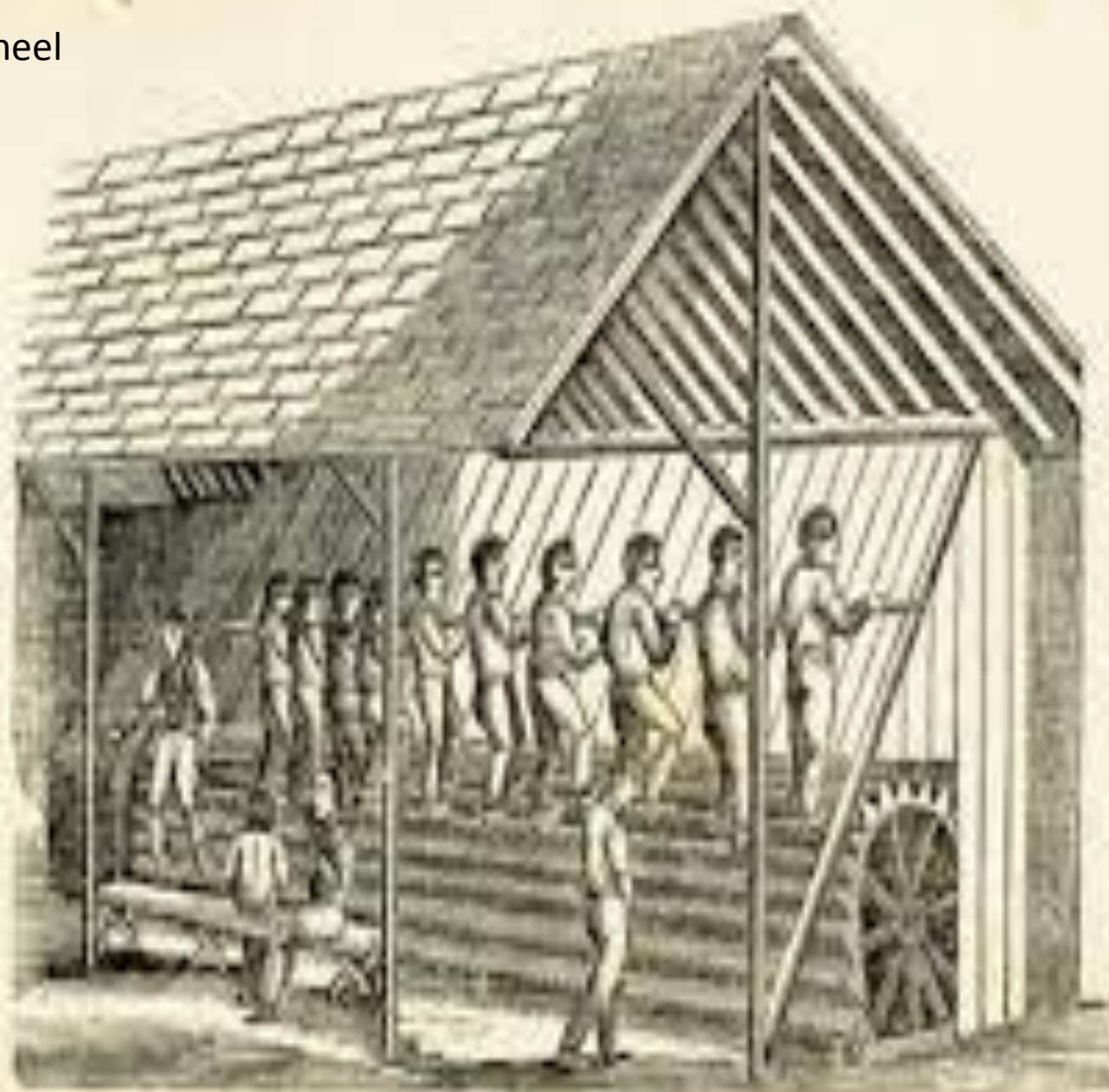


The Irish Experience of Welfare Conditionality:

