

Dear Oireachtas member,

Our members working in Local Employment Services and Job Clubs have provided a top-quality service for over 25 years to some of the most marginalised people in our society, helping them to achieve meaningful employment. The Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys, has decided to cease the service which our members provide. These services have been reconfigured and put out to tender.

Fórsa and SIPTU, over the last year, lobbied politicians of every party to pause this tendering process and to establish a stakeholder forum, comprised of all relevant parties, in order to agree the best way forward. Regrettably, Minister Humphreys has steadfastly refused to meet with the unions despite numerous requests and she has also refused to establish a stakeholder forum.

We acknowledge that there has been considerable changes to the current tendering process in comparison to the initial Request for Tender 1. However, some of our members will inevitably lose their jobs as a result of this current tendering process, Request For Tender 2. We believe that Minister Humphreys and her department officials need to take responsibility for the consequences of their actions.

The unions are seeking a fair redundancy package for our members who will be made redundant as a result of this process. This will necessitate Government ensuring that the existing community-based organisations providing this service are resourced with the means to provide a fair severance package in line with the established practice in the sector.

We, accordingly, are looking for your support. We are asking that you contact Minister Humphreys to ensure that our members, who lose their jobs as a result of this tendering process, secure a fair severance package.

Yours ETC,

[NAME]

[NAME OF EMPLOYMENT/ROLE]

Member of Fórsa trade union