



**IRISH**

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**FREEDOM PARTY**

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## Introduction by party leader Hermann Kelly



*Dia dhaoibh a chairde Gael,*

We love life, our families, and we love Ireland. Our motivation is to make Ireland, the country we love, a better place for ourselves, our kids and future generations. Ireland, and Western countries in general are at a crossroads where the foundations of a civilisation are being undermined by ideas and actions emanating at a global level, and Ireland is deeply impacted. The state is culturally compromised, politically subservient and economically heavily indebted. Tough decisions must be made.

The Irish Freedom Party was registered as a political party in June 2019. We are a new party, a small party but a necessary political movement because, without fear, we put forward, solutions to the problems we currently face and we have a vision of Ireland where peace and prosperity as well as the country's unity and independence can once again be called for and fought for in the public realm.

We stand for personal responsibility and freedom. We want a free people in a free country and therefore we oppose State authoritarianism robbing us of our natural rights as outlined (not given) in the Constitution. We oppose the splurging of taxpayers' money on the ideological NGO echo chamber and the wasting money on what are often unnecessary vanity projects. We want a smaller state apparatus and less unnecessary government spending.

We want to lower taxation to encourage job creation, entrepreneurship and innovation so that Ireland can provide employment for its people. We want to protect life and encourage young families to have children, as Ireland does not have a future without them.

We want to protect the old and the vulnerable from anti-social behaviour and poverty. We want to protect our youth from ideological indoctrination with Climate alarmism and the radical LGBTIQ agenda in our schools.

This policy document is not a finished product. It will be refined and added to over time with the input of our vibrant membership, but it is a roadmap showing a clear direction of travel. It demonstrates that we stand for a country that is small state, low tax, pro-personal responsibility and pro freedom. We support a state that encourages job creation and young families, that is uncompromising in its support of law and order to protect the vulnerable, that seeks to house its own people first by increasing our housing stock and controlling immigration. We are proud of the beauty and grace of our language, our music, games and dance. We want a prosperous future for our SMEs, farming families and fishermen.

We acknowledge that many of the problems we face such as the housing shortage, unemployment and low pay, the damaging imposition of the Carbon Tax agenda which will destroy rural

Ireland, and even the attack on free speech cannot be solved while we are members of the European Union. We wish to be an independent self-governing people with our country, all of Ireland, free of London and Brussels control and constraint. Only as a free and unified state can the people of Ireland reach their full potential and take our rightful place among the nations of the world. *“Not for the Gael, the loom or the sword”* Padraig Pearse once wrote, *“but to be the saviour of social idealism in a Europe that is falling into darkness.”* That is our mission. We have much work to do. We must build up local cumannns, get organised to campaign to give people a credible choice in coming elections. I would ask you to work with us, spread the word, leaflet, share, speak and write about the policies and aims of the Irish Freedom Party. We must make our voices heard in the public square. We must get votes for our candidates and get people elected.

We must replace the resident political class in Ireland before they replace us. Our credo in Patriotism not Globalism, controlled immigration not mass immigration, biology not ideology, free speech not controlled speech. We desire to be factually correct not politically correct, pro-life not pro-death, for the family and opposed to the Big State. We are for work and prosperity not government waste and enslavement by public debt. We emphasise technological innovation and personal merit in employment, not keeping wealth and power with the same old Golden Circle, be that political, cultural or economic.

As a people, we and our children only deserve a better country if we are ready and willing to work for it.

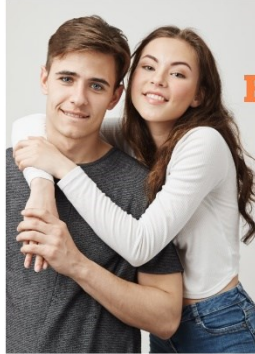
*Le cuideamh Dé*, with God’s help; and with your help, we as a political party will be up to the task. *Buíochas ó chroí as gach rud. Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.*

Hermann Kelly

President.

# IRISH FREEDOM PARTY POLICIES IN DETAIL

## 1. Strengthening the Family Unit



**Man and woman  
Biology not ideology**

We believe that the family is the foundation of society and critical to raising responsible citizens.

It is in the home where we first learn the virtues of obligation, compassion and concern for others. We see strong and healthy family life as critical to the health and wellbeing of our country. We also believe in the dignity of every human being. We believe that the right to life is the most fundamental right of all and the right from which all other human rights flow.

It can be fairly said that the family structure has been under unrelenting attack from the parties of the “left” as well as the parties of the centre who have facilitated them over the past 40 years. We will protect and defend traditional family values. We promote the following policies:

### 1.1. A fairer tax system for families

We will put an end to tax discrimination against married couples. We want an end to tax individualization which is an unfair burden on the 80,000 couples where one parent works in the home. We want a tax system that supports and encourages ‘stay at home’ parents by increasing the Home Carer Tax Credit to end discrimination against single income families. We will also promote the re-introduction of child tax allowance.

We will increase the point at which workers start paying the top rate of tax on their income.

We will establish a Commission on the Future of Taxation and Welfare to deliver a simplified and fair system of taxation and welfare which does not punish families or those who work hard.

We are against the imposition of ever-increasing carbon taxes on ordinary families. Such taxes are unfair and unnecessary. This tax disproportionately impacts the less well off in society.

## **1.2. Help families to save for their future**

We support personal savings and will promote a system such as the UK Individual Savings Account (ISA). We believe that savers should be allowed to invest up to €5,000 in pre-tax income per annum in an investment account. The investment account will be allowed to grow tax free and no tax will be imposed on withdrawals.

ISA's will not be authorised to invest in banks or financial institutions. Investment ISA's will be focussed on the SME sector in Ireland.

We support the establishment of ISAs for children whereby parents/guardians and grandparents can each invest up to €2,500 per annum in pre-tax income in a savings account for their young. Child ISAs will not be accessible until the child reaches the age of 18. At 18 they can decide to withdraw the funds tax free or roll the savings into an 'Adult ISA'.

The provider of the product will be a financial institution authorised for such business and they will invest the account in low/medium risk shares according to the opening instruction. In the five year approach to the child's 18th birthday 20% each year will be switched to cash.

## **1.3. Protection of parental choice and school ethos**

We strongly support the right of parents and schools to protect their own moral, religious and spiritual values. We totally reject plans to introduce compulsory and totally inappropriate ideology-based LGBTQI, porn-literacy and pro-abortion sex education into Irish primary and secondary schools.

We support the retention of the existing and effective 'Stay Safe' and SPHE programmes in schools.

We consider child access to online pornography to be a form of child abuse. We will insist on collaboration between parents, internet providers, Gardai and the State to prevent such access in order to protect our children.

## **1.4. Cost of living**

We will work to establish German-Style 'Public Banks' in Ireland to offer real competition to current retail banks. We will harness the existing network of An Post and Credit Union outlets to deliver our public bank model. Only competition will drive down the high cost of borrowing in Ireland.

We will force the legal industry to reform by opening up the sector to greater competition – particularly in conveyancing and probate services.



