

Aontú councillor for **Navan, Emer Tóibín**, is critical of the charging policy by the Department of Transport that sees people who pay their Motor Tax monthly having to pay up to 20% more on an annual basis.

Ms Tóibín *"There is no justification for the 10% to 20% loading on motor tax charges for people who are unable to pay their Motor Tax in a one off annual payment. This policy hits the most vulnerable, young and less secure in society and it adversely discriminates against the less well off".*

With modern technology and online automatic payments there are no longer the administrative costs that were once a factor in charging higher amounts. The whole process is now automatic so there are no grounds for charging the extra 10-20% depending on how frequently the car owner pays. Many people in the state live from one pay cheque to another, the rising costs of food, utilities, and services are putting many families under extra financial strain. The government appears to be dragging their feet in terms of controlling these spiraling energy costs but it can very easily resolve this inequitable Motor Tax charge today.

Cllr Tóibín concludes by stating that *"this is a small issue in the scheme of things but by the same token it is totally unnecessary and unjustifiable in this day and age that those who choose to pay their bills according to their means should be penalised in this manner. We all have to cut our coat according to our cloth and budgetary discipline is something that many people must exercise on a daily basis in this country to make ends meet. We'd all be in a far better place if the government firstly acknowledged its support of budgetary prudence across society at large and if it also led by example.*