

BUDGET 2023

Protecting People, Families, Businesses & Jobs



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Dear Constituent

In **Fianna Fáil**, we want to help people deal with the rising cost of living and energy costs. This budget is aimed at supporting people, families and businesses, especially those that are finding it tough at the moment. This is a budget of progressive and protective measures in order to safeguard you from cost of living shocks while strengthening public services. This Budget is about putting more money in people's pockets and reducing the bills that people and businesses have to pay. You can rely on us to back business and jobs to ensure the strong economy required to improve the quality of your life. This includes a €4.1bn cost of living package among a €11bn budget that will see supports to all sectors and communities across society.



BUDGET 2023 at a glance:

- A double payment of all welfare payments in October as well as the normal double payment at Christmas
- Energy Credits of €600 per family
- Childcare fees will drop by 25% a year saving families up to €2,100
- Changes in income tax giving back around €830 to many workers
- A €500 tax credit for renters in 2022 and 2023
- A €500 grant for carers and those with disabilities
- A €12 increase in core welfare payments
- Free schoolbooks at primary level
- Reduced college fees by €1,000 for all students this year and a permanent reduction of €500 to €1,000 next year depending on family earning
- Double one month SUSI maintenance payment
- Energy supports for SME's up to €10,000 per month
- Funding for 1,000 more Gardaí
- Publicly funded IVF scheme
- Expansion of the GP card scheme with more than half the population eligible
- Free contraception for women aged between 16 and 30

Energy Costs



- Electricity credits for all households totalling €600 to be paid in three instalments of €200; the first payment will be made before Christmas, with two further instalments in the New Year.
- To provide further assistance with energy bills to the most vulnerable, in addition to the normal weekly fuel allowance payment, a lump sum payment of €400 will be made before Christmas to recipients of the Fuel Allowance payment.
- Extension of Diesel(16c) and Petrol(21c) excise cuts and lower Vat rate on energy until the end of February
- Reduction in the oil reserve levy – will offset carbon tax increase meaning the price at the pump will not go up as a result of taxes or levies.
- The 30% and 50% reduction in public transport fares will be extended to the end of 2023.
- Extra funds for schools, higher education institutions, and not-for-profit voluntary organisations including sports clubs to deal with rising energy costs

Tax Cuts

- Income threshold for paying top rate of income tax increased by €3,200 to €40,000.
- Budget 2023 increases Personal, Employee and Earned Income credits by €75 to 1,775. Tax credits reduce the amount of income tax that you pay.
- Increase USC 2% band ceiling by €1,625 to €22,920
- These cumulative changes will result in a maximum gain of €831 per year for someone earning over €40,000.

Childcare

- We are reducing childcare fees by 25%. This will mean reductions of between €1,200 to €2100 per year, per child.
- The change will come into effect in January 2023.
- Fee freeze in place for 90% services ensuring that benefits are realised by parents and not absorbed in fee increases
- Improved pay for an estimated 73% of those working in the sector
- Availability of childcare places is a big challenge in some parts of the country, especially for children under 3. Core Funding, a new funding stream for services introduced in last year's Budget, addressed this by incentivising services to increase their capacity has been increased by over €50 million – up to a total of €259m per year.



Welfare

- A €12 increase in the weekly basic rate for core social welfare payments (€624 annually)
- A once-off double week "Cost of Living Support" will be paid in October to pensioners, carers, people on disability payments and jobseekers.
- The normal Christmas Bonus will be paid in early December.
- A lump sum of €400 for those in receipt of Fuel allowance
- A €200 payment to those on the Living Alone Allowance
- A €500 payment for those in receipt of the working family payment
- A double child benefit payment paid before Christmas
- The Working Family Payment thresholds are to increase by €40 per week
- The Qualified Child Increase for under 12s will be raised to €42 per week and for over 12s to €50 per week
- The rate of Domiciliary Care Allowance will rise by €20.50 to €330 per month and will be made available to parents of babies who have to remain in hospital for six months
- A €500 once off payment to those who qualify for Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension and the Carer's Support Grant
- From the 1st of January 2023 the qualifying income threshold for the Fuel allowance will increase from €120 to €200 above the state contributory pension
- For over 70's the weekly fuel allowance means limit will increase to €500 for single people and €1,000 for couples



Housing

- €500 tax credit for Renters per year starting in 2022
- Retention of Help-to-Buy grant of up to €30,000 for first time buyers
- €1.3bn investment will support an overall package of measures to deliver more affordable housing including 5,550 households supported to buy or rent at an affordable price
- 11,830 new social homes to be delivered, including 9,100 new builds
- 9,600 new households to be directly supported by HAP & RAS.
- €219m to fund programmes and supports for disabled people, older people and Travellers.
- €65m to remediate homes affected by defects
- €50m for First Home Scheme, which will assist in funding the purchase of up to 2,000 homes for eligible buyers.
- 950 Cost Rental homes – of which 750 will be delivered by Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) and 200 homes will be delivered directly by local authorities.
- €250m for lending under the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme
- A new vacant property tax at a rate triple the LPT

