



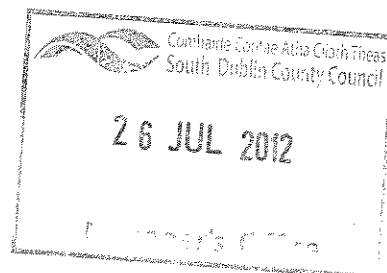
Seirbhísí Leasa Shóisialaigh
An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
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Ms Mary Maguire
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services Dept
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24



25 July 2012

Dear Ms Maguire,

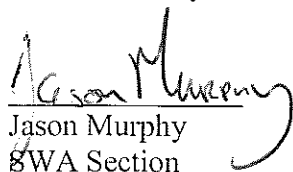
Minister Joan Burton has asked me to reply to your correspondence regarding Rent Supplement.

The purpose of the Rent Supplement scheme is to provide short-term support to eligible people living in private rented accommodation whose means are insufficient to meet their accommodation costs and who do not have accommodation available to them from any other source. The overall aim is to provide short term assistance, and not to act as an alternative to the other social housing schemes operated by the Exchequer.

Any person seeking a Rent Supplement must first satisfy the Department's representative that they have a housing need that they are unable to meet from their own resources. In addition, the Department must be satisfied that the residence is reasonably suited to the residential and other needs of the claimant. The Department must also be satisfied that the rent payable is reasonable having regard to the nature, character and location of the residence.

In a case where parents have joint custody of a child, the needs of both parents to have adequate accommodation to look after the child are taken into account when an application for a Rent Supplement is being determined. In such cases, documentation is normally required showing that a joint custody arrangement is in place and being availed of before a decision can be made. Every claim for Rent Supplement is determined having regard to all of the circumstances of the case.

Yours sincerely,


Jason Murphy
SWA Section