



# An Ghníomhaireacht Tithíochta The Housing Agency

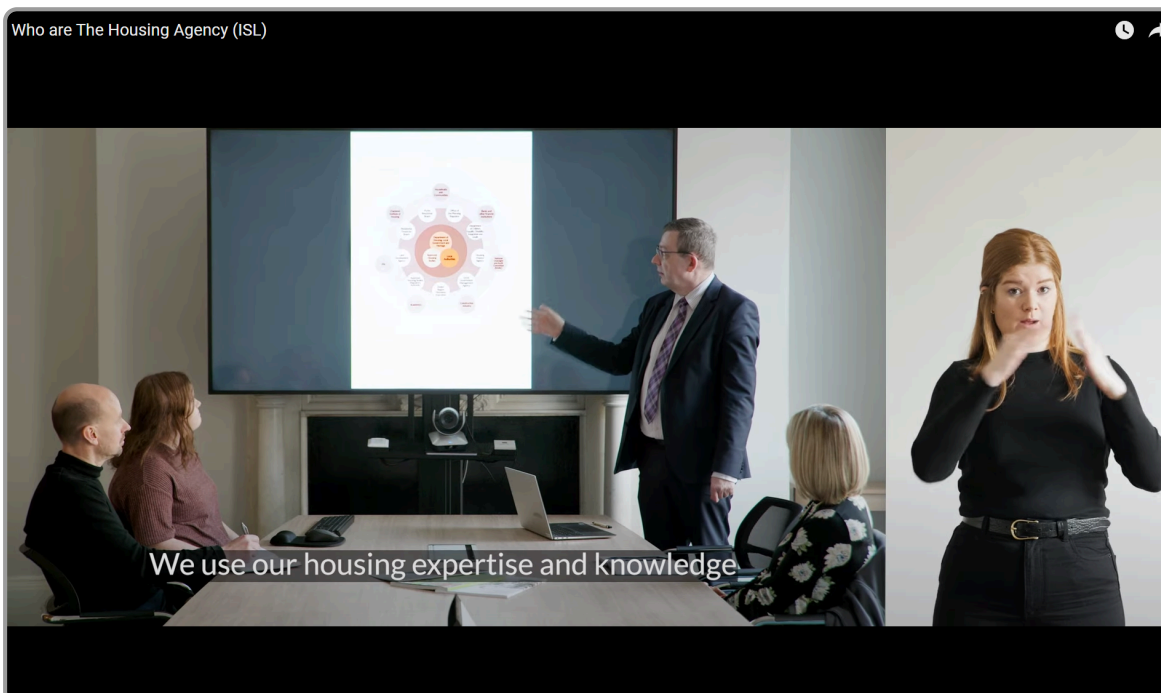
## Welcome to The Housing Agency's Quarter 2 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to The Housing Agency newsletter for Quarter 2, 2024.

The Housing Agency is a team of dedicated housing professionals working towards delivering sustainable and affordable housing for all. Our quarterly newsletter gathers together useful information for housing practitioners.

At The Housing Agency, we work to provide solutions to housing problems. We use our knowledge and expertise to support the delivery of high-quality homes and thriving communities.

We have created the below video to explain the range of work we do.





## Housing First Annual Conference

The Housing First Practitioners' Conference took place in Dublin Castle on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024. The one-day event saw practitioners from all around the country come together to discuss the Housing First programme, its success and hear from Peer Support Specialists and Mentors.

Bob Jordan, CEO of The Housing Agency, officially opened the conference, highlighting some of the achievements of the programme since its inception. The programme has recently passed 1,000 tenants and there are now Housing First tenancies in every county in Ireland. Mr Jordan thanked attendees for their work with implementing the programme and highlighted the importance of having tenant voices in the room.

Rob Lowth, National Director of Housing First, highlighted the importance of partnership, collaboration and resilience in the sector.

Attendees heard from representatives from Social Farming Ireland about the benefits of their programme for Housing First participants. Aoife Wilmet, Occupational Therapist at the HSE, spoke about the benefits of incorporating occupational therapy into Housing First and community integration. Peter Brosnan from Sport Ireland spoke about their 'Sport4Empowerment' programme and the potential benefits of a partnership with Housing First.

