



**An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection**

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**Minister Burton welcomes the expansion of Worklink,
the employment support network which connects
employers and jobseekers**

The Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton, T.D. today (Monday, 7th January 2013) welcomed the expansion of Worklink, an employment support network which assists employers in providing employment and work placement opportunities to jobseekers.

Worklink also provides professional mentoring and support directly to jobseekers through jobseeker groups and organisations. The network, which has been working with employers and jobseekers over the past year, will expand its free services throughout the country.

Minister Burton paid tribute to Worklink's initiative in providing practical support to employers and jobseekers, saying: **"Worklink's objective of assisting jobseekers to move into employment matches the work which is underway in my Department. Worklink was involved in a number of employer briefings that I hosted throughout the country at the end of last year where over 1,500 employers got practical advice and assistance on the full range of employment and financial supports available to them from the Department of Social Protection."**

Minister Burton urged employers to avail of the Department's employment services: **"These are services that can make highly skilled candidates on the live register available to employers at no extra cost and in many cases with a financial subsidy. I would like to acknowledge Worklink's assistance in communicating these benefits to employers and assisting**

them in accessing the supports that are available. I would also like to acknowledge the vital role being played by Worklink volunteers, individuals from various backgrounds who are giving their time and professional expertise free of charge in helping people to find employment.”

Worklink is supported by a number of partners which include industry groups and representative bodies such as Chambers Ireland, ISME, The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development IBEC, Skillnets and the INOU. Worklink is sponsored by the Arthur Guinness Fund and a small number of large employers and professional services firms who are keen to be involved in helping jobseekers back to employment.

Minister Burton spoke about the important role that employers and businesses play in making the Government’s commitment to getting Ireland back to work a reality. She said: **“The Government’s priority is to ensure that as many employment opportunities as possible go to people who are on the live register. This can only be achieved in conjunction with business and with the full support of employers. The Department of Social Protection is in the process of resetting its relationship with employers. The establishment of Worklink as a pro-active step by employers, the HR community and individual citizens is very timely and welcome and I look forward to working with Worklink in the months ahead.”**

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