

**Fairness - Value For Money -
Transparency - Respect**



Introductory Points
2016

1. Social Welfare & Family

- 1.1. A basic income for all should be allowed earned without a holding back due to non-payments.
- 1.2. Restoration of the Bereavement grant
- 1.3. The immediate 'inclusion' of the Self Employed for the same range of benefits as the PAYE.
- 1.4. A single social welfare form to simplify an application for any form of social welfare.
- 1.5. Restoration of the One-Parent payment.
- 1.6. Government and civil service pensions to be “co-ordinated” for people who retire early.
- 1.7. Restoration of the full fuel allowance.
- 1.8. Restoration of the clothing and footwear allowance.
- 1.9. Restoration of the carers’ allowance.
- 1.10. Restoration of the phone allowance for the elderly including internet access.
- 1.11. Restoration of child benefit.
- 1.12. Restoration of the disability mobility allowance.
- 1.13. New legislation on Fathers’ rights in all aspects.
- 1.14. Reform of Childcare credit and costs.

2. Environment

- 2.1. The immediate abolition of “Irish Water” and water charges.
- 2.2. Immediate stop of meter water usage monitoring.
- 2.3. Keep our water in public ownership and have ownership enshrined in the Irish constitution.
- 2.4. Return water management to the local authorities.
- 2.5. Fluoride and other poison taken out of our drinking water.
- 2.6. Return all other natural resources such as oil and gas and minerals including gold to public ownership and enshrine ownership in the Irish constitution.
- 2.7. No property tax.
- 2.8. No fracking in Ireland.
- 2.9. No nuclear power plants in Ireland.
- 2.10. Continue to push for the closure of Sellafield.
- 2.11. A review of windfarms and wind turbines installation and usage including the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of turbines in relation to carbon emissions and the suitability of locations.
- 2.12. Investigation of alternative renewable energy e.g. wave energy.
- 2.13. Investments into renewable technology and zero energy housing.
- 2.14. Greater legislation protection of our green zones against industrial & other expansions.

3. Transport

- 3.1. A properly functioning public transport system including an underground system and extended commuter trains to the major cities in Ireland. Subsidised or free tickets in some cases for students.
- 3.2. Motor tax to be ring-fenced and used for road infrastructure.
- 3.3. An end to paying private companies to manage and profit from our national roads.

4. Education

- 4.1. Free education for all.
- 4.2. More state investment in education.
- 4.3. Permanent contracts for teachers rather than temporary contracts.
- 4.4. More SNAs for schools.
- 4.5. Introduction of more physical activity and Yoga in the primary and secondary curriculum to help combat obesity.
- 4.6. A constitutional guarantee or a right to education placement regardless of religious and/or non-religious status.
- 4.7. Making practical skills such as first aid, cooking and repair of items as well as money management and banking processes including loans/mortgages, and life skills such as problem solving, communication, emotional intelligence, etc. Mandatory in the school curriculum.

5. Healthcare

- 5.1. Total reform of the healthcare system - incorporating greater top level accountability also.
- 5.2. The abolition of a two-tier health care system.
- 5.3. The immediate abolition of the Prescription Charge/Tax.
- 5.4. Expand the use of health care offices in rural areas & reversal of national carers cuts.
- 5.5. The expansion of the medical card for therapies and dental care.
- 5.6. Increase the number of diseases that automatically qualify for a medical card.

6. Agriculture & Fisheries

- 6.1. Animal welfare a priority on law reform.
- 6.2. Protect Ireland shores from super-trawlers against Ireland's smaller fishing boats.
- 6.3. Taking back our fishing rights on the European stage for local and national fishing industry.
- 6.4. Reduction of anglers' licence fees.
- 6.5. Greater capitalise our anglers fishing activities with the national tourist industry at local level.

