil
Norris, David	Nil	Nil	Nil	12,497	Nil	232	Nil	12,729	25,985
Ó Ceidigh, Pádraig	467	1,603	Nil	2,600	Nil	668	Nil	5,339	7,226
O'Brien, Mary Ann *	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6,645
O'Donnell, Marie Louise	467	9,391	4,754	1,361	Nil	957	Nil	16,930	6,267
Quinn, Fergal *	Nil	6,645	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	6,645	Nil
Ruane, Lynn	600	5,960	3,765	118	Nil	322	18	10,783	3,617
Van Turnhout, Jillian *	Nil	Nil	Nil	640	Nil	Nil	Nil	640	Nil
Total	16,872	50,501	33,967	24,559	-	12,576	60	138,534	142,856

Note: the figures above have been rounded

* ceased to be a member in 2016 – reporting for relevant period of 2016.

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.