We will tackle the high cost of insurance by making perjury a criminal offence in Ireland by updating the 'Book of Quantum' and ensuring that compensation awards are in line with awards for similar injuries in comparable EU countries, requiring our Judges to refer to the Book of Quantum and award compensation in line with it, abolish monetary compensation for soft-tissue injuries (whiplash) and replace same with vouchers for physiotherapy services.

## **2. Improving the Health Service**

We have a crumbling and inadequate health service in need of radical reform. We have over a million people on hospital waiting lists with a rapidly increasing population. People are living longer than ever before, and we are failing to keep many of our best nurses. For example, there has been a 40% increase in Irish doctors working in Australia since 2013. We have the lowest per capita number of consultant specialists in Europe with 1.44 per 1,000 people. The European average is 2.45 per 1,000. We are committed to delivering on entrance level consultant pay to keep our medical professionals in Ireland.

We are committed to the following pledges to improve our health service:

- Retention of Irish nurses and consultants through negotiating an attractive salary package at entry level and career progression.
- National health awareness campaigns and healthy living programmes rolled out across the country.
- Major investment in home and social care to free up hospital beds
- Huge recruitment campaign for front line staff in health service
- We will support substantial investment in mental health.
- We will tackle spending inefficiency in the health service and reduce bureaucracy.

We will support Rural clinics/mini-hospitals to cater for trauma (broken bones, etc.), diagnostics (CT, X-ray, MRI, Blood tests) – specialist clinics throughout the country. This will release the pressure on the main city hospitals and reduce waiting lists. This will also tie into rural development as it would have the potential to revitalise rural towns and cut down on the long commutes many in the lower grades have to endure. We will encourage evening and weekend clinics and diagnostics to further reduce waiting lists.

We aim to remove private beds from the public health system. This will free up beds for public patients and reduce waiting lists further. We need to make the public system robust enough for the public to have confidence in its delivery.

- We believe that recruitment of qualified staff in all aspects of our health system is paramount to restore health care in a timely manner. We propose incentives including grant aid to educate both doctors and nurses that, once qualified, must work for at least 3 years in the Irish health care. Those that were educated in Ireland and have immigrated will receive the same incentives to return home.

- We will examine the reasons why doctors have to leave the country in order to continue their development and we will work to ensure that health care professionals have a proper career structure which encourages them to stay in Ireland.

## **2.1. Administration**

We will update all IT systems in all public hospitals as this has not been achieved in years and we will re-train all administrative staff to use up-to-date systems to allow for better management of patients and files.

## **2.2. GP provision**

We also will deliver the primary care units that the current government has failed to do for both urban and rural areas by supporting the improvement of the premises for our GPs, along with lower tax and rent incentives for the first 3 years. This will allow for the GPs to build up their practice.

## **2.3. Vaccination**

**We oppose mandatory vaccination.** We propose screening programs be set up for those that are intolerant to vaccination, i.e. children with autoimmune, genetic, blood and heart disorders.

## **2.4. Cancer Care**

As Ireland has the 2nd highest rate of cancer in the EU and 3rd in the world new screening must be introduced for early detection.

We need to develop prevention campaigns alongside treatments. We will place more emphasis on healthy diet and exercise, vitamins, mental health, etc. and lead with this.

## **2.5. Cervical check screening**

Screening must be brought back to Irish Laboratories and receive adequate investment. It is clear that the quality of the work being done by external laboratories in other countries is not providing high quality health care and reporting of results to the patient. By having this service in Ireland, provision is also made for more employment in both the scientific and medical sectors in Ireland.

## **2.6. Medical CBD**

This programme must be made more available to all cancer patients undergoing long time treatment outside of chemotherapy through the GP system. We will support the establishment of clinical trials, used on animals in the first instance into the use of THC in cancer treatments. Such trials must be available to individual providers and researchers and must not be dominated by “Big Pharma”.

We support a Disability Policy that puts the person at the centre of decision making and funding.

We want a review of the Fair Deal Scheme so that those that have saved to provide for the next generation are not unfairly taxed as they are at present.

## **3. Life Issues**

### **3.1. Protection of human life.**

As no nation has a future without children, as a patriotic party we are pro-natalist [in favour of having children] and supportive of stable families for the procreation, education and rearing of children. There is no doubt, that at present the greatest crisis faced by the European countries, is not climate change or public health or public finances, but the demographic crisis that threatens the very existence of its many countries

We support the promotion of pro-life policies for mothers and pre-born. We shall seek to remove the legalisation of abortion and seek to strengthen the financial, legal and cultural supports for preborn life.

We believe that all human life must be treated with deep respect and expression of pro-life opinions should be respected.

We are dedicated to ensuring that the Right to Life is given effect in our laws. The responsibility for this now shifts from the people to the legislators. All Irish Freedom Party candidates for public office must commit themselves to our pro-life stance

- A Heartbeat Law. While we are dedicated to persuading the Irish people to restore the constitutional right to life for the pre-born, we accept that this is not a goal that can be achieved in the short to medium term. In the interim we will require the introduction of a “heart-beat” law which would ban all abortions after the point at which the heartbeat of the pre-born child has been detected. Under this law abortions would only be permitted in the rare and sad cases where continuation of the pregnancy represents a threat to the life of the mother.
- We will, as a matter of urgency introduce pain relief for the unborn during the abortion procedure and demand that full medical assistance be provided to infants delivered alive during an abortion procedure.

### 3.2. Hospice and Palliative Care

- We will require all maternity hospitals to develop a ‘perinatal palliative care plan’ as a positive alternative to abortion in rare and tragic cases where a pre-born child has been diagnosed with a life-limiting condition. We will invest in post-natal palliative care to provide families whose children have been born with life-limiting conditions the help and support they need.
- We strongly support the development of hospice care throughout Ireland to provide a positive alternative to euthanasia for those who are terminally ill.
- We will set up an urgent review of hospice care capacity in Ireland and provide funding for the expansion of hospice care and associated services. Families who wish to care for their loved one at home will be enabled to the extent possible.

## 4. Education

We will remove red tape in our schools and empower teachers to be the best that they can.

- We will invest in primary and post-primary education. School-books and school transport should be paid for by the state rather than parents and we will end the practice of individual schools seeking ‘voluntary contributions’ from parents.
- We will respect and protect the right of schools to protect their own ethos.  
  
The primacy of parents as educators as recognised in the constitution must be fully upheld. We reject the imposition of extreme sex education/indoctrination on primary and secondary school children, often carried out regardless of parents’ wishes.
- We will remove unnecessary bureaucratic barriers to home-schooling or home education. We support all responsible and conscientious parents who choose to exercise their constitutional rights as educators. The Irish Freedom Party’s proposals to reform income tax and increase home carer tax credits will also make this option more affordable for families with a stay-at-home parent.
- We will develop more-useful avenues to education for all people. We will create a scheme that offers interest free loans to study third level courses that lead into high-demand areas. We will create support in our education system for apprenticeships, as practiced in South Korea and German speaking countries.

The Irish Freedom Party considers children being exposed to online pornography as child abuse. We will support collaboration between parents, internet providers, law enforcement and legislative authorities on this matter, with the goal of preventing such access by means that do not constrict other internet access.

The Irish Freedom Party will require that schools in receipt of taxpayer funding do not take part in the 'Blue Star Initiative' promoted by the EU which amounts to the indoctrination of children.

