1. **Context**

At the end of June 2014 there were 4,324 residents living in 34 Direct Provision Centres throughout Ireland. There has been some controversy publicly about the membership of the Working Group and the need to ensure stronger representation of asylum seekers. Thus, for the legitimacy of the Working Group, it is critical that the voices of Direct Provision residents are heard and inform recommendations for change in the protection process and improvements in Direct Provision conditions and supports.

As the Draft Working Method noted:

> Plenary also to consider at an early date how the views of applicants can be heard. While their views will be reflected by the members of the Group, in particular the representative bodies, it is desirable that a means be found to hear from them directly.

At the first plenary of the Working Group on the Protection Process session it was proposed that there would be some combination of:

(a) Visits to centres  
(b) Written submissions  
(c) Oral submissions.

2. **Proposal for Consultation Process**

In looking at the process of consultation, the key challenge would appear to be selection criteria for centres to visits and selection process for individuals to make oral submissions. Secondly there is the issue of time; the consultation process with residents needs to be concluded in a timely manner to ensure that it informs Working Group (including Sub-Group) considerations.

An inclusive consultation process might include the following stages:

1. **Written Submissions:**
   Invitation to resident committees or representative groups in all Direct Provision centres (and to other local groups or organisations, who work with and support residents) to make a written submission to the Working Group within 3 weeks, to be received by Friday 12 December 2014.
Focus on four main questions:

a. What are the main challenges for residents in Direct Provision?

b. How can living conditions and quality of life in Direct Provision system be improved?

c. Suggest improvements to supports provided to people in the protection process, both inside and outside Direct Provision system.

d. How have applicants experienced the asylum system? How could the process be improved?

2. **Direct Consultation with Residents:**

An inclusive consultation process would offer the opportunity for all centres to input. Thus, rather than visits to centres I am proposing that there would be 4 Regional Meetings based on the European Electoral Areas (more or less Munster, Leinster, Connaught/Ulster and Dublin).

A proposal is to invite 1 representative from each of the 14 centres with capacity < 100, 2 representatives from the 8 centres with capacity > 100 and < 200, 3 representatives from the 10 centres with capacity >= 200 and <= 300 and 4 representatives from the centre with capacity > 300.

In total this would lead to 64 residents representatives identified nationally. These residents should include representatives of Single Males, Single Females, Couples, Two Parent Families and Single Parent Families.

The meetings could be hosted in the most central location e.g. Dublin, Cork, Galway and Navan. Travel expenses to meetings would be covered.

Centres could be offered two weeks to nominate representatives, no later than Friday 5 December 2014. Residents could be assisted in this process by the IRC Core Group of Asylum Seekers and other asylum support organisations working on the ground.

The meetings could take place in the week 8-12 December 2014. As many Working Group members as possible would be in attendance at consultation meetings but there should be 5 members at a minimum. The sessions would be minuted and address similar questions to those that form the basis for written submission. Consulting with vulnerable groups such as children or protection applicants who were the victims of torture or sexual violence would require tailored consultation processes.

Also, it should be noted that this proposed consultation process would be separate to the visits to centres by individual Working Group members.

3. **Oral Submissions:**

A second outcome from these regional consultations would be to select a regional representative to make an oral submission to the Working Group. Thus 4 regional representatives could be invited to present to the plenary session meeting scheduled for 22 December 2014.
Appendix 1 – Breakdown of Direct Provision Centres by Capacity

As at 30 June 2014, 11 centres have a residential capacity of 200 or more.

**Table 1: Direct Provision Centre (Capacity > 200 persons)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Occupancy</th>
<th>Resident Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meath</td>
<td>Mosney</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>Families/Couples/Single F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westmeath</td>
<td>Athlone</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cork</td>
<td>Kinsale Rd</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>Families/ Singles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>Balseskin (R)</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>Families/Couples/Singles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayo</td>
<td>Ballyhaunis</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>Families/Couples/Single M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sligo</td>
<td>Globe House</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>Families/ Couples/ Singles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clare</td>
<td>Knockalisheen</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>Families/ Singles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>The Towers</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>Families/ Single F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monaghan</td>
<td>St Patricks</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>Families/ Single M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galway</td>
<td>Eglinton</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>Families/ Single F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cork</td>
<td>Millstreet</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>Families/ Single F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8 centres have a residential capacity of more than 100 but less than 200 persons.

**Table 2: Direct Provision Centre (Capacity > 100 and < 200 persons)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Occupancy</th>
<th>Resident Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>Hatch Hall</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>Families/Couples/Singles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laois</td>
<td>Montague</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>Families/ Couples/ Singles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galway</td>
<td>Great Western</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>Families/ Single F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterford</td>
<td>Birchwood</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>Families/ Singles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limerick</td>
<td>Hanratty's</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>Singles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>Georgian Court</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Families/ Couples/ Single F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cork</td>
<td>Clonakilty</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>Families/ Couples/ Singles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cork</td>
<td>Glenvera</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>Couples/ Singles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15 centres have a residential capacity of less than 100 persons.

**Table 3: Direct Provision Centre (Capacity < 100 persons)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Occupancy</th>
<th>Resident Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cork</td>
<td>Glounthane</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Families/ Single M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tipperary</td>
<td>Carrick On Suir</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>Families/ Couples/Single M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kildare</td>
<td>Newbridge</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>Families/ Singles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerry</td>
<td>Atlas Killarney</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Families/ Singles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerry</td>
<td>Atlas Tralee</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>Single M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerry</td>
<td>Johnston Marina</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limerick</td>
<td>Westbourne</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Single M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterford</td>
<td>Viking House</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>Single M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>Watergate House</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Couples/ Singles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galway</td>
<td>Atlantic House</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>Families/ Singles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterford</td>
<td>Ocean View</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>Families/ Singles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limerick</td>
<td>Mt Trenchard</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>Single M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>Staircase</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Single M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louth</td>
<td>Carroll Village</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Families/ Single M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerry</td>
<td>Park Lodge</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Temporary Closure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>