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**Pobal**

Department fur  
**Commonities**

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Chief Executive of each District Council  
Finance Officer of each District Council  
Other Interested Parties

Our ref:CO1-24-496  
09 December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**CIRCULAR LG 15/24 - CONSOLIDATED COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES CIRCULAR  
(Updated December 2024)**

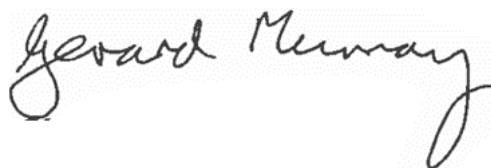
This Local Government Circular provides a consolidated record of all councillor allowances and supersedes Local Government Circular LG 23/23.

This consolidated circular is required to determine and reflect an increase in maximum rates for Basic and Special Responsibility Allowance from 1 April 2024 and an increase in Dependants' Carers' Allowance from 1 April 2025.

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.

If you have any queries on the content of this circular please contact Jeff Glass on 028 9082 3375 or Ian Lewis on 028 9082 3506 or by email [jeff.glass@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:jeff.glass@communities-ni.gov.uk) or [ian.lewis@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:ian.lewis@communities-ni.gov.uk) .

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerard Murray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'G' and 'M'.

**GERARD MURRAY**  
**Director**  
**Local Government and Housing Regulation**

## 1. Basic Allowance

- valid from 1 April 2024

<b>Basic Allowance</b>
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.)

## 2. Dependants' Carers' Allowance

- valid from 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

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

<b>Dependants' Carers' Allowance</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Maximum Monthly Amount</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Standard	11.44 <sup>^</sup>	595
Specialist	22.88	1,190

<sup>^</sup>(Based on national living wage)

- valid from 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

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

<b>Dependants' Carers' Allowance</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Maximum Monthly Amount</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Standard	12.21 <sup>^</sup>	635
Specialist	24.42	1,270

<sup>^</sup>(Based on national living wage)

### 3. Travel Allowances

– valid from 1 April 2017

The following table states the maximum rates for travel allowances.

<b>Type of Vehicle</b>	<b>Rate per Mile Pence</b>	<b>Rate per Mile Above 8,500 miles Pence</b>	<b>Rate per Mile Above 10,000 miles Pence</b>
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.

<b>Population of council</b>	<b>Maximum Special Responsibility Allowance  £</b>	<b>Maximum (1/5<sup>th</sup>) for individual councillor  £</b>
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.

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