

A NEW IRELAND

Sinn Féin Alternative Budget 2019



CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| → Introduction | 06 |
| → Lifting the burden - raising incomes and lowering the cost of living | 11 |
| → A New Ireland - no one left behind | 15 |
| → A New Ireland - unlocking our economic potential | 19 |
| → Case Studies | 23 |
| → Sinn Féin Alternative Budget Proposals 2019 | 25 |
| » Finance | 26 |
| » Current Expenditure | 28 |
| » Agriculture, Food and Marine | 28 |
| » Community | 28 |
| » Business, Enterprise & Innovation | 28 |
| » Children & Youth Affairs | 29 |
| » Communications, Climate Action & Environment | 30 |
| » Culture, Arts & Heritage | 30 |
| » Defence | 31 |
| » Education | 32 |
| » Foreign Affairs | 33 |
| » Health | 34 |
| » Mental Health | 35 |
| » Housing | 35 |
| » Justice | 35 |
| » Public Sector Pay and DPER | 36 |
| » Transport, Tourism and Sport | 36 |
| » Savings | 36 |
| » Social Protection | 37 |
| » Sinn Féin Capital Plan - Investing in Stability | 38 |
| → Capital investment breakdown | 41 |



**A NEW
IRELAND -
WHERE NO
ONE IS LEFT
BEHIND**

**A NEW
IRELAND**

INTRODUCTION

The Irish people and their economy have witnessed profound change since the financial and sovereign debt crisis of 2008.

In the decade since this defining economic event in the lives of Irish citizens, and in modern Irish history, we have endured Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil policies which have led to a two-tiered recovery and left much of the island behind.

There is no question that the Irish economy is in a stronger place than on the eve of the bank guarantee in September 2008, and in the years that followed. But the experience of countless families today isn't one of security, stability or prosperity in their home.

The cost of childcare is among the highest in the developed world. Renting a home is now more expensive than at any point in the history of the state. Energy costs are the fourth highest in Europe, and rising.

Overall, Irish families will pay 25% more to live day-to-day than the average family in the Euro area. All of this points to a worrying and unnecessary reality for too many families and communities – life in Ireland is simply not affordable.

For too many, work doesn't pay what it should. Then, when wages arrive at the end of the month, the cost of basic services leave families with nothing to save, or to plan for the future.

This state of affairs is not an accident. This is the direct result of policies chosen by Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil over the past decade. And now these two parties are on the verge of introducing their third Budget in a row since they came together after the 2016 general election.

Amid all the worry and uncertainty faced by families and communities across the island, this government has chosen not to do what is necessary, and within its ability, to lift the burden.

Their refusal to invest in childcare has effectively burdened families with the cost of a second

mortgage. The refusal to build housing, while giving tax breaks to international developers, has resulted in record prices of accommodation, and an unprecedented social tragedy of 10,000 homeless citizens. The refusal to invest meaningfully in innovation, infrastructure and the potential of small businesses has undermined our economic potential at a time of uncertainty.

Fine Gael cry poverty when it comes to helping struggling families, but still find plenty of cash for tax breaks for booming banks which were bailed out on the backs of ordinary citizens and those profiteering off of crises created by their own policies.

The banks bailed out on the backs of these same families now enjoy a long tax holiday, with some not due to pay corporate taxes again for another 20 years. Vulture funds preying on families in financial distress are warmly welcomed by typical Fine Gael tax breaks. Irish society now has more millionaires and billionaires than ever before, while thousands of children grow up without a home to call their own.

Sky-high costs of living, a homelessness and health system crisis, and tax breaks for the super-rich - this is the legacy of a lost decade of Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil Budgets.

Sinn Féin's Alternative Budget 2019 is about offering a radical and realistic alternative to the status quo.

Our Budget is about increasing the income to your home, and lowering costs to make life in Ireland affordable again.

Our Budget offers urgent and direct policies that would start to bring the housing and health crises to an end.

Our Budget is about a new, modern economy based on fairness, shared prosperity and world-class public services, where we invest in the potential of every citizen and community in the state, and where no one is ever left behind.

KEY SINN FÉIN ALTERNATIVE BUDGET PROPOSALS

Sinn Féin will:

- Help struggling renters by introducing a tax relief worth one month's rent and a three-year emergency rent freeze.
- Double the government's social housing output in 2019 through the construction of social and affordable homes.
- Halve the cost of childcare for young children.
- Increase incomes by raising the minimum wage to €10.50 and implementing an €11.90 living wage across the public sector and civil service. Also by increasing social welfare payments.
- Build world-class public services through increased investment in education, healthcare, disability services and public transport.
- Begin to tackle the trolley crisis by reopening 500 hospital beds.
- Strengthen rights for Irish workers.
- Ensure banks and the wealthiest in society pay their fair share of tax.
- Invest in the potential and stability of SMEs and Irish businesses in the face of Brexit and increasing certainty.

OVERALL BALANCE SHEET

Additional expenditure beyond the €2.6 billion pre-committed for 2019 is permissible under the fiscal rules. The EU medium-term budgetary objective is achieved through a fiscal balance of €1.1 billion being reached after additional discretionary tax and spending measures.

The measures outlined in Sinn Féin's Alternative Budget provide a radical alternative to the government policy. They also employ a progressive fiscal policy which will ensure sustainable public finances, bring down the public debt, and reduce the structural deficit to 0.5 (percent of GDP), reaching the medium-term budgetary objective in accordance with the fiscal rules and a general government deficit of 0.2 (percent of GDP).

DISCRETIONARY MEASURES

| | €million |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| a. Net Current Expenditure | 2,241 |
| b. Net Capital Expenditure | 1,259 |
| c. Net Expenditure [a+b] | 3,500 |
| d. Net Tax Revenue | 2,400 |
| e. Balance [c-d] | 1,100 |

ÉIRE NUA NACH dTRÉIGTEAR DUINE AR BITH INTI

Tá athrú suntasach tagtha ar mhuintir na hÉireann agus ar gheilleagar na hÉireann ó bhí an ghéarchéim airgeadais agus fiachais náisiúnta ann sa bhliain 2008.

Sna deich mbliana ó tharla an eachtra chinniúnach gheilleagrach seo i saol mhuintir na hÉireann, agus i stair nua-aoiseach na hÉireann, táimid ag fulaingt mar gheall ar pholasaithe Fhine Gael agus Fhianna Fáil, polasaithe a spreag téarnamh ar dhá leibhéal agus a d'fhág go leor de mhuintir an oileáin ina ndiaidh.

Níl aon amhras ann go bhfuil geilleagar na hÉireann níos láidre ná mar a bhí nuair a tugadh an barántas do na bainc in 2008, agus sna blianta a tháinig ina dhiaidh. Níor mhothaigh go leor teaghlach, áfach, aon athrú, nó aon chomhsheasmhacht ná rachmas sa bhaile.

Tá costas cúraim leanaí ar na costais is airde sa domhan forbartha. Is daoire teach a ghlacadh ar cíos ná mar a bhí riamh in Éirinn. Tá costais fuinnimh ar an gceathrú costais fuinnimh is airde san Eoraip, agus tá siad ag dul in airde.

Ar an iomlán, íocfaidh teaghlaigh in Éirinn 25% níos mó ó lá go lá chun maireachtáil ná gnáth-theaghlaigh i limistéar an euro. Léiríonn sé seo an fhírinne agus an imní lom nach bhfuil sé ar acmhainn ag barraíocht teaghlach agus pobal maireachtáil in Éirinn.

Tá barraíocht daoine nach saothraíonn go leor san áit oibre. Nuair a thagann an tuarastal ag deireadh na hoíche, agus mar gheall ar chostais na mbunseirbhísí, fágtar teaghlaigh gan airgead ar bith le cur i dtaisce, ná chun pleanáil a dhéanamh don todhchaí.

