

IRELAND - HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

Reply to the ECPRD request

6116- The offering of a financial advantage in exchange for the resignation of a seat in parliament

DENMARK - FOLKETINGET

Request date: 02/07/2025

Addressed to: SLOVENIA, CZECHIA, SPAIN, NETHERLANDS, AUSTRIA, POLAND, - EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, FINLAND, MALTA, ESTONIA, GERMANY, CROATIA, ROMANIA, ITALY, CYPRUS, LUXEMBOURG, SWEDEN, UNITED KINGDOM, SLOVAKIA, LITHUANIA, HUNGARY, IRELAND, FRANCE, LATVIA, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, GREECE, BELGIUM, BULGARIA

Subject areas: Corruption, whistleblowing

Deadline 28/07/2025

Response from Ireland

ECPRD Correspondent:

See below

Reply provided by) on 2025-07-23

Is there any legislation or other form of regulation, such as a code of conduct, that prohibits: A) a Member of Parliament from accepting a financial advantage on the condition that they resign their seat; B) the act of offering such a proposal, including by individuals from the members own party.

No such specific legislation/regulation has been found, however the Ethics legislation and the legislation around public finance to political parties, as well as the electoral system would appear to disallow the Danish scenario described. See below

If so, what does the regulation entail, and how is it enforced?

The legislation underpinning state funding to political parties sets out how public monies can be spent and this scenario is not included. See unofficial consolidated version of Electoral Act 1997 (as amended). The Ethics Acts (note link is for an unofficial consolidated version of the legislation) and the associated Code of Conduct Members would appear to preclude a member from accepting such an arrangment. It is worth noting that Members are elected to Dáil Éireann in a personal capacity rather than on a list in the Irish electoral system. Members of parliament can resign and if they do so a bye election must be called within 6 months to fill the vacancy.