
INFORMATION NOTE

Supplementary Note on Poverty Combating Strategies in Selected Places

1. Background

1.1 The Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty, at its meeting on 19 May 2005, requested the Research and Library Services Division to provide the following additional information regarding the research report entitled "Poverty Combating Strategies in Selected Places":

- (a) eligibility requirements for unemployment benefits in the United Kingdom (UK) and Ireland;
- (b) involvement of people with direct experience of poverty in formulating poverty reduction strategies in the UK and Ireland;
- (c) socio-economic conditions of Ireland amidst the implementation of poverty-reduction strategies;
- (d) active labour market programmes in the UK, Ireland and Hong Kong; and
- (e) public expenditure on the labour market programmes in the UK, Ireland and Hong Kong.

2. Eligibility requirements for unemployment benefits in the United Kingdom and Ireland

2.1 In the UK, people who are unemployed and are seeking work are eligible to claim Jobseeker's Allowance, an unemployment benefit covering the living expenses in periods when the recipients are out of work. Jobseeker's Allowance can be either contribution-based or income-based. In Ireland, unemployed people can apply for Unemployment Benefit or Unemployment Assistance, two unemployment benefits schemes designed to provide financial support for the recipients during periods of unemployment.

2.2 An overview of the unemployment benefits schemes in the UK and Ireland, including their eligibility requirements, is provided as follows:

Table 1 — Overview of the unemployment benefits schemes in the United Kingdom and Ireland

	The United Kingdom		Ireland	
	Contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance	Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance	Unemployment Benefit	Unemployment Assistance
Nature of the benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A social insurance scheme. • A weekly payment to unemployed people who have made a certain number of National Insurance contributions.⁽¹⁾ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A social assistance scheme. • A weekly payment to unemployed people who have no entitlement to the contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance or who cannot manage on that benefit alone.⁽²⁾ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A social insurance scheme. • A weekly payment to unemployed people who have made social security contributions for a prescribed number of periods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A social assistance scheme. • A weekly payment to unemployed people who do not qualify for Unemployment Benefit or who have exhausted their entitlement to that benefit.
Age limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged 18 or above, but under the pension age (65 for men and 60 for women). • Aged 16 or 17 may qualify under specified conditions. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged 16 or above, but under the pension age of 66. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged 18 or above, but under the pension age of 66.
Requirement for means test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No means test required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A means-tested benefit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No means test required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A means-tested benefit.

Notes: (1) National Insurance is a social insurance scheme, under which people become eligible for special social security benefits through contributions to the scheme made by themselves and by their employers.

(2) A recipient of contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance can also claim income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, provided that his or her income falls below the minimum level set by the government due to individual factors such as the presence of dependent children or special needs.

Table 1 — Overview of the unemployment benefits schemes in the United Kingdom and Ireland (cont'd)

	The United Kingdom		Ireland	
	Contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance	Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance	Unemployment Benefit	Unemployment Assistance
Amount of benefits payable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flat-rate payments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depending on age, household income and household composition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flat-rate payments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depending on household composition and means test.⁽³⁾ Two Unemployment Assistance rates: a short-term rate and a long-term rate (for people in receipt of unemployment payments for more than 15 months).
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly benefits up to a maximum of 6 months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paid as long as qualifying conditions are fulfilled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly benefits up to a maximum of 15 months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paid as long as qualifying conditions are fulfilled.
Employment conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployed for at least 3 days in any period of 6 consecutive days. 	
Availability for work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A benefit recipient must be available for work for at least 40 hours a week. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A benefit recipient must be available for work in respect of each day he/she is claiming Unemployment Benefit/Assistance. 	

Note: (3) Means include any income, pension, savings or property (except for own residence) which a benefit recipient or his/her spouse may have. A reduced payment is made when the recipient has means.

Table 1 — Overview of the unemployment benefits schemes in the United Kingdom and Ireland (cont'd)

	The United Kingdom		Ireland	
	Contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance	Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance	Unemployment Benefit	Unemployment Assistance
Attitude in seeking work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A benefit recipient must be actively seeking employment by taking steps, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - preparing a curriculum vitae; - applying for job vacancies; - getting advice about available jobs; and - registering with the public and private employment agencies. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A benefit recipient must be actively seeking work by taking steps, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - making oral or written application for jobs; - looking for job vacancies; - availing himself/herself of training opportunities provided; and - registering with the public and private employment agencies. 	
Disqualification from the benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unemployed people may have their Jobseeker's Allowance withheld or reduced under certain conditions, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - refusal of suitable job or training opportunity without good cause; - not actively seeking work; or - losing their jobs voluntarily or through misconduct. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unemployed people may be disqualified from the Unemployment Benefit/Assistance for up to 9 weeks under certain conditions, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - refusal of employment or training opportunity without good cause; - loss of unemployment through misconduct; or - voluntarily leaving their jobs without good cause. 	

