

S.W.A. Circular No. 04/00

10 April 2000

To: The Chief Executive Officers
Programme Managers
Appeals Officers
Superintendent CWOs
Community Welfare Officers

#ExploringDP

Direct Provision is being introduced by the Directorate for Asylum Seeker Services of the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform for all asylum seekers who arrive in the State on or after 10th April 2000. The purpose of this circular is to give guidance to Health Boards in relation to this development.

1. Arrivals Reception Centre
Newly arrived asylum seekers will be allocated accommodation by the Directorate for Asylum Seeker Services initially in an "Arrivals Reception Centre" on a full board basis in Dublin. They will subsequently be allocated accommodation on a full board basis elsewhere in the country, usually within two weeks.
2. Income maintenance
Under Direct Provision, asylum seekers will still need a residual income maintenance payment to cover personal requisites. The recommended amounts are £15.00 per week for an adult and £7.50 per week for a child. Exceptional Needs Payments can, of course, be made where appropriate.
3. Rent supplement
In general, a person who has been placed in full-board accommodation who subsequently applies for Rent Supplement or assistance towards a Rent Deposit should be regarded as not having an accommodation need and Rent Supplement and Deposits should not be paid in these instances. Where a Board feels that is appropriate to do so in exceptional cases because of particular circumstances which justify an exception being made, then Rent Supplement and where necessary an ENP for a Rent Deposit should be paid.

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4. Newly arrived asylum seekers presenting at Health Centres
The great majority of claims for asylum are made in Dublin. Under Direct Provision, asylum seekers who present outside Dublin should be referred to the Refugee Applications Centre, Mount St., Dublin 2. They should be assisted with travel costs to Dublin, if they can travel to Dublin and arrive in the Refugee Applications Centre, before 4pm on the same day. On arrival at Refugee Applications Centre, they will be referred to and allocated accommodation on a full board basis in an Arrivals Reception Centre in Dublin by the Directorate for Asylum Support Services.

If an asylum seeker presents at a time when it is too late for them to travel to and arrive at the Refugee Applications Centre by 4pm they should be accommodated in emergency accommodation on a full board basis for one night (or more if it is over the weekend) and assisted with fares to travel to Dublin on the first working day thereafter.

5. Circular 2/00

The procedures outlined in Circular 2/00 which issued to you previously will continue to apply in the case of asylum seekers who had arrived in the State before 10th April 2000.

6. Contact telephone numbers

Queries in relation to Direct Provision can be directed to the Directorate for Asylum Seeker Services, Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform:

Morgan Knight : Ph (01) 4183248

Paul Donnelly : ph (01) 4183249

Brian O Raghallaigh

Principal

SWA Section.