



Overview of new Security Allowance for Local Authority Members

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An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Revenue



Circular LG05-2023 – Local Government Act 2001 (Section 142) (Security Allowance for Local Authority Members) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 449 of 2023)

- Regulations give effect to introduced a security allowance scheme for local authority elected members following the recent introduction of a similar scheme for Oireachtas members, and notification of a number of security and safety incidents involving local authority members.
- Provide for a security allowance for local authority elected members to be paid, on a once-off basis, a sum not exceeding €2,500 or 50% of their total costs, whichever is the lesser, in final settlement of expenses incurred by the member in improvements made to their personal physical security.
- In 2023 the cost of this allowance should be paid to elected members by their respective local authorities and those costs are to be reimbursed on a once-off basis by the Department at year end. Local authorities should make provision for this allowance in their 2024 and subsequent budgets in the normal way.
- This allowance permits the inclusion of 50% of projected eligible monitoring/maintenance costs for the first 12 months after installation.

Context: - AILG Survey on Threats, harassment and Intimidation of Councillors

- AILG was aware that an increasing number of councillors were being subjected to abuse, threats and public intimidation particularly since 2019
- The AILG partnered with CMG (Crime Management Group) in early 2021 to survey our members in order to obtain a comprehensive picture of the type and format of threats, harassment and intimidation that councillors have and are experiencing.
- 72% of Councillors who responded have been a victim of threats, harassments or intimidation during the past three years
- 71% said that they were not prepared or only moderately prepared for handling the threats, harassment and intimidation they experienced.
- Over a third (35%) did not make any report,
- Over 48% have considered, or are currently considering leaving their role because of threats and harassment
- Follow-up Survey July/August 2023 – Report by end October 2023



Evidence of growing security concerns for elected members ...

Dublin News Dublin Voices Lifestyle Dublin GAA

‘My daughter was roaring crying’, says councillor Vincent Jackson after home targeted by protesters



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THE IRISH TIMES

12°

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Kilkenny councillor Eugene McGuinness says intimidation of politicians putting ‘democracy on the line’

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Gardaí investigating after rock thrown through window of councillor's family home

A note was wrapped around the rock, which warning the councillor to “stop supporting” refugees “or you’ll have to move out”.

“It is clear that, over recent years, there has been a significant increase in the level of abuse, on- and off-line, targeted at politicians, their staff and those working in our democratic institutions.

“There has been a noticeable deterioration in the tone and content of some, increasingly personalised, commentary on political and public affairs, particularly on social media.”

- Ms Helen McEntee, T.D. Minister for Justice





February 2023:

AILG Delegation Meets with
Minister Kieran O'Donnell, T.D.,
to press case for Security
Allowance for our Members at
Local Authority Level



SHUTTERSTOCK Leinster House

TD SECURITY

New €5,000 allowance for TDs and Senators to beef up personal security

The allowance was approved by Cabinet this morning.

April 2023:
Security allowance
announced for
Oireachtas members.

ALLG reiterated need
for a similar allowance
for elected members
of local authorities.



September 2023 :
Minister O'Donnell, guest
at AILG Autumn
Conference, announces
security allowance for
local authority members.

September 2023

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S.I. No. 449/2023 - Local Government Act 2001 (Section 142) (Security Allowance for Local Authority Members) Regulations 2023

S.I. No. 449/2023 - Local Government Act 2001 (Section 142) (Security Allowance for Local Authority Members) Regulations 2023

View SI

Amendments ?

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Notice of the making of this Statutory Instrument was published in

"Iris Oifigiúil" of 15th September, 2023.

I, KIERAN O'DONNELL, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in exercise of the powers conferred on me by [sections 4 and 142](#) (as amended by [section 53](#) of the [Local Government Reform Act 2014](#) (No.1 of 2014)) of the [Local Government Act 2001](#) (No. 37 of 2001) and the Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) Order 2023 ([S.I. No. 116 of 2023](#)) and with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform (pursuant to the Ministers and Secretaries Acts 1924 to 2020) hereby make the following regulations:

Part 1

Chapter 8 - The provision of security assets or services

Part 05-01-01h

This manual should be read in conjunction with [section 118A](#) of the Taxes Consolidated Act 1997

Document last reviewed August 2023

Revenue



“ ... the conditions for this exemption are tightly drawn and it is intended for those whose work exposes them to a very real threat to their physical safety ...”

