



# Back to Work Family Dividend

## What is the Back to Work Family Dividend scheme?

Budget 2015 announced the Back to Work Family Dividend (BTWFD) scheme which provides financial support to Jobseeker and One-Parent Family Payment (OFP) recipients with children who end their claim and who are in or take up employment or self-employment. If you meet the eligibility criteria of the scheme, you will be entitled to a weekly payment for up to 2 years following the ending of your social welfare claim.

The BTWFD scheme opened on **5th January 2015**. All eligible claims will be backdated where the date of application is between January and April 2015.

## Am I eligible for this scheme?

**1) You may be eligible for the scheme if you are aged under 66, have qualified child(ren) and are on one of the following payments:**

- Jobseeker's Benefit or Allowance for at least 12 months in total (and at least 6 months in the last year),
- One-Parent Family Payment,  
or
- Jobseeker's Transition Payment (for customers parenting alone with children aged between 7 and 13 inclusive).

### Note

**You can combine time spent on education, training, supported employment or work placement programmes with time on a Jobseeker's payment to meet the eligibility requirements. If you are already on such a programme having come to it from either a Jobseeker's or One-Parent Family payment, you may qualify for the dividend scheme without having to sign back onto your original welfare payment.**

**2) Your family must exit welfare (other than Family Income Supplement (FIS) and Child Benefit) for one of the following reasons:**

- Being in or taking up employment,  
or
- Being in or taking up self-employment.

**3) Eligibility for former recipients of One-Parent Family Payment (OFP):**

You may be eligible for the scheme if you were a recipient of One-Parent Family Payment (OFP) on or after January 5th 2015 and are working. You may be eligible if you do not claim another primary welfare payment (except FIS and Child Benefit).

### Note

**FIS is a means tested payment and is only payable where a person works 19 hours or more per week. BTWFD can be paid with FIS and does not impact on the FIS means test.**

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For more information:

- Log on to [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie).
- Telephone: (071) 919 3302  
LoCall: 1890 66 22 44  
If you are calling from outside the Republic of Ireland please call + 353 71 91 93302.
- Drop in to your local Citizens Information Centre, your local Intreo Centre or your local Social Welfare Office.

## How will I be paid?

The BTWFD will be paid weekly by EFT based on the Qualified Child standard rate of €29.80 subject to a ceiling of €119.20 per week.

## How long will the payment last?

The BTWFD will last for up to 2 years, provided you remain in employment. If you return to claim a welfare payment at any time within the two year period, the BTWFD payment will cease. If you lose your job and come back to welfare the dividend stops but it may restart if you get a new job – to a maximum of 2 restarts per claim.

Your rate of payment will halve in year 2.

## If I think I meet the conditions, where can I find out more information and how do I apply?

If you want to find out more about BTWFD, you should contact your local Intreo Centre or your local Social Welfare Office. They will explain how the application process works and give you the application form. The application form is also available to download from [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie).

### Note

The rates charged for using 1890 (LoCall) numbers may vary among different service providers.

**This leaflet is intended as a guide only and is not a legal interpretation.**