

Budget 2018 – Social Welfare Changes

- An increase of €5 to the main social welfare payment rates, which includes One-Parent Family Payment, Jobseeker's Transitional payment and Jobseeker's Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Back to Education Allowance and Maternity and Paternity Benefits. It increases to the rate of €198 a week for the adult and €31.80 per week, per child, from the week beginning 25th March 2018.
- There is a €2 weekly increase for the Qualified Child, from €29.80 to €31.80 a week for each qualified child dependent for all weekly social welfare payments from the week beginning 26th March 2018.
- The earnings disregard has increased by €20 from €110 to €130 a week, which applies to One-Parent Family Payment and Jobseeker's Transitional payment. This will come into effect the week beginning 26th March 2018.
- Fuel Allowance will be paid for an extra week in 2018, at the unchanged rate of €22.50. Therefore, it will be paid for 27 weeks, up from 26 weeks.
- Family Income Supplement has changed name to the **Working Family Payment** and the net income thresholds will increase by €10 a week, also from the week beginning 26th March 2018 for families with up to 3 children:

Family size	2017 rates	2018 rates
1 child	€511	€521
2 children	€612	€622
3 children	€713	€723
4 children	€834	€834
5 children	€960	€960

- The Christmas bonus will be paid in December 2017 to long-term social welfare recipients at a rate of 85% of their payment; this includes those on One-Parent Family Payment, Jobseeker's Transitional payment, Carer's Allowance, Disability Allowance, Widow/Widower's/Surviving Civil Partner's Pensions.
- It will also be paid to those on Back to Work Enterprise Allowance, Community Employment, Rural Social Scheme, Tús, Gateway and Jobs Initiative.