

Senator Mary Fitzpatrick

SENATOR IN DUBLIN CENTRAL. SPOKESPERSON ON HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT & HERITAGE.



Dear Constituent,

I hope you are keeping well. Since I was appointed to the Seanad three years ago by Tánaiste Micheál Martin, I have worked to help solve the housing crisis and champion our community in the Oireachtas. In this newsletter, are updates on new homes in Dublin Central, supports for home buyers, making our community safer, redevelopment of Dalymount Park, a new Uilleann Piping centre on Henrietta Street and information on what Budget 2024 means for you.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Mary Fitzpatrick

MONTHLY IN-PERSON CLINICS with Cllr Eimer McCormack

3rd Monday of each month at:

- Naomh Fionnbarra GAA Club, Cabra West
- Maples Hotel, Iona Road, Glasnevin

If you would like to make an appointment, please contact me at mary.fitzpatrick@oir.ie or at 085 838 3427.



SAFER COMMUNITIES

We are all entitled to go about our day free from harassment, assault, or intimidation. Following my meetings with An Garda Síochána, policing plans have been put in place to tackle anti-social behaviour. These plans include proactive patrols, pop up Garda clinics for the public to speak in private, report crimes or receive advice and increased Garda visibility and community engagement.

I continue to push for additional Garda resources and welcome Governments funding of 1,000 extra Gardaí in Budget 2024. To support my demands for adequate Garda resources I am asking you to spend two minutes completing my anti-social behaviour survey. Your input is vital and will greatly help inform our policy to tackle anti-social and criminal behaviour.

Scan for Survey



HOUSING



At the opening of 20 new homes with Cllr Eimer McCormack and Sister Stan

For the first time in over decade new homes are being built in Dublin Central. There are currently more than 2,000 new social and affordable homes under development in Dublin Central. Since my last newsletter, individuals and families moved into 20 new homes on Connaught Street, Dublin 7. I have called on Dublin City Council to speed up the delivery of 163 homes at St Marys Place, Dorset Street. Every day more and more homes are being built and Budget 2024 includes more than €5 billion in funding for housing including supports for home buyers.

THE HELP TO BUY SCHEME provides first time buyers with a tax refund of up to €30,000 to use as a deposit on a their new home.



THE FIRST HOME SCHEME is for first time buyers and those making a fresh start. It bridges the gap between mortgage and purchase price with the state providing up to 30% of a new home.



THE LOCAL AUTHORITY HOME LOAN provides borrowers who have been refused a mortgage from a commercial lender with a mortgage up to 90% of their new home.



VACANT PROPERTY REFURBISHMENT GRANTS worth €50,000 and derelict property grants worth €70,000 are available to restore a vacant or derelict property into a home.



SOUND OF IRELAND



With Minister Darragh O'Brien at Na Piobairí Uilleann's HQ on Henrietta Street

I was delighted to help secure €12 million in funding for Na Piobairí Uilleann's new Uilleann Piping Heritage Centre on Henrietta Street, Dublin 1. The Sound of Ireland Centre will include a Visitor Centre, a Theatre and an instrument making training facility. This will provide a platform for artists to showcase their talents, preserve traditional craftsmanship and contribute to urban regeneration in the heart of Dublin City. The centre is due to be completed and opened in 2027.

DALYMOUNT PARK



At Dalymount with Minister for Sport and Cllr Eimer McCormack

Since I was a City Councillor, I have been proud to support the redevelopment of Dalymount park. It is great to finally see Dublin City Council apply for planning permission for the long overdue project. The plans for the stadium's redevelopment include a community facility, a multi-functional community room and a community gym. This project will be a significant boost for Bohs, Phibsborough and Dublin City. Full details of the redevelopment at Dublin City Councils website. The deadline for observations is the 17th of November 2023.

BUDGET 2024 EASING THE COST OF LIVING

WORKING FAMILY,

TWO CHILDREN

COMBINED INCOME OF €105,000



- Extra €1,498 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- €450 Electricity Credits
- Free Junior Cycle school books €300
- Additional child benefit payment of €280 (December 2023)

TOTAL SAVINGS - €2,528 (approx)

SINGLE RENTER

EARNING 40K



- Extra €1,017 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- Rent Credit €750
- Electricity Credits of €450

TOTAL SAVINGS - €2,217 (approx)

LONE PARENT

EARNING €48,000



- Extra €882 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- €450 Electricity Credits
- Free Junior Cycle School Books €300
- Additional child benefit payment of €140 (December 2023)

TOTAL SAVINGS - €1,772 (approx)

