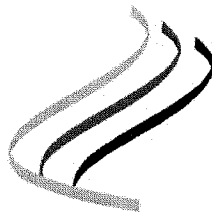


# Donations to Political Parties

## 2015

*Report to the Chairman of Dáil Éireann pursuant  
to section 4(1) of the Electoral Act 1997*



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

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**June 2016**

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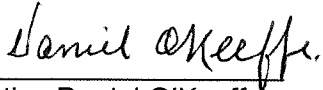
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## Foreword

I am pleased to furnish this report to the Ceann Comhairle (Chairman of Dáil Éireann) in accordance with section 4(1) of the Electoral Act 1997, as amended (the Act). The report relates to annual donation statements/certificate of monetary donations & statutory declarations, in respect of 2015, furnished to the Standards in Public Office Commission (the Commission) by political parties pursuant to section 24 of the Act.



Justice Daniel O'Keeffe  
Chairman

June 2016

## Chapter 1 Introduction

Not later than 31 March each year, political parties are required by section 24(1)(b) of the Act to furnish a donation statement, covering the previous calendar year, to the Commission. During 2015 there were 22 political parties registered to contest Dáil or European elections that were obliged to furnish a donation statement for 2015 to the Commission.

Section 4(1) of the Act requires the Commission to consider every donation statement furnished to it and where it considers it appropriate to do so, to furnish a report in writing to the Ceann Comhairle (Chairman of Dáil Éireann) on any matter arising.

## Chapter 2 Donations disclosed by political parties

Section 24(1)(b) of the Act provides that a donation statement is a written statement, in a form directed by the Commission, signed by an officer of the political party stating that a donation, exceeding €1,500, had been received during the preceding year and stating in respect of each such donation, among other things:

- the aggregate value of the donations and
- the name, description and postal address of the person by or on whose behalf the donation was made.

The maximum value of donations which a political party can accept from the same person in the same calendar year is €2,500. A party may not accept a corporate or business donation in excess of €200 unless the body is registered with the Commission as a Corporate Donor. A political party is also precluded from accepting foreign donations from an individual (other than an Irish citizen) who resides outside the island of Ireland. Similarly no donation, of any value, may be accepted from a body corporate or an unincorporated body of persons which does not keep an office in the island of Ireland from which at least one of its principal activities is directed.

### Amount of donations disclosed by political parties

The total value of donations disclosed by parties during 2015 was €172,794. Appendices 1 and 2 show in detail the donations disclosed by political parties for 2015. A summary of the donations disclosed is shown below:

| Party                                | Total Donations disclosed<br>€ |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Anti - Austerity Alliance            | 11,592                         |
| Fine Gael                            | 98,752                         |
| Green Party                          | 4,880                          |
| Social Democrats                     | 2,500                          |
| Renua Ireland                        | 5,000                          |
| Stop the Water Tax – Socialist Party | 37,710                         |
| The Labour Party                     | 7,500                          |
| Workers and Unemployed Action        | 4,860                          |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>172,794</b>                 |

## Timeliness of political party returns

Under section 25 of the Act, it is an offence for the appropriate officer of a political party to fail to furnish a donation statement/certificate of monetary donations/statutory declaration to the Commission by the specified date. The deadline for furnishing the required documentation was Thursday 31 March 2016. Ten of the twenty two political parties required to furnish a donation statement/statutory declaration to the Commission did so on or before the 31 March.

The Commission was required to engage in correspondence after the deadline had passed with some political parties in order to ensure the required documentation was received. In accordance with Section 4(2) of the Act the Commission was also required to contact ten political parties and request that errors and/or minor omissions on their donation statement/certificate of monetary donations be rectified and returned to the Commission within 14 days. The list of parties and the dates when material was received can be seen on the table below.

| <b>Party</b>  | <b>Date received</b> |
|---|----------------------|
| Anti - Austerity Alliance<br>(1 Jan – 31 Aug 2015)                      | 15 April 2016        |
| Anti - Austerity Alliance/People Before Profit<br>(1 Sep – 31 Dec 2015) | 8 April 2016         |
| Catholic Democrats (The National Party)                                 | 31 March 2016        |
| Communist Party of Ireland  | 27 April 2016        |
| Direct Democracy Ireland  | 6 May 2016           |
| Fianna Fáil   | 23 March 2016        |
| Fine Gael   | 31 March 2016        |
| Fis Nua   | 8 March 2016         |
| Green Party   | 1 April 2016         |
| Independents 4 Change   | 31 March 2016        |
| Irish Democratic Party  | 31 May 2016          |
| Kerry Independent Alliance  | 11 April 2016        |
| People Before Profit Alliance<br>(1 Jan-31 Aug 2015)                    | 8 April 2016         |
| Renua Ireland   | 18 March 2016        |
| Social Democrats  | 30 March 2016        |
| Sinn Fein   | 31 March 2016        |
| Stop the Water Tax – Socialist Party                                    | 31 March 2016        |
| The Labour Party  | 25 April 2016        |
| The Workers Party   | 19 April 2016        |
| United Left   | 6 May 2016           |
| United People   | 22 April 2016        |
| Workers and Unemployed Action   | 24 March 2016        |

