



A RADICAL BUDGET

FOR AN AFFORDABLE IRELAND

TAX THE MULTI- MILLIONAIRES

Time for radical change

We are living in extraordinary times, where the fifth consecutive annual budget surplus is about to be recorded, where **11 billionaires are wealthier than 3,500,000 Irish people combined**, where poverty and homelessness is widespread, and where huge numbers of working-class people struggle with the cost-of-living increases.

Over the past five years, **prices of goods and services have increased by 22%**. For many households this has not been matched by equivalent or greater increase in wages. As the costs of living increase, many more families must choose between eating or heating. Over the past six months more than **four in ten parents said that they skipped meals** or reduced their portion size so that their children had enough to eat. **The Government now wants to add to the pressures on families** and increase fares for public transport by an average of 15%, but 30% in some cases.

The housing crisis deepens with many finding it **impossible to gain access to affordable housing**. While homelessness grows we have the scandal of widespread dereliction.

Public services are not fit for purpose and working people struggle to gain access to health care. Education is costly **when it should be free** and childcare costs amount to another mortgage for many households. **Those with additional needs are locked out of basic services**, waiting for essential assessments and therapies and even school places. 40% of disabled people live on or below the poverty line.

We are also faced with existential **climate, biodiversity and environmental crises** that are destroying the conditions necessary for our survival. The government refuses to take the anti-capitalist measures to reduce emissions and reduce energy and transport costs for households.

Budget 2026 Was a Disaster

The Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael government, backed by the Lowry independents, has done very little to help the people deal with increases in the costs of living despite the availability of billions in a budget surplus.

Indeed Budget 2026 made the situation **much worse** for many households.

The removal of cost of living supports lead to income losses across all income groups with the biggest cuts for the poorest 10%.

Poverty rates **increased** and it was estimated that **disabled people lost out by €1400**. Student fees were increased by €500.

At the same time **large tax cuts were delivered for developers and fast food chains**. The freeze on income tax bands and credits **raised average tax rates for workers from 22.5% in 2025 to 23.1% in 2026**.



**THE REMOVAL OF
COST OF LIVING
SUPPORTS
IN BUDGET 2026
LEAD TO INCOME
LOSSES ACROSS ALL
INCOME GROUPS
WITH THE BIGGEST
CUTS FOR THE
POOREST 10%.**

This cannot happen again. The resources of society must be used to help those struggling with the cost of living. Rather than cut taxes for developers, hotels and restaurants there are radical measures that can be taken to **extend the tax base** and secure more sustainable additional revenues **from the corporate sector and the very wealthy**. The government persistently refuses to use these resources tax the rich and wealthy to provide a **decent living** to the majority of the population.

We will **reverse the cuts to VAT** introduced last year.

Trump's War

Since Budget 2026 the situation for many has got considerably worse, particularly as **energy prices have risen due to Trump's war**. While this underlines the need to move away from a dependence on fossil fuels, it also means that urgent help is needed for households struggling with energy costs and the resultant rising food costs. **We will fund permanent increases in pensions, benefits and the Living Wage to boost incomes**, lift people out of poverty and provide greater resources to households with children.

We provide for a **10% increase in public sector pay and double index tax credits** and allowances. While workers and families struggle, large energy users, particularly **data centres, are offered cut-price** electricity. We are very clear that priorities have to change. We would **levy data centres to provide all households with a €500 energy credit**. We would **cap the price of food and energy** while driving the transition to a **fossil free future** by providing free public transport and investing in renewables and energy saving measures in homes.

The Capitalist system is failing

We want to move away from the current **capitalist model** of prioritising multinational corporations and wealthy investors **to an ecosocialist society** where our economy is **democratically owned and planned** to ensure quality public services, infrastructure, and a good life for all.

We would use additional funding from taxing the very wealthy in our society to invest in **multi-annual capital expenditure projects** in **housing, renewable energy transformation, retrofitting, public transport, healthcare, and education** infrastructure projects.

