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**Copy of e-mail from Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform**

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**TO:** brian.oraghallaigh ( brian.oraghallaigh@welfare.ie)  
**CC:** Deirdre\_A.\_Ryan ( Deirdre\_A.\_Ryan@justice.ie )  
**Subject:** Irish Born Child

30th May, 2001.

**Re:** Rent Supplement - Midland Health Board.

Dear Brian,

I refer to our telephone conversation of today with regard to the above.

In the Midland Health Board area, applications for rent supplement from parents of Irish born children are not considered until the parents receive the "green Book" from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. Currently there is a processing time of over six months for this documentation. This practice differs from that of other health boards who allow a family to access rent supplement once the parents can provide proof, by way of a birth cert, of having an Irish born child.

The effect of this policy is that:

It is creating difficulties for the management of our sites in the Midland area, in particular our large mobile home site in Athlone. Residents have checked with friends in other health board areas and are angry that a different policy applies to Athlone. This anger and frustration is often manifested in anger towards the staff on site. It ties up direct provision accommodation with families many of whom, de facto, will no longer be appropriate to this system. It takes up office time in Dublin dealing with transfer requests which often have their origin in a desire to be based in another health board area.

The Community Welfare Officer on the site in Athlone is advising families that if they want immediate accommodation that they should look for it outside the Board's area. Because of its geographic location, Athlone is adjacent to the Western Health Board. Therefore, people can move across the bridge and apply for and receive rent supplement without the need for the green book.

In conclusion this issue is causing many problems for the RIA and I would appreciate any assistance you can give us in this regard. If you have any queries on any of the above, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Declan O Dalaigh