### Chapter 3 Accounting Units

The treasurer or any other person responsible for dealing with donations to a branch or other subsidiary organisation of a political party must open and maintain a political donations account in a financial institution in the State and lodge to that account any donations received.

By 31 March each year, this person must furnish to the Standards Commission:

- a statement from the financial institution where the political donations account was opened specifying the transactions that have taken place in relation to the account during the preceding year (bank statement), and
- a certificate (Certificate of Monetary Donations) signed by him/her, stating that all monetary donations received during the preceding year were lodged to the account and that all amounts debited from the account were used for political purposes, and
- a statutory declaration, signed by him/her, that, to the best of the person's knowledge and belief, the certificate is correct in every material respect and that all reasonable action has been taken in order to satisfy him/herself as to the accuracy of the certificate.

It is an offence, under Section 25(1)(c) of the Act, for the treasurer/responsible person of an accounting unit to fail to comply with this requirement.

**Table of Accounting Units returns received in respect of 2015**

| <b>Political Party</b>               | <b>Returns Received before deadline</b> | <b>Returns Received After deadline</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| AAA-PBP                              | 11                                      | 2                                      |
| Catholic Democrats                   | 1                                       | 0                                      |
| Direct Democracy Ireland             | 1                                       | 0                                      |
| Fianna Fáil                          | 36                                      | 0                                      |
| Fine Gael                            | 40                                      | 14                                     |
| Fis Nua                              | 1                                       | 0                                      |
| Green Party                          | 16                                      | 0                                      |
| Independents 4 Change                | 1                                       | 0                                      |
| Irish Democratic Party               | 0                                       | 1                                      |
| Renua Ireland                        | 1                                       | 0                                      |
| Sinn Féin                            | 10                                      | 5                                      |
| Social Democrats                     | 1                                       | 0                                      |
| Stop the Water Tax - Socialist Party | 1                                       | 0                                      |
| Communist Party of Ireland           | 0                                       | 1                                      |
| The Labour Party                     | 19                                      | 16                                     |
| The Workers Party                    | 1                                       | 0                                      |
| United Left                          | 1                                       | 0                                      |
| United People                        | 0                                       | 1                                      |
| Workers and Unemployed Action        | 1                                       | 0                                      |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>142</b>                              | <b>39</b>                              |

It is a matter of regret that a significant percentage of accounting units (22%) fail to cooperate with the Commission and only comply with their statutory obligations once the matter is about to be referred to An Garda Síochána.

## Funds held by accounting units in 2015

Accounting units are not required to submit a donation statement to the Commission. Thus, the Commission cannot with certainty ascertain the provenance of the monies held in the accounting units' political donations accounts. An examination of the bank account statements submitted, and enquiries made, indicates that the funds are made up of donations, monies received on foot of fund-raising activities and transfers of money from party headquarters. It is understood that the transfer of funds from party headquarters usually arises from accounting units being allocated a share of the proceeds of a national draw which is in proportion to the number of tickets that the particular accounting unit sold.

As a consequence of section 23(B)(8) of the Act, details of certificates of monetary donations and bank statements furnished to the Commission by political parties and their accounting units are not laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas nor put on public display. However, the Commission, having analysed the returns for 2015 submitted to it, has decided to publish aggregate figures for those political parties with a significant number of accounting units. This is to illustrate the need for further refinement of existing legislation to ensure that a reasonably accurate picture of political party finances is available to the public.

The table below gives details of the position with regard to the number of accounting units of the larger parties from which the Commission received returns for 2015. At the time of writing some 6 accounting units had failed to submit complete bank statements to the Commission and, therefore, the table below may not show the total amount of funds held by all accounting units.

| Political Party (total no of accounting units) | No of accounting unit bank statements received | Opening bank balance (of all returns received) *<br>€ | Year end bank balance (of all returns received) *<br>€ |
|--|--|---|--|
| AAA-PBP (13)                                   | 13   | 18,037.49   | 41,122.66  |
| Fianna Fáil (36)                               | 34   | 204,284.26  | 213,482.84   |
| Fine Gael (54)                                 | 54   | 292,630.13  | 331,336.54   |
| Green Party (16)                               | 16   | 37,807.94   | 38,931.94  |
| Sinn Féin (15)                                 | 15   | 4,191.14  | 4920.54  |
| The Labour Party (35)                          | 33   | 61,540.93   | 61,471.64  |
| Others** (13)                                  | 11   | 45,822.69   | 119,143.33   |
| <b>Total (182)</b>                             | <b>176</b>                                     | <b>664,314.58</b>                                     | <b>810,409.49</b>                                      |

\*Recorded from bank statements.

