

## Budget 2021

### What is a Budget?

#### **BUDGET**



Each October, the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform announce the Government's spending, tax and borrowing plans for the next year.

This is called the budget.

The budget gives details on what the Government will spend money on in 2021 and what taxes it will collect.

### Where does the money come from?

Every time we are paid wages or pay for goods or services, we pay tax to the Government. All taxes and other revenues the Government receives are paid into one main fund called the "Exchequer". The Government uses the money in the Exchequer to pay for social welfare payments, our health service, our schools etc.

### How is the money spent?

Money raised by the Government is spent on delivering goods and services.

The Government have set aside €88 billion to spend in 2021. Of this, about €78 billion will be used to provide key public services and €10 billion will be used on long-term projects such as new roads, new public transport, broadband etc.



### How will Budget 2021 affect me?



Below you will see how the budget might affect you and some of the changes that the budget has brought in.

## Social Welfare

- The maximum amount for disability allowance and illness benefit stays the same and will not change at €203 per week.
- Fuel Allowance will increase from €24.50 to €28 per week in January 2021.
- The Living Alone Allowance will increase from €14 to €19 per week in January 2021.
- The Carer's Support Grant has increased by €150 to €1,850.
- You will get a one-week Christmas bonus on your regular welfare payment.
- Grants of up to €500 will be paid for hearing aids without requiring it to be matched by the customer.
- Hearing Aid repairs of up to €100 will no longer require matching funding.



## Employment



- Job Seekers Allowance will stay the same at €203 per week.
- If you receive Disability Allowance and have a job, the amount you can earn before it affects your welfare will increase by €20 per week to €140 in June 2021.
- €10 million will be provided to help people get back to work with specific focus on youth unemployment

## Training and Education

- A new €1,000 Training Grant to help people with disabilities who are seeking employment will be introduced. The Government has not released the details on how this will work yet.



## Disability Services



- The Government has promised €100 million to be spent on improving disability services like Day Services, Respite Services, De-Congregation, and Personal Assistant hours.
- The Government has set aside funding to provide an extra 5 million home care hours.