Ní de thaisme a tharla sé seo. Is mar thoradh díreach ar pholasaithe atá roghnaithe ag Fine Gael agus ag Fianna Fáil le deich mbliana a tharla sé. Agus anois tá an dá pháirtí seo ar tí an tríú buiséad dá gcuid a thabhairt isteach ó tháinig siad le chéile i ndiaidh olltoghchán 2016.

I measc na himní agus na héiginnteachta a bhí roimh theaghlaigh agus roimh phobail ar fud an oileáin, is féidir leo a bheith cinnte faoi rud amháin: is cuma saibhreas nó daibhreas sa tír, ní dhéanfaidh Fine Gael ná Fianna Fáil infheistíocht sa ghnáthmhuintir, ina dteaghlaigh ná ina bpobail.

Is mar gheall ar an diúltú seo chun infheistíocht a dhéanamh i gcúram leanaí go bhfuil ualach costais an dara morgáiste ar theaghlaigh. Toisc gur diúltaíodh tithe a thógáil agus gur tugadh faoiseamh cánach d'fhorbróirí idirnáisiúnta, tá praghas lóistín níos airde ná riamh, agus tá tragóid shóisialta nach raibh riamh ann a d'fhág 10,000 saoránach gan dídean. Laghdaíodh ár gcumas geilleagrach in am na héiginnteachta toisc gur diúltaíodh infheistíocht cheart a dhéanamh sa nuálaíocht, sa bhonneagar agus i gcumas gnólachtaí beaga.

Cuireann Fine Gael an béal bocht orthu féin nuair a bhíonn cuidiú de dhíth ar theaghlaigh atá ag streachailt, ach éiríonn leo go leor airgid a aimsiú le haghaidh faoisimh chánach nuair a bhíonn tarrtháil de dhíth ar bhainc. Baintear úsáid as an ngnáthmhuintir chun é seo a dhéanamh agus bíonn racmhas orthu siúd ba chúis leis an ngéarchéim.

Tá faoiseamh iomlán ag cuid de na bainc seo a ndearna an ghnáthmhuintir tarrtháil orthu, agus ní bheidh cáin chorparáideach le híc ag cuid acu ar feadh 20 bliain eile. Cuirtear fearadh na fáilte roimh chreach-chistí atá ag teacht i dtír ar theaghlaigh atá faoi ghéarchéim airgeadais mar gheall ar ghnáthfhaoiseamh cánach Fhine Gael. Tá níos mó millúnaithe agus billiúnaithe in Éirinn anois ná mar a bhí riamh, agus tá na mílte páiste ag fás aníos gan baile a bheith acu.

Costais an-arda maireachtála, géarchéim easpa dídine agus sa chóras sláinte, agus faoisimh chánach dóibh siúd atá an-saibhir - seo oidhreacht na ndeich mbliana cailte ag buiséid Fhine Gael agus Fhianna Fáil.

Tá rogha radacach agus réadúil i mBuiséad Malartach Shinn Féin.

Baineann ár mBuiséad leis an ioncam i do theach a mhéadú, agus le costais a laghdú ionas gur féidir maireachtáil in Éirinn arís.

Tá polasaithe práinneacha agus díreacha inár mBuiséad trína bhféadfaí na géarchéimeanna tithíochta agus sláinte a thabhairt chun deiridh.

Baineann ár mBuiséad le geilleagar nua, nua-aoiseach bunaithe ar chothroime, ar rath comhroinnte agus ar sheirbhísí den chéad scoth, ina ndéanaimid infheistíocht ar chumas gach saoránaigh agus pobail sa stát, agus ní fhágfar duine ar bith inár ndiaidh.

PRÍOMH-MHOLTAÍ BHUISÉAD MALARTACH SHINN FÉIN

Déanfaidh Sinn Féin an méid seo a leanas:

→ Cuideofar leo siúd atá ag íoc cíosa trí fhaoiseamh cánach de chíos míosa a thabhairt isteach agus cíos a choinneáil mar atá ar bhonn éigeandála ar feadh trí bliana

→ Déanfar aschur tithíochta sóisialta an rialtais a dhúbláil in 2019 trí thithe sóisialta agus ar phraghas réasúnta a thógáil

→ Laghdófaí costais chúraim leanaí ina leath do pháistí óga

→ Méadófar ioncain tríd an bpá íosta a ardú go €10.50 agus cuirfear tuarastal maireachtála de €11.90 i bhfeidhm san earnáil phoiblí agus sa státseirbhís

→ Tógfaidh seirbhísí poiblí den chéad scoth tríd infheistíocht sa bhreis a dhéanamh san oideachas, i gcúram sláinte, i seirbhísí míchumais agus in iompar poiblí

→ Tosófar ag dul i ngleic leis an ngéarchéim ar thralaithe trí 500 leaba a chur ar fáil arís in ospidéal

→ Neartófar cearta le haghaidh oibríthe in Éirinn

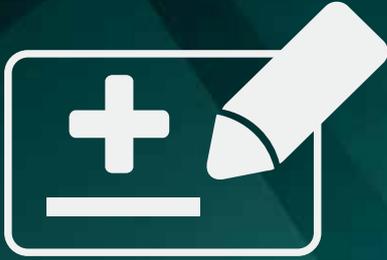
→ Cinnteofar go n-íocann bainc agus na daoine is saibhre sa tsochaí a gcuid chothrom den cháin

→ Déanfar infheistíocht i gcumas agus i gcobhsaíocht Fiontair Bheaga agus Mheánmhéide agus i ngólachtaí Éireannacha agus an Bhreathimeacht ag teacht agus an éiginnteacht a théann léi.



HOMELESS IN JULY

9,981 individuals **1,778** families
3,867 children



HOSPITAL WAITING LISTS

718,000
out of a population of 4,857,000 population
(14.7%)



TROLLEY NUMBERS

65,840
to July end



CHILDREN OVERDUE DISABILITY ASSESSMENT

3,850
in first 6 months of 2018



AVERAGE MONTHLY COST OF CHILDCARE

€740
in August 2018

€1,047
average cost in Dublin



AVERAGE RENT

€1,094
in Q2 2018



**LIFTING
THE BURDEN
- RAISING
INCOMES AND
LOWERING THE
COST OF LIVING**

**A NEW
IRELAND**

RAISING INCOMES

INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

Irish workers experience rates of low pay which are among the highest in the OECD with 22.5% of workers earning less than two thirds of the state's median average. This places an indefensible burden on homes in this state to contend with living costs which are already some of the highest in Europe. Sinn Féin believes in a real living wage for every citizen in the state, and in this Budget we propose a substantial rise in the minimum wage towards that goal.

