

# €25m PAID FOR WORK INJURIES

By GARY MENEELY

A MASSIVE €25million was paid out in compensation for workplace accidents last year, shock new figures revealed yesterday.

Some 70 per cent of the awards were made to MEN with one in three injuries resulting from falls.

The average payout was €28,038 and injuries from machinery got the highest awards.

Last night Health and Safety Authority chief executive Martin O'Halloran warned employers need to invest more money to protect workers

He said: "During these difficult economic times employers may be tempted to cut costs in relation to the safety, health and welfare of their employees.

"Apart from the legal and moral duties all employers have, these figures illustrate that such an approach is not a wise one.

"Smart employers know that it pays to invest in health and safety."

Labourers account for 30 per cent of compo payouts, the statistics from the statutory body injuriesboard.ie showed.

Defective equipment was responsible for seven of the highest 11 awards - the biggest being €412,515.

Men bagged an average of €27,659 while women typically got €22181 - 25 per cent less.