



Buiséad Malartach  
Shinn Féin 2020

**Tabhair  
faoiseamh  
d'oibrithe agus  
do theaghlaigh**



**Sinn Féin**

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# INTRODUCTION

Budget 2020 takes place as the island of Ireland braces itself for the very real prospect of a no-deal Brexit. By now, people will be familiar with the consequences, and their political and economic impact.

Sinn Féin's Alternative Budget 2020, detailed in this document, stands as an informed and ambitious solution to these consequences. We propose measures to confront the economic challenges posed by Brexit, outlining a network of policy supports and investment to safeguard those likely to be worst affected.

But like every Sinn Féin Alternative Budget, this is also a document of solutions to the vast problems facing Irish society. Despite being one of the richest small countries on earth, successive Irish governments have failed to use that wealth to build world-class public services and provide all citizens with the standards of living they deserve.

It's an Alternative Budget that offers clear, realisable solutions to the rip-off living costs faced by countless families - sky-high insurance premiums, extortionate rents, and eye-watering childcare costs. Together, these ensure that Ireland's cost of living is among the most unaffordable in the developed world.

People who are working hard need a break. People who can't work due to disability or who are engaged in the work of caring for others need a break. Sinn Féin's Alternative Budget offers a costed suite of realistic and ambitious policies to put money back in people's pockets while giving them the world-class public services and opportunities they have all earned.

In our Alternative Budget, we provide for two free GP visits to every person in the state without a medical card or a GP card. We would introduce an emergency rent freeze and provide a tax relief to renters equal to one month of their rental costs. We would invest in childcare to improve the pay and conditions of childcare workers and slash fees for parents. We will take on the broken insurance system. We would allocate the funding necessary for our citizens with disabilities to experience real equality and prioritise tackling child poverty. We will put people first.

All of this can be achieved with a balanced Budget or in the context of a no-deal Brexit.

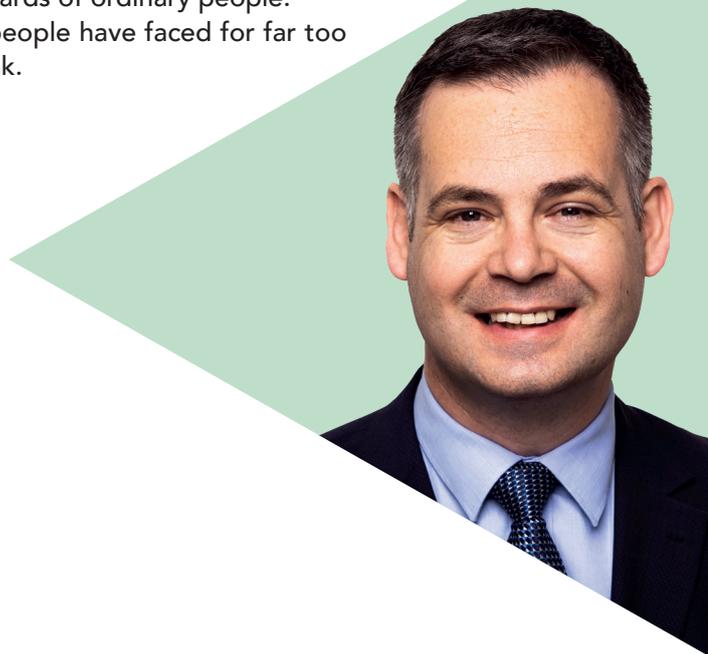
Once again, Sinn Féin is leading away from the tired and stale pessimism of the established parties, who are incapable of identifying the solutions which Sinn Féin have repeatedly championed.

We are showing how to achieve a fairer and more affordable society. We are showing how to prepare for a worst-case Brexit in a way that would improve the living standards of ordinary people. We are offering new solutions to old problems that too many people have faced for far too long. We are giving workers and families a much deserved break.

I am proud to present Sinn Féin's Alternative Budget 2020.

## **Pearse Doherty TD**

Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Finance and Public Expenditure



# RÉAMHRÁ

Tá Cáinainéis 2020 ag teacht agus muintir na hÉireann ag ullmhú don seans ollmhór go mbeidh Breatimeacht gan mhargadh ann. Faoi láthair, beidh daoine eolach ar na hiarmhairtí, agus ar na tionchair pholaitiúla agus eacnamaíocha a théann leo.

Seasann Cáinainéis Mhalartach 2020 Shinn Féin, a bhfuil sonraí faoi sa doiciméad seo, mar réiteach eolasach uailmhianach ar na hiarmhairtí seo. Molaimid bearta chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na dúshláin eacnamaíocha a bhaineann leis an Bhreatimeacht, agus tá cur síos ann ar líonra de thacaíochtaí beartais agus infheistíochta chun na daoine sin is mó a bheidh thíos leis an Bhreatimeacht a chosaint.

Ach cosúil le gach Cáinainéis Mhalartach de chuid Shinn Féin, is doiciméad é seo fosta a bhaineann le fadhbanna móra atá roimh shochar na hÉireann a réiteach. In ainneoin a bheith ar cheann de na tíortha beaga is saibhre ar dhroim an domhain, theip ar rialtais na hÉireann i ndiaidh a chéile an saibhreas sin a úsáid chun seirbhísí poiblí den scoth a thógáil agus na caighdeáin mhaireachtála atá tuillte acu a sholáthar do gach saoránach.

Is Cáinainéis Mhalartach é ina bhfuil réitigh shoiléire indéanta maidir le costais mhaireachtála atá ródhaor a bhíonn ag teachlaigh iomadúla - préimheanna árachais atá fíor-ard, cíosanna ríchostasacha, agus costais cúram leanaí atá uafásach ard. Le chéile, cinntíonn siad seo go bhfuil costas mairachtála na hÉireann i measc na gcostas is do-íochta sa domhan forbartha.

Níor chóir go mbeadh aon duine atá ag obair go dian dá dteaghlach a bheith fágtha ar gcúl. Níor chóir d'aon duine nach bhfuil in ann obair a dhéanamh de dheasca míchumais nó atá ag obair chun cúram a thabhairt do dhaoine eile a bheith fágtha ar gcúl. Tairgeann Cáinainéis Mhalartach Shinn Féin sraith de pholasaithe réadúla uailmhianacha chun airgead a chur ar ais i bpócaí daoine agus ag an am céanna na seirbhísí agus deiseanna poiblí den scoth a thuill siad go léir a thabhairt dóibh.

Inár gCáinainéis Mhalartach, déanaimid soláthar do dhá chuairt dochtúra ghinearálta saor in aisce ar gach duine sa stát gan cárta leighis nó cárta DG. Chuirfimis reo cíosanna éigeandála i bhfeidhm agus chuirfimis faoiseamh cánach ar fáil dóibh siúd atá ag íoc cíosa atá cothrom le mí amháin dá gcostais chíosa. Dhéanfaimis infheistíocht i gcúram leanaí chun pá agus coinníollacha oibríthe cúram leanaí a fheabhsú agus chun táillí a ghearradh ar thuismitheoirí. Rachaimis i ngleic leis an gcóras árachais briste. Dhéanfaimis an maoiniú is gá a leithdháileadh ar ár saoránaigh faoi mhíchumas chun chomhionannas mar is ceart a fháil agus chun tús áite a thabhairt do bhochtaineacht leanaí. Déanfaimid tosaíocht do ghnáthmhuintir na hÉireann.

Is féidir é seo go léir a bhaint amach le Cáinainéis chothromaithe nó i gcomhthéacs Breatimeacht gan mhargadh. Arís eile, tá Sinn Féin ag tabhairt droim láimhe d'iarraicht shothuartha sheanchaite na bpáirtithe seanbhunaithe, nach bhfuil in ann na réitigh a chuir Sinn Féin chun cinn arís agus arís eile a aithint.

