



**GERARD P. CRAUGHWELL
SENATOR**

COUNCILLORS' PAY AND CONDITIONS – TIMELINE OF DEVELOPMENTS

DATE	ACTIVITY	OUTCOME
DECEMBER-JAN 2014/15	<i>GC</i> UNDERTAKES ONLINE SURVEY OF COUNCILLORS	COUNCILLORS FROM ALL PARTIES AND INDEPENDENTS RAISE THE ISSUE OF CLASS K PRSI-ISSUE HAS NOT BEEN RAISED IN THE SEANAD SINCE THE LOCAL GOV REFORM ACT 2014 WAS IMPLEMENTED
FEB-MARCH 2015	<i>GC</i> SENT QUERIES INCLUDING FOI TO DEPARTMENTS ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION RE ISSUES	<i>GC</i> MADE COUNCILLORS AWARE OF DEADLINE FOR VC1 CONTRIBUTION
7TH OF APRIL 2015	<i>GC</i> ONLINE SURVEY SPECIFICALLY ON PRSI SENT TO ALL COUNCILLORS	SOME COUNCILLORS SERIOUSLY DISADVANTAGED BECAUSE OF CLASS K PRSI
15TH OF APRIL 2015	<i>GC</i> HAS COMMENCEMENT DEBATE WITH MINISTER KEVIN HUMPHREYS	FIRST TIME ISSUE OF CLASS K COUNCILLORS PRSI RAISED IN SEANAD SINCE 2011 MIN HUMPHREYS COMMENDS <i>GC</i> FOR RAISING IT
15TH APRIL	<i>GC</i> WRITES TO CHAIR & SECRETARIAT OF JOINT OIREACTHAS COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION TO ASK CLASS K BE PUT ON AGENDA	JOINT OIREACTHAS COMMITTEE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO THIS
21ST APRIL 2015	<i>GC</i> SECOND COMMENCEMENT DEBATE WITH MINISTER ANN PHELAN TO DISCUSS SALARIES BEING PAID TO COUNCILLORS	IRISH TIMES POLITICAL REPORTED MICHAEL O REAGAN REPORTS ON THE ISSUE IN IRISH TIMES FIRST TIME COUNCILLORS PAY RAISED IN SEANAD SINCE THE LOCAL GOV REF ACT WAS PASSED
8TH MAY 2015	<i>GC</i> RECEIVES REPLY FROM OMBUDSMAN ON CLASS K PRSI	OMBUDSMAN CAN'T EXAMINE COMPLAINT AS LEVIES HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED BY GOV IN BUDGET AND ENACTED IN LEGISLATION. POLICY DECISION
27TH MAY 2015	SENATOR DENIS LANDY HAS COMMENCEMENT DEBATE ASKS MINISTER TO CARRY OUT A REVIEW OF "PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST"	MINISTER'S REPLY DOES NOT MENTION ANYTHING ABOUT COUNCILLORS PAY, PRSI AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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17 TH JUNE 2015	GC SUBMITS MOTION WITH FF ON COUNCILLORS PAY AND CONDITIONS PLACED ON SEANAD ORDER PAPER	STILL ON ORDER PAPER BUT HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED. GC CALLS FOR CROSS AND ALL PARTY DEBATE
22 ND JUNE 2015	GC RECEIVES LEGAL ADVICE FROM A BARRISTER ON CLASS K PRSI	BARRISTER SAID: "It remains a matter of Gov Policy whether such a levy should be abolished. It would appear to me that the purpose of the legislation was simply to collect additional tax from public office holders"
25 TH OF JUNE 2015	GOVERNMENT PARTIES PLACE MOTION ON ORDER PAPER HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT OF COUNCILLORS. NO MENTION OF PAY, CONDITIONS, PRSI ETC THIS WAS THEIR SOLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ISSUE	GC INSERTS AMENDMENT TO MOTION THAT REQUESTS MIN TO INCLUDE REP PAYMENT, PRSI, SICK PAY AND PENSION ENTITLEMENTS IN TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR REVIEW GROUP. MOTION STILL ON ORDER PAPER BUT AMEMDMENT ACCEPTED
22 ND JULY 2015	GC SENDS FOI REQUESTS TO DEPT EXPEND & REFORM ON DETAILS OF PAY NEGOTIATIONS AND RAISES ISSUE OF COUNCILLORS SALARIES RE LOW PAID COMMISSION	NO INFORMATION WAS RELEASED
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2015	GC UNDERTAKES RESEARCH ON ISSUE OF CLASS K PRSI INCLUDING HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT ETC	RESEARCH WILL BE USED IN PREPARATION OF A REPORT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE JOINT OIREACTAS COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
22 ND SEPTEMBER 2015	GC RAISES ISSUE OF CLASS K PRSI COUNCILLORS AT JOINT OIREACTAS COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION. GC SENDS VIDEO OF DISCUSSION TO ALL COUNCILLORS	TÁNAISTE SAYS: <i>If the committee does some work on it and could get all-party agreement on it, I would certainly be able to address it. It must also go to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform but the Senator is aware of that.</i> (FULL TEXT OF DISCUSSION BELOW) * PAGE 5
24 TH SEPTEMBER 2015	GC MADE PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSIONS TO MINISTERS HOWLIN, NOONAN, KELLY AND BURTON	LETTERS ACKNOWLEDGED
30 TH SEPTEMBER 2015	GC APPOINTED RAPORTEUR TO JOINT OIREACTAS COMM TO PRODUCE REPORT ON CLASS K PRSI. GC INFORMS COUNCILLORS OF THIS	COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT AGREES THAT VIEWS, AND ANY REPORTS PREPARED BY LAMA AND AILG SHOULD BE INCLUDED.
1 ST -2 ND OCTOBER 2015	AILG AUTUMN SEMINAR	GC TAKES PART IN PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE ISSUE OF COUNCILLORS PAY AND CONDITIONS. AILG STRESSES COMMITMENT TO RESOLVING ISSUES BUT RULES OUT ANY INVOLVEMENT BY THOSE "DOING SOLO RUNS"

