



## **Department of Social and Family Affairs**

---

### **Minister Coughlan Opens New Premises For Dundalk Citizens Information Centre**

Mary Coughlan TD, Minister for Social and Family Affairs, today officially opened Dundalk Citizen's Information Centre's new premises at Adelphi Court, Long Walk in Dundalk.

"The importance of your work here cannot be overemphasized. The information you provide concerns peoples' rights and entitlements. Where there is expertise available outside the statutory sector such as this Citizen's Information Centre, people are empowered and their options increase," said Minister Coughlan.

"I am particularly impressed that not only is there a daily service operating from here but that you run an outreach service for four neighbouring towns," the Minister added.

"Every day people come away from your offices better informed and better able to access the help and services they need," said Minister Coughlan.

"In my own Department of Social and Family Affairs, which provided funds of €138,370 this year for the County Louth Citizens Information Services through Cómhairle, I am committed to ensuring that we continue our work to build an inclusive and caring society."

County Louth Citizens Information Service Limited comprises the Dundalk Citizens Information Centre, Drogheda Citizens Information Centre and Outreach Services for Carlingford, Duleek, Dunleer and Ardee. In 2003, Dundalk CIC handled over 10,600 queries and the Drogheda CIC handled over 3,000. Drogheda has three members of staff and five volunteers. Dundalk has four staff and ten volunteers.

**ENDS April 8<sup>th</sup> 2004**