



BUDGET 2024

EASING THE COST OF LIVING

Senator Pat Casey

Seanad Spokesperson on Finance



BUDGET 2024 AT A GLANCE

Fianna Fáil delivers a progressive and fair budget, focused on investing in public services and easing the cost of living for individuals, families and businesses.

HIGHER RATE OF INCOME TAX THRESHOLD RAISED



Budget 2024 will deliver better outcomes for those who need it most. The threshold for paying the higher rate of tax will be raised by **€2,000** to **€42,000**

CUTS TO USC



Fianna Fáil in Government is making cuts to USC. The **4.5% rate** is being **cut** to **4%**. This is the first reduction in USC rates in five years

RENT TAX CREDIT INCREASED TO €750



In last year's Budget, the Government introduced the Rent Tax Credit to support renters. This will now be **increased** from **€500** to **€750** per year for 2024

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS



Building on the revolutionary introduction of free school books at primary level by Education Minister Norma Foley this is now being **expanded** to **Junior Cycle** students, worth over **€300 per child**

HALF-PRICE PUBLIC TRANSPORT



Half-price fares on public transport have been **expanded** to include **24** and **25-year-olds**

MORTGAGE INTEREST RELIEF



Fianna Fáil is conscious of the impact of rising interest rates and mortgage costs on many households. One-year Mortgage Interest **Tax Relief** of up to **€1,250** will be introduced for eligible households

3 X €150 ELECTRICITY CREDITS



Aware that energy bills remain high, Budget 2024 aims to ease the pressure with **3 x €150** electricity credits for all households, to be paid between the end of this year and April of next year

CHILDCARE FEES REDUCED BY A FURTHER 25%



Following a 25% reduction in last year's budget, childcare fees are being **reduced** by a further **25%** in Budget 2024. Average saving of **€417** per child per month

1,000 NEW GARDAI RECRUITS



Funding has been allocated for recruitment next year of **1,000 Gardai** to build stronger, safer communities



RECORD COST OF LIVING PACKAGE

- **€450** in once-off **energy credits** for every household. Three credits, each worth €150, to be paid between the end of 2023 and April 2024
- **€400 lump sum** for Working Family Payment recipients in November
- **€400** lump sum payment in November to recipients of the **Carer's Support Grant, Disability Allowance, Blind Pension, Invalidity Pension, Domiciliary Care Allowance**. This will benefit 350,000 people
- **€300 Fuel Allowance** lump sum to be paid to 370,000 people in November
- **€200 Living Alone Allowance** lump sum for 230,000 people
- **€100** once-off payment to people who receive the **Qualified Child Increase**
- **Double Child Benefit** payment for 1.2m children in December
- **Double** payment of **Foster Care Allowance**
- **Christmas Bonus** for social welfare recipients in December followed by a **further double payment** in January to assist with cost of living. This will help 1.3m people
- **€250m** in supports for **school transport**, State exam fees, higher education student contribution fees
- **€250m** in **business supports**
- **Extension** of the Young Adult Travel Card



INCOME TAX REDUCTIONS

- **€1.3bn** tax package putting hundreds of euro back in the pockets of low to middle earners
- **Income tax** higher rate **threshold** raised by €2,000 to €42,000
- **Reduction** in middle **USC** rate band from 4.5% to 4%
- **Entry threshold** to the 4% rate of **USC** to be raised to €25,760
- **€100** increase in the **Personal, PAYE, Earned Income, Home Carer and Single Person Child Carer tax credits**
- **€200** increase in the **Incapacitated Child Tax Credit**
- **Extension** of **VRT** relief for **Battery Electric Vehicles** to the end of December 2025



UNPRECEDENTED HOUSING BUDGET

- **Record** €5bn **capital investment in housing**
- **Extension** of **Help-to-Buy Scheme** to the end of 2025
- **Increase** in **Rent Tax Credit** from €500 to €750
- **Overall** investment in **affordable housing** €1.5bn
- **Up to** €1,250 **Mortgage Interest Relief** for eligible households
- **Tax break**, worth between €600 and €1,000, for **small landlords** who commit to stay in the market
- **€207m** to bring back **vacant and derelict units** through the voids programme and Croí Cónaithe scheme



