



Department of Social and Family Affairs

€10 Minimum Increase In Weekly Social Welfare Payments

€11.50 Per Week Increase For Widows & Widowers

Minister For Social And Family Affairs Mary Coughlan TD

Budget 2004 increases in Social Welfare payments come in to effect next month, January, for recipients of a number of payments including those in receipt of Old Age Pensions, Retirement Pensions, Invalidity Pension, Death Benefit, Widows, Widowers, Deserted Wife's Benefit, Disablement Pension, Unemployment Benefit and Assistance, Disability Benefit and Allowance, Blind Pension, Pre-Retirement Allowance, Farm Assist, One-Parent Family Payment, and Supplementary Allowance.

"I have safeguarded those on the lower rates of payment, over 400,000 people, who will benefit next month, January, from an increase of over three times the expected rate of inflation," Minister Coughlan said.

"All weekly rates have been significantly boosted with a minimum of €10 a week increase with proportionate increases for contributory pensioners on reduced rates."

"In addition I have sanctioned a special increase of €11.50 per week for widows and widowers aged 66 and over on contributory pensions and for women getting deserted wife's benefit who are aged 66 and over," the Minister added.

In addition, Qualified Adult Allowances will be increased as follows:

- Increase of €7.70 per week in Qualified Adult Allowance for Old Age (Contributory) Pension and Retirement Pension where the qualified adult is aged 66 or over.
- Increase of €6.70 per week in Qualified Adult Allowance for Old Age (Contributory) Pension and Retirement Pension where the qualified adult is under age 66.
- Increase of €6.60 per week in Qualified Adult Allowance for all recipients of Old Age (Non-Contributory) Pension.
- Increase of €16.10 per week in Qualified Adult Allowance for Invalidity Pension where the qualified adult is aged 66 or over.
- Increase of €7.10 per week in Qualified Adult Allowance for Invalidity Pension where the qualified adult is under age 66.
- Increase of €6.60 per week in Qualified Adult Allowance for all recipients of the Blind Person's Pension.
- Increase of €6.60 per week for all other qualified adult payments.
- Upper income ceiling for tapered rates in respect of qualified adults to be increased from €203.16 per week to €210 per week.

Ends 29th December 2003

For further information:

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