

**Exchequer Funding under the  
Parliamentary Activities Allowance Legislation  
in 2017**

*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 Chaighdeáin in Oifigí Poiblí**  
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**July 2018**

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## 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 2017 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.



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Justice Daniel O'Keeffe  
Chairperson  
Standards in Public Office Commission  
July 2018

## Chapter 1: Introduction

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

Independent members of the Dáil and Seanad are also required to furnish such statements.

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).

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 Parliamentary Activities Allowance for the period 1 January to 31 December 2017 furnished to the Standards Commission by the parliamentary leaders of the eight political parties, 14 independent Senators and 19 independent TDs who received the allowance in 2017.

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.

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 and independent members

### Background

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 for the 2017 reporting period was 30 April 2018.

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, 14 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.

With the exception of Independents 4 Change, whose statement of expenditure/auditors' report had not been received at the time of writing, the Standards Commission is satisfied that the provisions referred to above have been complied with.

The Standards Commission is required to provide a copy of its report to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform to lay 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](http://www.sipo.ie).

Details of funding available to the Parliamentary leaders of qualified political parties under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2017 are shown in Table 1 of the Appendix.

Table 2 of the Appendix shows the breakdown by category and by political party of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance in 2017.

Details of funding available to independent TDs under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2017 are shown in Table 3 of the Appendix.

Table 4 of the Appendix shows the breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2017 by each independent TD.

Details of funding available to independent Senators under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2017 are shown in Table 5 of the Appendix.

Table 6 of the Appendix shows the breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2017 provided by each independent Senator.

## Chapter 3: Parliamentary Activities Allowance - rates of payment during 2017

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 2017 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 member for each member elected 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 member for each member elected from 11 to 30 members, and
- €25,754 for each member elected over 30 members.

The annual allowance payable in 2017 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.

The total funding made available in 2017 to the Parliamentary Party Leaders of the eight qualifying parties amounted to €7,629,193.

The funding made available to non-party members of the Dáil during 2017 amounted to €703,704.

The funding made available to non-party members of the Seanad during 2017 amounted to €299,891.

Of the eight political parties, 14 independent Senators and 19 independent TDs that qualified for payment of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance in 2017, one failed to meet the “specified time limit” of 30 April 2018.

## Appendix: Funding and expenditure details

Table 1 Details of funding available to the Parliamentary Leaders of qualified political parties under the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2017

| <b>Political Parties</b>               | <b>Total received for 2017</b> | <b>Brought forward from 2016</b> | <b>Total available for 2017</b> | <b>Total expenditure 2017</b> | <b>Balance carried forward to 2018</b> |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Fianna Fáil</b>                     | 2,433,946                      | 157,233                          | 2,591,179                       | 2,394,888                     | <b>196,291</b>                         |
| <b>Fine Gael</b>                       | 1,964,155                      | 280,119                          | 2,244,274                       | 1,594,772                     | <b>649,502</b>                         |
| <b>Green Party</b>                     | 170,825                        | 135,203                          | 306,028                         | 70,675                        | <b>235,353</b>                         |
| <b>Independents 4 Change</b>           | 257,472                        | 90,637                           | 348,109                         |                               |  |
| <b>The Labour Party</b>                | 657,859                        | 792,271                          | 1,450,130                       | 463,398                       | <b>986,732</b>                         |
| <b>Sinn Féin</b>                       | 1,565,624                      | 462,283                          | 2,027,907                       | 1,589,590                     | <b>438,317</b>                         |
| <b>Social Democrats</b>                | 193,104                        | 77,993                           | 271,097                         | 166,177                       | <b>104,920</b>                         |
| <b>Solidarity-People Before Profit</b> | 386,208                        | 51,750                           | 437,958                         | 332,446                       | <b>105,512</b>                         |
| <b>Total</b>                           | <b>7,629,193</b>               | <b>2,047,489</b>                 | <b>9,676,682</b>                | <b>6,611,946</b>              | <b>2,716,628</b>                       |

