



## Department of Social and Family Affairs

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**7<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

### **MINISTER CULLEN - 15% REDUCTION IN ELECTRICITY USAGE AT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY AFFAIRS**

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, **Martin Cullen, TD** has today (7 March 2008) congratulated staff in his facilities management division for achieving a 15% reduction in the Department's electricity usage over the period 2005 to 2007 at the Department's head office in Áras Mhic Dhiarmada, Store Street, Dublin 1.

The Department's building in Store Street – designed by architect Michael Scott (1905-1988) - used a total of 4.1 million kilowatt hours of electricity in the years 2005 to 2007. Over that timeframe, electricity usage showed a reduction of 15%.

Part of this reduction is attributable to an OPW 2007 energy pilot awareness campaign involving staff at the Áras Mhic Dhiarmada office. Following this pilot, the Department is now involved with the OPW's new energy awareness campaign 'Optimising Power at Work' launched by Minister of State, Noel Ahern TD, on 28 January last.

**Minister Martin Cullen TD** said: "We are pleased to be part of this OPW energy initiative which is aligned with the Government's overall climate change strategy. I believe Government Departments have an opportunity to lead by example on energy efficiency. Minimal changes in and around the workplace can result in real benefits to the environment. I am delighted that staff at the Department of Social and Family Affairs are taking responsibility for meeting the challenges presented to them on an ongoing basis."

The OPW's 'Optimising Power at Work' energy campaign aims to achieve a 15% reduction in carbon emissions across 250 state buildings located throughout the country. The campaign aims to achieve this reduction over an eighteen-month period.

**ENDS**

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