

## STATEMENT FROM ALONE REGARDING BIN WAIVERS FROM GREYHOUND WASTE

Bin charge waivers will not be honoured next year – company has called on the Minister for Social Protection to subsidise the waiver

Charity calls on all parties involved to act urgently to ensure continuation of bin charge waivers for older people

Dublin, February 29, 2012 ALONE, the charity which provides supports to older people in need of assistance has called on all parties involved in the bin waiver dispute, including Greyhound Waste, Dublin city and county councils, and the government to come to an arrangement to ensure that the bin waiver system for older people in need continues beyond the end of this year, when the waivers are due to stop being honoured by Greyhound Waste.

Seán Moynihan, CEO of ALONE called on all parties involved to address this issue immediately. He said “We support those who are calling for a national waiver system. This system could be fair and transparent and targetted at relieving those most in need who in practical terms actually produce marginal quantities of waste.”

ALONE considers the imminent situation of waivers not being honoured as unfair and unreasonable, with this being potentially yet another tax on those who are least able to pay additional costs.

Moynihan said, "The stress and worry for older people is being exacerbated by poor communications with a tit-for-tat debate being carried on in the media. We urge all involved to meet to resolve this issue as a matter of urgency."

"Loss of the bin charge waiver will have a serious impact on older people who are already in need and will leave them liable for further charges in the future. With other charges, rising fuel prices and cuts to entitlements, new bin charges will further erode the ability of many to live on the basic state pension and force them into hardship. At ALONE we have direct experience of how people are already struggling with increasing numbers of older people contacting us for support and advice. Calls to ALONE rose by 50% in 2011, marking a 125% rise in numbers of calls we received in the last two years."

He continued, “We simply cannot have a situation where additional charges are levied on those who are already struggling to make ends meet. The confusion needs to be cleared up immediately, and someone needs to take responsibility for this major issue. The lack of clarity about the situation is causing concern to many.”

Older people who are concerned about these issues or in need of assistance can contact ALONE on (01) 679 1032. The charity has a small, dedicated staff, and 150 volunteers working with older people in need of assistance on a daily basis.

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