3. Involvement of people with direct experience of poverty in formulating poverty reduction strategies in the United Kingdom and Ireland

3.1 In the UK, the Department for Work and Pensions has established the Participation Working Group with the aim of feeding the views of those experiencing poverty into the preparation of the National Action Plan on Social Inclusion (NAP). Similarly, Ireland convenes the Social Inclusion Forum once a year as a vehicle to promote and encourage the participation of people suffering from poverty in monitoring the progress of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy. An overview of these two platforms is presented as follows:

Table 2 — Overview of the Participation Working Group and the Social Inclusion Forum

Participation Working Group	
Year of establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in 2003.
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chaired by a senior officer of the Department for Work and Pensions, and comprising grassroots participants and representatives from organizations in the voluntary and community sector engaging in poverty reduction.
Operating plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of the "Participation Working Group Plan" in 2003 which sets out, among other things, the aim of the Participation Working Group, guiding principles for public participation in NAP, and indicators reflecting the success in fostering public participation in NAP.
Aim of the Participation Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable people in poverty to participate in the development of the 2006 NAP and beyond by establishing a real partnership between people living in poverty and the government authorities at all levels in order to improve the anti-poverty policies and practices described in NAP.

Table 2 — Overview of the Participation Working Group and the Social Inclusion Forum (cont'd)

Participation Working Group (cont'd)	
Guiding principles for public participation in NAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guiding principles set out in the "Participation Working Group Plan" include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – establishing a framework for participation with a sense of direction and purpose which builds on and improves ongoing public participation activities in the local, regional and national levels; – reaching out to groups and individuals living in poverty who are hard to reach and under-represented; – finding ways of establishing dialogue with people with direct experience of poverty; – working with the authorities at all levels of the government in such a way that adds real value rather than establishing parallel and duplicative processes; and – using a range of participatory techniques for involving people in NAP.
Indicators reflecting the success in fostering public participation in NAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indicators set out in the "Participation Working Group Plan" include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – greater public awareness of NAP; – NAP reflecting better evidence of real experience of poverty; – more dialogue between people and government; – NAP that is relevant and meaningful for people; – accessible public materials in a variety of media; – better understanding of the complexities of poverty and the interconnectedness of problems; – better understanding that there are many different experiences of poverty, including gender, age, ethnicity, health, etc; and – better analysis of poverty from grassroots perspectives.

Table 2 — Overview of the Participation Working Group and the Social Inclusion Forum (cont'd)

Social Inclusion Forum	
Year of establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaugural meeting held in January 2003.
Objective of the Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide an avenue for the Irish government to consult with all relevant stakeholders, including people experiencing poverty and the groups that represent them, in the implementation and review of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy.
Agenda of the Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, the Forum discusses the causes of poverty and social exclusion, the effectiveness of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy, and the requirement for any further action and extra resources to tackle poverty.
Follow-up to the Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report on the proceedings is sent to the parliament, all government ministers, and the government authorities established specifically for tackling poverty, which include the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion, the Senior Officials Group, the Office for Social Inclusion, and the Social Inclusion Units set up in key government departments.
Forum convenor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) is responsible for convening the Social Inclusion Forum once a year.
Membership of NESF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NESF is a representative body of the social partners, including members of the parliament, the voluntary and community sector, and employer, trade union and farmer organizations. • Chairperson and deputy chairperson of NESF are appointed by the Irish government.
Mission of NESF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To monitor and analyze the implementation of specific measures and programmes related to the achievement of greater equality and social inclusion; and • To facilitate public consultation on policy matters referred to NESF by the Irish government from time to time.

