

Launch of Government Approved Modernisation of Civil Registration Service

7 October 2003

Mr Micheál Martin, Minister for Health and Children, together with Ms Mary Coughlan, Minister for Social and Family Affairs, today (7 October 2003) launched the government approved modernisation of the civil registration service.

Speaking at the launch the Minister stated that the present system for civil registration is some 150 years old. While there has been little change to the basic registration procedures since that time, there have been many changes in our society, major developments in technology and increased expectations by citizens on how public services should be delivered. "The introduction of new processes and procedures together with the availability of the new information support system for civil registration, will standardise, simplify and enhance the registration of life events throughout the country. New electronic registers will replace the existing paper-based registers. In addition, all existing historic data is being captured electronically. This will greatly reduce the effort involved in tracing registration details for the production of certificates, and will enable the service to be much more responsive to the needs of our customers".

Commenting further the Minister stated that "The initial phase of the modernisation of the Civil Registration Service provides the necessary platform to meet citizens' expectations with regard to the availability of information, service access options, quality of service and privacy".

"Further developments within the modernised Civil Registration Service will include the introduction of automated genealogy/family research facilities and the provision of a range of services over the Internet", concluded the Minister.