

FLAC background note on Transfer of Mosney residents, July 2010

The proposed transfers of residents from Mosney accommodation centre have been reported widely in the media. There are concerns that due consideration has not been given to the individual needs and requirement of each of the residents.

- ★ These already vulnerable people have been given hardly any time to adjust to the news that they will be forced to move from a place they have come to regard as their home. Many of those who have received transfer letters have lived in Mosney for a number of years.
- ★ In addition, they have not been consulted or been given adequate time to make representations against the suitability of the proposed transfer to their own situation. Currently a resident in Mosney does not currently have to share a room with others, but when moved he or she will now have to share a dormitory-style bedroom with several other people. This may have a negative impact on their wellbeing and mental health, particularly if they have an existing health problem.
- ★ Many direct provision residents have already suffered trauma which led them to leave their country of origin in the first place. Most have already had to uproot, leaving loved ones behind. So it is unfair to place them under further stress and cause them additional personal upset, forcing them to leave the new home and friends they have made in Mosney.
- ★ Conditions in different direct provision centres vary and some are better than others. Mosney is regarded as one of the better accommodation centres so it is understandable that people do not want to move to another centre where the quality of life may be lower.
- ★ The duty of care for people seeking protection in Ireland lies with the Department of Justice and Law Reform. In one report a Department spokesperson stated that "Ireland has and always will fully comply with its human rights obligations" in relation to asylum seekers.
- ★ Human rights are universal and while a person is awaiting a decision on his or her immigration status, the Department is bound to ensure that every person seeking protection is treated fairly and that his or her rights are fully respected and upheld.

FLAC calls on the Department to ensure that a full assessment of each person's situation is undertaken before transferring him or her to another accommodation centre which may not be suitable for his or her needs.

