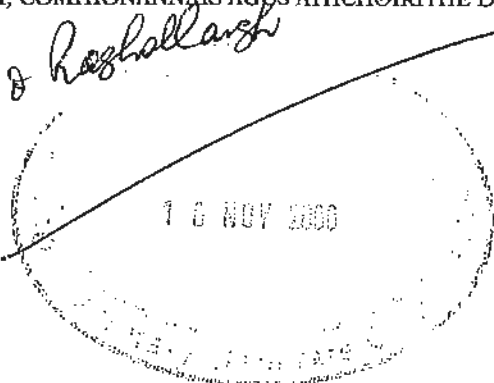


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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM
AN ROINN DLÍ AGUS CIRT, COMHIONANNAIS AGUS ATHCHÓIRITHE DLÍ

Det. & Rashallan



Secretary General
Department of Social, Community
and Family Affairs
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada
Store Street
Dublin 1

Commencement of the Refugee Act, 1996 (as amended)*

I am directed by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to inform you that the Refugee Act, 1996 (as amended) will be commenced, in full, on 20 November 2000. Under the Act, two independent statutory offices will be established to consider applications for refugee status and to make recommendations to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform on whether such status should be granted. The new offices are the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner and the Refugee Appeals Tribunal.

I enclose, for your information, an Information Leaflet which sets out the new arrangements for processing asylum applications following the commencement, in full, of the Refugee Act, 1996 (as amended).

Perhaps you would bring this notice to the attention of the relevant Divisions / Personnel and to all the relevant bodies / agencies under the aegis of your Department.

David Costello
David Costello
Asylum Policy Division
10 November, 2000

* *Refugee Act, 1996 as amended by section 11 (1) of the Immigration Act, 1999 and section 9 of the Illegal Immigrants (Trafficking) Act, 2000*