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6 TH OCTOBER 2015	<p>GC WRITES TO SEANAD PARTY WHIPS TO SET UP ALL PARTY MEETING “ <i>Many of you will be aware of the recent AILG meeting in Inchydoney. One thing that is certain from the panel discussion on the 'Terms and Conditions of Councillors' is that they are justifiably very angry people. There was a call at the meeting for us all to work together to try to improve the treatment of councillors with respect to pay, allowances and general conditions. I am anxious to work with all parties and to find a workable solution. I would like it if we could agree to the immediate establishment of a meaningful working group to deal with councillors concerns. I am happy to call a meeting once each party has nominated a representative to attend.</i></p>	<p>Reply on behalf of the whips 07 October 2015 Senator Paul Coughlan Dear Gerard,</p> <p>An All Party Committee comprising Whips is already in existence charged with seeking to find ways of improving the conditions of Councillors.</p> <p>The Committee has held meetings with Ministers Kelly & Humphreys and accompanied both Representative Associations in their meeting with Minister Kelly.</p> <p>We propose to have further meetings now that both Associations have made their joint submission to the Minister.</p> <hr/> <p>Reply from Senator Paul Coughlan 8/10/2015 The Group comprises the Seanad Whips, or Representative of each of the Parties, Fine Gael, Fianna Fail, Labour & Sinn Fein.</p> <p>I wish you well with your Report on the issue of Councillors Class K PRSI which has been discussed with Minister Humphreys on a number of occasions and he received a Report on the matter from AILG/LAMA.</p>
8 th OCTOBER 2015	<p>GC SENDS FOI REQUEST TO MINISTER HUMPHREYS RE REPORTS AND to discuss Pay and Conditions of City and County Councillors</p> <p>GC SENDS FOI REQUEST TO MINISTER ALAN KELLY RE REPORTS AND to discuss Pay and Conditions of City and County Councillors</p>	<p>Dear Minister Humphreys, (ALSO SENT TO MIN KELLY)</p> <p>I have been nominated as rapporteur by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Education and Social Protection to submit a report on Class K PRSI and the impact of it on City and County Councillors. I am currently collecting all the necessary information for it.</p> <p>I would be most grateful if you could supply me with the following from your calendar and meetings schedule please:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The dates and times of any meetings with the Seanad Whips on the issue of Councillors’ Pay and Conditions of Employment since the Local Government Reform Act 2014 was enacted. 2. The dates and times of any meetings with individual members of the Seanad or the Dáil relating to the issue of Councillors’ Pay and Conditions 3. The dates and times of any meetings with the representative groups AILG or LAMA either together with Oireachtas members or separately. 4. The minutes of these meetings and details of any agreements reached or other outcomes.

