



Seirbhís Thithe
an Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas Service

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23 October 2012

Mr Ted McEnery
Clerk
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
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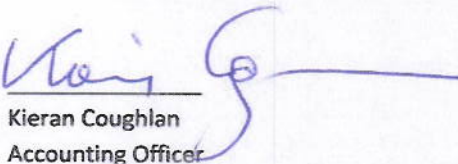
23 October 2012

Re: Review of Public Sector Allowances

Dear Mr McEnery

Ahead of my appearance at the PAC later today, I am attaching some further information in relation to rates of allowances for Members, and the legislative basis for the payment of these allowances. You may wish to circulate to Members of the Committee in advance. I am also enclosing for completeness a note on funding for Political Parties.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or my officials in that regard.


Kieran Coughlan
Accounting Officer



Allowances paid by the House of the Oireachtas Service

Salary Allowances

In addition to their TDs and Senators salaries of €92,672 and €65,621 per annum respectively, the Ceann Comhairle, Leas-Cheann Comhairle, and Cathaoirleach, Leas Cathaoirleach and Leader of the Seanad receive a salary allowance as follows:

These salary allowances are treated as salary for deductions and pension entitlement purposes.

Office Holder	Rate 2008	Rate 2012	% Decrease
Ceann Comhairle	€125,005	€76,603 (Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2011)	39%
Leas-Cheann Comhairle	€54,549	€37,370 (as above)	31%
Cathaoirleach	€49,255	€44,336 (Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (No. 2) Act 2009)	10%
Leas-Chathaoirleach	€27,112	€24,429 (as above)	10%
Leader of the Seanad	€21,525	€19,439 (as above)	10%

Payments to Holders of Specified Positions in Dáil Éireann

Certain specified positions within the Houses of the Oireachtas also have an additional salary allowance as follows:

Payments to Holders of Specified positions in Dáil Éireann

Position	2008	Rates of annual allowance with effect from 9 th March 2011 (All Rates set by SI 347 of 2011) 2012	% Decreases
Whip to the Fianna Fáil Party	€20,023	€19,000	6%
Assistant Government Whip	€16,027	€15,000	7%
Whip to the People Before Profit Party	No Position in 2008	€6,000	-
Whip to the Sinn Féin Party	€6,380	€6,000	6%
Whip to the Socialist Party	No Position in 2008	€6,000	-
Assistant Whip to the Fianna Fáil Party	€10,241	€9,500	7%
Assistant Whip to the Fine Gael Party	€16,027	€7,500	54%
Assistant Whip to the Labour Party	€6,380	€6,000	6%
Assistant Whip to the Sinn Féin Party	No Position in 2008	€3,000	-

Payments to Holders of Specified Positions in Seanad Éireann

Position	2008	Rates of annual allowance with effect from 25 th May 2011 (All rates set by SI 347 of 2011)	% Decreases
Deputy Leader of the House	€10,241	€9,500	7%
Government Whip	€6,380	€6,000	6%
Assistant Government Whip	€4,452	€4,000	10%
Fianna Fáil Leader	€10,241	€9,500	7%
Independent Group of Nominee Senators' Leader	€6,380	€6,000	6%
Independent Group of University Senators' Leader	No Position in 2008	€6,000	-
Fianna Fáil Whip	€4,452	€4,000	10%
Independent Group of Nominee Senators' Whip	No Position in 2008	€4,000	-
Independent Group of University Senators' Whip	No Position in 2008	€4,000	-

Oireachtas Committee and Commission Member Rates

Oireachtas Committee	2008	2011	% Decrease 2008 v 2012
Chairperson of Joint Committees (Rate set by SI 530 of 2011)	€20,023	€9,500	53%
Select Committee on Members' Interests of Seanad Éireann (Rate set by SI 347 of 2011)	€6,380	€3,100	52%
Commission Members rate from 9 th March 2011 (Rate set by SI 530 of 2011)	€20,023	€9,500	53%
Vice Chairperson (SI 94/1998)	€10,241		-
Chairperson of Sub Committee (SI 94/1998)	€6,380		-
Committee Whip (SI 94/1998)	€ 6,380		-

Parliamentary Standard Allowance (PSA)

The Oireachtas (Allowances and Facilities) Regulations, 2010 (SI 84/2010) outline all the provisions of the Parliamentary Standard Allowance (PSA). The allowance came into effect on 1st March 2010 and has two elements:

- Travel and Accommodation Allowance (TAA)
- Public Representation Allowance (PRA)

Both allowances are paid in arrears as a single monthly allowance.

