



€77.5 Million Saved by Anti-fraud Measures – Mary Coughlan TD Minister for Social and Family Affairs

The Department of Social and Family Affairs realised anti-fraud savings of €77.52million in the first three months of this year. Total savings were up by more than €5million on the previous quarter.

Savings in Unemployment Payments realised the most at almost €30million, followed by €17.35million and €13.32million in One Parent Family and Illness payments. Approximately ninety percent of the 1,842 employers who underwent PRSI inspections were found to be compliant. Almost 80,000 claim reviews were carried out.

A total of 88 cases were forwarded to the Chief State Solicitor's office. Some 32 cases were finalised in court – of which 2 were served with prison sentences, 4 received suspended sentences, 19 were fined, 2 received community service and the remainder were struck out, dismissed or bound to the peace.

Total social welfare expenditure reached over €9 billion last year and is expected to be approximately €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.

Commenting on the figures, Minister for Social and Family Affairs Mary Coughlan TD said: “These figures suggest that there is an ongoing problem amongst some people who seem to believe that it acceptable to make fraudulent claims against this Department. The Budget of this Department is used to alleviate poverty, to help people who have lost their jobs and who are genuinely dependent on a basic social welfare payment every week.”

ENDS
29th April, 2003



Note to News Editors

Savings by scheme for the first quarter of 2003

Scheme	Amount Saved	No. of Reviews
	€m	
Unemployment	29.75	24,101
Illness	13.32	35,651
Old Age Pensions	3.49	1,773
One-Parent Family Payment	17.35	4,802
Free Schemes	1.71	3,927
Child Benefit	3.32	5,348
PAYE/PRSI	2.75	N/A
Others	5.83	3,990
Total	77.52	79,592

Savings in Unemployment Schemes for the first quarter of 2003

Region	Amount Saved
	€m
Dublin North	3.28
Dublin South	2.03
Dublin West	1.09
North East	7.14
South	3.55
South East	3.28
Mid West	2.87
North West	2.82
West	2.65
Midland	1.04



Total	29.75
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