4. Socio-economic conditions of Ireland

4.1 The country profile of Ireland is described in the following table:

Table 3 — Socio-economic conditions of Ireland

Socio-economic conditions	
Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A population of 4.04 million in 2004 (male: 2.01 million, female: 2.03 million). • Population growth rate: 12.3% during 1995-2004, the second highest in the European Union (EU). • Age structure (2004): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – under 15: 21% – 15-64: 68% – 65 and above: 11%. • Total fertility rate (births per female): 1.98 in 2003, the highest in the EU.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proportion of people aged 25-34 with third-level education⁽⁴⁾ rose from 27.1% in 1999 to 39.4% in 2004, compared with the average 2004 figure of 24.8% in the EU. • Proportion of people with upper secondary education and above by age group (2004): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 20-24: 86.2% – 25-34: 80.1% – 35-44: 68.9% – 45-54: 54.4% – 55-64: 40.2%.

Note: (4) The education system in Ireland is divided into three basic levels: primary level (eight years), secondary level (five to six years), and third level (including degree courses and vocational/technical training). Secondary level education consists of a three-year junior level (lower secondary), followed by a two- or three-year senior level (upper secondary).

Table 3 — Socio-economic conditions of Ireland (cont'd)

Socio-economic conditions (cont'd)	
Education (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ireland's private and public spending on higher education increased by an average annual rate of over 10% during 1995-2004, compared with averages of around 3% in the EU and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). ● Increase in real expenditure per student during 1998-2003: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - primary level: 42.6% - secondary level: 38.1% - third level: 5.2%.
Economic structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Composition of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by sector (2002): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agriculture: 5% - industry: 46% - services: 49%.
Economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Irish economy grew markedly in the mid-1990s, with an average annual rate of 9.7% during 1994-1999. The remarkable performance was driven by a pro-active industrial policy that boosted large-scale foreign direct investment and exports. The Irish economy sustained its growth momentum at an average annual rate of 5% during 2000-2004 after the rapid growth in the preceding years. ● In 2003, Ireland had the second highest GDP per capita, expressed in terms of purchasing power standards, within the EU.
Labour market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Labour force: 1.88 million in 2003 (employed: 1.8 million, unemployed: 82,000). ● Labour force by broad economic sector (2003): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agriculture: 6.5% - industry: 27.7% - services: 65.8%. ● The unemployment rate in Ireland has been on the decline since 1994. It fell from 14.3% in 1994 to 4.4% in 2004, which was the second lowest among all EU countries.

Table 3 — Socio-economic conditions of Ireland (cont'd)

Foreign direct investment	
Foreign direct investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign direct investment accounted for 17.7% of Ireland's GDP in 2003. Apart from Luxembourg, this rate of investment was higher than those in any of the other EU countries. Over 1 050 overseas companies have chosen Ireland as their European base. They are involved in a wide range of activities as diverse as pharmaceuticals, medical technologies, information communications technologies and financial services.
Factors attracting foreign direct investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A combination of factors contributing to increased inflows of foreign investment into Ireland, including favourable tax regime, EU membership, young and skilled workforce, and large-scale infrastructure developments.
<i>Favourable tax regime</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ireland's corporation tax rate, at 12.5%, is among the lowest in Europe. A 20% tax credit against corporation tax liability is available for qualifying expenditure on research and development activities.
<i>EU membership</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to the large EU market through Ireland's EU membership.
<i>Young and skilled workforce</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ireland has the youngest population in Europe with about 40% of its people aged below 25. The number of science and technology graduates per 1 000 people in the 20-29 age group in 2003: Ireland (23.2) vs. France (19.6), the UK (16.2), the United States (10.2) and Germany (8.2). In 2004, 39.4% of the population aged 25-34 in Ireland had third-level education, compared with 24.8% in the EU. Productivity in Ireland, as measured by GDP per person employed, was the third highest in the EU in 2003. This relatively high productivity is believed to help sustain Ireland's cost competitiveness amid increasing inflationary pressure in recent years.
<i>Large-scale infrastructure developments</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An ambitious government plan – the National Development Plan – involves an investment of over €7 billion (HK\$552 billion)⁽⁵⁾ during 2000-2006 in projects which aim at, among other things, improving infrastructure facilities in Ireland.

Note: (5) The calculation was based on the average exchange rate of HK\$9.69 per Euro in 2004.