Táimid ag léiriú an dóigh le sochar níos cothroime agus níos inacmhainne a bhaint amach. Táimid ag léiriú an dóigh le hullmhú le haghaidh an Bhreatimeachta is measa ar bhealach a chuirfeadh feabhas ar chaighdeáin mhaireachtála na ngnáthdhaoine. Táimid ag tairiscint réitigh nua ar sheanfhadhbanna a bhí roimh i bhfad barraíocht daoine ar feadh i bhfad ró-fhada.

Cúis bhróid atá ann domsa Cáinainéis Mhalartach Shinn Féin 2020 a chur i bhur láthair.

## Piara Ó Dochartaigh TD

Urlabhra Shinn Féin ar Airgeadas agus Caiteachas Poiblí



# A SUSTAINABLE FISCAL STRATEGY

The measures outlined in Sinn Féin's Alternative Budget provide a radical departure from the failed policies of Fine Gael. Not only do they offer direct and urgent solutions to the problems people face, but they would do so in a sustainable way.

Sinn Féin's alternative budgetary package would provide additional expenditure of €3.54 billion beyond the €2.1 billion already pre-committed for 2020. This additional expenditure would provide for €2.27 billion in current expenditure to shore up our public services and tackle the high cost of living and €1.27 billion in capital expenditure to upgrade and expand infrastructure across the State.

This would be achieved through a sustainable and progressive fiscal policy, that would balance the books and generate a surplus of €487 million in 2020.

Sinn Féin's economic strategy would upgrade our public services, future-proof our economy and protect jobs in the face of Brexit. It would also ensure that our tax base is resilient in the face of future threats and not overly reliant on a small number of foreign multinationals to fund public services as has become increasingly the case. This would ensure that improved access to public services and real reductions in the cost of living are built upon the principles of solidarity, fairness and tax justice.

The threat posed by Brexit will have a significant impact on the public finances. It is therefore important that they are managed on a sustainable basis, both to protect and improve living standards. The fiscal approach adopted by Sinn Féin would ensure that Budget 2020 delivers for people and safeguards the public finances regardless of the Brexit outcome.

## DISCRETIONARY MEASURES DELIVERING A HEADLINE SURPLUS FOR 2020

	€million
Pre-committed expenditure	2,100
Additional current expenditure	2,271
Additional capital expenditure	1,273
Additional Tax revenue	2,095
<b>Revised GGB (%GDP)</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Nominal GGB (Surplus)</b>	<b>487</b>

(The sum of the individual measures in this document may not equal the totals due to rounding)

# STRAITÉIS FHIOSCACH INBHUANAITHE

Soláthraíonn na bearta atá leagtha amach i gCáinainnéis Mhalartach Shinn Féin imeacht radacach ó bheartais Fhine Gael, beartais ar theip orthu. Ní amháin go dtugann siad réitigh dhíreacha agus phráinneacha ar na fadhbanna a bhíonn roimh dhaoine, ach dhéanfaí é sin ar bhealach inbhuanaithe.

Sholáthródh pacáiste malartach Shinn Féin don cháinainnéis caiteachas breise de € 3.54 billiún thar an € 2.1 billiún a tugadh roimh ré cheana féin do 2020. Sholáthródh an caiteachas breise seo € 2.27 billiún i gcaiteachas reatha chun ár seirbhísí poiblí a chur chun cinn agus chun dul i ngleic leis an chostas maireachtála ard agus € 1.27 billiún i gcaiteachas caipitil chun bonneagar a uasghrádú agus a leathnú ar fud an Stáit.

Bhainfí é seo amach trí bheartas fioscach inbhuanaithe agus forásach, a dhéanfadh comhardú ar na leabhair agus a chruthódh barrachas € 487 milliún in 2020.

Dhéanfadh straitéis Shinn Féin faoin gheilleagar ár seirbhísí poiblí a uasghrádú, chun ár ngeilleagar a chosaint sa todhchaí agus poist a chosaint i gcoinne an Bhreathimeachta. Chinnteodh sé freisin go bhfuil ár mbonn cánach achmhainneach in aghaidh bagairtí amach anseo agus nach mbraitheann sé go rómhór ar líon beag cuideachtaí ilnáisiúnta as baile isteach chun seirbhísí poiblí a mhaoiniú mar atá ag éirí níos coitianta. Chinnteodh sé seo go mbeadh rochtain níos fearr ar sheirbhísí poiblí agus fíorlaghdú ar chostas maireachtála bunaithe ar phrionsabail na dlúthpháirtíochta, na cothroime agus an cheartais chánach.

Beidh tionchar mór ag an bhgairt a bhaineann leis an Bhreathimeacht ar airgeadas poiblí. Is tábhachtach mar sin go ndéantar iad a bhainistiú ar bhonn inbhuanaithe chun caighdeán mhaireachtála a chosaint agus a fheabhsú. Chinnteodh an cur chuige fioscach a ghlac Sinn Féin go mbainfeadh daoine tairbhe as Cáinainnéis 2020 agus go ndéanfaí airgeadas poiblí a chosaint beag beann ar thoradh an Bhreathimeachta.

## BARRACHAS CEANNLÍNE I 2020 MAR THORADH AR BHEARTA LÁNROGHNACHA

€million

Caiteachas réamhghheallta	2,100
Caiteachas Reatha sa bhreis	2,271
Caiteach caipitiúil sa bhreis	1,273
Ioncam cánach sa bhreis	2,095
GGB Athbhreithnithe (%GDP)	0.2
Barrachas	487

# DELIVERING A BREXIT BUDGET

## THREAT POSED BY BREXIT

Brexit will change the economic relationships between Ireland and Britain for decades to come. More immediately, however, the threat of a no-deal Brexit poses a diverse range of significant challenges to many areas of the all-Ireland economy.

First, the big picture. A no-deal scenario is expected to slash economic growth, raising prices, dampening investment and demand. The ESRI predicts total output growth could fall to as low as around 1.5%. As a result of this sharp hit to growth, the Department of Finance fears a loss of around 50,000 jobs in the first two years following a no-deal, with a further 30,000 at risk over the medium term.

The industries most effected will be small exporters, particularly those in the agri-foods sector, many of whom rely on the British market as the primary destination for their produce. Uncertainty about the status of Britain's border in Ireland could also mean significant disruption to north-south supply chains.

All of this would place a sharp drain on the public finances, which would be impacted by the double-edged sword of labour market contraction – increased demands on unemployment benefit and other social protection, while receiving less in tax revenue from a smaller in-work population.

Beyond the headline impact, most of us will be affected in some way. Barriers to trade and increased tariffs could see a surge in the price of some goods which could cost families around €1,000 more per annum.

## GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO PREPARE

With this in mind, it is clear that the government has failed to prepare properly for Brexit.

Only a fraction of their business supports, in terms of loans and grants, have actually been accessed by businesses. 40% of businesses exporting to Britain have not applied to do so outside the EU. Moreover, over 65% of businesses importing from Britain have not yet applied to trade outside the EU.

Worse still, in the last few months the government has failed small beef farmers before Brexit is even upon us. This Budget must be a Brexit budget with ambitious, relevant and direct supports provided to the economy at large.

## SINN FÉIN'S APPROACH TO BREXIT

Sinn Féin's economic strategy towards Brexit, advanced by this Alternative Budget, is one based on two priorities: investing in supports for businesses and sectors most vulnerable to a no-deal Brexit and stimulating the wider economy to withstand a Brexit shock to economic activity and the public finances.

Throughout this Alternative Budget, Sinn Féin have allocated significant investment for the agri-food sector, vulnerable SMEs (exporting and non-exporting), protecting north-south trade on the island of Ireland, and the tourism industry.

## SINN FÉIN'S BREXIT STABILISATION FUND

All of this is alongside our signature Brexit Stabilisation Fund.

