



**Irish Heart
Foundation**

Pre Budget Submission 2021

Summary of Measures



Theme 1



Prevention

Actions 1 - 7

1	Detect and manage those at risk	Fund a three-year awareness campaign of the dangers of hypertension and the need for regular free check-ups
2	Tackle determinants of health	Extend the SSD Tax & introduce a timetable for new taxes incentivising reformulation of unhealthy products, beginning with a chocolate and sweet confectionery tax
		Extend the school meals scheme to reduce food poverty and holiday hunger
		Extend the hot school meals programme
		Extend the pilot scheme for the meals programme in Early Learning and Care Settings
3	Achieve a Tobacco Free Ireland of smoking prevalence of less than 5% by 2025	Increase tobacco taxation annually on a pro-rata basis so that all packs of 20 cigarettes cost at least €20 by 2025. This would require an increase of €1.26 on a pack in Budget 2021
		An equivalent annual tobacco tax increase on RYO and the adoption of a taxation policy that acknowledges the substitution impact and adjusts tax rates accordingly to remove incentives to switch to a cheaper alternative
4	Reduce and deter the prevalence of youth and non-smoker e-cigarette use	Apply an excise tax of €0.06 per ml of e-cigarette liquid to deter young people and non-smokers from purchasing and taking up electronic cigarettes
5	Combat illicit tobacco smuggling and reduce the number of illicit tobacco packs in circulation	Increased resources, including additional staffing and equipment, to support Revenue's National Action Plan in combatting cigarette smuggling
6	Reduce the number of locations selling tobacco products and identify where electronic cigarettes are being sold	Introduce an annual €500 tobacco retailer license fee per retail outlet
		Introduce an annual €50 electronic cigarette retailer license fee per retail outlet
7	Reduce the number of deaths attributable to air pollution caused by solid fuel burning	Increase the level of funding allocated to local authorities to monitor and enforce smoky coal bans, to staff additional employees mandated to enforce the ban, and to double the maximum fine amount for breaches of regulation from €5,000 to €10,000

Theme 2

Support and Care



Actions 8 - 11

8	Boost uptake of life-saving cardiac rehabilitation	Provide adequate national capacity for cardiac rehabilitation
9	Increase Homecare Support	Investment to provide the necessary levels of support for people who are already receiving home support services and to meet the growing demand for new home care packages
10	Support Funding of AED provision for children at risk of sudden cardiac death	Introduce a scheme to provide AEDs for children with life threatening cardiac conditions
11	Support smokers in quitting through properly resourced smoking cessation services	Increase the level of funding for tobacco cessation services

Theme 3

Acute Services



Actions 12 - 18

12	Act FAST	Support the delivery of a fully funded FAST awareness campaign
13	Provide access to thrombectomy for all suitable stroke patients regardless of location	Provide funding for the costs associated with decision-supported software for emergency stroke radiology assessment and case selection for thrombectomy treatment
14	Ensure that every hospital treating stroke has a properly functioning stroke service	Fund Year 1 of NSP Staged Plan for HSCP Optimal staffing levels
15	Save 5,124 hospital bed days and a net cost saving of €1,398,226 by enhancing Early Supported Discharge programmes	Consolidate the existing six ESD teams
		Fund ESD Service Expansion as per the NSP plan for Year 1
16	Invest in Neurorehabilitation	Investment of €4.5m in neurorehabilitation services as a first step in meeting the commitment in the Programme for Government to implement the National Neurorehabilitation Strategy

17	Improve Heart Failure services nationally & eliminate geographical gaps in care	Double the number of HF nurses, as well as appointing more Advanced Nurse Practitioners and developing their role in the community
		HF Community Integration Teams should be available countrywide and their roles standardised across all CHO areas.
		Widespread access for GPs to conduct testing for B-type Natriuretic Peptide
		Develop standardised referral pathways for HF patients using existing IT infrastructure such as Health Link to aid improved communication between the community and hospital services
		Address the geographical gap in the provision of heart failure services in the South/South West hospital group
		National roll-out of heart failure integrated care projects
18	Quality Improvement for In-Hospital Resuscitation	Fund a National Cardiac Arrest Audit pilot project in Ireland

Theme 4

The world we live in



Actions 19 - 23

19	Increase the level of cycling in Ireland to boost physical activity and reduce air pollution	Expand the Cycle to Work scheme beyond PAYE to everyone – employers, sole-traders, students, jobseekers, disabled, unpaid home-work and enlarge from €1,000 to €2,000 for the purchase of electric bikes and cargo bike
20	Increase the numbers of students walking and cycling to school	Develop a grant scheme to fund infrastructure to support safer active travel to school – funding active school travel officers to work locally with government agencies and developers to improve active travel infrastructure around schools and address local barriers such as safety risks identified by parents
21	Reduce the number of private motorised vehicles in Dublin city centre to lower the level of toxic air pollution	Implement a daily congestion charge on all private motorised vehicles entering Dublin city centre and examine the feasibility of extending similar congestion charges to other major urban areas
22	Deter the purchase and use of fossil fueled vehicles to lower air pollution levels	Double the nitrogen dioxide levy applied to all VRT category A vehicles (passengers and SUVs) and apply the rate to all registered vehicles
23	Reduce the level of air pollution by incentivising the purchase of electric motorised vehicles over fossil-fuel powered vehicles	Introduce a €7,000 diesel/petrol car scrappage scheme in favour of electric vehicles