

PRESS RELEASE

13th March 2012

Ireland not yet ready for a single working age payment

Treoir believes that the Minister for Social Protection should not proceed with the proposal for the Single Working Age Payment at this time. This is in line with the recommendation of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Jobs, Social Protection and Education, which is contained in its **Report on The Single Working Age Payment Proposal** (SWAP)

Treoir, in its submission to the Committee, made it clear that the framework would not work for those in receipt of One-Parent Family Payment (OFP). This framework was outlined in the Department of Social Protection's **Report on the Desirability and Feasibility of introducing a single social assistance payment for people of working age**. The Report itself sets out the losses which recipients of OFP would accrue should such a payment be introduced. This would clearly exacerbate the already high risk of poverty which lone parents already face and which is well documented.

Treoir has for years been lobbying for the simplification of the whole social welfare system and promotes in principle the introduction of a single basic payment. For those in the workforce additional supports need to be in place, such as childcare, income disregard, tax credits, etc. The proposed single working age payment will not work in the absence of these additional support services. It goes without saying that suitable and flexible part-time and full-time jobs need to also be available for working parents.

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Treoir is the Irish word for direction and guidance.

Treoir is a membership organisation which promotes the rights of unmarried parents and their children in Ireland.

Treoir operates a National Information Service for unmarried parents, their families and those involved with them.

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