- Increase the minimum wage by 95 cents per hour to €10.50

A LIVING WAGE & PAY EQUALITY FOR PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS

For public sector workers employed post-2011, many will be paid less for the same day's work as their colleagues. As citizens here face a mounting cost of living crisis this is an unacceptable state of affairs. Sinn Féin supports equal pay for equal work, and would equalise pay in the public sector within a two year period. To restore pay for Section 39 workers within a few years, we would devote €20m in 2019. We would also introduce a real living wage of €11.90 per hour for all public sector and civil service workers. Our measures include the following:

- Introduce a living wage for public sector and civil service workers - €34.5m
- Contribute €20m towards pay restoration for Section 39 workers in 2019
- Pay equalisation for public sector workers within two years - €50m
- Replace the minimum entry level wage for childcare workers with a living wage - €15m

INCREASE IN SOCIAL PROTECTION PAYMENTS FOR SOCIETY'S MOST VULNERABLE

An effective and compassionate system of social protection is the cornerstone of any modern, progressive and social economy. It is essential that we strengthen and expand our social protection payments for those most in need, and in particular those whose incomes and supports were targeted by Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil cuts. In this Budget Sinn Féin propose to substantially increase support for households with young children, one parent families, people with disabilities and young people in search of work. Our Social Protection measures include the following:

- Begin restoring equality for citizens under 26 years old by increasing their Jobseekers Allowance by €30 - €21.68m
- Increase Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension and Blind Pension by €9 - €102.18m
- Increase support for children in low income families with a 5% increase to the Family Income Supplement (FIS), €5 increase to the Qualified Child Increases (QCI) for children over 12 years, and through the expansion and enhancement of income supports for lone parents - €111.08m
- Increase weekly social welfare payments including pensions by €5 from 1st January- €248.2m

LOWERING THE COST OF LIVING

EMERGENCY ACTION FOR STRUGGLING RENTERS

As a direct result of government negligence, thousands of children's lives will be forever altered, having been forced into homelessness in their formative years. Furthermore, hundreds of thousands of renters, including struggling families and young people, are being forced to endure rising living costs, placing their futures and that of their children in jeopardy.

Average rents across the state now stand at €1060, and at €1527 in Dublin. The government's Rent Pressure Zone rent caps have failed and rents continue to soar, rising annually by 7.8% in Dublin and 7.1% across the state.

In this Budget, Sinn Féin is proposing urgent, radical and emergency action to aid families burdened by the anxiety and insecurity of soaring rents, as a start in bringing the inexcusable social tragedies caused by Fine Gael's housing policies to an end.

Sinn Féin will lift the burden from renters by introducing an emergency and temporary tax relief through which tenants could claim back a full month's rent. This will be equivalent to 8.33% of total rent in a given year, capped at €1,500 per month. The relief would also be refundable to ensure working families on low incomes benefit from the full relief.

We would introduce a three-year rent freeze for all existing and new tenancies with immediate effect from Budget day. Existing tenancies would have their rents frozen at their current levels. All new tenancies would be pegged to the Residential Tenancies Board standardised average rent index by County, and, where appropriate, by Local Electoral Area. Sinn Féin's proposals include:

→ **Introducing a tax relief equivalent to a full month's rent for struggling renters - €265m**

→ **Introducing an emergency three-year rent freeze**

HALVE THE COST OF CHILDCARE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

The cost of childcare in Ireland is among the highest in Europe and the OECD. For some families the cost amounts to a second mortgage coming out each month. This is an abject policy failure by successive governments. As a core component of fixing the cost of living crisis facing citizens across the state, Sinn Féin would invest to dramatically lower the cost of childcare, including:

→ **Increasing the Affordable Childcare Scheme universal subsidy from 50 cents to €2.50 per hour - €42.90m**

LOWERING THE COST OF ENERGY

Largely due to our dependence on imports of fossil fuels, and the government's failure to unlock Ireland's huge renewable energy potential, energy costs in Ireland rank among the highest in Europe. Not only does this burden families with unnecessary cost, it is an abject failure of the government to live up to our responsibilities in combatting climate change and ecological disaster. Sinn Féin have ambitious and targeted policies to invest in the future of Irish renewables, and in this Budget we propose to lower the cost of household bills by up to €600 by providing free home insulation to thousands more households. This is the first step in a universal programme of insulation for every home without it in the state. Our measures include:

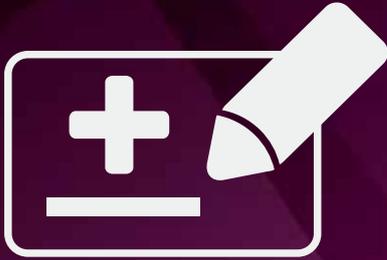
→ **Increasing funding to SEAI to provide free attic and cavity wall insulation for an additional 17,000 homes in 2019 - €21.42m**

→ **Extending the Fuel Allowance (FA) season by one week and make provision for an emergency cold weather payment for FA and Working Family Payment recipients - €18.16m**



GAN DÍDEAN I MÍ IÚIL

9,981 duine 1,778 teaghlach
3,867 páiste



LIOSTAÍ FEITHIMH IN OSPIDÉIL

718,000
as daonra de 4,857,000
(14.7%)



UIMHREACHA AR THRALAITHE

65,840
go deireadh mhí Iúil



PÁISTÍ ATÁ AG FANACH AR MHEASTÓIREACHT LE HAGHAIDH MÍCHUMAIS

3,850
sna chéad 6 mhí de 2018



MEÁNCHOSTAS MÍOSÚIL DE CHÚRAM LEANAÍ

€740 i Lúnasa 2018 €1,047 meánchostas i mBaile Átha Cliath



MEÁNCHOSTAS CÍOSA

€1,094
i Ráithe 2 2018



**A NEW
IRELAND -
NO ONE LEFT
BEHIND**

**A NEW
IRELAND**

BUILDING TO END THE HOUSING CRISIS

So far in 2018, Fine Gael's 'Rebuilding Ireland' has failed to deliver even half of its annual target of new dwellings. But while drastically increasing the supply of affordable and social housing is important, this problem has been allowed to develop into a deep and multifaceted crisis, which has now forced 10,000 people into homelessness. Furthermore, it now poses a systemic risk to our economy.

We need an expansive programme of house-building across the state. But crucially, we need public housing that is genuinely affordable. At a time when corporate tax receipts continue to exceed expectations, the state is in a position to invest in essential non-recurring projects needed across society, and in no area is this approach needed more than in the severe shortage of housing. Through the construction of public housing, Sinn Féin pledge to double the government's projected social housing output for 2019 in order to meet social need. A Sinn Féin Budget would deliver at least 10,000 social homes, delivering the following in excess of government output:

- 1500 additional new social homes
- 1435 additional affordable rental homes
- 950 additional buy & renew homes
- 3195 additional affordable sale homes
- 400 additional homes for travellers

FAIR AND PROGRESSIVE TAXATION

Any modern and compassionate society must be supported by fair and progressive taxation. This means bringing to an end a series of Fine Gael's wasteful and unjustifiable tax breaks for some of the wealthiest institutions in the state, some of the most profitable corporations on earth, and for international investors profiteering off of government-created crisis. Sinn Féin would:

- End the corporate tax holiday for booming banks - €175m
- Increase the bank levy by 10 percentage points - €25m
- Tax intellectual property assets brought to Ireland tax-free - €750m

EQUALITY FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES

Sinn Féin has a vision for a society in which all citizens can achieve their full potential, live with dignity and flourish. We can assure over 600,000 citizens with a disability that this is a vision to which we are especially committed. Unlike previous governments, we will further the rights of people with disabilities, not diminish them. We will invest in our public services and infrastructure, and in the potential of citizens with a disability. Sinn Féin measures include:

- Investing €20m in public transport in 2019 as part of a multi-annual programme to make public transport accessible for citizens with a disability
- Increasing housing adaptation grants by 25% - €13.25m
- Increasing Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension, and Blind Pension by €9 - €102.18m
- Investing in increased support in health, education and employment – particulars detailed later in this document

STARTING TO TACKLE THE HEALTH CRISIS

Sinn Féin's vision for a modern, world-class health system is one which is free at the point of use and available to everyone based on medical need, not ability to pay. The current system has been failing citizens at a cost to our society, our economy and our health. Moreover, the HSE has been shaken by inexcusable scandals which have betrayed the trust of citizens, particularly women, in their most vital public service.

