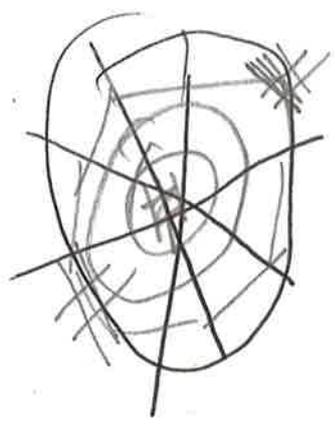


Summary of Responses from HB HRC Liaison Persons

1. SWA Supplements for nappies are continuing for applicants in DP prior to 1-May-2004. Not payable for anyone in DP after 1-May-05.

Suggested that nappies be made available by DP proprietors and cost reimbursed by RIA.

2. Clarification required regarding non-AC10 nationals not satisfying HRC and repatriation. If they are not accepted at Departure Centres it could cause "hardship, homelessness and destitution".
3. Clarification required regarding refugees not satisfying the HRC. (Not for repatriation to home country as regarded as unsafe to do so. Irish HRC not satisfied as refugee in a third country over the last two years? Consider for repatriation to country where HRC is satisfied?)
4. Advance consultation with HBs necessary before any new DP or Departure Centres opened so that resource implications for CWS can be addressed.
5. AC10 nationals are being moved out of DP before alternative accommodation is arranged.



From: Michael.Smith

No major difficulties, as yet, in the NEHB Region. We have had about 14 cases to date. The only problem that we may have is the fact that the only failed HRC cases that can be referred to the Repatriation Units are those from the Accession countries.

What is to be done, or whose responsibility is it with the other failed HRC cases?

From: Nealis, Brendan

I concur with Tom's points. In addition, I would ask that you confirm with DJELR that the AC 10's who have remained in Direct Provision are not moved out of same pending their finding alternative accommodation. I understand that one family in this Board have now been given a deadline of 1st June to move out of DP. Also, I presume that repatriation is not a feasible option for those granted refugee status, or those who have refugee applications pending. How would you see HRC refusals in such cases being handled?

From: Liam.Breen

No problems to date. We've had 4 cases to date and all qualified under HRC. Also 2 cases in Sligo.

From: Kennedy, Tom

There are three main concerns:

1. We are paying supplements to assist with the cost of nappies, etc for asylum seekers who have been residing in Direct Provision since prior to 1st May. Asylum seekers who have moved into Direct Provision since the 1st May do not qualify such supplements as they will not satisfy Habitual Residence Requirements. This will give rise to an anomaly, and it is therefore suggested that nappies should be made available by proprietors of Direct Provision and the cost of same reimbursed by the RIA.

2. The needs of those from EU accession countries can be met by the RIA in Repatriation Centres. This ensures that people are not forced into homelessness / destitution. It is essential that the use of such facilities be immediately extended to those who do not qualify for assistance schemes on HRC grounds and who are not from EU accession states, as otherwise we will be causing hardship, homelessness, and destitution.

3. It can happen that new direct provision centres become operational without adequate consultation with Health Boards. Sometimes it can be extremely difficult to organise adequate health board services such as GP, Maternity, and not least Community Welfare Services within a very short timeframe. Every effort is made to provide for additional demand on community welfare services from within existing resources but sometimes this cannot be achieved. Since your Department must provide approval for all additional CWO posts, I would appreciate if you could become involved in the consultation process, prior to the

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opening of any centre where it is likely that additional CWO resources are required. In such situations, it will be essential that mechanisms are put in place in your department for fast tracking approval for additional staff. Centres should not open until adequate services can be provided. In the past, health boards were forced into increasing staff numbers without having an opportunity to obtain prior approval from yourselves and consequently we have a small number of CWOs without approval / funding - this is placing our health board in an impossible position which is frustrated by a very long delay in obtaining approval from your Department. This situation cannot continue, and in future we have to ensure that the RIA consults with the Health Boards prior to opening any new centre and that DSFA should be included in consultations if extra staff are required.

Looking forward to hearing of the outcome of your meeting.

From: Greg.Crowley

I refer to a mail I sent Brendan this morning. At a meeting on Wednesday last, the RIA stated that repatriation through departure centres will only be available to AC10 nationals. From our meetings on HRC, my understanding was that all customers who are determined to be non-HR could be offered a trip to the RIA. Could you please clarify the situation.