*The institutional isomorphism of
problematic activation policies*

Kenny Doyle
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The Treadwheel







Institutional Isomorphism

Coercive

Normative

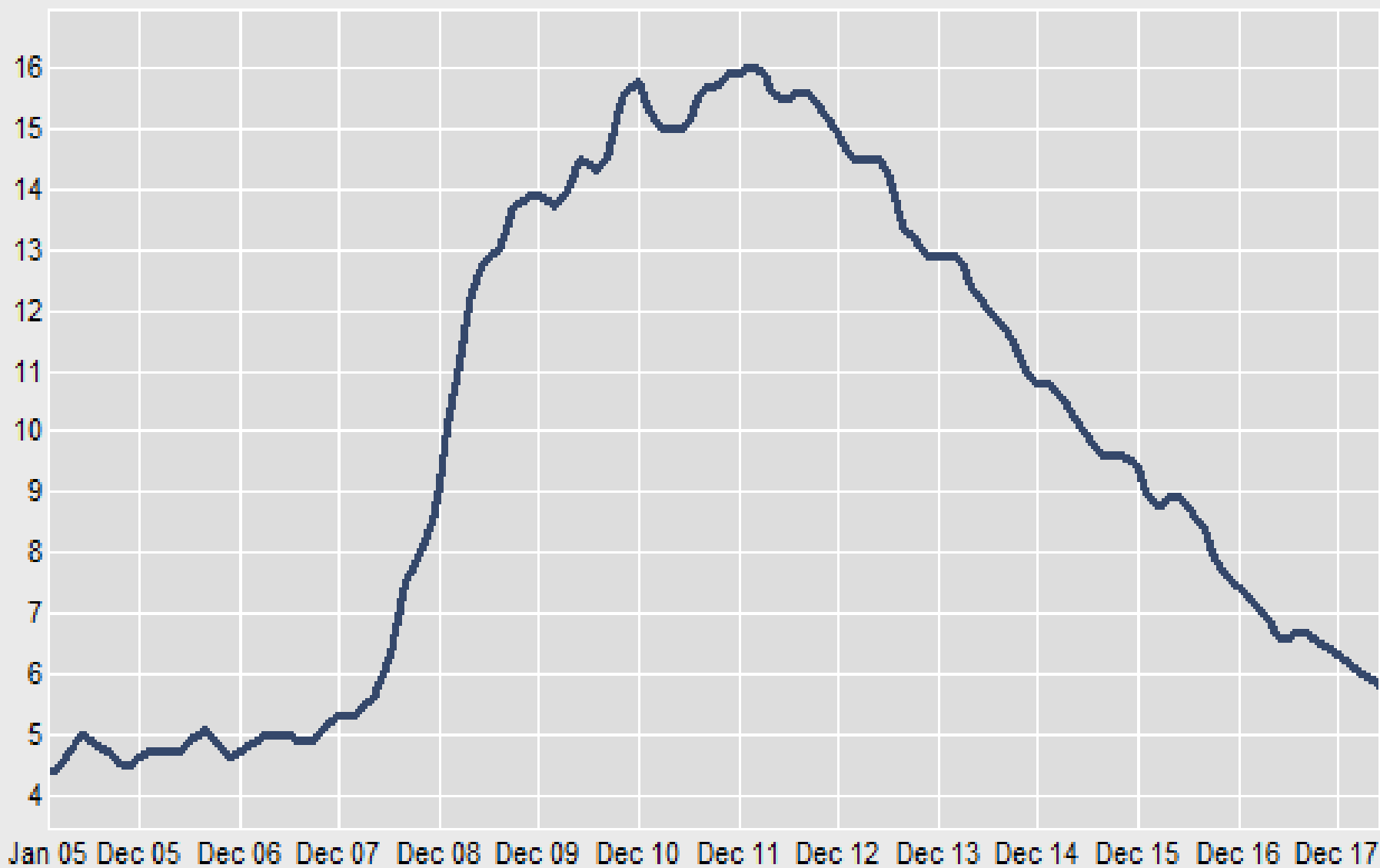
Mimetic

(Dimaggio & Powell 1983)