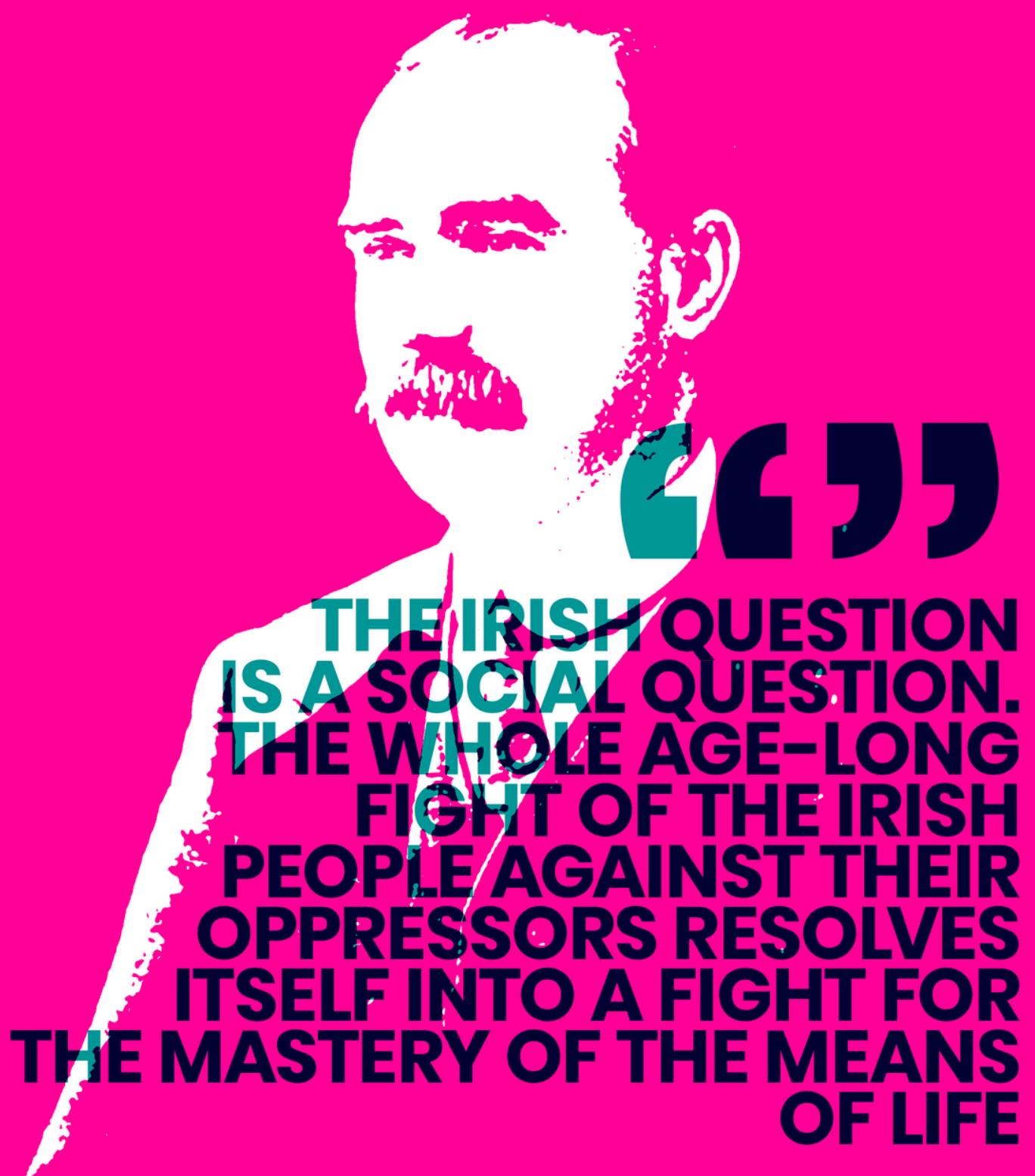
We would establish a **State-Construction Company**, by repurposing the Land Development Authority, to build necessary housing: we need an emergency programme led by a State Construction Company to build and renovate many thousands of social and affordable houses. We would nationalise the energy system to provide low cost, renewable energy to all.