When government unveiled Budget 2018 last October, they announced real tax breaks for the wealthy but fictional investments for health. Sinn Féin warned the Fine Gael government, and Fianna Fáil who signed off on the Budget, that they were not giving our health system the money necessary to provide the existing service to citizens, let alone improve. Weeks later the then head of the HSE wrote a letter highlighting the very grave impact of the government's choices. He predicted the service was being underfunded for 2018 to the tune of hundreds of millions. This has been proven right.

The health service needs a realistic budget. Budget 2019 must provide for the recurring, predictable and vital spending which has taken place this year in excess of the government's inadequate 2018 allocation. It must provide for demographic pressures, for pay agreements, for carry-over effects and other pre-committed expenditure. And, in addition to all of that, it must provide real new money for improvements to services.

A Sinn Féin Budget would:

- **Invest in our health system to undo the legacy of chronic under-budgeting which has left our health service unable to meet the basic medical needs of citizens. In 2019 this includes an allocation of €600 million for recurring costs, including pay pressure, €124 million for demographic pressure and additional provision for the Public Service Stability Agreement on pay.**
- **Provide €450 million of new money for real improvements including the following:**
 - » **Start tackling the trolley and waiting list crises by opening an additional 500 hospital beds – €156.22m**
 - » **Lower the cost of medicines by reducing prescription charges by €1 and the monthly Drug Payment Scheme threshold from €134 to €100 - €41.2m**
 - » **Recruit additional frontline staff including nurses, GPs, midwives, paramedics, dentists and gynaecologists – €45.7m**
 - » **Improve investment in women's health by increasing funding to BreastCheck by 10%, CervicalCheck by 10%, launching a women's health awareness campaign - €6.78m**

INVESTING IN EDUCATION

A drought of public funding imposed by Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil on our Universities and Institutes of Technology has forced our public seats of learning into a slide down the global rankings. As a result, a debate has developed which attempts to shift the responsibility for funding our higher education from our government to already struggling citizens. In primary and secondary schools across the state, this drought of investment has seen class sizes continue to increase. For rural schools, still struggling under the impact of cuts to staffing and essential services, this is felt even more acutely. This underfunding has also had an impact on staff morale. This is not helped by the fact that thousands of teachers continue to be paid less than their colleagues for the same work. Sinn Féin would bring this practice to an end within two years. For the first time in many years, no Irish university can claim a place among the world's top 100, outpaced by those whose governments have chosen to invest.

Sinn Féin makes this very choice in our Alternative Budget, for pupils and students of all ages:

- **Invest to reduce staff-to-student ratio in primary and secondary schools by 2 points - €9m**
- **ITs and Universities by 1 point – €9.33m**
- **Slash the Student Contribution Charge for students and families by €500 - €12.7m**
- **Increase capitation rates to primary and secondary schools by 5%, and core funding to Universities by €10.5m - €20.5m**
- **Increase Back to School Allowance by €50 - €13.75m**
- **Reverse staffing cuts to small schools - €1.03m**
- **Reverse changes to distance criteria in student grant - €12m**



**A NEW
IRELAND
- UNLOCKING
OUR ECONOMIC
POTENTIAL**

**A NEW
IRELAND**

SUPPORTING SMES AND THE ALL-ISLAND ECONOMY DURING BREXIT

Brexit poses a major systemic threat to the all-island economy and to the rights and livelihoods of citizens and businesses. Indeed, the looming threat of Britain imposing a hard border across our island does nothing to reassure those most at risk.

Small businesses are those most at risk, and therefore most in need of support. The potential closing off of British markets, disruption to supply chains and all-Ireland economic activity, and the lingering uncertainty cast by Brexit are not conditions in which already hard-pressed small businesses can thrive. Indeed, the challenges facing Irish producers and exporters are also more complex. The Brexit threat is magnified by an increasing concentration of Irish exports, economic activity and corporate tax receipts among a small number of massive multi-national corporations. In recent years a larger share of our exports has been destined to increasingly volatile markets, namely Britain and the United States. At the same time,

exports have proportionately decreased to trading partners on the European continent. Just 1% of Irish exports are destined for Latin America, and just 9% of Irish exports go to Southern Europe, Africa, the Middle East and India, where half of the world's population are resident.

In the shadow of Brexit and growing US trade hostility marked by Donald Trump's reference to Irish exporters as his 'foe', we must reduce our economic dependence on a handful of booming multinationals and markets withdrawing from the world, and instead invest in support for our farming community and in the growth of our indigenous enterprises. This will also stabilise the taxes on which our public services rely as well as creating more regionally balanced, community-based economic activity.

Sinn Féin's Brexit mitigation measures for small businesses and farmers are comprehensive, and also speak to the issues faced by business outside of the Brexit challenge.

INVESTING IN STATE SUPPORT FOR SMES

The efforts of bodies such as Enterprise Ireland in supporting small and medium enterprises throughout the Brexit period, and the years of transition which will follow, will be crucial in protecting indigenous business. Sinn Féin would provide record funding to Enterprise Ireland to fulfil this role.

Furthermore, 1 in 5 SMEs in the state don't have any online presence, and 30% can't take orders for their products online. This is a reality which significantly impacts on the ability of small and medium businesses to attract and maintain new business, especially at a time when the stability of exports and supply chains is under siege from the prospect of Brexit.

Sinn Féin would expand the Trading Online Vouchers Scheme which is currently in operation, providing grants of up to €2,500 to businesses who need to

develop websites and a stronger social media presence.

Sinn Féin would also create and launch clinics for vulnerable SMEs across the state, with a particular focus in underdeveloped regions, which would act as a one-stop-shop for Brexit assistance.

These would involve representatives from Revenue to encourage greater access to R&D tax credits, from the Department to provide business assistance and advice, from Enterprise Ireland to assist in market discovery and stronger supply chains, and InterTrade Ireland to offer advice on cross-border developments. Sinn Féin would:

→ **Increase funding to Enterprise Ireland to a record €300m - €27m**

→ **Expand Trading Online Vouchers by 50% - €1.5m**

→ **Develop One-Stop-Shop Brexit Assistance Clinics – Enterprise Ireland funding**

BREXIT MITIGATION TAX REFORMS

A number of tax reforms should also be introduced to provide assistance to those most vulnerable to a Brexit shock. We must also encourage small businesses to invest in greater productivity, where in many cases a lack of public investment has actually dragged productivity down. Currently large multinationals are claiming the lion's share of R&D tax credits, so Sinn Féin would introduce a simpler pro-forma to assist small businesses. Sinn Féin would:

- **Introduce simpler means by which SMEs can access R&D tax credits - €10m**
- **Reduce the "floor" at which the diesel rebate scheme for hauliers kicks in to 85 cents, assisting the industry to prepare for Brexit - €5m**
- **Increase the R&D tax credit to 30% for SMEs, and lower the cap for other businesses to 20% - €76m**

INCREASED PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Irish government currently invests around two thirds of the European average in research & development. In the interest of growing our indigenous businesses, placing Ireland at the forefront of the global digital and knowledge economies, and diversifying our economic activity, Sinn Féin would:

- **Increase investment in Science Foundation Ireland - €5m**

SUPPORTING IRISH FARMERS AND THE INDIGENOUS AGRIFOODS INDUSTRY

Irish agri-foods are renowned globally for their quality. As Irish farmers face into deep Brexit uncertainty, a greater effort must be made to market agri-foods on the world stage and to new resilient markets. We provide for an increase in funding to drive exports of Irish agri-foods, with a specific focus on providing support for the produce of small farmers.

The past winter and summer seasons have also brought abnormal and, in many ways, unprecedented weather conditions. Some of the hottest and most extended dry periods during the summer months created drought conditions for many Irish farmers, preceded by rain and snowfall far above average levels at the beginning of 2018.