<p>9-10TH OCTOBER 2015</p>	<p>LAMA AUTUMN SEMINAR</p>	<p>GC SPEAKS TO COUNCILLORS AND ACKNOWLEDGES THEIR ANGER OVER DELAY IN BRINGING THESE ISSUES TO THE TABLE SINCE 2014</p>
<p>19TH OCTOBER 2015</p>	<p>GC WRITES TO LAMA AND AILG (DIRECTOR, GENERAL SECRETARY AND BOTH CHAIRS TO INVITE SUBMISSIONS AND TO REQUEST COPY OF THE REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTERS</p>	<p>Tom/Colm AILG Mags/ Bobby/ LAMA</p> <p>Thank you to you and your colleagues for your hospitality at the recent LAMA training event in Kilkenny where I welcomed the opportunity to receive honest and forthright feedback from Councillors on the issues that are of concern to them.</p> <p>As you may know I have been actively engaging with Councillors on the issue of Class K PRSI since I was elected last October and was recently appointed rapporteur to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Education and Social Protection on the issue. I am currently preparing a report on behalf of the Joint Committee on Class K PRSI for submission to An Tánaiste as requested by her.</p> <p>I am aware that the LAMA executive and members has also been active on this issue and have presented a document on it to Minister Humphreys at a recent meeting.</p> <p>For the purposes of producing a comprehensive and definitive report for the Tánaiste, I would like to include the views of LAMA and AILG members and am writing to request a copy of the report and to arrange a meeting with you and the executive to discuss the matter in more detail. I will be available to meet officials of LAMA any time at your convenience and I look forward to hearing from you.</p> <p>NO REPLIES RECEIVED TO DATE</p>
<p>23RD OCTOBER 2015</p>	<p>TOM SHERIDAN CLERK TO THE JOINT OIREACTHAS COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PROTECTION WRITES TO LEADERS OF ALL THE PARTIES IN THE SEANAD TO INFORM THEM OF THE REPORT AND TO INVITE SUBMISSIONS. HE ALSO WRITES TO LAMA AND AILG</p>	<p>LETTER FROM TOM SHERIDAN</p> <p>I have been asked by the Joint Committee to inform you that it has asked Senator Gerard Craughwell to prepare a report for the consideration of the Joint Committee in relation to issues relating to PRSI Contribution Class K.</p> <p>The Joint Committee would welcome any submission, comments or other material that you may wish to make available that would contribute to the report. These may be sent to Senator Craughwell directly, or to myself.</p> <p>AWAITING REPLIES</p>

*Transcript of debate between Senator Craughwell and an Tánaiste Joan Burton TD on 22nd September 2015

Senator Gerard P. Craughwell: The one that comes to mind is in the area of social protection. It concerns class K PRSI. Those who pay it do not benefit from it, although they pay at the rate of 4%. The same applies to educational supports. The Minister mentioned persons who moved into the education sector where one moved from one set of statistics into another. Heretofore, we have not measured the success of programmes such as VTOS. We know that there is an input and an end to the programme, but we are not measuring or have not measured its success or otherwise. There is a crossover between the education sector and the social protection system. It is about devising reports that are meaningful. That is where I am coming from.

Deputy Joan Burton: For the Senator's information, there was no capacity before we began the amalgamation process I described. As an expert in the education field, the Senator knows that people who gained access to a course either did show or did not show up. That is on the FÁS side. Going back to the New Zealand model, one can take it to a greater extreme and say that while somebody who is unemployed is doing this - this is the example that is and will be given by professionals in the area - he or she is not searching for a job and that, therefore, the person who does not enter the education sector might find a job faster. On the class K contributions made by politicians----

Senator Gerard P. Craughwell: Since 2015 they are by anybody with what is called unearned income.

Deputy Joan Burton: Yes.

Senator Gerard P. Craughwell: It seems to be anathema to the notion of social insurance that one would make insurance contributions from which one could never draw down.

Deputy Joan Burton: The Senator might take up that issue with my colleague, the Minister for Finance, Deputy Michael Noonan. That was a particular feature in terms of the stress endured in the country as a consequence of the crash and also the fact that many in politics and other walks of life were well provided for in terms of pensions.

LATER IN THE DEBATE

Deputy Joan Burton: Yes, before the budget. **In respect of class K contributions, I suggest that the committee might decide to commission one or more of the members to produce a report on it and if it can arrive at a recommendation, make it available. It could be done in a relatively short period of time and might be something that we could revisit during the debate on social welfare legislation. Equally, it might be available during the term of the next Dáil or the next committee.**

Senator Gerard P. Craughwell: It is something I will bring to the committee if that is agreeable.

Deputy Joan Burton: Perhaps the Senator can discuss it with the committee. We have received a lot of representations about it in the terms outlined by the Senator and it is an issue. **If the committee does some work on it and could get all-party agreement on it, I would certainly be able to address it. It must also go to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform but the Senator is aware of that.**

Senator Gerard P. Craughwell: I thank the Minister.