Circular LG05/2023 – the Main Features of the Allowance:

- **Security measures must be as recommended by a Garda Crime Prevention Officer**
- **Security appliances must be installed by a Private Security Agency registered contractor**
- **Other security measures must be installed by a competent contractor**
- **A one-time only claim for the acquisition of all security precautions**
- **Maximum amount to refundable is 50% of the invoiced cost or €2,500 whichever is the lesser.**
- **Claim has to be submitted as a single claim accompanied by:**
 - **The CPO/Garda report;**
 - **Invoices citing the address at which the work is performed;**
 - **Receipts showing proof of payment by the elected member**

Step 1: Contact your local Garda Crime Prevention Officer

<https://www.garda.ie/en/crime-prevention/who-is-my-local-crime-prevention-officer/>



Garda National Crime Prevention Unit	Inspector Damian Boland, Susan Lawlor, Mark Bolger, Louise Duffy	National Crime Prevention Unit, 6 Ely Place Upper, Dublin 2 D02 TY02	01-6663869
Kerry	Michael Quirke	Tralee Garda Station, New Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry V92 EV79	066-7102300

It is for the member to decide what measures recommended by the CPO to implement; however, the maximum amount payable by the local authority to the member shall not exceed €2,500.

Step 1: Garda Crime Prevention Officer/CPO Report

- ❑ Only measures identified and included in the CPO's report can be considered under the allowance.
- ❑ These may include but are not limited to:
 - Intruder alarms
 - Fixed panic buttons
 - CCTV
 - A GPS tracked Panic Button App, or a GPRS/GSM based mobile personal attack handset.
 - The CPO may also recommend construction, such as raising wall heights or security light installation at various locations.
 - Maintenance costs associated with security measures for a period of not more than 12 months from the date of installation.
 - It is matter for each elected member to decide on the amount of work as identified in the CPO report that they wish to undertake.

Step 2: CPO Recommends Security Measures, consult a registered contractor with the Private Security Authority (PSA)

<https://www.psa.gov.ie/psa-registered-contractors/>

psa.gov.ie/psa-registered-contractors/

Open24 Login

An tÚdarás Slándála Príobháidí

The Private Security Authority

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Licence No.

Contractor Name

Trading Name:

Trading Name

Address:

Address

Country:

Country

County:

Co. Kerry

Licence Categories:

Installer of Security Equipment - CCTV

Clear Filters

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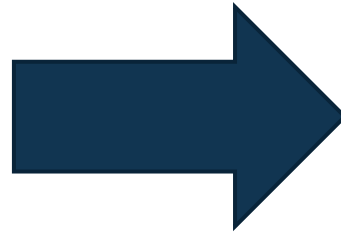
10

entries

Licence No.	Contractor Name	Trading Name	County	Contractor Details
00076	Quirke Security Limited	Quirke Security and t/a O Loughlin Security	Co. Kerry	<div>More Details</div>
00422	Teddy Sugrue	Killarney Fire & Security	Co. Kerry	<div>More Details</div>

COOKIE SETTINGS

Step 3: When all work is completed, present Garda Report, Invoices and Receipts/Proof of Payment to your Council for (Once Off) Reimbursement



The following are not allowable under the Security Allowance:

- ☐ Security measures not identified in the Crime Prevention Officer's Report
- ☐ Security measures not carried out by a PSA-registered contractor
- ☐ Building measures not carried out by a competent contractor
- ☐ Security measures for third parties, including family members, or their homes
- ☐ Claiming Security measures for premises that the elected member is not residing in full time
- ☐ Security measure for homes not listed as the member's registered address
- ☐ Portions of expenses against which a member received tax relief
- ☐ Any method of transport
- ☐ A dwelling and grounds appurtenant to a dwelling (Main).



Go raibh maith agaibh

Thank you