\*\* 13 of the political parties registered in 2015 have no more than one accounting unit and their returns are aggregated as 'Others' in the table above.

## Chapter 4 Publication of Statutory Documentation

In accordance with section 24(7)(a) of the Act, the Commission has today laid the donation statements/statutory declarations furnished by political parties before each House of the Oireachtas.

In accordance with section 73 of the Act, the Commission has made the donation statements/statutory declarations available for public inspection and copying at its offices on 18 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2. The information is also available on the Commission's website [www.sipo.ie](http://www.sipo.ie)

### APPENDIX 1

#### Summary of donations disclosed by Political Parties for 2015

| Political Party                                     | Total disclosed<br>€ |
|---|----------------------|
| Anti -Austerity Alliance (1 Jan – 31 Aug)           | 11,592               |
| AAA-PBP (1 Sep – 31 Dec 2015)                       | NIL                  |
| Catholic Democrats (The National Party)             | NIL                  |
| Communist Party of Ireland                          | NIL                  |
| Direct Democracy Ireland                            | NIL                  |
| Fianna Fáil   | NIL                  |
| Fine Gael   | 98,752               |
| Fís Nua   | NIL                  |
| Green Party   | 4,880                |
| Independents 4 Change                               | NIL                  |
| Irish Democratic Party                              | NIL                  |
| Kerry Independent Alliance                          | NIL                  |
| People Before Profit Alliance (1 Jan - 31 Aug 2015) | NIL                  |
| Renua Ireland                                       | 5,000                |
| Sinn Féin   | NIL                  |
| Social Democrats                                    | 2,500                |
| Stop the Water Tax - Socialist Party                | 37,710               |
| The Labour Party                                    | 7,500                |
| The Workers Party                                   | NIL                  |
| United Left   | NIL                  |
| United People                                       | NIL                  |
| Workers and Unemployed Action                       | 4,860                |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>172,794</b>       |



## Appendix 2

### Details of donations disclosed by political parties for 2015

Anti - Austerity Alliance (1 Jan -31 Aug)

| <b>Name &amp; address of donor</b>                                     | <b>Description of donor</b> | <b>Value of donation</b> |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Kieran Mahon,<br>7 Bolnoor Grove, Tallaght,<br>Dublin 24               | Individual                  | 1,664.00                 |
| Cian Prendiville,<br>45 Brookville Gardens,<br>Clareview, Limerick     | Individual                  | 2,500.00                 |
| Michael O'Brien,<br>65 Robswall Crescent,<br>Malahide, Co.Dublin       | Individual                  | 1,664.00                 |
| Eugene Coppinger,<br>46 Forest Walk, Rivervalley,<br>Swords, Co.Dublin | Individual                  | 2,500.00                 |
| Mick Murphy,<br>78 Whitechurch Way,<br>Rathfarnham,<br>Dublin 16       | Individual                  | 1,664.00                 |
| Terrence Kelleher,<br>9 Hillside Close, Skerries,<br>Co. Dublin        | Individual                  | 1,600.00                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |                             | <b>11,592.00</b>         |

Stop the Water Tax - Socialist Party

| <b>Name and address of donor</b>   | <b>Description of donor</b> | <b>Value of donation</b> |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| John Burtchell,<br>5 Saddlers Crescent,<br>Mulhuddart,<br>Dublin 15      | Individual                  | 2,200.00                 |
| Ruth Coppinger,<br>159 Castlecurragh Heath,<br>Mulhuddart, Dublin 15     | Individual/TD               | 2,500.00                 |
| Eugene Coppinger,<br>46 Forest Walk, River Valley,<br>Swords, Co. Dublin | Individual                  | 2,500.00                 |
| Donal Griffin,<br>4 Chancery Hall,<br>North King St,<br>Dublin 7         | Individual                  | 1,800.00                 |