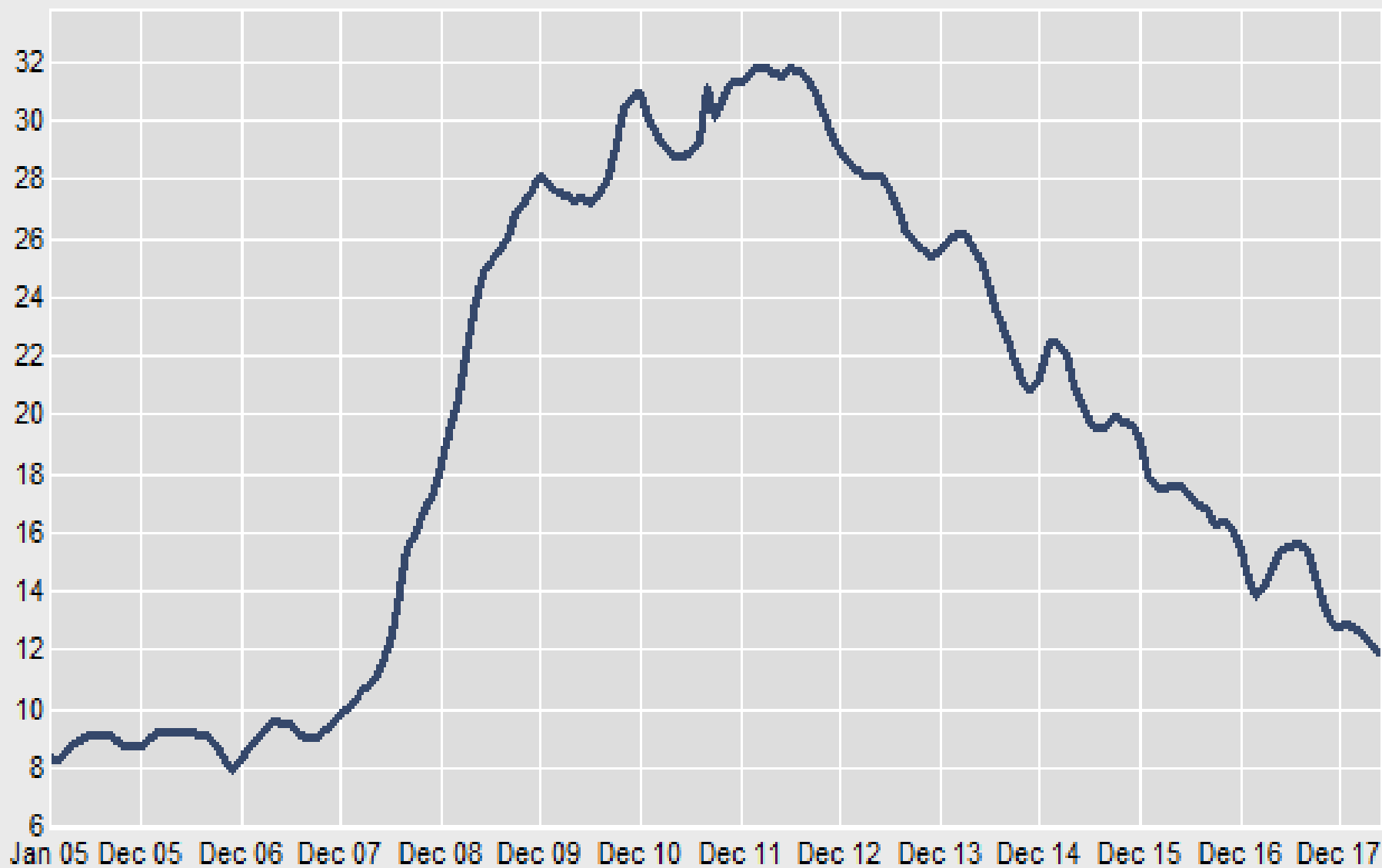
The introduction of Pathways to Work can be characterised as a mixture of the three

Cascading Conditionality?

