

Lead topic: Public Service Pay and Industrial Relations

Sub-topic: Chief Whip's Allowance; Ministers of State who attend meetings of Government

Contact:
Tom Clarke

Q&As

Chief Whip's Allowance

Q: What is DPER's view on the payment of an allowance to the former Chief Whip to the Government?

A: The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform is aware of recent media comment in relation to the payment of allowances to the former Chief Whip to the Government and is examining the issues raised in this regard.

Allowance for Ministers of State who attend meetings of the Government

Q: What is DPER's view on the payment of certain allowances to those Ministers of State who attend meetings of the Government?

A: Section 3A of the Oireachtas (Allowances to Members) and Ministerial, Parliamentary, Judicial and Court Offices (Amendment) Act 1998 [*inserted by section 40 of the Ministerial, Parliamentary and Judicial Offices and Oireachtas Members (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2001*] makes provision for payment of an allowance to no more than 2 Ministers of State who attend Cabinet meetings: -

"3A.—(1) The Government may, by order—

(a) provide for the payment of an annual allowance to not more than 2 specified holders of the office of Minister of State who regularly attend meetings of the Government, and

(b) determine the rate of the allowance, and the date or dates on and from which the allowance is payable.

(2) An order under this section may, if so expressed, have retrospective effect."

There are currently 4 such Ministers of State and in order to provide for payment of the allowance to all it would be necessary to amend the above provision.