\* Totals may be inconsistent due to rounding



Table 2 Breakdown by category and by political party of expenditure of the allowance in 2017

| Category     | Fianna Fáil      | Fine Gael        | Green Party   | Independents 4 Change | The Labour Party | Sinn Féin        | Social Democrats | Solidarity- People Before Profit |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| a            | 2,207,776        | 245,566          | —             |                       | 374,783          | 1,149,659        | 159,095          | 16,471                           |
| b            | —                | —                | —             |                       | —                | —                | —                | —                                |
| c            | 64,980           | 132,798          | 12,750        |                       | —                | 28,013           | —                | —                                |
| d            | —                | 77,775           | —             |                       | 88,615           | 278,551          | 2,783            | —                                |
| e            | 58,547           | 54,209           | —             |                       | —                | 46,430           | 4,299            | —                                |
| f            | —                | —                | 24,575        |                       | —                | —                | —                | —                                |
| g            | —                | 1,084,424        | 33,350        |                       | —                | 86,937           | —                | —                                |
| h            | 30,000           | —                | —             |                       | —                | —                | —                | —                                |
| i            | —                | —                | —             |                       | —                | —                | —                | 315,607                          |
| j            | 33,585           | —                | —             |                       | —                | —                | —                | 368                              |
| k            | —                | —                | —             |                       | —                | —                | —                | —                                |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>2,394,888</b> | <b>1,594,772</b> | <b>70,675</b> |                       | <b>463,398</b>   | <b>1,589,590</b> | <b>166,177</b>   | <b>332,446</b>                   |

\* Totals may be inconsistent due to rounding

### 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 2017

| Name of TD           | Total received for 2017 | Brought forward from 2016 | Total available for 2017 | Total expenditure 2017 | Balance carried forward to 2018 |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Canney, Seán         | 37,037                  | 19,815                    | 56,852                   | 33,561                 | 23,291                          |
| Collins, Michael     | 37,037                  | —                         | 37,037                   | 37,040                 | —                               |
| Connolly, Catherine  | 37,037                  | 30,364                    | 67,401                   | 18,668                 | 48,733                          |
| Fitzmaurice, Michael | 37,037                  | 13,509                    | 50,546                   | 30,002                 | 20,544                          |
| Grealish, Noel       | 37,037                  | 22,989                    | 60,026                   | 23,073                 | 36,953                          |
| Halligan, John       | 37,037                  | 1,239                     | 38,276                   | 37,212                 | 1,064                           |
| Harty, Michael       | 37,037                  | 24,264                    | 61,301                   | 21,000                 | 40,301                          |
| Healy, Seamus        | 37,037                  | 17,749                    | 54,786                   | 29,060                 | 25,727                          |
| Healy Rae, Danny     | 37,037                  | 903                       | 37,940                   | 24,159                 | 13,781                          |
| Healy Rae, Michael   | 37,037                  | 15,328                    | 52,365                   | 30,428                 | 21,937                          |
| Lowry, Michael       | 37,037                  | 44,629                    | 81,666                   | 57,307                 | 24,359                          |
| McGrath, Finian      | 37,037                  | 31,409                    | 68,446                   | 25,692                 | 42,754                          |
| McGrath, Mattie      | 37,037                  | 25,048                    | 62,085                   | 17,203                 | 44,882                          |
| Moran, Kevin         | 37,037                  | 5,255                     | 42,292                   | 35,983                 | 6,309                           |
| Naughten, Denis      | 37,037                  | 14,404                    | 51,441                   | 16,341                 | 35,100                          |
| O'Sullivan, Maureen  | 37,037                  | 27,839                    | 64,876                   | 22,605                 | 42,271                          |
| Pringle, Thomas      | 37,037                  | 10,740                    | 47,777                   | 41,276                 | 6,501                           |
| Ross, Shane          | 37,037                  | 40,623                    | 77,660                   | 28,366                 | 49,293                          |
| Zappone, Katherine   | 37,037                  | —                         | 37,037                   | 35,501                 | 1,536                           |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>703,704</b>          | <b>346,107</b>            | <b>1,049,811</b>         | <b>564,477</b>         | <b>485,337</b>                  |

