



Terry McEvoy, Joint Secretary (CIF), Dr. Brian Aylward, Chairman of CIMA, An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern TD, and Niall Irwin, Joint Secretary (Trade Union)

BUILDER PROSECUTIONS for employee pensions registrations

There are currently some 145 prosecutions going through the courts against building firms which have failed to register all their employees for a pension, sick pay or death-in-service. The figures were revealed when An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern TD, officially opened the new offices of the Construction Industry Monitoring Agency (CIMA).

Speaking at the opening of CIMA's new 3,500 sq ft headquarters at Santry, Co Dublin, the Taoiseach said, "The construction industry and unions are working closely together through CIMA to ensure that all construction firms meet their legal and indeed moral obligations." He said that the CIF is as keen to see full compliance as the industry trade unions so that construction firms are able to compete on a level playing pitch. The number of building workers contributing to the industry pension scheme has increased by over 17% to 94,000.

Mr Ahern praised the work of CIMA in helping to increase compliance. Speaking at the opening, Dr Brian Aylward, chairman of CIMA, said that there was a wor-

rying number of workers contacting the Agency where the employer was deducting the weekly contribution but not returning it to the scheme. Dr Aylward encouraged more workers to check their pension contribution history by contacting CIMA or logging onto the interactive website www.monagency.ie

Building firms are legally required under the Registered Employment Agreement (Construction Industry Pensions Assurance & Sick Pay) to register all qualifying employees in a compliant pension scheme. The Construction Workers' Pension Scheme (CWPS) is the largest private pension scheme in Ireland with assets now in excess of €1 billion. CWPS provides a pension, sick pay and a death-in-service benefit in line with legal requirements. The death-in-service payment applies whether the death occurs at the workplace or outside working hours.

CIMA has a web site (www.monagency.ie) on which building employees or their families can check if they are enrolled in CWPS.