



LG 04/2019

5 July 2019

### **Domestic subsistence rates for elected members of local authorities**

Dear Chief Executive,

I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Electoral Reform to inform you that the standard rates of domestic subsistence allowance have been revised. This follows an agreed recommendation made by the General Council under the scheme of conciliation and arbitration for the Civil Service. The revised rates have now been approved by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform with effect from 1 July 2019 and apply to elected members of local authorities from this same date.

The revised subsistence rates affect two expenses allowances that are payable to elected members of local authorities –

1. subsistence expenses allowance; and
2. annual expenses allowance payable towards the cost of attending meetings.

#### 1. Subsistence expenses allowance

The daily subsistence 3 hour rate for elected members is increased from €14.01 to €15.41 and the 7 hour rate from €33.61 to €36.97. There is no change to the overnight rate.

Overnight rate	Day Rates	
	Absence of 7 hours or more	Absence of 3 hours or more but less than 7 hours
€147.00	€36.97	€15.41

A Vouched Accommodation ("VA") rate continues to apply towards sourcing suitable accommodation in Dublin within the standard rate. In such cases, a Vouched Accommodation Rate consisting of the vouched costs of accommodation up to a limit of the standard overnight rate plus the 7 hour rate (€147.00 plus €36.97).

## 2. Annual Expenses Allowance

The 7 hour rate is used as the basis for calculating the subsistence element of the Annual Expenses Allowance that is payable to members to offset costs incurred in attending council meetings. As such this is also increased to €36.97 with effect from 1 July 2019. This former rate of €33.61 continues to apply in respect of attendances at meetings that took place earlier this year (from 1 January to 30 June 2019).

The directions issued by the Minister under article 17 of the *Local Government (Expenses of Local Authority Members) Regulations 2014-2017* have been updated to reflect the increases to the subsistence rates. Some other minor updates have also been made, including to the section dealing with the maximum amount of allowance payable to cathaoirliog of municipal districts to reflect changes to the names of some municipal districts following the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee Reports. A copy of the updated directions is enclosed with this circular (Appendix I).

This circular should be brought to the attention of all elected members in your local authority as well as relevant employees who process travel and subsistence claims.

Enquiries concerning travel and subsistence for elected members may be addressed to Grant Couper ([grant.couper@housing.gov.ie](mailto:grant.couper@housing.gov.ie)) or Gary McGuinn ([gary.mcguinn@housing.gov.ie](mailto:gary.mcguinn@housing.gov.ie)).

Yours sincerely



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For the attention of: chief executives and elected members

Cc: AILG, LAMA