



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí Department of Social Protection

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Over 30 Voluntary and Community Groups Meet with Minister Burton at Pre-Budget Forum

The Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton, TD, today (12th October 2012), hosted a pre-Budget Forum to give voluntary and community organisations the opportunity to make pre-Budget submissions relating to social welfare schemes at a special session in St Andrews Resource Centre in Dublin's Pearse Street.

In her opening remarks to the groups at the Forum, Minister Burton said: **“It is important to clearly state that at this stage no decisions have been made in relation to measures for Budget 2013. These will be considered by the Government in the coming months and in the context of the overall requirement to reduce public expenditure generally.”**

Minister Burton continued: **“One of my key priorities as Minister for Social Protection – the country's largest spending Department – is to balance the books, in particular by starting to put the Social Insurance Fund on a sustainable footing. This is important not only so that we can recover our economic sovereignty but also to ensure that the social protection system is sustainable into the future.”**

This year the Department of Social Protection will spend in the region of €20.55 billion on a wide range of schemes and services, 39% of all gross current Government expenditure. Over 2.2 million people, including 197,700 qualified adults and over 516,300 children, will benefit from a weekly payment from the Department of Social Protection, including those getting a jobseekers payment, on pensions, as a carer or for illness and disability.

Minister Burton said: **“Looking ahead to the next Budget I will do my best to ensure that the burden of resolving the crisis does not fall disproportionately on those who depend on income supports from my Department.”**



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31 groups attended the Forum, representing older people, people with disabilities, lone parents, children, unemployed people, carers and family support groups. (See appendix for list of organisations who attended the Forum).

Minister Burton concluded by stating that she wanted to ensure that the social protection system is sustainable into the future. She continued: **“There are considerable challenges ahead for Budget 2013. At the forefront of our consideration is the need to protect, as far as possible, the key income supports and services operated by my Department.”**

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Notes for Editors

Table 1: Department of Social Protection Expenditure by Programme – Revised Estimate, 2012 (REV).

Programme	2012 REV Expenditure €million	% of Total Expenditure
1. Administration	600	2.9%
2. Pensions (Including State Contributory and Non-Contributory Pensions and Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partners Contributory Pension)	6,255	30.4%
3. Working Age – Income Supports (Including Jobseeker's Allowance, One Parent Family Payment, Farm Assist, Maternity Benefit, Basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance etc.)	5,707	27.8%
4. Working Age – Employment Supports (Including Community Employment Programme, Rural Social Scheme, TÚS, Back to Work Allowance, Back to Education Allowance etc.)	983	4.8%
5. Illness, Disability and Carers (Including Disability Allowance, Illness Benefit, Carer's Allowance, Invalidity Pension, Disablement Benefit etc.)	3,439	16.7%
6. Children (Child Benefit of €2 billion as well as other schemes such as Family Income Supplement, Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance, School Meals Scheme and Guardian's Payments)	2,400	11.7%
7. Supplementary Payments, Agencies and Miscellaneous Services	1,164	5.7%
- Rent Supplement	436	
- Mortgage Interest Supplement	51	
- Household Benefits	335	
- Free Travel	77	
- Fuel Allowance	214	
Overall Total Expenditure on Schemes, Services and Administration	20,547	100%

Table 2: Social Welfare Expenditure, 2002 to 2012

Year	Total Social Welfare Expenditure €m	Index of Expenditure
2002	9,517	100.0
2003	10,493	110.3
2004	11,291	118.6
2005	12,168	127.9
2006	13,586	142.8
2007	15,518	163.1
2008	17,809	187.1
2009	20,536	215.8
2010	20,850	219.1
2011	20,968	220.3
2012 ¹	20,547	215.9

Table 3: Recipients and Beneficiaries of Primary Weekly Social Welfare Payments, 2002 to 2012

Year	Weekly Recipients	Weekly Beneficiaries ²
2002	938,971	1,496,714
2003	959,432	1,511,740
2004	957,732	1,463,921
2005	976, 613	1,469,106
2006	1,003,517	1,506,824
2007	1,060,327	1,577,463
2008	1,208,883	1,799,875
2009	1,379,206	2,076,256
2010	1,430,833	2,179,428
2011 ³	1,467,129	2,248,284
2012 ⁴	1,473,323	2,260,312

The Comprehensive Expenditure Report, 2012 – 2014, (CER) published last December provides for new expenditure reduction measures of **€1,033 million** over the next two years. This includes **€540 million** of new savings to be achieved in Budget 2013.

Table 4: Department of Social Protection Expenditure ceilings, 2012 - 2014⁵

	2012 € million	2013 € million	2014 € million
Ministerial Expenditure Ceilings (total allocations for gross current expenditure)	20,533	19,906	19,296
<i>Savings measures introduced in 2012</i>	<i>475</i>	<i>648</i>	<i>690</i>

¹ Revised Estimate, 2012

² This includes qualified adults and children.

³ 2011 and 2012 data include schemes transferred to the Department of Social Protection from FÁS and CEGA, including Community Employment, Rural Social Scheme.

⁴ July 2012 Monthly Stats Report

⁵ Page 24, Comprehensive Expenditure Report (CER), published by D/PER in December 2011

<i>Savings remaining to be specified</i>		540	1,033
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Appendix

List of Organisations Attending

1. Active Retirement Ireland
2. Age Action Ireland
3. Care Alliance Ireland
4. Carers Association
5. Children's Rights Alliance
6. Congress Centres Network (ICTU)
7. CROSSCARE - sub group – Health Eating for All
8. Disability Federation of Ireland
9. FLAC
10. Inclusion Ireland
11. Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA)
12. Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOUE)
13. Irish Senior Citizens Parliament
14. National Federation of Pensioners' Associations
15. National Women's Council of Ireland
16. Older and Bolder
17. One Family (Shared time slot with EAPN)
18. OPEN
19. Pavee Point
20. Retired Workers Committee
21. Saint Vincent de Paul
22. Social Justice Ireland
23. The Wheel
24. Threshold
25. TREOIR
26. Trustus We Care
27. Unmarried and Separated Families of Ireland
28. Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice
29. Alone
30. Centre for Independent Living (C.I.L)
31. European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)

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