People Before Profit is summarising our Budget here to highlight our key proposals:

1. To provide a **living income for all** and transfer wealth from the millionaires.
2. To make **energy and food costs truly affordable** and accessible for all.
3. To chart a plan to **end the housing crisis** once and for all, address the scandal of dereliction and **support renters**.
4. To **make public services free** and accessible to all.
5. To **build robust services** to provide **a fair and equal future for all**.
6. To accelerate and guide **a just transition** to protect our environment and reverse the biodiversity crisis.

Our budget identifies the many sources of wealth in our society. **We identify almost €67 billion in additional resources** that could be raised and added to the over €9 billion predicted government surplus. We propose additional expenditure of almost €61 billion.

We have enough resources to create a better, **Ecosocialist society**, where high quality, energy-efficient and affordable housing is available to all, **where poverty is abolished**, where **wealth is redistributed back to the workers and carers who create it**, and where **free high-quality public services are accessible to all**. What's missing is the political will to make this happen.



“

**THE IRISH QUESTION
IS A SOCIAL QUESTION.
THE WHOLE AGE-LONG
FIGHT OF THE IRISH
PEOPLE AGAINST THEIR
OPPRESSORS RESOLVES
ITSELF INTO A FIGHT FOR
THE MASTERY OF THE MEANS
OF LIFE**

2. Tax the Multi-Millionaires. Give people a Living Income.

Our Budget contains key measures to **boost incomes** at a cost of €15.9 billion:



- **Abolish the USC** for workers earning less than €100,000 costing €3.5 billion
- A **Living Wage** of at least **€17 an hour** for all.
- **Double index tax credits** and allowances costing €1.55 billion
- **10% increase in public sector pay** costing €3.1 billion

Social Protection

- **End poverty rates for Pensions and Social Protection** Payments: Raise them to €350 per week costing €3.7 billion
- **End poverty rates of Disability related payments:** Raise them to €350 per week with an additional **€55 Cost of Disability payment** costing €1.76 billion
- **Abolish the means test for carers** allowance and increase it to **€350** costing €1,57 billion
- **Increase Child Benefit by 20%** costing €458 million
- **Increase the Child Support Payment by €12** for under 12s and €30 for over 12s costing €282 million

Our Budget contains 5 Key measures to Tax Wealth and Profits of Large Companies and raise over €53 billion:

- Introduce a **Millionaires' Tax on wealth** to raise at least €9 billion.
- Introduce **four new tax bands** on top earners to raise €4.7 billion
- **Higher PRSI rates for employers** to raise over €6.3 billion.
- **Raise Corporation Tax to 20%** for large corporations and **close tax avoidance loopholes** to raise €25 billion.
- A **Financial Transaction Tax** to raise €6.3 billion

We will also **reverse VAT cuts** for the hospitality sector introduced last year at a cost of €681 million, introduce **a windfall tax on energy companies** to raise €1.6 billion and **a tax on commercial aviation** which will raise €1.1 billion and allow us to **abolish the Carbon Tax**.

2.Radical Action to Control Energy and Food Costs

Energy and food prices continue to rise without any real action from the government. **People Before Profit supports price controls** and has introduced legislation to control the price of food, electricity, gas and fuel. **We want to fully nationalise the energy sector.** To do this, a not-for-profit national energy company will provide every household with electricity and gas at a price equal to the cost of supply. We believe that our non-profit model will undercut the rest of the private market and eventually lead to a fully nationalised energy model with a dual focus on cutting costs and reducing our emissions.

In our budget:

- **We protect people from rising energy costs by providing an energy credit of €500 in 2027 for every household funded by an energy levy on data centres.** We also provide an additional €500 to those in receipt of disability related and carer's payments. The cost of €1.25 billion will be covered by introducing an electricity consumption levy on data centres of 20 cent per kwh, to equalise their electricity unit costs with those paid by households
- We would also introduce price control to **control the price of electricity, gas home heating oil and abolish Standing Charges.** Further, we would control the price of petrol and diesel. Our proposal are as follows:
 - Abolish Standing Charges for electricity and gas at a cost of €826 million in 2027;
 - Impose a price cap of 25 cents per unit (kWh) on electricity and a price cap of 8 cents per unit (kWh) on gas at a cost of €2.65 billion in 2027;
 - Impose a price cap of €1.75 per litre for petrol and diesel and a price cap of €1 per litre for home heating oil and green diesel at a cost of €816 million in 2027.
- Increase Fuel Allowance by €20, extend eligibility criteria and extend the payment period to 32 weeks costing €1.4 billion

