



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Sochair Breoiteachta
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada
Sráid Stórais
Baile Átha Cliath 1.



Department of Social Protection
Illness Benefit
Áras Mhic Dhiarmada
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Case Number: REPS-2015-2375

Mr Tom O' Neill
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services Department
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall, Tallaght,
Dublin 24.

Dear Mr O'Neill,

Thank you for your notification, on behalf of South Dublin County Council, in relation to the motion passed in respect of Respite Care Grant(RCG). I apologise for the delay in replying to your letter.

The Government has had to make very difficult decisions over the past three years. The core weekly rates of Social Welfare payments received by those in receipt of illness, disability, pensions and carers schemes have however been fully protected and maintained.

The reduction in the respite care grant in 2013 was challenging for carers. However the rate of the respite care grant of €1,375 is still be more than twice what it was in 2002 when it was €635, and higher than it was in 2006 at the height of the economic boom, when it was €1,200.

Such an annual payment, in a single lump sum with no requirement to satisfy a means test, is not available for any other group nor is there an equivalent payment for carers in any other country in Europe. The primary responsibility for providing respite care facilities and services rests with the HSE and the RCG can be used to supplement this provision although there is no requirement for it to be used in this fashion.

The estimated cost in 2015 of increasing the respite care grant by €325, from €1,375 to €1,700, is €29.3 million in a full year. Any change in the rate of Respite Care Grant in Budget 2015 can only be considered in the context of overall Budgetary requirements.

Yours sincerely


Christy Grogan, A.P.

21/04/2015

