



Oifig an Ard-Rúnaí
An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada
Sráid Stórais
Baile Átha Cliath 1

Office of the Secretary-General
Department of Social Protection
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada
Store Street
Dublin 1

☎ (01) 7043000

Facs / Fax (01) 7043721

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Mr Ted McEnery
Clerk to the Committee
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2



Dear Mr McEnery,

I wish to refer further to the recommendation contained in chapters 35 of the Comptroller and Auditor General's Annual Report for 2010 regarding the undertaking of fraud and error surveys by the Department of Social Protection.

Under the Fraud Initiative published in September 2011, the Department has set out a medium term programme for fraud and error surveys across all the major schemes.

Three fraud and error surveys have recently been finalised – Disability Allowance, One Parent Family Payment and Jobseekers Benefit. The key findings are as follows:

- Disability Allowance –Net cost of fraud and error – 2.1% of expenditure
- One Parent Family Payment –Net cost of fraud and error – 2.7% of expenditure
- Jobseekers Benefit –Net cost of fraud and error - 1.6% of expenditure

Copies of the survey reports are attached for information.

Yours sincerely

Niamh O'Donoghue
Secretary General