

Social Security Department – Overview of Responsibilities

The Department maintains and develops:

- The **collection of Social Security contributions** for the exclusive use in the provision of Social Security Benefits;
- A **contributory Social Insurance Scheme** to provide financial assistance to the community through the administration of old age pension, bereavement benefits, sickness and invalidity benefits, industrial injuries benefits, medical travel grants, unemployment benefit, maternity benefits and a death grant;
- A **contributory Health Insurance Scheme** to cover prescriptions charges, specialist medical care and GP and nurse consultation grants;
- A **contributory Long-term Care Insurance Scheme** to provide long-term care benefit to assist with the cost of accommodation and care in private nursing and private residential homes;
- **Non-contributory schemes** to provide family allowance, severe disability benefit and carer's allowance and supplementary benefit to people unable to safeguard their own welfare or having insufficient resources for an adequate quality of life;
- **Reciprocal agreements** with other countries to preserve the social insurance entitlements for local residents working in the international community and vice versa.