



**An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection**

[www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie)

**Ó Cuív: "New Loughrea MABS – invaluable assistance to local community"**

**Éamon Ó Cuív TD**, Minister for Social Protection today (*Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010*) officially opened a new premises for the Loughrea Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS).

The Loughrea office provides a money advice service to communities from **Oranmore** on the outskirts of Galway city to **Kinvara** in the south of the county and up to the borders of **Ballinasloe** in the east. Loughrea Money Advice and Budgeting Service also provides outreach clinics two days each month in **Portumna** and four days each month in **Gort**.

Speaking with staff and guests, Minister Ó Cuív said: "The Money Advice and Budgeting Service is of great assistance to people who are in difficulties with their finances and who are trying to deal with their day-to-day bills. The challenge of providing this service over a wide geographical area cannot be underestimated. The opening of this new office will greatly enhance the excellent service already being provided by the Galway South MABS Company which covers an area of approximately 1,500 sq miles."

Minister Ó Cuív added: "The Galway South MABS helped almost 570 new clients last year and provided information to over 110 other people. The staff work in a very practical way with the local community, offering people who need assistance with debt management a free, confidential, independent service. The Government supports this work and wishes to remove, as far as practicable, debt enforcement proceedings from the courts." The Minister added: "To this end, the Government set up the Mortgage Arrears and Personal Debt Group in February this year. This Group is working with Government on responses to the problems of mortgage arrears and other personal debt. We are confident that the expertise of all the individuals involved, working closely with Government, will bring forward innovative recommendations on debt management and enforcement."



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Minister Ó Cuív concluded by thanking the staff and volunteers on the Board of Management of Galway South MABS for the excellent service they provide to the public.

**ENDS**

**Editor's Note:**

MABS is a national, free, confidential and independent service for people in debt or in danger of getting into debt. Professional and confidential advice is available. MABS money advisors help clients to assess their financial situation, make a budget plan for the future and deal with creditors.

The Money Advice and Budgeting Service can be accessed in three ways:

- Through 51 MABS companies around the country which provide a face-to face service;
- the MABS website [www.mabs.ie](http://www.mabs.ie) which offers an online money management facility and
- the MABS national Helpline 1890 283438 (or 1890 BUDGET) which aims to provide ease of access to MABS support for those experiencing debt problems.

The contact information for local MABS offices around the country is also available on [www.mabs.ie](http://www.mabs.ie)

**Contact details for Loughrea MABS are as follows:**

Piggott's Street

Loughrea

Co. Galway

**Tel:** (091) 841 869

**Contact details for Galway South MABS are as follows:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, The Halls

Quay Street

Galway

**Tel:** (091) 569 349

ENDS