



Department of Social and Family Affairs

Avoid Delays In Social Welfare Payment During The Postal Dispute – Minister Mary Coughlan TD

Mary Coughlan, Minister for Social and Family Affairs today encouraged customers living in areas affected by the postal dispute to arrange for their Medical Certificates, Disability Claim Forms and Injury Benefit Claim Forms to be handed in to their local Social Welfare office to avoid delays in payment.

The Minister said: "My priority is to ensure customers continue to receive payments without undue delay and customers can help by using the facilities of their nearest Social Welfare Local Office."

"I would also like to take this opportunity to remind customers collecting cheques in my Department's offices that post offices offer a cheque encashment service for all Social Welfare cheques providing adequate ID is provided. Post Offices are open until at least 5.30pm from Monday to Friday and until 1pm on Saturdays," the Minister added.

"Customers collecting cheques in my Department's office can also take the opportunity to arrange payment directly to their post office, bank or building society accounts," Minister Coughlan said.

Cheque collection centres have been set up at Social Welfare Local Offices in affected areas where all Social Welfare cheques, **including Supplementary Welfare Allowance cheques**, can be collected. Customers should contact the appropriate office for details of collection times.

ENDS March 24th 2004