Taxpayer funding will not be awarded to support third level courses in certain subjects, namely subjects promoting the 'woke' agenda. Third level institutions are free to offer whatever courses they like but Irish taxpayers should not be expected to subsidise courses that are primarily political and serve interests that divide us.



## 5. Protecting our Society

### 5.1. Tackling serious crime

Ireland is in the grip of a violent crime wave that has some communities living in fear. Under the present political establishment, drug gangs are terrorising areas of the country and carrying out some of the most barbaric violent crimes the country has ever witnessed. The Irish Freedom Party views this crime wave as a national emergency and will take appropriate action. Many of our Gardaí are ill equipped to deal with this particular type of crime and need to be supported. We believe that in certain circumstances the support of the army may need to be deployed to back up our Gardaí in locations where communities are under the control of drugs barons.

- Much tougher sentencing for drug dealing offences will be a priority and we will also invest in education at secondary school level. This will educate and deter our young people from getting involved in the drugs trade. We will expand the Irish naval service who patrol our waters to detect drug smuggling.
- The Irish Freedom Party want to double the budget of the Criminal Assets Bureau to E16m to equip them with the resources needed to fight organised crime.

Reported sexual offences in Ireland are up a startling 55% since 2015. It is an alarming statistic and the Irish Freedom Party will press for a committee to be established to investigate the reasons why, with a view to taking measures to combat this type of crime.

More than 50 state owned Garda stations have been closed across rural Ireland since 2012. We will reopen many of these stations to service and give security to many isolated rural areas. Our party values community policing and believe it acts as a deterrence to crime.

Recent figures show that 45% of criminals released from prison have been convicted of new offences within 3 years. We are committed to reform to deal with repeat offenders. A system of enhanced sentencing will bring longer sentences to repeat offenders and make our communities safer for the people of Ireland.

Our steps to combat serious crime:

- Expand naval service to detect drug smuggling in our seas
- Invest more in education on drugs and counselling
- Reopen Garda stations in rural areas
- Tougher sentencing on repeat offenders
- Double the CAB budget to seize criminal assets
- Increase size of Emergency Response Unit
- Consider deploying arm support to Gardai where communities are controlled by gangs

We believe that social cohesion is the willingness of all of us in society to cooperate with each other in order to be safe, secure and prosper together. We reject the current obsession with grievance and identity politics which divides society into hostile and opposing camps. We need to create a better future for all the people, our families and our communities. In making social cohesion a central element of our policy we are proposing a transformative society that will raise the living standards and quality of life for everyone. We see strong and cohesive communities as essential to our quality of life.

The Irish Freedom Party wants tougher sentencing of thieves, violent criminals and rapists. The emphasis must be on protecting the community first and foremost and vindicating the rights of the victims of crime. For far too long the Irish Justice System has focused too much on the rights of the criminal. The IRISH FREEDOM PARTY will end that practice and will put the victims of crime and their families at the centre of our criminal justice system. In order to create safer communities, we must prioritise the rights of law-abiding citizens, not criminals.

## **5.2. Tougher Sentencing**

- The Irish Freedom Party will introduce a Criminal Justice (Victim's Rights) Bill that will remove Judges' discretion to impose concurrent sentences for serious crime. We will ensure that all Judges must treat each crime separately and pass consecutive sentences.
- The Irish Freedom Party will introduce a minimum, mandatory sentence of 20 years in prison for those convicted of murder.

- The Irish Freedom Party believe that any naturalised citizen found guilty of a serious criminal offence and abusing Ireland's hospitality should have their citizenship revoked.
- The Irish Freedom Party will substantially increase the sentencing for possession of a knife. This is necessary to tackle a growing violent gang culture and knife crime.

Recent figures show that 45% of criminals released from prison have been convicted of new offences within 3 years. Our policy of enhanced sentencing will keep habitual offenders behind bars for longer and keep communities safe.

### **5.3. Protecting Our Homes**

The Irish Freedom Party will include in our Criminal Justice (Victim's Rights) Bill a minimum mandatory sentence regime for repeated burglary offenders and aggravated burglary.

The Irish Freedom Party recognise the impact recidivism has within our legal system. The Party proposes to incentivise employers to recruit suitable prisoners who are about to be released from prison. This will help with lowering the extent to which our prisons are full of repeat offenders. If a person has a job and a 'purpose' it may help them stay on the right path to being worthy members of society.

### **5.4. Protecting Our Communities**

The Irish Freedom Party will ensure an active and visible Garda presence on our streets to deter crime.

### **5.5. Protecting Our Vulnerable**

The Irish Freedom Party will ensure that our Victim's Rights Bill will include a minimum, mandatory where an adult in a position of authority coerces, knowingly induces or persuades a child to engage in sexual activity. Those so convicted will not become eligible for parole until they have served a minimum of three quarters of their sentence. The Director of Public Prosecutions will be mandated to take into consideration the age gap between the victim and perpetrator when making decisions on such cases.

The Irish Freedom Party support, as a piece of major national infrastructure, the construction of a new maximum security prison at a site to be determined.

## **5.6. Bail and Free Legal Aid Policies**

The Irish Freedom Party will ensure that those charged with a serious crime, such as rape, murder, manslaughter, burglary, grievous bodily harm, will only be granted bail if they are electronically tagged and monitored. The Irish Freedom Party will also ensure that bail is automatically denied to those who have a history of persistent (more than three offences) criminal activity.

The Irish Freedom Party will set up a review into the legal aid system and explore ways to bring costs to the taxpayer down including a Public Defender system.

## **5.7. Protection of Civil Liberties.**

The Irish Freedom Party will not support any laws that prohibits or criminalises free speech. We already have incitement to hatred laws since 1989 which have proven adequate to meet the needs of present circumstances.

- We will oppose any 'Hate crime' laws. We believe they undermine the principle of equality before the law and are unnecessary. Judges already factor in motivation in sentencing. However, we will insure that direct incitement to violence such as Jihadism is prosecuted.
- The Party will evaluate the resource needs of the Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement (ODCE) to determine how best to stamp down on so called 'white collar crime'.

## **5.8. Protecting Our Communities**

We will introduce legislation to allow individuals, businesses or community organisations to apply directly to the District Court for a 'Community Protection Order' (CPO). The CPO, once granted, will allow Judges to ban defendants from a particular area, be electronically tagged, stay away from other named individuals, become subject to a noise abatement order or become subject to a curfew order. Where a minor becomes subject to a CPO the parents or guardians will become liable and subject to a range of possible sanctions – participation in parenting classes and suspension of children's allowance payments for example. For persistent breaches of CPOs individuals who are housed in social housing will be evicted.

## **6. Immigration & Citizenship**

We will establish a system in which migrants coming to work in Ireland will do so on a 5-year non-renewable work visa in conjunction with an Australian-style points system. Preference will be given to those immigrants who can speak English and have skills that are not available in Ireland.



- The exception to this would be the spouses of Irish citizens.
- A work visa will be attached to a particular job and so not transferable to any other employment.
- Any new business hiring more than one employee will be required to ensure that half the workforce is Irish.

We would have a survey done of recently issued work visas in order to ascertain which areas require focus for financial resources for education/training. In this way, the Irish work force will be best placed to take up employment.

