

[REDACTED]

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**From:** FOI  
**Sent:** 07 December 2020 14:44  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FOI 141-20 - Response  
**Attachments:** FOI 141-20 Documents being released.pdf

Dear [REDACTED],

**Our Ref: FOI-141-20**

Thank you for your email to the Electoral Commission dated 18 November 2020.

The Commission aims to respond to requests for information promptly and has done so within the statutory timeframe of twenty working days.

Your request is shown below followed by our response.

*I would like to make a Freedom of Information Request for the following information please.*

*All records relating to a bequest given to the Sinn Féin political party from the estate of William Hampton. This would include all records received from Sinn Féin relating to the matter, all records sent to Sinn Féin, and any internal consideration of the issues.*

**Our response is as follows:**

We hold the information you have requested.

We have previously released information in relation to the bequest from the estate of William Hampton to Sinn Féin. This information was released in response to two earlier requests under the Freedom of Information Act and covered the period up to and including 18 December 2019. Those responses, reference numbers [FOI 214-19](#) and [FOI-301-19](#), can be found on our website.

We are also disclosing a number of other documents containing the requested information – please see the attached list. To access these you will need to use our secure document sharing site, Objective Connect.

You will receive an 'Invitation to Objective Connect Email Notification' (sent to the inbox of [REDACTED]). This notification will contain a link to enable you to start accessing your information. Please find below details on how to access the specific area we have set up for your documents.

1. Click on the link in the email.
2. You will be prompted to set up your username and password. Your username will be your email address, and your password can be whatever you like.
3. With your username and password, enter both details at the login screen and click 'login'.
4. You will now see your personal page, which will show the Share 'FOI – 141-20'
5. By clicking on the name of the share, you will find your documents.
6. You may view any of these documents

7. In addition you may download a copy to your personal computer by selecting the 'download' option and then 'save'.

This service will be closed one month from our response date, this is the **7 January 2020**.

In addition to these documents we received a donation report from Sinn Féin on 28 April 2020 that contained details of the most recent donation from William Hampton. We are not disclosing this donation report as all of the information contained within it which can be disclosed under data protection law, is included in our published register of donations. That information is reasonably accessible to you by other means and is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can find our online register of donations on our website, and this [link](#) will take you to donations reported by Sinn Féin.

#### **Section 40(2):**

You will notice that certain personal details have been redacted from the documents we are releasing. Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides for an exemption where the information requested constitutes personal data as defined by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA), and where release of the information requested would breach one of the data protection principles. Some of the information contained in the requested information falls within the description of personal data as defined by the DPA because the information relates directly to an identifiable living individual. This includes names and contact details of individuals in some instances. The individuals in some cases are junior staff members and they would not reasonably expect their information to be released.

The Commission strives to be an open, transparent authority and I trust that this information satisfies your request. In some circumstances we cannot responsibly release the requested information, and we ask for your understanding in this regard.

If you are not satisfied with this response, please note that the Commission operates a review procedure, details of which can be found on the Commission website at: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/freedom-information/make-a-freedom-information-request>.

Please also note that if you have exhausted all internal Commission review procedures and you are still not satisfied you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner. Details of this procedure can be found on the ICO website: <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

  
Information Officer

**The Electoral Commission**  
020 7271 0602  
[electoralcommission.org.uk](https://electoralcommission.org.uk)

**FOI 141-20: list of documents being released**

- Belfast Telegraph – Sinn Féin accused of using partition to its advantage over £1.5m donation\_Redacted
- Daily Monitoring Circular – William Hampton\_Redacted
- FW\_FOI 310-19\_Redacted
- In the News – Friday 30 October 2020\_Redacted
- In the News – Tuesday 10 November 2020\_Redacted
- Irish Examiner – Calls for Sinn Féin to explain that €4 donation will only be spent in Northern Ireland\_Redacted
- Irish News – Sinn Féin says all of record £4million donation will be spent in the north\_Redacted
- Media coverage for Electoral Commission\_ The Electoral Commission TRIAL, 28022020 (05\_51)\_Redacted
- Northern Ireland Weekly Report – 13 November\_Redacted
- Press Data Summary\_Electoral Commission – 1 September 2019\_Redacted
- Press Data Summary\_Electoral Commission – 3 September 2019\_Redacted
- Press Data Summary\_Electoral Commission – 4 September 2019\_Redacted
- Press Data Summary\_Electoral Commission – 5 September 2019\_Redacted
- Press Data Summary\_Electoral Commission – 6 September 2019\_Redacted
- Press Data Summary\_Electoral Commission – 10 November 2019\_Redacted
- Press Data Summary\_Electoral Commission – 15 November 2019\_Redacted
- Press Data Summary\_Electoral Commission – 16 November 2019\_Redacted
- Press Data Summary\_Electoral Commission – 23 October 2019\_Redacted
- Press Data Summary\_Electoral Commission – 26 October 2019\_Redacted
- Press Data Summary\_Electoral Commission – 30 August 2019\_Redacted
- Press Data Summary\_Electoral Commission – 31 August 2019\_Redacted
- Q2 donations LTT\_Redacted
- RE\_BBC inquiry draft to send to Kevin Magee\_Redacted
- RE\_Fine Gael – Sinn Féin leader must provide statement on €4 million donation O'Donnell\_Redacted
- RE\_FOI 301-19\_Redacted
- RE\_Irish Examiner – Calls for sinn Féin to explain claim that €4m donation will only be spent in Northern Ireland\_Redacted
- RE\_Media query\_Redacted
- RE\_Sinn Féin donation\_Redacted
- RE\_SOA over £250k documents\_Redacted
- Weekly report – 13 November\_Redacted

**From:** [NewsAlert](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Belfast Telegraph - Sinn Fein accused of using partition to its advantage over £1.5m donation  
**Date:** 19 October 2020 12:53:09

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Sinn Fein accused of using partition to its advantage over £1.5m donation

Ralph Hewitt  
October 19 2020 12:36 PM

Sinn Fein has been accused of using partition to its own advantage after the 1.5m donation it received from William E Hampton's will was registered by the party's Northern Ireland branch.

Party president Mary Lou McDonald told Ireland's Standards in Public Office Commission (Sipo) that it had no authority to scrutinise any donation made to the party north of the border as Sinn Fein operates on a six and 26 county basis.

Hampton's donation was made public in August 2019 by the Electoral Commission. Responding to Sipo, Ms McDonald wrote: The donation you refer to was not offered to, or accepted by, the Sinn Fein party in the 26 county jurisdiction.

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/sinn-fein-accused-of-using-partition-to-its-advantage-over-15m-donation-39640825.html>

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Extracted by Press Data Ltd.  
For urgent enquiries, please contact 0800 148 8860

Title

Sinn Féin tops latest party donations with  
£180k

Sinn Féin tells State watchdog UK rules  
apply to €4m donation

Fine Gael wants crackdown on  
'exploitation' of donations claiming Sinn  
Fein using NI 'loophole'

## Description

The Belfast Telegraph reports on the donations received by Sinn Féin, highlighting that the party received 'nearly a quarter of all political funding in Northern Ireland in the first three months of 2020 in a single donation'. The donation in question, of £100,000, came from William E Hampton, a late mechanic who left the party £1.5 million when he died in 2018. Overall, Sinn Féin received £182,421 in donations in the first quarter of 2020, the highest figure in Northern Ireland. The article also touches upon the donations received by the other parties in NI, totalling £429,766. Cahir Hughes, Head of the Electoral Commission in Northern Ireland, is also quoted outlining the benefits of publishing this data, expressing gratitude that many parties managed to deliver reports despite the challenges of Covid-19.

The Irish Times reports that Sinn Féin have claimed a recent, record-breaking donation is within the jurisdiction of the UK Electoral Commission, and not the Irish equivalent body. The party, which operates in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, received an estate worth €4 million as a donation from Englishman William Hampton. This is the most valuable donation ever recorded on the island of Ireland. After further information was requested regarding the donation by the Irish Standards in Public Office Commission (Sipo), Sinn Féin president Mary Lou MacDonald claimed that Irish public body had no authority to scrutinise the donation as the donation was received by "the Sinn Féin party, registered in the six counties [Northern Ireland], with the British Electoral Commission" and no donation had been received "the Sinn Féin party in the 26-county jurisdiction [Republic of Ireland]". This stance, as the article explains, shows how the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland can be used as a "means of circumventing the Republic's stricter controls on political donations". In the Republic of Ireland, parties cannot receive a donation of over €2,500, whereas there is no limit on the value of donations for parties within the UK.