Speakers from the HSE included Joe Kirby (Social Inclusion), Yvonne Cashman (Operational Lead) and Sinead Lawless (Social Worker). They spoke about the experience with Housing First and primary care in Cork and Kerry. They offered insights on how primary care can help with Housing First delivery, the Complex Case Management Team in Cork/Kerry, and provided a case

study of how a person had gone through the system with the Complex Case Management Team.

Dawn Russel from Ana Liffey Drug Project gave a macro view of addiction trends and supports across Ireland and spoke about the intersection between homelessness and addiction. Dr. Eileen Coroon Sweeney, Psychiatrist in the HSE Inclusion Mental Health Team, spoke about mental health pathways in the community, homeless mental health and the lessons learned from her experience in the sector.

Attendees heard from service users about their experiences in Cork and Sligo. Andrew Guy from The Housing Agency discussed the 'Assertive Street Outreach Good Practice Guide' and Tim Aubrey from the University of Ottawa and the Canadian Housing First Network provided an overview of fidelity assessment and Housing First.

Find out more about Housing First



**Disabled people have a right to live independently and participate in their communities, just like everyone else.**

“ I think it was actually the happiest day of my life, having a place to call my own. ”

Susan, speaking about independent living.

Find out more about the journey to independent living at [www.housingagency.ie](http://www.housingagency.ie)

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[www.housingagency.ie](https://www.housingagency.ie) #journeytoindependentliving

## Journey to Independent Living Awareness Campaign

A national campaign called 'Journey to Independent Living' has been launched to raise awareness around the housing options and associated supports that are available to disabled people who wish to live independently in their communities.

A new website is also under development that will bring together useful information and resources for disabled people. This website will be a tool for people to find information on housing and the supports they need to facilitate independent living. The website is due to launch in July 2024. Updates on the launch will be on the webpage linked below.

#JourneytoIndependentLiving

Find out more about the Journey to Independent Living



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## RESEARCH SUMMER SERIES

### HOUSING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN IRELAND

JULY 2ND 12PM - 1PM



Helen Russell  
Economic and Social Research Institute



Sara Lannin,  
Peter McVerry Trust

## Research Summer Series June 18th & July 2nd

The Housing Agency's Research Summer Series highlights new and interesting research in the area of housing in Ireland and showcases research conducted or supported by The Housing Agency.

The first webinar '*Housing Choices for a Sustainable Future*' took place on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Speakers were Martin Colreavy, Senior Advisor, Strategic Delivery at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and Philip Comerford, Independent Architect at Philip Comerford Architects, Dublin.

The second webinar, '*Housing Children and Young People In Ireland*' took place on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The webinar featured insights from Helen Russell, Head of the Social Research Division at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), and Sara Lannin, Research and Policy Officer at the Peter McVerry Trust (PMV). Stay tuned for more updates on the Research Summer Series on our website.



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## Housing Education Bursary Scheme



## Housing Education Bursary Scheme 2024

The Housing Agency is delighted to launch its Housing Education Bursary Scheme for the 2024/2025 academic year.

The Bursary Scheme supports students and housing professionals seeking to enrol in housing studies courses offered by the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and the Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH) / Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH), starting between September 2024 and January 2025. These include:

Course	Closing Date for Applications	Course Start Date
IPA NFQ Level 6 (Special Purpose Award) Certificate in Housing Studies	5pm, 1st September 2024	September 2024
IPA NFQ Level 8 (Special Purpose Award) Professional Diploma in Housing Studies	5pm, 1st September 2024	September 2024
ICSH/CIH Level 4 Certificate in Housing	5pm, 1st November 2024	January 2025

Apply for the bursary now



## The Union of the Mediterranean Countries visit

The third meeting of the Union of the Mediterranean Working Group (UfM) on Affordable and Sustainable Housing was held in the Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire, Dublin. Some 30 delegates representing 13 countries attended to discuss the role of housing policy and programmes in supporting housing affordability within UfM Member States.

Thank you to the team from Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council for facilitating a tour of Cherrywood where delegates saw the delivery of affordable housing and the creation of new communities.



