

Dear Tony

I refer to your request below. I've looked at this document and I cannot see anything with direct implications for us because our payments are targeted at need.

I understand that there has been some correspondence between Cosc and DSP (our EU/SWA Sides (cc'd above)) in recent times over domestic violence/forced marriage in relation to non HRC compliant individuals - in terms of the DSP income supports available. The only payments available to these customers is under the SWA Exceptional Needs Payments for once off exceptional type of expenditure. Cosc has been advised by DSP that a more flexible approach to legal residence in the State for victims of domestic violence is the most appropriate mechanism to address their predicament rather than amend the HRC conditionality.

This issue has also been raised in the past through the Migrant Consultative forum - i.e. the social welfare income supports available to non HRC persons affected by domestic violence.

In terms of the rent supplement scheme, where a claimant's safety and wellbeing are at risk due to domestic violence Department officials have discretionary powers to expedite the award of a payment to the person in question provided that they satisfy the conditions of the scheme - including HRC.

If you have any further queries related to the above would you contact Mary O Sullivan (EU) or Jackie Harrington (SWA) please.

Regards

Simonetta

Simonetta Ryan

Assistant Secretary

Department of Social Protection

Job seekers and child income policy, Social Inclusion, GRO including legislation

Rm 2.3.18

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