These freak conditions, completely out of the control of Irish farmers, can have a drastic impact on the stability of their farms and on their families' livelihoods. As the ecological impact of climate change becomes clearer, farmers can only expect more extreme weather events in the future. Given the damage posed to Irish farmers by Brexit, this is a risk that must be mitigated.

Currently farmers receive the ability to average out their incomes over 5 years, but only for their individual incomes. If they have a second self-employed income supporting this household, they are denied access to this mechanism. Sinn Féin would:

- **Increase funding for Bord Bia and Bord Iascaigh Maraigh - €3m**
- **Increase funding for the Land Drainage Scheme - €12m**
- **Extend income averaging scheme to farmers whose households are supported by a second self-employed income – cost neutral**

CONTINUE TO ATTRACT FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

Sinn Féin also plan to provide additional support in attracting Foreign Direct Investment through funding increases to IDA Ireland, doing what is necessary to encourage more balanced regional investment and development.

- **Increase IDA funding to support attraction of Foreign Direct Investment - € 10m**

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN – INVESTING IN STABILITY

After a decade of chronic underinvestment in public infrastructure, and faced with Brexit and an increasingly uncertain global economic environment, the resilience and dynamism of the Irish economy has been undermined. This infrastructural neglect has also manufactured a housing crisis that undermines both our competitiveness and the living standards of thousands of citizens. In these circumstances, the decade-long neglect of our infrastructure and public capital stock must be reversed. The island of Ireland needs a radical and ambitious capital plan, one that ensures the sustainable and long-term development of our economy, brings the housing and homelessness crisis to an end and connects and invests in every community.

Indeed, a recent survey by the World Economic Forum identified deficiencies in infrastructure as the single most important obstacle to business in Ireland. Our current level of capital stock is 10% below that of many advanced economies, while public investment sits at 8% below the European average as a proportion of overall investment.

While our population continues to grow in urban centres, and regional imbalances in our economy continue to isolate communities and stifle local economies, our public levels of investment continue

to fall far behind the levels of European countries and advanced economies. This not only harms the long term sustainability of our economy but leaves us ill-prepared for the challenges of an uncertain future.

The government's National Development Plan begins to address the deficit in public investment for which it is responsible. However it falls far below the level of investment required to address the problems of the future and crises of the present, ensuring that our urgently needed capital investment languishes below the EU average for another five years.

Sinn Féin's capital investment plan would increase public investment by €2.76 billion, reaching 3.8% of GNI* and exceeding the EU average by 2021. This matches the government's pre-committed capital investment of €1.5bn for 2019 and improves upon it by an additional €1.26bn, with €1bn of this allocated towards essential public housing. Public investment must do more than provide for continual announcements of previous projects - it must provide the funding needed to meet the challenges of tomorrow and crises of today. Only Sinn Féin's ambitious and targeted capital plan includes the resources to do this.

JOB CREATION AND SUPPORTING THE SELF-EMPLOYED

An increasing number of Irish citizens are taking up insecure and precarious work which falls short of meeting the soaring costs of living for countless families in the state. Sinn Féin's investment plans would create thousands of high-quality, well-paid jobs which address, first and foremost, the social needs in this state. Furthermore, those who are self-employed also deserve additional support and equal treatment as they too face great uncertainty in the face of Brexit and sky-high costs of living. In the coming Budget Sinn Féin would:

- **Create at least 35,000 quality jobs through our Budget proposals**
- **Extend Start-Up tax relief for entrepreneurship to the self-employed - €5m**
- **Improved support and equal treatment for the self-employed by increasing tax credit to €1,650 - €28m**

INVESTING IN A NEW GENERATION OF WORKERS

Sinn Féin has developed an ambitious apprenticeship strategy, based on the needs of Irish society and on significant skills gaps in the economy. Indeed, a complex labour shortage across the construction industry threatens the ability of the state to implement the National Development Plan, and Sinn Féin confronts this mounting challenge with proactive investment. A Sinn Féin Budget would:

- **Create 18,000 apprenticeships in 2019, of which 16,000 are craft apprenticeships. This is 4,411 in addition to the government targets, of which 2000 are in construction - €30.4m**

CASE STUDIES

A COUPLE, one of whom is earning the **MINIMUM WAGE** and they are renting:

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Increase in minimum wage to €10.50 (95c extra per hour/39 hrs) | €1,926 extra gross pay |
| Rental relief equal to one month | €1,040 |

€2,966
a year better off



A MARRIED COUPLE earning €90,000 with a **MORTGAGE** and **TWO CHILDREN** in **CHILDCARE**:

| | |
|---|--------|
| One third reduction to Local Property Tax €400,000 home in Dublin | €217 |
| Maintain Mortgage Interest Relief | €225 |
| Reduction in childcare costs | €8,313 |

€8,755
a year better off



A STUDENT, working on **MINIMUM WAGE**:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Reduction in student fees | €500 |
| Increase in Minimum Wage (part-time) | €988 |
| Rent Relief | €600 |

€2,088
a year better off



A SINGLE PARENT with **TWO CHILDREN** aged 12 years and 14 years:

| | |
|--|------|
| Increase to One Parent Family Payment of €5 | €260 |
| Qualified Child Increases of €5 X2 | €520 |
| Increased Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance | €100 |
| Additional fuel payments | €45 |
| Bin waiver | €100 |

€1,025
a year better off



**SINN FÉIN
ALTERNATIVE
BUDGET
PROPOSALS
2019**

**A NEW
IRELAND**

FINANCE – NET YIELD €2.4 BILLION

(The sum of individual measures in each section may not equal the section total due to rounding.)

LIFTING THE BURDEN – TAX SPEND

| | |
|--|--------|
| → A month's rent relief | €265m |
| → Phasing out the Local Property Tax | €155m |
| → Equalise the Earned Income Credit with the PAYE Credit | €28m |
| → Begin to restore tax relief for Trade Union members | €14m |
| → Retain Mortgage Interest Relief at current levels | €46.5m |
| → Extend Start-Up Relief for Entrepreneurship to the self-employed | €5m |
| → Introduce simpler means by which SMEs can access R&D tax credits | €10m |
| → Fuel rebate scheme for hauliers | €5m |

STRENGTHENING OUR PUBLIC FINANCES – TAX REVENUE

| | |
|---|-------|
| → Introduce 2nd home charge at €400 | €68m |
| → Increase Capital Acquisitions Tax by 3% to 36% | €43m |
| → Increase betting shop tax for customer to 3% | €104m |
| → A 50c increase on excise duty on a packet of cigarettes | €58m |
| → Increase bank levy by 10 percentage points | €25m |
| → End the corporation tax break for the banks | €175m |
| → Increase the R&D tax credit to 30% for SMEs, and lower the cap for other businesses to 20% | €76m |
| → Taper out tax credits on incomes over €100,000 up to €140,000 | €185m |
| → Introduce a 5% income levy on income over €140,000 | €310m |
| → Introduce additional 4.9% employer PRSI rate on portion of salaries over €100,000 | €376m |
| → Reduce subsidies to gold-plated pensions by reducing the earnings limit, and the Standard Fund Threshold to €1.7m | €267m |
| → Tax intangible assets onshored by multinationals | €750m |
| → Restore the 13.5% VAT rate for the hotel sector | €280m |
| → Change the VAT rate on the other 9% services bringing it to 11% | €106m |
| → Increase stamp duty on commercial property by 1% | €106m |

ADDITIONAL UN-COSTED MEASURES WHICH WOULD INCREASE REVENUE

→ A Wealth Tax of 1% on net assets over €1million with exclusions.

→ Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) - Increase Dividend Withholding Tax to 25% for non-resident investors

→ Irish Real Estate Funds (IREFs)

» Remove exemption on stamp duty for transfer of IREF fund shares

» Increase Dividend Withholding Tax to 25% for non-resident investors

→ Increase Vacant Site Levy and introduce a Vacant Property Tax to encourage greater supply in housing market.

