

Working Group on Protection Process

Theme 2

Proposal re Weekly Allowance

1. The current weekly allowance for adults residing in Direct Provision, which has remained unchanged since the year 2000, is €19.10.
2. If the weekly allowance had been changed in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as per Appendix A, the current value would be €26.42.
3. As per Appendix B, part of the rationale for the initial payment of £15 (€19.10) was that it would be consistent with the provision of 'Comfort Payments' to people living in long term institutional care.
4. However, the Comforts Payment, also known as Hospital Comforts Payment, is paid as a basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) payment and in 2014 was paid at the rate of €35 per week.
5. In addition, as per Appendix C, the weekly allowance was originally 20.83% of SWA as opposed to the current 10.27% value. If the ratio had remained consistent, the current value would be €38.74.

In Summary,

The weekly allowance for Direct Provision residents has not been amended for 14 years despite changes in a number of comparable State payments. It would seem appropriate that the weekly payment is now brought in line with the relative increases in CPI, Comforts Payments and SWA. For the sake of expediency, a doubling of the weekly allowance should be proposed. The Working Group has been informed that the annual cost of the allowance is €3.8 million and thus this proposal would cost €7.6 million annually based on current applicant numbers.

Appendix A

Year	CPI	DP Weekly Allowance (Adult)	DP Weekly Allowance (Child)
2000	5.86%	€20.22	
2001	4.18%	€21.07	
2002	4.96%	€22.12	
2003	2.02%	€22.57	
2004	2.65%	€23.17	
2005	2.36%	€23.72	
2006	4.93%	€24.89	
2007	4.70%	€26.06	
2008	1.15%	€26.36	
2009	-5.00%	€25.04	
2010	1.29%	€25.36	
2011	2.45%	€25.98	
2012	1.22%	€26.30	
2013	0.20%	€26.35	
2014	0.26%	€26.42	€13.28

Appendix B

Year	2000	2014	Based on Percentage in 2000
<i>Supplementary Welfare Allowance*</i>	£72	€186	€186
<i>Direct Provision Weekly Allowance (Adult)</i>	£15	€19.10	€38.74
<i>Direct Provision Weekly Allowance (Child)</i>	£7.50	€9.60	€19.46
<i>Percentage Adult Weekly Allowance/SWA</i>	20.83%	10.27%	

Appendix C

Department of Social, Community
and Family Affairs

Document: 066870
From: Brian Ó Raghallaigh, PO **
TO: Mary Lally, AP
TO: Fergal Black, External - EHS
CC: Gus Murray, AP **
Subject: Residual income payments to Asylum Seekers

Created: 10-Dec-1999 03:07pm
Posted: 10-Dec-1999 03:22pm
Tel No: (01)8748444 x3210
(BOR)
(LALLY_M)
(BLACK_F)
(MURRAY_G)

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