



Ó Cuív – ensuring Child Benefit records are up to date

Éamon Ó Cuív, TD, Minister for Social Protection said today (10 May 2010) that letters are issuing on a continuous basis to some 120,000 parents who receive Child Benefit payment(s). The initiative, - which involves contacting parents who would not have received recent correspondence from the Minister's Department - is part of the Department's ongoing customer service and control work. Parents are asked to verify that they continue to reside in Ireland, that they satisfy the conditions for Child Benefit and that all details held by the Department are correct.

Minister Ó Cuív said: "This initiative we are undertaking on Child Benefit is part of our control programme. I simply want to make sure parents are receiving what they are entitled to and that the information provided by them is up to date. It also means that payments are not being made to people who have left the jurisdiction. In this way we are ensuring that the resources we have are going to those who need them." The Minister added: "I am fully aware of the importance to families of this monthly payment."

The Department is asking parents who are contacted as part of the letters mail-shot, to respond as soon as possible (within 21 days). In particular, parents who have changed address and who have not informed the Department should update this information immediately.

Child Benefit is a non means tested, tax-free payment of €150 per month that is made in respect of over 1.1 million children.

ENDS