

Focusing on fairness

- All weekly social welfare payments to increase by €5 per week including the State pension, carer's allowance, disability allowance and jobseeker's benefit and allowance from end March
- Christmas Bonus payment of 100% for all Social Welfare Recipients in 2018
- Increase in Qualified Child Payment
- National minimum wage increased to €9.80
- 2 extra weeks paid parental leave from November 2019
- Additional allocation of €127 million for the Department of Children and Youth Affairs
- Including increase of €30 million in funding for Túsla
- Funding for early learning and childcare to increase by €90 million to €574 million
- Changes in thresholds for the Affordable Childcare Scheme: base income threshold from €22,700 to €26,000; maximum income threshold from €47,500 to €60,000; and increasing the multiple child deduction from €3,800 to €4,300
- Increase of €110 million to Overseas Development Aid
- Phased increase of pay rates for 'New Entrants' to the Public Service from March 2019

Improving citizens' lives

- Allocation of €10.8 billion to the Department of Education and Skills, an increase of 6.7% on 2018
- 1,300 additional posts in schools and an increase of 5% to the capitation rate per pupil
- Investment of €1.8 billion to support children with special needs, with the recruitment of 950 additional Special Needs Assistants
- Increase in the National Training Fund levy by 0.1%
- Funding of an additional 3,500 undergraduate places in 2019
- An allocation of €196 million for capital across the Education sector. Including building, equipment and ICT infrastructure
- Increase in the Garda Síochána budget of €60 million including the recruitment of up to 800 Gardaí
- Capital allocation of €220 million in 2019 for the construction of the Forensic Science Lab, Garda ICT and vehicles and work on Limerick prison
- €29 million will be provided for Defence investment projects for 2019
- Commitment of €126 million across a range of sporting and cultural initiatives

A steady economy delivering good quality jobs and lasting prosperity

- Ireland's economy continues to grow strongly in 2018
- Economic growth of 4.2% forecast for 2019
- Unemployment is now at its lowest level in a decade, with over 380,000 more people at work since the low point in 2011
- Deficit at 0.1% of GDP in 2018 and we will balance our books in 2019, the first time since 2007

Tax adjustments for working families and businesses

- Entry point for the higher rate of income tax rises from €34,550 to €35,300
- 4.75% USC rate reduced to 4.5%, to further benefit low and middle level income earners
- These measures reduce the top marginal rate of tax on income up to €70,000 to 48.5%
- The Earned Income Tax Credit, for the self-employed increased by further €200 to €1,350
- An increase of €300 to the Home Carer Credit to €1,500 per year
- VAT increase in the tourism sector to 13.5%

Housing

- Allocation of €2.3 billion (an increase of €500 million on 2018)
- Funding to meet social housing needs of 26,760 additional households. Including delivery of 10,000 new social homes in 2019 through construction, acquisition and leasing
- An additional €30 million for homeless services and €60 million in capital funding for emergency accommodation
- Increasing the Serviced Site Fund to €310 million including local authority co-financing to support more affordable housing over 3 years
- The interest deduction for residential landlords will be restored to 100% from 1 January 2019

Getting Ireland Brexit ready

- Launch of up to €300 million Future Growth Loan Scheme for SMEs and the Agriculture and Food sector
- Allocation of at least €110 million across Government Departments including €25 million in essential customs requirements
- Funding towards the €500 million Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund
- €66 million of the Department of Agriculture's budget allocated to Brexit related supports
- Targeted changes to KEEP scheme to help SMEs attract and retain key staff

Investing now for the future

- Additional €1.4 billion for capital investment
- Including €65 million for Rail projects and a further €3.6 million to improve accessibility and improve capacity
- €53 million to fund projects under the Rural Regeneration Fund
- €103.5 million for grant improvements in forestry
- Extension of VRT relief for hybrid vehicles
- €70 million for Targeted Agriculture Modernisation Scheme (TAMS)
- Additional €70 million for the Environment and Waste Management Programme

Health

- €17 billion allocation to Health, a new record high in 2019
- Including an additional €84 million for Mental Health Services and €150 million for disability services
- Including an additional €20 million for the National Treatment Purchase Fund
- Reduction in prescription charges and monthly Drug Payment Scheme threshold
- Excise duty increase on tobacco products