

Housing - Regeneration - Women's Health - Public Transport



Senator Mary
Fitzpatrick

Senator in **Dublin Central**. Spokesperson
on Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



Winter Update

FIANNA FÁIL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

THANK YOU to everyone who helped us all survive the pandemic

As a public representative I have worked throughout the pandemic supporting individual constituents, workers, employers, and voluntary organisations. Special thanks to ALL who worked in our health service, Covid test, vaccine and tracing centres, All frontline workers, retailers, public transport

workers, taxi drivers, delivery workers, Gardaí, Fire Service, GAA and good neighbours. Together we are beating the virus and we will re-emerge stronger and better.

In this leaflet I provide you with information on my continued work championing Dublin Central for significant Government investment in Housing, Education, Public Transport, Health, regeneration of our public buildings and public spaces and the recent Budget 2022. I look forward to your feedback

Public transport



New environmentally friendly bus

Mary is working with community groups, residents, and property owners to ensure the best possible public transport solutions are provided in Dublin Central as part of the MetroLink, Bus Connects and Dart West projects, without compromising public amenities.

Mary worked with and on behalf of Taxi drivers to secure adequate support from government to sustain this vital public transport service through the pandemic.

Mary welcomed Governments approved of funding to enable the continued development of the Royal Canal Greenway from Newcomen Bridge to Broombridge and from Broadstone to Crossguns Bridge.

Mary is working with the Minister for Health to increase universal access to healthcare based on medical need and to champion women's health.

Free GP care is extended to 6- and 7-year olds, medical card has been extended expanding dental treatment, drugs payments and hospital charges reduced. €31million for Women's Health to end period poverty, provide free contraception, support women suffering menopause and endometriosis has been secured in Budget 2022.

In Dublin Central more than €30 million was approved in additional capital allocation in 2021 for Health facilities including for the Rotunda, Mater, Temple Street, Grangegorman, St Mary's and Adelphi House. All funds will be used to upgrade health facilities to improve medical outcomes and patient safety.

Health



With the Minister for Health at Mater Hospital

Housing

During the pandemic the importance of having a home, a secure place to stay safe was essential for us all. In Government, Fianna Fáil has used the past twelve months to radically change the states approach to the provision of Housing from the failed market-led approach of the previous Government to a state-led approach. As Fianna Fáil Spokesperson for Housing, I work with the Minister for Housing to make the changes needed to have the state lead the provision of housing, as a basic human right to ensure everyone has a secure and affordable home.



Dorset Street social housing



Dominick Street regeneration

Dublin Central Housing

26 state led Social Housing Developments under construction or planning in Dublin Central to deliver more than 1,500 social homes including: Dominick Street, North King Street, Aughrim Street, Arbour Hill, O'Devaney Gardens, Dorset Street, St.Finbars, Bannow Road, Ratoath Road, Stanley Street and more.



Dublin Central regeneration

Mary's continued championing of regeneration of the North Inner City was rewarded with the approval from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage of €121million in Urban Regeneration Development Funding for the North Inner City.

The funding provided to Dublin City Council will achieve long-term sustainable regeneration of the Fruit and Vegetable Market, Moore Street 1916 Commemorative Centre, Street Market, the Parnell Square City Library, Rutland Street, Dalymount, Royal Canal and Phibsborough.

State investment in regeneration of the North Inner City is long overdue. Finally, this significant capital investment from Government will deliver a lasting and sustainable regeneration for generations to come.

12 Changes in 12 months

1. €20 billion multi-annual, radical, ambitious, state led housing plan
2. Biggest Housing Budget in history of the State
3. Use **PUBLIC LAND** for **PUBLIC HOUSING**
4. Introduce **AFFORDABLE COST RENTAL HOMES**
5. Legislate for Local Authorities to build **AFFORDABLE HOMES**
6. **DOUBLE** Social and Affordable Housing on every **PRIVATE** site
7. **PROTECT** 50% of all new housing developments for **OWNER OCCUPIERS**
8. 20% **INTEREST FREE** Home loan for 5 years
9. **HELP TO BUY** tax rebate for **MORTGAGE DEPOSIT** up to €30,000
10. **CAPPED RENT** increases
11. **CAPPED** up-front **RENT** payments to 2 months
12. **BANNED CO-LIVING & END SHDS**

Budget 2022 Highlights

Health



€45million to increase access and affordability

- Free GP care for children aged 6/7
- Reducing cost of medicines
- Reducing hospital charges for children on a phased basis
- Expanding free dental care

€30 million in new funding for health services for our older people

- Expanding dementia services
- Introducing enhanced Community and Home Supports
- Investing in Falls/Fractures liaison services
- Community Beds