The Belfast Telegraph reports that Fine Gael are calling for a 'crack down' on 'lax regulations' regarding political donations in Northern Ireland. The party insist that Sinn Féin exploit a loophole in regulations in order to accept 'massive' donations, including €4 million left to the party in the will of deceased English millionaire William Hampton. Senator Barry Ward has proposed that political parties must make 'an annual declaration that they aren't spending funds raised in other jurisdictions in the Republic'. The article highlights that the Standards in Public Office Commission outline that parties 'cannot accept a donation of any value from someone who lives outside of the island of Ireland unless they're an Irish citizen', and that permitted donations should be 'capped at €2,500 in any one calendar year'. Mr Barry therefore insists that the donation from Mr Hampton reveals a "massive loophole in Irish electoral law where unlimited donations can be received through a party's Northern Ireland operation". Fine Gael are therefore seeking to amend regulations to require parties contesting in elections in the Republic to "comply with Irish laws on ethics, political donations, and corruption, regardless of where they are operating". Mr Ward added that Sinn Féin should only accept €2,500 from Mr Hampton's donation, and that this money should only be spent in Northern Ireland. Sinn Féin have insisted that the party "meets all of its legal requirements" and that, as a consequence of partition, they are "lawfully obliged to register as a political party in both jurisdictions and to comply with relevant legislation and statutory regulations, north and south". Elsewhere, The Irish News reports that Sinn Féin have confirmed that the entirety of the €4 million donation will be spent in Northern Ireland.

Subject	Date recorded	Link	Link2
2020 Donations	10/06/2020	<a href="#">link</a>	
Sinn Fein	19/10/2020	<a href="#">link</a>	
Political Donations	09/11/2020	<a href="#">Belfast Telegraph link</a>	<a href="#">Irish News link</a>

From: Majella La Praik  
To: Press  
Cc: Cahir Hughes  
Subject: FW: FOI 301-19  
Date: 22 January 2020 14:52:23

Hi – just wanted to flag that this FOI is being sent out today. It's from a BBC News NI Investigations Correspondent and relates to donations from William Hampton to Sinn Féin. Cahir is aware.

You can see the response letter and redacted documents to be disclosed in the FOI folder:

[http://skynet/dm/Functions/M/FOI/DataSet/Forms/EC%20FOI%20Request%20Document%20Set/docsethomepage.aspx?\\_D=178518&FolderCTID=0x0120D520005551DE7F42242C48A2FCA4D914F4D2FB00AB6E9278364D4C44BF4201535B3D7FA9&List=7d6289f8-a1c0-4272-bc43-6b23b5cb6b01&RootFolder=%2Fdm%2FFunctions%2F\\_M%2FFOIDataSet%2FFOI%2D301%2D19&RecSrc=%2Fdm%2FFunctions%2FIM%2FFOIDataSet%2FFOI%2D301%2D19](http://skynet/dm/Functions/M/FOI/DataSet/Forms/EC%20FOI%20Request%20Document%20Set/docsethomepage.aspx?_D=178518&FolderCTID=0x0120D520005551DE7F42242C48A2FCA4D914F4D2FB00AB6E9278364D4C44BF4201535B3D7FA9&List=7d6289f8-a1c0-4272-bc43-6b23b5cb6b01&RootFolder=%2Fdm%2FFunctions%2F_M%2FFOIDataSet%2FFOI%2D301%2D19&RecSrc=%2Fdm%2FFunctions%2FIM%2FFOIDataSet%2FFOI%2D301%2D19)  
Ta,  
Maj

From: Majella La Praik  
Sent: 22 January 2020 14:43  
To: FOI; Cahir Hughes  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: FOI 301-19

That's great, thank you [REDACTED].

In that case, it looks to me like there are no additional amendments needed to the redactions. [REDACTED] – I'd be really grateful if you could give the 5 documents a quick last look over in terms of redactions and give the response a sense check. The FOI can then be sent.

On the last bullet, the emails I mention are included in response to this FOI. As far as I can tell they should have been included in FOI 214-19 but were not, I just wanted to flag for you in case you wanted to pass them on to the requester on FOI 214-19.

Thank you all for your help on this one and it's great to get it out on time – particular thanks to [REDACTED] for picking this one up.

Ta,  
Maj

From: FOI  
Sent: 22 January 2020 14:33  
To: Cahir Hughes <[CHughes@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:CHughes@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; Majella La Praik <[MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; FOI <[FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: FOI 301-19

Thank you all for your help on this.

Maj, I have spoken to [REDACTED] about the points you raised. Please see below for our responses – highlighted in yellow.

Thank you

The Electoral Commission  
020 7271 [REDACTED]  
[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)

From: Cahir Hughes <[CHughes@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:CHughes@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
Sent: 22 January 2020 09:42  
To: Majella La Praik <[MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; FOI <[FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: FOI 301-19

Just to give some local context I think it would be fine to leave 'Nolan' or 'Nolan Show' as it's a programme name.

I'm also relaxed about my name being published given this was only a few weeks before I took up the Head post. But happy to follow protocol if more appropriate.

Cahir

From: Majella La Praik  
Sent: 22 January 2020 09:08  
To: FOI <[FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
Cc: [REDACTED] Cahir Hughes <[CHughes@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:CHughes@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
Subject: FW: FOI 301-19

Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED].

This FOI is due today and I think it would be great if we could send it off on time. With that in mind, it would be good to have your advice on a few things before this one is ready to go.

- Ann Watt was Head of NI but she has since left the Commission, should we be redacting her name? – **No, we think it's fine to leave her name in**
- On the basis of previous advice from IM, because we've redacted the names of the journalists from the press queries we have not sent third party notices. – **Fine, thank you**
- Should we redact the 'Nolan' or 'Nolan Show' part of this **email chain**, just leaving the BBC in (on the basis that leaving it in the Nolan part of it might make it easier to identify the particular journalist)? – **As per Cahir's email**
- In September 2019 Cahir wasn't then in the role of Head of NI – should we redact his name on that basis? – **As per Cahir's email**
- **This email chain** includes some emails that it seems should have been included in FOI 214-19 but I couldn't see them in the response. – **Please add those emails so they can be included in the response to the requester**

Once these have been addressed then the FOI is ready to go.

Would you mind letting me know if this request is from a journalist, just so I can let press know before it goes out? **Yes, this request has come from a BBC News NI Investigations Correspondent.**

Ta,  
Maj

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 20 January 2020 16:38  
To: Majella La Praik <[MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: FOI 301-19

Importance: High

Hi Maj,

I've uploaded the five redacted documents to Skynet and these are ready to go, pending a final check. We've drafted a response letter in the folder that is also ready to go.

So everything should be ready to send, including the FOI 214-19 attached.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 17 January 2020 16:27  
To: Majella La Praik <[MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
Subject: FW: FOI 301-19

Importance: High

Hi Maj,

As discussed, I've uploaded unredacted and redacted copies of the four documents into the **301-19** folder. The redacted docs have been sanitised and I've removed any metadata are ready to go pending checks.

Thank you for drafting the response letter. Anything else that needs doing I will pick up on Monday.

Have a lovely weekend!

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: FOI <[FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
Sent: 17 January 2020 13:30  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: Cahir Hughes <[CHughes@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:CHughes@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; Majella La Praik <[MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: FOI 301-19

Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED]

FOI 214-19 has not yet been published on our website and this will not be done in time for the response to FOI 301-19 to be sent.

However attached is the version that will be published (it has been checked redacted and sanitised) and you can include it with your response to 301-19.

Regards

[REDACTED]



Information Officer  
[FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk)  
**The Electoral Commission**  
[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 January 2020 16:09  
**To:** FOI <[FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
**Cc:** Cahir Hughes <[CHughes@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:CHughes@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; Majella La Praik <[MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; Freya [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: FOI 301-19

Hi [REDACTED]  
When we respond to this FOI request, we will be referring to a previous FOI ( [214-19](#) ) as part of our response.  
Can you confirm that we have published 214-19 on our website? If not, can we please publish it in time for the response for the current request to be sent?  
Many thanks  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Majella La Praik <[MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** 30 December 2019 13:06

**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Cahir Hughes <[CHughes@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:CHughes@electoralcommission.org.uk)>

**Subject:** FW: FOI 301-19

Hi [REDACTED] – could someone from your team please lead on this? The deadline will come around quickly so if someone was able to look at it the week commencing 6 January that would be great.  
Cahir – copied for info.

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**From:** FOI

**Sent:** 30 December 2019 11:49

**To:** Majella La Praik <[MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: FOI 301-19

Sorry Maj, I forgot to update the due date, now updated. Please see below  
Kind regards  
[REDACTED]

**The Electoral Commission**  
020 7271 0585  
[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)

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**From:** Majella La Praik <[MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk)>

**Sent:** 30 December 2019 11:06

**To:** FOI <[FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: FOI 301-19

Thanks [REDACTED]. Could you please just let me know what the deadline is?

Ta,

Maj

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**From:** FOI

**Sent:** 24 December 2019 14:31

**To:** Majella La Praik <[MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:MLaPraik@electoralcommission.org.uk)>

**Subject:** FOI 301-19

Dear Majella

**FOI 301-19**

The Commission has received the following FOI request:

Under FOI information I would like to request any information the Commission holds from any source on the Sinn Féin political donor William Hampton.

For information, here is a link to the [FOI Internal Procedure](#)

You have been identified as the MT member responsible for preparing the response and ensuring that it is sent out to the requester as soon as possible and within the 20 working days statutory deadline for FOI requests. For this request the 20 working day deadline falls on **22.01.2020** but we should aim to get the response out in advance of that date if possible.

