



Circular 0046/2012

To: The Chief Executive Officers of Vocational Education Committees

Implementation of Budget 2013 in respect of the Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) programme, the Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) and Youthreach

1. Budget 2013 provides for changes in the allowances to be paid to new entrants in Youthreach and VTOS from 1 January 2013. It also provides for a reduction of 2% in non-pay capitation rates for all Further Education programmes, as part of the implementation of Budget 2012. Details are set out below and this Circular is available on the Department's website.

VTOS

2. VTOS participants who are in receipt of a reduced rate of Jobseekers' Assistance (JA) are currently "maxed up" to a weekly allowance of €188.
3. As part of Budget 2013, from 1 January 2013 new entrants who are in receipt of a reduced rate of JA and who are over 25 will not be "maxed up". They will remain on their existing rate of payment.
4. New entrants who are in receipt of a reduced rate of JA and who are under 25 will be paid a new maximum rate of €160 per week.

Youthreach

5. Youthreach participants who are over 18 years of age are currently entitled to a weekly training allowance of €188 per week.
6. As part of Budget 2013, from 1 January 2013, the weekly rate will be reduced to €160 for new entrants.
7. Youthreach participants aged 16/17 will continue to be eligible for a weekly payment of €40. A Youthreach participant who turns 18 after 1 January 2013 will be entitled to the new €160 weekly rate.

No changes to other allowances

8. The rates of meal, travel and accommodation allowances and the long term unemployed bonus payment remain unchanged.

New Capitation rates

9. The new rates are set out below and will apply from 1 January 2013.

Programme	New Rate €
Youthreach non pay grant per group of 25	49,341
VTOS (Core) non pay grant per group of 20	20,620
VTOS (Dispersed) non pay grant	687
PLC enhanced capitation – Standard rate	169
PLC enhanced capitation – Equestrian rate	716

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