



Denis Naughten TD  
Chairperson,  
Joint Committee on Social Protection,  
Community and Rural Development, and the Islands,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2,  
D02 XR20.

25 July 2023

Dear Denis,

I would like to thank you and the Committee for your correspondence regarding Statutory Instrument 199 of 2023, which provided for a €200 lump sum cost of living payment in April.

This lump sum payment was paid to each eligible person who had an entitlement to a primary social welfare payment in their own right. The €200 lump sum payment was paid in the week commencing 24th April to over 1.2 million people in receipt of long-term social welfare payments at a cost of approximately €260 million.

Each eligible primary recipient of a social welfare payment received €200, regardless of the number of dependants (qualified adult or children) if any, or other social welfare payments. Qualified Adults do not have an entitlement to Cost of Living bonuses, including this €200 lump sum, in their own right.

For clarity, last October, a double payment was made in respect of all long-term social welfare recipients. Similarly, the Christmas Bonus is a double payment. A double payment means a person receives double their total weekly payment inclusive of any increases for Qualified Adults or Qualified Children. The measures approved by Government for the Spring Cost of Living Package did not include a double payment, rather it was a once off €200 Lump Sum payment.

The April lump sum payment was part of an overall programme of measures throughout 2022 and into this year. This programme of measures includes both broad measures, such as rate increases, and more targeted measures which support particular groups in society. Delivery of these measures is continuing through 2023 with supports targeting children, including:

- a €100 lump sum payment in respect of every child for whom Child Benefit is paid,
- an additional €100 payment will also be paid this year in respect of each child for whom the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance is paid, and
- an extension of the Hot School Meals programme to all DEIS primary schools from September, benefiting 64,500 children.



Together, these latest supports will provide over €410 million in additional Social Protection supports to households and families in need.

The February package follows on from a €2.2 Billion Social Protection Budget 2023 Package - the largest in the history of the state – which included eight lump sum payments in the last quarter of 2022.

These eight lump sum payments included:

- an Autumn double payment,
- a double payment of Child Benefit,
- a €400 lump sum payment of Fuel Allowance,
- a €500 lump sum payment to families receiving Working Family Payment,
- a €500 lump sum payment to people in receipt of Disability Allowance, Blind Pension or Invalidity Pension,
- a €200 lump sum payment to people in receipt of the Living Alone Allowance,
- a €500 lump sum payment to carers, and
- a Christmas Bonus double payment of weekly Social Welfare and Pension Payments.

In addition, earlier in 2022 measures to help households with increasing prices were introduced, for example, two Fuel Allowance lump sums were paid in March and May, and the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance was increased by €100.

Since March last year, therefore, Government has been keeping the cost of living situation under review and responded providing a wide range of unprecedented supports to protect people and families as the cost of living has increased.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heather', followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a stylized flourish.

Heather Humphreys, TD,  
Minister for Social Protection.

*The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015  
(details available on [www.lobbying.ie](http://www.lobbying.ie))*