**If you are not the right MT member to lead on this request, it is your responsibility to pass on the request to that person as a matter of urgency.**

Please update the FOI log every Friday with details of the progress in responding to the request. This should include the risk level and who is involved in preparing the response.

- If Third Party consultation is required, please ensure that this is done at the earliest opportunity, preferably by the end of day 3. This will ensure little hold up in made in preparing the response
- If you decide that this FOI is deemed high risk, please inform me as soon as possible so that we can plan a realistic schedule to meet the deadline.

Please insert your answer to the request into this relevant response template.

Once the draft has been completed, and approved if it is a higher risk request, please send it to the Information Management team who will send the response out to the requester.

All emails and documents that need to be retained as a record of the Commission's actions in responding to the request should be stored in this folder:

[http://skynet/dm/Functions/\\_M/\\_layouts/15/DocIdRedirect.aspx?D=TX6SW6SUV4E4-734862-17854](http://skynet/dm/Functions/_M/_layouts/15/DocIdRedirect.aspx?D=TX6SW6SUV4E4-734862-17854).

As MT lead for this request, it is your responsibility to ensure that they are there ready for review in the event of a request for internal review of an FOI response, or a request for information from the Information Commissioner's Office. A list setting out your responsibilities can be found [here](#).

Please set the risk of this FOI by reviewing the following [guidance](#). Once you have determined the risk level please email [FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk).

Please get back to me with any questions.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

**The Electoral Commission**  
[FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk)  
[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [All EC Staff - All Sites; Commissioners Protected](#)  
**Subject:** In the News - Friday 30 October 2020  
**Date:** 30 October 2020 09:53:27  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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cid:image001.png@01D5CF79.3FB55AE0



### **Statements of accounts**

[REDACTED]

[Irish News](#) reports on Sinn Féin's income being much higher than other parties in Northern Ireland, commenting on the bequest left by William Hampton.

[REDACTED]

**The Electoral Commission**  
020 7271 [REDACTED]  
[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [All EC Staff - All Sites; Commissioners Protected](#)  
**Subject:** In the News - Tuesday 10 November 2020  
**Date:** 10 November 2020 09:40:57  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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cid:image001.png@01D5CF79.3FB55AE0



### **Sinn Fein bequest**

[The Irish Independent](#) reports on the bequest received by Sinn Féin last year amid speculation that the money received by the party registered in Northern Ireland could be used by the party registered in the Republic of Ireland. Sinn Féin says that none of the money it received from Mr Hampton's estate will be used in the Republic.

**The Electoral Commission**  
020 7271 [REDACTED]  
[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)

**From:** [NewsAlert](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Irish Examiner - Calls for Sinn Féin to explain claim that €4m donation will only be spent in Northern Ireland  
**Date:** 19 October 2020 15:22:14

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Calls for Sinn Féin to explain claim that ,4m donation will only be spent in Northern Ireland

MON, 19 OCT, 2020 - 15:02

DANIEL MCCONNELL POLITICAL EDITOR

There are calls for Sinn Fin to clarify its claim that a donation lodged in Northern Ireland will only be spent on its activities in the six counties. Sinn Fin President Mary Lou McDonald told the Standards in Public Office Commission (SIPO) that it had no right to examine donations made to the party in Northern Ireland on the grounds that it operated on a six and 26-county basis.

SIPO wrote to political party last year seeking further information about the execution of the will of an English man who gave the party an estate worth up to 4 million. The donation by William Hampton is the biggest ever received by a political party on the island of Ireland.

The donation from Mr Hampton was received by the Sinn Fin party, registered in the six counties, with the British Electoral Commission.

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-40067484.html>

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Extracted by Press Data Ltd.

For urgent enquiries, please contact 0800 148 8860

**From:** [NewsAlert](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Irish News - Sinn Féin says all of record £4 million donation will be spent in the north  
**Date:** 09 November 2020 16:20:12

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Sinn Féin says all of record £4 million donation will be spent in the north

William Hampton, whose ashes are buried in Hannahstown Cemetery in west Belfast, donated a record 4 million to Sinn Fin

09 November, 2020 15:56

Sinn Fin has insisted that all funds donated to the party by the late English millionaire William Hampton will be spent north of the border. The eccentric engineer, who died in January 2018, bequeathed Sinn Fin a record 4 million ' the largest donation ever made to an Irish political party.

A Sinn Fin spokesman told the paper the party met all its legal requirements and was lawfully obliged to register as a political party in both jurisdictions and to comply with relevant legislation. "We are in full compliance with the requirements of the Electoral Commission in the north and the Standards in Public Office Commission in the south have confirmed to us that this matter is closed," the party spokesman said, stressing that Mr Hampton's donation would only be spent north of the border.

<https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2020/11/10/news/sinn-fe-in-says-all-of-record-4-million-donation-will-be-spent-in-the-north-2124593/>

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Extracted by Press Data Ltd.  
For urgent enquiries, please contact 0800 148 8860

From: [Kantar](#)  
To: [Kantar](#)  
Subject: Media coverage for Electoral Commission: The Electoral Commission TRIAL, 28022020 (05:51)  
Date: 28 February 2020 05:51:30

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## THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION TRIAL - 28/02/2020

**Media Platform and mobile access**  
[mediaplatformplus.precise.co.uk](https://mediaplatformplus.precise.co.uk)

### ALL COVERAGE

[All Articles](#)

### ELECTORAL COMMISSION NORTHERN IRELAND

[All Articles](#)

#### Donors gave Alliance €582k in 3 months

*Irish News (Belfast), 28/02/2020, p.8, John Manley*

Total donations in the quarter amounted to £331,200 - more than £538,000 less than the previous quarter, which included £500,000 from Billy Hampton, the man believed to be Northern Ireland's biggest ever political donor, who gave Sinn Fein £2 million in all. In 2019 total donations were £3.35m compared to £ 1.46m in 2018. Regional head of the Electoral Commission Cahir Hughes said: "This is only the second full year we have been able to publish information on donations to parties in Northern Ireland, and the first time we have been able to give full information covering a UK parliamentary general election campaign."

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**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Northern Ireland Weekly Report - 13 November  
**Date:** 13 November 2020 11:36:36  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[Weekly report - 13 November.pdf](#)

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Good morning,  
Please find attached the Northern Ireland Weekly Monitoring Report.  
Kind regards,  
Niall

**Niall Fields**  
Client Executive

[Mobile:](#) [REDACTED]  
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### Northern Ireland

#### [SF won't have to pay any inheritance tax on £1.5m donation from elderly benefactor](#)

Belfast Telegraph Evening - 31/08/2019

p4 News. Mairead Holland.

SINN Féin will not have to pay any inheritance tax on a £1.5m gift from an English mechanic who bequeathed the money in his will. The party's windfall was made public on Thursday by the Electoral Commission.

#### [SF says £1.5m mechanic was from wealthy family](#)

News Letter - 31/08/2019

p4 News. Sam McBride Political Editor.

Sinn Féin has objected to questions about the source of the largest donation in the history of Northern Ireland politics, but has said that the car mechanic who gave it the money was "from a wealthy family". On Thursday the Electoral Commission revealed that the party had received the money in two instalments of £1 million and £500,000 in April and May from a man called William E Hampton who had bequeathed the money in his will.

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## Northern Ireland

### [Pensioner who left £1.5m to Sinn Fein lived a sad, lonely and frightened life, says beneficiary](#)

Belfast Telegraph Evening - 03/09/2019

p4 News. Lauren Harte.

The mechanic who left Sinn Fein £1.5m was a "frightened individual" who lived a very frugal and hermitic life, one of the beneficiaries of his will has revealed. Mr Hampton's donation was made public on Thursday by the Electoral Commission.

### [Party could receive more donations as Allister calls for NCA investigation](#)

Belfast Telegraph Evening - 03/09/2019

p4 News. Ralph Hewitt.

Sinn Fein have not ruled out further party donations from the late William E Hampton. A party spokesperson said the probate process is ongoing and Mr Hampton's assets are still being disposed of. "Sinn Fein will of course declare any further donation in compliance with the Electoral Commission," he said.

### [If SF split, will gave Adams key role deciding where cash went](#)

News Letter - 03/09/2019

p4 News.

Continued from page one Last week Sinn Féin objected to questions about the source of Mr Hampton's wealth, saying that he was from "a wealthy family". In a brief statement the party responded: "Mr Hampton was from a wealthy family, so for you to question the legitimacy of his wealth without any foundation whatsoever falls well short of the objective standard we would expect from a professional journalist. "As with all donations required due diligence was carried out by Sinn Féin and in full compliance with the rules of the Electoral Commission."

### [Real scale of donation likely to be £2.5m - far more than thought](#)

News Letter - 03/09/2019

p5 News.

The size of the donation to Sinn Fein is much larger than originally reported, the probate document for William E Hampton's will has revealed. Last week the Electoral Commission reported that the party had received a total of £1.5 million in two instalments since Mr Hampton's death in a Welsh nursing home in January 2018.

### [MLA writes to National Crime Agency's about enormous gift](#)

News Letter - 03/09/2019

p5 News.