Travel and Accommodation Allowance (TAA)

TAA is paid to members in bands based on the distance from Leinster House,

The rates of the TAA allowance for all Members by band are as follows:

BAND NUMBER	DISTANCE	TDs ANNUAL	SENATORS ANNUAL	OFFICE HOLDERS ANNUAL
Dublin	Less than 25km	€12,000	€7,000	€8,400

1	25km or more but less than 60km	€28,106	€23,106	€24,457
2	60km or more but less than 90km	€30,350	€25,350	€27,150
3	90km or more but less than 120km	€31,850	€26,850	€28,950
4	120km or more but less than 150km	€32,966	€27,966	€30,289
5	150km or more but less than 180km	€33,350	€28,350	€30,750
6	180km or more but less than 210km	€33,722	€28,722	€31,196
7	210km or more but less than 240km	€34,094	€29,094	€31,643
8	240km or more but less than 270km	€34,850	€29,850	€32,550
9	270km or more but less than 300km	€35,594	€30,594	€33,443
10	300km or more but less than 330km	€36,350	€31,350	€34,350
11	330km or more but less than 360km	€37,106	€32,106	€35,257
12	360km or more	€37,850	€32,850	€36,150

This allowance, based on distance from the Member's normal place of residence to Leinster House, covers the costs of travel to and from Leinster House, overnights and, for TDs only, other travel expenses (within a Member's constituency). Senators are paid a reduced amount as there are no payments for constituency travel. Oireachtas Office Holders, excluding the Ceann Comhairle, are paid an allowance ranging from €8,400 per annum for the Dublin based Office Holders to €36,150 per annum for those 360km or more from Leinster House. Currently, the Ceann Comhairle is paid an annual overnight allowance of €16,350. The Leas Cheann Comhairle or Cathaoirleach may opt for payment of the overnight allowance only and apply for alternative travel arrangements with agreement of the Minister for Finance.

Ministers, Ministers of State and the Ceann Comhairle are not entitled to claim the travel and accommodation allowance.

Public Representation Allowance (PRA)

The current rates of the allowance are as follows:

Category	Minimum certified amount for unvouched expenditure (Any amount <u>above this</u> allowance is <u>subject to audit</u>)	Fully vouched maximum amount for vouched expenditure (Subject to audit)
TDs	€15,000	€25,700
Ministers and Ministers of State	€12,000	€20,000
Senators	€9,250	€15,000

This allowance is payable to all Members (including Ministers and Oireachtas Office Holders). Members may opt for either the certified unvouched amount or the fully vouched amount. Members opting for the vouched amount must retain receipts for the full amount claimed and declare their option annually. Members receiving any amounts of the allowance above the certified unvouched rate may be subject to audit, which are carried out by an independent auditor annually.

Other Allowances

Telephone and Postal Facilities within Leinster House – SI 84/2010

The Regulations provide for free telephone and postal facilities available from Leinster House. The postal facilities allowances of pre-paid envelopes per month are 1,250 for TDs and 750 for Senators. In addition, Members holding certain specified positions e.g. chairpersons of Oireachtas committees, have an additional telephone allowance of €11,000 annually which is paid quarterly (an increased amount of €1,700 is paid to the chair of the PAC).

Constituency Office Grant 84/2010

TDs are eligible for a once off grant of €8,000 if he/she incurs expenses in establishing and equipping accommodation for his/her secretarial or parliamentary assistant outside Leinster House.

Mobile Phone Scheme – Direct Purchase Scheme

The current provision is a maximum of €750 every 18 months for the purchase of a mobile phone, car kit, installation costs and insurance subject to an application with receipts and proof of expenditure for all the expenditure incurred.

Once off Payment at Elections

Members are entitled to claim a once-off payment in respect of travel costs incurred in travelling to Dublin to sign the Roll of Members. For Deputies, on dissolution, a once-off payment in respect of travel costs to return to the constituency within three days. The rate of the payment of travelling facilities for these purposes is based on the actual mileage at the prevailing lower rate (currently 28 cents per km) as stipulated by the Department of Finance.

