



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM  
AN ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT, COMHIONANNAIS AGUS ATHCHÓIRITHE DLÍ

## RECEPTION AND INTEGRATION AGENCY

Áisíneacht Fháilte agus Comhtháite

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19 June 2001

Mr Brian O'Raghallaigh  
Principal  
Department of Social Community &  
Family Affairs  
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada  
Store Street  
Dublin 1

Doc 41

Dear Mr O'Raghallaigh,

I refer to previous correspondence concerning the second Meeting of the Advisory Board of the Reception and Integration Agency, which, as you know, is scheduled for Monday 25th June, in the Shelbourne Hotel, commencing at 11.00am.

In this connection, please find enclosed, the following documents:

1. Minutes of first Board Meeting, 3 May, 2001
2. Presentations given by our Director, Noel Waters, Catherine Byrne and Pat Wylie RIA at the Meeting in May.
3. Council decision on European Refugee Fund, list of organisations receiving funding and membership list of Selection Committee.
4. (a) Details of asylum seekers currently in the asylum process and also details of asylum seekers entering the country as compared with those currently accommodated by the RIA.
4. (b) Some key definitions.
5. Copy of Inspectorate Protocol.

An agenda for the second meeting is also enclosed.

Yours sincerely

PP *Bernadette Loughrey*  
Aileen Harrington  
Reception and Integration Agency

Agenda for meeting \* of Interim Advisory Board of the Reception and  
Integration Agency which takes place in the St. Stephen Suite in the  
Shelbourne Hotel on Monday, 25th June at 11.00 a.m.

1. Minutes of previous meeting.
  2. Clarification of Role of Board
  3. Presentation on asylum application process by Refugee Applications  
Commissioner (or representative).
  4. Reports and significant developments
    - Rates of application
    - Nationalities
    - Trends
    - Numbers in direct provision and related issues
  5. Identification of issues requiring priority attention
    - synthesis of responses from Board members
    - decisions on key priority issues for discussion (followed by discussion):
  6. Future presentations.
  7. Arrangements for visits to Reception/Accommodation Centre
  8. A.O.B. — FEW (Mary Murphy)  
— state on length of stay in DP ✗
- \* Lunch will be provided

# **Reception & Integration Agency**

**Presentation by Patrick J. Wylie**



# Dispersal

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- In response to an emergency situation, the Government decided to disperse asylum seekers around the country
- Dispersal commenced on 20th November, 1999
- From 20th November 1999, approximately 8,000 asylum seekers have been dispersed around the country (figure as at 27/04/01)



# Direct Provision

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- Direct Provision is a means of meeting the basic needs of food and shelter directly rather than through cash payments
- Direct Provision commenced on 10th April, 2000 in response to a similar policy development in the UK



## **Direct Provision (contd)**

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■ Under the Direct Provision system, asylum seekers receive reduced allowances under the Social Welfare Allowance Scheme of £15 per adult per week and £7.50 per child. These payments are intended to cover the cost of personal requisites not covered by Direct Provision.



# Services

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■ Asylum Seekers are entitled to the following:

- Voluntary Health Screening
  - Medical Card
  - Legal Services
  - Translation Services
  - Accommodation
  - Meals
  - SWA Payments. Reduced Allowances. ENPs.
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# Right to Work

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- The Government, on 26th July, 1999 decided that asylum seekers who meet a certain criteria should be allowed to work.
  - Must have applied for asylum on or before 26th July, 1999
  - Must be awaiting a final decision on their application





# Reception Centres

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■ There are 8 Reception Centres in Dublin

- Viking Lodge
- Parnell West Hotel
- Gardiner Place
- North Frederick Street
- Harcourt Street
- Horse and Carriage
- Staircase
- Kilmacud House



# Reception Centres (contd)

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- On application for asylum at the Refugee Applications Centre, asylum seekers are assigned to one of the 8 Reception Centres and receive information leaflets in their own language
- Asylum seekers reside there for 8 to 14 days prior to dispersal
- While in the Reception Centres, asylum seekers receive voluntary health screening, ID card and supplementary welfare payments