The vast donation to Sinn Féin has been drawn to the attention of the National Crime Agency, it has emerged. Last week Sinn Féin objected to questions about the source of the funding and

highlighted that the Electoral Commission has given the donation a clean bill of health.

**SF donor of no fixed abode gave it £2.5m**

News Letter - 03/09/2019

p1 News. Sam McBride .

The man who left £2.5 million to Sinn Féin in his will held significant assets in England, Singapore, New Zealand and elsewhere while living in a caravan, it has emerged. Last night the Electoral Commission restated that it had no concerns about the money and had no intention of launching an investigation.

**ITV 1 Ulster 2 September 2019 22:40:50**

ITV 1 Ulster - 02/09/2019 22:40:50

The TUV leader Jim Allister has written to the National Crime Agency asking it to investigate a £1.5 million donation to Sinn Féin. Sinn Féin has said it is in full compliance with the requirements of the Electoral Commission over the donation.

**BBC Radio Ulster 2 September 2019 09:05:25**

BBC Radio Ulster - 02/09/2019 09:05:25

Discussing the will of a man who left his money to Sinn Féin, Maria Cahill states her uncertainty of the Electoral Commission to investigate this matter.



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## Northern Ireland

### [I never heard of him, admits MP left £1,000 by mechanic who gave £1.5m to Sinn Fein](#)

Belfast Telegraph Evening - 04/09/2019

p8 News. Ralph Hewitt.

A HIGH-PROFILE politician named as a beneficiary in the will of William E Hampton - who also left at least £1.5m to Sinn Fein - claims to have "never heard of him". The £1.5m gift to Sinn Fein was made public last Thursday by the Electoral Commission, with the party not ruling out further donations from the will, as there is more than £1m still unaccounted for.

### [Donor who left Sinn Fein £1.5m in will identified](#)

Irish News - 30/08/2019

p10 News. Suzanne McGonagle.

The mystery donor who left Sinn Fein \$1.5 million was an 82-year-old former motor mechanic and driver who died last year in Wales. William E Hampton, who died in Pembrokeshire, was born in London in 1935 and held a British passport. It is thought to be the largest known donation made to a political party in the north. Mystery surrounded Mr Hampton when his donation was made public yesterday morning by the Electoral Commission.

### [Sinn Fein £1.5m donor named](#)

Irish News - 30/08/2019

p1 News. Suzanne McGonagle .

SINN Fein's mystery £1.5 million donor has been identified. William E Hampton left the huge sum to the party in his will, paid in two instalments of £1m and £500,000 in April and May. Sinn Fein said it was "obviously pleased" with the donation, which was disclosed yesterday by the Electoral Commission.

### [Sinn Fein could receive more donations as Allister calls for NCA investigation \(Web\)](#)

Belfast Telegraph - 03/09/2019

Sinn Fein have not ruled out further party donations from the late William E Hampton. Sinn Fein have said they will declare any further donation in compliance with the Electoral Commission.

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#### [Sinn Fein: 'Nothing to see' in William E Hampton donation \(Web\)](#)

BBC News - 04/09/2019

Michelle O'Neill has said there is nothing to see here after Sinn Fein was given £1.5m. Sinn Féin has said it has complied with all Electoral Commission rules and regulations.

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#### Northern Ireland

[Never mind that it's Sinn Fein, why would anyone leave £1.5m to any political party?](#)

Belfast Telegraph Evening - 05/09/2019

p25 Opinion. Eilis O'hlanlon.

Opinion from Eilis O'Hanlon discussing the donation of £1.5m to Sinn Fein, which mentions Electoral Commission figures about parties in Northern Ireland.

[I've never heard of him, says Labour MP given £1k by Sinn Fein multi-millionaire donor \(Web\)](#)

Belfast Telegraph - 04/09/2019

A high-profile politician named as a beneficiary in the will of William E Hampton - who also left at least £1.5m to Sinn Fein - claims to have never heard of him. The £1.5m gift to Sinn Fein was made public last Thursday by the Electoral Commission, with the party not ruling out further donations from the will, as there is more than £1m still unaccounted for.

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## Northern Ireland

### [Sinn Fein war chest is no guarantee of victory at the polls \[web link\]](#)

Belfast Telegraph Evening - 05/09/2019

p8 News. Suzanne Breen Political Editor.

LEAVING aside its £1.5m donation from a former motor mechanic, Sinn Fein will enter any imminent Westminster election as the party with the biggest war chest. It is by far the richest party in Northern Ireland and earned twice as much last year as the DUP, according to figures released by the Electoral Commission in August.

### [Sinn Fein war chest no guarantee of victory at the polls \(Web\)](#)

Belfast Telegraph - 05/09/2019

Leaving aside its £1.5m donation from a former motor mechanic, Sinn Fein will enter any imminent Westminster election as the party with the biggest war chest. It is by far the richest party in Northern Ireland and earned twice as much last year as the DUP, according to figures released by the Electoral Commission in August.

### [Eilis O'Hanlon: Never mind it's Sinn Fein, why would anyone leave £1.5m to any political party? \(Web\)](#)

Belfast Telegraph - 05/09/2019

Many strange questions have been raised in recent days by the news that a retired motor mechanic who died earlier this year in Wales left millions of pounds in his will to Sinn Fein. Where did William Edward Hampton get so much money? Even before receiving what is now the single largest ever political donation in Northern Ireland, they were easily the richest party here, pulling in twice as much in contributions last year as the DUP, according to the latest Electoral Commission figures.

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Northern Ireland

[Fine Gael ramp up pressure on Sinn Féin over €4m donation \(Web\)](#)

Irish Independent - 09/11/2020

FINE Gael is ramping up pressure on Sinn Fein over a controversial donation of around €4m



that the rival party registered in the UK. Now it has emerged that Fine Gael will use private members' time in the Seanad on Wednesday to put pressure on Sinn Féin over the ?4m donation which was left to Sinn Féin in a will by deceased English millionaire William Hampton. Sinn Féin registered the donation with the UK's Electoral Commission.

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#### [Sinn Fein donation: Almost £500k more from will of Billy Hampton \(Web\)](#)

BBC News - 14/11/2019

Sinn Fein has received another large donation of almost £500,000 from the same deceased Englishman who already left them £1.5 million. It will be recorded in an updated version of the Electoral Commission's list of political donations due to be published at the end of the month.

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#### Northern Ireland

##### [Mysterious Sinn Fein donor William Hampton gifts party extra £500k \(Web\)](#)

Belfast Telegraph - 14/11/2019

The BBC has now reported the republican party has received a second tranche of cash, which will be recorded in an updated version of the Electoral Commission's list of political donations which is due to be published later this month.

[REDACTED]

##### [Sinn Féin donation: Almost £500k more from will of Billy Hampton \(Web\)](#)

Radio Pembrokeshire - 14/11/2019

Sinn Féin has received another large donation of almost £500,000 from the same deceased Englishman who already left them £1.5 million. It will be recorded in an updated version of the Electoral Commission's list of political donations due to be published at the end of the month.

##### [BBC Radio Ulster 14 November 2019 08:40:49](#)

BBC Radio Ulster - 14/11/2019 08:40:49

Sinn Fein is to benefit from a further half a million pounds from a deceased donor. Former Sinn Fein MLA Daithi McKay and Nelson McCausland, former MLA for the DUP, discuss donations in Irish politics with mentions of the Electoral Commission in how spending has to be declared.

**BBC Radio Foyle 14 November 2019 08:39:23**

BBC Radio Foyle - 14/11/2019 08:39:23

The BBC has learned that Sinn Fein has received another half a million pounds from the same donor who had already left the party £1.5 million in his will. Details of the donation note that in August the Electoral Commission announced the party has received £1.5 million from a donor in England, with further discussion around Commission rules on large political donations.

**BBC Radio Ulster 14 November 2019 08:07:52**

BBC Radio Ulster - 14/11/2019 08:07:52

Good Morning Ulster has learned that Sinn Fein has received another half a million pounds from the same donor who had already left the party £1.5 million in his will. Details of the donation note that in August the Electoral Commission announced the party has received £1.5 million from a donor in England, with further discussion around Commission rules on large political donations.

**BBC Radio Ulster 14 November 2019 07:01:25**

BBC Radio Ulster - 14/11/2019 07:01:25

Sinn Fein has received another large donation of almost half a million pounds from the same deceased English donor who has already given the party £1.5 million. A report on the donations from Billy Hampton notes that in August this year the Electoral Commission revealed the party had received the £1.5 million from his will. Also aired on BBC Radio Foyle.

**BBC 1 Northern Ireland 14 November 2019 06:28:33**

BBC 1 Northern Ireland - 14/11/2019 06:28:33

Sinn Fein has received another large donation of almost half a million pounds from the same deceased English donor who has already given the party £1.5 million. A report on the donations from Billy Hampton notes that in August this year the Electoral Commission revealed the party had received the £1.5 million from his will.

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#### Northern Ireland

##### [Sinn Féin receives another £500,000 from benefactor who already gave party £1.5m](#)

Belfast Telegraph Evening - 15/11/2019

p8 News. Andrew Madden.

