

MESSAGE CONFIRMATION

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Department of Social,
Community and Family Affairs



To: Mr Aongus Horgan,
Office of the Minister for Social Affairs

Fax Number: 676 3000

From: Mr Brian O Raghallaigh,
Planning Unit

FAX Number: 704 3868

Phone Number: 704 3210

Date: 29th February 2000

Pages including this cover sheet: 2

Comments: *Aongus,*

Please pass this to Mel.

Thanks

Brian.

Post & Notes 7665

Telefax

To: *Brian O'Rahallagh*

Fax: *(01) 7043765*

From: *D. O'Dwyer*

Date: *28/2/00* Pages: *1*

MIDLAND HEALTH BOARD

REC'D

28 FEB 2000

QUALITY AND LAW REFORM
ANNALS AGUS ATHCHOIRTHE DE

PROGRAMME MANAGER
COMMUNITY CARE

for action

23rd February 2000

Mr Dennis Doherty
Chief Executive Officer
Midland Health Board
Ardon Road
Tullamore
Co. Offaly

MIDLAND HEALTH BOARD

REC'D

28 FEB 2000

QUALITY AND LAW REFORM

Rel. No. *CEO*

7043765

28/2/00

Re: Payment of Supplementary Welfare Allowance to Asylum Seekers

Dear Mr Doherty

I refer to my letter of 15 February, 2000 regarding matters that have arisen in the provision of welfare services to asylum seekers.

I understand, from recent contact with the Refugee Applications Centre, that there are an increasing number of asylum seekers who are refusing to accept an offer of full board accommodation outside the Dublin area. You will appreciate that this is in direct conflict with the Government's decision that asylum seekers be dispersed throughout the country and that their needs are met by direct provision. In order to effect this decision fully, the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform requires to be assured that any asylum seeker who has rejected a legitimate offer of accommodation, therefore deliberately rendering themselves homeless, should not be awarded the full rate of basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance or have their accommodation needs met in either emergency accommodation or the private rented sector except in very exceptional cases.

I would appreciate your co-operation with the above matter. If you require any clarification please contact me by phone at 4183200.

Yours sincerely,

Berenice O'Neill
Berenice O'Neill,
Director,
Directorate for Asylum Support Services.

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28/2/00*