In order to reduce energy use **reduce dependence on fossil fuels** we would:

- Establish **a Climate Action Service** using direct labour to carry out **free retrofits** for an extra 30,000 low BER high energy poverty households costing €1.7 billion.
- Start the **rollout of rooftop solar panels by local authorities for all social tenants** in the state at a cost of €570 million
- Introduce a minimum B2 BER for the Private Rented Sector

A Radical Proposal on Food

Action is also required to **curb profiteering by food retailers**. We will cap essential food prices. More directly, we believe it's time for the state to **intervene in providing the essentials of life** that people need to survive. **People Before Profit would establish a pilot Public Food Security Service** with **five publicly owned grocers** and a public food distribution hub. Food would be sold at cost or below, with fair prices guaranteed to small producers.

Every product would be **sold at cost or below, targeting prices at least 20% below comparable supermarket prices** across the entire range – reversing most of the food price inflation seen since 2020. Public funding would cover running costs and any further subsidy needed to deliver discounted prices.

The five shops would offer an affordable weekly shop, including fruit and vegetables, bread, dairy, eggs, meat, fish and other household essentials. It would not include the breadth of products available in major supermarkets. The stores would be open to everyone, with no means test, **starting in communities worst affected by food poverty**. The pilot would create upwards of 160 unionised jobs across the shops, hub and wider operations, with pay above the Living Wage.

Farmers face rising costs and have little bargaining power against supermarket giants and big processors. **The Public Food Hub would buy directly from small family farms and independent producers**, distributing their food to the pilot shops. Long-term contracts, guaranteed fair prices and prompt payment would give producers greater certainty. A €1.8 million annual producer-price reserve would top up payments where needed to make production more viable. **Only small producers and cooperatives they control would qualify**. Large processors would be excluded.

The aim over time would be to expand the service, learning from the experience of the first five shops and distribution hub. The distribution hub could supply cheaper, quality ingredients for hospital and workplace canteens, high-quality hot school meals, meals-on-wheels services and cooperatives. **Expanding public purchasing would give small producers a larger, more dependable market** and help build a more resilient food system.

The initial cost of this would be €43 million including €23 million for establishment and working capital and €20 million in annual support. **This would be funded by a levy on large grocery chains which could raise €64 million** in 2027 providing a buffer to expand the scheme.



**PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT
WOULD ESTABLISH A
PILOT PUBLIC
FOOD SECURITY SERVICE
WITH FIVE
PUBLICLY OWNED GROCERS
AND A PUBLIC FOOD
DISTRIBUTION HUB.
FOOD WOULD BE SOLD AT
COST OR BELOW,
WITH FAIR PRICES
GUARANTEED
TO SMALL PRODUCERS.**



People Before Profit believes **we need an emergency programme led by a State Construction Company** to build many **thousands of social and affordable houses** and address the scandal of dereliction. Our Budget proposals would see a **tripling of spending on social housing**, providing. Our proposal would deliver, in addition to government targets, **over 38,000 additional social and affordable homes** through a combination of new builds, Part V acquisitions and the refurbishment of derelict properties.

We would **reverse rent increases** for social housing tenants, **remove income limits for social housing** and increase support for renters.

We would:

- Build and acquire **24,000 additional social and affordable homes** at a cost of €4.2 billion
- **Renovate vacant and derelict homes**, and convert vacant commercial buildings **to provide 10,000 additional social and affordable homes** at a cost of €1.88 billion
- Deliver 3,000 additional affordable homes under the Starter Homes Programme at a cost of €1.4 billion
- Build **1,400 additional dedicated social housing units for disabled and elderly people** with supports at a cost of €426 million
- Increase the renter's tax credit to €3,300 and introduce a €3,300 affordability grant for HAP tenants at a cost of €578 million

4. Make Public Services Genuinely Free

Public services in Ireland are far from free. Many households are facing significant costs and can be denied access to many services that should be free. Some families go into debt to cover education costs while households with young children are often paying the equivalent of a mortgage to cover childcare. In our budget we propose to:

