

## TRANSFERRED IN FROM DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Our Ref:	DPER-CQ-006
Received Date:	16/04/2020
Date for Issue to Deputy:	Monday 27/04/2020
Category:	General
Asking Deputy:	Éamon Ó Cuív
Question:	<b>To ask the Minister for Finance when a new Revised Estimate Volume for 2020 will issue in light of the Covid-19 crisis and the extra expenditure approved as a result; and if he will make a statement on the matter</b>

### Response:

The Revised Estimates for Public Services (REV) 2020, published at the end of 2019, set out an overall Government Expenditure Ceiling of €70.4 billion. In responding to the Covid-19 crisis, funding has been agreed for a number of expenditure measures which, due to their size, will necessitate an increase in allocations for the impacted Departments, as well as the overall Government Expenditure Ceiling. In particular, this applies to additional funding requirements for the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, the Department of Health, and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, reflecting the measures to respond to the Covid-19 crisis outlined in the Stability Programme Update.

As REV 2020 was not voted on prior to the dissolution of Dáil Éireann, spending thus far in 2020 is operating under the four-fifths rule, as set out under the Central Fund Permanent Provisions Act 1965. Under this four-fifths rule, Departments may spend an amount not exceeding 80% of the amount included for that Department in the Appropriation Act of the previous year. This legislative provision ensures that Departments can continue to spend in the period before the Estimates are voted by the Dáil. In aggregate, the net amount available this year under the four-fifths rule is €43.6 billion.

In the normal course of events, new Estimates for 2020 would be presented to the Dáil following Government formation. However, given the evolving nature of the current Covid-19 crisis, expenditure trends, in particular in the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection are being kept under close review. Consideration is being given to the appropriate timing for presentation to Dáil Éireann of the Estimate for that Department taking into account the level of expenditure on the Pandemic Unemployment Payment and the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme and the amount available under the four-fifths rule.