

Highest side-earning Irish MEP defends extra income

SENAN MOLONY

Ireland's highest-earning MEP outside of politics has defended his right to also make money as a barrister.

Independent Michael McNamara earns a basic salary of €130,000 as an MEP, along with allowances, but has also declared annual outside income of €60,000 a year, and was included in a report by Transparency International.

Mr McNamara, who sits on the justice committee, earns half of his additional earnings, around €30,000, from farming income in Clare, with a similar amount from his barrister activities.

But he told the *Irish Independent* that he believes he has taken on only one new legal case since the new parliament sat after elections last June. "I have been mainly concluding old cases," he said.

"There is no conflict of interest," he said of sitting on the justice committee, pointing out he has declared his income as a barrister, adding: "I am self-employed. Under the rules, MEPs are perfectly allowed to have side income."

Mr McNamara said: "I'm still a member of the Bar, and have worked on concluding old cases over the past year. But obviously my ability to take on work is constrained by the requirement to be

in Brussels or Strasbourg for several days of most weeks of the year."

The highest side-earner receives about €64,000 on top of their MEP package. The research found 59 MEPs in the 720-strong assembly sit on committees or work on policy areas that are related to their paid side activities, but Mr McNamara said he was not among them.

Senior policy officer at Transparency International, Raphael Kergueno said: "What we have is a situation where we discover numerous conflicts of interest, but also we have a system that is entirely not equipped to deal with them."

Meanwhile, Fianna Fáil MEP Billy

Kelleher has declared a total of €32,000 in outside income he expects to receive this year.

Similar to Mr McNamara, €24,000 of it will come from farm profitability, in his native Cork, while he also estimates €8,000 in annual dividends from his shares in Kerry Co-op and Kerry Group PLC.

Former jockey and newly elected MEP Nina Carberry declared income arising from her firm, Nina Carberry Racing Ltd, which she wholly owns. She has been paying herself €36,528 annually. Ciaran Mullooly earns €5,000 as a freelance journalist while acting as an

MEP. He was previously a €55,000-a-year "tourism activator" for the EU Just Transition Fund over peat bogs.

He declared previous €38,000-a-year earnings as a social inclusion officer at Roscommon Integrated Development Company.

Cynthia Ní Mhurchú, Barry Cowen and Barry Andrews of Fianna Fáil all declare no extra salary, as do Maria Walsh, Seán Kelly and Regina Doherty of Fine Gael.

Lynn Boylan and Kathleen Function of Sinn Féin declare no extra income, as do Independent Luke Ming Flanagan and Labour's Aodhán Ó Riordáin.



Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh
Kilkenny County Council

NOTICE OF A COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER UNDER SECTION 76 OF AND THE THIRD SCHEDULE TO THE HOUSING ACT, 1966, AS EXTENDED BY SECTION 10 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NO. 2) ACT, 1960, TO BE PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 4 (A) OF THE THIRD SCHEDULE TO THE HOUSING ACT, 1966, AS AMENDED BY THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS, 2000-2019 (AS AMENDED).

KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER NO. 5 OF 2025 SOUTH – NORTH ACCESS ROAD

The Kilkenny County Council (hereinafter referred to as "the local authority") in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by section 76 of the Housing Act, 1966, and the Third Schedule thereto, as extended by section 10 of the Local Government (No. 2) Act, 1960 as substituted by section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966 as amended by section 6 and the Second Schedule to the Roads Acts, 1993-2015 and as amended by the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2019 (As Amended), have made an order entitled as above which is about to be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála for confirmation.

If confirmed, the order will authorise the local authority to acquire compulsorily the lands and wayleaves described in Part I, II, III and IV of the Schedule hereto for the purposes of the construction of the **South – North Access Road**.

Owners, lessees and occupiers of the land described in the Schedule will receive individual written notice.

The order will also authorise the local authority to extinguish the private rights of way described in Part IV of the Schedule hereto, by order made by them after they have acquired the land, where the said private right of way is over the land so acquired or any part thereof, or over land adjacent to or associated with the land so acquired or any part thereof. **Any objections to the extinguishing of the said private right of way should be made in writing to An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902 by 5:30pm on Wednesday December 3rd 2025.**

An Coimisiún Pleanála may, at its discretion, decide not to confirm

- (a) a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of the land if an objection is made in respect of the acquisition by an owner, lessee or occupier of the land and not withdrawn or
- (b) an order which authorises the extinguishing of a right of way if there is an objection to the extinguishment, which is not withdrawn, until it has caused to be held an oral hearing into the matter and until it has considered the objection and the report of the person who held the oral hearing.

SCHEDULE – PART IV

Description of Private Rights of Way Proposed to be Extinguished

Number on map deposited at the office of the Local Authority	Description of Private Rights of Way proposed to be extinguished
W383-OCSC-XX-CPO-DR-C-002	Private Wayleave and easement in favour of Jeremiah O' Rielly and Daniel Mulvihill and Patrick Murphy, their heirs, assigns and others as specified the registered owners of KK29271F as shown from Line AA to Line BB
W383-OCSC-XX-CPO-DR-C-003	Private Wayleave and easement in favour of Jeremiah O' Rielly his heirs, assigns and others as specified the registered owners of KK29271F as shown from Line CC to Line DD
W383-OCSC-XX-CPO-DR-C-003	Private Wayleave and easement in favour of Jeremiah O' Rielly his heirs, assigns and others as specified the registered owners of KK29271F as shown from Line EE to Line FF
W383-OCSC-XX-CPO-DR-C-002	
W383-OCSC-XX-CPO-DR-C-003	Grant of Right of Way application pending against KK29271F by WHS Property Developments Limited

Dated this Wednesday October 15th 2025.

Margo Hayes,
County Secretary,
Kilkenny County Council.