€55 million in new funding for disability services

- Rolling out 'Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People'
- Funding services for 1,700 school leavers in 2022
- More Personal Assistance hours
- Tackling Waiting Lists in therapies
- Addressing decongregation for people with disabilities in nursing homes
- Increasing respite houses

€16 million in new funding for drug strategy, social inclusion and Healthy Ireland

- Healthy Weight Campaign
- More STI tests
- Drug and alcohol addiction services
- Expand Housing First programme
- Addressing health services for vulnerable young people
- Health promotion campaigns



Breast Cancer awareness

Public services



- **Additional** 800 gardaí and 400 civilian staff to be recruited
- **20%** increase in the Garda Mountain Bike Unit
- **Funding** for the establishment of the Gambling Regulatory Authority
- **€100 million** to be made available for disability services
- **€2 million** fund for community safety projects
- **€30 million** for protection and renewal of roads
- **Over €1.4 billion** to further develop public transport networks
- **€5.2 million** increased funding for victims including vulnerable witnesses and to combat domestic, sexual and gender based violence

Young people



- Introduced a Youth Travel Card that will give young people aged 19-23 a 50% discount on public transport services.
- Additional funding of **€5m** for Youth organisations which will allow those organisations support young people across the country.
- **€73 million** to implement the new targeted youth funding scheme, UBU Your Place, Your Space, and provide for additional new services in 2022.
- **€10 million** towards the Intervention Programme for Children and Young People which funds a number of specific measures to support children and disadvantaged young people..

Income



- **€520 million** in Income tax reductions that will see higher rate taxpayers save **€415** per annum.
- Increase in ceiling of the second Universal Social Charge rate band from €20,687 to **€21,295**
- Increase in national minimum wage by 30c to **€10.50** per hour
- New income tax deduction of up to 30% for vouched electricity, heat, broadband for those working from home
- Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme will remain in place, in a graduated format, until 30 April, 2022 - the scheme will close to new employers from 1 January, 2022

For more information on any information in this leaflet go to www.maryfitzpatrick.ie or contact Mary by email or phone: mary.fitzpatrick@oireachtas.ie / 085 8382427.

Working with Cllr. Eimer McCormack in Cabra-Glasnevin

Budget 2022 Highlights

Education



- Average teacher pupil ratio in primary schools to be reduced from 25 to 24 pupils due to hiring **350 extra teachers**
- **980 additional** special education teachers and **1,165 additional** Special Needs Assistants
- **€50 million** in ICT grants for primary and post primary schools
- Funding for 200 school building projects
- **€30 million** for the school transport scheme
- **€18 million** to expand DEIS programme and €4 million to extend hot schools meals to more DEIS primary schools
- Maintenance grant for Third Level students will be increased by **€200**, qualifying income thresholds expanded by **€1,000** and qualifying distance reduced from 45km to **30km**
- **€200** contribution fee for post-Leaving Certificate courses abolished
- Creation of **20,000** new further education and training places
- **7,600** places in Further Education and Training courses in key skills areas of the economy
- Off-the-job training places for 7,000 craft apprentices impacted by COVID-19
- **€34 million** for apprenticeships which will include off-the-job training places for 7,000 apprentices impacted by Covid and a new Employer Grant for apprentices

Childcare



- **Maternity benefit** and parental leave payments to be increased by **€5** per week
- Parent's Benefit extended by 2 weeks to 7 weeks from July next year
- **Back to School** Clothing and Footwear Allowance increased by **€10**
- Children up to the age of 15 will be included in the universal payment under the National Childcare Scheme (NCS). It provides **50c per hour** towards the cost of a Tusla-registered childcare place for a maximum of 45 hours per week
- Hours spent in pre-school or school will no longer be deducted from the entitlement to NCS subsidised hours
- New funding stream for up to **4,700** early years and childcare providers will be put in place from September 2022 to support improvements in the quality of childcare provision



Climate Action



- **€202 million** from carbon tax revenue for residential and community retrofit schemes (over 22,000 home energy upgrades in total).
- More than half of the funding will be for free upgrades for low-income households at risk of energy poverty.
- **€5,000** relief for Battery Electric Vehicles extended to end 2023
- Change to VRT
- Accelerated Capital
- **€98 million** will support the transition to a Circular Economy and to protect natural resources.

Social welfare increases



- **€260** increase per year in main welfare payments
- **€5** increase in the State pension
- Weekly fuel allowance rises by **€5** from
- Thousands more carers will be in line to receive Carer's Allowance with a single person allowed to earn **€350** and a couple **€750** per week and still qualify for the payment
- An increase of **€156 per annum** in the Living Alone Allowance
- Double payment of welfare allowances at Christmas agreed - the Christmas Bonus
- Increase for Qualified Children of **€104** for children under 12 and **€156** per annum for children aged over 12.



Senator Mary Fitzpatrick

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