SINN Féin has received another huge donation of almost £500,000 from mysterious English benefactor William Hampton, who previously gifted the party £1.5m. The BBC reported the republican party has received a second tranche of cash, which will be recorded in an updated version of the Electoral Commission's list of political donations which is due to be published later this month.

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**From:** [editorial@pressdata.co.uk](mailto:editorial@pressdata.co.uk)  
**Subject:** Press Data Summary: Electoral Commission - 23 October 2019  
**Date:** 23 October 2019 06:30:27  
**Attachments:** [FMLOGO\\_1125.JPG](#)

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## Media Coverage for 23 October 2019

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### England

#### [More details emerge on William Hampton largest Sinn Fein donor \(Web\)](#)

Milford Mercury - 23/10/2019

Sinn Fein's largest-ever donor, who died in Pembrokeshire last year, has been called a rebel with a cause?, however questions have been raised about the man's mental health. The Electoral Commission (EC) said they have "no plans" to investigate the record donation, saying it was permissible.

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**From:** [editorial@pressdata.co.uk](mailto:editorial@pressdata.co.uk)  
**Subject:** Press Data Summary: Electoral Commission - 26 October 2019  
**Date:** 26 October 2019 06:30:39  
**Attachments:** [FMLOGO\\_1125.JPG](#)

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#### Northern Ireland

[REDACTED]

#### [Sinn Féin official visited Wales weeks after £1.5m donor died](#)

Irish News - 21/10/2019

p10 News. Brendan Hughes.

Dessie Mackin, an executor of William E Hampton's will, travelled to Pembrokeshire where the reclusive millionaire had been living in a nursing home. For the donation to be permitted under the rules, Sinn Féin had to check Mr Hampton was on the electoral register within the previous five years. The party provided the Electoral Commission with a letter from Pembrokeshire County Council confirming this.

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**From:** [editorial@pressdata.co.uk](mailto:editorial@pressdata.co.uk)  
**Subject:** Press Data Summary: Electoral Commission - 30 August 2019  
**Date:** 30 August 2019 06:30:37  
**Attachments:** [FMLOGO\\_1125.JPG](#)

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## Media Coverage for 30 August 2019

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### UK-wide

#### [Englishman leaves £1.5m to Sinn Fein](#)

The Times - 30/08/2019

p22 News. Ben Ellery.

An English former mechanic has left £1.5 million to Sinn Fein in his will, the largest donation given to a Northern Irish political party. A Sinn Fein spokesman said that the money was a "positive boost in working towards Irish unity", adding: We are in full compliance with the requirements of the Electoral Commission on all of this."



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## Wales

### [Sinn Fein gets gift of £1.5m in man's will](#)

Western Mail - 30/08/2019

p5 News.

Sinn Fein has been left a £1.5m donation in the will of a party supporter who lived in Pembrokeshire. A Sinn Fein spokesman said: "We are in full compliance with the requirements of the Electoral Commission on all of this."

## Northern Ireland

### [Sinn Fein left £1.5m in English supporter's will](#)

News Letter - 30/08/2019

p12 News. Aoife Moore.

Sinn Fein has been left a £1.5 million donation in the will of a party supporter. A Sinn Fein spokesman said: "We are in full compliance with the requirements of the Electoral Commission on all of this."



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**BBC Radio Ulster 29 August 2019 23:57:42**

BBC Radio Ulster - 29/08/2019 23:57:42

Sinn Fein has been given £1.5 million in what is understood to be the largest ever known donation to a political party in Northern Ireland. A report noted that the information on the large donation was published by the Electoral Commission.

**BBC Radio Ulster 29 August 2019 18:02:40**

BBC Radio Ulster - 29/08/2019 18:02:40

Sinn Fein have been given £1.5 million in what is understood to be the largest ever known donation to a local political party. According to the Electoral Commission, the money was given by William E Hampton.

**BBC Radio Ulster 29 August 2019 18:02:38**

BBC Radio Ulster - 29/08/2019 18:02:38

Sinn Fein have been given £1.5 million in what is understood to be the largest ever known donation to a local political party. According to the Electoral Commission, the money was given by William E Hampton.

**BBC Radio Ulster 29 August 2019 17:03:04**

BBC Radio Ulster - 29/08/2019 17:03:04

Sinn Fein have been given £1.5 million in what is understood to be the largest ever known donation to a local political party. According to the Electoral Commission, the money was given by William E Hampton.

**BBC Radio Foyle 29 August 2019 14:00:47**

BBC Radio Foyle - 29/08/2019 14:00:47

Sinn Fein has been given £1.5 million in what is understood to be the largest ever known donation to a political party in Northern Ireland. The information on the large donation was published by the Electoral Commission.

**BBC Radio Ulster 29 August 2019 14:00:45**

BBC Radio Ulster - 29/08/2019 14:00:45

Sinn Fein has been given £1.5 million in what is understood to be the largest ever known donation to a political party in Northern Ireland. The information on the large donation was published by the Electoral Commission.

**ITV 1 Ulster 29 August 2019 13:56:37**

ITV 1 Ulster - 29/08/2019 13:56:37

£1.5 million was donated to Sinn Fein between April and June this year. The Electoral Commission published the sums, which parties are required to declare.

**BBC 1 Northern Ireland 29 August 2019 13:38:42**

BBC 1 Northern Ireland - 29/08/2019 13:38:42

Sinn Fein have been given £1.5 million in what is understood to be the largest ever known donation to a local political party. According to the Electoral Commission, the money was given by William E Hampton.

**BBC Radio Ulster 29 August 2019 13:02:49**

BBC Radio Ulster - 29/08/2019 13:02:49

Sinn Fein been given £1.5 million in what is understood to be the largest ever known donation to a political party in Northern Ireland. The money was given to the party as a bequest by William Hampton, according to the Electoral Commission.

**BBC Radio Foyle 29 August 2019 13:01:01**

BBC Radio Foyle - 29/08/2019 13:01:01

Sinn Fein been given £1.5 million in what is understood to be the largest ever known donation to a Northern Ireland political party. The money was given to the party as a bequest by William Hampton, according to the Electoral Commission.

**BBC Radio Ulster 29 August 2019 12:01:26**

BBC Radio Ulster - 29/08/2019 12:01:26

Sinn Fein been given £1.5 million in what is understood to be the largest ever known donations to political parties in Northern Ireland. The money was given to the party as a bequest by William Hampton, according to the Electoral Commission.



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**From:** [editorial@pressdata.co.uk](mailto:editorial@pressdata.co.uk)  
**Subject:** Press Data Summary: Electoral Commission - 31 August 2019  
**Date:** 31 August 2019 06:30:41  
**Attachments:** [FMLOGO\\_1125.JPG](#)

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### UK-wide

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#### [Sinn Féin has objected to questions over £1.5m donation but says mechanic donor was 'from wealthy family' \(Web\)](#)

iNews - 30/08/2019

Sinn Féin has objected to questions about the source of the largest donation in the history of Northern Ireland politics, but has said that the car mechanic who gave it the money was "from a wealthy family". On Thursday the Electoral Commission revealed that the party had received the money in two instalments of £1 million and £500,000 in April and May from a man called William E Hampton who had bequeathed the money in his will.

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#### Northern Ireland

##### [BBC Radio Ulster 30 August 2019 10:17:43](#)

BBC Radio Ulster - 30/08/2019 10:17:43

Details around the donation made to Sinn Fein worth £1.5 million outlines that the party says it is in full compliance with the requirements of the Electoral Commission. Also aired on BBC Radio Foyle.

##### [BBC Radio Ulster 30 August 2019 10:07:42](#)

BBC Radio Ulster - 30/08/2019 10:07:42

Sinn Fein have received a £1.5 million boost to its coffers which was announced yesterday as part of figures released by the Electoral Commission - it is understood to be the biggest ever donation to Northern Ireland political party. The Newsletter reporter Sam McBride gives details on the donation. Also aired on BBC Radio Foyle.

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**From:**   
**To:**   
**Subject:** Q2 donations LTT  
**Date:** 29 August 2019 17:02:23

---

## Q2 2019 donations and loans LTT – GB and NI

Publication date: Thursday 29 August  
Media relations leads: [REDACTED] and Cahir

Quarter 2 2019 covers the period from 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2019.

## Donations

This quarter Sinn Fein has reported accepting £1.5m over two bequest donations from Mr William E. Hampton.

This is the largest donation we have published for the party and for Northern Ireland since the bar was lifted on publishing donations data relating to Northern Ireland parties [via the The Transparency of Donations and Loans etc. (Northern Ireland Political Parties) Order 2018]. The previous largest donation to Sinn Féin was £24,755 from Martina Anderson MEP in Q3 2017. We can't comment on or answer questions regarding donations to NI parties before 01 July 2017.


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**12) What are the rules for leaving bequests in Northern Ireland?**

Normally when a political party in Northern Ireland receives a donation from an individual donor they must check if the individual is registered on a UK electoral register, including overseas electors at the time of the donation or is an eligible Irish donor, to ensure it is permissible.