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Unemployment Rate (%)
by Month
Both sexes, 15 - 74 years (%)



Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Unemployment Rate (%)
by Month
Both sexes, 15 - 24 years (%)



Youth unemployment 'puts the wind beneath the wings of every extremist in Europe'

The Minister for Finance said that extremism is something that is a threat to every democracy in Europe.

Feb 17th 2014, 3:15 PM  7,222 Views  49 Comments

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THE MINISTER FOR Finance said today that youth unemployment in Europe is fostering extremism and is a threat to democracy.

Speaking at a seminar, entitled "The Euro Area at crossroads," Noonan said youth unemployment "puts the wind beneath the wings of every extremist in Europe" adding that it is a situation that has to be watched.



Legislative and other measures will be introduced with a view to:

- enhancing conditionality on work and training availability;
- strengthening activation measures via:
 - i. the introduction of instruments to better identify of job seekers' needs("profiling") and increased engagement;
 - ii. a more effective monitoring of jobseekers' activities with regular evidence-based reports;
 - iii. the application of sanction mechanisms for beneficiaries not complying with jobsearch conditionality and recommendations for participation in labour market programmes set in such a way as to imply an effective loss of income without being perceived as excessively penalising so that it could credibly be used whenever lack of compliance is ascertained.

(MOU 2010, p. 25).









Record of Mutual Commitments

Between: Department of Social Protection and _____ PPSN: _____

The Department of Social Protection is committed to providing comprehensive employment support and income support services to our clients. Our goal is to help our clients in two ways: firstly by providing income support during periods of unemployment; secondly by helping clients to find work. In return we would like you, our client, to commit yourself to work with us as we work to help you. This document records our mutual obligations to each other.

Our Promise to You

- We will do all we can to process claims as quickly and as efficiently as possible.
- We will pay income support payment(s) as provided for in legislation in an efficient and timely manner.
- We will work to identify suitable employment, work experience or training/education/personal development opportunities for you.
- We will work with you to help you prepare your Personal Progression Plan to assist you to take the right steps to employment.
- We will monitor and review progress against this plan with you.
- We will meet with you normally by appointment and give you fair notice of all such appointments.
- We will treat you with dignity and respect and honour the confidentiality of our relationship with you.

Your Promise to Us

- I will work to secure employment at the earliest possible opportunity.
- I will work with the Department to agree my Personal Progression Plan.
- I will attend meetings to which I am invited by the Department.
- I will follow up all suggestions and take up any work placement, work experience and/or training/personal development places notified to me by the Department.
- I will inform the Department immediately if I find work, or if I am no longer available for work.
- I will treat the staff of the Department with dignity and respect and honour the confidentiality of my relationship with the Department.
- I will provide the Department with all information requested to assess any claim for income support.
- I will abide by the Declaration in my Jobseeker's Allowance or Benefit Application Form.

For and on behalf of the Department of Social Protection.

I understand that failure to adhere to my promises above may result in the reduction or withdrawal of any income support payments which would otherwise be due to me and that I could be prosecuted for making a false declaration or withholding information in relation to my claim.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____



My Details

Name:	LYNNE CAZEY-TEST	PPS:	0754104SZ
Address:	CRANMORE BUILDINGS CRANMORE ROAD SLIGO	Telephone:	0711234567
		Mobile:	353871234567
		Email:	test@test.com

My Contact

Office:	SLIGO ESO	Telephone:	071-9140303
Officer:	Denis Burke	Email:	

My Employment Goals

I am seeking work in the following area(s):

