



Minister Doherty announces payment of Christmas Bonus to 1.2 million Social Welfare recipients

A 100% Christmas Bonus will be paid for the first time in a decade

30 November 2018: The Christmas Bonus will be paid to over **1.2 million** social welfare recipients next week (commencing Monday 3 December), with payments totalling **€264.3 million** being made to pensioners, people with disabilities, carers, lone parents, long-term unemployed people and many other recipients.

Emphasising that the bonus payment was at the level of 100%, the first time since 2008, Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Regina Doherty said:

“I am very happy to announce that the Christmas Bonus is being paid again this year and will be available next week. Benefitting all recipients of long-term social welfare payments including carers, people with disabilities, pensioners, and lone parents, the bonus is timed to assist people with the extra expenses occurred over Christmas. In many homes across Ireland, families depend on this bonus and - owing to sound economic and fiscal management by the Government - this will be the first time in a decade in which we can make a 100% Christmas Bonus and provide increased support at this time of the year.”

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Note for Editors

See Appendix 1 (attached) for a list of schemes for which the Christmas bonus will be paid and the number of recipients.

See Appendix 2 (attached) for the rates of payments of these Social Welfare payments.

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Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Appendix 1

Recipient numbers and cost by Scheme

Scheme	2018 Numbers	100% Cost (€m)
State Pension Non-Contributory	94,900	21.2
Jobseeker's Allowance*	111,680	23.5
One Parent Family Payment	39,455	9.6
Widow(er)s' Pension (non-con)	1,385	0.2
Deserted Wife's Allowance	110	0.0
Supplementary Welfare Allowance*	4,400	0.9
Daily Expenses Allowance (formerly Direct Provision Allowance)*	1,950	0.1
Farm Assist	6,645	1.3
Community Employment	21,465	5.2
Rural Social Scheme	3,030	0.9
Tús	6,380	1.5
Job Initiative	720	0.3
Back to Work Enterprise Allowance	9,860	2.4
Back to Education Allowance*	8,390	2.0
Gateway	0	0.0
Back to Work Family Dividend	7,050	0.4
Disability Allowance	141,450	30.2
Blind Pension	1,205	0.3
Carer's Allowance	78,715	15.4
Domiciliary Care Allowance	38,810	3.6
Guardian's Payment (non-con)	545	0.1
Magdalen Commission Scheme	405	0.1
Subtotal Assistance	578,900	119.2
State Pension (Contributory)	428,025	99.3
Widow(er)s' Surviving Civil Partners Pension (Con)	121,320	28.6
Occupational Injuries Death Benefit	730	0.2
Deserted Wife's Benefit	6,180	1.4
Partial Capacity Benefit	2,485	0.4
Invalidity Pension	57,290	13.0
Disablement Benefit	14,280	1.2
Carer's Benefit	2,755	0.7
Guardian's Payment (Contributory)	1,155	0.3
Subtotal Insurance	634,230	145.1
Total Assistance & Insurance	1,213,130	264.3

*15 months duration on eligible social welfare payment or scheme is required in order to be eligible for Bonus

APPENDIX 2

Payment by Family Type

Payment & Family Type	Rate of Payment
Pensioners	
State Pension Contributory (SPC) Personal Rate - Single	€243.30
SPC Couple - Personal Rate with a Qualified Adult aged 66 or over	€461.30
SPC Couple - Personal Rate with a Qualified Adult aged under 66	€405.40
State Pension Non-Contributory (SPNC) Personal Rate - Single	€232.00
SPNC Personal Rate - Couple (Both entitled <u>in their own right</u> to the SPNC)	€464.00
SPNC Couple - Personal Rate with a Qualified Adult aged under 66	€385.30
Pensioner Couple - One in receipt of SPC <u>and</u> the other in receipt of SPNC	€475.30
Widow/er's and Surviving Civil Partner's Contributory Pension (WSCPCP) Personal Rate - aged under 66	€203.50
WSCPCP Personal Rate (under 66) with 1 child	€235.30
WSCPCP Personal Rate (under 66) with 2 children	€267.10
WSCPCP Personal Rate (under 66) with 4 children	€330.70
Jobseekers	
Jobseeker's Allowance (JA) Personal Rate - Single	€198.00
JA Couple - Personal Rate and Qualified Adult Rate	€329.40
JA Couple - Personal Rate and Qualified Adult Rate with 1 child	€361.20
JA Couple - Personal Rate and Qualified Adult Rate with 2 children	€393.00
JA Couple - Personal Rate and Qualified Adult Rate with 4 children	€456.60
One-Parent Family Payment	
One Parent Family Payment Personal Rate with 1 child	€229.80
One Parent Family Payment Personal Rate with 2 children	€261.60
One Parent Family Payment Personal Rate with 4 children	€325.20
Carer's Allowance	
Carer's Allowance Personal Rate - Aged Under 66	€214.00
Carer's Allowance Personal Rate - Aged Under 66 with 1 child	€245.80
Carer's Allowance Personal Rate - Aged Under 66 with 2 children	€277.60
Carer's Allowance Personal Rate - Aged Under 66 with 4 children	€341.20

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Note

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