

FastTrack – Signing off a Jobseeker’s payment for up to 12 weeks

If you are in receipt of a Jobseeker’s payment and you have been offered full-time employment for up to 12 weeks, including work for 4 days or more per week, you will not qualify for a Jobseekers payment – but you may benefit from the fast-track process if you are signing back on for a Jobseeker’s payment.

The **Fast-Track system** allows you to sign back on to your original Jobseeker’s claim without the need to go through the process as a new claimant and ensure that your original Jobseeker’s payment is reinstated without delay.

To access the **Fast-Track** process you must inform the local Intreo Centre/Social Welfare Branch Office before you take up any work.

You will need to provide details and information about the nature of the employment, type of work, hours of work and income you expect to receive from the employment. A letter or job description from the employer could provide this information.

When signing back on, you may be required to confirm the details of the work and the income you received. The DSP could ask for payslips or bank statements for the period you were employed.

In addition, the DSP may request that you confirm that your underlying circumstances have not changed in relation to your original claim i.e., means, savings, investments or the income or means of your spouse or partner during the Fast-Track period.

While there is no limit on the number of times a Jobseeker can use the Fast-Track system, repeated or multiple applications can be reviewed to determine if you are in fact ‘*Genuinely Seeking*’ full-time employment, as opposed to regular fixed-term short periods of work.



For more information on these incentives please contact the INOU on 01 856 0088 or visit www.inou.ie

SWA – Payment Pending Wages

If you have been offered employment, and the job is paid on a monthly or bi-weekly basis, it could mean that you may be waiting days / weeks to be paid your first salary – with no Jobseeker’s payment available.

In support of Jobseeker’s in these circumstances, the Department of Social Protection (DSP) can make available a payment through the Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) scheme to financially support Jobseeker’s in taking-up employment.

This payment, is known as ‘Payment Pending Wages’. It can be made for up to 30 days for anyone returning to / taking up work, where they would no longer qualify for a Jobseeker’s payment because they are in full-time employment.

The ‘**Payment Pending Wages**’ payment is means tested (*the income savings, investments, employment/ self-employment of your spouse / partner are taken into consideration*), paid as a weekly payment and at a rate of €2 less than that of any previous Jobseeker’s payment.

This is a discretionary based payment made on an individual case-by-case basis. It is not an automatic entitlement when taking up employment from a Jobseeker’s payment.

The payment is **not repayable** to the department when the person receives their wages.

Applications for ‘Payment Pending Wages’ can be made under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) scheme from your local Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office.



For more information on these incentives please contact the INOU on 01 856 0088 or visit www.inou.ie

This leaflet has been produced with financial support from the Department of Social Protection



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialai
Department of Social Protection



Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed

DECEMBER 2023

Back to Work Supports

www.inou.ie

Supports available to jobseekers looking to return to work

- Jobseekers Payments and Part-time work
- Back to Work Family Dividend
- Working Family Payment
- FastTrack – Signing off for 12 weeks
- SWA – Payment Pending Wages

Jobseekers Payments and Part-time work

If you are unemployed and in receipt of either:

- Jobseeker's Allowance (JA)
- Jobseeker's Benefit (JB)
- Jobseeker's Benefit (Self-Employed) (JBSE)*

*For Jobseeker's Benefit (Self-Employed), part-time work must be insurable employment **only** and cannot be **any** self-employment activity.

you can accept an offer of part-time work and you may be able to qualify for some of your Jobseeker's payment for the days that you are not working.

Taking up employment can affect each Jobseeker's payment differently, so please check the specific conditions attached to each Jobseeker's payment.

Working for any part of a day, even only for one hour, is counted as a day of employment. You must advise the Department of Social Protection of any work you intend to undertake while receiving a Jobseeker's payment.

Sunday is treated as a day of employment and considered when calculating the amount of any Jobseeker's payment you are to be paid.

If you take up part-time employment, you must continue to be available for and genuinely seeking full-time work to continue to qualify for a Jobseeker's payment.

If you accept part-time work and do not continue to genuinely seek work, or cannot provide evidence of your efforts to seek work, your claim for a Jobseeker's payment may be suspended or disallowed pending the provision of proof of your efforts to seek work.

Back to Work Family Dividend (BTWFD)

The Back to Work Family Dividend (BTWFD) scheme aims to help families to move from Social Welfare into employment.

It will give financial support to people with children who were getting a Jobseeker's or One-Parent Family Payment who give those payments up when taking up employment, or who become self-employed.

To qualify for Back to Work Family Dividend (BTWFD), you and your Spouse or Partner must sign off any qualifying Social Welfare payments.

You must be signing off your Social Welfare payment for one of the following reasons:

- Being in, or taking up employment, or
- Being in, or taking up self-employment. (*Back to Work Family Dividend **is not** paid together with Back to Work Enterprise Allowance.*)

The BTWFD can be paid along with certain other Social Welfare payments e.g. – Child Benefit and Working Family Payment (*is not considered as means in the income test for WFP*).

You will be paid the same amount of money for any Qualified Children that you were being paid for on your jobseeker or one-parent family payment (up to a maximum of 4 children) for the first year in employment. Half that amount will be paid weekly for the second year. You will be paid weekly by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT).

BTWFD will last for up to 2 years, if you remain in employment. If you, or your spouse or partner, claim a Social Welfare payment at any time within the 2-year period, the BTWFD payment will stop.

Working Family Payment (WFP)

The Working Family Payment (WFP) is a weekly tax-free payment available to employees with children, including one-parent families, at work on low pay.

To qualify for WFP, your average weekly family income must be below a certain amount for your family size – **see table below**. The payment you receive is 60% of the difference between your assessable average weekly family income and the income limit which applies to your family.

To qualify for Working Family Payment (WFP):

- You must be an employee, in paid employment, you cannot qualify if you are only self-employed.
- Have at least one qualified child who normally lives with you or is part of a family supported by you. A qualified child is any child under age 18 or aged 18 to 22 if in full-time education.
- Work 38 or more hours per fortnight (any combination of hours that reaches 38 hours each fortnight is acceptable). You can combine your weekly hours with your spouse's / partner's hours to meet this condition.
- Expect to be employed for at least three months.
- Satisfy an income test.

Family Size	2024 Income Limit €
1 Child	645.00 per week
2 Children	746.00 per week
3 Children	847.00 per week
4 Children	938.00 per week
5 Children	1,064.00 per week
6 Children	1,180.00 per week
7 Children	1,316.00 per week
8 Children or more	1,412.00 per week



For more information on these incentives please contact the INOU on 01 856 0088 or visit www.inou.ie



For more information on these incentives please contact the INOU on 01 856 0088 or visit www.inou.ie