We believe the Irish diaspora is an under-utilised cultural, economic, and demographic resource and will encourage their return home.

We welcome those who qualify for naturalised citizenship. It is a vital part of the immigrant experience.

For those hoping to become Irish citizens, we would make it necessary to pass an exam including historical, cultural, legal and basic Irish language elements.

- **We take citizenship seriously.** Anyone who is applying for or who has attained Irish citizenship will not be permitted citizenship should they be found guilty of serious crime or proven to be a danger to the people of Ireland. Deportation will follow service of sentence for any crime committed.
- We will remove Ireland from the United Nations Global Compact for Migration.

We will reform of the asylum system such that ex-Muslim refugees are clearly distinguished and separated from Muslims. We will introduce mandatory classes for International Protection Office (IPO) officials on the plight of ex-Muslims, Christians, Ahmadis, and other vulnerable minorities in the Islamic world.

We will stop the abuse of the asylum system.

- Carriers at point of foreign embarkation will be obliged to check for a visa or the citizenship of any potential passenger wishing to travel to Ireland.
- Anyone who 'loses' their passport upon arrival in Ireland between disembarking and immigration, will be put in secure facilities until they can be returned to their own or a third country.

We will end the 'cash for residency' Ireland Immigrant Investment Programme.

There will be severe financial penalties for those who employ people who are not lawfully in the country and in possession of a work permit. Individuals who work other than in accordance with the terms of their visa will have their work permit revoked.

Any letting longer than six months will require that landlords obtain a copy of a tenants visa and there will be penalties attached to a landlord who lets property (i.e. whether a room or an apartment or a house) to a person not in possession of a valid visa.

## 7. Protection of the natural environment

The Irish Freedom Party supports the protection of the environment and the conservation of nature. A healthy environment is essential for humankind and future generations. We want clean air, water and food. We desire salmon in our rivers, abundant fish in our seas, and wildlife in our forests. We seek an ecological environment we can enjoy, benefit from and hand on to our children.

Therefore, all necessary steps should be taken towards protection of the natural environment and to reverse the dramatic loss of biodiversity. **We will put an emphasis on ecological conservation rather than carbon ideology.**

Climate variability remains an issue of widespread political and scientific debate. In scientific literature, it is acknowledged that there is a degree of consensus that global surface temperatures have increased in recent decades and that the trend COULD be caused by human-induced emissions of greenhouse gases. However, it is also evident that the debate on climate change is far from over and it is very much a contentious one. Whether a possible warming trend exceeds normal climatic variations, and whether human activities have contributed significantly to it, is yet to be determined. It is important to acknowledge that Ireland holds only a tenth of 1% of the global CO<sub>2</sub> contributions, which clearly shows our extremely limited capacity to alter global CO<sub>2</sub>. Any drastic measures could themselves put the environment at risk (with methods that could ultimately do more harm than good).

While the jury is still out on the causes of Climate Change, conventional wisdom agrees that we as a society ought to take what measures we can to address energy efficiency and energy security without hindering the ordinary activities of people.

- The Irish Freedom Party is committed to pursuing environmentally friendly initiatives that will protect both the environment and the people. We favour the development of carbon “sinks”, such as broadleaf woodlands. As Ireland has the largest maritime resource in the EU we must invest strongly in research and development of tidal energy.

Unlike carbon taxes, these measures do not put financial strain on families and endanger those that rely on the ready and affordable availability of traditional means of heating and transport. We believe that ever-increasing carbon taxes are resulting in an unjust transfer of wealth from ordinary hard-pressed people to the State and the EU.

- The Irish Freedom party has a “non alarmist” approach with regards to Climate Change. We have great concern, however, when it comes to well-established ecological matters, such as the use of certain chemicals and pollutants. We will support approaches to eliminate endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) that threaten human health including some plastics and other contaminants from our waterways. We will immediately commence a consultation to address the adverse health effects, such as abnormal estrogen levels, that are coming about from our use of plastics to contain food. We will also call for more research on the impact of Fluoride and Glyphosate on the water table.

The Irish Freedom Party rejects the unnecessary, economically damaging and harsh imposition of carbon taxes.

- We will promote a substantial increase in broadleaf forestry in Ireland. We will cut the unnecessary red tape that surrounds forestry management, particularly in regard to felling of commercial forests, and we will eliminate the third-party appeal process for forestry.

We want to restructure the forestry to incentivize the planting of broadleaf trees and forests, which are more biodiverse and wildlife friendly and offer opportunities for the creation of enhanced publicly accessible rural amenities.

- The Irish Freedom Party will reduce the incentivisation which has led to the proliferation of wind turbines across our landscape. Wind turbines are an expensive, subsidised, ugly intermittent energy source which can cause damaging bog slides and bird strikes. The damage to the environment and local communities by wind turbines which must still be supported by levies on the ordinary consumer, leading to one of the most expensive energy cost regimes in Europe, seems to be of little long-term benefit. Local communities must be comprehensively consulted when wind turbines are proposed for their areas.

## 7.1. Energy Policy

The current Government has made commitments to their allies in the global climate change industry to move Ireland away from generating energy through peat and coal-fired electricity generation. Eirgrid forecast that demand for electricity is set to increase by 50% over the next ten years and yet we are expected in future to depend on intermittent renewables which are clearly unreliable. It is troubling that Ireland has experienced six 'system alerts' in the past year in contrast to eleven alerts over the previous ten years.

- Most Irish people are unaware that Ireland already imports energy generated through nuclear production. As the State moves towards pursuing carbon neutrality and we rely on unreliable renewables to provide light and heat for our homes and businesses we need to have an open debate on the contribution that nuclear energy production could make to safeguarding our increasing energy needs. Part of that debate will require a state commission to investigate and assess the safety, security, efficiency and waste issues associated with nuclear energy. We would advocate the same for Tidal Power, as we are an island surrounded by the sea that is currently underutilised as a source of energy.
- We support the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland ( SEAI ) public consultation on the Government policy on Corporate Power Purchase Agreements (CPPAs) used by large scale Data centres etc. Given that Data centres are projected to use 29% of Ireland's total energy by 2028. We hold that the impact of Data centre energy demands must be investigated and made a criterion against which planning applications for data centres are assessed.

## 7.2. Climate policy – We say NO to carbon taxes

The Irish Freedom Party accepts that climate change is real and has been taking place for millennia. It will continue to change and evolve over time. As a party we are climate realists and reject the hysteria of many of the other parties in relation to the issue. We are opposed to the carbon tax. as there is no international evidence that it works in reducing carbon emissions. It punishes ordinary people for everyday activities such as driving a car or heating their homes. It is an unjust and cruel tax. It disproportionately hits people in rural areas and workers in the haulage industry.

We believe it is better to use education to encourage people into activity that is environmentally friendly. The political establishment wants to increase the carbon tax to E1500 per year by 2030. If our candidates are elected, we will oppose these measures and protect the people of Ireland from further taxes and climate alarmism.

**We are the only party which has consistently opposed the carbon tax and the climate agenda.**



## 8. Protection of Irish family farms and rural life

The survival of the traditional Irish family farms and of the rural communities which depend on them are now at stake as a result of decades of neglect by our political parties and indifference from the EU.