5. Active labour market programmes in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Hong Kong

5.1 The UK, Ireland and Hong Kong have implemented active labour market programmes to "make work possible", "make work pay" and "make work skilled". These programmes are summarized in the table below:

Table 4 — Programmes for "making work possible", "making work pay" and "making work skilled" in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Hong Kong

	The United Kingdom	Ireland	Hong Kong
Making work possible			
Welfare-to-work policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Deal programmes to help unemployed young people, long-term unemployed and single parents back to work via one-to-one support, improved access to basic skill training and other specialized support. • Jobcentre Plus to provide integrated services of finding jobs and paying benefits to working-age unemployment benefit recipients. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Intervention Process to prevent unemployed people from drifting to long-term unemployment with provision of work-focused support at the early stage of unemployment. • Social Economy Programme to provide technical and financial support to social economy enterprises which generate employment opportunities for long-term unemployed and/or other disadvantaged groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Self-reliance Scheme and Intensive Employment Assistance Projects to provide active employment assistance for able-bodied recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance to seek gainful jobs.
Provision of subsidized employment/training opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidized employment provided to unemployed young people and long-term unemployed for up to 12 and 6 months respectively under the New Deal programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidized employment provided to long-term unemployed for up to 3 years under the Community Employment Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidized employment provided to unemployed people aged 40 or above for up to 3 months under the Employment Programme for the Middle-aged. • Subsidized on-the-job training provided to young people for up to 12 months under the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme.

Table 4 — Programmes for "making work possible", "making work pay" and "making work skilled" in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Hong Kong (cont'd)

	The United Kingdom	Ireland	Hong Kong
Making work possible (cont'd)			
Provision of affordable childcare services for working parents	Applicable to all		
Helping working parents balance their work and family life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • A national campaign to promote flexible working practice. • A flexible working law to give working parents the legal right to request for a flexible working environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • A national campaign to promote flexible working practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
Making work pay			
National minimum wage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, introduced in April 1999 to guarantee a minimum income for those on low earnings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, introduced in April 2000 to guarantee a minimum income for those on low earnings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil

Table 4 — Programmes for "making work possible", "making work pay" and "making work skilled" in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Hong Kong (cont'd)

	The United Kingdom	Ireland	Hong Kong
Making work pay (cont'd)			
In-work benefit to boost financial incentives to work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Tax Credit to top up earnings of low-income households working more than 16 hours a week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income disregards to facilitate benefit recipients to take up jobs and become integrated into employment. Family Income Supplement to provide weekly payments for low-income working families with children. Back-to-Work Allowance to encourage long-term welfare dependents to take up employment opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income disregards to facilitate benefit recipients to take up jobs and become integrated into employment.
Making work skilled			
Major employment, training and education programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Deal programmes to provide basic skill training for different social groups. A national strategy – "Skill for Life" – to improve the literacy, language and numeracy skills of people aged 16 and above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Back-to-Education Initiative to provide a range of training and education options for people with little schooling and those in the workforce who wish to upgrade their skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Yi Jin, Youth Pre-employment Training Programme, Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme, and Youth Self-employment Support Scheme to enhance the competitiveness and employability of young people.⁽⁶⁾ Training programmes run by the Vocational Training Council and Employees Retraining Board to facilitate entry/re-entry into the labour market.

Note: (6) See Legislative Council Secretariat (2005) for details of these training programmes.

6. Public expenditure on the labour market programmes in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Hong Kong

6.1 According to the OECD (2005), the UK spent 0.89% of its GDP on the labour market programmes during the financial year 2003-04. For Ireland, the corresponding percentage share reached 2.07% in 2003. In absolute terms, the UK spent £9.9 billion (HK\$141.3 billion)⁽⁷⁾ on the labour market programmes in the fiscal year 2003-04, when the nominal GDP amounted to £1,116 billion (HK\$15,925 billion). Ireland spent €2.8 billion (HK\$27.1 billion) in 2003, when the nominal GDP totalled €135 billion (HK\$1,308 billion).

6.2 The respective percentage shares in GDP for various labour market programmes in the UK and Ireland are shown in the table below:

Table 5 — Public expenditure on the labour market programmes as a percentage of GDP in the United Kingdom and Ireland

Programme categories and sub-categories	The United Kingdom	Ireland
	2003-04	2003
1. Public employment services and administration	0.34%	0.60%
<i>of which:</i> (a) Placement and related services	0.14%	0.04%
(b) Benefit administration	0.15%	—
2. Training	0.14%	0.19%
(a) Institutional training	0.01%	0.16%
(b) Workplace training	0.03%	—
(c) Integrated training	—	0.03%
(d) Special support for apprenticeship	0.10%	—
3. Employment incentives	—	0.07%
(a) Recruitment incentives	—	0.07%
(b) Employment maintenance incentives	—	—

Note: (7) The calculation was based on the average exchange rate of HK\$14.27 per British pound in 2004.

