I am directed by the Minister for Finance to refer to the letter of 31 July 1997 to all Personnel Officers from Mr. Paul Byrne regarding the promulgation of information on deduction at source facilities and notification of third party services.

After consultation with the Data Protection Office, I wish to inform you that the provisions of the letter of 31 July 1997 do not apply to such organisations which have a clear link with the Civil Service. Accordingly, in view of the long-standing associations of the Third World Fund, the Public Service Friendly Society and the Retired Civil and Public Servants Association with the civil service, the circulation of appropriate material on behalf of these organisations is not considered to be in contravention of the Data Protection Act. Furthermore, given the nature and purpose of these organisations, it is not envisaged that any ethical difficulties for the civil service would arise from the circulation of such appropriate material.

Where convenient, the above mentioned organisations should be facilitated should they wish to distribute appropriate material in salary envelopes or through any other suitable media.

Yours sincerely

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Ken Spratt
Personnel and Remuneration Division