## **Housing Practitioners' Conference 2024**

The 2024 Housing Practitioners' Conference 'Opportunities for Sustainable Housing' took place in the Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, on Thursday, 25 April and Friday, 26 April 2024.

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien T.D., opened the conference which saw expert speakers and workshops discussing best practice and policy on housing.

[View the conference report and highlights reel here](#)



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<https://www.housingagency.ie/research-support>

## Research Support Programme - Call for Applications

The Housing Agency launched the call for applications to the 2024 Research Support Programme. The Programme funds research responding to topical housing issues that have the potential to impact housing policy and practice.

You can find more information at the button below.

[Find out more](#)

## HAP Practitioners' Conference

The conference provided a space for HAP practitioners and Homeless HAP Place Finders from all local authorities to come together to discuss the relevant issues pertaining to HAP.

The day itself included presentations from the Chair of the HAP Practitioners Committee, Chair of the HAP Place Finder Network, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, The Housing Agency, The HAP Shared Service Centre, The Residential Tenancies Board and Threshold.

The event was well attended with 75 local authority HAP practitioners in attendance.



## Multi-Unit Developments (MUDs)

### International Conference

David Rouse, our Multi-Unit Developments Advisor, presented at the [International Forum on Multi-Owned Properties](#), held in Tarragona, Spain 15-17 May.

The Forum brought together researchers from around the world to share work on multi-owned properties, including apartments, condominiums and homeowner associations.

The conference was organised by the City Futures Research Centre (University of New South Wales), and the UNESCO Housing Chair at the University Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona.

### Webinar with Corporate Enforcement Authority

A live webinar about 'Owners' Management Companies and the role of the [Corporate Enforcement Authority](#) took place on Tuesday 16 April.

Some 380 people heard from Fallon Judge, Director of Civil Enforcement with the CEA, on company law matters for apartment owners' management companies.

## Upcoming events

- MUDs Outreach Events - this Autumn, The Housing Agency will host regional outreach events for stakeholders in multi-unit developments and owners' management companies. Further details will appear on [www.housingagency.ie](http://www.housingagency.ie).

## Useful websites and resources

[The Housing Manual](#) is an excellent resource for housing practitioners and includes circulars, guidance documents and toolkits from across the housing

sector. You have to register for the site using your work email. Register at [this link](#) and if you have any queries contact [manual@housingagency.ie](mailto:manual@housingagency.ie).

[The Housing Training Network](#) is a network of housing professionals.

[Age Friendly Homes](#) provides support and information on housing topics of relevance to older people.

[Affordable Homes](#) provides information on the Affordable Purchase and Cost Rental schemes as well as other supports available such as the Help to Buy scheme and the Local Authority Home Loan. The website contains step-by-step guides on the different schemes available, a set of FAQs and a section where available properties are advertised.

[Summary of Oireachtas Activity](#) - The Housing Agency's policy team monitors housing activity within the Oireachtas. You can read the most recent update above.

[Information and Communication Strategy](#) - As part of the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People (NHSDP), The Housing Agency has developed an Information and Communication Strategy.

[Spotlight on Housing Research Series](#) – Spotlight on Housing Research is an engaging new series by The Housing Agency. The series focusses on different researchers in the housing sector across the country and some of their recent work.

Subscribe to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage - [Housing for All E-Zine](#).

#### **Recent publications:**

- [Irish LGBTQI+ Housing Related Publications](#)
- [Examination of innovation/ efficiencies in design of affordable housing](#)
- [National Study of Housing Experiences, Attitudes and Aspirations in Ireland](#)
- [Policy Insight Series Issue 4 - Office-to-Residential Conversions: Case studies from Tuath Housing](#)
- [Key Irish Housing Publications 2023](#)

#### **Research Support Programme Publications**

- [Housing, health and happiness: how \(in\)adequate housing shapes child and parental mental and physical wellbeing.](#)
- [Pathways towards Stable Housing for parents and Children Exiting Residential Services](#)

#### **Recent events The Housing Agency CEO, Bob Jordan spoke at include:**

- Tuath Housing Association's 2023 Annual Report launch
- Property Institute Ireland Conference 2024
- IHBA Housebuilding Summit 2024



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