



Mary Coughlan Minister For Social And Family Affairs' Website Now Accessible To All In Year Of The Disabled

Mary Coughlan, Minister for Social and Family Affairs, today thanked her Department's internet team for ensuring that www.welfare.ie was accessible to all in the International Year of the Disabled.

"The internet is a powerful tool in tackling disadvantage and with almost one in three of the population in receipt of some form of payment from my Department at any one time I believe accessibility to my Department's website is paramount. This is particularly so this year, and I am pleased that that the new improved site is now fully compliant to Web Accessibility Initiative AAA Standard making our content available to all - the blind and partially sighted in particular.

"By viewing the new upgraded site with web based translation tools its bi-lingual format of Irish and English can also be seen in a variety of other languages including French, German and Italian.

"I would like to pay tribute to the Department's in house internet unit who tonight (Wed) are accepting a merit award in the annual Public Sector Times website competition. The award winners were chosen from a total of 260 public service web sites which entered this years competition," added Minister Coughlan.

Ends
November 12th 2003