- **Provide free primary care including GP care;** eliminate all emergency department and hospital parking charges; **reduce the Drug Payment Threshold to €10 per month** and **scrap prescription charges** for medical card holders at a cost of €1 billion
- **Abolish childcare fees** at a cost of €361 million
- **Abolish all back-to-school charges,** voluntary contributions and fees and provide free uniforms at a cost of €423 million
- **Expand the School Transport** Scheme to 100,000 more children and abolish fares at a cost of €190 million
- **Provide free school meals at all levels** costing €286 million
- **Abolish third level fees** costing €289 million
- **Abolish fares on all public transportation** services and publicly contracted commercial services at a cost of €595 million
- **Abolish charges for waste collection** and take the service **back into public ownership** at a cost of €400 million



5. Invest in High Quality Public Services

The resources exist in our society to invest in high quality public services so that they are **accessible for all**. Our key proposals are:

Education, Disability and Additional Needs

- **Clear Assessment of Needs waiting lists** as a matter of urgency; establish a national Case Management System and database; **introduce a National Accessibility Fund** to provide for appropriate facilities in public spaces at a cost of €67 million
- Invest €2 billion additional in disability related services
- **Increase the number of Special Needs Assistants by 3,000**, Special Education Teachers by 1,500 at a cost of €257 million
- **Double capital spending for primary and post-primary schools** to accelerate the school building programme and provide space for additional special classes at a cost of €1.3 billion
- **Double the capitation grant for primary and secondary schools** at a cost of €293 million
- **Reduce the pupil teacher ratio to 15:1** at a cost of €444 million
- Increased **support for DEIS schools** of €144 million

Health

- **Add 1,000 permanent acute beds** with appropriate staffing and an additional 560 level 3 ICU beds at a cost of €3.67 billion
- **Invest in Mental Health Services** to bring spending **in line with Mental Health Reform's recommendation of 7%** of the overall health budget at a cost of €320 million
- **Increased healthcare staffing by filling all 379 sanctioned posts** and adding 2,683 posts across all disciplines at a cost of €261 million

Childcare

- **Establish a National Childcare Service** at a cost of €1.1 billion
- **Extend paid parental leave to provide 12 months' fully paid leave for both parents** at a cost of €602 million

6.Tackle The Climate and Biodiversity Crisis

We also have the resources to invest in a carbon free future. We would

- **Double capital investment** by €1.1 billion **in public transport infrastructure**,
- Buy an additional **500 electric buses** at cost of €297 million
- **Increase investment** by €194 million **in current spending on public transport services** to hire more drivers, increase frequency and introduce new bus routes
- Use billions currently allocated to the Future Ireland Fund to implement the All-Island Rail Review, **build Metro South West**, and **Luas lines in Cork, Limerick, Galway, Finglas and Lucan**
- Introduce a **Heavy Electric Vehicle purchase loan** scheme at a cost of €525 million
- **Invest €5 billion in low-cost public renewable energy** as part of a **democratic plan to nationalise the energy system** and phase out fossil fuels and transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030
- Establish a **Climate Action Service** using direct labour to carry out free retrofits for an extra 30,000 low BER high energy poverty households with a year one additional investment of €1.7 billion
- **Install solar in social housing** at a cost of €570 million
- Introduce a **Dairy Herd Reduction scheme** and an additional **€20,000 Farming for Biodiversity Payments** for small farmers at a cost of €2 billion
- Massively **expand the Native Tree Area Scheme** at a cost of €11 million

