



Depairtment fur

Commonities

From: Gerard Murray

Chief Executive of each District Council Finance Officer of each District Council Other Interested Parties Local Government and Housing
Regulation Division
Finance Branch
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG
Phone: 028 9082 9307
email: @communities-

Our ref: CO1-25-3729

2 April 2025

ni.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

CIRCULAR LG 12/2025 - CONSOLIDATED COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES CIRCULAR (Updated April 2025)

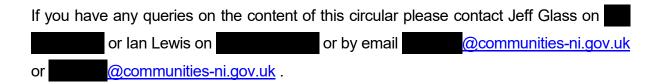
This Local Government Circular provides a consolidated record of all councillor allowances and supersedes Local Government Circular LG 15/2024.

This consolidated circular is required to determine and reflect an increase of 5% in maximum rates for Basic Allowance from 1 April 2025 following the Minister's decision, with Executive agreement, on his consideration of the recommendations in the Report on the recent Review of the Role and Responsibilities of Councillors. You will be aware that the Department is seeking an amendment to the relevant legislation to transfer responsibility for setting the rate of this allowance paid to councillors to the Department. We will keep you informed as this progresses.

All determinations are made by the Department under section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019.







Yours sincerely,

GERARD MURRAY
Director of Local Government and Housing Regulation

1. Basic Allowance

valid from 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

Basic Allowance	
Maximum £17,456 per annum ≠	

≠ (The basic allowance includes an element for incidental and consumable costs incurred by councillors in their official capacity. In 2015/16 this element was £1,000 and each year this amount is uplifted in line with the increase applied to the basic allowance, therefore this element within the basic allowance is £1,229 from 1 April 2024.)

valid from 1 April 2025

Basic Allowance		
Maximum £18,329 per annum ≠		

≠ (The basic allowance includes an element for incidental and consumable costs incurred by councillors in their official capacity. In 2015/16 this element was £1,000 and each year this amount is uplifted in line with the increase applied to the basic allowance, therefore this element within the basic allowance is £1,290 from 1 April 2025.)

2. Dependants' Carers' Allowance

valid from 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

The following table states the maximum rates for dependants' carers' allowance.

Dependants' Carers' Allowance	Hourly Rate	Maximum Monthly Amount
	£	£
Standard	11.44^	595
Specialist	22.88	1,190

^{^(}Based on national living wage)

valid from 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

The following table states the maximum rates for dependants' carers' allowance.

Dependants' Carers' Allowance	Hourly Rate	Maximum Monthly Amount	
	£	£	
Standard	12.21^	635	
Specialist	24.42	1,270	

^{^(}Based on national living wage)

3. Travel Allowances

- valid from 1 April 2017

The following table states the maximum rates for travel allowances.

Type of Vehicle	Rate per Mile Pence	Rate per Mile Above 8,500 miles Pence	Rate per Mile Above 10,000 miles Pence
	1 01100	1 01100	1 01100
A pedal cycle	20.0p	20.0p	20.0p
A motor cycle (all engine capacities)	24.0p	24.0p	24.0p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 450cc but not exceeding 999cc	46.9p	13.7p	13.7p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 999cc but not exceeding 1,199cc	52.2p	14.4p	14.4p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 1,199cc	65.0p	16.4p	16.4p
An electric car	45.0p	45.0p	25.0p
Passenger rate (per passenger)	5.0p	5.0p	5.0p

4. Special Responsibility Allowance

- valid from 1 April 2024

The following table states the maximum rate of Special Responsibility Allowance that a council may pay. The maximum rate is based on the size of the council population. Each council's population figures are updated each year by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and it is the duty of each council to operate within the total maximum rate appropriate to its population band. For ease the maximum any councillor can receive, within each band, is also provided.

Population of council	Maximum Special Responsibility Allowance £	Maximum (1/5 th) for individual councillor £
Less than 120,000	61,459	12,292
120,000 to 199,000	86,043	17,209
200,000 +	132,751	26,550

5. Subsistence Allowances

- valid from 1 April 2015

The following table states the maximum rates for subsistence; however, where councils believe it is necessary there is flexibility for councils to increase these rates by applying a suitable measure of price inflation.

PERIOD/MEAL	British Isles Rates	London Rates
PERIOD/WIEAL	£	£
Accommodation allowance - An absence involving		
an overnight stay, away from the normal place of	400 70	400.45
residence. This rate does not include any meal	100.70	122.45
allowance.		
Breakfast allowance - (more than 4 hours away from		
the normal place of residence or, where approved by	11.50	11.50
the council, a lesser period before 11 am)		
Lunch allowance - (more than 4 hours away from the		
normal place of residence or, where approved by the	40.00	40.50
council, a lesser period including the period between	13.50	13.50
12 noon and 2pm)		
Tea allowance - (more than 4 hours away from the		
normal place of residence or, where approved by the		
council, a lesser period including the period between	4.70	4.70
3pm and 6pm)		
Evening meal allowance - (more than 4 hours away		
from the normal place of residence or, where approved	20.95	20.95
by the council, a lesser period ending after 7pm)		