



€150,000 FUNDING FOR THE IRISH NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF THE UNEMPLOYED - MINISTER COUGHLAN

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Coughlan, today authorised funding of €150,000 for the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed towards the cost of maintaining and developing a welfare to work service and the publication of an information booklet, 'Working for work'.

Minister Coughlan said: "In approving this funding I urge the INOU to redouble their efforts in helping the long-term unemployed and other marginalized people to enter the mainstream working economy. The dramatic fall in the numbers of long term unemployed over the last number of years will allow them to focus on those people most in need of assistance in crossing the gap to employment."

Minister Coughlan's Department has funded the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed for more than ten years. Funding started in 1992 with a grant of £15,000 and increased to over €146,000 last year. This year's funding consists of €123,000 for the welfare to work service and €27,000 towards the publishing of the booklet 'Welfare to work'.

The INOU's welfare to work service aims to help long-term unemployed people enter the working economy by providing a confidential one to one information and advice service. The booklet 'Welfare to work' complements this service - it is intended that 25,000 copies will be distributed this year and that it will be made available on the Internet.

ENDS

12th February, 2003