



Our Ref: PQ 70307/25

26th January 2026

Mr. Aidan Farrelly T.D.
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Farrelly,

I refer to my response to your Parliamentary Question 70307/25.

“To ask the Minister for Enterprise; Tourism and Employment if he will provide a schedule of all funding and grant aid provided by heading and subhead to Kildare, Wicklow and Meath local authorities in 2023, 2024 and to date in 2025; the amount returned and or not expended over the same period.”

In my response, I indicated that additional time would be needed to obtain the requested information, which is set out in the response below.

My Department provides funding each year through the A8 Subhead to support the operation of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) based within each of the 31 Local Authorities. This funding is provided through Enterprise Ireland to the Local Authorities.

On an annual basis, Enterprise Ireland transfers any balance of unused funds from the A8 Subhead back to my Department. These funds include both capital grants and an element of the current funding provided for the administration of the LEOs.

Further to this, over €400 million was paid out to SMEs across the country under the Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) and Power Up grant schemes in 2024.

The budget for the ICOB grant scheme was €257 million of which €247 million was spent under the grant scheme. No money was returned to the Department from these specific Local Authorities.

The Power Up grant, which specifically targeted businesses in the retail, hospitality and beauty sectors, had a budget of €170 million with €161 million paid to the Local Authorities under the grant scheme.

In 2025 the Department also opened a reclassification appeals process, for those businesses in the retail, hospitality, and beauty sectors, who had misclassified their business sector when applying for the original ICOB grant which subsequently made them ineligible for the Power Up grant. No funding was returned here, as Departmental payments were made after payments being made by the Local Authorities.

Following from the integration of Tourism into the remit of my Department in June last year there is also funding allocated to these County Councils for the General funding for Fáilte Ireland's core functions of supporting investment in tourism product and infrastructure in the form of capital grants administered by Fáilte Ireland and to support work being undertaken as part of the EU Just Transition Fund in the Midlands Region.

Please see below table showing the distribution of these funds to the Local Authorities in Kildare, Wicklow, and Meath.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Burke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Burke T.D.

Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment

Table 1: Local Authority Funding 2023 – 2025: Kildare, Meath, and Wicklow

	2023	2024	To date 2025	Exchequer Return 2024
Local Enterprise Offices				
Kildare	€ 2,190,252	€ 2,287,148	€ 2,350,081	€ 480,243
Meath	€ 1,585,369	€ 1,783,216	€ 2,247,052	€ 225,454
Wicklow	€ 1,471,961	€ 1,634,301	€ 1,775,130	€ -
Increased Cost of Business (ICOB)				
Kildare		€ 10,100,000		
Meath		€ 7,500,000		
Wicklow		€ 6,500,000		
Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) - Reclassification				
Kildare			€ 378,435	
Meath			€ 198,592	
Wicklow			€ 199,376	
Power Up Grant				
Kildare		€ 7,470,000		€ 275,779
Meath		€ 6,100,000		€ 189,901
Wicklow		€ 5,400,000		€ 377,127
Faillte Ireland				
Kildare			€ 1,743,588	
Meath			€ 207,189	
Wicklow			€ 118,048	
TOTALS				
Kildare	€ 2,190,252	€ 19,857,148	€ 4,472,104	€ 756,022
Meath	€ 1,585,369	€ 15,383,216	€ 2,652,833	€ 415,355
Wicklow	€ 1,471,961	€ 13,534,301	€ 2,092,554	€ 377,127