Appendix: The People Before Profit Budget in Figures

Current Budgetary Position	€ million
Annual Progress Report 2026: Fiscal Position – National Treasury Management Agency	9,200
PBP Budget Estimates	€ million
Revenue	
Millionaires' Tax on net wealth above €3 million	9,000
Reduce Agricultural Relief and Business Relief from 90% to 50% in Capital Acquisition Tax assessment ²	178
Four new tax bands on top earners	4,690
Establish employer PRSI rate of 19.75% on salaries over €90,000 per year	4,600
Increase employer PRSI rate to 13.05% on salaries below €90,000 per year	1,700
Raise Corporation Tax to 20% for large corporations and close loopholes	25,000
4% levy on the profits of pharmaceutical companies and private health companies	1,840
50% corporate tax on profits of energy companies	1,620
10% levy on the profits of large grocery and fast-food retailers	64
Reverse the reduction in VAT to food, catering and hospitality sectors	681
Tax on vacant homes	480
Tax on vacant land zoned for residential development	196
Net revenue from the Non-Principal Private Residence Tax and abolishing the LPT	523
Increase commercial stamp duty to 10%	190
Increase Capital Gains Tax from 33 to 40%	651
A 2.25% tax social media and largest ICT companies	1,160
Retrospective 12.5% tax on 20% of profits from Intellectual Property	722
Financial Transaction Tax	6,530

² Additional revenue from changes in reliefs from the Revenue Ready Reckoner – Pre Budget 2027, and proportion allocation for business property above €5 million and agricultural property above €2 million from Parliamentary Question [63693/26]

Taxing the worst polluters	514
Additional levy on electricity consumed by data centres	1,500
Reduction in Pension Relief Threshold	149
Abolish the Special Assignment Relief Programme (SARP)	56
Total Additional Revenue	66,823

Expenditure	€ million
Build and acquire 24,000 additional properties for social housing, above Delivering Homes, Building Communities target (36,000 social housing units in total)	4,200
Deliver 3,000 additional affordable homes under the Starter Homes Programme	1,400
Build 1,400 additional dedicated social housing units for disabled and elderly people with supports	426
Invest in Capital Assistance Scheme to provide appropriate housing supports for people with disabilities	150
Increase the renter's tax credit to €3,300	409
HAP uplift of €3,300	179
100% redress for defective block and mica-affected homes	500
Traveller Housing Agency	10
Increase funding for homeless accommodation by €100 million to €663 million	100
To address fire safety, damp and other structural defects for Celtic Tiger-era apartments and new builds plus retrospective costs	325

Increase funding for the Rental Accommodation Inspection Fund	10
Increase the funding for the social housing maintenance programme so it is not limited to the rental income	200
Increase the funding to Cuan and the Capital Assistance Scheme to ensure a further 250 additional emergency accommodation units for people fleeing gender-based violence.	140
Acquire and renovate additional 10,000 derelict and long-term vacant properties	1,883
Increase social protection payments to €350 per week (excluding disability related payments)	3,730
Increase Carers Allowance to €350.	968
Increase Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension and Blind Pension to €350 per week	1,217
Introduce an initial Cost of Disability Payment of €55 per week	669
Reduce the State Pension age to 65	550
Increase Child Benefit by 20% and extend payment to all children aged 18 years or under	458
Increase Child Support Payment by €12 for under 12s & €30 for over 12s	282
Abolish the means test for Carers' Allowance	600
Increase public sector pay by 10% for all those earning below €100,000	3,100
Double index tax credits and bands by 6%	1,548
Abolish USC for earners under €100,000 and introduce a Higher Income Social Charge of 10% on income over €100,000	3,500

€500 energy credit to each private household funded by an energy levy on data centres	1,000
€500 electricity credit for households with a person(s) in receipt of Illness Benefit, Disability Allowance, Invalidity Pension or carer's payments	250
Abolish Standing Charges for electricity and gas	828
Impose a price cap of 25 cents per unit (kWh) on electricity and a price cap of 8 cents per unit (kWh) on gas	2,650
Impose a price cap of €1.75 per litre for petrol and diesel and a price cap of €1 per litre for home heating oil and green diesel	816
Extend eligibility for the Fuel Allowance to all pensioners and to all in receipt of the Working Family Payment, extend the payment period to 32 weeks and increase the allowance by €20 per week	1,400
Abolish the waiting period of a year for Fuel Allowance for those on Job Seekers Allowance	10.4
Extend eligibility for the fuel allowance to all people with disabilities at an increased rate by €20 per week, and extend the payment period to 52 weeks	410
Extend Child Benefit to 6,925 children under the age of 18 in the international protection process	12
Refundable Tax Credit	1,100
Non-Profit Public Grocery Service	43
Abolish residential waste collection charges and take the service back into public ownership	400
Clear Assessment of Need waiting list, including assessments overdue for completion	67
Invest additional €2 billion in 2027 in disability-related services.	2,000

