

Department of Social, Community
and Family Affairs

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From: Brian Ó Raghallaigh, PO **

TO: Mary Lally, AP

TO: Fergal Black, External - EHB

CC: Gus Murray, AP **

Subject: Residual income payments to Asylum Seekers

Created: 10-Dec-1999 03:07pm

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Mary and Fergal,

As discussed, when Direct Provision is introduced, asylum seekers will still need a residual income maintenance payment to cover personal requisites. This also applies to asylum seekers who are accommodated on a full board basis pending the introduction of Direct Provision.

In the interest of fairness and equity, the level at which these residual payments are made should be consistent across the State and should be consistent with the so called "comfort payments" made to certain people in long term institutional care.

Having considered the matter, I have concluded that payments to asylum seekers in full board or under Direct Provision should be made at the following levels:

Adult:

Child i.e. where a CDA would otherwise be paid: £15.00 per week
£ 7.50 per week.

As these payments cover personal requisites, it would not be appropriate to pay a couple less than twice the single rate.

I would expect that Health Boards will see the logic of this approach and will implement the payments at the levels suggested on foot of your ongoing contacts with them. However, if you need anything further on this (e.g. if you feel a formal instruction should issue), please let me know.

Brian

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