

Live Register Drop Welcome - Mary Coughlan Minister For Social And Family Affairs

Mary Coughlan Social and Family Affairs Minister today welcomed a reduction in the Live Register of 14,900 compared to last month.

The latest figure also shows a decrease of 7,000 in the number of people signing onto the live register compared to the same period twelve months ago.

"This is a welcome decrease in unemployment figures and points to a well managed economy that is performing confidently despite difficult international circumstances," said Mary Coughlan Minister for Social and Family Affairs.

"When seasonally adjusted the Live Register for September is estimated at 173,700 which is a decrease of 3,900 on August 2003. These figures are encouraging and follow the latest statistics from the CSO that showed an increase of 28,400 or 1.6 per cent in employment for the twelve months to the second quarter on this year."

"Competitiveness remains the key to success and we must maintain and promote competitiveness to best position our economy for the inevitable global upturn. We should be optimistic for the future as our unemployment rate is at approximately half the Eurozone rate," added Minister Coughlan.

ENDS October 3rd 2003