CLERK - ACCOUNTS
CLERK - GENERAL ADMIN
CLERK - TELEPHONE SALES

Goals (showing last 5)	Start Date	Finish Date	Description	Status
Job Searching	08 Oct 2012	21 Dec 2012	Client is Job Searching, has agreed to contact emp	Started
Explore option of Self Employment	01 Oct 2012	05 Oct 2012	Explore option in relation to Franchise	Started

My Skills/Training Development Goals

Goals (showing last 5)	Start Date	End Date	Description	Status
Explore Training/Education Options	15 Oct 2012	21 Dec 2012	Explore Start Your Own Business Course	Pending
Refer to MABS	10 Sep 2012	13 Sep 2012	Referred to MABS to review personal finances	Completed

My Notes

Lynne hopes to start a Franchise Business in early 2013.



Seetec

Penalty Rates

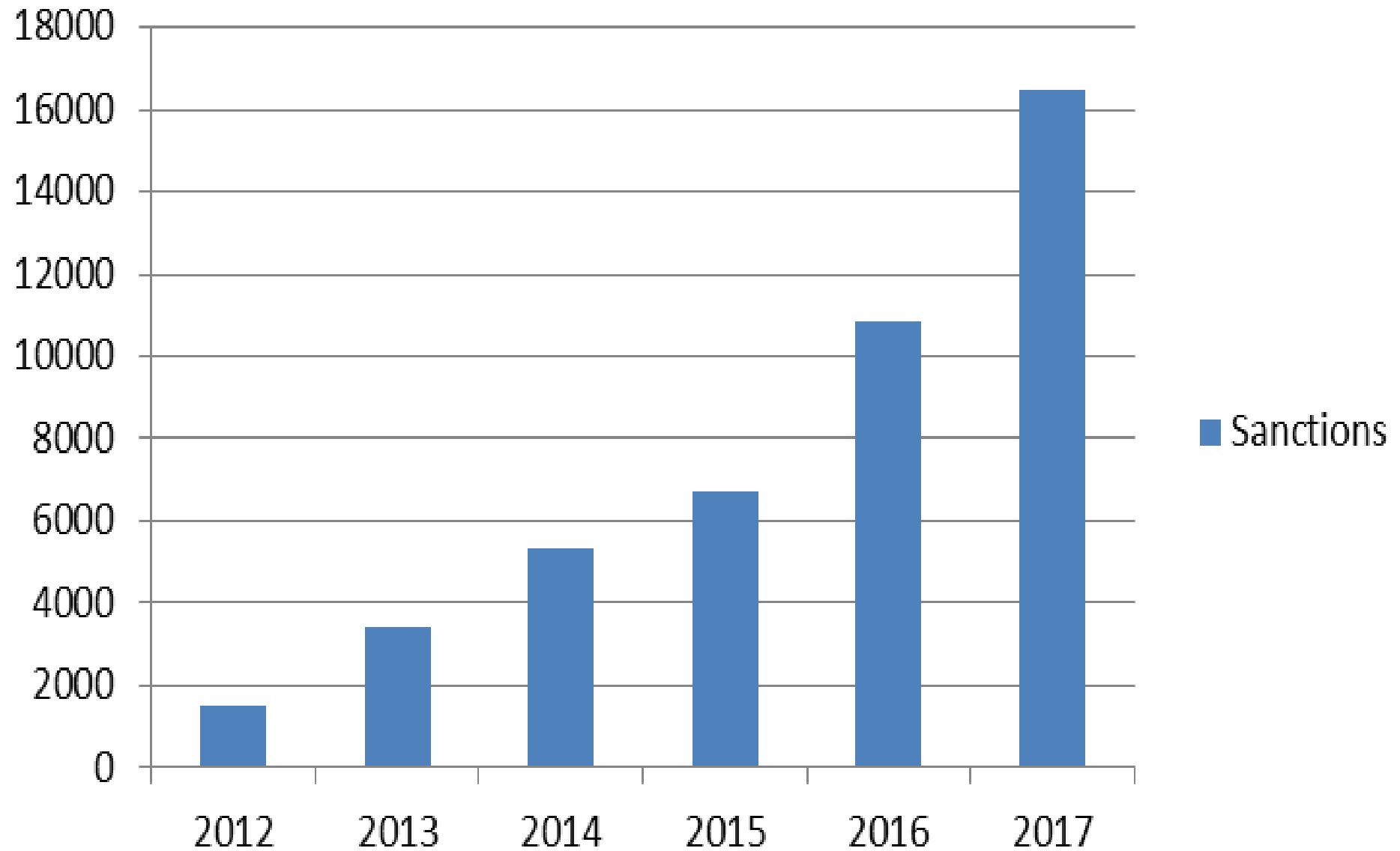
Personal Job Seekers Benefit Rate	Reduced to
€86.70	€67.20
€124.60	€96.20
€151.20	€116.90
€193	€149
After 21 days at the penalty rate if the claimant has not 'engaged' they can have their payment stopped entirely for up to 9 weeks	

