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## **MINISTER COUGHLAN OPENS LEITRIM CITIZENS INFORMATION SERVICE'S NEW PREMISES**

Mary Coughlan T.D., Minister for Social and Family Affairs, today officially opened County Leitrim Citizens Information Service's new premises at Bridge Street, Drumshanbo.

“This new premises is a real vote of confidence in the future of Citizens Information and in the work of the people here who give of themselves to meet the needs of their fellow citizens. This confidence is demonstrated, in a real sense, by the funding of €112,760 which I have approved for Leitrim CIS in 2003.

“The importance of your work here cannot be overemphasized. The information you provide concerns peoples' rights and entitlements. Where there is expertise available outside the statutory sector such as this Citizens Information Centre, people are empowered and their options increase,” said Minister Coughlan.

“I am particularly impressed that not only is there a daily service operating from here, but that you run a sub office in Carrick-on-Shannon and outreach offices in four neighbouring towns.

Every day you reach out to answer the needs of people in your community. Every day, people come away from your offices better informed and better able to access the help and services they need,” said Minister Coughlan.

“In my own Department of Social and Family Affairs, which provided funds for this Leitrim Citizens Information Service, I am committed to ensuring that we continue our work to build an inclusive and caring society,” added Minister Coughlan.

County Leitrim Citizen's Information Service has been operating for three years, it operates a daily service from it's base in Drumshanbo, maintains a sub-office in Carrick-on-Shannon and provides outreach services in Ballinamore, Drumkeeran, Manorhamilton and Mohill. It has two members of staff and seven volunteers.

**ENDS - 29th May, 2003**