CURRENT EXPENDITURE

(The sum of individual measures in each section may not equal the section total due to rounding.)

AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARINE - €62.06m

| | |
|---|--------------|
| → Extra funding for promotion of Farm Safety | €1m |
| → Additional resources for Horticulture Industry Forum | €60,000 |
| → Sheep Welfare Scheme - €5 per ewe | €10m |
| → Extra money for Bord Bia and Bord Iascaigh Maraigh to market Irish agri-foods abroad | €3m |
| → Increase funding to Competition and Consumer Protection Commission to deal with allegations of price fixing | €550,000 |
| → Beef Data Genomics - €40 per cow | €21.8m |
| → Additional funding for disadvantaged farmers in Areas of Natural Constraint | €10m |
| → Allow income averaging where a spouse or farmer has income from off-farm self-employment | cost neutral |
| → Study on impact of Brexit on rural communities | €150,000 |
| → Tax credit of €3000 for organic farmers | €1.5m |
| → Grants to assist farmers with the cost of drainage - Land Drainage Scheme | €12m |
| → Funding to upgrade, renovate and maintain existing Hatcheries | €2m |

COMMUNITY - €15m

| | |
|--|------|
| → Increase LEADER funding | €10m |
| → Funding increase for community development | €5m |

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE & INNOVATION - €97.47m

| | |
|---|------|
| → Review Brexit Business Supports | |
| → Increase investment to Enterprise Ireland including One-Stop-Shop Brexit Assistance Clinics | €27m |
| → Increase investment to IDA Ireland | €10m |
| → Increase investment to InterTradeIreland | €2m |
| → Increase investment to Science Foundation Ireland | €5m |

| | |
|---|----------|
| → Improve funding to Health and Safety Authority | €1.35m |
| → Increase resources of Workplace Relations Commission by 10% | €1.4m |
| → Set up body to assist development of workers co-operatives | €2.25m |
| → Join CERN as an Associate member | €1.3m |
| → Increase Wage Subsidy Scheme funding by 10% | €2.32m |
| → Set up WALK PEER programme of employment supports for young people with disabilities in every county | €5m |
| → Create a Courtesy Bus Scheme for rural public houses that are not adequately serviced by other means of transport | €5.3m |
| → Commission a United Ireland Economy Report | €250,000 |
| → Create 10 new apprenticeship courses | €2.4m |
| → Create 4,411 additional Apprenticeships in 2019 | €30.4m |
| → 50% increase in Digital Voucher Scheme | €1.5m |

CHILDREN & YOUTH AFFAIRS - €120.74m

| | |
|--|--|
| → Halve cost of childcare through €2-per-hour increase to universal childcare subsidy | €42.9m in 2019 full year cost €126.5m |
| → Introduce 3 weeks paid parental benefit | €29m |
| → Increase Maternity/Paternity/Adoptive benefit by €5 per-week | €5.4m |
| → Replace minimum wage entry level pay scale for childcare workers with Living Wage €11.90 | €15m |
| → Increase funding to the Access and Inclusion Model by 15% | €5m |
| → Increase ECCE Capitation Rates by €5 per child, per-week | - €8.67m in 2019 full year cost €20.59m |
| → Reverse cuts and expand school completion programme | €6.24m |
| → Reinstate the Childminding Advisory Service | €1.5m |
| → Employ an additional 26 aftercare workers | €1.8m |
| → Roll out Aistear across the childminding sector | €2.5m |
| → Create Office of the Digital Safety Commissioner | €2.73m |

COMMUNICATIONS, CLIMATE ACTION & ENVIRONMENT - €50.62m

| | |
|---|---------|
| → Roll-out a bin charge waiver of €100 for households in receipt of medical incontinence supplies, FIS and OPFP | €12.25m |
| → Increase in SEAI Electric Vehicle Grant by €1000 | €2m |
| → Extend replacement of single glaze windows to Warmer Home Scheme | €4.7m |
| → Commence roll-out of new Universal Free Insulation scheme beginning with 17,000 homes in 2019 | €21.42m |
| → Double the Better Energy Home Scheme Solar Thermal Grant | €4.4m |
| → Increase Better Energy Solar PV Grant by €1000 | €1.6m |
| → Increase grant for heat pumps by €1,000 | €3.25m |
| → Funding increase for TG4 | €1m |

CULTURE, ARTS & HERITAGE - €23.913m

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| → Establish new Local Authority Arts Programme Fund and Artist in Residence positions | €3.4m |
| → Increase Arts Council funding | €6m |
| → Provide additional investment in National Cultural Institutions | €1.359m |
| → Increase investment in Waterways Ireland | €2.28m |
| → Provide 15% funding increase to Culture Ireland | €600,000 |
| → Research the development of a digital voucher system to support greater access to culture for young people | €200,000 |
| → Consult and Develop a Youth Arts Strategy and a Music Strategy | no cost in 2019 |
| → Pilot Cultural Research & Development Office | €400,000 |
| → Increase funding to local groups for Language Planning | €2m |
| → Irish language officers for every county council | €1.094m |
| → Introduce Gaeltacht Naíonraí Recognition Scheme | €300,000 |
| → Development of Irish immersion modules for Childcare Professionals | €90,000 |
| → Language Immersion for children in junior infants - pilot scheme | €130,000 |
| → Restore Gaeltacht Placement fees (teacher training) | €1.8m |
| → Re-establish a network for second level Irish teachers | €200,000 |

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| → Develop a coordination plan to progress Irish medium education in all sectors | no cost in 2019 |
| → Increase funding to Gaeltacht co-ops | €240,000 |
| → Coiste na Gaeilge | €450,000 |
| » <i>Scheme for Irish language publishers</i> | €200,000 |
| » <i>Irish language literature scheme</i> | €150,000 |
| » <i>Expansion of Oireachtas na Gaeilge</i> | €100,000 |
| → Commission Gael Ollscoil development plan | €50,000 |
| → Urban Gaeltacht Feasibility Study | €100,000 |
| → Commuter Gaeltacht Feasibility Study | €100,000 |
| → Introduce Irish language radio broadcasting fund | €500,000 |
| → Expand Irish Language Community Scheme | €175,000 |
| → Develop Irish Language networks | €105,000 |
| → Further components of Conradh na Gaeltacht Investment Plan | €2.34m |
| » <i>Gaeltacht Service Towns</i> | €195,000 |
| » <i>Capital fund for Irish language centres</i> | €650,000 |
| » <i>Funding for district councils in the north of Ireland</i> | €50,000 |
| » <i>Increased resources for lead organisations to complete work programmes</i> | €500,000 |
| » <i>Adult Scholarships</i> | €30,000 |
| » <i>Scholarships for young people</i> | €50,000 |
| » <i>An Ghaelbhratach</i> | €50,000 |
| » <i>Language Assistants</i> | €250,000 |
| » <i>Youth Schemes</i> | €175,000 |
| » <i>Irish-language child care / household support centres</i> | €240,000 |
| » <i>Household scholarships</i> | €50,000 |
| » <i>Community Empowerment Scheme</i> | €100,000 |

DEFENCE - €6.26m

| | |
|---|----------|
| → Increase funding to Veteran's Associations | €300,000 |
| → Increase funding to the Irish Red Cross Society to subvent lost donations | €300,000 |
| → Reinstate the Air Corps Retention Scheme | €650,000 |

| | |
|---|----------|
| → Establish a screening programme for veteran soldiers prescribed Lariam | €750,000 |
| → Commission a study into the possible health effects of chemical exposure at Baldonnel | €500,000 |
| → Increase Funding to the Civil Defence and Reserve Defence Forces | €1m |
| → Increase Security and Subsistence Allowances to Defence Forces personnel by 20% | €2.76m |

