

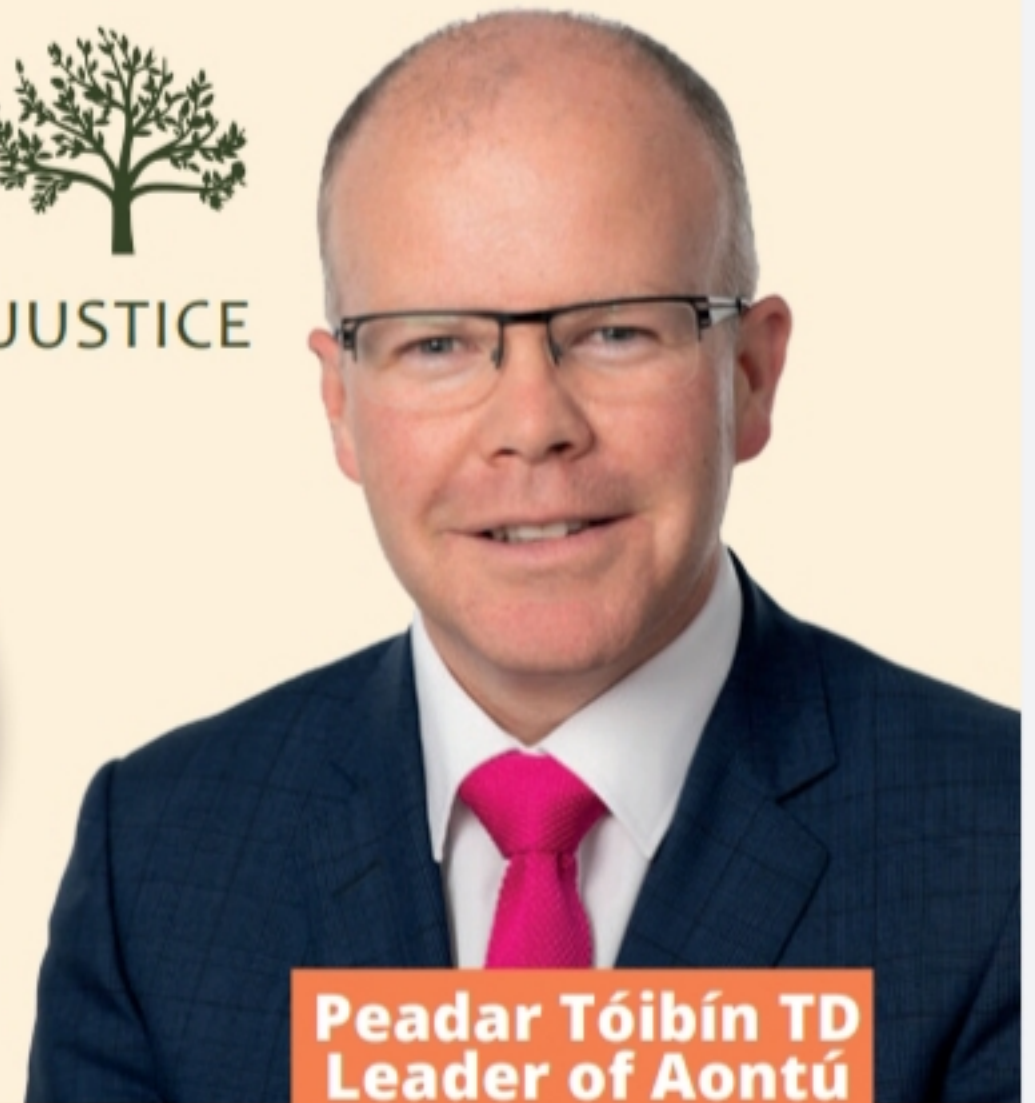
MAIRÉAD TÓIBÍN

VÓTÁIL TÓIBÍN #1 FOR DUBLIN BAY SOUTH



Mairéad Tóibín

Aontú 
LIFE • UNITY • ECONOMIC JUSTICE



**Peadar Tóibín TD
Leader of Aontú**

MAIRÉAD TÓIBÍN: HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL

Mairéad Toibín has worked as a pharmacist in Mental Health Services and Addiction in Dublin Bay South for 15 years. She also worked as an Inspector of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. She has seen first-hand what has happened to our Health Service.

MAIRÉAD TÓIBÍN: SMALL BUSINESS OWNER

Previously Mairéad owned and managed two community pharmacy businesses. She knows the challenges now faced by small businesses.

