

Balancing the Budget



You are Northern Ireland's Finance Minister. Your job is to decide how the budget for running Northern Ireland will be spent in the coming year. You have been given £100,000 to spend.






You have asked other government ministers for their ideas on how the money should be spent. You will consider the ideas listed in the table below and decide whether to:

- (a) Give all the money to one project;
- (b) Give money to some projects but not others;
- (c) Give an equal share of the money to all projects.

You do not have to give the total amount needed for each project - you might give less, or more than has been requested. Remember, you only have £100,000. Think carefully about how the money would be best spent.

Tick either the **Yes** or **No** box under each idea. For those that you tick yes, fill in the Amount box with the amount of money you are going to spend on that project.

Suggested Projects

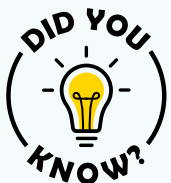
	Minister for Education - £50,000 for anti-bullying programme for schools	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Amount <input type="text" value="£"/>
	Minister for the Economy - £40,000 to help retrain the unemployed	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Amount <input type="text" value="£"/>
	Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs - £60,000 to help people buy solar panels	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Amount <input type="text" value="£"/>
	Minister for Health - £70,000 for an anti-drugs campaign	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Amount <input type="text" value="£"/>
	Minister for Communities - £50,000 to help older people living in poverty	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Amount <input type="text" value="£"/>
			TOTAL <input type="text" value="£"/>

Now fill in this table

Project	Explain your decisions
Anti-bullying programme	
Retraining for the unemployed	
Funding for more solar panels	
Anti-drugs campaign	
Benefits to help the elderly	

Which project did you give the most money to? Why?

Project
Reasons



Did you know that the real Northern Ireland Minister for Finance, with the help of the other Ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), has to decide each year how to spend millions of pounds fairly across the whole of Northern Ireland?