

Direct Provision

- Direct Provision and all matters relating to supports for Asylum Seekers is the responsibility of the Department of Justice and Equality D/JE and of the Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) of that Department. Asylum Seekers who are catered for under the Direct Provision system are provided with full board accommodation and other facilities such as laundry services and access to leisure areas.
- With effect from May 2004, Basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance is subject to a statutory Habitual Residence Condition. Asylum Seekers who arrived in Ireland after that date are unlikely to satisfy the Habitual Residence Condition and are not eligible for Supplementary Welfare Allowance as a result.
- Asylum Seekers who are resident in Direct Provision accommodation receive a Direct Provision Allowance (DPA) of €19.10 per adult and €9.60 per child per week in respect of personal requisites. The allowance is paid weekly on an administrative basis by the Department of Social Protection. Any changes to the rate of Direct Provision Allowance payable is a matter for the Department of Justice and Equality.
- Since the beginning of 2009 expenditure and recipient numbers are based on occupancy figures in Direct Provision centres and self catering centres supplied by D/JE. Current expenditure is averaging some €552,000 per month with some 6,300 individuals being provided with accommodation.
- Any person who has been through the asylum process and has been granted refugee status can seek employment. If they are unable to secure work they will qualify for Jobseekers or other social assistance, such as Basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance and Rent Supplement, from the Department of Social Protection on the same basis as any Irish resident, subject to the normal eligibility conditions.