\* Totals may be inconsistent due to rounding

Table 4 Breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2017 given by each independent TD

| Category             | a             | b              | c             | d              | e             | f             | Total          | Balance<br>c/fwrtd to 2018 |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Canney, Seán         | —             | 28,476         | 3,184         | 1,230          | —             | 671           | 33,561         | 23,291                     |
| Collins, Michael     | 10,492        | 8,113          | 9,961         | 6,332          | 2,143         | —             | 37,040         | —                          |
| Connolly, Catherine  | —             | 18,668         | —             | —              | —             | —             | 18,668         | 48,733                     |
| Fitzmaurice, Michael | —             | 6,800          | 7,252         | 15,950         | —             | —             | 30,002         | 20,544                     |
| Grealish, Noel       | 246           | —              | 6,127         | 16,700         | —             | —             | 23,073         | 36,953                     |
| Halligan, John       | 6,600         | 11,070         | 1,900         | 5,987          | 7,170         | 4,485         | 37,212         | 1,064                      |
| Harty, Michael       | —             | —              | —             | 21,000         | —             | —             | 21,000         | 40,301                     |
| Healy, Seamus        | 28,369        | —              | —             | 590            | —             | 100           | 29,060         | 25,727                     |
| Healy Rae, Danny     | —             | 7,801          | 11,484        | 4,551          | —             | 323           | 24,159         | 13,781                     |
| Healy Rae, Michael   | —             | 28,368         | 1,188         | 492            | —             | 379           | 30,428         | 21,937                     |
| Lowry, Michael       | —             | 28,905         | —             | 28,402         | —             | —             | 57,307         | 24,359                     |
| McGrath, Finian      | 11,993        | 25             | —             | 1,910          | 10,148        | 1,616         | 25,692         | 42,754                     |
| McGrath, Mattie      | 4,837         | 701            | 8,980         | 1,098          | —             | 1,587         | 17,203         | 44,882                     |
| Moran, Kevin         | —             | 21,489         | 190           | 308            | 11,548        | 2,448         | 35,983         | 6,309                      |
| Naughten, Denis      | 2,330         | 1,650          | 12,361        | —              | —             | —             | 16,341         | 35,100                     |
| O'Sullivan, Maureen  | 15,343        | 5,930          | 20            | 590            | —             | 722           | 22,605         | 42,271                     |
| Pringle, Thomas      | 1,800         | 19,412         | 20,064        | —              | —             | —             | 41,276         | 6,501                      |
| Ross, Shane          | —             | 580            | —             | 9,631          | 10,640        | 7,515         | 28,366         | 49,293                     |
| Zappone, Katherine   | —             | 318            | —             | 31,829         | —             | 3,354         | 35,501         | 1,536                      |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>82,010</b> | <b>188,307</b> | <b>82,711</b> | <b>146,601</b> | <b>41,648</b> | <b>23,200</b> | <b>564,477</b> | <b>485,337</b>             |