Table 5 — Public expenditure on the labour market programmes as a percentage of GDP in the United Kingdom and Ireland (cont'd)

Programme categories and sub-categories	The United Kingdom	Ireland
	2003-04	2003
4. Integration of the disabled	0.03%	0.04%
(a) Regular employment	0.01%	0.03%
(b) Sheltered employment	0.02%	0.01%
(c) Other rehabilitation and training	—	—
5. Direct job creation	0.01%	0.26%
6. Start-up incentives	—	—
7. Out-of-work income maintenance and support	0.37%	0.84%
(a) Full unemployment benefits	0.35%	0.77%
<i>of which:</i> Unemployment insurance	—	0.35%
(b) Partial and part-time unemployment benefits	—	—
(c) Redundancy and bankruptcy compensation	0.02%	0.07%
8. Early retirement⁽⁸⁾	—	0.07%
Total	0.89%	2.07%
Active measures (1-6)	0.52%	1.16%
Passive measures (7 and 8)	0.37%	0.91%

Note: (8) Expenditure related to "early retirement" refers to the periodic payments to older workers who retire before reaching standard retirement age due to unemployment or job reduction caused by economic changes such as the restructuring of an industrial sector or a business enterprise.

6.3 According to the Commission on Poverty (2005), the Government spent HK\$4,721 million or 0.37% of GDP in 2004 on services and programmes which facilitated employment and assisted the unemployed back to work.⁽⁹⁾ The expenditure incurred by these services/programmes is presented as follows:

Table 6 — Public expenditure on employment services and programmes in Hong Kong (2004)

Service/programme	Nature of the service/programme	Total expenditure (HK\$ million)
Training/re-training		
Vocational Training Council	C/T/E ⁽¹⁰⁾	1,957 ⁽¹¹⁾
Project Yi Jin	T	60 ⁽¹²⁾
Employees Retraining Board	C/T/E	379 ⁽¹³⁾
Continuing Education Fund	T	880 ⁽¹⁴⁾
Skills Upgrading Scheme	T	32
<i>Total</i>		3,308
Employment services		
Employment services	C/E	95 ⁽¹⁵⁾
<i>Total</i>		95

Notes: (9) The figure does not take into account the public expenditure spent through subvented non-governmental organizations which also provide employment assistance in various forms.

(10) Some employment services/programmes offer a combination of counselling/soft skills (C), training (T) and job searching/matching and other employment assistance (E) to the participants.

(11) This figure comprises HK\$1.8548 billion subvention from the Education and Manpower Bureau, and HK\$102.1 million from the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau for the provision of vocational training for people with disabilities in financial year 2004-05.

(12) HK\$60 million represents the estimated expenditure for academic year 2004-05.

(13) The figure is for financial year 2004-05.

(14) The Continuing Educational Fund was launched in 2002 with a one-off provision of HK\$5 billion.

(15) The figure is for financial year 2004-05.

Table 6 — Public expenditure on employment services and programmes in Hong Kong (2004) (cont'd)

Service/programme	Nature of the service/programme	Total expenditure (HK\$ million)
Employment programmes		
Youth Pre-employment Training Programme	C/T	77 ⁽¹⁶⁾
Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme	C/T/E	141 ⁽¹⁶⁾
Youth Self-employment Support Scheme	C/T/E	30 ⁽¹⁷⁾
Employment Programme for the Middle-aged	E	5 ⁽¹⁸⁾
Special Incentive Allowance Scheme for Local Domestic Helpers	E	60
Work Trial Scheme	C/T/E	9 ⁽¹⁹⁾
Work Orientation and Placement Scheme for the disabled	C/T/E	8 ⁽²⁰⁾
<i>Total</i>		330
Direct employment schemes		
Temporary jobs in the public sector	T	884
<i>Total</i>		884
Support for Self-reliance Scheme		
Support for Self-reliance Scheme	E	68
Intensive Employment Assistance Projects	C/T/E	35
<i>Total</i>		103
Total (all services and programmes)		4,721

Notes: (16) The figures are for the 2003-04 programme year only, as the 2004-05 programme year for the Youth Pre-employment and Training Programme and the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme will end in October and August 2005 respectively.

(17) Straddling the 2004-05 and 2005-06 financial years.

