



**Advice and information on a range of civil and social issues available in
Blanchardstown**

Minister Hanafin visits Blanchardstown Citizens Information Centre

Mary Hanafin T.D., Minister for Social and Family Affairs today (31st October 2008) visited Blanchardstown Citizens Information Centre (CIC). Speaking to the assembled staff, Minister Hanafin said, **“I am pleased to see that advice is available on such a wide range of areas in Blanchardstown CIC. Members of the public have access to solicitors from the Free Legal Advice Centre on Monday evenings. There is a financial advice clinic once a month and on Wednesday mornings, a free Refugee Information Service is available. In addition to these services, there are weekly interpreting facilities in Russian, Polish, French and Portuguese. These services are all free of charge”**

Blanchardstown CIC, which first opened its doors in June 1976, is one of a network of 106 Citizens Information Centres and a further 162 outreach services throughout the country which provides information and advice in relation to a range of social services.

Minister Hanafin continued, **“Blanchardstown CIC is well placed in the new heart of Blanchardstown beside the new shopping centre. The CIC responded to over 11,800 enquiries and the staff dealt with almost 7,000 callers last year. This clearly shows the importance of the service in this community.”**

The CICs provide free independent information and advice in relation to health, social welfare, housing, taxation, consumer matters, employment rights, careers and local information. Information is also available at the national Citizens



Department of Social and Family Affairs

Information Phone Service (to call 1890 777 121 from 9am to 9pm Monday to Friday) and the Citizens Information website (www.citizensinformation.ie).

The Department of Social and Family Affairs is providing over €30 million to fund Citizens Information services around Ireland in 2008.

Editor's note:

The Citizens Information Board (formerly Comhairle) is responsible for supporting the provision of information, advice and advocacy on a wide range of social and civil services through:

- The web-based information sources www.citizensinformation.ie
- The Citizens Information Phone Service, a low call service available Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-9p.m. 1890777121
- The face to face services, the network of Citizens Information Services (CIS) nationwide offering information and advocacy services to the public. Contact information for the network of offices is available at www.citizensinformation.ie

Opening hours in Blanchardstown CIC: 9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm Monday to Friday and 7:30pm - 9pm every Monday evening.

Contact details are as follows:

Email: Blanchardstown@citinfo.ie

Telephone: 01 822 0449

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