The livelihood of many Small Business owners and workers hang in the balance. Many have built up serious debt and need real help from the government. Mairéad will bring her experience to the Dáil.

MAIRÉAD TÓIBÍN: COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

Mairéad is a founding member of Aontú. She is a mother, a wife and a community activist and volunteer. Critically, she is an independent thinker and has the backbone to stand up for her community.

ITS TIME FOR COMMON SENSE!

Ireland is emerging from a catastrophe. Its only now that we are starting to assess the damage done to society. 56% of people who died with Covid in Ireland during the Covid crisis caught Covid in a Hospital or a Nursing Home. This is shocking given that these 2 locations are owned or regulated by this government. The most vulnerable were the most exposed.

INVESTIGATION OF GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF COVID NEEDED

We need to learn from this and make sure it does not happen again. Aontú was the 1st party to call for a full investigation of the Government's handling of Covid.

Instead of protecting the most vulnerable in Hospitals and Nursing Homes, FF & FG produced the longest and most severe workplace restrictions in Europe. Ireland was an outlier in EU terms.

Covid is real and we need to be cautious but in going far beyond any other EU country this government hammered small businesses and hundreds of thousands of workers. There are many businesses now

in a zombie state. Only surviving on supports provided. When these supports are fully removed many may fall.

The cost to the state has been enormous. €40 billion of debt has been built up which will radically reduce investment in the future and lead to significant tax increases.

WHERE WAS THE OPPOSITION?

According to Mairéad Tóibín; "Where was the Opposition when this was happening. Aontú is the only party in the Dáil that really challenged the Government. Sinn Féin sat on the fence and all the other Opposition parties bought into Zero Covid, potentially leaving restrictions in place for another 6 months".

"One of the most dangerous Variants we have seen in this crisis is the 'Dáil Variant'. The Dáil is a Petri Dish of Group Think. Outside Aontú there has been little practical Common Sense.

Inject Common Sense into the Dáil.

Vótáil Mairéad Tóibín #1.

Aontú is a brand-new people powered movement.

In the last year in the Dáil we have had a significant impact, tabling 14 pieces of new legislation. These Bills seek to fix much of the dysfunction created by the establishment parties. Here is a sample.

1. **Civil Liability and Courts (Amendment) Bill 2021**

A Bill to reduce the cost of Insurance for Businesses, Drivers and Homeowners. Like other markets such as Banking, Housing and Beef the Insurance market is not operating properly. This Bill seeks to reform the sector.

2. **Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) (Amendment) (Pets) Bill 2021**

This Bill steeks to tackle the shocking rise in the thefts of family pets that has happened during the Covid Crisis. Our Bill creates a mandatory sentence for thieves that steal dogs and cats that are important members of many families.

3. **Dog Breeding Establishments (Amendment) Bill 2021**

This Bill is to enhance the welfare of dogs by strengthening the regulation of dog breeding and preventing illegal Puppy Farms. It increases the penalty for breaking the law, strengthens the 5 freedoms of dogs and ensures enforcement of regulation.

4. **Oireachtas Members (Economic Justice) (Covid-19) Bill 2021**

This Bill sought to cut TDs Wages during Level 3,4 and 5 Lockdown. Many TDs experienced pay rises themselves while imposing draconian decisions that hammered people's incomes.

5. **Hospital Parking Bill 2021**

This Bill will create free parking in Hospitals Car parks for patients. Cancer, heart disease, stroke and mental ill health radically reduce people's ability to earn and increases daily costs. On top of this they are hit with a 'tax on ill health' in having to pay for regular hospital charges.

6. **Protection of Children (Online Pornographic Material) Bill 2020**

A Bill to make it illegal for Internet Pornography Companies to supply Hardcore Porn to Children.

7. **Housing (Temporary Provisions regarding Short term Lettings) Bill 2020**

This Bill seeks to tackle the broken Housing Market by helping to bring Air B&B rentals in cities back into use as family homes.

8. **Dáil (All-Ireland Representation) Bill 2020**

The purpose of this Bill is to enable MPs elected in respect of constituencies in the north of Ireland to sit, pose questions and speak in the Dáil. It would allow this Dáil fulfil the objective of the 1st Dáil.

9. **Pain Relief Bill 2021**

This Bill is to ensure that, in cases of late term abortion in Ireland, pain relief is given to the child. Shockingly under the FF/FG/SF law this is not the case currently.

CHILDCARE SECTOR IN CRISIS

Aontú was the voice of much of the 180 childcare providers in the Dáil in the first wave of the pandemic as the government abandoned the sector. The government opted out of ECCE contracts with providers, which was their main source of income, and suspended AIM funding to better integrate children with disabilities into mainstream pre-school settings.

The consequences of these policies are still being felt today, with many providers struggling to cover the tens of thousands in losses incurred during the pandemic, and with providers and parents not wanting the Department of Children & Youth Affairs to have anything to do with the Childcare sector. As a working parent Mairéad has pushed for fair resourcing and reform of the sector to the benefit of parents, teachers, providers and children alike.

SAFETY ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT



Anti-social behaviour on public transport is a matter of growing concern. Mairéad is seeking to set up a Public Transport Garda unit to protect passengers on trains, buses and Luas. Iarnród Éireann has logged 2,300 incidents of antisocial behaviour in the past year. This is an increase from 700 in 2017, despite a reduction in passengers due to Covid. Anti Social Behaviour on Public Transport is a significant barrier to many people using Public Transport.

THIS BYE ELECTION:

A graphic comparing two political options. On the left, under the heading 'COVID COALITION', there is a black and white photo of three men in suits, with a large downward-pointing arrow next to it. On the right, under the heading 'COMMON SENSE', there is a color photo of Mairéad Toibin and a man in a suit, with a large upward-pointing arrow next to it. At the bottom, the text 'Vótáil Aontú' is written in a stylized font, with 'LIFE · UNITY · ECONOMIC JUSTICE' underneath.



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FF/FG ALLERGIC TO BUILDING SOCIAL HOUSING

Speaking at a Housing Campaign meeting Mairéad Tóibín stated;

"The last economic crash was caused by a housing crisis which was fuelled by the "Market is Always Right" ideology of the then FF government. The crisis engulfing so many families currently was in large part because FF and FG are allergic to building Social Housing.

We need a common sense approach now! All houses that are built provide housing solutions. All increase supply. All influence prices and rents downwards.

We need practical and common sense solutions. We need both the state and the private sector operating at maximum capacity. Aontú is seeking a relaxation of EU rules in terms of state spending on housing in line with the €7 billion suggested by the ESRI and the reform of the private housing sector.

Both FF and FG have been pulled kicking and screaming into any type of interventions such as rent controls, investment in social housing and tenant protections. Even where this has happened it has been minimalist and short of what has been necessary.



MOST OF OPPOSITION BLOCKING THE BUILDING OF THOUSANDS OF HOMES

On the other hand, much of the opposition has focused just on the social housing sector as the only solution. SF, the Soc Dems, PbP and the Labour Party have all actively prevented thousands of homes being built by private builders in the middle of a national housing emergency. We don't have the luxury of this common-sense famine.

AONTÚ BILL TO END REIT TAX ADVANTAGES

Aontú seek to table a new Bill in the Dáil to end the tax advantages that were given to REITs by Fine Gael. FG's REIT tax policy has meant that many young families are being pushed out of the Housing Market and into high rent accommodation. This must end.

RENT CAPS NEEDED NOW

Mairéad Tóibín is calling for Rent Caps now. When government regulations lapse later in the summer, there is a legal loophole that will allow landlords to impose an 8% rent increase, the equivalent of two years rent increase in one!

The response of the Taoiseach is that the Housing Minister may introduce a Bill in the Autumn to close the loophole. This could provide a window for wholesale rent inflation. There is simply no excuse for rent increases. This is a national emergency and neither side of the political spectrum is treating it as such.

POLLUTION OF DUBLIN BAY

Dublin Bay, including the Half Moon Swimming Club, Sandymount Strand and Merrion Strand are frequently unfit for bathing because the sewage works at Pigeon House road are operating well above capacity, and in particular are unable to cope with heavy rainfall events. These result in the discharge of partially treated sewage into Dublin Bay, rendering it unfit for bathing.

Under FG and FF, Ireland has had one of the lowest rates of capital investment in the EU. Aontú is the party of Capital Investment.



REOPEN THE HEALTH SERVICE NOW

480 people will get Cancer today. Tragically 24 people are likely to die from Cancer today. Many more people will lose their lives to Heart Disease, Stroke and Mental Ill-health.

Yet the Health service is not fully open and many services will remain restricted significantly until the end of the year.

- Skin Cancer Referrals down 90% to some hospitals
- Breast Check is down 70%
- Bowel Screening is down 60%
- Cervical Check down 44%
- Chemotherapy rates down 30%
- Radiotherapy rates down 20%

Medical professionals have reported that because of the restrictions on non Covid healthcare, our Health Service will be inundated with many more advanced Cancers and serious illness in the future. As a Medical Professional Mairéad Tóibín has stated, "this will lead to increased ill health and deaths in the future. This is a disaster for many people who have been deprioritised".

Aontú has run a campaign to increase capacity in the Health Service and fully reopen services. In response to this being raised in the Dáil FF Taoiseach Micheal Martin told Aontú leader Peadar Tóibín to "get real". For Peadar and tens of thousands of other patients, Cancer has been far too real in the last year.

Join the campaign

OPEN UP THE HEALTH SERVICE NOW

Aontú
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BE ON CALL FOR IRELAND

As a Health Care professional, an issue of deep frustration for Mairéad Tóibín has been the fact that during the crisis 73,000 people applied to the 'Be on Call for Ireland' Government initiative. However shockingly, we in Aontú have found out that less than 350 people were my employed.

This despite over stretched hospital and nursing home staff pleading for help during the darkest days of the crisis. Such a low recruitment is incomprehensible given the fact that almost 1 million people are on hospital waiting lists.



FG /FF POLICIES CREATED THOUSANDS OF ZOMBIE BUSINESSES

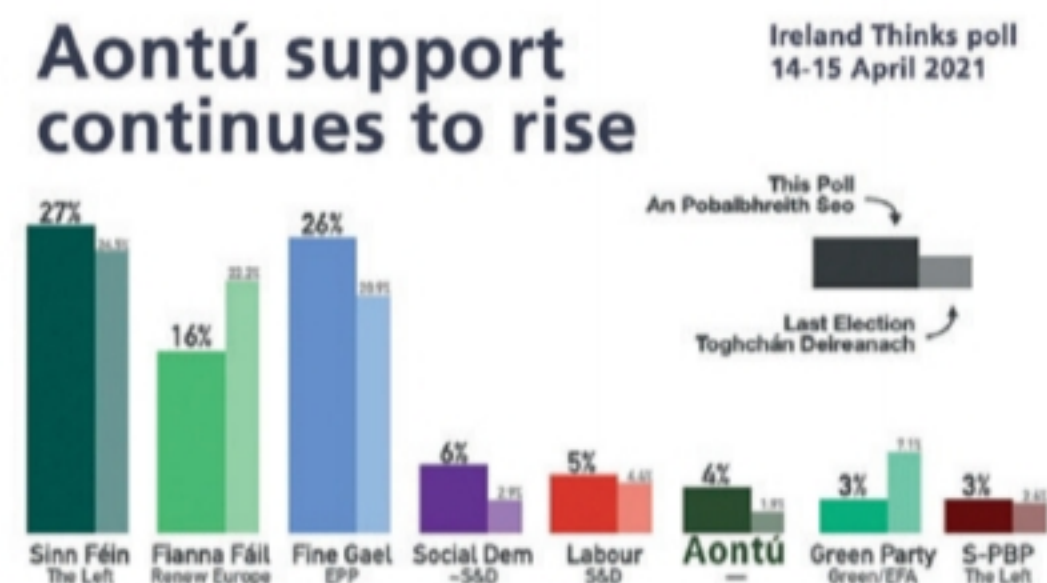
Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) have always been the 'poor relation' of FF/FG enterprise policy. This despite the fact that SMEs employ most of the workers in this state. The government, in choosing longer and more severe restrictions than any other country in the EU has hammered many many businesses.

Covid has turbo boosted online shopping and many shops, restaurants and pubs are zombie businesses, only surviving on the Government supports. The danger is when these supports are pulled, many businesses may fail, and many jobs could be lost.

Mairéad Tóibín is calling for a MABs type organisation to help small businesses who have built up significant debt. The objective of this organisation is to allow indebted businesses to access the same solutions that exist for indebted homeowners and to assist businesses in working through their debt in a sustainable and equitable way. We are also calling for all businesses who seek an online marketing or ecommerce presence to be given the help to achieve that goal now.

RAPID GROWTH OF AONTÚ

Aontú support continues to rise



Aontú is a grass roots, people powered movement growing across Ireland north and south. The level of group think in the political and media establishment is staggering. Aontú is the only party providing real opposition to the government's policies. As a result, a growing number of people are getting active in Aontú. If you want join Aontú:

- A common sense & practical solutions party
- Real opposition and to oppose Group Think
- Core Values that don't flip flop in the wind
- Hard working reps that oppose the careerism of Irish politics

