

Budget 2022

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 covers all the Government's spending and taxes.

Where does the money come from?

Taxes and other revenues the Government receives are paid into one main fund called the "Exchequer".

How is the money spent?

Money raised by the Government is spent on delivering important public services, paying for social welfare, and building things like roads, public transport, hospitals, housing etc.



How will Budget 2022 affect me?



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

Some of these changes will happen straight away but other changes will happen later.

If you have any questions, please contact your local Regional Advocacy Officer (details below) or e-mail advocacy@rehab.ie

Details:

East: Michelle Joyce, 087-9580113 michelle.joyce@rehabcare.ie

North West: Claire Gibson, 086-2251419 claire.gibson@rehabcare.ie

South: Joanne Nelligan, 087-7393023 joanne.nelligan@nln.ie

Main Budget changes for 2022

Social Welfare

- There will be a (max) €5 increase per week on disability allowance, jobseekers allowance, and other social welfare payments from January.
- The means test for the Disability Allowance will change from June next year. This will mean that some people with paid jobs, who still receive some Disability Allowance, will be able to qualify for a slightly higher Disability Allowance than before. The changes will also allow more people to qualify for Disability Allowance while in employment.
- Living Alone Allowance will increase from €19 to €22 per week from January.
- Fuel Allowance was increased from €28 per week to €33 per week. The Government has also made it slightly easier in the means test to qualify for the fuel allowance.
- A 100% Christmas bonus will be paid this year to all of those who qualify.
- The Government also made it slightly easier for people aged 25-29 years of age to qualify for Treatment Benefit. Treatment Benefit covers some dental, optical and hearing aid costs.



Health

- The drug payment scheme threshold will be lowered from €114 per month to €100 per month. This means those people who qualify for the scheme will pay no more than €100 each month on any approved medicines.
- There were no changes announced to prescription charges.
- Money has been set aside to give more access to dental care for those on medical cards. (no further details on exactly how this will work has been announced yet)



Employment

- The Wage Subsidy Scheme for People with Disabilities has been improved. This should help more employers employ people with disabilities.
- Three grants will now be available through EmployAbility as well as Intreo services in 2022, these are:
 - (i) **Job Interview Interpreter Grant** (a grant for deaf or hard of hearing, or for those with a speech impediment to have the help of an interpreter in a job interview)
 - (ii) **Workplace Equipment Adaptation Grant** (a grant towards the cost of changes to make a workplace more accessible for a person with a disability)
 - (iii) **Personal Reader Grant** (a grant for those who are blind or have a visual impairment to have someone help them with reading in work)





Transport

- A new Youth Travel Card will come out next year. This card will give a 50% discount on fares (including city, intercity and rural services) for 19–23 year-olds. This is expected to be introduced next Summer.

Disability Services

- €105 million extra funding for disability services next year. This includes €3.75m to fund 120,000 extra personal assistance hours and 30,000 extra home support hours.
- €37 million for mental health services. This includes some funding for out-of-hours services through crisis cafés and crisis resolution services



Housing

- €5 million extra for housing adaptation grants. Details on how this is to be spent have not yet been published.
- The Government say they will provide 12,000 extra social housing next year.

Education

- €5m has been set aside to improve access for people, including people with disabilities, to third level education. Further details on this will be announced by the Minister at a later date.