Sanctions

To be clear about penalty rates or where payment is suspended for a period, *the whole purpose of having penalties is not to impose them, rather it is to make people engage*. A success would be the imposition of fewer penalties because people would be engaging' (Joint Committee on Education and Social Protection 2014, p 13).

Year	Number of Sanctions
2012	1519
2013	3395
2014	5325
2015	6743
2016	10,867
2017	16,451

Sanctions



Threats of Sanctions

‘well they say in the letters you’re required to attend this meeting you’re required to accept any position that’s offered to you or else (laughs) you know it’s (pause) it is the frontline (pause) of social welfare and what do they call them Intreo, the frontline is always defensive and (pause) and threatening you know’
(Dave)

Threat of Sanctions

R: whenever the letter comes in I'd be a little bit anxious then like it is like just when you see those letters like it's a bit nerve wrecking it is like but then that's really it really so

I: yeah and what it is about the letters that makes you kind of anxious

R: I just, it's just the letters like sometimes like whenever a letter comes in it's something that always I feel like oh I really don't want to do this but they're making me do it like it's kind of like that kind of feeling so it is like

Threat of Sanctions

well I think it's just the fact that at any point this man who is being nice and everything else, because I don't know I know that, if I compared it to a call centre you have a sales rate that you have to meet, if you don't meet it today well it's no big deal, if you don't meet it tomorrow it's still not a big deal if you don't meet it the third day then you're going to have a supervisor looking at what's going on, if you don't meet it for week then that supervisor is going to come and say ok let's sit down and look through your books and see what's going on with you, why aren't you doing this, why aren't you doing that, why aren't you doing that give it the hard sell you have to put more pressure on these people, that could happen any day I could walk in there you know and he could be a completely different person

(Kevin)

Threat of Sanctions

R: you'd have nine weeks with no money so basically they're frightening you to go because you have to go like, or if you don't go you don't, you don't eat like or you don't pay bills or nothing like so you actually have to go to them people because if you don't go you've no money, no money to feed, to feed your child, no for electric for coal nor nothing so you'd have to sit in that house up there for nine weeks with nothing in your pocket

I: and what do you think would happen if you did get cut off for nine weeks

R: sure you'd have to find money somewhere like do you know what I mean that's the way it is like

(Ger)

Infantilisation

‘if you raise anything on whether you’re unsure about anything or (pause) not saying a job is not suited but like say you’d say I don’t have bar experience and they are looking for bar staff like I’d do anything and I’ll try and learn anything but they’re like oh if you don’t go for that now we’ll stop your money you know what *I mean it’s like a naughty child like they’ll put you on the bold step if you don’t do it*’ (Niamh)

Empty Bureaucratic Rituals

*I tell you to be honest with you I goes up there to that place up in ----- they opened it up you go in to ----- and they sit you down and ask you how are you keeping you're fine right then I'll see you next week you know the whole way from that side of town to up there for five minutes for someone to say how are you keeping (laughs)
(Paddy)*


**FINE
GAEL**



F₄ O₁ R₁
P₃ E₁ O₁ P₃ L₁ E₁
W₄ H₄ O₁
G₂ E₁ T₁
U₁ P₃
E₁ A₁ R₁ L₁ Y₄
I₁ N₁
T₁ H₁ E₁
M₃ O₁ R₁ N₁ I₁ N₁ G₂



K1003 by Jos

A man with dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie, is shown from the chest up. He has a serious expression and is pointing his right index finger towards the camera. His left hand is also visible, with the index finger pointing upwards. The background is dark and out of focus.

