

BUDGET 2020

GALWAY EAST October 2019

- **SUPPORT FOR CARERS**
- **SOCIAL WELFARE INCREASES**
- **HEALTH**
- **EDUCATION**
- **HOUSING INCENTIVES AND SUPPORT**
- **BROADBAND**
- **AGRICULTURE**
- **RURAL DEVELOPMENT**
- **CLIMATE ACTION**
- **BREXIT READY**

*Minister for Rural Affairs,
Natural Resources
and Digital Development*



INDEPENDENT

**SEÁN
CANNEY TD**

Broadband and Digital

- National Broadband Plan allocation of €119 million in 2020
- €8 million for Digital Skills Initiative for 25,000 citizens and SME upskilling scheme

Agriculture

- €85 million for beef farmers for No Deal Brexit
- €20 million for suckler farmers
- €12.1 million for Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS)

Gardaí

- More than 700 additional Gardaí to be recruited in 2020

Rural and Community Development

- Budget increased by €17 million from €291 million to €308 million in 2020 to support priority areas
- €10 million increase from €30 million to €40 million in LEADER funding, which supports rural economic growth
- €3 million package of targeted supports for the community and voluntary sector
- €1 million additional investment in libraries

Climate Action

- Increase of €6 a tonne on carbon tax. All proceeds to be ring-fenced for Climate Action
- Allocation to promote an increase in electric vehicles to be doubled from €18 million to €36 million
- Warmer Homes for cheaper Energy Bills. In 2020, a total of €146m (an additional €29m) will be to upgrade 24,000 homes and businesses, A new Retrofitting model will deliver upgrades to large groups of houses at the same time to drive down cost.

Self-Employed

- Increase in the Earned Income Credit for the self-employed from €1,350 to €1,500

Brexit

- €1.2 billion contingency for No Deal
- €650 million for agriculture, enterprise and tourism

CLINICS

If you have any urgent issues please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Constituency Office.

The details are below.



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BUDGET OVERVIEW

- A €1 billion No Deal package to protect Ireland from the worst of No Deal
- Protecting the environment with cleaner air, warmer homes and sustainable businesses
- Balanced regional development with investment in schools, hospitals, houses, primary care centres, buses, and roads
- Making life a little bit easier for families

HELPING THE MOST VULNERABLE

Carers

- One million additional home support hours funded
- Carers' work and study threshold to increase from 15 hours a week to 18.5
- Home Carer Tax Credit to increase from €1,500 to €1,600

Social Welfare

- Living Alone Allowance increased by €5 benefitting 200,000 people
- €2 increase in the Fuel Allowance
- Qualified child allowance for weekly social welfare payments increased (€2 for under 12, €3 for 12 and over)
- Supplementary Welfare Allowance to increase for 25-years-olds - personal rate increases from €157.80 to €201 and for person with qualified adult from €292.50 to €335.70
- Jobseekers Allowance for 25-year-olds – personal rate increases from €157.80 to €203 and for person with qualified adult €292.50 to €337.70
- One-Parent Family Payment to increase by €2 for personal rate with one qualified child under 7

Health

- Free GP care extended to under 8s from September
- Free dental care for under 6s from September
- Drug Payment Scheme monthly threshold cut to by €10 to €114
- Prescription charges cut by 50c
- Medical Card Income Limits for over 70s increase from €500/€900 to €550/€1050 per week, which brings in an additional 56,000 people

Education

- Over 1,600 additional posts in schools, including more than 1,000 SNAs and 400 Special Needs Teachers
- Additional €4 million schools package including capitation grants, supports for small schools and additional funding for school books in primary schools
- A reduction in the staffing schedule of 1 point in small primary schools with less than 4 teachers to make it easier for small schools to qualify for additional teachers
- Additional €26 million for school transport
- Schools Capitation Grant per child to increase 2.5%, 7.5% for Special Needs Schools
- Increase in school secretaries' allocation depending on school student numbers

Housing

- Help to Buy Scheme for first time buyers to be extended to the end of 2021
- €1.5 billion allocated to build, acquire and lease additional social housing units
- An additional 15,750 households to be accommodated under the Housing Assistance Payment

WORKING HARD FOR GALWAY EAST