

Disability Federation of Ireland

COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT



BUDGET 2026

Disability Federation of Ireland

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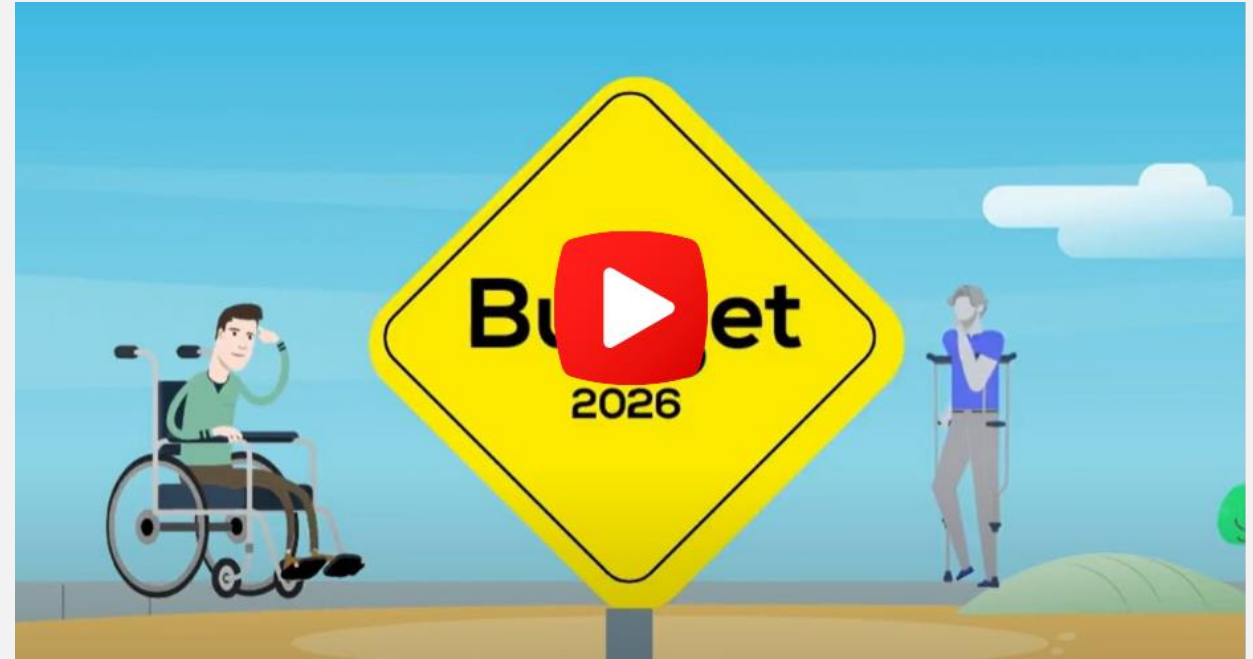
DFI BUDGET 2026 COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

The Programme for Government promised a “step change” for disabled people.

Budget 2026 is the first chance for the new government to keep that promise.

DFI has created this toolkit to help you push for a Budget that holds them accountable.

Share these materials with your community, media, and partners, using
#DeliverTheStepChange #DisabilityBudget26 to get involved.



WHAT IS A COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT?

Simply share the communications material from this toolkit.

Sections in **[BOLD RED]** are customisable and should be updated to suit your own communications.

The toolkit includes:

- Social media posts with suggested copy and tiles (tag TDs)
- Newsletter copy
- Website content
- Customisable media release for your area
- Customisable letter to local TDs
- Local area stats.
- A list of all TDs by area with email and X (Twitter) handles



HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

Customise, copy, paste and send!

Social media ([page 7](#)): Copy is ready to go. Just copy and paste (customise if needed). Social media tiles are on page 12.

Newsletter copy ([page 8](#)): Almost ready. Just add local and organisation details where you see **[bold red text in square brackets]**. Link to local factsheets and share with local media and TDs.

Website copy: ([page 9](#)): Almost ready. Just add local and organisation details where you see **[bold red text in square brackets]**.