If a Party receives a donation through a bequest, they can accept the donation if the individual is an eligible Irish donor or was on the UK electoral register at any point in the five years before their death.

**13) What makes an Irish individual permissible?**

An Irish individual or a bequest from an Irish citizen is permissible if they are eligible (or would have been eligible) to obtain one of the following documents:

- an Irish Passport
- an Irish certificate of nationality
- an Irish certificate of naturalisation

[illegible]

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**The Electoral Commission**

020 7271 [REDACTED]

[electoralcommission.org.uk](https://electoralcommission.org.uk)

**From:** [Cahir Hughes](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: BBC inquiry draft to send to Kevin Magee  
**Date:** 13 November 2019 13:22:46

---

Have just changed slightly:

We will be publishing donations reported by political parties in Q3 2019 on 26 November. As such it would not be appropriate for us to comment on this before then.

There is no limit on the size of donations a party can accept. However, donations over £7,500 (or smaller donations from the same donor that add together to exceed that threshold) must be reported to us.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 November 2019 12:18  
**To:** Cahir Hughes  
**Subject:** FW: BBC inquiry draft to send to Kevin Magee

Hi Cahir,

I took about the bit about not commenting further but could just put that back in if you wanted?

\*\*\*\*\*

Good afternoon,

We'll be publishing donations accepted by parties in Q3 2019 on 26 November. There's no limit on the size of donations a party can accept, and donations over £7,500 (or smaller donations from the same donor that add together to exceed that threshold) must be reported to us.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
**The Electoral Commission**  
028 9089 4020  
[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)

---

**From:** [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** 13 November 2019 11:50  
**To:** [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
**Cc:** Cahir Hughes [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; Niki Nixon [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: BBC inquiry

Hi [REDACTED]

You can let Kevin know that we'll be publishing donations accepted by parties in Q3 2019 on 26 November. We won't comment further on any donations allegedly accepted by parties until then. There's no limit on the size of donations a party can accept, and donations over £7,500 (or smaller donations from the same donor that add together to exceed that threshold) must be reported to us.

Hope that helps

---

**From:** Cahir Hughes [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** 13 November 2019 10:38  
**To:** Hannah Greenfield [REDACTED] Niki Nixon [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; Orla Hennessy [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: BBC inquiry

Hi all

Kevin Magee from the BBC called me earlier this morning and told me that Sinn Fein had confirmed to him that they have received a further £500,000 from William Hampton and that they have reported this to the Commission. I advised that we will be publishing Q3 in due course and it wouldn't be appropriate to comment before that. He's fine with that but is looking something more formal so see below. Im not sure if we have confirmed a date to the media yet (I suspect not) but would someone be able to pull together a short statement in response to the below. Hannah – once this is agreed can you send it to Kevin.

Thanks

Cahir

---

**From:** Kevin Magee <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** 13 November 2019 10:28

**To:** Cahir Hughes [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>

**Subject:** BBC inquiry

Dear Sir/Madam,

Political sources have informed me that Sinn Féin has received a political donation in Q3 of this year of almost half a million pounds from the proceeds of a will from a donor called Billy Hampton.

Has the EC been informed of this donation?

If so, when are donations given in Q3 of this year likely to be announced by the commission?

This comes on the back of 1.5 million the party received from the same source earlier this year and revealed by the Commission in its Q2 returns for party donations.

Is there any limit on the size of donations to political parties in NI?

What value of donations have to be registered?

Thanks you for help.

Best

**Kevin Magee**

**BBCNI News**

**Investigations Correspondent**

**Mobile** [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Cahir Hughes](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Fine Gael - Sinn Féin leader must provide statement on €4 million donation O'Donnell  
**Date:** 20 October 2020 07:43:15

---

I'm not sure, but it could be this article: <https://www.rte.ie/news/politics/2019/1210/1098316-william-hampton/>  
It says:

"Sinn Féin is due to receive at least €4.6 million from the estate of an English man who left it his money in his will, RTE's Prime Time has learned.

William Hampton left the party at least double the amount previously thought.

Mr Hampton held cash in over two dozen bank accounts worldwide, including over €1m in a single bank account in Singapore.

£2 million has already been declared by Sinn Féin to the Northern Ireland Electoral Commission, already the largest donation ever to a political party in Northern Ireland.

Further declarations are expected next year, as the party sources estimate Mr Hampton's total known estate is over €4.6m."

-----Original Message-----

From: Cahir Hughes [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

Sent: 19 October 2020 16:44

To: [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

Subject: RE: Fine Gael - Sinn Féin leader must provide statement on €4 million donation O'Donnell

Do we know where they are getting the 4m euro figure from? Is this right in terms of what we've published even with the exchange rate?

Cahir

-----Original Message-----

From: NewsAlert <newsalert@pressdata.co.uk>

Sent: 19 October 2020 15:37

To: [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

Subject: Fine Gael - Sinn Féin leader must provide statement on €4 million donation O'Donnell

Sinn Féin leader must provide statement on ,4 million donation O'Donnell

19th October 2020 - Kieran O'Donnell, TD

A Fine Gael TD has called for Mary Lou McDonald to make a detailed statement on a 4 million donation received by the Sinn Fin party which she said is excluded from Irish rules.

Deputy Kieran O'Donnell's comments come after the Sinn Fin Leader stated that her party are exempt from donation rules of the Standards in Public Office Commission (SIPO) as it operates on a six- and 26-county basis. SIPO were seeking further information from Sinn Fin about the execution of the will of an English man who left an estate worth 4 million to the party.

Deputy O'Donnell stated: We have confirmation once again that two separate Sinn Fin parties exist on the island of Ireland. Mary Lou McDonald told SIPO in response to their queries that this donation was not offered to, or accepted by, the Sinn Fin party in the 26-county jurisdiction, but rather it was received by the Sinn Fin party, registered in the six counties, with the British Electoral Commission... At the end of the day, it appears Sinn Fin are using the border to their own advantage by circumventing rules on political donations in the South, which are capped at a maximum of 2,500 in a single year."

<https://www.finegaele.ie/sinn-fein-leader-must-provide-statement-on-e4-million-donation-odonnell/>

---

Extracted by Press Data Ltd.

For urgent enquiries, please contact





**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Cahir Hughes](#); [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: FOI 301-19  
**Date:** 07 January 2020 08:52:56

---

Cahir,

There is nothing further to add. As this was a bequest and the donor permissibility had already been checked there was no need to recheck permissibility. (this would be the case if the individual was living as they could have come off the register between donations). The only additional information n(since September) is what was published on PEF online about subsequent donations.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Cahir Hughes  
**Sent:** 06 January 2020 10:42  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: FOI 301-19

For info – this will be coming your way. Not aware of anything further to be added to the previous FOI response on this matter.

Cahir

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 January 2020 10:40  
**To:** Majella La Praik [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); Cahir Hughes [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)  
**Subject:** RE: FOI 301-19

Hi Cahir and Majella

This is the only FOI that I am aware of in relation to William Hampton.

I'll delegate the current FOI to one of my team shortly and let you know who, Cahir, so that they can work directly with your team.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Majella La Praik [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)  
**Sent:** 06 January 2020 10:35  
**To:** Cahir Hughes [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)  
**Subject:** RE: FOI 301-19

Had a quick look at the FOI log – looks like it was FOI [214-19](#) (unless Cahir [REDACTED] you know of others?).

That request came in early September, so we'll need to consider if there's anything additional to disclose between then and the date of this request.

Ta,

Maj

---

**From:** Cahir Hughes  
**Sent:** 06 January 2020 10:03  
**To:** Majella La Praik [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)  
**Subject:** RE: FOI 301-19

Havent we already published this information in a previous FOI?

Cahir

---

**From:** Majella La Praik  
**Sent:** 30 December 2019 13:06

To: [REDACTED] [electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
Cc: Cahir Hughes [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
Subject: FW: FOI 301-19

Hi [REDACTED] – could someone from your team please lead on this? The deadline will come around quickly so if someone was able to look at it the week commencing 6 January that would be great.  
Cahir – copied for info.

---

From: FOI  
Sent: 30 December 2019 11:49  
To: Majella La Praik [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
Subject: RE: FOI 301-19

Sorry Maj, I forgot to update the due date, now updated. Please see below  
Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**The Electoral Commission**  
020 7271 [REDACTED]  
[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)

---

From: Majella La Praik [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
Sent: 30 December 2019 11:06  
To: FOI <[FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
Subject: RE: FOI 301-19

Thanks [REDACTED]. Could you please just let me know what the deadline is?  
Ta,  
Maj

---

From: FOI  
Sent: 24 December 2019 14:31  
To: Majella La Praik [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
Subject: FOI 301-19

Dear Majella  
**FOI 301-19**

The Commission has received the following FOI request:  
Under FOI information I would like to request any information the Commission holds from any source on the Sinn Féin political donor William Hampton.  
For information, here is a link to the [FOI Internal Procedure](#)  
You have been identified as the MT member responsible for preparing the response and ensuring that it is sent out to the requester as soon as possible and within the 20 working days statutory deadline for FOI requests. For this request the 20 working day deadline falls on **22.01.2020** but we should aim to get the response out in advance of that date if possible.

