

# DSBA Present Charity Cheque to Dublin Lord Mayor



DSBA President Áine Hynes recently met with the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Brendan Carr at the Mansion House and presented him with a cheque for the Mansion House Fuel Fund.

The Mansion House Fuel Fund was set up by Sir John Arnott in 1891. It was originally set

up to assist the needy during the cold winter. The fund distributes cash grants through a number of charitable societies without any distinction of creed. It was one of the first truly ecumenical charities in Dublin. Some of the charities whom the Mansion House

Fuel Fund assists during the winter months include the Dublin Simon Community, St. Vincent De Paul, Abbey Presbyterian Church Hamper Fund and St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Jobstown, Tallaght.

## Civil Liability (Amendment) Bill 2017

One of the main provisions of the bill is to provide for periodic payment orders to be paid to individuals who have suffered a catastrophic injury.

Section 5 of the bill proposes that sections 89 B and 100 Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 be amended so as to exempt such payments from income tax.

When we saw this bill we wrote to the Minister for Justice and Equality raising concerns that the bill, as initiated did not propose to exempt periodic payment orders from Universal Social Charge (USC) and any future social welfare charges. In the past we have had income levies under the Social Welfare Consolidation Act.

The Minister for Justice and Equality wrote to my office on March 3rd to confirm she is referring the matter to the Department of Social Protection. At the same time it has been noted that the Department recognises this particular defect and the bill will be amended so that these periodic payment orders will be exempted from USC and social welfare.

This will mean that the Social Welfare Consolidation Act will need to be amended.

We are delighted that the Minister accepted our submissions. Effectively this is a win-win for everybody. It does mean that the monies payable to a person who has suffered catastrophic injuries and who

is receiving a periodic payment order will now be exempt from social welfare going forward. This is a benefit to that individual. It is also a benefit to insurance companies in that they will not need to fund for USC. The whole area of taxation and social welfare can be a minefield. It is very easy for these issues to slip through the net. It is always much easier to get a bill amended than to get an act amended.

I would like to thank the Minister for being prepared to accept submissions on technical issues such as this and being prepared to act on same quickly.

*Richard Grogan*