



**An Ghníomhaireacht
Tithíochta**
The Housing Agency

Newsletter

October 2024

Welcome to the latest Newsletter from The Housing Agency which features a fresh new look we hope you will like! We are moving from quarterly to bi-monthly Newsletters to keep you up-to-date with our latest activities, events, publications and resources. For the best viewing experience, please open this newsletter in your browser.

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 following video to explain the range of work we do.



LAUNCH OF THE **Home and Supports Hub**

Housing Minister Darragh O'Brien TD launched The Housing Agency's new website www.homeandsupportshub.ie, which hosts information on supports available to assist disabled people to live independently.

The Hub brings together in one location a wealth of information on renting, owning and managing a home.

VISIT THE WEBSITE



SAVE THE DATE

Housing Practitioners' Conference 2025

The Housing Agency with the Institute of Public Administration(IPA) are excited to announce that the 2025 Housing Practitioners' Conference will take place in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone, Co Westmeath on Thursday, 10th April and Friday 11th April (half day). The conference will involve a day and a half of expert speakers and workshops. More information will be made available in early 2025, including details on registering for this conference.

If you would like to make enquiries on accommodation for this event, please contact the hotels listed below.

Hotels	Contact Details	Booking reference
Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone	(090) 644 2600	Please quote conference
Athlone Springs Hotel, Athlone	(090) 644 4444	376241
Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone	(090) 644 2004	Please quote conference
Sheraton Hotel, Athlone	(090) 645 1000	Please quote conference



Training Needs Assessment

The Housing Agency is committed to delivering high-quality training for the Irish housing sector alongside our partners in the Housing Training Network. To enable us to continue providing training that meets the evolving needs of practitioners we conduct periodic Training Needs Analyses of the Irish housing sector.

We are pleased to launch our 2024 Training Needs Analysis survey. Building on previous analyses, this survey will allow us to update our training offerings for the period of 2024/25. Data will be collected anonymously and shared with our partners in the Housing Training Network.

The survey takes up to 5 minutes to complete and your answers will directly inform the development of



SURVEY

training opportunities for Irish housing practitioners.

Research Seminar

On September 24th, The Housing Agency held its inaugural Research Seminar. The event was created to share research and to build networks within the housing research community. Workshops were held on topics including compact development, the private rented sector, supporting inclusive communities and sustainable supply.

Find out more about The Housing Agency's research and the Research Support Programme at the link below.

RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAMME



REPORT LAUNCH

Housing Conditions for Older People

As Ireland's population ages, the issue of older people's housing has never been more important. A new report, **Housing Conditions and Integrated Care for Older People**, examined the links between common housing conditions and hazards and the health of older people. The project was funded by The Meath Foundation and involved a team from Tallaght University Hospital, Age Friendly Ireland, TrinityHaus and BRE who partnered with organisations including The Housing Agency, Age Action, South Dublin County Council, Meath County Council and the National Disability Authority.

READ THE REPORT HERE

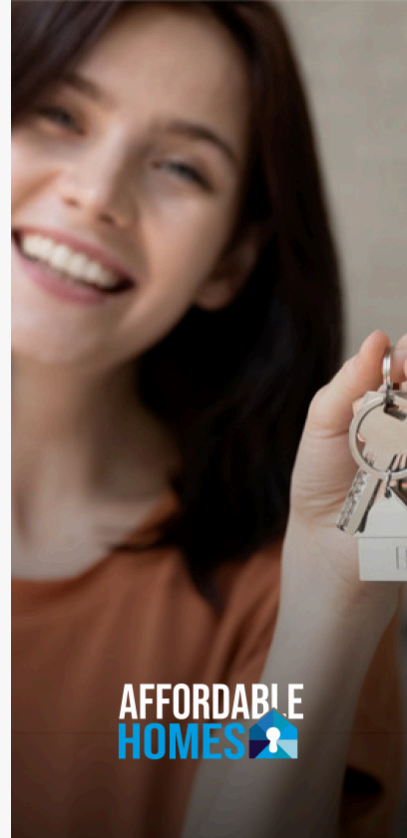
GUIDE

Affordable Homes

A new user-friendly guide has been created by The Housing Agency for first-time buyers and Fresh Start applicants interested in the Affordable Purchase Scheme. With more Affordable Purchase homes coming on the market in new housing developments around the country, the guide explains the eligibility requirements and how to calculate your purchasing power. Details of homes currently available can be found on www.affordablehomes.ie