**If you are not the right MT member to lead on this request, it is your responsibility to pass on the request to that person as a matter of urgency.**  
Please update the FOI log every Friday with details of the progress in responding to the request. This should include the risk level and who is involved in preparing the response.

- If Third Party consultation is required, please ensure that this is done at the earliest opportunity, preferably by the end of day 3. This will ensure little hold up in made in preparing the response.
- If you decide that this FOI is deemed high risk, please inform me as soon as

possible so that we can plan a realistic schedule to meet the deadline.

Please insert your answer to the request into this relevant response template. Once the draft has been completed, and approved if it is a higher risk request, please send it to the Information Management team who will send the response out to the requester.

All emails and documents that need to be retained as a record of the Commission's actions in responding to the request should be stored in this folder:

[REDACTED]

As MT lead for this request, is your responsibility to ensure that they are there ready for review in the event of a request for internal review of an FOI response, or a request for information from the Information Commissioner's Office. A list setting out your responsibilities can be found [here](#).

Please set the risk of this FOI by reviewing the following [guidance](#). Once you have determined the risk level please email [FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk).

Please get back to me with any questions.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

**The Electoral Commission**

[FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:FOI@electoralcommission.org.uk)

[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Irish Examiner - Calls for Sinn Féin to explain claim that €4m donation will only be spent in Northern Ireland  
**Date:** 20 October 2020 15:50:08

---

Hi [REDACTED]  
I am yes  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2020 16:38  
**To:** [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: Irish Examiner - Calls for Sinn Féin to explain claim that €4m donation will only be spent in Northern Ireland

Hi [REDACTED],  
Are you on the copy list for these now?  
Thanks,  
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** NewsAlert <newsalert@pressdata.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 19 October 2020 15:22  
**To:** [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>  
**Subject:** Irish Examiner - Calls for Sinn Féin to explain claim that €4m donation will only be spent in Northern Ireland

Calls for Sinn Féin to explain claim that ,4m donation will only be spent in Northern Ireland

MON, 19 OCT, 2020 - 15:02

DANIEL MCCONNELL POLITICAL EDITOR

There are calls for Sinn Fin to clarify its claim that a donation lodged in Northern Ireland will only be spent on its activities in the six counties. Sinn Fin President Mary Lou McDonald told the Standards in Public Office Commission (SIPO) that it had no right to examine donations made to the party in Northern Ireland on the grounds that it operated on a six and 26-county basis.

SIPO wrote to political party last year seeking further information about the execution of the will of an English man who gave the party an estate worth up to 4 million. The donation by William Hampton is the biggest ever received by a political party on the island of Ireland.

The donation from Mr Hampton was received by the Sinn Fin party, registered in the six counties, with the British Electoral Commission.

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-40067484.html>

---

Extracted by Press Data Ltd.  
For urgent enquiries, please contact [REDACTED]

**From:** [Alejandro Alonso-Martinez](#)  
**To:** [Dan Adamson](#); [REDACTED]; [Cahir Hughes](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Media query  
**Date:** 17 November 2020 15:09:43

---

Thanks All

Looks good to me too; this should provide enough detail to respond.

Kind regards

Alex

**Alejandro Alonso-Martinez**

Head of Registration and Reporting

**The Electoral Commission**

020 7271 [REDACTED]

[electoralcommission.org.uk](https://electoralcommission.org.uk)

---

**From:** Dan Adamson

**Sent:** 17 November 2020 15:07

**To:** [REDACTED]; [Cahir Hughes](#); [REDACTED]

**Cc:** Alejandro Alonso-Martinez

**Subject:** RE: Media query

Just to add we should say 'a Northern Ireland registered' party rather than just registered I think, for clarity.

Not sure I can add much but let me know if I can help in any way.

D.

**Dan Adamson**

Head of Monitoring and Enforcement

**The Electoral Commission**

020 7271 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[electoralcommission.org.uk](https://electoralcommission.org.uk)

**Please note that the Electoral Commission's offices are currently closed because of the Covid 19 guidance issued by the Government. This means that we only have sporadic access to post. Therefore, we would be grateful if, for the foreseeable future, all correspondence could be sent by email.**

---

**From:** [REDACTED] [<\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk>](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)

**Sent:** 17 November 2020 13:36

**To:** [Cahir Hughes](#) [<\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk>](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [<\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk>](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); Dan Adamson

[REDACTED] [<\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk>](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [<\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk>](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [<\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk>](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)

**Cc:** Alejandro Alonso-Martinez [REDACTED] [<\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk>](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)

**Subject:** RE: Media query

All

Copying in Alejandro.

My comments are in red below.

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [Cahir Hughes](#) [<\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk>](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)

**Sent:** 17 November 2020 12:49

**To:** [REDACTED] [<\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk>](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); Dan Adamson

[REDACTED] [<\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk>](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Media query

Copying in [REDACTED] who will be able to help with this.

I think the nature of the questioning shows a lack of understanding of how the reporting regime operates. I think we have well established lines to answer this though.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 November 2020 12:45

**To:** Dan Adamson [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Cahir Hughes  
[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

**Subject:** FW: Media query

Hi All,

Please see below a media request from Brendan Hughes (formerly Irish News, soon to take up post as Political Reporter with Belfast Live). As you will see, he is asking a range of questions relating to the W Hampton donation to Sinn Féin. I'm not sure whether we can answer any of them directly, but would be grateful for your steer as to what we can say in response please.

Although he has indicated that there is no particular deadline, I have asked him to keep me updated if that changes.

If you need anything further from me on this, please just let me know.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**The Electoral Commission**

Mobile: [REDACTED]  
Office: 028 9089 [REDACTED]  
[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)

**From:** Brendan Hughes <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** 17 November 2020 12:01  
**To:** [REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>  
**Subject:** Media query

Hi [REDACTED],

I was wondering if the Electoral Commission could clarify this matter?

The Electoral Commission **permitted** a £2m donation to Sinn Féin which was bequeathed in the will of William E Hampton. **We do not 'permit' donations to be made. It is a matter of the legislation that allows donations to be accepted.**

However, it has in recent months been pointed out that in his will, Mr Hampton's said he was leaving the money to "the political party in the Republic of Ireland known at this time as Sinn Féin".

In the Republic, the maximum donation a political party can accept is €2,500. They also cannot accept donations from persons who reside outside the state unless they are Irish citizens.

Senators have called on Sinn Féin to return the donation to Mr Hampton's estate:

<https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/politics/parties-united-in-motion-demanding-sinn-fein-hand-back-4m-from-will-39736988.html>

May I ask, could you clarify:

- Why did the Electoral Commission deem this donation permissible, given that it was specifically left to the Republic of Ireland version of Sinn Fein? **The law on permissibility allows for a registered political party to accept a donation if the donor is on a UK electoral register at the time that the donation was made. Where the donation is a bequest, the donor must have been on a UK electoral register at any time in the five years prior to the date of death.**

- Did the Electoral Commission consider this issue (whether the donation could be accepted by Sinn Fein in Northern Ireland) given the wording of the will? **The only consideration is whether the donor is on a UK electoral roll, as above. The wording of the will is a matter for the executors.**

- Did the Electoral Commission liaise with electoral authorities in the Republic of Ireland when considering this donation, and if not, why not? **The donor was UK based and on a UK electoral roll. We did not liaise with authorities in the ROI.**

- Will the Electoral Commission be examining this issue further or liaising with authorities in the Republic given the motion by Senators in Ireland? **The donation meets the criteria set out in UK legislation.**

Please let me know if you receive this. There is no particular deadline on this query.

Thanks again,

Brendan

--

**Brendan Hughes**

Mob: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [Cahir Hughes](#)  
**To:** [Louise Edwards](#); [REDACTED]; [Adamson](#); [REDACTED]; [Alejandro Alonso-Martinez](#); [REDACTED];  
[Niki Nixon](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Sinn Féin donation  
**Date:** 10 November 2020 14:17:16  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

---

Thanks – I was leaning that way but at the back of my mind was the negative findings from the recent public opinion research. However we haven't received the final report yet and these challenges can be addressed in a more thought out way then.

Cahir

---

**From:** Louise Edwards

**Sent:** 10 November 2020 10:22

**To:** [REDACTED]; Dan Adamson; [REDACTED]; Cahir Hughes; Alejandro Alonso-Martinez; [REDACTED]; Niki Nixon; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Sinn Féin donation

Yes I agree. What they are saying is that they think the regime is lax, rather than it being anything about us. That's a political judgement for them to make if they want to.

Louise

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 10 November 2020 10:05

**To:** Dan Adamson [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); Cahir Hughes [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); Louise Edwards [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); Alejandro Alonso-Martinez [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); Niki Nixon [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)

**Subject:** RE: Sinn Féin donation

Agree that we should ignore it given that it is an issue raised in the Republic. We have plenty of standard lines about the rules on NI donations if asked.

