



## **Department of Social and Family Affairs**

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### **€230 Million Saved By Anti-Fraud Measures – Mary Coughlan TD Minister For Social And Family Affairs**

Mary Coughlan TD, Minister for Social and Family Affairs today announced that her department realised anti-fraud savings of nearly €230m in the first nine months of this year.

“In these straitened economic circumstances and with competing calls for resources it is essential that the budget of the Department of Social and Family Affairs, which is funded by the taxpayer, is targeted at those most in need. My Department and I take this responsibility seriously and we will continue with the measures that have lead to these substantial savings,” said Minister Coughlan.

Savings in Unemployment Payments realised the most at over €91million, followed by €47.83m and €40.21m in One Parent Family and Illness payments. Approximately ninety percent of the 5,249 employers who underwent PRSI inspections were found to be compliant. Nearly a quarter of a million claim reviews were carried out.

A total of 273 cases were forwarded to the Chief State Solicitor’s Office. Some 131 cases were finalised in court – of which 7 were served with prison sentences, 64 were fined, 10 received community service and the remainder were struck out, dismissed or bound to the peace.

Total social welfare expenditure is expected to exceed €10.3 billion in 2003. During 2002 more than 925,000 people received a weekly social welfare payment, over 500,000 families received child benefit and more than 1.4million people were recipients of Free Schemes including electricity, travel and phone rental.

**ENDS**

**27<sup>th</sup> October, 2003**

**For Further Information:**

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### Note to News Editors

#### Savings by scheme for the nine months to September 2003:

Scheme	Amount Saved	No. of Reviews
	€m	
Unemployment	91.15	70,081
Illness	40.21	109,392
Old Age Pensions	9.99	5,488
One-Parent Family Payment	47.83	13,431
Free Schemes	6.94	15,713
Child Benefit	7.83	16,038
PAYE/PRSI	7.74	n/a
Others	16.77	12,227
<b>Total</b>	<b>228.46</b>	<b>242,370</b>

#### Savings in Unemployment Schemes for the nine months to September 2003:

Region	Amount Saved
	€m
Dublin North	10.36
Dublin South	7.06
Dublin West	6.41
North East	12.83
South	10.76
South East	12.19
Mid West	9.03
North West	10.25
West	8.50
Midland	3.76
<b>Total</b>	<b>91.15</b>