

IHRC

AN COIMISIÚN UM CHEARTA DUINE

#ExploringDP

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Chief Executive

Mr Philip Melville,
Department of Social Protection,
Aras Mhic Dhiarmada,
Store Street,
Dublin 1

17 September 2010

Dear Mr Melville,

The Irish Human Rights Commission (IHRC) would like to invite you to a roundtable discussion with the IHRC's Racism Committee, on the topic of direct provision. The objective of the meeting is both to facilitate discussion and to inform future IHRC work in this area.

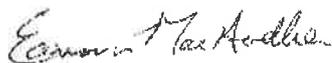
The roundtable will comprise representatives of various Government Departments as well as statutory bodies and community and voluntary organisations with expertise in the area. The purpose of the roundtable is to allow for a confidential discussion and exchange of views, under Chatham House Rules, of direct provision, its operation in practice and its impact on persons within the system.

We very much appreciated your participation at the IHRC roundtable on the Habitual Residence Condition and are keen to facilitate your attendance at this meeting. In that regard, we would propose holding the meeting either on **Tuesday 5 October 2010** or **Tuesday 12 October from 10.30 to 12.30**, if one of these dates would suit you.

You might be so kind as to indicate your availability by contacting Aideen Damery at adamery@ihrc.ie or by calling (01) 858 9601.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Éamonn MacAodha
Chief Executive

*Rel
By e-mail*

An Coimisiún um Chearta Duine
An 4ú hUirlár, Teach Jervis, Sráid Jervis, Baile Átha Cliath 1

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Ann Mulrennan

From: Philip Melville
Sent: 27 September 2010 15:30
To: Joe Morrin
Cc: Anne McManus; Ann Mulrennan
Subject: FW: Meeting on direct provision
Attachments: 100927 IHRC AN COIMISIUN.tif

Joe,

Please see scanned tif file attached, as well as following memos.

I have agreed to attend this meeting with IHRC, but as my input to the direct provision aspect is minimal since the right of residence provisions were included in legislation, I think someone with a SWA angle should also attend, especially someone who would have immediate experience of the direct provision allowance and related issues.

Sean Gaughan and I attended a similar meeting in November 2008. I can't remember whether SWA was represented. The focus was more broadly on HRC rather than the specific DP angle.

I have promised to advise IHRC if another person from DSP/CWS is available for this meeting, and they will be very happy to extend the invitation.

Phil.

From: aideen damery [mailto:adamery@ihrc.ie]
Sent: 24 September 2010 14:23
To: Philip Melville
Subject: RE: Meeting on direct provision

Dear Phil,

I can now confirm Tuesday, 12 October 2010 as the day on which the roundtable is to be held. I hope you are still available to attend.

We have not invited anyone else from D/Social Protection, but would very much welcome hearing from you if there is another person you would recommend should be invited. We intend to invite a representative from the Department of Social and Family Affairs, but at present are having difficulty getting the name of the appropriate person. Again, if you had a suggestion in this regard, it would be most welcome.

Kind regards,

Aideen

From: Philip Melville [mailto:philip.melville@welfare.ie]
Sent: 20 September 2010 11:16
To: aideen damery
Subject: RE: Meeting on direct provision

Aideen,

Thanks.

It would be helpful for me to know who else has been invited from D/Social Protection, and if you have also invited someone from the CWO/SWA side.

Regards,

Phil.

From: aideen damery [mailto:adamery@ihrc.ie]
Sent: 20 September 2010 11:04
To: Philip Melville
Subject: RE: Meeting on direct provision

Dear Phil,

Thank you for your kind reply. I will get back to you asap with a confirmed date.

Kind regards,

Aideen

From: Philip Melville [mailto:philip.melville@welfare.ie]
Sent: 20 September 2010 10:02
To: aideen damery
Subject: Meeting on direct provision

Aideen,

I have received Mr MacAodha's invitation of 17th Sept to the above meeting.

I am presently available on either date.

Kind regards,

Phil.

Philip Melville
EU International Unit
Department of Social Protection
Store Street
Dublin 1

Tel (353) 1 704 3476
Fax (353) 1 704 3051
Eml Philip.Melville@welfare.ie

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Tá an ríomhphost seo agus aon chomhaid a ghabhann leis faoi rún agus níl sé le haghaidh éinne ach an té nó an t-eintiteas ar seoladh chuige é.

Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid cuir é sin i bhfios do bhainisteoir an chórais.

An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí - Víreas-scanta

#ExploringDP

Ann Mulrennan

From: Philip Melville
Sent: 13 October 2010 15:32
To: Anne McManus
Cc: Ann Mulrennan; Joe Morrin
Subject: HRC meeting with IHRC

Anne,

The Irish Human Rights Commission organized a roundtable discussion regarding direct provision with reps from various NGO's on Tuesday 12th October. The discussion was held under "Chatham House Rules" – any subsequent reference to content or statements made must not identify the speaker or body represented.

Kieran Dunne and Damien O'Brien, Supt CWOS from the Asylum Seekers and New Communities Unit, and I attended. RIA and JLR were absent because a meeting between them and the Oireachtas Committee for Health and Children had been arranged for the same day. Fintan Butler from the Ombudsman's Office was also present.

As the HRC aspect is very cut and dry with regard to asylum seekers, there was little discussion on that aspect, and the main focus was on the direct provision allowance (DPA) and SWA with very valuable input from Kieran and Damien. The point was made that persons who felt they were badly treated by CWOs should report this to the Supt CWO in the area (or that NGOs should similarly intervene on their behalf).

FLAC's "One size doesn't fit all" report was summarized. The difficulties experienced by victims of violence or intimidation inside or outside RIA hostels were also referred to. There were many complaints about the facilities provided and the management of these hostels, which are a matter for RIA/JLR, not for us. The NGOs maintained that there was much variation between East Coast and West Coast hostels and between CWO attitudes in various locations.

An argument was made that greater use should be made of the Urgent Needs provision (Section 202), but it was acknowledged that overuse or inappropriate use of this would possibly result in HRC being applied to it also.

An issue was raised that in one location DPA would be refused if the asylum seeker sought to enter full-time education. The S/CWOs said that was incorrect, that DPA was dependant solely on the fact of residence in a DP hostel and I asked that information regarding the complaint be passed to me for forwarding to SWA Section, Sligo. This is unlikely to identify the source or location, but the discussion seemed to confirm that the rules regarding DPA entitlement need to be restated and recirculated to relevant CWOs.

The references to victims of violence or intimidation overlap with the query received from D/JLR. I will relate with SWA Section regarding this matter in anticipation of the matter being raised again at the JOC on 27th, and therefore our need for adequate briefing on it.

Phil.