There are people who have become institutionalised, going from welfare to training scheme to CE scheme and repeating that process on a carousel of dependency.... There are many people who get up in the morning every day, going to a job they may not like because that is how they get the money to pay bills and look after their family. These people pay taxes and fund the CE and welfare system. It is not okay for some people to say they do not want to work or they will keep claiming welfare until they get a job they believe they want or suits them' (Varadker 1-12-2016).

Report Suspected Social Welfare Fraud

You can report suspected social welfare fraud anonymously by completing this form.

Please note that the Department of Social Protection is required to report all child protection concerns to the Health Service Executive.

If you are reporting somebody for:

- working and claiming, please tell us if they are employed or self-employed. If employed, please tell us their employer's name and address, when they started working, the type of work and the days/hours worked, if known.
- living with a partner and claiming One Parent Family Payment, please tell us their address, their partner's name, when they started co-habiting, the children's names and ages, and their employment details if relevant.
- living abroad, please tell us where the person is living now and their last address in Ireland, when they left Ireland and how often they return or expected date of return, if known.
- employer not paying PRSI, please tell us the name and address of the employer you are reporting, their type of business, names of the employees concerned and any other relevant information.
- not declaring means, please tell us what you think has not been reported (earnings, savings, investments, maintenance, compensation, any other income).
- claiming benefit for a person who is deceased, please tell us the name and address of the deceased person and their date of death, if known. Please also tell us the name and address of the person who is collecting the payment.
- claiming benefit for a person who is in prison, please tell us the name, age and address of the person in prison, when they entered prison, if known. Please also tell us the name and address of the person who is collecting the payment.
- suspected identity fraud, i.e. somebody using another person's identity or a false identity. Please give all details available, e.g. all names, address etc.

For reasons of confidentiality, we will not be able to tell you the result of our enquiries.

What is the First name of the person you are reporting?

What is the Surname of the person you are reporting?

What is the birth surname of the person you are reporting?

What is the person's date of birth? (dd/mm/yyyy)

What is the person's approximate age if date of birth not known?

Address of the person you are reporting Line 1:

Address of the person you are reporting Line 2:

Address of the person you are reporting Line 3:

County of the person you are reporting:

What is their car registration (if known)?

Gender:

Have you reported this person previously?

When did you report it? (dd/mm/yyyy)

Detail of Social Welfare Fraud?
(max 850 characters)

Please provide as much detail as possible, include the person's approximate age.

Vindictive Fraud Allegations

I was after having an argument with yer man and he told lies about me and said I was working for a, for em oh what was it I can't think of the mans name, some fella anyway so I started laughing like and eh you're getting so much for wages, says I if I was sure why would I be on the dole like?

... so they told lies like he told lies because I was a traveller (claps hands) she jumped straight away at it bang straight into me, so she was haunting me for about months she keeps sending me letters and yokes and I at the end of it I just said look says I, I'm just gonna throw meself in the river says I to be honest I'm fed up listening to yis you know,

Vindictive Fraud Allegations

so I said to her as well, listen, have you anything on me? Have you caught me working, I don't work or do nothing says I, have you done anything with me? Have you anything to stop, stop me coming down here to sign and cut me off me dole says I have you anything to do that? No she says, well then say I why do you keep bringing me down here?

so she said listen she said I'm happy I'm satisfied now so there'll be no more they dog me and dog me for nothing, but I knew straight away who it was like

**WELFARE CHEATS
CHEAT US ALL**

An Roinn Coimíre Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection

