



Coimisiún na hÉireann um Chearta
an Duine agus Comhionannas
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

Sent by email: minister@welfare.ie

Regina Doherty T.D.
Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection,

**RE: The exclusion of applicants for International Protection residing in direct provision
from the Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment Scheme**

Dear Minister,

I write on behalf of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (the 'Commission') to express our concern about the exclusion of residents of direct provision accommodation from the Covid-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment Scheme (the 'CPUP Scheme').

It is the Commission's considered view that there is nothing within that Scheme prohibiting the payment of the CPUP to employed, or self-employed, workers in direct provision who are unemployed as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions. The Scheme's criteria are clear and readily met by such workers.

These workers are entitled to equal treatment before the law, pursuant to EU law, the Constitution and the ECHR Act 2003.

You will be aware that

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exclusion of formerly employed/self-employed persons in direct provision not only has significant

We are anxious that this matter should, if possible, be resolved expeditiously and in the most efficient manner. Therefore we would be grateful if you would please confirm that your Department will reverse its current policy of refusing these workers the CPUP and reimburse them the back-payments that have not been received to date.

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frank Conaty", enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

Dr Frank Conaty
Acting Chief Commissioner