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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY and LAW REFORM

FAX COVER SHEET



On to  
P-117

From: **Malachi O'Neill**  
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To: John Ryan / Welfare  
To Fax No: 704.38.68  
Date: 26.08.2004  
No. of pages sent including this: 4

MESSAGE AS FOLLOWS:

Re: Accommodation of Asylum Seekers

John,

transmitting again - better luck this time.

Could you please [i] acknowledge receipt [ii] forward to your P.O.?

Thank you.

*Malachi*

Malachi O'Neill

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Dear Colleague,

I refer to the next meeting of the Working Party on Welfare Payments to Asylum Seekers which is scheduled for Monday 30 August 2004.

I enclose for your information a DRAFT circular on Direct Provision Allowance.

Perhaps you might consider the merits or otherwise of this option in the context of revised arrangements for administering welfare payments for asylum seekers in Direct Provision accommodation.

Yours faithfully

[M. O'Neill]  
pp Pat Wylie

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[Admin\Direct Provision Allowance\DPA Circulars + Admin\DPA Circular 01/2004]

DPA Circular 01/2004

August 2004

To:

### 1. Direct Provision Allowance (DPA)

The purpose of this Circular is to inform you that DPA is payable to persons who claim asylum in this State on or after 01 May 2004 and are resident in a direct provision centre. Persons who claim asylum in this State on or after 01 May 2004 are no longer considered eligible for Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) unless they satisfy the requirements of the Habitual Residency Condition (HRC). If a person qualifies for any Social Assistance Payment (excluding Exceptional Needs Payments or Urgent Needs Payments / SWA) they will not be considered eligible for DPA.

DPA will be administered by Community Welfare Officers (CWO's) – on an agency basis – under the general direction and control of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

### 2. DPA and Direct Provision Centres

DPA is payable to asylum seekers (who claimed asylum in the State on or after 01 May 2004) and who are resident in a Direct Provision Centre (see Appendix 1) operated by the Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

### 3. Means Testing

For ease of administration DPA will not be subject to any means testing.

### 4. Qualifying Criteria

The qualifying criteria for DPA are that the applicant (and qualifying dependents, if any):

1. is resident in a Direct Provision Centre;
2. has a current application for asylum submitted to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform on or after 01 May 2004 ; and

3. does not qualify for any Social Assistance Payment (excluding Exceptional Needs Payments or Urgent Needs Payments / SWA).

DPA payment can only be made in respect of applicants where all the criteria are satisfied.

#### **5. Purpose of DPA**

The purpose of DPA is to provide eligible recipients with an income to cover personal sundries which are not provided under the system of direct provision.

#### **6. Verifying residence in Direct Provision**

Health Boards should verify that an applicant for DPA is resident in a Direct Provision Centre. Where clarification is required Health Boards should contact the Operations Manager of RIA at 01.418.3200.

#### **7. Verifying an asylum claim**

Health Boards should verify that an applicant for DPA has claimed asylum in the State. The Temporary Residence Certificate issued by the Refugee Applications Commissioner will satisfy this requirement. Where clarification is required Health Boards should contact the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner at 01.\_\_\_\_\_.

#### **8. Rate of DPA**

A weekly allowance of €19.10 is payable in respect of each eligible adult. A weekly allowance of €9.60 is payable in respect of each eligible child (up to age 18).

#### **9. Unaccompanied Minors (SCSA)**

DPA is **NOT** payable to Unaccompanied Minors i.e. those under 18 years of age.

#### **10. Direct Provision Supplement (DPS)**

A resident in a direct provision centre may have an entitlement to a weekly supplement if their income is determined as being insufficient to meet certain special needs which are not provided under the direct provision system.

An example of a special need may include necessary travel to a hospital for ongoing treatment / consultation. A supporting letter from the hospital, consultant or general practitioner will be required before such a supplement is granted.

#### **10. Self Catering centres operated by the RIA**

Persons placed by the RIA in Self Catering centres will receive a rate of DPA commensurate with the appropriate level of SWA for the individual or family unit concerned e.g. Single Adult €134.80 per week.

#### **10. Self Catering centres operated by the RIA and DPS**

Persons placed by the RIA in Self Catering centres may have an entitlement to a weekly supplement if their income is determined as being insufficient to meet certain special needs.

An example of a special need may include assistance with the cost of a special diet in respect of a serious medical condition. The diet must be prescribed by a hospital consultant or registrar.

[25.08.2004]

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