The State has prioritized industrial scale producers and processors over the primary producer. Many beef farmers now face dramatic cuts in income due to the EU demand that Ireland accept the importation of low cost beef from South America under the proposed Mercosur trade deal, which was developed as a *quid pro quo* to allow increased exportation from the German car manufacturing industry to South America. At the same time, the State is imposing increasing carbon taxes that penalise farmers and rural residents this beef is to be imported from half-way around the world, involving huge carbon footprint.

- The Irish Freedom Party want Irish farmers to be put ahead of industrial food processors. We will tame the beef barons and put an agreed system in place that guarantees a fair price for farmers.
- The Irish Freedom Party will reject the EU Mercosur trade deal as it bad for Irish farming families and communities and bad for the environment. We have the highest quality beef in the world we have heavily invested in the protection of the environment and have developed environmentally friendly programs to ensure that farming and wildlife can be successfully managed. This has been set at naught by the EU, with Ireland's acquiescence, to facilitate the larger European economies.
- The Irish Freedom Party will use the Irish veto to block any trade deal that threatens Irish farming and our future food security. The future of rural Ireland must not be sacrificed on the altar of globalisation.



**EU Climate Law will  
vastly reduce herd  
and help destroy  
rural Ireland**

### 8.1. Protection of animals from cruelty

The Irish Freedom Party rejects the cruel practice of non-stun slaughter of animals.

## 9. Reforming Local Government

The Irish Freedom Party will engage in an ongoing process of review of local government functions to ensure that taxpayers get value for money. We will also work to identify powers and responsibilities that can be transferred from national to local government.

The Irish Freedom Party will establish Community Councils and directly elected Community Mayors. Community Councillors and Mayors will not be remunerated for their work and their primary role will be to represent the interests of their communities to the Local and National Government.

We will implement term limits for Community Councils representatives to ensure new voices can be heard.

## 10. Developing our economy

We are committed to sensible governance, protecting the national finances and ensuring fair and open political discussion. We will prioritise the development and growth of Irish-owned small and medium sized enterprises. We believe in the following:

### 10.1. Put taxpayers first:

We want a smaller and more efficient government with less State interference in the lives of citizens. We want a State that is committed to serving Irish citizens, not the interests of the wealthy, of lobbyists, global corporations or the EU. Progressive taxation, fair public procurement practices, questioning the efficacy of quangos and harnessing the power of the digital economy can all help narrow economic inequality and promote prosperity. We believe in putting the taxpayer first by: focusing on reducing taxes; respecting every Euro of taxpayers' money; highlighting and eliminating wasteful expenditure of taxpayers' hard-earned cash.

- We will re-establish 'An Bord Snip Nua' and implement a forensic analysis of public spending to eliminate waste and inefficiency. We will significantly reduce tax-payer funding to the NGO sector.
- We will establish a time-limited Commission with the express purpose of identifying those NGOs that serve interests outside of Ireland. Without exception these NGOs will no longer receive funding from the Irish State.
- Other aid paid via the Dept. of Foreign Affairs (e.g. 'Irish Aid') will be refocussed to prioritise aid for disaster relief, for medical purposes and for educational support in certain countries. Irish Aid will not be granted to third parties who are not subject to oversight by the Irish State.

We totally reject political corruption and cronyism and demand that politicians and public servants be held accountable for incompetent decisions and waste of taxpayers' money.

- We will establish a Public Sector Innovation Fund to reward public and civil servants (individuals or teams) who propose the best ideas for reducing costs and/or improving services to end users.

We will ensure that our proposed Commission for the Future of Taxation and Welfare will be asked to produce recommendations for longer-term reforms of the welfare state to ensure its sustainability.

The review will include an assessment of options in the area of State pension provision including entitlement to and funding of the pension system.

- We will strengthen the powers of the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau (sometimes referred to as the Garda Fraud Squad) which will be tasked with responsibility for targeting corruption and waste by politicians and public servants.

Civil and public servants convicted of fraud on the public purse will, in addition to potential criminal penalty, be subjected to loss of pension entitlements (excl. spouses benefits).

## 10.2. Support for entrepreneurship

We believe that it is necessary for the Government to prioritise measures to help our home-grown enterprises to grow and prosper. Ireland is home to approximately 250,000 Irish Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs) employing nearly a million people. These enterprises are essential to a sustainable economy and must be supported. Even limited support to these enterprises can have a huge impact on local employment.

- We will re-introduce transparency and accuracy in food labelling. In order to support SME's in the food sector we will mandate that products claiming to be 'Irish' are indeed Irish and that labelling is not merely used to hoodwink those consumers who seek to buy Irish. Food products imported from outside the EU will require prominent labelling of the fact. It will be insufficient for food products to be labelled as originating in the 'EU'. The country of origin must be identified.
- We will **abolish tax on stock options** at companies that are younger than 10 years, have fewer than 50 employees and revenue and a balance sheet of less than €8m. Such a policy is already in operation in Sweden and has already been approved by the European Commission.
- We will **increase the lifetime limit on gains from the disposal of businesses** from €1m to €15m. Entrepreneurs will pay a reduced rate of CGT (10%) on all gains made up to the lifetime limit of €15m. The relief will be available to all those who own a minimum of 1% of a business.
- We will introduce a nationwide relief scheme to reduce **commercial rates** for struggling businesses. We believe that town centres should be the commercial,

cultural and civic heart of every community. We will support town centre regeneration by rebalancing rates for retailers based within the town so that they are not put at an economic disadvantage.

We will task our proposed Commission on the Future of Taxation and Welfare to recommend a new system to better fund local government in Ireland.

- We will reform the National Training Fund so that a minimum of 55% of spending is dedicated to 'In Employment' activities where the employers who pay for it can access the fund for the benefit of their workers.
- We will abolish the 'Low Pay Commission'. We will link any further minimum wage increases to 3-year average inflation. We will also defend the "ability to pay" clause for employers.
- We will reduce the rate of Employer's PRSI on a graduated basis for those earning less than €380 per week to 4.25%.

## **11. Banking reform**

We will establish real competition in the Irish banking sector by harnessing the network of *An Post* offices and Credit Unions to establish a German-Style public banking system in Ireland. German public banks are typically owned by Federal, Regional or Local Government with profits used to both secure its capital base and distributed for the benefit of local communities. This bank will focus on mortgage lending and savings products for Irish consumers.

- A Public Bank For Business. We will closely examine the possibility of a full take-over of AIB Bank and transforming it into a dedicated bank for business owned by local authorities but independently run.
- We will instruct the Central Bank to issue guidelines to aid the development of peer-to-peer lending in Ireland.
- We will introduce laws to specifically prevent banks from demanding personal guarantees and pre-signed letters of resignation when offering loans to businesses. Banks need to get back to basics by fully analysing a lending proposal and making their decision solely on that.

We will support the growth and development of the social enterprise sector in Ireland. We will instruct Local Enterprise Offices (LEO's) to accept funding applications from Social Enterprises.

