

Local Government Policy Division 1

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Circular LG 05/2015

Dear Sir/Madam

COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES APPLICABLE FROM 1 APRIL 2015

The purpose of this circular is to consolidate all previous councillor allowances circulars. The following determinations are applicable from 1 April 2015 and 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) 2012. With regards to travel and subsistence the rates set follow consultation with the Northern Ireland Joint Council for Local Government Services. Further details on each allowance can be found in the Local Government Circular 04/2015 Councillors' Allowance Guidance.

1. Basic Allowance (as stated in Local Government Circular 09/2014, which will be superseded by this circular from 1 April 2015)

Basic Allowance	Maximum £14,200 per annum
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2. Dependants' Carers' Allowances (as stated in Local Government Circular 40/2014, which will be superseded by this circular from 1 April 2015)

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

Dependants' Carers' Allowance	Hourly Rate	Maximum monthly amount
Standard	£6.50 [^]	£338
Specialist	£13	£676

[^](Based on national minimum wage for age 21+)

3. Travel Allowances (as stated in Local Government Circular 02/10, which will be superseded by this circular from 1 April 2015)

The following table states the maximum rates for travel allowances.

Type of Vehicle	Rate per Mile
A pedal cycle	20.0p
A solo motor cycle of cylinder capacity not exceeding 149cc	11.4p
A solo motor cycle of cylinder capacity exceeding 149cc but not exceeding 499cc	16.5p
A solo motor cycle of cylinder capacity exceeding 499cc or a motor cycle with side car	22.0p
A motor car of cylinder capacity not exceeding 450cc	22.0p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 450cc but not exceeding 999cc	46.9p *13.7p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 999cc but not exceeding 1,199cc	52.2p *14.4p
A motor car of cylinder capacity exceeding 1,199cc	65.0p *16.4p
Passenger rate (per passenger)	5.0p

*For mileage above 8,500 miles

4. Special Responsibility Allowance (as stated in Local Government Circular 09/2014, which will be superseded by this circular from 1 April 2015)

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	50,000	10,000
120,000 to 199,000	70,000	14,000
200,000 +	108,000	21,600

5. Subsistence Allowances (copied from Local Government Circulars 16/2006 & 13/2010, which this circular supersedes)

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	RATES	
	British Isles £	London £
Overnight allowance - 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
Breakfast allowance - (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	
Lunch 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 12 noon and 2pm)	13.50	
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 3pm and 6pm)	4.70	
Evening meal allowance - (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	

If you have any queries on the content of this letter or attached circular please contact Jeff Glass on 028 90823375 or Lizanne Kennedy on 028 90823378 or by e-mail Jeff.Glass@doeni.gov.uk or Lizanne.Kennedy@doeni.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully



LINDA MACHUGH