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Mr. Pat Wylie,  
Principal,  
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform,  
94 St. Stephen's Green,  
Dublin 2.

16<sup>th</sup> July 2001

Dear Pat,

Re: SWA payments to Asylum Seekers who leave Direct Provision

Thank you for your reply of 12<sup>th</sup> July to my letter of 29<sup>th</sup> June.

I accept, of course, that additional staff have been assigned to the RAC and this has improved the situation relative to what it would otherwise have been. Consequently, we are probably safe in stating, as you do in your letter, that "*significant progress has been made in relation to reducing the processing time for asylum applications*". However, we still lack statistics in that regard and until we have such statistics, we can only assume that progress is being made. As you know, that target has been with us for some time now but the number of cases on hands has continued to grow.

These statistics are particularly relevant for those asylum claimants who reside in Direct Provision Accommodation Centres. I feel it is very important for us to be in a position where we can measure the progress relative to the target of six-month finalisation of claims, for the reasons stated in my earlier letter. At minimum, we need to monitor the numbers reaching the six-month mark in Direct Provision and the numbers reaching each month beyond that. Ideally, we should also have a breakdown by household type and stage of the asylum process. The former is important in that priority should be given to families, especially those with children. The latter is important to identify where bottlenecks may be occurring now and in the future. I have set out one possible template in a table attached, which you might wish to consider.

Yours sincerely,

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Brian O Raghallaigh  
Principal  
Planning Unit

Template for Statistics on the length of time spent in the Direct Provision system - draft for consideration. A sub-set giving these data categorised by the main stages of the asylum determination process (e.g. Initial Recommendation, Appeal Stage and Post-Appeal) would be useful.

Month in which asylum claim was first lodged	Household type				TOTAL
	Single	Couple with no children	Couple with children	Lone Parent	S/total children
Prior to April 2001					
Apr-00					
May-00					
May-00					
Jun-00					
Jul-00					
Aug-00					
Sep-00					
Oct-00					
Nov-00					
Dec-00					
Jan-01					
Feb-01					
Mar-01					
Apr-01					
May-01					
Jun-01					