|   |               |                  |
|---|---------------|------------------|
| Anthony Heatherington,<br>8 Ardfield Drive, Grange,<br>Douglas,<br>Cork | Individual    | 2,160.00         |
| Joe Higgins,<br>155 Briarwood Close,<br>Mulhuddart,<br>Dublin 15        | Individual    | 2,500.00         |
| Terry Kelleher,<br>9 Hillside Close, Skerries,<br>Co.Dublin             | Individual    | 1,680.84         |
| Kieran Mahon,<br>7 Bolbrook Grove, Tallaght,<br>Dublin 24               | Individual    | 2,496.00         |
| Conor McLiam,<br>6 Pinewood Ave,<br>Archer Street,<br>Kilkenny          | Individual    | 2272.50          |
| Mick Murphy,<br>78 Whitechurch Way,<br>Rathfarnham, Co.Dublin           | Individual    | 2,280.00         |
| Mick Murphy,<br>23 Lissadell, Maryborough<br>Douglas, Co Cork           | Individual    | 2,400.00         |
| Paul Murphy,<br>37 The Close, Kingswood,<br>Tallaght, Dublin 24         | Individual/TD | 2,291.63         |
| Michael O'Brien,<br>65 Rosswall Crescent,<br>Malahide,<br>Co. Dublin    | Individual    | 2,082.97         |
| Diana O'Dwyer.<br>15 Thor Place, Stoneybatter,<br>Dublin 7              | Individual    | 2,408.00         |
| Marion O'Sullivan,<br>69 Dowscourt, Bishopstown,<br>Cork                | Individual    | 2,258.00         |
| Cian Prendiville,<br>45 Brookfield Gardens,<br>Clareview, Limerick      | Individual    | 2,261.00         |
| Helen Redwood,<br>185 Castlecurragh Vale,<br>Mulhuddart, Dublin 15      | Individual    | 1,620.00         |
| <b>Total</b>  |               | <b>37,710.94</b> |

The Labour Party

| <b>Name and address of donor</b>                     | <b>Description of donor</b> | <b>Value of donation</b> |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| SIPTU,<br>Liberty Hall, Dublin 1                     | Trade Union/Corporate Donor | 2,500.00                 |
| TSSA,<br>Nerney's Court, off Temple Bar,<br>Dublin 1 | Trade Union/Corporate Donor | 2,500.00                 |
| GMB,<br>14 Upper Mount Street,<br>Dublin 2           | Trade Union/Corporate Donor | 2,500.00                 |
| <b>Total</b>   |                             | <b>7,500.00</b>          |

Workers and Unemployed Action

| <b>Name and address of donor</b>                                | <b>Description of donor</b> | <b>Value of donation</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Seamus Healy, TD, 56 Queen<br>Street, Clonmel, Co Tipperary     | Individual/TD               | 2,400.00                 |
| Pat English, Cashaniska,<br>Rathronan, Clonmel, Co<br>Tipperary | Individual/<br>Councillor   | 2,460.00                 |
| <b>Total</b>  |                             | <b>4,860.00</b>          |

Renua Ireland

| <b>Name &amp; address of donor</b>   | <b>Description of donor</b> | <b>Value of donation</b> |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Eddie Hobbs,<br>Unit W9A1, Tougher<br>Business Park, Newhall,<br>Naas, Co. Kildare | Individual                  | 2,500.00                 |
| Gerard Barry,<br>1 Carragh Drive,<br>Knocknacarra Road, Galway                     | Individual                  | 2,500.00                 |
| <b>Total</b>   |                             | <b>5,000.00</b>          |

Social Democrats

| <b>Name &amp; address of donor</b>   | <b>Description of donor</b> | <b>Value of donation</b> |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Michael Chadwick,<br>Carrigoona House, Rocky<br>Valley Drive, Kilmacanogue,<br>Co. Wicklow | Individual                  | 2,500.00                 |
| <b>Total</b>   |                             | <b>2,500.00</b>          |