## **12. Protect democracy and the right to free speech**

We are deeply concerned about the increasing intolerance of diverse viewpoints in Irish public life. Unfortunately, citizens holding a traditional, patriotic or religious outlook are often bullied and marginalised, stifling the open debate upon which a free and democratic society depends. In a democracy, alternative points of view must be respected. We are against the use of 'political correctness' to bully and censor people. We are against the spread of political censorship by the



State, mainstream media and corporations such as Google, YouTube, Facebook or Twitter. We are against the introduction of so called 'hate speech' laws to silence genuine and important political debate about topics that politicians and interest groups may find 'sensitive'. We believe that it is essential that a free and democratic society must hear different opinions sincerely held and respectfully presented. We are totally committed to the values of freedom of thought and speech which lie at the heart of democracy.

## 12.1. Fighting “Wokery”

### **Family law, Parental Alienation and Men's issues.**

- The operation of the family law courts in-camera is a source of great disquiet in regard to the proper administration of justice. We will promote a system of reporting similar to the Child Care Law Reporting Project to all aspects of the family courts system.
- **Parental Alienation** is a worrying and widely recorded phenomenon. Considerable anecdotal evidence exists of the undermining of the legitimate parental rights of fathers and we will seek to restore any imbalance that has come to exist in regard to ensuring access for fathers to their children. We will ensure that full reporting is made publicly available of the decisions of courts, with the names of the parties protected, and provide for the development of legislation on the basis of these decisions.
- While recognising that quotas may have provided a useful function in the past, the party now believes that these should be phased out and will do so across the entirety of the public sector. We will prohibit unjust discrimination against men in the workplace particularly in regard to discrimination against men on the basis of gender quotas. All posts must be filled on the basis of professional merit alone. This will apply in both the public and private sectors.
- We will prohibit behaviour, speech, and/or dress codes in the private corporate sector that result in sex or political discrimination in the workplace. We will prohibit involvement of employers in the private lives or affairs of its employees and prohibit employment contracts allowing employers to sanction employees based on matters not strictly related to their employment.
- **Race Issues:** We hold that all posts must be filled according to merit of the individual and will prohibit the use of race-based quotas for employment or for representative bodies in both the public and private sectors.

### **Womens' Sport and Spaces.**

- Fine Gael's 'Gender Recognition Act, 2015', obliges the Irish Prison Service to put male sex offenders who "identify" as female, into women's prisons, where vast sums of public money and huge logistical efforts have to be deployed, to stop them attacking the female inmates.

- The Irish Freedom Party will introduce policies to protect women's sport and women's spaces. ... for instance that only women are allowed to be in women's toilet facilities, women's prisons and be allowed to compete in a female only category of sport with a level playing field.



## 12.2. Overcoming political correctness with free speech and factual correctness

Universities which were once the foundation of free debate and open discussion must not fall prey to political, religious or social intolerance. Universities must guarantee freedom of speech and freedom of religion for all of its students.

- We will defund any universities which smother these civil liberties. All universities will be required to publish a mandate ensuring freedom of speech and religious action to their students. Any evidence of discrimination in terms of marking of student submissions based on their political beliefs will be strictly prohibited.

The party regards the development of "cancel culture" as being one of the most pernicious aspects of the modern age and a serious threat to societal stability. While recognising that much of the pressure in regard to prohibiting minority viewpoints emanates from the corporate sector, the party will, if elected seek for the state to set an example by prohibiting unjust discrimination in employment, education and healthcare. While recognising that social and political intolerance has become a widespread phenomenon the party will, by process of encouragement seek to ensure free speech and freedom of action for all members of society.

- We are keenly aware that state-funded media, and in particular RTE has been guilty of a very strong level of partisanship in regard to representation of matters of politics of race. This is an extremely complex matter to deal with but again in the first instance, state-funded broadcasters must ensure a proper level of balance. We will establish an all-party working group, with representations from civic and religious groups, to assess the performance of the state-funded broadcaster. This will have the right to ensure speedy correction of misplaced or unbiased reporting. It is essential that individuals and groups which have been traduced by RTE should have a speedy

process whereby their names and reputations can be protected without the requirement for a lengthy court process. The Press Council of Ireland is too top heavy with establishment figures who follow the dominant political agenda.

- The party will withdraw advertising from any publication which is consistently seen to be involved in the unbalanced reporting and which does not give opportunity for redress to injured parties.

The Irish Freedom Party believe in the importance of freedom of speech. It is essential in any liberal society in the pursuit of truth and solving the most pressing problems in society. Historically, freedom of speech has been the main tool in correcting historic injustices such as slavery, colonialism and institutional abuse. If elected, our candidates will oppose any attempts to dilute your freedom to express your opinions and convictions.

- We support revocation of all laws which limit freedom of speech.

The Party will investigate whether a referendum to the Constitution enshrining freedom of speech as an inalienable right is necessary and whether it is necessary to delete the potential apparent restrictions on speech that exist in the constitution at present.

Hate crime laws would mean a two tier legal system and undermine the principle of equality before the law. For example, crimes against ordinary members of the public would be treated less serious than crimes against members of a minority group were hate is perceived to be the motivating factor.



## 13. Housing Policy

Ireland is in the middle of a housing and homeless crisis. The open borders policies of the establishment parties have exacerbated the problems. The Republic of Ireland's population has grown to its highest point in 170 years nearing 5 million people. That is a huge increase of 1.5 million since 1995. We have over 10,000 listed as homeless but the figure is likely to be much higher in reality. When it comes to the allocation of social housing, the Irish Freedom Party will prioritise Irish nationals.

We will bring an end to the policy of a 2-list system where newly arrived non-nationals are provided housing over Irish people who have been on the list for years. The Irish Freedom Party take the view that Ireland cannot house the world and Irish people must get preference. There are thousands of social houses around Ireland that are uninhabitable or classed as void. We want substantial funds invested in making these houses fit for habitation and purpose.

- To make housing more affordable we will commit to typically 50 year intergenerational mortgages.

This is appropriate given that houses with modern standards could last 150 years and its not fair that one generation pays for the asset in its entirety. This will make accessing finance much cheaper.

Other commitments include:

- Incentivising the conversion of existing buildings to housing in towns and villages by doubling tax relief on construction related costs.
- We will relax standards in insulation, disability access and open space provision for existing buildings, where achieving new standards can be very difficult to achieve
- Maximum 15% tax rate on first rental property for each individual.
- Streamline Planning system to prioritise speedy decisions on housing applications

An essential of housing policy will be to ensure that as many people as possible can have access to property ownership. Housing is not just an essential human requirement in terms of shelter and protection, it is also a mechanism whereby individuals can secure freedom and autonomy by acquiring a saleable asset.

In regard to the provision of public rented housing, policy will be directed to ensuring the right of individuals to acquire, at reasonable rates, housing which has been facilitated by the public purse.

### 13.1. Social and affordable housing.

We will use zoned State land to develop affordable public housing. The Austrian public housing system is often cited as a model to follow but the legislation already exists in Ireland to enable public authorities to facilitate the provision of housing in tandem with the private sector, which is the basis of the Austrian model.

Public housing will be provided in the first instance using the zoned land the Irish state owns or controls.

It is essential that local authorities, many of which have historically extensive experience in the procurement, registration, financing and construction of housing should be brought to bear again in the development of housing.