This fund, which would be financed to the tune of €2bn, is designed to stimulate growth and economic activity in the event of a no-deal shock. Fine Gael had proposed putting money into a Rainy Day Fund the rules governing which would actually prohibit that money being spent in response to Brexit. By diverting this money Sinn Féin would create a new fund that stands ready to be deployed.

Our Brexit Stabilisation Fund would support those sectors and regions most vulnerable to the negative impacts of Brexit, including supports targeting job retention in these sectors and regions.

Sinn Féin will also expand capital investment beyond government plans.

In a range of estimates provided by the Department for Finance in the Summer Economic Statement this year, the Brexit impact on the public finances could plunge a planned surplus into a deficit of almost €5bn.

Even in the worst-case scenario of a no-deal Brexit, the fiscal trajectory set by Sinn Féin's Alternative Budget 2020, that includes additional supports, capital investment, economic stimulus and investment in frontline public services, would see the public finances return to surplus in the same year as government (2024).

# SINN FÉIN'S BREXIT BUDGET

## BREXIT STABILISATION FUND - €2 BILLION

### SUPPORTING DOMESTIC EXPORTERS AND SMES

Establish a new Irish Enterprise Agency to support domestic SMEs - €10 million

Increase funding to Enterprise Ireland by 10% - €28 million

Increase R&D funding to Science Foundation Ireland - €2 million

Increase funding to Údarás na Gaeltachta - €5 million

### SUPPORTING TOURISM

10% funding increase to Fáilte Ireland - €10.1 million

5% funding increase to Tourism Ireland - €2.63 million

Current and capital investment in Culture, Arts and Heritage - €28 million

### TARGETED SUPPORTS FOR THE IRISH ECONOMY

Increased capital investment - €1.273 billion

Create 5,000 apprenticeships - €35.8 million

### AGRI-FOODS SECTOR

Supports for those farming in Areas of Natural Constraint - €25 million

Invest in new Land Drainage Scheme - €6 million

### PROTECTING THE ALL-IRELAND ECONOMY

50% increase in funding to InterTrade Ireland - €4.58 million

Supporting all-Ireland infrastructure

# CÁINAINSNÉIS DON BHREATHIMEACHT A SHOLÁTHAR

## BAGAIRT AN BHREATHIMEACHTA

Athróidh an Breatimeacht na caidrimh eacnamaíocha idir Éirinn agus an Bhreatain ar feadh na mblianta atá le teacht. Ar an phointe boise, áfach, tá baol mór má tharlaíonn Breatimeacht gan mhargadh go mbeidh dúshláin shuntasacha ann do chuid mhór de réimsí de gheilleagar na hÉireann.

Ar dtús, an mórfhictiúr. I gcás imeacht gan mhargadh táthar ag súil leis go ngearrfar fás geilleagrach go mór, go dtiocfaidh ardú ar phraghasanna, agus go maolófar infheistíocht agus éileamh dá réir. Tá sé tuartha ag an Institiúid Taighde Eacnamaíochta agus Sóisialta go bhféadfadh an ráta borrrha titim chomh híseal le 1.5%. Mar thoradh ar an bhuille ghéar seo ar bhorradh, tá eagla ar an Roinn Airgeadais go gcaillfí thart ar 50,000 post sa chéad dá bhliain i ndiaidh imeacht gan mhargadh, agus 30,000 post eile i mbaol le linn na meántréimhse.

Is iad na tionscail is mó a bheidh thíos faoi ná onnmhairroirí beaga, go háirithe iad siúd san earnáil bianna talmhaíochta, a mbraitheann go leor acu ar mhargadh na Breataine mar an phríomh-cheann scríbe dá dtáirgí. D'fhéadfadh neamhchinnteacht maidir le stádas teorann na Breataine in Éirinn cur isteach mór ar shlabhraí soláthair thuaidh-theas.

Cuireann sé seo uile isteach go mór ar an airgeadas poiblí, a mbeidh tionchar ag claíomh dúbailte ar an chúngú sa mhargadh saothair air - éilimh mhéadaithe ar shochar dífhostaíochta agus cosaint shóisialta eile, agus níos lú ioncaim chánach á fháil ó dhaonra níos lú oibre.

Seachas an tionchar ceannlíne, rachaidh sé i bhfeidhm orainn uile. D'fhéadfadh bacainní ar thrádáil agus ar tharaifí méadaithe borradh a chur faoi phraghas roinnt earraí agus d'fhéadfadh sé go mbeidh caiteachas atá thart ar €1,000 sa bhreis ag teaghlach gach bliain.

## TEIP AN RIALTAIS ULLMHÚCHÁN A DHÉANAMH

Agus é sin san áireamh, is léir gur theip ar an rialtas an t-ullmhúchan ceart a dhéanamh le haghaidh an Bhreatimeachta. Níl ach cuid bheag dá gcuid tacaíochtaí gnó, i dtéarmaí iasachtaí agus deontas, tar éis rochtain a fháil ar ghnólachtaí. Níl iarratas déanta ag 40% de ghnólachtaí atá ag onnmhairiú go dtí an Bhreatain chun é sin a dhéanamh lasmuigh den AE. Ar a bharr sin, níl breis agus 65% de ghnólachtaí a allmhairíonn ón Bhreatain i ndiaidh iarratas a dhéanamh ar thrádáil lasmuigh den AE.

Níos measa fós, le cúpla mí anuas lig an rialtas feirmeoirí beaga mairteola síos fiú sula bhfuil an Breatimeacht buailte linn. Caithfidh an Cháinainnéis seo a bheith ina Cáinainnéis dírithe ar Bhreatimeacht agus tacaíochtaí uailmhianacha, ábhartha agus díreacha a chuireann leis an gheilleagar ina iomláine.

## CUR CHUIGE SHINN FÉIN I LEITH AN BHREATHIMEACHTA

Tá straitéis Shinn Féin i leith an Bhreatimeachta, arna cur chun cinn ag an Cháinainnéis Mhalartach seo, bunaithe ar dhá thosaíocht: infheistíocht a dhéanamh i dtacaíochtaí do ghnólachtaí agus earnálacha is mó i mbaol agus Breatimeacht gan mhargadh ann agus an geilleagar níos leithne a spreagadh chun an croitheadh ón Bhreatimeacht a sheasamh in aghaidh gníomhaíocht eacnamaíoch agus airgeadas poiblí.

Sa Cháinainnéis Mhalartach seo, tá infheistíocht shuntasach leithdháilte ag Sinn Féin don earnáil agrairbhia, do FBManna atá i mbaol (onnmhairithe agus neamh-onnmhairithe), ag cosaint trádála ó thuaidh-theas ar oileán na hÉireann, agus an tionscal turasóireachta.

## CISTE COBHSÚCHÁIN SHINN FÉIN DON BHREATHIMEACHT

Tá sé seo uile in éineacht leis an Chiste Cobhsúcháin atá againn don Bhreathimeacht.

Tá an ciste seo, a thabharfaí maoiniú de € 2bn, chun borradh agus gníomhaíocht eacnamaíoch a spreagadh chun an tionchar ó Bhreathimeacht gan mhargadh a mhaolú. Bhí sé molta ag Fine Gael airgead a chur isteach i gCiste Lá na Coise Tinne ach chuirfeadh na rialacha a bhainfeadh leis seo cosc ar airgead a chaitheamh mar fhreagra ar an Bhreathimeacht. Tríd an airgead seo a atreorú chruthódh Sinn Féin ciste nua a bheadh réidh le caitheamh.

Thacódh an Ciste Cobhsúcháin don Bhreathimeacht leis na hearnálacha agus na réigiúin sin is mó i mbaol ó thionchar diúltach an Bhreathimeachta, lena n-áirítear tacaíocht maidir le postanna a choinneáil sna hearnála agus sna réigiúin seo.

