

Budgetary package for 2020 of €2.9 billion

Housing

- €2.5 billion to the Housing Programme in 2020.
- A further €20 million for homeless services bringing total funding to €166 mil in 2020
- Capital funding of over €1.1 billion to support the delivery of 11,000 new social homes in 2020. A further 12,000 units will be delivered in 2021.
- An additional €80 million for HAP
- €17.5 million is being provided to the Land Development Agency and €186 million is being allocated for the Serviced Site Fund and Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund in 2020.
- €130 million in Urban Regeneration and Development funding
- €2 million in additional funding to the Residential Tenancies Board
- Extending Help to Buy to the end of 2021
- Living City initiative extended to end 2022

Education

- 150 new teaching posts in schools and over 400 additional teaching posts to support special educational needs
- €1.9 billion will allow for the hiring of over 1,000 additional Special Needs Assistants

Children and Families

- Increased allocation of €29 million, to just over €814 for Túsla
- Funding for early learning and childcare will increase by €54 million
- €100 increase in Home Carer Credit
- Extension of reduced rate of USC for medical card holders

Agriculture and Rural Development

Government will invest nearly €2 billion in rural Ireland in 2020.

- €51 million for the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- €17 million for the Department of Rural and Community Development.
- €3 million in order to pilot new agri-environmental schemes in 2020.

Health

Current expenditure in Health is set to increase by 6.3 per cent to €17.4 billion in 2020

- €25 million in the National Treatment Purchase Fund
- Free GP care to under 8s
- Monthly threshold for the Drug Payment Scheme is being reduced by €10 and I am increasing medical card income thresholds by €50 for a single person or €150 for a couple.
- Phased provision of free dental care for children under 6
- 1 million additional home care hours will be provided in 2020.
- New Sláintecare Integration Fund of €20 million and €12 million Care Redesign Fund.
- 50c increase in excise on cigarettes

Justice

- increasing the budget of An Garda Síochána by €81 million
- up to 700 new Gardaí
- €39 million to fund direct provision and increased activity in courts and agencies, including new Judicial Council



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Budget 2020

Prepared by the
Department of Finance
and the Department of Public
Expenditure and Reform
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As we prepare for Brexit, our economy is in a strong position

- The headline deficit has been eliminated – a surplus of 0.2% of GDP is expected in 2019
- Economic growth of 5.5% forecast for 2019, falling to 0.7% in 2020 assuming a disorderly Brexit
- Unemployment has fallen to 5.3% from the peak of 16% in 2012
- Tax revenues are largely in line with forecasts for this year – we expect to collect €58.6 billion

Support for enterprises

- Reforms to the Key Employment Engagement Programme (KEEP) – now applies to a broader range of company group structures, part-time and family-friendly work will now also qualify
- Reforms to the Employment and Investment Incentive (EII) – full income tax relief in the year when the investment is made, annual limit increased to €250,000 for those investing 4 years or more and to €500,000 for those investing 10 years or more
- Research and development tax credit enhanced for micro and small companies and for 3rd level outsourcing
- Special Assignee Relief Programme (SARP) and Foreign Earning Deduction (FED) extended until end 2022
- €150 increase in the Earned Income Credit for the self-employed

Preparing for Brexit - Package of €1.2 billion

€600 million has already been made available through the Future Growth and Brexit Loan schemes.

Deal or No Deal, €200 million will be available next year for staffing and infrastructure needs

In the event of a No Deal, €650 million in contingency funding will be made available to support affected sectors. €220 million will be released immediately:

- €110 million to help vulnerable but viable firms adjust
- €110 million through the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine:
 - €85 million for beef farmers;
 - €14 million for fisheries;
 - €6 million for other livestock farmers and mushrooms sector; and
 - €5 million for the food and drinks processing industry.

In addition, €40 million will be available to support Tourism

The deployment of the balance of €390 million of the Brexit contingency expenditure will be determined closer to the time.

€365 million will also be provided for the Live Register and Labour Activation Schemes, with a further €45 million to help the transition to new employment

Climate Change

The Climate Action Plan will be supported by National Development Plan investment of €8.1 billion and a further €13.7 billion of investment by our State companies.

- Increase in carbon tax from €20 to €26 per tonne – auto fuels increase on Budget day, other fuels delayed until May 2020
- This will raise €90 million which will be ring fenced for new climate action measures
- Diesel rebate scheme for hauliers
- 1% diesel surcharge replaced with Nitrogen oxide emissions-based charge
- Extension of BIK zero rate on electric vehicles and VRT reliefs for hybrids
- Equalising electricity tax rates for business and non-business.
- €9 million for greenways and urban cycling projects
- €8m to maintain grants for purchasing electric cars and €3 million for electric vehicle infrastructure.

Targeted package for the Midlands:

- €20 million for an energy efficiency scheme targeted, initially, at social housing
- €5 million for peatland rehabilitation.

