

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

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Our ref: CO1-16-18342

Circular LG 03/2017

15th February 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

**CONSOLIDATED COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES CIRCULAR – UPDATED
FEBRUARY 2017**

This Local Government Circular provides a consolidated record of all councillor allowances and supersedes Local Government Circular 14/2016 in respect of the rates payable from 1 April 2017.

This consolidated circular is required to determine and reflect an increase in Dependants' Carers' Allowance and motor cycle rates applicable from 1 April 2017.

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) 2012.

1. Basic Allowance - valid from 1 April 2017

Basic Allowance	Maximum £14,485 per annum ≠
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≠ (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 from 1 April 2017 this element within the basic allowance is £1,020)

2. Dependants' Carers' Allowances – valid from 1 April 2017

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

Dependants' Carers' Allowance	Hourly Rate	Maximum monthly amount
Standard	£7.50 [^]	£390
Specialist	£15.00	£780

[^](Based on national living wage for age 25+)

3. Travel Allowances – valid from 1 April 2017

The following table states the maximum rates for travel allowances.

Type of Vehicle	Rate per Mile
A pedal cycle	20.0p
A motor cycle (all engine capacities)	24.0p
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
An electric car	45.0p **25.0p
Passenger rate (per passenger)	5.0p

* For mileage above 8,500 miles

**For mileage above 10,000 miles

4. Special Responsibility Allowance – valid from 1 April 2017

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	51,005	10,201
120,000 to 199,000	71,407	14,281
200,000 +	110,171	22,034

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.

PERIOD/MEAL	RATES £	
	British Isles	London
Accommodation 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 circular please contact Jeff Glass on 028 9082 3375 or Lizanne Kennedy on 028 9082 3378 or by email jeff.glass@communities-ni.gov.uk or lizanne.kennedy@communities-ni.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully



ANTHONY CARLETON
Director
Local Government Policy Division