Healthcare

- In Fianna Fáil, we are committed to universal healthcare, whereby universal access is expanded in a manner that is fair and affordable and based on clinical need.
- Extend GP visit cards: Approx. 430,000 more people will be eligible for a GP visit card. All those on median income (approx. €46k) will be eligible.
- Abolish all inpatient hospital charges for adults from 1st April 2023. Charges for Children were already abolished this year
- Continuation of the reduction in the threshold for the Drug Payment Scheme to €80 pm
- An additional €72.8m funding for mental health, bringing investment to €1.2bn. This will see increase in counselling and psychology training places, increases in accommodation and
- continue focus on reducing waiting lists for CAMHS and Child Psychology services.

- An additional €180m funding for older people, bringing investment to over €2.4bn. This will see increase in home help hours for dementia care, fair deal scheme, healthy age friendly homes and meals on wheels.
- An additional €242m in Disability funding bringing total budget to €2.4bn This will address backlogs in Disability services in relation to Assessments of Need and build long-term capacity for Specialist Disability Services and other Disability initiatives. This funding shows our commitment to supporting community and voluntary organisations.

Women's Health

- Free contraception scheme extended to women aged 16-30
- Publicly funded IVF scheme commencing in 2023
- Zero VAT on period products and Hormone Replacement Therapies
- Funding for reimbursement of the morning sickness drug Cariban



Education

- Free School Books Scheme for primary pupils
- Reduction in pupil-teacher ratio to 23:1, the lowest ever level. This is the third successive reduction since Fianna Fáil returned to government.
- Extra 296 post-primary teachers at post-primary level to meet demographic pressures.
- Increased Investment in other Special Education Needs Supports with 686 additional Special Education teachers, 1,194 additional special needs assistants, bringing the total number in the system to almost 20,400
- Additional funding to create additional capacity on school transport. Priority will be given to families applied on time and who previously held concessionary tickets, to alleviate the impact of the increased demands on the scheme for those families.

Higher Education and Apprenticeships

- €1,000 reduction in the student contribution fee
- A once-off double monthly payment of the student SUSI grant
- The income limit to qualify for a 50% reduction in contribution fees under SUSI will be increased to €62,000
- All SUSI maintenance grants will increase by 10-14% in September 2023
- Once-off €1000 increase in Postgraduate grant
- Once-off €250 payment for Apprentices
- Once-off €500 payment for PHD researchers
- 4,800 additional apprenticeship places



Agriculture

- New suckler scheme with a similar level of funding to the €28m BEEP-S. This will sit alongside the new €150/cow Suckler Carbon Efficiency Scheme in the new CAP
- New Fodder Support Scheme which will pay farmers up to €1,000 to save hay and fodder in 2023
- Over €500m to fund roll out of new CAP scheme - securing 30,000 places in ACRES for 2023, extra funding for TAMS, forestry and organics
- New and enhanced suckler and sheep supports
- Specific capital funding to support the development of Anaerobic Digestion in 2023
- Support to offset higher fertiliser prices via enhanced Muti Species Sward / Red Clover scheme plus the introduction of a new €8m grant aid scheme to support the spreading of lime
- New €10m Tillage Incentive Scheme
- Energy Price support scheme for farmers
- Largest ever marine and coastal community budget

Supporting Jobs and Enterprise

- Energy support for SME's up to €10,000 per month. This is 40% of the increase in gas and electricity bills capped at €10,000 per month.
- Up to €2m for firms exporting and manufacturing with a plan to control energy costs
- Half the cost of a special exemption order for late night venues
- To assist the wider business sector with liquidity and to invest in energy efficiency, we're introducing a €1.2 billion State-backed Ukraine Credit Guarantee Scheme. This will provide low-cost working capital to SMEs, primary producers and small mid-caps of up to €1m, on a six-year term, with no collateral required for loans up to €250,000.
- Growth & Sustainability Loan Scheme - up to €500m in low-cost investment loans of up to 10 years available to SMEs, including farmers and fishers and small mid-caps, with no collateral required for loans up to €500,000.
- €4m to Local Enterprise Office network for The Small Firms Investment in Energy Efficiency Scheme aimed at providing grants to companies to encourage capital investment in projects to reduce carbon emissions.

Tackling Crime

- Funding has been provided for 1000 new Gardaí
- 430 extra Garda civilian staff to free up Gardaí for frontline duties
- An extra €9m for 2023 for combatting domestic, sexual and gender based violence
- Additional €2.5m for youth justice measures, bringing total investment in 2023 to nearly €24m.

Defence

- The defence sector forces receive an increase in investment of €67 million in 2023, to nearly €1.2 billion. The largest investment in our defence forces
- This will include pay and allowance enhancements for serving members of the Defence Forces and projected 400 additional members of the Permanent Defence Force in 2023.

