



**An Ghníomhaireacht  
Tithíochta**  
The Housing Agency

## Newsletter

December 2024

Welcome to The Housing Agency's last newsletter for 2024. We would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and look forward to bringing you more news of our work in 2025!



### THE HOUSING AGENCY

## 2024 in Review: Looking Ahead to 2025

As 2024 draws to a close it is timely to look back on the year that was and anticipate what is to come in the year ahead.

2024 has been a year of great advances for The Housing Agency as we continued our work of helping our stakeholders to deliver sustainable and affordable housing. We made significant strides in a number of affordable housing programmes and schemes, including the Affordable Housing Fund, and our work in administering the Secure Tenancy Affordable Rental Investment Scheme and the Cost Rental Tenant-in-Situ Scheme. We deepened our focus on policy and research with reports on sustainable compact development and the design of affordable housing, among others.

Looking forward to 2025 we will be bringing our annual Housing Practitioners' Conference to Athlone on April 10-11. It is always a great opportunity for those working in housing to come together and share their ideas. Meanwhile, housing practitioners from around the globe will gather in Dublin for the International Social Housing Festival from June 4-6, an occasion not to be missed. In 2025, we will be progressing our work on developing a National Apprenticeship in Social and Affordable Housing and Housing Services. Next year also marks the start of our new Strategy Statement 2025 – 2029.

On behalf of everyone at The Housing Agency, I would like to wish you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year and thank you for your continued support of our work.

**David Silke, Interim CEO and Director of Insights and Operations**

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# AI & Innovation in Housing

AI and Innovation in Housing was the theme of our annual conference which took place in Dublin last month. Chaired by journalist and broadcaster Alison O'Connor, the event featured a range of Irish and international speakers who discussed how AI is being harnessed in both the design and delivery of homes.

Among the speakers was Theo Lynn of DCU who discussed how AI is being used to improve buildings' energy efficiency, Declan Grimes, Senior Engineer at Louth County Council, who told delegates how 3D printing was used to construct three new homes in Dundalk, and Sabahat Khan, Chief Information Officer with the LGMA, who spoke about how technology can be an enabler to get people to engage with public services.

[HIGHLIGHTS REEL](#)

[CONFERENCE REPORT](#)



## THE HOUSING AGENCY

# Statement of Strategy 2025 - 2029

We launched our new Statement of Strategy 2025 - 2029 last month which will guide the organisation over the coming five years.



The Agency will continue to work to deliver the homes people need with our activities structured under three themes:

- Being A Centre of Housing Knowledge for Housing Insights
- Addressing Housing Supply and Affordability
- Supporting the Creation of Sustainable and Inclusive Communities

The Agency's overarching organisational value is shaped by its commitment to focus on people. This means prioritising the needs of the people we serve in communities throughout the country and delivering for our stakeholders in the housing system.

## STATEMENT OF STRATEGY



## New Director of Remediation



This month The Housing Agency welcomed our new Director of Remediation, Ronan O'Halloran, to the team. A native of Co Clare, he is a chartered civil engineer and comes to Agency from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth where he was Programme Manager in the Ukraine Division. He previously worked with the Office of Public Works and also served as an Army Officer with the Irish Defence Forces Corps of Engineers.

As Director of Remediation, he will be leading on the various remediation programmes in areas such as pyrite, defective concrete blocks and apartment defects.

## MUDs

In November, David Rouse, the Agency's Multi-Unit Developments (MUDs) Advisor, addressed almost 600 attendees at four separate webinars.

David was hosted by the Local Government Management Agency, Engineers Ireland, the Irish Council for Social Housing, and the Institute of Professional Auctioneers and Valuers. He spoke about the role of owners' management companies (OMCs), their governance and finances, and latest developments in law and regulation affecting the sector.

This engagement is a key part of the Agency's outreach to support MUDs and OMCs.

**WEBINAR RECORDING**

THE HOUSING AGENCY

**Community Gain Project 2025**



Over the last two years the staff of the Housing Agency have fundraised and volunteered their time for Community Gain Projects. We are now looking for a partner organisation for 2025.

In 2023, we worked with Prosper Fingal in Skerries, which provides services for adults with an intellectual disability in north Co Dublin, to build a space for their service users to enjoy. This year, we partnered with Avista on the Navan Road, which provides support services for children and adults with disabilities, to renovate seven gardens.

Fundraising has already commenced at The Housing Agency for our 2025 project to take place on July 4<sup>th</sup> 2025, and we are looking for a partner. The location must be within 45 minutes of our offices on Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2, and ideally serviced by public transport from Dublin city centre.

In order to be considered please complete the Proposal Form (below) and submit to [claire.feeney@housingagency.ie](mailto:claire.feeney@housingagency.ie) before close of business on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2025.

**PROPOSAL FORM**

## Coming up in 2025

- The Housing Practitioners' Conference takes place in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone, Co Westmeath, on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April (half day) More information will be made available early in 2025, including details on how to register to attend.
- The Housing Agency will be hosting a series of webinars on Community-Led Housing. Details will be announced early in the New Year.
- The International Social Housing Festival comes to Dublin from June 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup>. Further details and information on how to register to attend can be found here - [ALL ABOUT ISHF | International Social](#).

## 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.

### [Guide for Use of PW-CF2 Public Works Contract for Building Works Designed by the Contractor](#)

The Housing Agency has recently published our updated Guidance Document for the use of the PW-CF2 Design and Build Contract. This updated version has been revised from the original version published in March 2023, to include recent developments within Design and Build procurement, changes in regulations and innovations within the MMC sector.

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

This Autumn, The Housing Agency 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.

### [Peer Support Models](#)

This paper published by The Housing Agency is an action under the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027. As part of this paper the Housing Agency highlights national and international examples of peer support models and explores what supports are currently available in Ireland.

### [Q4 Summary of Oireachtas Activity](#)

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

### [Home and Supports Hub Awareness Campaign](#)

The Housing Agency has launched a new national campaign advertising the Home and Supports Hub, a new website developed by The Housing Agency which provides information on housing and the related supports needed for independent living.

The website contains information on renting, owning and managing a home and related supports such as advocacy, grant aid and assistive technology.

### [Sustainable Compact Development - International Case Study Analysis](#)

Sustainable Compact Development, International Case Study Analysis is a report prepared for The Housing Agency by Indecon International Economic Consultants.

The report explores how a number of successful compact residential projects were developed and made viable, and examines the features that makes them successful as areas of compact urban growth.

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