

Review of the Adequacy and Effectiveness of the Statement of Entitlements for an Official Opposition at the Northern Ireland Assembly (June 2021)

8.6 Resource Entitlements - Table - page 28

Note – amended figures highlighted in bold italics

Parliament	Example of Party with 10 Seats	Average per Seat
NI Assembly - no official opposition recognised (inc Whips Allowance)	99,150	9,915
NI Assembly – for an official opposition party (inc Whips Allowance)	124,090	12,409
House of Commons (UK) (estimated figure)	283,199	28,319
Dáil (RoI) (estimated figure converted from € to £ at 0.86)	553,564 (plus the allocation of party staff resource)	55,356 (plus the allocation of party staff resource)
Scottish Parliament	89,260	8,920
Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament (estimated figure)	263,372	26,337

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Using the example of an opposition party of 10 seats, the additional funding currently provided to an opposition party under the FAPP Scheme is **£24,940** per annum (see Table on page 28). In effect this allows the party to employ only one additional full time member of staff at a lower grade. A reasonable level of support would provide an opposition party of 10 seats with up to three additional full time staff (depending on grade) covering specialist advice, research, policy development, communications and administration duties. To enable a party to employ this number of staff with the level of skills necessary, and to cover miscellaneous and travel costs, funding of £100,000 (per annum) is proposed over and above the general level of FAPP funding. This would raise the total level of funding for an official opposition party from **£124,090** to **£199,150** or from **£12,409** to **£19,915** per member. This proposed figure is significantly above the level of funding in the Scottish Parliament but below the level provided in Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament, Westminster and the Dáil.