PENSIONER

LIVING ALONE



- €12 weekly pension increase - €624
- €200 Living Alone Allowance
- €300 Fuel Allowance payment
- €450 Electricity Credits
- Additional weekly pension payment €265.30 (December 2023)
- Additional weekly pension payment €277.30 (January 2024)

TOTAL SAVINGS - €2,116 (approx)

WORKER (FULL-TIME)

ON MINIMUM WAGE - UNDER 25



- Extra €2,301 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- Rent Credit of €750
- Electricity Credits of €450
- Half-Price public transport fares

TOTAL SAVINGS - €3,501 (approx)

YOUNG WORKING COUPLE

ONE INCOME OF €45,000, ONE MINIMUM WAGE



- Extra €3,318 in net annual income (income tax changes and USC cuts)
- Rent Credit €1,500
- Electricity Credits of €450

TOTAL SAVINGS - €5,268 (approx)

PERSON WITH DISABILITY

LIVING ALONE



- €450 electricity credit
- €400 one-off payment of Disability Allowance
- Weekly increase of €12 - €624
- Fuel allowance one off payment of €300
- Living alone allowance - €200
- Additional weekly payment of €265.30 (December 2023)
- Additional weekly payment of €277.30 (January 2024)

TOTAL SAVINGS - €2,516 (approx)

HOME CARER

CARING FOR ONE CHILD



- €450 electricity credit
- Additional child benefit payment of €140 (December 2023)
- €400 one-off payment of Carers Support Grant
- Weekly increase of €12 - €624
- Fuel allowance one off payment of €300
- Additional weekly payment of €265.30 (December 2023)
- Additional weekly payment of €277.30 (January 2024)

TOTAL SAVINGS - €2,456 (approx)

HIGHER RATE OF INCOME TAX

THRESHOLD RAISED

Budget 2024 will deliver better outcomes for those who need it most. The threshold for paying the higher rate of tax will be raised by **€2,000** to **€42,000**



CUTS TO USC

Fianna Fáil in Government is making cuts to USC. The **4.5% rate** is being **cut** to **4%**. This is the first reduction in USC rates in five years



RENT TAX CREDIT INCREASED

TO €750

In last year's Budget, the Government introduced the Rent Tax Credit. This will now be **increased** from **€500** to **€750** per year



FREE SCHOOL BOOKS

expanded to **Junior Cycle** students, worth over **€300 per child**



MORTGAGE INTEREST RELIEF

Fianna Fáil is conscious of the impact of rising interest rates and mortgage costs on many households. One-year **Mortgage Interest Tax Relief** of up to **€1,250** will be introduced for eligible households



3 X €150 ELECTRICITY CREDITS

Budget 2024 aims to ease the pressure with **3 x €150** electricity credits for all households, to be paid between the end of this year and April of next year



CHILDCARE FEES REDUCED

BY A FURTHER 25%

Following a 25% reduction in last year's budget, childcare fees are being **reduced** by a further **25%** in Budget 2024. Average saving of **€417** per child per month



1,000 NEW GARDAI RECRUITS

Funding has been allocated for recruitment next year of **1,000 Gardai** to build stronger, safer communities



GRANGEGORMAN BRING CENTRE

The Grangegorman Bring Centre is a valued amenity for Dublin 7 and our wider community. I thank Dublin City Council and the Grangegorman Development Agency for responding positively to my representations to save the Grangegorman Bring Centre. I welcome their commitment to maintaining the same level of services currently offered at the site.



RUTLAND STREET NATIONAL SCHOOL



I was delighted to meet with the student council at Rutland Street National School. The students asked some tough questions and showed great dedication to improving facilities and lives in their communities. There is definitely some future leaders here!

CABRA FOR YOUTH



Unveiling Cabra For Youth's Rainbow Award with Minister Roderic O'Gorman

Well done to young people and staff at Cabra For Youth on being the first youth service to win a Belong To Rainbow Award and being recognised as a safe and inclusive space! Thanks to Minister Roderic O'Gorman who joined us at the unveiling of the award.



Attending the pre launch of Inner City Enterprise's new social enterprise hub which will help those who are unemployed, young people and entrepreneurs in the Inner City start and grow their business



Chatting to residents in the North Inner City with Local Area Reps Isabel Oliveria and Anne Marie Connolly



Meeting with Cabra Men's Shed

Senator Mary Fitzpatrick

Seanad Eireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2
01 618 4126 | 085 8383427 | info@maryfitzpatrick.ie

Working with:



Barry Andrews MEP
32 228 45618
barry@barryandrews.ie



Cllr Eimer McCormack
087 399 9265
eimer.mccormack@dublincity.ie

