



**An Ghníomhaireacht
Tithíochta**
The Housing Agency

Newsletter

April 2025

Welcome to the April edition of The Housing Agency newsletter, which, amongst other things, affords me the opportunity to introduce myself as the Agency's new Chief Executive Officer. Over the course of the past two decades through roles at agencies including NTMA, ISIF and NAMA - roles which have given me exposure to significant housing investment, financing and project execution initiatives in state sector - I have become very familiar with the valuable work of The Housing Agency and it is an honour to, now, get to contribute to this work.

Partnership is at the heart of The Housing Agency's strategic, management and execution models and it is appropriate, therefore, that our current newsletter highlights the importance of engagement and working together. Our Housing Practitioners' Conference, held in Athlone last week, perfectly illustrates the ongoing collaboration between political, policy, social, industry and other stakeholders in the housing sector. This collaboration is aimed at providing accessible, affordable and sustainable housing solutions, rightly seen by so many people in Ireland as an overriding objective.

This edition of the newsletter also spotlights the Agency's latest Housing Insights papers which examine the successful planning and sequencing of sustainable infrastructure at Cherrywood in south Dublin and how Limerick City and County Council tackles dereliction. This newsletter also profiles the important work underway within our Mortgage to Rent Unit.

Best wishes, Martin Whelan, CEO, The Housing Agency





HOUSING PRACTITIONERS' CONFERENCE 2025

Momentum in Housing: Partnerships for Progress

The 2025 Housing Practitioners Conference took place in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone, last week. The hugely successful event, organised in collaboration with the Institute of Public Administration, saw over 400 housing practitioners join us for a day and a half of insightful panel sessions, expert workshops, networking, and a discussion between Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne TD, and event MC, broadcaster and journalist Sinead Ryan.

The conference saw eleven expert workshops, hosted by Housing Agency staff across a range of topics including Modern Methods of Construction (MMC), digital transformation in housing administration, vacancy, and Cost Rental housing.

WEBSITE

Affordablehomes.ie

The Housing Agency and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage launched a fresh, revamped [affordablehomes.ie](https://www.affordablehomes.ie) website in early April. The new look website features a more user-friendly interface, allowing visitors to browse affordable purchase and Cost Rental homes in their area and see which developments are coming soon. The new website is being promoted by a social media awareness campaign across Meta and LinkedIn.

[AFFORDABLEHOMES.IE](https://www.affordablehomes.ie)



Housing Insights 5: Supporting Sustainable Communities

Issue 5 of The Housing Agency's Housing Insights series examines the successful planning and sequencing of sustainable infrastructure in the Cherrywood Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. Designed as a "10-minute neighbourhood", Cherrywood integrates housing with essential infrastructure, including schools, parks, transport links, and employment spaces.

The report highlights how a structured, phased approach ensured that critical infrastructure was delivered alongside residential development, supporting sustainable growth. It also outlines key challenges, including the complexity of the land, which features varied topography, protected structures, and environmental sensitivities, as well as the need for coordination among multiple stakeholders. Key actions included the establishment of a dedicated project team, early stakeholder engagement, and the use of multiple funding streams.

With over 5,000 homes approved and essential amenities in place, Cherrywood serves as a best-practice model for infrastructure-led, sustainable urban development.

**Housing Insights Issue 5: Supporting Sustainable
Communities: The Successful Provision of
Infrastructure in Cherrywood**



WEBINAR



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WEBINAR SERIES COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING

1 INTRODUCING COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING

12th February 12 - 1pm

SPEAKERS:

- Dr Sara Brysch - Co-author of Together: Towards Collaborative Living
- Tom O'Donnell - Self Organised Architecture

2 COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING

25th February 12 - 1pm

SPEAKERS:

- Eduard Cabré Romans - Barcelona Municipal Institute for Housing and Renovation
- Ailbhe Cunningham - Cork Community Land Trust
- Eve Olney - Cork Community Land Trust

3 COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING FOR AGE FRIENDLY LIVING

11th March 12 - 1pm

SPEAKERS:

- Maria Brenton - UK Cohousing Network
- Anne Connolly - Cohousing Communities Ireland

4 STATE SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING

26th March 11.30 - 1pm

SPEAKERS:

- Elke Seipp - Agentur für Baugemeinschaften
- Hugh Brennan - Ó Cualann Cohousing Alliance
- Éadaoin Ní Chléirigh - Irish Council for Social Housing
- Haley Curran - Cooperative Housing Ireland
- Jim Baneham - The Housing Agency

WEBINAR SERIES

Community-led Housing

Throughout February and March, The Housing Agency organised a series of webinars on the topic of community-led housing. The series aimed to raise awareness of community-led housing, to showcase examples of this form of housing in other countries and to reflect on the future of community-led housing in Ireland.