Press release ([page 10](#)): Almost ready. Just add local and organisation details where you see **[bold red text in square brackets]**. We've linked to factsheets with stats for your local area. Link to your local factsheet in the release and share with local media and candidates.

Letter to local TDs ([page 11](#)): Almost ready. Just add local and organisation details where you see **[bold red text in square brackets]**.



READY TO GO

SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT

- The Programme for Government promised a “step change” for disabled people. Budget 2026 is the first opportunity to deliver on that promise. #DeliverTheStepChange
- One in five people in Ireland is disabled, yet disabled people continue to face the highest poverty rates, longest waiting lists, and lowest access to basic services. Time to #DeliverTheStepChange for #DisabilityBudget26
- People with disabilities are still facing poverty, long waiting lists, and lack of access to services. This Government promised change. Budget 2026 is their chance to deliver it.
- Over 1,200 disabled people under 65 are in nursing homes due to lack of housing and supports. This is a human rights failure. #Budget26 should provide Budget 2026 must provide accessible housing and community supports.
- Disabled people are:
 - ✗ 4x more likely to live in poverty
 - ✗ Waiting years for services
 - ✗ Locked out of housing, education, and work.This isn't acceptable. It's time to #DeliverTheStepChange. Tag your TD. Demand action.
- Living with a disability costs up to €555/week. Disability Allowance is €244. Budget 2026 must close that gap. It's time for a real #CostOfDisability payment.
- Disabled households need up to 93% more income to achieve the same standard of living as others. That's not equality. That's exclusion. We're calling for a €55 weekly Cost of Disability payment now.
- 8,875 children have waited more than 12 months for disability assessments. That's not a delay. That's denial. Budget 2026 must invest in children's services.



NEWSLETTER

COPY

Budget 2026: Deliver the step change for people with disabilities

Budget 2026 is a test of Government's promise to disabled people — and it's time to make sure they deliver. The Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) has launched its Pre-Budget Submission 2026, and with it, the national campaign: Deliver the Step Change.

The new Programme for Government promised a bold new approach to disability. Budget 2026 is their first opportunity to prove they mean it.

Right now, disabled people in Ireland are:

- Four times more likely to live in poverty
- Waiting years for essential health and social care
- Paying hundreds per week in extra disability-related costs
- Locked out of housing, employment, and public life.

This is not inevitable, it's the result of policy choices.

DFI's submission sets out key demands, including:

- A €55 weekly Cost of Disability payment
- Investment in children's and adult disability services
- Sustainable funding for voluntary disability organisations
- Accessible, affordable housing and transport
- Measures to end disability poverty and deprivation

How you can help

DFI has developed a full Communications Toolkit to support members and allies in raising their voices. You'll find:

- Key messages and talking points
- Sample social media posts and graphics
- Email and media templates
- Tips for contacting TDs and sharing your story.

Let's work together to ensure that Budget 2026 delivers the step change Ireland urgently needs. 🗉 [Download the Campaign Toolkit] 📄 [Read the Full Submission] 🔗 [Link to campaign webpage]. #DeliverTheStepChange #DisabilityBudget26.

WEBSITE/NEWS SECTION COPY

“Deliver the Step Change” Campaign Ahead of Budget 2026

Budget 2026 is the first major opportunity for the new Government to show it is serious about disability rights, inclusion and equality. Despite years of commitments, disabled people in Ireland remain disproportionately affected by poverty, unmet health and social care needs, inaccessible housing, and systemic exclusion.

In their/[our] Pre-Budget Submission, Disability Federation of Ireland, DFI is. [we are] calling for urgent investment across six key areas [use bullet points from your own submission if applicable]:

- A €55 weekly Cost of Disability payment
- Sustainable funding for disability services and voluntary organisations
- Action on disability poverty, housing, and inclusion
- Recruitment of staff for Children’s Disability Network Teams
- Community-based supports to end inappropriate placements (e.g. in nursing homes)
- Transparent, equality-proofed Budget decisions shaped by lived experience

“Disabled people have waited long enough. Budget 2026 must be the turning point, not another missed opportunity,” said Elaine Teague, CEO of DFI. “It’s time to deliver the step change that has been promised for years.