Déanfaidh Sinn Féin níos mó infheistíocht chaipitiúil ná mar atá beartaithe ag an rialtas.

I réimse de mheastacháin a chuir an Roinn Airgeadais ar fáil i Ráiteas Eacnamaíochta an tSamhraidh i mbliana, d'fhéadfadh tionchar an Bhreathimeachta easnamh de €5bn a chruthú in áit an bharrachais atá tuartha.

Agus an cás is measa de Bhreathimeacht gan mhargadh ann, mar gheall ar an chonair fhioscach atá leagtha amach i gCáinainéis Mhalartach Shinn Féin 2020, agus áirítear leis sin tacaíochtaí sa bhreis, infheistíocht chaipitiúil, spreagadh eacnamaíoch agus infheistíocht i seirbhísí líne thosaigh, bheadh barrachas san airgeadas poiblí sa bhliain chéanna leis an rialtas (2024).

# CÁINAINÉIS SHINN FÉIN DON BHREATHIMEACHT

## CISTE COBHSÚCHÁIN BHREATHIMEACHT - €2 BILLION

### TACÚ LE HONNMHAIREOIRÍ AGUS GNÓTHAIS BHEAGA AGUS MHEÁNMHÉIDE DÚCHASACHA

Gníomhaireacht Fiontraíochta na hÉireann a bhunú chun tacú le Gnóthais Bheaga agus Mheánmhéide - €10m

Maoiniú d'Fhiontraíocht Éireann a mhéadú le 10% - €28m

Maoiniú Taighde agus Forbartha d'Fhondúireacht Eolaíochta na hÉireann a mhéadú - €2m

Maoiniú d'Údarás na Gaeltachta a mhéadú - €5m

### TACAÍOCHTAÍ DÍRITHE AR GHEILLEAGAR NA HÉIREANN

Infheistíocht chaipitiúil mhéadaithe - €1.273bn

5,000 printiseacht a chruthú - €35.8m

### EARNÁIL AGRAIBHIA

Tacaíochtaí dóibh siúd i mbun feirmeoireachta i Limistéir faoi Shrianta Nádúrtha - €25 million

Infheistíocht i Scéim Draenála Talaimh nua - €6 million

### TACÚ LE TURASÓIREACHT

Maoiniú d'Fháilte Éireann a mhéadú le 10% - €10.1 million

Maoiniú do Thurasóireacht Éireann a mhéadú le 5% - €2.63 million

Infheistíocht reatha agus caipitiúil i gCúltúr, Ealaíona agus Oidhreacht a mhéadú - €28 million

### GEILLEAGAR NA HÉIREANN A CHOSAINT

Méadú 50% sa mhaoiniú a thugtar d'Idir-Thrádáil Éireann - €4.58 million

Tacú le bonneagar uile-Éireann

# ENDING THE RIP OFF

At few other points in recent generations has life on this island been so unaffordable. Without exaggeration, Ireland is among the most expensive places on earth to live.

Research by the AA and The Irish Times tells us, when rent or mortgage payments, back to school costs, childcare, healthcare, insurance, transport, groceries, a modest social life and utilities are accounted for, families would have to spend €50,000 a year after tax just to keep on top of day-to-day living costs.

No wonder workers and families across the state feel ripped off. No wonder that households with two average incomes still feel the pinch, and that all too familiar sense of financial uncertainty lingering as the end of the month approaches.

All of this is no accident, and Budget 2020 is a chance to end the rip off. The island of Ireland is one of the richest economies in the world per head of population, despite a long and indefensible history of Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil governments wasting and squandering this wealth.

In this Budget, Sinn Féin will once again show how to manage economic growth in a way that invests directly in the living costs and living standards of ordinary people.

The government would have us believe that we must sacrifice economic wellbeing to invest in citizen's livelihoods. The opposite is true – we will never reach our full economic potential until people feel safe and secure enough to pursue their life's ambitions, and to nurture the ambitions of their kids.

In our Alternative Budget 2020, Sinn Féin are announcing a host of policy solutions that would end the rip-off and lift the weight of financial burden from the shoulders of ordinary people. Sinn Féin believe it is time to reward workers and families.

## SINN FÉIN WOULD:

- ▶ Provide **two free GP visits** for everybody without a GP card or medical card as a first step to universal free GP care - €268.8 million
- ▶ Implement an **emergency freeze of rents** for three years and provide renters with a **tax break equal to one month's rent** during this period - €279 million
- ▶ Commence a transformational 5 year programme of childcare reform that ensures childcare workers are properly paid and childcare fees are slashed by two thirds for parents - €28 million in 2020 (full first year cost €85 million)
- ▶ Introduce an annual **'Back to School Bonus Child Benefit Payment' of €140** to help families overcome the costs of education - €84 million in 2020 (full cost €168 million)
- ▶ Tackle the insurance rip-off by reducing all non-life insurance premiums by 5% through abolishing two government levies on them.
- ▶ Further address the insurance rip-off by introducing Pearse Doherty's Insurance Consumer Contract Bill which would increase consumer protection and extending the National Claims Database to employer and public liability insurance.
- ▶ Abolish student fees beginning with a **€500 reduction** in 2020 and abolish apprenticeship and PLC fees - €11.8 million in 2020 (full first year cost €39.3 million) and €9 million respectively.

# RAISING INCOMES

Sinn Féin want to create a society where work pays and pay delivers security and a good quality of life. On the surface our economy is producing high growth and low unemployment, but beneath the surface, too many citizens suffer from low pay, stagnant incomes and insecurity. With nearly one quarter of all workers on low pay, we have the third highest proportion of low paid workers among developed economies.

Too many people who are unable to work in the labour market due to disability, which comes with its own additional cost burdens, or because they are caring for others are also suffering from desperately inadequate incomes.

This places a huge strain on the ability of homes to handle high living costs. Sinn Féin want to change that, making our economy work for everybody. Higher incomes are good for everyone. They lift homes out of poverty, increase productivity and provide the revenue public services need to provide for citizens.

Sinn Féin believe in a Living Wage for workers.

The minimum wage has failed to take into account the day-to-day costs that the government have let spiral out of control, such as the massive increase in rents, the price of education, the enormous cost of insurance, or the huge monthly childcare costs that are putting strain on families across the state.

Many workers currently earning the minimum wage are living hand to mouth each month. That is unacceptable. Workers should not be living on the breadline.

We believe now is the time to introduce the Living Wage of €12.30 per hour for workers while also putting appropriate safeguards in place for those financially vulnerable businesses who may not be able to afford this change.

Workers should be able to earn an income that's enough to pay for the basic necessities of life, to live with dignity and to participate as active citizens in our society. That is not too much to ask.

The State as an employer should also show leadership on this issue, and that is why Sinn Féin would make the civil service and public sector a living wage employer from January 1st 2020.

Our commitment to raising incomes would not be limited to the Living Wage alone, but by raising incomes across wider society. Healing the wounds of austerity and correcting a failed economic model to create an economy that works for everyone will take some time, but our Alternative Budget begins the task of raising incomes and creating a more equal society.

We propose introducing a living wage across the public and private sectors, a pay and allowance package that respects the dedication and commitment of our Defence Forces, a path to full pay equality for public sector workers, pay restoration for Section 39 workers and increases to all social welfare payments and disability payment rates.

