



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí Department of Social Protection

www.welfare.ie

Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance payments will start to issue during the week ending 17 July 2015

The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance will be automatically paid to over 106,000 customers, in respect of almost 190,000 children this summer. The total amount to be paid out in respect of these claims is over €26.5 million.

Further payments will be made in respect of applications submitted to the Department of Social Protection. Application forms will be available in all Social Welfare offices, via the Department's SMS form request service and by download from www.welfare.ie from the 12 June 2015. A text message acknowledging receipt will issue to each customer who provides a contact mobile phone number on their application form.

Tánaiste and Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton T.D., said: **“€44.3 million has been made available by Government this year for the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance scheme. This level of support, shows the Government's continued commitment to assisting families who are under pressure financially, in particular recognising that the start of a school year can be a very pressurised time on household budgets. The staff in my Department worked hard on streamlining the process of application and payment, this means that the bulk of the payments will issue automatically during the week ending 17 of July”.**

The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance scheme assists eligible categories of people meet the cost of school clothing and footwear. The Allowance is paid in respect of eligible children between the ages of 4 and 17 on or before 30th September 2015 and eligible children between the ages of 18 and 22 on or before 30th September 2015 who are in full-time second level education.

The payment rates for the 2015 Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance scheme are €100 in respect of children aged 4 to 11 and €200 for children aged 12 to 22.

To request an application, customers should text **FORM BTSCFA** followed by their name and address to **51909**. Customers whose circumstances have changed are advised to contact the Department of Social Protection at 1890 66 22 44 or at bscfa@welfare.ie.



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Notes for Editors

Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance 2015

Income Limits for 2015 are:

Couple with:	Income Limit	Lone Parent with:	Income Limit
1 child	€563.60	1 child	€410.10
2 children	€593.40	2 children	€439.90
3 children	€623.20	3 children	€469.70
4 children	€653.00*	4 children	€499.50*

*Limit is increased by €29.80 for each additional child

Rates of Payment

The rates of payment are:

- (a) €100 in respect of children aged 4 to 11 on the 30th September 2015;
- (b) €200 in respect of children aged 12 to 22 on the 30th September 2015.

ENDS

**Department of Social Protection
14 June 2015**

PRESS RELEASE ENDS