---

**From:** Dan Adamson [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)

**Sent:** 10 November 2020 09:54

**To:** Roisin McDaid [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); Cahir Hughes [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); Louise Edwards [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); Alejandro Alonso-Martinez [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); Niki Nixon [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk); [REDACTED] [@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)

**Subject:** RE: Sinn Féin donation

Yes, agree.

**Dan Adamson**

Head of Monitoring and Enforcement

**The Electoral Commission**

020 7271 [REDACTED]

[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)



Please note that the Electoral Commission's offices are currently closed because of the Covid 19 guidance issued by the Government. This means that we only have sporadic access to post. Therefore, we would be grateful if, for the foreseeable future, all correspondence could be sent by email.

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

**Sent:** 10 November 2020 09:53

**To:** Cahir Hughes [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Louise Edwards

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Dan Adamson

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Alejandro Alonso-Martinez [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]ks@electoralcommission.org.uk>;

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Niki Nixon

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Sinn Féin donation

My instinct is to leave it.

Worth noting the Government's did liaise over the NI donations and loans legislation, to the extent that provisions impacted on Irish citizens (albeit that is not the issue here) and I don't think the issue of no cap on NI donations was raised at the time.

---

**From:** Cahir Hughes

**Sent:** 10 November 2020 09:38

**To:** Louise Edwards [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Dan Adamson

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Alejandro Alonso-Martinez [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>;

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; Niki Nixon [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>;

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

**Subject:** FW: Sinn Féin donation

Morning all

Thought it worth sharing the below for info – part of me wonders if its worth responding to challenge the use of the term 'lax' or just leave it given that it's a matter in the Republic rather than here. Would welcome any thoughts on this

Thanks

Cahir

---

**From:** Niall Fields [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@brownnoconnor.com>

**Sent:** 10 November 2020 08:49

**To:** Cahir Hughes [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

**Cc:** Chris Brown [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@brownnoconnor.com>

**Subject:** Sinn Féin donation

Hi Cahir [REDACTED],

The Irish News and Belfast Telegraph are reporting this morning that Sinn Féin has insisted that the £4m it received from the will of William Hampton will be spent in Northern Ireland. Fine Gael Senator Barry Ward is seeking to bring in legislation that would target what he termed is Sinn Féin's use of "lax" regulations in Northern Ireland to accept "massive" donations.

Among the provisions in Senator Ward's proposed legislation is a requirement that political parties would have to make annual declaration that they aren't spending funds

raised in other jurisdictions in the Republic of Ireland.

Full story - <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/republic-of-ireland/fine-gael-wants-crackdown-on-exploitation-of-donations-claiming-sinn-fein-using-ni-loophole-39722636.html>

Thanks

Niall

Niall Fields

Client Executive



3rd Floor, Titanic Suites,  
55-59 Adelaide Street, BT2 8FE

Brown/O'Connor Signature



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: SOA over £250k documents  
**Date:** 20 October 2020 16:54:16

---

Hi [REDACTED]

Parties do not have to have a registered address in Northern Ireland, or indeed in any part of the UK – there is no legal requirement for this.

The amount is also, as you say in their accounts for the ‘six counties’. I should also add that the bequest has also been reported in the party’s quarterly reports in 2019 as well.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 20 October 2020 14:45

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: SOA over £250k documents

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks very much for that.

I know parties in NI can have a registered address elsewhere (Fianna Fáil and Aontú also have HQs in Dublin for example) but I guess my question was more about whether we might be asked to verify the claim made by SF that the money was received by the “six county” party, given that the party only appears to have one registered address in the “26 counties”. If our answer is simply that parties don’t need to have a registered address in NI to be on the NI register, then that’s fine. I guess the fact that the amount appears to be accounted for in their NI SOA suggests it was the “six county” party, but again I’d want to be clear what we can and can’t say on that matter if asked.

Thanks,

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>

**Sent:** 20 October 2020 14:18

**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: SOA over £250k documents

Thanks all. I’m adding an extra line to the LTT on the point in the notes to editors about our publication of these accounts. It’s similar to donations and spending – us publishing them isn’t the same as us saying it’s accurate. We are reporting what the party told us, alongside the relevant signed declarations.

Parties in NI don’t need to have a registered address in NI. Several have their listed address in the Republic and some do in GB.

Thanks

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>

**Sent:** 20 October 2020 13:50

**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: SOA over £250k documents

I've added LTT on bequest and checking permissibility of the William Hampton donation

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 20 October 2020 13:40

**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: SOA over £250k documents

Hi [REDACTED],

I haven't seen/couldn't find any LTT on the donation on our side. If there were ones in the past maybe Cahir could point us in the right direction or we could just add the donation rules we sent to the Irish Times the other day?

John, could you shed any light on the questions about the rules or details of Sinn Féin's registration?

[REDACTED]

Media Relations & Public Information Manager

**The Electoral Commission**

[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)

Press office: 020 7271 0704

Press out of hours: 07789 920414

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>

**Sent:** 20 October 2020 08:41

**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: SOA over £250k documents

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for this. I've just looked over these now and have added comments, but for ease my two main questions are as follows:

1. We say we haven't verified or validated these documents, but I think we need some description of what we/the parties have done to give them some credibility (eg. checked that they are properly audited?); and
2. Do we have previous LTT on the SF donation? If so I'd like to see them, and for them to be added to the LTT.

On the latter point, bearing in mind I wasn't around when this first hit the news, I'm still getting my head around the facts, and I'm slightly confused.

Mary Lou McDonald was reported yesterday as having told the Standards in Public Life Office in Ireland that "The donation that you refer to was not offered to, or accepted by, the Sinn Féin party in the 26-county jurisdiction". She went on to say that it was received by "the Sinn Féin party, registered in the six counties, with the British Electoral Commission".

Looking at the [NI register](#), the registered address for the party is in Dublin. There are 16 Accounting Units in NI, all with an address at 53 Falls Road, Belfast, but none of those reported income or expenditure above £25,000 this year. So are we saying that the party whose registered address is in Dublin received the money? Or am I missing some detail somewhere? Is it the case that a party on the NI register can have an address outside NI but be deemed to be receiving the money in NI?



Apologies for all the questions – I'm just trying to get my head around all of this before next week!

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

**Sent:** 19 October 2020 17:54

**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

**Subject:** RE: SOA over £250k documents

Thanks all.

I've flagged one figure in the NI release that doesn't match what is above it.

Mairaid, is there anything about the SF donation that we need to add to the LTT given all the press activity today?

[REDACTED]

Media Relations & Public Information Manager

**The Electoral Commission**

[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)

Press office: 020 7271 0704

Press out of hours: 07789 920414

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

**Sent:** 19 October 2020 15:40

**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

**Subject:** RE: SOA over £250k documents

Thanks [REDACTED]. I'd also be grateful if you / [REDACTED] could add in some more info into the LTT document. There's some bits about which parties/AUs submitted late, and also the table comparing how much the parties reported in the last two years too. NI parties are in but GB are yet.

[REDACTED], apart from those bits of data the docs are ready for you to review.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

**Sent:** 16 October 2020 17:10

**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk>

**Subject:** RE: SOA over £250k documents

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]


**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 October 2020 17:08  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: SOA over £250k documents

Hi [REDACTED],  
I've just checked figures. I've made a few amends on the UK press release and a couple of minor ones on the NI. I've taken the figures directly from PEFO which is why some were a bit out. In large part this is where the party has reported a number of figures for income but then added them up incorrectly so the total amount will be the sum of its parts, not the amount reported. The lib dem figures are only a couple of quid out, probably because they rounded each individual figure but only reported whole figures.

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** 16 October 2020 13:28  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: SOA over £250k documents

I have put I the figures on the UK release and [REDACTED] has filled in the NI release.  
Could you please double check both releases?  
Thanks

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**From:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
**Sent:** 13 October 2020 16:25  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@electoralcommission.org.uk)>  
**Subject:** SOA over £250k documents

Hi all  
Please see below the documents for the over £250k SOA publication on Wed 28 October. There's plenty of gaps in all three documents to be filled in with numbers. Please have a look through and let me know if there's anything that needs adding/changing/clarifying in any of the docs, particularly so in the LTT. Here's hoping that this SOA is more straightforward than the last one (touch wood).



As now happens with the donations reports, the UK-wide release includes the NI data and will go on the website. The NI release only has NI data in and goes to NI reporters only.

The first round of sign-offs starts on 21 October at 4pm, so the documents should be in good shape by then.

[UK-wide release](#)

[NI release](#)

[LTI](#)

■■■■■, could you also let me know if you've got a date for Q3 publication yet? I know it feels like we've just done Q2!

Thanks

■■■■■  
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■■■■■

**The Electoral Commission**

020 7271 ■■■■■

[electoralcommission.org.uk](http://electoralcommission.org.uk)



## Northern Ireland Weekly Monitoring Report

Friday 13 November 2020

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### Week in Review

[REDACTED]

The Seanad voted by 31 votes to 4 this week in favour of calling on Sinn Féin to return most of an almost £4m donation received in the estate of William Hampton. The vote, which has no legal effect, was brought by Fine Gael Senator Barry Ward who accused the party of “moving away from support for measures that restrict the number of donations that can be given to political parties.”

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Ends...//