



Department of Social and Family Affairs

Statement By Minister For Social And Family Affairs Mary Coughlan At The Conclusion Of A Meeting With The National Widows Association

Mary Coughlan Minister for Social and Family Affairs said: "I welcomed this meeting in the light of the concerns raised by this strongly representative group."

"Our meeting discussed the context of this measure amidst consistent and major Government spending in providing for widows and widowers and the reasons why this particular measure was put in place."

"I said that I would continue to undertake, as I have with all the reforms I have brought into the social welfare code, to keep the implementation of reforms under review to ensure that the total social welfare budget continues to be best spent tackling disadvantage, helping those in unemployment and providing other social supports."

Ends March 23rd 2004