



€78 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 €78.44million in the second quarter of this year. Total savings were up by more than €0.9million on the previous quarter, with €156 million being realised during the first six months of this year.

“These savings result from normal reviews carried out by this Department and the work of Departmental staff engaged in investigative work,” Minister Coughlan said today.

“My officials have a very focused approach to fraud control and I want to ensure that the budget of this Department is used to benefit those people who are genuinely dependent on a social welfare payment,” the Minister added.

Savings this quarter in Unemployment Payments realised the most at over €32million, followed by €16.24million and €13.43million in One Parent Family and Illness payments. Approximately ninety percent of the 2,158 employers who underwent PRSI inspections were found to be compliant. Over 80,000 claim reviews were carried out.

A total of 92 cases were forwarded to the Chief State Solicitor’s Office. Some 52 cases were finalised in court – of which 4 were served with prison sentences, 30 were fined, 5 received community service and the remainder were struck out, dismissed or bound to the peace.

Total social welfare expenditure for the first three months of this year reached almost €2.5 billion. Almost 950,000 people received a weekly social welfare payment, over 500,000 families received child benefit during the same period and more than 1.5million people were recipients of Free Schemes including electricity, travel and phone rental.**ENDS 31st July, 2003**



Note to News Editors

Savings by scheme for the second quarter of 2003:

Scheme	Amount Saved	No. of Reviews
	€m	
Unemployment	32.17	23,409
Illness	13.43	33,354
Old Age Pensions	3.22	1,859
One-Parent Family Payment	16.24	4,586
Free Schemes	3.51	7,862
Child Benefit	2.32	5,065
PAYE/PRSI	2.36	n/a
Others	5.19	4,702
Total	78.44	80,837

Savings in Unemployment Schemes for the second quarter of 2003:

Region	Amount Saved
	€m
Dublin North	4.14
Dublin South	2.27
Dublin West	2.58
North East	3.03
South	3.85
South East	4.23



Mid West	3.26
North West	4.17
West	3.25
Midland	1.39
Total	32.17