REDUCTION IN CHILDCARE COSTS

- **Further** 25% reduction in **childcare costs**, bringing total reduction to 50% by September 2024
- **The National Childcare Scheme (NSC)** universal subsidy will **increase** from €1.40 per hour to €2.14 per hour from September 2024
- **For families** receiving the universal subsidy this will mean up to €5,007 per annum (or €417 per month) off their bill per child



SOCIAL PROTECTION

- **Record Social Protection budget** worth €2.3bn
- **€12** increase in **weekly welfare** and pension **payments** from January 2024
- **Working Family Payment** thresholds for all family sizes to **increase** by €54 from January 2024
- **Parent's Benefit** to be **extended** from 7 weeks to 9 weeks from August 2024
- **Child Benefit extended** to 18-year-olds in full-time education from September 2024
- **New Pay-Related Benefit** to be **introduced** for Jobseekers in Q4 2024
- **Weekly rates** of qualified child payments will **increase** by €4 in January 2024 bringing them to €54 for those aged 12 and over and €46 for under 12s
- **Carers Allowance** earnings disregard **increased** to €450 Single / €900 Couple
- **Domiciliary Care Allowance** will **increase** by €10 to €340 per month from January 2024



INVESTING IN EDUCATION

- **Free school books** worth over €300 per child per year for **Junior Cycle students** in secondary schools
- **Free Hot School Meals** to be **extended** to a further 900 primary schools, bringing the total to 1,400 schools
- **Over 1,216 SNAs** and **744 Special Education Teachers**
- **Fee waiver** for **State Examination fees extended** for students sitting Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate exams
- **Additional** €92m for **School Transport Scheme**



INFRASTRUCTURE, CLIMATE AND NATURE FUND

- **€14bn** by 2030 to allow for sustained levels of investment in infrastructure in the event of economic downturns and to support climate and nature related projects

FUTURE IRELAND FUND

- The Future Ireland Fund, with a potential to grow to over €100bn by the middle of the next decade, will help to protect living standards and public services for current and future generations

NEW FUNDS

AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE



- €22.5bn allocated for quality, **affordable healthcare**
- €500m to tackle **waiting lists**, including opening and staffing **six new surgical hubs**
- **Expansion** of the **free contraception scheme** to include women aged 17–31
- **Increased** funding for **digital health**
- **The** first full-year programme of publicly-funded **Assisted Human Reproduction Services** including IVF
- €36.3m package of surge measures for **acute** and **community services**
- **75c increase** in Excise Duty and VAT on a **pack of 20 cigarettes**
- **Tax** on **e-cigarettes/vapes** to be introduced in Budget 2025

INVESTMENT IN DISABILITY



- €20.5m for **100 residential places** for adults and children
- €10m in new **respite services**
- €8.5m to improve **children's services** including the recruitment of **additional therapy positions**
- €18.2m for **day services** for 1,250-1400 young people leaving school in 2024
- €2m for 80,000 extra **PA hours** to promote **independent living** and **additional home support**

MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING



- **Increased funding** for staffing of **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)** teams
- **New CAMHS** recovery colleges
- **New Youth Mental Health app**
- **Pilot** central referral mechanism “**No Wrong Door**”

LARGEST ALLOCATION FOR OLDER PERSONS



- **Over** €40m in new **nursing homes supports**
- **New** funding to support nursing homes with **HIQA compliance measures**
- **Increase** of €4.2m for **meals on wheels** and day centres
- **New** dementia-specific **weekend day centres**

REDUCING THE COST OF TRAVEL



- **Half price travel** for Young Adult card holders expanded to 24 and 25 year olds
- **20% fare reduction** on public transport continued to the end of 2024
- **Free Travel Scheme extended** to people medically certified unfit to drive from July 2024

CLIMATE ACTION AND ENVIRONMENT



- €1.159bn in Budget 2024 to support families and communities with energy costs
- €380m for **SEAI residential** and **community energy upgrade schemes**, including the Solar PV Scheme
- €348m to progress rollout of the **high-speed broadband network** next year

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES



- **Over** €3.27bn in current expenditure
- **1,000** new **Garda recruits** and 250 new Garda staff
- **25% increase** in the **Garda overtime** budget for high visibility policing
- **Garda training allowance** to rise to €305 per week
- **Budget** for **Irish Prisons Service** increased by over €27m to €439m
- **Additional** €12m for **Zero Tolerance Strategy**, including a new Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) agency and support for the delivery of refuge accommodation
- **Further** €2.9m for **Youth Justice Strategy** bringing total to €33m
- €4m for **Gambling Regulatory Authority**