## IN ALTERNATIVE BUDGET 2020, SINN FÉIN WOULD:

- ▶ Introduce the Living Wage across the public sector – €3.8 million
- ▶ Legally oblige those employers that can afford to pay the Living Wage of €12.30 per hour to do so
- ▶ Introduce a living wage employment scheme for artists through local authorities - €4 million
- ▶ Provide a pay and allowances package for Defence Forces - €10 million

- ▶ Reform the Wage Subsidy Scheme as per the recommendation from the cross-party Oireachtas Disability Group - €7 million
- ▶ Provide for pay restoration in Section 39 organisations over three years - €20 million in 2020
- ▶ Deliver full pay equality for public servants in 2020 - €58 million in 2020 (€67m in 2021)
- ▶ Restore full equality for under-26 year-old Jobseekers over two Budgets - €30 million in 2020
- ▶ Increase all weekly social welfare payments by €5 and Disability payments by €9 - €305 million in 2020 (full year €406.5m)
- ▶ Increase the Qualified Child Increase payment for children over 12 by €5 - €30 million

## SOLUTIONS FOR HOUSING

Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael have broken Ireland's housing system. Between them in the parties' last stints in power, they have encouraged a splurge of speculative lending which crashed the housing system and the economy while devastating many communities.

Since then, they have ignored severe housing shortage and soaring costs of rent, choosing instead to rebuild the Irish housing network in the interests of landlords, billionaire international investors, and multi-national property funds.

The housing policy of Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil can therefore be summed up simply – landlords and international investors, over renters and homeowners families. For decades government parties have seen the family home as a financial asset from which profit can be reaped by banks and investors, and not a roof over our heads.

Thousands are homeless, and the costs of buying or renting a home have never been more expensive. Social and affordable housing construction is essentially at a standstill, with demand still far outstripping supply.

Meanwhile, activity in the commercial property sector is both diverting our construction workforce away from the residential property sector where their skills and labour is so badly needed and driving the risk of overheating in our economy.

Sinn Féin's policy solutions are threefold: bring down extortionate housing costs, launch a major programme of public housing construction to meet social and affordable housing need, and end the low-tax plunder of Irish property by international investors.

Moreover, environmental sustainability is at the heart of Sinn Féin's housing policy, and any new and transformative approach to housing must ensure that we are building, retrofitting, and reforming with the needs of the climate and the natural world in mind.

### IN OUR ALTERNATIVE BUDGET 2020, SINN FÉIN WOULD:

- ▶ Deliver 17,216 social and affordable homes, which is an additional 8,700 more than the government in 2020 - €1.072bn
- ▶ Implement an **emergency freeze on rents for three years** and provide renters with a **tax break equal to one month's rent** during this period - €279 million

- ▶ Increase the Dividend Withholding Tax for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Irish Real Estate Funds (IREFs) from 20% to 33% – revenue raised €35.5 million
- ▶ Establish a commission to manage land use - €300,000
- ▶ Introduce Pearse Doherty's No Consent, No Sale Bill to empower ordinary people against circling Vulture Funds.
- ▶ Introduce a redress scheme for homeowners living in Celtic Tiger properties with latent defects - €15 million
- ▶ Increase investment in local authority home retrofitting by 50% - €12 million
- ▶ Increase funding towards rental property inspections - €5 million
- ▶ Introduce an NCT-style system to regulate landlords
- ▶ Invest in domestic violence support services (current and capital) - €11.8 million

## SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTH

Sinn Féin's vision for healthcare is to establish a modern, world-class universal health system that is free at the point of use and available to everyone, when they need it, on the basis of medical need not ability to pay. Our vision is a reality in many developed world countries. Indeed we are the only country in the EU that does not have universal primary care.

Sinn Féin has led the way in offering solutions for our broken two-tier health service. In 2015 we published 'Better 4 Health' a fully costed ten year plan to increase the capacity of our health service, achieve equality of access and ensure it is funded on a fair and sustainable basis.

That was followed by the All-Party Oireachtas Committee's Plan 'Sláintecare', heavily influenced by Sinn Féin, which similarly provided for the development of a single tier, universal public health service over ten years.

But despite the critical need for the solutions outlined by Sinn Féin and then by many others, the Fine Gael government which is supported by Fianna Fáil and various Independent TDs, failed to action the first year of Sláintecare.

By contrast, our Alternative Budget 2020 would take the first step. We propose that Health should be allocated a funding increase in 2020 sufficient in size to provide existing services, expand people's entitlements and commence the transformation towards a single-tier, worldclass National Health Service for Ireland.

The end point will be worth the investment. It will be a service where people don't have to shout loudest, don't have to wait and don't have to pay 'out of pocket'.

That end point may feel very far away and even hard to imagine but we believe there are achievable steps that can be taken next year which would both start us down the right path and make a meaningful difference to people's health in the here and now.

We can start by speeding up the roll-out of GP care without charge. We propose that everybody should be able to access free GP care, not just those with an income so low that they qualify for medical cards or GP visit cards as is currently the case. The roll-out of universal free GP care could be advanced next year with two visits covered.

We can start by making sure people with cancer have a medical card and making sure older people are no longer forced to re-apply for their cards so frequently.

We can start by making sure school-age children have their teeth checked in a timely fashion, like we used to, to reduce the shameful number of extractions.

We can start by hiring some more nurses and doctors and opening some more beds.

### IN ALTERNATIVE BUDGET 2020, SINN FÉIN WOULD:

- ▶ Provide **two free GP visits** for everybody without a GP card or medical card as a step to universal free GP care - €268.8 million
- ▶ Provide universal access to free counselling on a GP referral basis - €25.4 million
- ▶ Recruit 500 nurses and midwives - €26.6 million
- ▶ Open an additional 500 hospital beds including the associated doctors, health professionals and other costs - €160.2 million
- ▶ Medical cards for cancer patients - €40 million
- ▶ Deliver a comprehensive women's health strategy including hiring an additional 50 obstetricians and gynaecologists, increasing funding to BreastCheck and CervicalCheck by 10%, repatriating CervicalCheck screening, rapid funding the maternity strategy and launching an awareness campaign - €43.7 million
- ▶ Deliver dental care for children - €4.8 million
- ▶ Problem gambling supports - €2 million

## CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS - DELIVERING A JUST TRANSITION

There is an overwhelming need for the world to confront climate breakdown. With the largest economies and biggest polluters on earth dragging their heels and greenwashing their complicity in environmental disfigurement, there is an urgent moral responsibility on all of us to do our bit. We need to think global, act local, and support policies with the maximum climate impact.

Sinn Féin presents such policies in our Alternative Budget 2020. For many years, Sinn Féin have been proposing climate-friendly policy solutions, including 'Powering Ireland 2030' a plan to achieve a low carbon energy mix for Ireland within the next decade.

The time has passed for the tokenistic and piecemeal media stunts which define this Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil government's approach to climate collapse. For citizens and parties such as Sinn Féin who have long been advocates of a radical green transition, we know that Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil's record on climate change and reducing carbon emissions is, without exaggeration, amongst the worst in the developed world.

By 2020, Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael government's pledged to deliver a 20% reduction in carbon emissions. As of 2019, they have reduced emissions by just 1%. For these two parties, both of whom are suspiciously recent advocates for action on climate breakdown, this is an indefensible and unforgettable record.

No surprise then that the climate policy of these establishment parties is defined by a desire to pass the buck through unfair carbon taxes. Instead of giving people alternatives to reduce their carbon footprint, such as investing in public transport and renewable energy solutions, they are dumping the cost of climate action onto the shoulders of working people with little or no green alternatives available to them.

Crucially, Sinn Féin believes that the transition to a low-carbon society to prevent climate breakdown is simply indivisible from the principles of social justice and equality. Our Alternative Budget proposes radical and realisable solutions to the multi-dimensional problems posed by climate breakdown – reducing pollution, lowering carbon emissions, increasing renewable energy access, protecting and enhancing our biodiversity, and cherishing our natural heritage.

In government, Sinn Féin would deliver a Green New Deal for Ireland, north and south. This means a fairer and more democratic society, one which protects workers' rights and empowers communities to have more input and control over their future.

