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PRESSRELEASE

W.P. COMMENTS ON DECEMBER JOBLESS FIGURES

The Workers' Party Spokesman on Labour, Deputy Pat Rabbitte, has described the jobless figures for December as the culmination of an appalling year for unemployment.

Deputy Rabbitte said that once again the live register had reached a level never before recorded. "These figures represent an increase of more than 37,000 on the previous December, the biggest annual increase ever recorded" he said.

"These figures come at the end of a year during which the government demonstrated a total indifference to the plight of the unemployed, and during which several key figures at the top of Irish industry showed that they were far more interested in strokes to accumulate vast sums of money for themselves than in making any constructive contribution to job creation."

"The government has no policy for job creation and has been pinning its hopes totally on British and U.S. economies coming out of recession. However, it is now clear that the recessions in these countries are far from over, and that urgent initiatives are required at home to stimulate job creation."

"As a start the government must publish the already leaked report of the Industrial Policy Review Group and set about the immediate implementation of its recommendations", Deputy Rabbitte said.

ends Tony Heffernan - Press Officer