

Funding Public Transport

- €74m extra on national roads.
- €20m extra for Road Safety and driver test waiting-list reduction measures
- €262m extra on Public Transport Investment Projects

Expenditure: Other Social Spending

- €12.5m extra on Drug Taskforce strengthening
- €78m extra for Justice, Equality & Law Reform (incl. €56m extra for An Garda Síochána)

Climate Change & the Environment

- Rebalancing VRT to take greater account of CO2 emission levels, from July 2008.
- Extension of VRT relief for hybrid/mixed fuel cars to June 2008; up to €2,500 relief from 1 July.
- Electric cars exempt from VRT
- Decrease VAT on bio-fuel seeds from 1 March 2008.

Indirect Taxes

- No increases on petrol, diesel or alcohol.
- Decreased charges on Banking Cards
 - Charge & Credit cards €30 (down €10)
 - ATM & Debit cards €5 (down €5)
 - Combined ATM/Debit €10 (down €10)
- 30 cent increase per pack of 20 cigarettes

Supporting Farmers and Fisheries

- Tax relief on dissolution of farm partnership
- Income Tax liability spread over 6 years for Sugar Beet diversification compensation
- €35m for Farm Waste Management Scheme
- €15m extra for Suckler Welfare Scheme
- €18m for OPW flood relief throughout the country
- €21m for Fishing Fleet Decommissioning and supporting Decommissioning Tax Relief

You can also contact Dick by phone, fax or e-mail at any of the following addresses:

E-mail: dick.roche@oireachtas.ie

Constituency Office, 2 Herbert Terrace, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Tel: 01-286 3211, Fax: 01-286 7666

Department of Foreign Affairs, Iveagh House, 80 St. Stephens' Green, Dublin 2. Tel: 01-408 2605.

DICK www.dickroche.com
ROCHE

RAISING THE ISSUES. GETTING RESULTS. WORKING FOR YOU.

Budget '08

Budget 2008 contains important changes that affect us all. The Budget confirms the Government's commitments to protecting the less well off, rewarding work through a just & equitable tax system and helping first time home buyers and to investing in Ireland's future. The Budget provides:-

- Social welfare increases worth over €980million,
- Income Tax cuts worth €582,
- A major Stamp Duty overhaul,
- Record funding for the National Development Programme
- Improved funding for Health, Education and Housing provided,
- Improved Tax support for small & medium enterprises,
- Improvements in Farm Taxes and additional support for REPS and farm investment in waste management systems.

Above all the Budget meets the challenge that Ireland faces today

Dick Roche



FIANNA FÁIL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

€980m for Social Welfare

- Non-Contributory pension up by €12 to €212 per Week : Contributory pension up by €14 to €223.30
- Carers Allowance, Carers Benefit and Death Benefit Pension up €14 per week
- All other Personal Welfare rates up by €12- Lowest full personal rate now €197.80
- Respite Care Grant up by €200 from June 2008
- Minimum Maternity Benefit and Adoptive Benefit rate increased to €221.80
- Child Benefit up to €166 per child per month (1st& 2nd child) & to €203 per child per month (3rd & subsequent child)
- Early Childcare Supplement up 10%
- Family Income Supplement thresholds up by €10 Per week per child
- FÁS payments increased in line with social welfare

More Money for Education

- €95.2m for Primary School building
- €23.3m extra for grants to schools
- €21m extra for school transport
- €18m extra for Special Education Needs
- €3m for Adult Literacy

Housing

1.7 billion for Housing

- €124m extra for Social Housing
- €27m more for the Rental Accommodation Scheme
- €50m extra Affordable Housing Scheme
- €26m extra for Voluntary & Co-operative Housing

More Support for Home Buyers:

- Mortgage Interest Relief ceiling increased to €10,000/€20,000 for first time buyers.
- Reform of Stamp Duty on homes
 - Up to €125,000 exempt
 - Next €875,000 at 7%
 - Balance at 9%
- Clawback period for Stamp Duty relief is reduced from 5 years to 2 years

Helping Business to Create Jobs

- €40m for Gateway Innovation Fund
- €49m extra for Science &Technology
- Tax break for R&D year until 2013
- VAT Registration & Preliminary Tax Thresholds for Small Businesses improved.
- Film Relief extended until 2012

Extra Money for Health Services

- €110 m for introduction of "Fair Deal" nursing Home support
- €50m extra for Disability sector
- €25 m extra for Elder care
- €29 m extra for Cancer Services

Personal Income Tax

- Personal tax credits up €70 single/€140 married
- PAYE tax credit up by €70
- Home Carer Credit up by €130
- Widening the Standard Rate Band to:
 - €35,400 Single /€44,400 Married one income
 - €70,800 Married Two Incomes
- Minimum wage earners pay no income tax;
- Average wage earners out of top tax rate.
- PRSI contribution ceiling up from €48,800 to €50,700
- Employee PRSI entry point up from €480 to €500 per week

Helping Others

€84m extra on Overseas Development Aid

Making Ireland one of the world's top contributors to the Developing World.