

## **The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) data sharing arrangements with other bodies.**

The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) works closely with other parts of government, non governmental, and community organisations to help deliver many supports and services. These include services such as employment rights, and the provision of income supports, employment services, social security, services to employers, and other services for children, students, people at work, those with disabilities/illnesses or who have retired.

For most day-to-day DEASP operations and service delivery business, the Department is the data controller and is responsible for all aspects of how information is used. But for some of the areas where DEASP works together with other organisations, we share responsibility for how your personal data is used.

The DEASP and the Revenue Commissioners work very closely together, and share information often. This is because benefits and pensions are affected by how much you earn and the national insurance contributions (PRSI) you have paid. Benefits, pensions and other payments you receive from DEASP affect how much tax you have to pay, or tax credits that Revenue allows you.

The DEASP and Revenue use the same reference number to identify people – this reference number is your Personal Public Service number (PPSN) and this number is used to share and exchange information on you between both organisations so that service delivery is streamlined. Information is also shared between both organisations to prevent and detect suspected fraud or wrongful activity that could result in incorrect payments being made by DEASP and/or tax payment being avoided to Revenue.

In addition, the DEASP shares data with the following types of organisations:

- Other government departments and offices
- Local Authorities
- Health Service Executive
- Non-Commercial State bodies
- Commercial State bodies
- Public Service bodies such as Tusla, Pobal and SUSI
- Education Training Boards
- Educational bodies and institutions
- Local development companies

The sharing of information realises benefits for both customers and public bodies, e.g. reduced form filling and less need for statements/certificates of payments received.

Sometimes the Department shares information with bodies who act as data processors e.g. general practitioners process data in the administration of Illness Benefit scheme and Jobpath providers process data in the provision of employment services.

It is important to emphasise that simply because a data sharing arrangement exists between the DEASP and another organisation does not mean that other organisation has access to all of the DEASP's data. DEASP data is only ever made available to other organisations to the *limited* extent that is necessary and where such sharing is permissible under data protection law – one of the key tenets of which is that data sharing should never happen on a needlessly excessive basis.

NOTE : It is important to note that this document is provided for information purposes and is not intended to be a legal interpretation