In addition to the use of public land, we will promote the use of the local authority system, in particular the powers of compulsory purchase, in partnership with the private sector to promote the acquisition and development of suitable sites where zoned land is not being brought forward for development. Housing can then be put out tender to the private sector to produce a variety of housing types including low cost and low rental accommodation.

An essential part of this process would be to ensure that individuals who are not able to access finance will be given an opportunity, in the event that they are renting publicly controlled or publicly owned housing, to acquire this housing at a reasonable rate when they can do so. **The final aim of housing policy must be to ensure the property ownership is distributed as evenly as possible within society and not to enable the state to acquire a large asset at the expense of ordinary people.**

We will introduce a “local families first” policy. We believe that it is vital that social houses are allocated fairly with priority given to local people such that priority will be given to applications who have parents or grandparents living locally or who have demonstrated a clear record of participation in community development activities.

We will expand the Repair and Leasing Scheme to bring forward more social and affordable houses. We will extend the range of finance available under this scheme and make it available for longer periods of time.

Where social housing in the ownership of the local authority has fallen into disrepair, we will make these houses available to individual homebuyers in need of housing at a nominal figure if they agreed to carry out the repairs. The value of the house will only be clawed back if the house is sold within 10 years.

## **13.2. Housing Finance to the individual.**

As a response to the issue of excessive credit having been given out during the boom when the Irish banking system was flooded with EU bank profits (mainly from France and Germany), the Central Bank has imposed restrictions making it very difficult for a young couple to access the housing market. Current requirements insist on a very high level of deposit and restrict borrowing to 2.5 times joint income. This is targeting the wrong people for a problem caused by others. It is essential in a participative democracy that ordinary people can have access to property ownership, whereas under current circumstances property ownership is becoming the preserve of the few.

We will facilitate the provision of intergenerational, typically 50-60 year mortgages to make access to finance more affordable. This will be done by issuing a two-year guarantee to mortgage holders who default, which should give greater certainty to the lending

market. A 50-year mortgage is appropriate given that modern housing standards involve the production of houses with a much longer lifespan and much higher efficiency in terms of running costs. It is not appropriate that a single generation should pay the full cost of an asset that is estimated to last some 150 years.

Through the tax system we will incentivise conversion of existing buildings in town and village locations to housing by giving double tax relief on any construction related conversion costs in designated town and village centre areas.

We will allow Credit Unions to expand the range of housing schemes they can lend to.

### **13.3. Encouraging investment and private finance of housing.**

There are significant privately held funds available in Ireland and it is important to encourage these to be used in provision of housing finance.

We will design and issue “Housing Bonds” for individuals and corporations which can be invested in through pension and investment funds. These bonds should be modelled on the New York Housing Development Corporation’s (NYHDC) ‘Sustainable Neighbourhood Bond’.

### **13.4. Planning and Building Regulations impacts on housing.**

We will require planning authorities to give priority to housing applications over 10 units. We will require planning authorities to issue a declaration within four weeks of the lodgement of the planning application confirming what additional studies they require, and we will issue guidelines to planning authorities restricting requests for excessive levels of additional information from housing developers. We will introduce a system similar to the Strategic Housing Development system in operation at an Bord Pleanála to local authorities for all housing developments above 25 units.

We will simplify the building regulations compliance regime for Housing Schemes.

We will relax standards in regard to insulation, disability access, and open space provision to facilitate the conversion of existing buildings, particularly in Town and Village centres.

While high-density housing is appropriate in certain locations, there must also be a recognition that low-density suburban housing is often more suitable for young families. We will enable planning authorities to designate land for lower density development.

### **13.5. VAT Refund**

We will provide for a full VAT refund for all first-time buyers or to any buyer who does not have a house at present. To prevent this from causing price inflation we will introduce

a system of **certification of reasonable value** which a builder will have to provide in advance to avail of this scheme.

We will provide for a full VAT refund in respect of conversion work of a Protected or historic structure.

### **13.6. Rental**

The very high taxation levels coupled with significant reporting requirements have meant that the private landlord has all but disappeared from the rental market. Yet the acquisition of rental properties by people in middle age is a significant and important way of funding retirement and old age.

We will provide for a rental income tax regime whereby every individual can own one residential rental property (not a multiple occupancy building) on which income tax paid on rental income will not exceed 15% of net income, (as is currently the case for the corporate sector). There is no reason why the corporate sector should have a significant tax advantage in this regard. We will also allow mortgage interest relief on a first rental property.

We will reform the HAP (Housing Assistance Payment) scheme such that landlords can continue to be paid their rent from the local authority even if the tenant is in default. We will ensure fairness in landlord and tenant legislation.

In the event that the above policies provide for a higher level of rental properties becoming available, we will abolish rent controls other than in city centre areas.

### **13.7. Vulture funds**

Perhaps one of the great scandals in recent years has been the refusal of the state to allow individual mortgage holders to purchase properties at the discounts that have been available to vulture funds.

We will ensure that vulture funds are taxed at the same rate as a private landlord respect of rental property.

We will ensure that the normal corporation tax rate will not be applicable to rental property to private individuals. This will have the effect of excluding financial institutions from block buying large amounts of houses intended for private homeowners.

Combined with the above policies in respect of increasing rental supply it should not affect availability of rental accommodation but should make it more possible for renters to eventually purchase.

We will seek to reduce the high transfer costs associated with buying and selling houses. (Stamp duty, legal fees, planning reporting requirements.) It is appropriate that people

should be easily able to transfer from one house type to another as life circumstances change.

### **Points in respect of Housing:**

- We will aim to deliver 100,000 affordable public homes within 5-years with priority being given to young working couples. We will achieve this by harnessing the powers of the local authority system working in tandem with the dynamism of the private sector
- Promote easier access to finance by encouraging intergenerational mortgages.
- Maximum 15% tax rate on first rental property for each individual.
- Double tax relief on conversion costs of existing town and village centre properties to housing use.
- Relaxation of restrictive regulations in regard to insulation, disability access, and open space provision for town and village centre conversions.
- Streamline planning system to prioritise speedy decisions on housing applications. Limit request for additional information and insist on housing being treated as priority.
- Seek to eliminate high transfer costs (stamp duty, legal fees, land registry costs, planning compliance reporting,) to facilitate transfer of housing as people's life needs change.
- Tackle the vulture funds and eliminate the advantages enjoyed by financial institutions and purchasing private houses.
- Facilitate buyback by local authority tenants and simplify land transfer costs.
- Facilitate tenant purchase of local authority housing.

**Uncontrolled immigration  
means higher house  
prices and lower wages.**





## 14. Respect and develop our Defence Forces

Despite many challenges the Defence Forces has a long history of loyalty and duty to the state and has developed a world class reputation serving Ireland overseas on peacekeeping missions. The Irish Freedom Party is proud of Óglaigh na hÉireann and recognises the high level of leadership, management, logistics, and other skills acquired by personnel who serve in the Defence Forces.

Since the 2008 economic crisis, Óglaigh na hÉireann has been the target of cuts back and neglect by both Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil. They have allowed our Defence forces to be reduced in numbers.