(18) The figure is for financial year 2004-05.

(19) The Work Trial Scheme was introduced in June 2005 to enhance the employability of 2 000 jobseekers who have special difficulties in finding jobs. Since the scheme is a new initiative, the expenditure figure represents an estimate only.

(20) The Work Orientation and Placement Scheme was launched in April 2005. It provides a short pre-employment training programme for 1 000 disabled job-seekers. Since the scheme is a new initiative, the expenditure figure represents an estimate only.

References

1. Census Statistics Office Ireland. (2005a) *Measuring Ireland's Progress 2004*. Available from: http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/other_releases/2004/progress/measuringirelandsprogress.pdf [Accessed 18 July 2005].
2. Census Statistics Office Ireland. (2005b) *Statistical Yearbook of Ireland 2004*. Available from: http://www.cso.ie/releasespublications/statistical_yearbook_ireland_2004.htm [Accessed 18 July 2005].
3. Central Intelligence Agency. (2004) *The World Factbook 2004*. Available from: <http://www.geoplance.com/hottopics/CIAwfb/factbook/geos/ei.html> [Accessed 18 July 2005].
4. Commission on Poverty. (2005) *Assisting the Unemployed: Welfare-to-Work*. Available from: [http://www.cop.gov.hk/eng/pdf/CoP%20Paper%2019.2005\(e\).pdf](http://www.cop.gov.hk/eng/pdf/CoP%20Paper%2019.2005(e).pdf) [Accessed 18 July 2005].
5. Department for Work and Pensions. (2003) *Annex to the United Kingdom National Action Plan on Social Inclusion 2003-05*. Available from: http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/social_inclusion/docs/napincl_uk_annex.pdf [Accessed 18 July 2005].
6. *Department for Works and Pension*. (2005) Available from: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/> [Accessed 18 July 2005].
7. Department for Works and Pension. (2005b) *Jobseeker's Allowance: Background*. Available from <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/jsa/JobSeekersAllowance.pdf> [Accessed 18 July 2005].
8. *Department of Social and Family Affairs*. (2005) Available from: <http://www.welfare.ie/> [Accessed 18 July 2005].
9. IDA Ireland. (2005) *Ireland – Vital Statistics May 2005*. Available from: http://www.idaireland.com/uploads/documents/IDA_Publications/Vital_Statistics_May_2005.pdf [Accessed 18 July 2005].
10. Jones, K. (2003) *Unemployment Benefits in the United Kingdom: Summary*. Available from: http://www.kli.re.kr/20_english/03_public/file/Unemployment%20benefits%20UK-1.pdf [Accessed 18 July 2005].

-
11. Legislative Council Secretariat. (2002) *Research Report on Unemployment-Related Benefits System in the United Kingdom*. LC Paper No. RP15/99-00.
 12. Legislative Council Secretariat. (2005) *Information Note on Government's Training Programmes for the Youth*. LC Paper No. IN04/04-05.
 13. *National Economic and Social Forum*. (2005) Available from: <http://www.nesf.ie/> [Accessed 18 July 2005].
 14. National Statistics Online. *National Accounts Quarterly First Release – Q4 2004*. Available from: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/qna0305.pdf> [Accessed 18 July 2005].
 15. OECD. (2004a) *Benefits and Wages Country Chapter: Ireland, 2002*. Available from: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/3/40/34004710.pdf> [Accessed 18 July 2005].
 16. OECD. (2004b) *Benefits and Wages Country Chapter: United Kingdom, 2002*. Available from: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/4/7/34005708.pdf> [Accessed 18 July 2005].
 17. OECD. (2005) *OECD Employment Outlook*. Paris.
 18. *Online Access to Services, Information and Support*. (2005) Available from: <http://www.oasis.gov.ie/> [Accessed 18 July 2005].
 19. Social Security Online. (2005) *Social Security Programs Throughout the World*. Available from: <http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssptw/> [Accessed 18 July 2005].

Prepared by Michael YU
18 July 2005
Tel: 2869 9695

Information notes are compiled for Members and Committees of the Legislative Council. They are not legal or other professional advice and shall not be relied on as such. Information notes are subject to copyright owned by the Legislative Council Commission (the Commission). The Commission permits accurate reproduction of the information notes for non-commercial use in a manner not adversely affecting the Legislative Council, provided that acknowledgement is made stating the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat as the source and one copy of the reproduction is sent to the Legislative Council Library.
