

From: Mary Pracht
Sent: 18 March 2020 11:31
To: Des Henry
Subject: RE: Query -

Des
Will do
Mary

From: Des Henry
Sent: 18 March 2020 11:30
To: Mary Pracht
Subject: RE: Query

Mary,

Wait until I come back to you. Am on a concall re: IB at the moment.

Des

Des Henry
Principal Officer
Supplementary Welfare Allowance Policy Unit

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

Oifig Seirbhísí Leas Shóisialta Sligigh, Bothar an Choláiste, Sligeach, F91 T384.
Social Welfare Services Office Sligo, College Road, Sligo, F91 T384.



**An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta
agus Coimirce Sóisialaí**
Department of Employment Affairs
and Social Protection

From: Mary Pracht
Sent: 18 March 2020 11:29
To: Des Henry
Subject: RE: Query

Des,
Got this query – about access to the Covid 19 payment for asylum seekers.

My draft reply is below, thought I should run it by you before responding to Eoin. Basically – the covid 19 scheme is open to all who have lost employment aged 18-66 and therefore this should include asylum seekers. They may not qualify for a payment after the 6 wks though...

Thanks
Mary

Hi Eoin,

The current position is that all asylum seekers can work legally if they have been 9 months awaiting the decision on their application for international protection and get a permission to access the labour market. The access to labour market was introduced on an interim basis from Feb 18 and on the current wider basis since July 2018. This includes both those living in the community and those in accommodation centres (direct provision). There is no requirement on asylum seekers to accept accommodation in the centres although most do.

If the general position is that people who have lost their employment receive the COVID-19 payment then I would think that this also applies to asylum seekers working legally.

The issue that I see is that they may not qualify for another DEASP payment. This cohort doesn't meet HRC and therefore wouldn't qualify for JSA or Basic SWA. They may qualify for JB if they have sufficient contributions.

(Separately DEASP pays the daily expenses allowance **only** to asylum seekers living in the accommodation centres (direct provision))

From: Eoin Brown
Sent: 18 March 2020 10:58
To: Mary Pracht
Cc: Caitriona Bracken; Michael Regan
Subject: RE: Query

Mary,

Please see the attached – if the person was aged between 18 and 66 and lost their job I'd pay but what do you think ?

Asylum seekers living outside DP – I assume these are leave to remain ?

Eoin

From: Michael Regan
Sent: 18 March 2020 10:48
To: Eoin Brown
Cc: Caitriona Bracken
Subject: FW: Query

Eoin

Sorry for this but maybe you know who would be best placed to answer the attached enquiry?

Regards

Michael Regan

Client Identity Services

An Roinn Gnóthaí Fostaíochta agus Coimirce Sóisialaí

Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection

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From: Hanna Dwyer [<mailto:hanna@irishrefugeecouncil.ie>]

Sent: 18 March 2020 10:35

To: Michael Regan

Subject: Query

Dear Micheal,

I hope you are well and do not mind me emailing you.

I was hoping you might be able to point me in the direction of someone within the Department of Social Welfare who could confirm with certainty whether or not the COVID-19 payment would be open to asylum seekers living outside of Direct Provision.

There is some confusion around it and if we could confirm for certain we would then be able to spread the news around our networks.

Thank you in advance for your time,

Hanna Dwyer