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- 6.7. Through the IFA, ICSA (Irish Cattle & Sheep farmers Association), etc. create better economic price stability across the European marketplace regarding Irish exports to foreign customers.
- 6.8. Introduction of a national rental/purchase scheme for start-up or experienced farmers to allow them to begin or expand their business.
- 6.9. Adopt policies and practises for farmers that allow better use of solar power to run their machinery including milking, which has the dual benefit of saving and earning money by feeding any excess back into the national grid.
- 6.10. Better legislation regarding land rights and Instigation of better land Commange policies.
- 6.11. Through colleges and on site work practises, enhance farmer's entrepreneurial skills to advance their end-product.
- 6.12. Total rejection of TTIP for many extensive reasons.
- 6.13. Re-open rural Garda stations and increase Garda presence in rural communities

7. Democracy

- 7.1. Transparency and Participatory Democracy is a must.
- 7.2. Include postal voting for Irish emigrants, for the elderly and the disabled.
- 7.3. Citizen rights for non-nationals who set up residence in Ireland and who have contributed to the State for at least 5 years.
- 7.4. The immediate introduction of an annual 'renew passport tax' for those who chose to reside outside the State for tax reasons.
- 7.5. Henceforth there is a MONTHLY meeting of the TD's of a constituency, irrespective of their Political affiliations, for the discussion & agreement of the issues facing that Constituency, and an action plan to be put in place & progress reported on to the NEXT monthly meeting.
- 7.6. Protection of the rights of individuals (Not to be downgraded or denied for the sake of profit over people).

8 Finance & Taxation

- 8.1. Create a Savings Investment Deposit Account to encourage people to save for retirement (account to be treated the same way a pension plan is treated).
- 8.2. The creation of a national bank to supply banking services to the public, the bank's network to be built on the existing post office/credit union network.
- 8.3. The €500m of restructured promissory note debt that is destroyed to be retained and used to fund vital services.
- 8.4. A higher tax rate on incomes over €100K.
- 8.5. Information of all payments made for the purchase and purification of residential water supply, which are fully tax deductible under Revenue rules.
- 8.6. Restrictions on lending limits to be removed and possible increased. Allow greater operational flexibility in competition with present banking institutions.
- 8.7. Where applicable according to conditions, citizens to avail of tax credits for travel expense to work.
- 8.8. Elected TD's and other elected, pensions to be awarded at the same state age as average citizen.

9. Housing & Homelessness

- 9.1. The immediate investigation of NAMA to be undertaken by independent OUTSIDE persons.
- 9.2. Allow owner occupiers to have first option on the purchase of a NAMA controlled property.
- 9.3. Publication of and a stop to upwards-only rent reviews.
- 9.4. The use of state & other property for emergency accommodation for the homeless. For example: The Ormand Hotel on Dublin's quay & old Motor Tax Office on Greek St be reopened & furnished as emergency refuge.
- 9.5. Equal priority for the homeless already in Ireland and those just arriving.
- 9.6. Effective found charities to get proper reliable funding to assist the homeless crises.
- 9.7. A national section staffed to assist homeless gain proper social welfare or employment.
- 9.8. A national reassessment of the banking protocols that allows the eviction of genuine struggling mortgage payers. A state independent section to distinguish genuine cases and work for them to see they are as a default position, protected from bullying institutions rushing to gain a property.
- 9.9. Any property that has been boarded up for more than 5 years will be reverted back to the county or local council and redone for people on a homing list.
- 9.10. Review of the housing assessment numbering system with view to reversing back to a tweaked point system.

10. Other Issues

- 10.1. Reform of TD's wages, expenses and pensions.
- 10.2. Transparent accurate accountability of the TD's presence in the Dail. Easier FOI access. More detail.
- 10.3. Immediate abolition of the "Double Irish arrangement".
- 10.4. Reduction of start-up bureaucracy for businesses.
- 10.5. Legal enshrined rights to internet access.
- 10.6. Put state national media into a greater non-political balanced, public ownership.
- 10.7. Greater legal protection of journalist's ability to report and investigate.

11. UnitedPeople International

"UnitedPeople International" – creation of a pro-active assembly in which international democratic institutions and people are being invited to join and work toward addressing a recognised weakening democracy process.

- To seek better usage of democracy across international levels.
- Help halt a recognised decline of democracy in the face of external detrimental factors.
- To expose injustice (including the seeking release of unjust imprisoned).
- To assist the defence of personal rights for individuals.

The issues mentioned here are only *some* of the matters to which the members of UnitedPeople is committed to addressing. These are only *some* of our *starting* points. More issues are forthcoming.