Funding for 2 million additional hours of Home Care support (€60 million), and mileage payment for all carers required to travel (€30 million)	96
Fill all 379 sanctioned whole-time equivalent medical posts	51
2,683 additional physicians across all disciplines	210
1,000 additional acute beds with appropriate staffing and €1.5 billion in capital expenditure	1,094
580 additional level 3 ICU beds with running costs	1,680
44 additional CT, MRI and PET scanners ³ ; plus, €105 million replacement costs of outdated radiology and ultrasound equipment	158
Bring spending on mental health services and infrastructure to 7% of total health budget	320
LGBTQI+ healthcare	21
Clear autism assessment of needs waiting lists	25
Funding to implement the National Cancer Strategy	20
Funding for dementia care commitments	9
Additional investment in neurology services	3
Eliminate hospital and emergency room charges	24
Eliminate hospital parking charges	18
Reduce drug payment threshold to €10 per month	223
Additional cost of providing free contraception for those aged over 35	80
Scrap prescription charges for medical card holders	69
Address pay disparity of Section 39 and Section 38 workers	70
Free primary care including GP care	672
Abolish childcare fees	361
Free preschool meals for all children in the ECCE scheme	35
Additional 10% increase in minimum pay for childcare workers	85

³ Estimated based on Parliamentary Question [6080/26]

Additional funding for Equal Start	50
Establish a fully funded National Childcare Service for all children aged 1 to 5	1,100
Extend paid Parent's Leave and amalgamate it with Maternity and Paternity Leave to 12 months' paid leave in the first two years of child's life	602
Additional funding for 1,000 more teachers	60
Double the capitation grant for primary and post-primary schools	293
Reduce pupil-teacher ratios to 15:1 in primary and post-primary schools in the free education system	444
Increase the number of Special Needs Assistants by 3,000	135
Increase the number of Special Education Teachers by 1,500	123
Rollout of DEIS plus supports to all DEIS Band 1 Urban schools and urban DEIS post primary schools	144
Double capital spending to build and renovate schools	1,300
Increase threefold the ICT grant funding to schools	105
Close the funding gap identified in 2022 and maintain the existing level of funding	360
Abolish the student contribution charge, including fees paid by non-EU students	289
Abolish fees for all postgraduate and mature repeating students	100
Fund to ensure all PhD researchers receive a stipend of at least €30,000 per year	330
Double maintenance grants and reduce adjacent rate to 24 kilometres	94
Increase mental health supports on campuses to ensure one counsellor per 1,000 students	20
Provide 30,000 extra affordable student beds by 2029 (€300 million in first year)	300

Increased funding for investment in the Gaeltacht and promotion of the Irish language	58
Transform RTE and public media	640
Funding for sports and recreation services	200
Additional funding for arts and culture	420
Basic Income for the Arts	109
Funding Local Authorities	800
Other investments in public services	41
Invest €5 billion in developing renewable energy of which €4 billion from the Future Ireland Fund	1,000
Additional investment in retrofitting for low BER and high energy poverty households for retrofitting	1,700
Install solar in social housing	570
Abolish fares on all public transportation services and publicly contracted commercial services	595
500 Electric Buses, drivers and support staff	427
Abolish M50 tolls	175
Expand the School Transport Scheme to an additional 100,000 children and abolish fares	190
Additional investment in the Safe Routes to School Scheme	54
Doubling capital investment in public transport infrastructure, including purchase of 500 additional electric buses	1,100
Expand cycle to work scheme	38
Municipal e-bike schemes	69
Abolish parking charges at Park and Ride facilities and invest in additional Park and Ride facilities	25

50% increase in investment in active travel	182
Loan scheme for heavy duty vehicles	525
Dairy Herd Reduction scheme	1,030
New €20,000 Farming for Biodiversity Payment for 50,000 small farmers	1,000
Double funding for the National Parks and Wildlife Service	133
Funding for Native Tree Scheme	11
Increase funding for Marine Protected Areas	7
Peatland rewetting	132
Total Additional Expenditure	60,842