DOWNLOAD GUIDE

VISIT THE WEBSITE



MUDS Outreach Events

In recent weeks hundreds of people have attended information evenings held by The Housing Agency for owners of multi-unit developments, such as apartments. Among the issues raised were the importance of sinking funds and the responsibilities of Owner Management Companies (OMCs). Events have already taken place in north Dublin, Letterkenny, Portlaoise and Castlebar. However, there is still time to register for upcoming events in Delgany, Co Wicklow (Oct 16) and Waterford (Oct 23).



REGISTER

THE HOUSING AGENCY AT THE National Ploughing Championships 2024

The Housing Agency had a stand at the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska, Co Laois on September 17th - 19th 2024. Our team were on hand to discuss the work of The Housing Agency and our various schemes.

We'd like to thank everyone who came out to visit us over the three days, our team enjoyed chatting about schemes, opportunities and information about The Housing Agency.



Essay Prize Competition

The 2024 Essay Prize prize was awarded to **Haley Curran** for her essay entitled “Housing Co-operative 2.0: how could a co-operative housing model work in the modern Irish housing landscape?”

Runner up prizes went to **Diarmaid Hough** for his essay entitled “An examination of the State’s ability to address the need for housing provision through the use of semi-state bodies” and to **Orla Connaughton** for her essay entitled “Exploring the Limitations of the Housing First Model in Ireland”

[READ THE WINNING ENTRY](#)

Events and resources



[The Housing Manual](#)

The Housing Manual is a resource for housing practitioners as it includes circulars, guidance documents and toolkits from across the housing sector.

[Peer Support Specialist Toolkit](#)

The Housing First Peer Support Specialist Toolkit was launched on 23rd August 2024. The toolkit was created to support NGOs working in the homeless sector to engage those with lived experience and offer guidance about how they can be involved in the provision of services.

[ICSH Finance & Development Conference 16th - 17th October](#)

This year's ICSH Conference theme is 'Achieving our Affordable Housing Delivery for the next Decade'. Register for the event at the link above.

[The Housing Agency is on Instagram!](#)

The Housing Agency has launched an organisational Instagram channel to engage a broader audience of stakeholders. Follow along to stay up to date with events, conferences and more!

[Age Friendly Homes](#)

This website provides support and information on housing topics of relevance to older people.

[Supports Guide for Young People](#)

As part of the Youth Homelessness Strategy, The Housing Agency have partnered with Spunout on a series of videos that explain your rights in the rental sector. Find out more about the supports and services available to young people in Ireland at the link 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 which promotes the use of accessible information and communication methods that are more inclusive of the specific requirements of disabled people.

[Q3 Summary of Oireachtas Activity](#)

The Housing Agency's policy team monitors housing activity within the Oireachtas. You can read the most recent update above.

[Housing Education Bursary Scheme](#)

The Bursary Scheme supports students and housing professionals seeking to enrol in housing studies courses

[Journey to Independent Living Campaign](#)

The Housing Agency ran an eight week campaign that highlighted the supports available to disabled people on their journey to independent living. To find out more visit the Home and Supports Hub.

[The Impact of Cost Rental Housing: Security, Affordability and Place](#)

A report launch for 'The Impact of Cost Rental Housing: Security, Affordability and Place' took place on September 12th. The research was conducted in partnership with three of the leading Approved Housing Bodies involved in the provision of Cost Rental housing: Clúid Housing, Respond and Tuath Housing. The research was funded by The Housing Agency Research Support Programme.

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