\* Totals may be inconsistent due to rounding

### 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 2017

| Name of Senator          | Total received for 2017 | Brought forward from 2016 | Total available for 2017 | Total expenditure 2017 | Balance carried forward to 2018 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Black, Frances           | 21,045                  | 9,565                     | 30,610                   | 1,658                  | 28,952                          |
| Boyhan, Victor           | 21,045                  | 8,943                     | 29,988                   | 9,010                  | 20,977                          |
| Craughwell, Gerard       | 21,045                  | 9,573                     | 30,618                   | 21,293                 | 9,325                           |
| Dolan, John              | 21,045                  | 13,484                    | 34,529                   | 7,447                  | 27,082                          |
| Freeman, Joan            | 21,045                  | 1,662                     | 22,707                   | 22,707                 | —                               |
| Higgins, Alice Mary      | 21,045                  | 7,827                     | 28,872                   | 3,053                  | 25,819                          |
| Kelleher, **<br>Collette | 26,306                  | —                         | 26,306                   | 12,119                 | 14,187                          |
| Lawless, Billy           | 21,045                  | 7,238                     | 28,283                   | 19,908                 | 8,374                           |
| McDowell, Michael        | 21,045                  | 12,594                    | 33,639                   | 966                    | 32,674                          |
| Mullen, Rónán            | 21,045                  | —                         | 21,045                   | 21,045                 | —                               |
| Norris, David            | 21,045                  | 25,985                    | 47,030                   | 19,997                 | 27,033                          |
| Ó Ceidigh, Pádraig       | 21,045                  | 7,226                     | 28,271                   | 5,676                  | 22,595                          |
| O'Donnell, Marie Louise  | 21,045                  | 6,267                     | 27,312                   | 17,329                 | 9,983                           |
| Ruane, Lynn              | 21,045                  | 3,617                     | 24,662                   | 20,678                 | 3,984                           |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>299,891</b>          | <b>113,981</b>            | <b>413,872</b>           | <b>182,886</b>         | <b>230,986</b>                  |

\* Totals may be inconsistent due to rounding

\*\* Amount in excess of €21,054 relates to arrears for 2016

Table 6 Breakdown of expenditure of the Parliamentary Activities Allowance during 2017 provided by each independent member of the Seanad

| Category                | a             | b             | c             | d             | e        | f            | Other     | Total          | Balance c/fwd to 2018 |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------|--------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Black, Frances          | 20            | 120           | 1,087         | 431           | —        | —            | —         | 1,658          | 28,952                |
| Boyhan, Victor          | 931           | 615           | 7,465         | —             | —        | —            | —         | 9,010          | 20,977                |
| Craughwell, Gerard      | 3,329         | 2,114         | 15,480        | 75            | —        | 295          | —         | 21,293         | 9,325                 |
| Dolan, John             | 902           | 25            | 1,354         | 5,166         | —        | —            | —         | 7,447          | 27,082                |
| Freeman, Joan           | 22,707        | —             | —             | —             | —        | —            | —         | 22,707         | —                     |
| Higgins, Alice Mary     | 768           | 654           | 1,109         | 512           | —        | —            | 9         | 3,053          | 25,819                |
| Kelleher, Collette      | 1,071         | 4,528         | 6,520         | —             | —        | —            | —         | 12,119         | 14,187                |
| Lawless, Billy          | 9,931         | —             | 9,000         | —             | —        | 978          | —         | 19,908         | 8,374                 |
| McDowell, Michael       | 500           | —             | —             | 431           | —        | 35           | —         | 966            | 32,674                |
| Mullen, Rónán           | 4,042         | 12,190        | 4,664         | —             | —        | 149          | —         | 21,045         | —                     |
| Norris, David           | —             | —             | —             | 19,997        | —        | —            | —         | 19,997         | 27,033                |
| Ó Ceidigh, Pádraig      | 500           | 2,420         | —             | 91            | —        | 2,666        | —         | 5,676          | 22,595                |
| O'Donnell, Marie Louise | —             | 10,820        | 4,964         | 1,385         | —        | 159          | —         | 17,329         | 9,983                 |
| Ruane, Lynn             | 2,000         | 7,439         | 9,174         | 2,031         | —        | —            | 34        | 20,678         | 3,984                 |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>46,701</b> | <b>40,926</b> | <b>60,817</b> | <b>30,119</b> | <b>—</b> | <b>4,281</b> | <b>43</b> | <b>182,886</b> | <b>230,986</b>        |

\* Totals may be inconsistent due to rounding

### 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.