Fine Gael

| <b>Name &amp; address of donor</b>  | <b>Description of donor</b> | <b>Value of donation</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| James Bannon TD   | Individual/TD               | 1,583.00                 |
| Conor Barry,<br>235 Ballantyne Ave North,<br>Montreal West, Quebec,<br>Canada<br><br>(FG have confirmed that Mr<br>Barry is an Irish citizen) | Individual                  | 2,125.00                 |
| Pat Breen TD  | Individual/TD               | 1,515.00                 |
| Richard Bruton TD   | Individual/Minister         | 2,189.41                 |
| Senator Colm Burke  | Individual/Senator          | 1,528.50                 |
| Jerry Buttimer TD   | Individual/TD               | 1,940.50                 |
| Catherine Byrne TD  | Individual/TD               | 1,832.75                 |
| Ciaran Cannon TD  | Individual/Minister         | 1,583.00                 |
| Joe Carey TD  | Individual/TD               | 1,699.04                 |
| Deirdre Clune,<br>144 Blackrock Road, Cork  | Individual/MEP              | 1,940.50                 |
| Paudie Coffey TD  | Individual/Minister         | 1,643.00                 |
| Paul Connaughton TD   | Individual/TD               | 1,515.00                 |
| Marcella Corcoran Kennedy<br>TD   | Individual/TD               | 1,583.00                 |
| Simon Coveney TD  | Individual/Minister         | 2,060.50                 |
| Michael Creed TD  | Individual/TD               | 1,515.00                 |
| Jim Daly TD   | Individual/TD               | 1,583.00                 |
| Jimmy Deenihan TD   | Individual/Minister         | 1,687.40                 |
| Pat Deering TD  | Individual/TD               | 1,515.00                 |
| Regina Doherty TD   | Individual/TD               | 1,576.80                 |
| Paschal Donohoe TD  | Individual/Minister         | 2,500.00                 |

|  |                      |          |
|--|----------------------|----------|
| Andrew Doyle TD  | Individual/TD        | 2,119.05 |
| Bernard Durkan TD  | Individual/TD        | 2,275.38 |
| Damien English TD  | Individual/Minister  | 2,241.00 |
| Frances Fitzgerald, TD   | Individual/Minister  | 2,058.65 |
| Charlie Flanagan TD  | Individual/Minister  | 1,917.60 |
| Noel Harrington TD   | Individual/TD        | 1,515.00 |
| Simon Harris TD  | Individual/Minister  | 1,643.00 |
| Brian Hayes,<br>48 Dunmore Park,<br>Kingswood Heights,<br>Tallaght,<br>Dublin 24 | Individual/MEP       | 2,500.00 |
| Tom Hayes TD   | Individual/Minister  | 1,752.60 |
| Martin Heydon TD   | Individual/TD        | 1,515.00 |
| Heather Humphreys TD   | Individual/Minister  | 1,635.00 |
| Derek Keating TD   | Individual/TD        | 1,789.83 |
| Paul Kehoe TD  | Individual/Minister  | 1,575.00 |
| Sean Kelly,<br>Gortoe, Killarney,<br>Co.Kerry                                    | Individual/MEP       | 2,068.50 |
| Enda Kenny TD  | Individual/Taoiseach | 1,635.00 |
| Sean Kyne TD   | Individual/TD        | 1,583.00 |
| Antony Lawlor TD   | Individual/TD        | 1,711.80 |
| Dinny McGinley TD  | Individual/TD        | 1,583.00 |
| Mairead McGuinness, MEP,<br>Mentrim, Drumconrath,<br>Navan                       | Individual/MEP       | 1,692.60 |
| Joe McHugh TD  | Individual/Minister  | 1,643.00 |
| Olivia Mitchell TD   | Individual/TD        | 1,924.05 |
| Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD  | Individual/TD        | 1,648.00 |
| Eoghan Murphy TD   | Individual/TD        | 1,583.00 |

|                      |                     |                  |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Daniel Neville TD    | Individual/TD       | 1,559.40         |
| Michael Noonan TD    | Individual/Minister | 2,060.50         |
| Kieran O'Donnell TD  | Individual/TD       | 1,979.25         |
| Patrick O'Donovan TD | Individual/TD       | 1,515.00         |
| Fergus O'Dowd TD     | Individual/Minister | 1,583.00         |
| John O'Mahony TD     | Individual/TD       | 1,760.60         |
| Joe O'Reilly TD      | Individual/TD       | 1,671.80         |
| John Paul Phelan TD  | Individual/TD       | 1,515.00         |
| James Reilly TD      | Individual/Minister | 1,841.00         |
| Alan Shatter TD      | Individual/ TD      | 1,877.28         |
| David Stanton TD     | Individual/TD       | 1,515.00         |
| Liam Twomey TD       | Individual/TD       | 1,515.00         |
| Leo Varadkar TD      | Individual/Minister | 1,635.00         |
| <b>Total</b>         |                     | <b>98,752.29</b> |

The Green Party

| <b>Name &amp; address of donor</b>                           | <b>Description of donor</b> | <b>Value of donation</b> |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Brian F. Hurley,<br>63 GreenLawns, Skerries,<br>Co. Dublin   | Individual                  | 2,445                    |
| Rita O'Sullivan,<br>12 Turvey Drive, Donabate,<br>Co. Dublin | Individual                  | 2,435                    |
| <b>Total</b>   |                             | <b>4,880</b>             |