

Lead topic: Travel and Subsistence Review	Sub-topic: Travel & Sub expenses	Contact: Nicholas Meehan Ext: 5445
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The Haddington Road Agreement provides that the Government intends to review the travel and subsistence arrangements in the civil and wider public service.

The Parties to Haddington Road agreed to co-operate with the review.

The T&S rates have already been reduced by 25% in March 2009. It was estimated that these cuts would save about €45m.

The initial engagement will be in the civil service and depending on how this progresses the review will move to the wider public service.

As discussions with the unions are at an early stage it is too early to estimate the savings that may be made.

From my point of view the purpose of the review is to implement a modernised and standardised travel and subsistence regime in order to ensure it is both efficient and fit for purpose.

Question: What does the Government intend to save from the Review of T&S?

Answer: It is too early to estimate the savings that will be made. However, from the official point of view we want to see changes to the distance requirement for the payment of an overnight allowance, which is currently just under 49 kilometres, we are no longer convinced that the payment of a 5 hour day is warranted in its current format and finally we feel the mileage rates have not kept up with improved infrastructure or better car technology.