

Working Group on the Protection
Process
Timberlay House
79-83 Lower Mount Street
Dublin 2

Rec'd 21/1/2015

20 January 2015,

Dear Judge Mc Mahon,

I understand you have been given the job of looking at ways to improve the asylum process and the direct provision system. I welcome this, as the system in operation at present is totally inadequate and risks alienating the people who come through the system, from Irish society.

Could I ask you to consider two issues in terms of the work you are undertaking.

1. The provision of adequate/ good English language teaching for all asylum seekers. This could be provided for those with inadequate oral or written English while they are asylum seekers. Even if they are ultimately refused asylum, knowledge of English would stand to the individual concerned.
2. For those asylum seekers who are moving on towards residency and/or citizenship in Ireland, I am asking you to consider recommending classes in Irish culture, traditions and how Irish society works. In my view this should become part and parcel of the process of becoming an Irish citizen.

In conclusion, the point of my proposals is to ensure that immigrants can settle satisfactorily into this country. Incidentally, I am of the view that the two suggestions above should be available for other non-EU and indeed EU immigrants where required.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Dowds.

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