EDUCATION - €154.54m

| | |
|---|--|
| → Reduce class sizes | €18.34m |
| » Reduce Pupil-Teacher Ratio at primary school by 2 points | €9m in 2019 full year cost €26.8m |
| » Reduce Student Staff Ratio in ITs by 1 point | €5.67m in 2019 full year cost €17m |
| » Reduce Student Staff Ratio in Universities by 1 point | €3.67m in 2019 full year cost €11m |
| → Increase school capitation rates by 5% | €10m |
| → Provide adequate additional resources for all children | €12.49m |
| » 450 additional resource teachers | €6.7m in 2019 full year cost €20.1m |
| » Recruit an additional 20 educational psychologists | €0.5m in 2019 full year cost €1.5m |
| » Restore guidance counselling provision in secondary schools | €3.78m in 2019 full year cost €11.34m |
| » 100 additional English as an Additional Language (EAL) posts | €1.51m in 2019 full year cost €4.54 |
| → Invest in rural schools | €1.73m |
| » Reverse staffing cuts to small schools | €1.03m in 2019 full year cost €3.08m |
| » Introduce 46 rural co-ordinator posts under the Home School Liaison Service | €0.7m in 2019 full year cost €2.1m |
| → Tackle back to school costs | €23.57m |
| » Increase funding for school meals programme by 20% | €4.32m in 2019 full year cost €10.8m |
| » Increase Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance by €50 | €13.75m |

| | |
|---|--|
| » Increase funding to the Book Rental Scheme | €5.5m |
| ➔ Invest to improve school transport | €7.7m |
| » Extend the Medical Card Waiver to students eligible for concessionary school transport | €0.7m in 2019 full year cost €2m |
| » Increase funding to the School Transport scheme | €7m |
| ➔ Restore Visiting Teacher Service for Travellers | €2.716m |
| ➔ Increase DEIS funding by 10% | €12.5m |
| ➔ Fund redress scheme for victims of institutional abuse | €15m |
| ➔ Increase core funding to higher education by 1% | €3.6m in 2019 full year cost €10.8m |
| ➔ Reduce Student Contribution Charge by €500 | €12.7m in 2019 full year cost €38m |
| ➔ Increase financial assistance for students | €3.7m |
| » Increase funding for Student Assistance Fund by 20% | €1.8m |
| » Increase funding for Scheme for Students with Disabilities by 20% | €1.9m |
| ➔ Provision of 40 higher education places & Discretionary Assistance Fund for people who have come through direct provision | €1m |
| ➔ Abolish PLC course fees | €3m |
| ➔ Abolish apprenticeship fees | €4.2m |
| ➔ Tackle third level living costs | €22.3m |
| » Increase adjacent distance criteria from 24km to 45km | €12m in 2019 full year cost €26m |
| » Increase maintenance level grants by 5% | €3.9m in 2019 full year cost €8.7m |
| » Increase funding available to part-time students through the Student Assistance Fund | €1m |
| » Extend the Cost of Education Allowance to all recipients of the Back to Education Allowance | €5.4m |

FOREIGN AFFAIRS - €10.5m

| | |
|---|-------|
| ➔ Increase to Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) | €10m |
| ➔ Develop Irish citizenship hub in the north of Ireland | €0.5m |

HEALTH - €1.016BN

| | |
|--|--|
| → Begin allocating the necessary resources needed in our health service following years of inadequate provision for budgets and pay | €600m |
| → Tackle the trolley crisis by opening 500 hospital beds including all necessary staffing and ancillary costs | €156.22m |
| → Recruit an additional 350 nurses and 150 midwives | €20.138m in 2019 full year cost €26.85m |
| → Introduce a Student Nursing Hardship Fund | €1m |
| → Honour the financial contractual obligations on consultant's pay | €31m |
| → Increase annual GP training intake by 18 to 200 | €1.104m |
| → Introduce 50 salaried GPs, 50 practice nurses, and 50 medical secretaries | €6.186m in 2019 full year cost €8.248m |
| → Increase expenditure on home support services (previously homehelp hours and homecare packages) so that all identified need is met | €38m |
| → Introduce Women's Health Education and Awareness Campaign | €2m |
| → Increasing funding to BreastCheck and CervicalCheck by 10% | €4.78m |
| → Sexual and reproductive health reforms | €12m |
| → Establish a specialist team to investigate and provide care for women impacted by complications resulting from transvaginal mesh implantations | €3m |
| → Recruit a further 40 obstetricians and gynaecologists | €6.3m in 2019 full year cost €8.4m |
| → Reduce prescription charges by €1 | €25.2m |
| → Lowering Drug Payment Scheme monthly threshold from €134 to €100 | €16m |
| → Recruit an additional 110 paramedics | €7.6m |
| → Recruit 20 dental surgeons, 10 consultant orthodontists, 20 dental nurses, 30 dental secretaries | €5.475m |
| → Increase funding to Healthy Ireland | €200,000 |
| → Invest to tackle addiction through the National Drug Strategy | €12m |
| → Employ 600 additional frontline staff for citizens with disabilities, including speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, physios and psychologists | €24.98m in 2019 full year cost €33.3m |
| → Additional one million hours for personal assistance | €25m |
| → One additional community neuro rehab team | €5.18m |

→ Increase respite care services by 20% €13m

MENTAL HEALTH - €51.75m

→ Advance the roll-out of 24/7 crisis intervention services €20m

→ Increase funding for counselling in primary care €5m

→ Fund counselling and other mental health services for people currently in Direct Provision €1m

→ Provide additional support for roll-out of Suicide Prevention Training for frontline public sector workers €1.2m

→ Establish 12 additional Child and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS) teams €12.59m

→ Recruit 30 additional Mental Health and Intellectual Disability nurses €1.98m

→ Recruit 5 additional Suicide Crisis Assessment Nurses €0.33m

→ Ensure out-of-hours mental health nursing cover in every A&E Department and Prison €4.65m

→ Establish 5 additional Crisis Houses €5m

HOUSING - €34.39m

→ Increase in homelessness support funding €5m

→ Invest in domestic violence housing support services €2.8m

→ Increase Housing Adaptation Grants by 25% €13.25m

→ Create fire safety risk inspection unit €836,000

→ Invest in improved private rental inspections €5m

→ Introduce a redress scheme for homeowners living in Celtic tiger properties with latent defects €7.5m

JUSTICE – €39.69m

→ Increase Garda numbers (800 new Gardai & 230 civilian staff) €28.352m

→ Invest in new technologies for Gardaí, including sat-navs, body cameras and USB sticks for each officer €3.1m

→ Triple funding for Rape Crisis Network €180,000

| | |
|---|----------|
| → Recruit 5 forensic accountants for An Garda Síochána | €251,000 |
| → Increase funding to office of Director of Public Prosecutions by 5% | €2.22m |
| → Open 10 new Garda Youth Diversion Projects | €1.25m |
| → Reduce the minimum contribution for free legal aid by €100 | €800,000 |
| → Create Garda Insurance Fraud Unit | €1m |
| → Provide a 50% funding increase to Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement | €2.53m |

PUBLIC SECTOR PAY AND DPER- €106.4m

| | |
|---|--------|
| → Establish pay equality for post-2011 public sector workers within two years | €50m |
| → Introduce a Living Wage for all Public Sector and Civil Service workers | €35.4m |
| → Begin Pay Restoration for Section 39 workers | €20m |
| → Increase resources for the Comptroller and Auditor General | €1m |

TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND SPORT - €85.52m

| | |
|---|---------|
| → Increase state subvention to CIE | €71.24m |
| → Increase funding for LocalLink (formerly Rural Transport Programme) | €5m |
| → Increase funding to Tourism Ireland | €5m |
| → Increase funding to Fáilte Ireland by 5% | €4.28m |

SAVINGS - €125.96m

| | |
|--|---------|
| → Phased withdrawal of private school subsidy over 3 years | €10.01m |
| → Cut excessive wages and allowances of politicians | €7.95m |
| → Encourage employers to hire citizens from long term unemployed register, resulting in savings in social welfare payments | €31m |
| → Move full cost of regulating financial sector from state to industry | €77m |

SOCIAL PROTECTION - €491.544m

| | |
|--|----------|
| → Increase the Qualified Child Increase for children aged 12+ by €5 | €35.14m |
| → Working Family Payment increase by 5% | €21.6m |
| → Increase the One Parent Family Payment by €5 | €10.16m |
| → Increase the age limit for the One Parent Family Payment to 14 years and the earnings disregard to €160 | €44.1m |
| → Increase Jobseekers Allowance & Supplementary Welfare Allowance for 18-25 year olds on age-related reduced payments by €30 | €21.68m |
| → Increase Disability Allowance/Invalidity Pension/Blind Pension by €9 | €102.18m |
| → Increase Carer's Allowance and Carer's Benefit by €5 | €16.18m |
| → Increase Jobseekers payments and Supplementary Welfare Allowance by €5 | €56.92m |
| → Increase Back to Education Allowance by €5 | €2.43m |
| → Increase the State Pension by €5 | €162.51m |
| → Extend Fuel Allowance season by one week | €8.434m |
| → Introduce a new emergency Cold Weather Payment for Fuel Allowance and Working Family Payment recipients | €9.73m |
| → Establish Social Welfare Adequacy Commission | €480,000 |

SINN FÉIN CAPITAL PLAN – INVESTING IN STABILITY - €2.76bn

Sinn Féin will provide an additional €2.76 billion in capital investment in 2019. This allocation will not only deliver on the €1.5 billion outlined in the recent National Development Plan, but will invest a further €1.26 billion to tackle the crisis in housing, invest in our health services and address the infrastructural deficits that inhibit development across our island.

Costs indicated below are allocations and investments which are in addition to the €1.5 billion earmarked under the National Development Plan for 2019.

HOUSING, PLANNING & LOCAL GOVERNMENT - €1bn

In the wake of an unprecedented social tragedy caused by Fine Gael's housing and homelessness crisis, Sinn Féin is allocating an additional €1bn capital investment in social and affordable housing, to deliver public housing (7,480 additional units) which more than doubles the output of the government's Rebuilding Ireland target for 2019 (7,410):

| | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------|
| Additional New Build Social Homes | 1500 | €324m |
| Additional Buy and Renew Homes | 950 | €162.45m |
| Additional Traveller Homes | 400 | €9.669m |
| Total Additional Social Units | 2850 | €496.12m |
| Additional Affordable Rental Homes | 1435 | €309.96m |
| Additional Affordable Sale Homes | 3195 | €185.31m |
| Total Additional Affordable Homes | 4630 | €495.27m |
| Total Additional Public Housing | 7480 | €991.39m |
| Allocation for domestic violence emergency accommodation | | €8.58 million |

HEALTH - €73m

| | |
|--|-------------|
| → Investment of €40 million in the Rotunda Hospital over 4 years | €10 million |
| → Additional investment in elective-only hospitals | €20 million |
| → Additional investment to tackle capacity issues | €20 million |
| → Additional investment in e-Health strategy | €10 million |
| → Additional investment in diagnostics and medical equipment | €10 million |
| → 12 additional ambulances | €3 million |

EDUCATION - €68m

| | |
|--|-------------|
| → Increase funding for the Summer Works Scheme | €13 million |
| → Increase funding for school buildings projects | €55 million |

TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND SPORT - €93m

| | |
|--|-------------|
| → Additional investment in local, regional and strategic roads | €63 million |
| → Additional development of cycle infrastructure | €5 million |
| → Transport accessibility | €20 million |
| → Additional funding of the Sports Capital Grant | €5 million |

CULTURE, HERITAGE & GAELTACHT - €20.8m

| | |
|---|-------|
| → Funding increase for heritage including the development of Moore Street as a cultural quarter with a Cultúrlann located on the street | €5.5m |
| → Additional investment in Údarás na Gaeltachta | €5m |
| → Increase funding of the Heritage Council by 37% | €1m |
| → Increase investment in Fís Éireann | €2m |
| → Invest in an Artists' Studio Spaces Scheme | €5m |
| → Additional investment in Waterways Ireland | €2.3m |

AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARINE - €4m

- | | |
|--|------------|
| → Invest in a further capital grant for walkways | €4 million |
|--|------------|

JUSTICE - €0.65m

- | | |
|--|----------|
| → Invest to provide broadband to each of the 111 gardaí stations without broadband | €650,000 |
|--|----------|

Sinn Féin will commit to the level of capital investment provided in the National Development Plan, with additional investment allocated to tackle the crises of the present and prepare for the challenges of the future. Below are the year-on-year increases in capital allocations across departments under the Sinn Féin Capital Plan:

| | |
|---|---------|
| → Agriculture, Food & Marine | €11m |
| → Business, Enterprise & Innovation | €65m |
| → Children & Youth Affairs | €4m |
| → Communications, Climate & Environment | €47m |
| → Culture, Heritage & Gaeltacht | €42m |
| → Defence | €29m |
| → Education & Skills | €264m |
| → Employment & Social Protection | €4m |
| → Foreign Affairs | €4m |
| → Health | €247m |
| → Housing, Planning & Local Development | €1,401m |
| → Justice & Equality | €98m |
| → Public Expenditure & Reform | €28m |
| → Rural & Community Development | €53m |
| → Transport, Tourism & Sport | €406m |

Vote Capital Group Ceilings 2018 & 2019

| | 2018 | NDP 2019 | Sinn Féin 2019 | Sinn Féin Annual Increase | Sinn Féin Increase Relative to NDP |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Vote Group | € millions | € millions | € millions | € millions | € millions |
| Agriculture, Food, Marine | 248 | 255 | 259 | 11 | 4 |
| Business, Enterprise, Innovation | 555 | 620 | 620 | 65 | 0 |
| Children & Youth Affairs | 28 | 32 | 32 | 4 | 0 |
| Communications, Climate, Environment | 209 | 256 | 256 | 47 | 0 |
| Culture, Heritage, Gaeltacht | 54 | 75 | 96 | 42 | 20.8 |
| Defence | 77 | 106 | 106 | 29 | 0 |
| Education & Skills | 745 | 941 | 1,009 | 264 | 68 |
| Employment & Social Protection | 10 | 14 | 14 | 4 | 0 |
| Finance | 26 | 25 | 25 | -1 | 0 |
| Foreign Affairs | 13 | 17 | 17 | 4 | 0 |
| Health | 493 | 667 | 740 | 247 | 73 |
| Housing, Planning, Local Government | 1,632 | 2,033 | 3,033 | 1,401 | 1,000 |
| Justice | 144 | 241 | 242 | 98 | 1 |
| Public Expenditure & Reform | 175 | 203 | 203 | 28 | 0 |
| Rural & Community Development | 88 | 141 | 141 | 53 | 0 |
| Transport, Tourism & Sport | 1,327 | 1,643 | 1,736 | 406 | 93 |
| Total Gross Capital Expenditure | 5,823 | 7,269 | 8,528* | 2,705* | 1,259* |
| Percentage Increase | - | 25 | 46 | - | - |

*Numbers may not add due to rounding



www.sinnfein.ie

Published October 2018