

Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed



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The INOU calls on the Government to act

Today, Tuesday the 8th November 2011, the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed launched its Pre-Budget Submission in the organisation's office: Araby House, 8 North Richmond Street, Dublin 1.

"To-date the Government response to the unemployment crisis has been piecemeal and as the most recent Live Register figures show unsuccessful," said John Stewart, Coordinator with the INOU. *"The INOU is calling on this Government to match their claim that they are prioritising jobs with correct level of investment,"* he continued.

Ann Fergus, Chair of the INOU, called on the Government to honour their commitment in the Programme for Government to maintain social welfare rates. *"Unemployed people are struggling to survive and any further cuts to their social welfare payments and supports would bring unimaginable grief,"* Ann noted.

The INOU's submission focuses on four key Departments including: Social Protection; Education and Skills; Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation; Environment, Community and Local Government; and on the issue of taxation. The following recommendations were made:

Social Protection

- Maintain social welfare rates
- Choices must be given and be meaningful
- Service design and delivery must be underpinned by a culture of enablement

Education and Skills

- Provide a full range of training & education options
- Ensure productive links to employment services
- Ensure consistency of provision & meaningful progression

Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

- Work with employment services to create access to decent employment for unemployed people
- Ensure unemployed people seeking to create their own employment receive adequate supports
- Support local, social and co-operative enterprise developments

Environment, Community & Local Government

- Ensure that the appropriate housing supports are in place for unemployed people
- Provide proper supports to local community and development organisations working on unemployment and related issues
- Ensure that Local Government plays its part in creating the conditions for job creation and getting people back to work

Taxation

- Broaden the tax base by taking immediate action on the Commission on Taxation's recommendations on tax expenditures / breaks - with the exception of Child Benefit
- Introduce a Comprehensive Property / Wealth Tax to be levied on all assets - which should initially apply only to income earners above €100,000
- Remove anyone earning less than the National Minimum Wage from the tax net - the introduction of the Universal Social Charge was a regressive step

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