



## Overview of the cost of responding to COVID-19

Review

Published: 30.9.2022



**FULL REPORT (EN)** 

### What we assessed and why

Our report provides an overview of the cost of direct responses to COVID-19 and its impacts from March 2021-February 2022. The figures presented include costs incurred on support schemes, or direct spending on COVID-19 responses.

### What we found

The Department of Social Protection reported a total of €7.6 billion incurred expenditure, mainly financing the Employment wage subsidy scheme and the Pandemic unemployment payment. The Health Department reported a total amount of €2.67 billion, including an increase in spending on testing and tracing (46 %) in comparison with the same period a year before (March 2020-February 2021), whereas the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage paid out a total of €536 million in support, mostly in the form of commercial rates waivers.

### What we concluded

We found that expenditure for the period was €12.4 billion, bringing the total expenditure on direct responses to COVID-19 or its impacts to €29.5 billion at the end of February 2022. 86 % of the total reported expenditure over the two-year period was spent by the Departments of (1) Social Protection, (2) Health and (3) Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Broken down by type of recipient, the government provided 39 % of the total expenditure for business, 26 % for individuals, and 23 % for health and social care support, with the remaining 12 % spent on other state services.