Secretarial Allowance

Secretarial Allowance Options

The options for Deputies, Ministers and Senators are as follows: -

Deputy Options	Minister Options	Senator Options
Staff option (formerly option A) Engagement of full time Parliamentary Assistant (enabling a Deputy to have a Parliamentary Assistant in addition to the staff allocation through HR Unit for Members of one Secretarial Assistant)	No Staff Option	Staff Option (formerly option A) Additional 50% Secretarial Assistant (enabling a Senator to have a 50% Secretarial Assistant in addition to the staff allocation through HR Unit for Members of 50% Secretarial Assistant)
Vouched Allowance Option (formerly option C) An annual allowance of €41,092 fully vouched for secretarial assistance by employing a TVE or a contract for service to undertake defined work such as secretarial assistance, PR, IT (but not web related) and training.	Vouched Allowance Option (formerly option A) An annual allowance of €41,092 fully vouched for secretarial assistance by employing a TVE or by a contract for service to undertake defined work such as secretarial assistance, PR, IT (but not web related) and training	Vouched Allowance Option (formerly option B) An annual allowance of €20,546 fully vouched for secretarial assistant for a TVE or a contract for service to undertake defined work such as secretarial assistance, PR, IT (but not web related) and training
Part Vouched Allowance Option (formerly option D) An annual allowance of €8,888.17 un-vouched paid in two instalments of €4,444.08 No claim forms or receipts required and allowance paid automatically. <u>And</u> An annual allowance of €11,591 vouched for secretarial assistance by	Part Vouched Allowance Option (formerly option B) An annual allowance of €8,888.17 un-vouched paid in two instalments of €4,444.08 No claim forms or receipts required and allowance paid automatically. <u>And</u> An annual allowance of €11,591	Part Vouched Allowance Option (formerly option C) An annual allowance of €6,666.12 un-vouched paid in two instalments of €3,333.06 No claim forms or receipts required and allowance paid automatically <u>And</u> An additional 25% of staff (enabling a Senator to have a 25% Secretarial

employing a TVE or a contract for service to undertake defined work such as secretarial assistance, PR, IT (but not web related) and training	vouched for secretarial assistance by employing a TVE or a contract for service to undertake defined work such as secretarial assistance, PR, IT (but not web related) and training	Assistant in addition to the staff allocation through HR Unit for Members of 50% Secretarial Assistant)
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Members may also claim a Secretarial Allowance (SA) for additional secretarial services, and is to assist towards expenses arising from the purchase of certain secretarial assistance, public relations, information technology and training services from a person employed under a contract of service or the purchase of such services under a contract of service.

The Member is the Employer or the Contractor of the service subject to the terms and conditions for the scheme which is funded by the Houses of the Oireachtas. The salary and invoice for services is paid directly by the Houses of the Oireachtas to the employee or the service provider on behalf of the Member. The un-vouched allowance part of any option is paid directly to the Member.

Chairpersons Entertainment Allowance

Each Committee Chairperson has an annual allocation of €2,539 for entertainment purposes.

STATE FUNDING TO POLITICAL PARTIES

Qualified Political Parties funding available from the State for 2011 under the following headings only one of which is from Houses of the Oireachtas Commission funds:-

Party Leaders' Allowance – Total available to qualifying parties	9,045,552
(Source SIPO Report)	
In addition 15 independents in Dáil x 41,152 =	617,280
11 independents in Seanad x 23,383 =	257,213
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Total available Leaders Allowance.....	9,920,045
Electoral Law funding – Total available to qualifying parties.....	6,732,388
Houses of the Oireachtas Commission under	
Secretarial Assistance Scheme for party staff	3,400,000
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Total available based on 2011 figures	20,052,433

29/05/12 - Report on Exchequer Funding received by Political Parties for 2011

Appendix

Table 1 - Details of funding received by qualified political parties in 2011

Qualified Political Parties	Total funding received in 2011	Amount of funding brought forward from 2010	Overall total funding available for spending in 2011	Total expenditure of funding received in 2011	Balance of funding carried forward to 2012
	€	€	€	€	€
Fianna Fáil	1,345,317	1,064,427	2,409,744	2,056,515	353,229
Fine Gael	2,173,172	67,981	2,241,154	1,412,432	828,722
Sinn Féin	685,537	Nil	685,537	685,537	Nil
The Green Party	57,387	Nil	57,387	57,387	Nil
The Labour Party	1,191,978	146,588	1,338,566	593,387	745,179
Total	5,453,391	1,278,996	6,732,388	4,805,258	1,927,130

29/05/12 - Report on Expenditure of the Party Leaders Allowance (2011)

Appendix 1

Table 1

Details of funding available to the Parliamentary Leaders of Qualified Political Parties under the Party Leaders Allowance during 2011

Funding	Total received for 2011 €	Brought forward from 2010* €	Total available for 2011 €	Total expenditure 2011 €	Balance carried forward to 2012* €
Fianna Fáil	1,746,501	560,585	2,307,086	2,307,070	16
Fine Gael	2,579,030	420,703	2,999,733	2,385,814	613,919
PBPA	120,903	0	120,903	75,707	45,196
Sinn Féin	933,875	38,125	972,000	674,416	297,584
The Green Party	75,583	299,144	374,727	284,079	90,648
The Labour Party	1,634,607	515,593	2,150,200	1,278,965	871,235
The Socialist Party	120,903	0	120,903	73,130	47,773
Total	7,211,402	1,834,150	9,045,552	7,079,181	1,966,371

Qualifying Parties under the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission

Allocations for secretarial facilities for qualifying parties for the 31st Dáil are -

Party	Allocation of Secretarial Assistants
Fine Gael	26
Labour	13
Fianna Fáil	23
Sinn Féin	12.83
People Before Profit	1.6
Socialist	1.6
Total	78.03

Cost = 3.4 million