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Mr. David Costello,
Principal,
Asylum Policy Division
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform,
13-14 Burgh Quay
Dublin 2

8th April 2003

Dear David,

I refer to your letter of 7th March 2003 in relation to the proposed meeting between the unions representing Community Welfare Officers (CWOs) and Superintendent Community Welfare Officers (SCWOs) and the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

I would like to clarify that the Department of Social and Family Affairs already meets with trade unions representing Community Welfare Officers (CWOs) and Superintendent Community Welfare Officers (SCWOs) in a "*Consultative Forum*" that convenes once a quarter. The objective is to provide a regular opportunity to exchange information and to discuss matters of mutual interest. In the course of discussions at this forum the unions in question expressed a desire to meet with your Department to discuss the items outlined in the proposed agenda enclosed with my letter of 3.12.2002. The group requested that this Department make the appropriate arrangements for the meeting.

In order to progress this request would it be possible for your Department to attend a meeting with SWA Management at which both unions would be represented to discuss the issues raised.

Yours sincerely

Kieran O Dwyer
Assistant Principal
Supplementary Welfare Allowance Section
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