



Médiateur européen

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Date d'arrivée



Oifig an Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman

4 May 2016

Ms Emily O'Reilly,
European Ombudsman
1 Avenue du President Robert Schuman
F-67001 Strasbourg
France

Dear Emily,

I refer to your communication dated 27 April 2016 to the Ombudsman, Peter Tyndall, in connection the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).

Firstly, my sincere apologies for not responding to you following your previous communication about this matter. You have asked about the level of public information being made available at national level about AMIF programmes. I can confirm that the Department of Justice and Equality has published a considerable amount of material on its website, including the national programme as adopted by the Commission. The details can be viewed here;

<http://www.integration.ie/website/omi/omiwebv6.nsf/page/19AA26758337B04480257D3F0050432B>

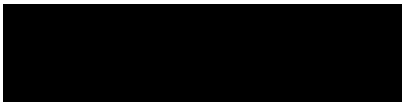
You also raised the question of Ombudsman Offices monitoring how national programmes are implemented with special emphasis on detention and reception conditions. As you know, this Office's role is to examine complaints about the administrative actions of certain public service providers. You will recall that in relation to the Department of Justice and Equality the Ombudsman is prevented from examining complaints about actions taken in the administration of the law relating to immigration and naturalisation. In the past there had been a difference of view between this Office and and the Department as to whether the Ombudsman can take complaints regarding the day to day administration of direct provision centres. I am glad to say that following active engagement between this Office and the Department and following recommendations from a Working Group on direct provision and separate recommendations from the Oireachtas Committee on Public Service Oversight and Petitions which both called for the Ombudsman to be given unfettered jurisdiction over direct provision centres it now seems that the Department will accept the Ombudsman's jurisdiction in this area. We hope that the issue will be finalised shortly. Recently the Department has facilitated visits by the Director General of this Office to a number of direct provision centres

and we hope to organise information sessions for the centres during the autumn.

This Office will therefore, in due course, be in a position to monitor the implementation of the national programme in respect of direct provision centres in the context of dealing with individual complaints.

Your Office is welcome to contact me if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Morgan
Senior Investigator
Office of the Ombudsman