“DFI is inviting its member organisations, supporters, and the public to get involved by sharing campaign messages, contacting local TDs, and using the Communications Toolkit now available to support local action.

Get Involved.

Download the toolkit and learn how you can support the campaign:

- [Download Toolkit]
- [Read Full Submission]
- [Visit Campaign Page]
- Read DFI’s summary pre-budget submission here.
- [your organisation’s pre-budget submission (if applicable)]



LOCAL CUSTOMISABLE PRESS RELEASE

[Local area] Organisation Calls on Government to Deliver the Step Change for Disabled People in Budget 2026

[Organisation Name] is calling on Government to follow through on its promise to deliver a real “step change” for disabled people in Budget 2026.

[XX% - see [factsheet](#) for your local area] of people in **[local area]** are living with a disability and experience difficulties with cost of living, housing health and access to services compared to the general population according to **[local organisation name]**.

[Insert organisation spokespersons job title], [Insert organisation spokespersons name] said that more needs to be done to address gaps in service.

“Too many disabled people in **[local area]** still don’t have access to the services they need. **[Local area]** is home to a growing number of disabled people whose needs are not being met by underfunding of services and siloing of services.

“People living with disabilities in **[local area]** are part of our community and need to have the opportunity to participate fully and thrive. This means we need to address waiting lists and the additional Cost of Disability that drives some disabled people in poverty in **[local area]**.”

[Mr/Ms Insert organisation spokespersons surname] said that the **[local area]** has an opportunity to make this a disability budget by talking holding the government to account to follow through on their promises.

“Disabled people in **[local area]** are being left behind,” said **[Spokesperson Name]** “They’re waiting months and sometimes years for basic services, they’re locked out of the housing system, and they’re paying hundreds more each week just to live with dignity. Budget 2026 is a critical chance to put that right.”

[Organisation Name] is supporting the “Deliver the Step Change” campaign, which outlines the urgent steps Government must take to protect and promote the rights of disabled people, including **[include your own Budget asks if applicable]**:

- A €55 weekly Cost of Disability payment
- Increased investment in local disability and therapy services
- More accessible housing, including supports to live in the community
- Sustainable funding for community and voluntary organisations
- Inclusive education, employment, and participation opportunities.

Read DFI’s summary pre-budget submission here/ **[your organisation’s pre-budget submission (if applicable)]**

ENDS

Media contact

[Link to the factsheet for your local area]

EMAIL TO TD

Dear Deputy **[TD's Last Name]**,

Subject line: Urgent need to deliver the promised "Step Change" for disabled people in Budget 2026

I am writing to you as a **[person with a disability / family member / carer / disability organisation / concerned constituent]** in [your county/constituency], to urge you to take action to ensure Budget 2026 delivers the step change that disabled people have been promised.

Right now in **[local area]**, disabled people are:

[Insert local stat or example – e.g. "Waiting over 12 months for therapy services", or "Spending over half their income on the extra cost of disability" – see DFI [factsheet](#) for your local area].

[Insert another relevant point – e.g. "Still unable to access Personal Assistance or accessible housing"]

The Government made a commitment to a "step change" in the support and inclusion of disabled people. Budget 2026 is the first real test of that promise.

rights and needs of disabled people by ensuring Budget 2026 includes:

- A €55 weekly Cost of Disability payment
- Increased funding for health and social care services — especially Personal Assistance, respite, and therapy supports
- Investment in accessible housing and community supports
- Sustainable funding for local disability organisations that deliver essential services
- Action to end disability poverty and improve inclusion in education, employment and public life.

[Optional: Share a short personal experience or concern — e.g. "My daughter has been waiting 18 months for support that should have started when she was 3."]

I hope you will stand with us and speak up for a Budget that reflects equality, dignity and inclusion for all. I would welcome a response outlining how you will support these asks.

Thank you for your time and for your work on behalf of our community.

Yours sincerely,
[Your Full Name]
[Your Address, Optional]
[Your Contact Information]

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THANK YOU

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