### THIS ALTERNATIVE BUDGET 2020 PRESENTS THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF THIS GREEN NEW DEAL, AND SINN FÉIN WOULD:

- ▶ Investment to enable people retro-fit their homes - €47 million
- ▶ Encourage positive habit formation by introducing **free fares for 5 to 18 year olds** on Bus Eireann, Irish Rail, Dublin Bus, the Dart, the Luas and others – €31.2 million
- ▶ Further **invest in public transport** through the PSO to improve and increase public transport coverage and increase funding for Local Link by almost 50% – €60 million
- ▶ Match government **capital investment in public transport and cycling infrastructure**, and increase by a further €60 million
- ▶ No increase to the Carbon Tax in Budget 2020.
- ▶ Using the National Training Fund surplus, **introduce a climate justice retraining and re-education fund** for those communities most affected climate action, starting with Bord na Mona in the midlands and Moneypoint in Clare - €10 million
- ▶ Commission the Department of Jobs and Enterprise to undertake a consultative study into the most feasible replacement industries for Bord na Mona and Moneypoint
- ▶ **Extend organic farming grants** for local farmers to encourage sustainable agriculture - €4 million
- ▶ Introduce grants to encourage afforestation among landowners - €2 million
- ▶ Launch an **environmental study of Dublin Bay** water quality and issues - €1 million
- ▶ Increase **investment in Overseas Development Aid** to encourage climate justice projects and play our part in the global just transition - €10 million
- ▶ Extend the Fuel Allowance scheme by two additional weeks - €16.8 million

# EQUALITY FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

Sinn Féin has a vision for our society in which all citizens can achieve their full potential, and where they are supported to live with confidence, dignity and ambition.

In our Alternative Budget 2020, Sinn Féin is promoting a host of policies to give our 600,000 citizens with disabilities the support they deserve while enshrining their rightful and equal place within society.

Sinn Féin's long-standing and unwavering support for those with disabilities is expressed in our comprehensive suite of policy solutions which advocate reforms to transport, employment, housing, social protection, education and healthcare with only the interests of citizens with disabilities in mind. Nothing less than this scale and ambition is acceptable.

Moreover, our Alternative Budget includes investments for those who have dedicated their time to caring for those in need of care. This is an invaluable contribution to society, and carers should be recognised and rewarded as such.

Formed alongside disability advocacy groups, we are confident that these policies will enhance the position of people with disabilities in our society, reversing the record of successive governments in which their status was diminished.

## IN OUR ALTERNATIVE BUDGET 2020, SINN FÉIN PROPOSE TO:

- ▶ Commence a 5 year programme of investment in public transport to make it accessible for citizens with disabilities - €20 million in 2020
- ▶ Clear the Home Support Services waiting lists entirely - €59 million
- ▶ Invest in an additional 1.5 million Personal Assistant hours - €37 million
- ▶ Recruit an additional 600 clinical psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists - €34 million
- ▶ Increase the Carer's Support Grant to €2000 - €40 million
- ▶ Increase Carers Allowance and Benefit by €5 and Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension and Blind Pension by €9 - €89 million in 2020 (full year €118m),
- ▶ Increase respite care services - €13 million
- ▶ Increase housing adaptation grants by 25% - €14 million
- ▶ Reinstate the Rehabilitative Training Allowance - €3.7 million
- ▶ Reform the Wage Subsidy Scheme as per All Party Oireachtas Disability Group recommendation - €7 million
- ▶ Provide the WALK PEER employment support service model in all 26 counties in the south of Ireland - €5 million
- ▶ Provide funding to implement the Assisted Decision Making Act - €9 million

# A FAIR TAXATION SYSTEM - NET TAX €2.1BN

A prosperous economy and decent society are both underpinned by public spending; to provide the housing, education, health, infrastructure and other key services that power economic development, well paid jobs, sustainable communities and high living standards.

Public spending is underpinned by revenue and taxation. It is important that our taxation system is both sustainable and just, reflecting the economy and society we want to build.

Sinn Féin's tax policies will ensure that no individual income under €140,000 will see any increase to their income tax rates. But it will also make sure equality and sustainable public finances are underpinned by those most able to contribute. At present, our tax system does not work in this way.

Sinn Féin would ensure those who can afford to pay more, such as the banks and super-rich property investors, pay their fair share. Taxation not only raises revenue but impacts behaviour. Tax reliefs for banks, multinationals and property investors harm the public finances, undermine the principle of equity and have contributed to the housing crisis. Sinn Féin would end this imbalance in our tax system and ensure that those who benefit most from our economy contribute their fair share.

Sinn Féin also support the introduction of a wealth tax for the wealthiest 0.25% in our society, applied at a rate of 1% on net wealth over €1 million. The costing of a wealth tax is based upon a model adopted by the Economic Social and Research Institute, with a revised costing in light of quarterly data published by the Central Bank. It is important to note that this model departs significantly from that espoused by Sinn Féin. The ESRI model involves more exemptions and higher thresholds than those envisaged by the wealth tax advocated by Sinn Féin. Therefore a Sinn Féin wealth tax would generate substantially greater revenue than estimated in this document while providing exemptions for assets including working farm land and productive assets that generate and sustain employment.

## TAX EXPENDITURE

- ▶ A month's rent relief - €279 million
- ▶ Phasing out the local property tax - €157 million
- ▶ Abolish 3% stamp duty on all non-life insurance policies - €160 million
- ▶ Abolish 2% levy on all non-life insurance policies - €69 million
- ▶ Retain mortgage interest relief - €41 million
- ▶ Equalise the Earned Income Credit with the PAYE Credit - €40 million
- ▶ Introduce simpler means by which SMEs can access R&D tax credits - €10 million
- ▶ Restore tax relief for trade union members over two years - €20 million
- ▶ Fuel rebate scheme for hauliers - €5 million

## TAX REVENUE

- ▶ Introduce a wealth tax for the wealthiest 0.25% in the state at a rate of 1% on the portion of wealth held over €1 million - €89 million
- ▶ Introduce 2nd home charge at a rate of €400 - €104 million

- ▶ Increase excise duty on a packet of cigarettes by 50c - €57 million
- ▶ Increase Capital Acquisitions Tax by 3% to a rate of 36% - €45 million
- ▶ Abolish the Special Assignee Relief Programme - €15 million
- ▶ Increase the Dividend Withholding Tax on Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Irish Real Estate Funds (IREFs) from 20% to 33% - €35.5 million
- ▶ Increase income from the bank levy - €20 million
- ▶ Increase the Vacant Site Levy to 10% to prevent land-hoarding - €9.6 million
- ▶ End the corporation tax break for bankers - €175 million
- ▶ Introduce a 5% high income levy on individual incomes above €140,000 - €345 million
- ▶ Taper out tax credits on incomes over €100,000 to €140,000 - €210 million
- ▶ Introduce an additional 5% employers PRSI rate on portion of salaries over €100,000 - €352.75 million
- ▶ Reduce subsidies to gold-plated pensions by reducing the earnings limit and reducing the Standard Funds Threshold to €1.7m - €294 million
- ▶ Tax intangible assets onshored by multinationals - €722 million
- ▶ Increase the R&D tax credit to 30% for SMEs and lower the cap for other businesses to 20% - €26 million
- ▶ Increase Stamp Duty on commercial property to 10% while retaining reliefs for farmers - €376m

## ADDITIONAL REVENUE RAISING MEASURES UN-COSTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

- ▶ End the three-year Capital Gains Tax exemption for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)
- ▶ Remove the exemption on stamp duty for transfer of IREF shares

# CURRENT EXPENDITURE

## AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND MARINE - €57.9M

- ▶ Additional funding for disadvantaged farmers in Areas of Natural Constraint - €25m
- ▶ Increase investment in National Reserve Fund - €10m
- ▶ Create a land drainage scheme for farmers with poor land - €6m
- ▶ Invest in extra places for GLAS - €9m
- ▶ Open grant scheme to encourage small farmers to move to organic and less carbon-intensive farming - €4m
- ▶ Create an equine microchipping database - €1.9m
- ▶ Introduce afforestation grant scheme for farmers - €2m

**BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE & INNOVATION - €88.9M**

- ▶ 50% funding increase for InterTrade Ireland - €4.58m
- ▶ Establish a new Irish Enterprise Agency to assist domestic SMEs - €10m
- ▶ Increase number of apprenticeships places by 5,000 - €35.8m
- ▶ Subscribe to CERN Associate Membership - €1.25m
- ▶ Create a Workers' Cooperative Development Unit - €2.25m
- ▶ Provide the WALK PEER employment support service model in all 26 counties in the south of Ireland - €5 million
- ▶ Increase funding to Enterprise Ireland by 10% - €28m
- ▶ Increase funding to Science Foundation Ireland - €2m

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFFAIRS - €97.9M**

- ▶ Commence a 5 year transformational programme of childcare reform that ensures childcare workers are properly paid and childcare fees are slashed by two thirds for parents - €28m first year (full year €85m)
- ▶ Restore and extend the Schools Completion Programme - €8m
- ▶ Recruit an additional 150 social workers - €10.278m
- ▶ Recruit an additional 50 administrative support staff for social workers - €2.074m
- ▶ Create an Office of the Digital Safety Commissioner - €2.747m
- ▶ Hire 40 additional aftercare workers - €1.872m
- ▶ Invest in voluntary youth organisations and youth work services - €10m
- ▶ Establish a network of child contact centres - €5.874m
- ▶ Introduce a further three weeks of paid parental leave to be taken by either parent after the 26 weeks of maternity leave have concluded - €29m

**COMMUNICATIONS, CLIMATE ACTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT - €58.2M**

- ▶ Commence roll out of bin charge waivers to those in greatest need, including people in receipt of medical incontinence supplies - €10m
- ▶ Increase funding to the Warmer Homes Scheme by 10% - €4m
- ▶ Launch a scheme of universal home insulation, beginning with 17,000 homes in 2020 - €21.42m
- ▶ Increase funding for solar thermal grants under the Better Energy scheme - €2.25m
- ▶ Provide grants to 5,000 households equal to 50% of the cost of a domestic Solar PV system - €7.5m
- ▶ Increase funding to TG4 - €2m
- ▶ Commence a study into waste and pollution in Dublin Bay - €1m
- ▶ Assist communities in moving away from fossil fuel producing jobs - €10m

**CULTURE, ARTS AND HERITAGE - €27M**

- ▶ Introduce a living wage employment scheme for artists administered through local authorities - €4m
- ▶ Increase funding to cultural institutions - €4m
- ▶ Launch a pilot for cultural promotion scheme 'Cultur Punt' - €1m
- ▶ Increase funding to Culture Ireland - €1m
- ▶ Invest further in the Arts Council of Ireland - €5m
- ▶ Roll out a package of investment in Irish language in line with Conradh na Gaeilge's identified priorities including additional current and capital support for Údarás na Gaeltachta - €12m

**DEFENCE - €14M**

- ▶ Introduce a pay and allowance package for Defence Forces (including increasing Security and Subsistence allowance by 50%, restoring premium rates for Saturday and Sunday, and implementing the arbitration decision regarding the Army Ranger allowance) - €10m
- ▶ Establish a screening programme for soldiers who were prescribed Larium - €0.75m
- ▶ Reinstate the Air Corp retention scheme - €0.6m
- ▶ Increase funding to civil and reserve Defence Forces - €2m
- ▶ Increase funding to the Irish Red Cross Society - €0.3m
- ▶ Increase funding to the Irish Veterans' Association - €0.3m

**DISABILITY - €181.7M**

- ▶ Invest in an additional 1.5 million Personal Assistance hours - €36.75m
- ▶ Recruit an additional 600 therapist posts (including clinical psychologists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists and occupational therapists) - €33.83m
- ▶ Clear the Home Support Services waiting lists entirely - €59m
- ▶ Reinstate the Rehabilitative Training Allowance - €3.7m
- ▶ Increase housing adaptation grants by 25% - €14.25m
- ▶ Reform the wage subsidy scheme for citizens with disabilities in line with the All-Party Oireachtas Disability Group recommendations - €7m
- ▶ Provide funding for the implementation of the Assisted Decision-Making Act - €9m
- ▶ Create an additional neuro rehab team - €5.18m
- ▶ Increase respite care services - €13m
- ▶ Increases to Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension, Blind Pension, Carers Allowance and Benefit and Carer Support Grant – costed in Social Protection

**DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADDICTION - €12.4M**

- ▶ Increase funding Local Drug and Alcohol Task Forces by 10% - €1.908m
- ▶ Increase funding for Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces by 10% - €0.88m
- ▶ Provide additional funding for the Garda National Drugs Unit - €2m
- ▶ Invest in additional medical detoxification and rehabilitation beds - €2.5m
- ▶ Roll out a high-level and relevant drug awareness programme - €0.1m
- ▶ Provide additional funding for the National Drug Strategy - €5m

**EDUCATION - €203M**

- ▶ Abolish the Student Contribution Charge, starting with a €500 reduction in 2020 - €11.8m in first year (€39.3m full year cost)
- ▶ Abolish apprenticeship and PLC fees - €9m
- ▶ Introduce a Back to School bonus of €140 for all recipients of child benefit to help cope with back to school costs over two years - €84m in 2020 (full cost €168m)
- ▶ Provide a 50% funding increase for the Book Rental Scheme - €2.83m first year (€8.5m full year cost)
- ▶ Restore grants for student teacher attendance at mandatory Gaeltacht courses - €2m
- ▶ Invest in school transport provision - €15.9m
- ▶ Provide free school breakfast and lunch for children in DEIS schools - €21m
- ▶ Restore SUSI grant to pre-2011 levels and supply cost of living increases - €14.9m
- ▶ Deliver pay equality for school secretaries - €7m
- ▶ Provide significant core funding increases to institutions of higher education - €12m first year (€36m full year cost)
- ▶ Restore capitation and related grants to primary and post-primary schools to pre-2011 levels - €9.88m
- ▶ Reduce student-teacher ratio to 24:1 in primary schools - €9m first year (€27m full year cost)
- ▶ Recruit an additional 200 resource teachers - €3.22m
- ▶ Recruit an additional 20 educational psychologists - €0.5m first year (€1.5m full year cost)

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS - €11M**

- ▶ Increase funding for Overseas Development Aid - €10m
- ▶ Create a repatriation fund for Irish citizens who have died tragically overseas - €1m

**HEALTH - €737.5M**

- ▶ Provide two free GP visits for everybody without a GP card or medical card - €268.8m
- ▶ Introduce medical cards for all patients suffering from cancer - €40m
- ▶ Open an additional 500 hospital beds - €160.2m
- ▶ Recruit 350 additional nurses - €18.547m
- ▶ Recruit 150 additional midwives - €8.121m
- ▶ Hire 100 directly employed GPs - €12.372m
- ▶ Abolish hospital car parking charges - €22.4m
- ▶ Invest supports for problem gambling - €2m
- ▶ Invest in a comprehensive Women's Health Strategy, including:
  - ▶ A women's health education and awareness campaign - €2m
  - ▶ Increase funding to BreastCheck and CervicalCheck by 10% - €6.4m
  - ▶ CervicalCheck repatriation strategy - €12m
  - ▶ Recruit an additional 50 obstetricians and gynaecologists - €11.27m
  - ▶ Rapid fund the National Maternity Strategy - €12m
- ▶ Provide funding for a Young Men's Health Strategy - €2m
- ▶ Invest in dental care for children - €4.8m
- ▶ Provide funding for the HSE to implement a state-sponsored contraception scheme informed by key stakeholders and clinicians - €16m
- ▶ Provide free sanitary protection targeted towards women and girls on exceptionally low incomes - €10m
- ▶ Deliver pay equalisation for consultants - €40m
- ▶ Expand Newborn Screening Services - €1m
- ▶ Increase the trainee GP intake to 240 per year - €2m
- ▶ Reduce prescription charges by €1 - €47m
- ▶ Lower the Drug Payment Scheme threshold from €124 to €100 - €17.4m
- ▶ Provide an additional three ambulances for each of the four HSE regions and recruit the additional paramedics to staff them - €12.14m
- ▶ Deliver an increase in funding for Healthy Ireland - €5m
- ▶ Guarantee the European Health Insurance Card for citizens in the North - €4m