At a time when the threats to Ireland's security have become multi-faceted, complex and inter-related. Cyber security should be a feature of the future for our Defence forces. The attack on our HSE shows how vulnerable the country is and we need to actively recruit and train cyber security experts and incorporate this into Defence.

- The Irish Freedom Party will work on ensuring that the Defence Forces have the resources and environment to flourish and excel in their duties. We will also promote a career in the Defence Forces as a viable and rewarding career.
- The Irish Freedom Party will increase the defence budget from the current 1.07BN for 2021 by 20%. We will increase pay and allowances at entry level and implement an attractive pay structure which will help retain personnel. We will upgrade facilities and equipment . This will create a better environment for personnel and improve morale.
- The Irish Freedom Party will create a Defence Pay Body that will be separate from the collective public sector pay talks.
- The Irish Freedom Party will ensure the Defence Forces are adequately resourced and fully operational. As an island nation **we will upgrade our naval service** and its capability in detecting drugs and weapons smuggling. The naval service will be properly manned and resourced to carry out his duties in protecting our marine territory.

One hundred years after the Irish state gained its independence it cannot protect its seas, airspace, land or cyberspace. This is unsustainable and we will establish a commission which will assess modern threats such as cyber security and set out more practical ways to defend Ireland. It will recommend areas to improve our defence capability in a cost-effective way.

- The Irish Freedom Party will decline or refuse any future requests whether from the UN or the EU for Irish Defence Forces to deploy for the purpose of ferrying 'migrants' around the Mediterranean. The primary responsibility of the Irish Defence Forces is in the defence of Ireland.

## **15. Protect Ireland's unique history, heritage, and culture**

We are committed to preserving and promoting Ireland's cultural heritage for future generations, and to develop and retain its unique characteristics in an age of globalisation and digitalisation. We note that multiculturalism is recognised as having failed in other European countries such as France, Germany, the UK, Holland and more recently Sweden. We view multiculturalism as a serious threat to social peace and cohesion and the survival of any nation state as a cultural unit. It is therefore the duty of the government and civil society to confidently protect Ireland's unique cultural identity as the predominant culture. Our culture is unique and should not be diluted to suit the interest of globalist homogenisation.

We insist the Irish history and culture be respected and remain as a core subject in primary schools and in Junior Cycle in secondary school.

We will ensure that the only flag to be flown on all public buildings will be the Irish Tricolour.

We believe that it is essential that public servants be seen as impartial in all matters of public and political debate. We will insist that the Gardaí and Defence Forces refrain from getting involved in politics (e.g. Gay Pride Parades and other social campaigns).

The Irish Freedom Party propose to encourage every home and business in Ireland fly the National Flag on 17th March. Each household in Ireland will be provided with one free Tricolour on request.

## **16. EU Membership**

The Party puts Ireland's interest first. Our long-term goal is for Ireland to be a sovereign independent country outside the constraints of the EU.

We believe that an exit from the European Union will permit the Irish People to take back control of

- Law-making
- Citizenship
- Currency
- Trade policy
- Borders and immigration policy
- Taxation and budget policy
- Sea-fisheries and marine resources
- Human rights under the Irish Supreme Court
- Foreign and security policy and enable the maintenance of a meaningful military neutrality.

We support all democratic endeavours to achieve the consent of the voters of Northern Ireland for a re-united and independent Ireland under the control of the Irish people and not that of either London or Brussels.

The Party will seek when feasible an Irish referendum on EU membership in the event of the following:

- Another net contributor member State leaving the EU
- Further undermining of Irish interests by the EU such as the introduction of a CCCTB which will mean loss of control over our own taxes.
- Further undermining by the EU of Irish military neutrality

In the short term, where feasible, we seek the repatriation of powers to Ireland from the EU, the lessening of financial contributions to the EU budget, the protection of Irish tax sovereignty, a better deal for our fishing community and the removal of Irish Defence Forces from EU Battle Groups.

We will use the Irish veto to block the accession of any further countries to the EU until the EU undertakes deep and radical reform. Specifically, we will campaign for the return of our national veto over all policy areas and the abandonment of Qualified Majority Voting. Specifically, we are opposed to a common EU Foreign policy and will work to ensure Irish fishermen are given greater rights to fish in Irish territorial waters.

We will seek means to curb abuse of our national welfare and residence system by EU foreign nationals. Belgium for instance, applies rules preventing non-Belgian EU nationals who are not working from claiming welfare payments and supports. Immigrants to Belgium must also have a minimum level of savings and a job arranged in advance. Uncontrolled immigration helps increase demand for housing, reducing availability, increases house prices and also lowers the wages of less skilled workers.

We will seek to bring back the 'Green' passport. In 2006 Ireland abandoned the green passport in favour of the common 'burgundy' passport of the EU. The introduction of the green passport in 1927 was an important symbol of our new-found independence. Re-introducing that passport now will be an important symbol of our desire to once again become an independent nation state.

Flight arrivals into Ireland will have a queue for Irish passport holders and everyone else (incl. other EU passport holders) will queue separately unlike the situation at present.



## **17. Software Freedom and Security**

The Irish Freedom Party suggests policies for a strong and firm effort to promote free software within the state, and to lead the rest of the country towards software freedom.

Our mission is to organize society for the freedom and well-being of the people. One aspect of this mission, in the computing field, is to encourage users to adopt free software: software that respects the users' freedom. A proprietary (non-free) program tramples the freedom of those that use it; it is a social problem that any state should work to eradicate.

The state needs to insist on free software in its own computing for the sake of its computational sovereignty (the state's control over its own computing). All users deserve control over their computing, but the state has a responsibility to the people to maintain control over the computing it does on their behalf. Most government activities now depend on computing, and its control over those activities depends on its control over that computing. Losing this control in an agency whose mission is critical undermines national security.

Moving state agencies to free software can also provide secondary benefits, such as saving money and encouraging local software support businesses.

## **18. Northern Ireland**

The Irish Freedom Party supports all democratic endeavours to achieve the consent of the voters of Northern Ireland for a re-united and independent Ireland under the control of the Irish people and not that of either London or Brussels.

We believe that Irelands leaving the EU is necessary to prevent a second Partition of Ireland being implemented by the addition of new EU dimensions to the North-South border and the consequent creation of major new obstacles in the way of securing consent to future Irish reunification.

We advocate all possible growth in cooperation and consolidation between the North and South of Ireland be that in rail, road, energy, media, planning, health, education, economic activities and culture etc

In order to help prepare the whole of Ireland for eventual re- unification.

We will campaign for the overturning of The Abortion (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2020 by which Westminster imposed abortion on the people of Northern Ireland.

As a constitutional unit the UK voted to leave the EU in June 2016. We accept and support that democratic vote and therefore oppose the Northern Ireland Protocol which keeps the Northern Six Counties in the Single Market for Goods as well as the EU's Customs Union. That makes the people subject to legislation by people did they not elect and cannot vote out.

The party supports the Good Friday Agreement as a means of securing peace on the island of Ireland and providing conditions and means for a democratic transition.

Ireland can be reunited with both parts inside the EU but can only be reunited and independent when both the North and South of Ireland are outside the European Union.

## **19. Other party commitments:**

We want a proper debate and public consultation on Ireland 2040 plan.