Gaeltacht

- €8.5m maoiníú breise do cláir Gaeilge & Gaeltachta
- Breis tacaíochta d'earnáil na gColáistí Samhraidh
- Airgead breise do Údarás na Gaeltachta & Foras na Gaeilge

Retrofitting Homes - Climate Action

- €337m for SEAI residential and community energy upgrade schemes will deliver over 37,000 home energy upgrades including 6,000 free upgrades under the SEAI energy poverty scheme
- The Climate Action Plan has set ambitious targets to retrofit the equivalent of 500,000 homes to a Building Energy Rating of B2 and to install 400,000 heat pumps in existing buildings by the end of 2030

Sport

- €8m funding increase for Sport Ireland
 - €4m to fund High Performance athletes ahead of 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games
 - Create new dedicated coaching fund for National Governing Bodies of Sport
 - Further rollout of 'SportForAll' policies to target hard-to-reach communities including people with disabilities so everyone has the opportunity to play and participate
- €60m supports package for not-for-profit and voluntary organisations including €35m for sports clubs to meet rising energy costs

Public transport

- The 20pc reduction in public transport fares will continue until the end of 2023
- Capital funding of €2.6bn to progress BusConnects, MetroLink and the DART+ Programme

Saving €4,500
approximately



Working Family (1 child)

- Child Benefit Double payment €140
 - 25% reduction in Childcare costs up to €2,100 a year
 - 3 x €200 Energy Grant - €600
 - Tax Changes, increase of Standard Rate Cut off point by €3,200 to €40,000 - up to €790 pp
 - USC increase of 2% in band ceiling to €22,290 - €40pppy
- Additionally, free school transport and free school books for primary school students.

Saving €5,640
approximately



Working Family (3 children - 1 in college 2 parents earning over €40k)

- Child Benefit Double payment for 2 - €280
 - 25% reduction in Childcare costs up to €2,100 a year
 - 3 x €200 Energy Grant - €600
 - Tax Changes, increase of Standard Rate Cut off point by €3,200 to €40,000 - up to €790 pp
 - USC increase of 2% in band ceiling to €22,290 - €40pppy
 - €1,000 reduction in College Fees
- Additionally, free school transport and free school books for primary school students.

Saving €2,120
approximately



Working Couple (Renters, One earning over €40,000 and one earning below €30,000)

- €500 rent tax credit
 - Tax Changes, increase of Standard Rate Cut off point by €3,200 to €40,000 - up to €790
 - USC increase of 2% in band ceiling to €22,290 - €40pppy
 - 3 x €200 Energy Grant - €600
- Additionally, free contraception for up to 30 year olds. Publicly funded IVF scheme coming in 2023.

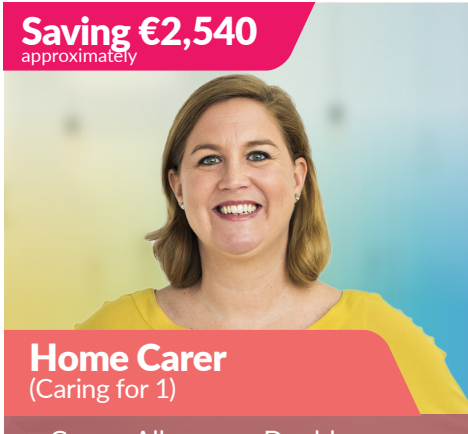
Saving €2,374
approximately



Pensioner (living alone)

- Pension of €253 weekly plus €22 living alone allowance €550
- Fuel Allowance one off payment - €400
- Living Alone one off payment - €200
- Weekly increase of €12 - €624
- 3 x €200 Energy Grant - €600

Saving €2,540
approximately



Home Carer (Caring for 1)

- Carers Allowance Double payment Oct - €208
- Carers Allowance Christmas Bonus - €208
- Carer's Support payment - €500
- Fuel Allowance one off payment - €400
- Weekly increase of €12 - €624
- 3 x €200 Energy Grant - €600

Saving €2,288
approximately



Lone Parent (two children under 12)

- Double One Parent Family payment - €288
 - Christmas Bonus - €288
 - The weekly increase in 2023 is €16 x 52 = €832
 - Double Children's Allowance 2 children- €280
 - 3 x €200 Energy Grant - €600
- Additionally, free school transport and free school books for primary school students.

Saving €1,330
approximately



Single (Renter earning €40k)

- €500 rent tax credit
 - Tax Changes, increase of Standard Rate Cut off point by €3,200 to €40,000 - up to €790 pp
 - USC increase of 2% in band ceiling to €22,290 - €40pppy
- Additionally, 20% reduction in public transport fares.

Saving €2340
approximately



Person with a Disability (living alone)

- Weekly increase of €12 - €624
- Living Alone allowance - €200 lump sum
- Disability Allowance double payment 2 x €208
- Cost of Living - €500 lump sum
- 3x €200 Energy credit - €600

FIANNA Fáil
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

BUDGET 2023

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