



Information Guide For Ex Offenders Launched By Mary Coughlan, Minister For Social And Family Affairs

Mary Coughlan TD, Minister for Social and Family Affairs, today launched "What Now?" an information guide for ex-offenders. The guide brings together information on a range of topics such as social welfare, housing, health, education and training, legal issues and managing money.

"What Now?' is the question on the lips of ex offenders when the prison door finally shuts behind them," Minister Coughlan said. "I believe this booklet will be of huge benefit, and will be of interest to the families, friends and the many groups who provide support for prisoners on their release."

"The publication of this booklet by my Department is in keeping with the Information Services Strategy which was published last year and which gave an undertaking to meet the information requirements of our customers with special needs," Minister Coughlan added.

Copies of the booklet will be made available in social welfare offices, Citizen Information Centres, through the Probation and Welfare Service, through various organisations dealing with ex offenders and the prisons' library service. The full cost of publication of 50,000 copies will be borne by the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

ENDS June 24th 2004