**MENTAL HEALTH - €52.6M**

- ▶ Universal access to counselling without charge on a GP referral basis - €25.396m
- ▶ Increase investment towards a 24/7 crisis intervention service - €10m
- ▶ Recruit an additional 25 psychologists for institutes of higher education - €2.017m
- ▶ Roll out seven-day week outpatient model of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services - €3.1m
- ▶ Deliver a 10% funding increase to homeless mental health services like ACCESS Dublin - €3.7m
- ▶ Double the funding for site maintenance and upgrading of Approved Mental Health Centres - €6m
- ▶ Establish an Advocacy Service for mental health service users - €0.83m
- ▶ Provision of psychologists for prisons - €1.51m

**HOUSING - €51M**

- ▶ Increase funding for the retrofitting of local authority homes by 50% - €12m
- ▶ Introduce an NCT-style registration system for landlords – no additional cost
- ▶ Provide funding for the creation of a fire safety inspection unit - €0.859m
- ▶ Increase funding towards private rental property inspection - €5m
- ▶ Establish a commission to manage land use - €0.3m
- ▶ Invest in domestic violence housing support services - €2.8m
- ▶ Introduce a redress scheme for homeowners living in Celtic Tiger properties with latent defects - €15m
- ▶ Increase direct funding to homelessness supports - €5m
- ▶ Invest in community empowerment and estate management services - €10m

**JUSTICE - €62.5M**

- ▶ Recruit an additional 800 Gardaí - €19m
- ▶ Recruit an additional 350 Garda civilian staff - €11.812m
- ▶ Provide a 5% funding increase for the Courts Service - €7m
- ▶ Deliver a 5% funding increase to the Prison Service - €17.5m
- ▶ Invest in further resources for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions - €2.5m
- ▶ Provide funding for ten additional Garda youth diversion projects - €1.38m
- ▶ Substantially increase state funding to the Rape Crisis Network - €0.24m
- ▶ Provide funding for domestic homicide reviews - €1m
- ▶ Establish a Garda Insurance Fraud Unit - €1m
- ▶ Establish an Equality Budgeting Advisory Body - €1m
- ▶ Provide funding to create a public online workplace awareness campaign on domestic violence - €0.1m

**PUBLIC SECTOR PAY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE - €91.6M**

- ▶ Deliver pay equality for post-2011 public sector workers in 2020 - €58m
- ▶ Introduce a living wage for all public sector and civil service workers – €3.8m
- ▶ Deliver pay restoration for Section 39 workers over three years - €20m
- ▶ Roll out new procurement strategy for public bodies based on social justice and environmental sustainability - €2m
- ▶ Cut excessive pay and allowances of TDs and Ministers to increase Councillors' pay - €7.8m

**TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND SPORT - €110.3M**

- ▶ Increase funding to Tourism Ireland by 5% - €2.631m
- ▶ Increase funding to Fáilte Ireland by 10% - €10.1m
- ▶ Increase investment in Sports and Recreation services by 10% - €6.4m
- ▶ Expand rural transport options by increasing funding to Local Link by almost 50% - €10m
- ▶ Increase funding to the PSO to improve public transport provision - €50m
- ▶ Introduce free fares for 5-18 year olds on public transport - €31.2m
- ▶ Reduce threshold for tax relief for donating to local sports organisations – cost negligible

**SAVINGS - €57.2M IN REVENUE SAVED**

- ▶ Withdraw all public subsidies to private schools over a period of three years - €10m
- ▶ Encourage employers to hire citizens from the long-term unemployed register, resulting in savings in social welfare payments - €5.2m
- ▶ Move full cost of regulating financial sector from state to industry - €42m

**SOCIAL PROTECTION - €527.2M**

- ▶ Establish a Social Welfare Adequacy Commission to advise government on payment rates - €0.48m
- ▶ Increase all social welfare weekly payment rates by €5 and the disability payment rates by €9 - €304.905m in 2020 (full year €406.5m)
- ▶ Restore full equality Jobseekers aged under 26 over a period of two years - €30m
- ▶ Make Child Benefit Payable to 18-year-olds in secondary school - €65m
- ▶ Increase the Carer's Support Grant to €2000 - €40m
- ▶ Increase the cut-off age of the Jobseekers Transitional payment to 18 - €9.63m
- ▶ Extend the fuel allowance scheme by two weeks - €16.8m
- ▶ Increase the Qualified Child Increase payment for the over 12s by €5 - €30.1m

- ▶ Reduce the Working Family Payment hours threshold to lone parents from 19 to 15 hours - €10m
- ▶ Raise the cut-off age of the One Parent Family Payment scheme to 14 years - €19.8
- ▶ Provide funding to begin the establishment of a child maintenance service - €0.5m

## WORKERS' RIGHTS

- ▶ Increase funding to the Workplace Relations Commission - €1m

# CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

## SINN FÉIN'S PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME - €1.072BN

In Sinn Féin's Alternative Budget 2020 we are making a clear and unwavering commitment to transforming the broken housing model imposed on the Irish people by Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil.

Due to decades of disastrous housing policies, made in the interests of landlords and millionaire investors, Ireland's housing system is a mess. As a result, the housing needs of the Irish people are as diverse as they are urgent. Over 10,000 citizens have been forced into homelessness as a result of government policy, rents are at an all-time high, and an entire generation of young families have been locked out of affordable accommodation or homeownership.

Sinn Féin's housing strategy is therefore focused on delivering a mass programme of construction of public housing to meet social and affordable need led by local authorities. In our Alternative Budget 2020, Sinn Féin are pledging to deliver 8,700 more public housing units than government at an additional capital cost of €1.072bn, broken down as such:

- ▶ 1,000 additional new build social homes costing €232m
- ▶ 1,000 additional Buy and Renew homes costing €193m
- ▶ 1,000 additional homes acquired by local authorities costing €193m
- ▶ 4,000 additional affordable sale homes costing €160m (offset by €100m repurposed from the Serviced Site Fund)
- ▶ 1,700 additional affordable rental homes costing €394m
- ▶ Additional Capital Funding for Domestic Violence refuges – €9 million

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFFAIRS - €10M

- ▶ Increase capital funding available to cope with increased childcare demands - €10m

## CULTURE, ARTS AND HERITAGE - €13M

- ▶ Funding increase for heritage including the development of Moore Street as a cultural quarter including a Cultúrlann - €5m
- ▶ Provide additional funding for artists' spaces - €5m
- ▶ Increase funding to Screen Ireland - €2m
- ▶ Increase funding to the Heritage Council - €1m

## DISABILITY - €20M

- ▶ Commence a 5 year programme of investment in public transport to make it accessible for citizens with disabilities - €20 million in 2020

## EDUCATION - €20M

- ▶ Provide additional capital funding for the construction, maintenance and upgrading of school building - €20m

## HEALTH - €30M

- ▶ Increase capital funding by €30m above the National Development Plan to assist with increasing capacity in the health service

## TRANSPORT - €99M

- ▶ Re-open and invest in the Large-Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund - €10m
- ▶ Invest in improved cycling infrastructure across the state - €10m
- ▶ Roll out significant increase in investment in public transport - €50m
- ▶ Provide a 20% increase in the Sports Capital Programme - €9m
- ▶ Deliver increased funding for local and rural roads - €20m