



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

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News Release 26th August 2010

Every effort being made to expedite any outstanding Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance applications - Ó Cuív

Minister Éamon Ó Cuív stated today that every effort is being made by the Health Services Executive ("HSE") staff to expedite any outstanding Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance applications.

"In most parts of the country, the majority of the applicants to the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance scheme have had their payments issued to them. Nevertheless, every effort is being made by the HSE to expedite payment of outstanding claims. Most areas of the country are progressing well but there are two areas causing concern, the HSE Mid-West region and the HSE West region and action has been taken to address this," stated Minister Ó Cuív.

"At the opening of the scheme last June I was concerned that people would apply in good time and I appealed to parents to apply early. The HSE is confident that all successful applicants who applied before 1 August will receive their payments before schools re-open for the new school year.

"Commonly delays have arisen in cases where parents have been requested to provide information and details to the HSE. I would encourage families in this situation to return this information to the HSE as quickly as possible."

"Every effort is being made to ensure that applications are turned around within 15 working days."

Editor's note:

As of 20 August 2010, 75% of all applicants to the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance scheme nationally had their payments issued to them.

Members of the public concerned about their application can contact their local HSE office or the HSE infoline 1850 24 18 50.

Contact numbers for all local offices are posted on the HSE website www.hse.ie

Ends
Department of Social Protection
26 August 2010