HIGHER EDUCATION

- **Fees** for **university students cut** by €1,000 on once-off basis. Families whose household income is between €62,000 and €100,000 will also receive an additional €500 off their fees
- **From** September 2024, **student contribution fees** will be **abolished** for all incomes under €55,924
- **Increase** in the **Postgraduate Fee Contribution Grant** from €4000 to €5000
- **Once-off** reduction of 33% in the **contribution fee** for **apprentices**
- **Rent Tax Credit** extended to **parents** who pay for their student child's rent in “**digs**” or **Rent a Room** accommodation. This will be backdated for the years 2022 and 2023

SUPPORTING IRISH BUSINESS



- **National minimum wage** to **increase** to €12.70 per hour
- **Extension** of 9% **reduced** VAT rate for **gas** and **electricity** until 31st October 2024
- **Phased restoration** of **excise rates** on **petrol, diesel** and **marked gas oil**
- €145m Smart Regions fund **announced**
- **Increase** in R&D **Tax Credit** to 30%
- **Once-off** €250m fund to support up to 130,000 **small** and **medium sized businesses**

AGRICULTURE - PRIORITISING FARM INCOMES



- **Over** €100m in supports for **beef** and **sheep** sectors
- **Over** €700m for **agri-environment initiatives** in 2024
- €8m in targeted support for **tillage** farmers
- €57m allocation to support **organic** farmers
- €110m for the **National Forestry Programme**
- €8m for **capital investment** in the **food sector**

DEFENCE



- €1.23bn Defence budget
- €176m for **capital funding** for **Defence Forces** communications systems and military aircraft and equipment
- €12m for **400 new military personnel**

WORKING FAMILY,

TWO CHILDREN

COMBINED INCOME OF €105,000



- Extra €1,498 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- €450 Electricity Credits
- Free Junior Cycle school books €300
- Additional child benefit payment of €280 (December 2023)

TOTAL SAVINGS - €2,528 (approx)

PENSIONER

LIVING ALONE



- €12 weekly pension increase - €624
- €200 Living Alone Allowance
- €300 Fuel Allowance payment
- €450 Electricity Credits
- Additional weekly pension payment €265.30 (December 2023)
- Additional weekly pension payment €277.30 (January 2024)

TOTAL SAVINGS - €2,116 (approx)

PERSON WITH DISABILITY

LIVING ALONE



- €450 electricity credit
- €400 one-off payment of Disability Allowance
- Weekly increase of €12 - €624
- Fuel allowance one off payment of €300
- Living alone allowance - €200
- Additional weekly payment of €265.30 (December 2023)
- Additional weekly payment of €277.30 (January 2024)

TOTAL SAVINGS - €2,516 (approx)

SINGLE RENTER

EARNING 40K



- Extra €1,017 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- Rent Credit €750
- Electricity Credits of €450

TOTAL SAVINGS - €2,217 (approx)

WORKER (FULL-TIME)

ON MINIMUM WAGE - UNDER 25



- Extra €2,301 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- Rent Credit of €750
- Electricity Credits of €450
- Half-Price public transport fares

TOTAL SAVINGS - €3,501 (approx)

HOME CARER

CARING FOR ONE CHILD



- €450 electricity credit
- Additional child benefit payment of €140 (December 2023)
- €400 one-off payment of Carers Support Grant
- Weekly increase of €12 - €624
- Fuel allowance one off payment of €300
- Additional weekly payment of €265.30 (December 2023)
- Additional weekly payment of €277.30 (January 2024)

TOTAL SAVINGS - €2,456 (approx)

LONE PARENT

EARNING €48,000



- Extra €882 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- €450 Electricity Credits
- Free Junior Cycle School Books €300
- Additional child benefit payment of €140 (December 2023)

TOTAL SAVINGS - €1,772 (approx)

YOUNG WORKING COUPLE

ONE INCOME OF €45,000, ONE MINIMUM WAGE



- Extra €3,318 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- Rent Credit €1,500
- Electricity Credits of €450

TOTAL SAVINGS - €5,268 (approx)

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