The four sessions each focused on a different topic, and you can find a link to the recordings here:

- [Introducing Community-led housing](#)
- [Community-led housing as Affordable Housing](#)
- [Community-led housing for Age-Friendly Living](#)
- [State support for Community-led housing](#)

There were over 300 sign ups for each webinar and the slides and a recording of each webinar is available on The Housing Agency website at the button below:

RECORDINGS

HOUSING INSIGHTS SERIES

Housing Insights 6: Supporting Sustainable Communities

Issue 6 of The Housing Agency's Housing Insights series looks at the approach of Limerick City and County Council to tackling dereliction through the use of compulsory acquisition under the Derelict Sites Act (1990). Between 2019 and 2023, the council has compulsorily acquired more properties than any other local authority in Ireland accounting for 52% of a nationwide total of 326 compulsory acquisitions during that time.



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The Housing Agency

ISSUE NO:
06

HOUSING INSIGHTS

Tackling Dereliction -
Limerick City and County
Council's approach

Produced by the Policy, Practice & Communications team of The Housing Agency, Ireland

housingagency.ie

This paper highlights the steps that the council took to develop their approach. This included restructuring their teams so that all staff dealing with vacancy or dereliction were brought into one team, carrying out county-wide audits of vacancy and dereliction and using case studies to hone their approach.

This has resulted in Limerick City and County Council reducing the number of derelict properties in the county and has made them a leader in the use of compulsory acquisition to address dereliction.

Housing Insights Issue 6: Tackling Dereliction - Limerick City and County Council's Approach

PROFILE

Profile of the Mortgage to Rent Scheme



The Mortgage to Rent Unit within The Housing Agency is responsible for the administration of the Mortgage to Rent Scheme, a government initiative launched in 2012 to help homeowners, who are at risk of losing their homes due to mortgage arrears.

The scheme is a possible resolution for people who have been involved in the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARF) with their lender and whose mortgage has been deemed unsustainable.

Under the MtR Scheme, homeowners voluntarily surrender ownership of their property to their lender. An Approved Housing Body (AHB) or a private company buys the property, while the homeowner remains living there as a tenant, paying an affordable rent based on their income. This scheme is available only to those eligible for social housing support and aims to prevent homelessness while providing a sustainable housing solution.

The MtR Team is most active in processing submissions for inclusion in the MtR scheme, which are received from MtR Providers, including AHBs and private companies. The Team thoroughly reviews each submission to ensure it meets eligibility criteria and works closely with various stakeholders, including lending institutions, local authorities, AHBs, private companies, and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

As of the end of 2024, of the 7,395 cases submitted to The Housing Agency, 2,583 were completed, benefiting 7,205 individuals, including 4,029 adults and 3,176 children.

If you require further information about MtR, please contact MTR@housingagency.ie

MORTGAGE TO RENT



Be the Voice of Change!

Join Us in
Championing
Accessible
Communication for All.

Why be a Champion?

- 1. Making a Difference:** You'll have a direct impact on improving the lives of disabled people.
- 2. Building Awareness:** You'll help raise awareness about the importance of accessibility, educating others and fostering a more inclusive society.
- 3. Empowerment:** You'll empower disabled people by ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are met.
- 4. Networking Opportunities:** You'll connect with like-minded individuals and organisations.

If you want to become a Champion contact Lisa Milligan at DisabilityServices@HousingAgency.ie

Your Support Can Make a World of Difference for Disabled People.

Home and Supports Hub

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ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility Champion: Be the Voice of Change!

The Housing Agency's Disability Team has created an Information and Communication Strategy to promote the use of accessible communication methods to meet the requirements of disabled people.

Everyone has a right to access information to help them make informed choices and participate in society. The strategy aims to assist those working in local authorities, Approved Housing Bodies, government departments, the HSE and disability sector organisations in promoting accessible communications.

Organisations are now asked to nominate a Champion who will strive to implement the actions contained in the strategy, which can include creating documents in accessible formats or facilitating accessible events for disabled people.

Champions will be supported by The Housing Agency with a forum and a toolkit that includes access to our suite of accessible documents, information on training, and other useful resources.

If you are interested in becoming a Champion, please email info@housingagency.ie. We will be hosting an online information session to explain the actions and how we can support you, and will contact those who have registered interest.

READ THE STRATEGY HERE

MUDs



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MULTI-UNIT DEVELOPMENTS

OMCs, Agents, and the Letter of Engagement: Insights from the PSRA

The Housing Agency and the Property Services Regulatory Authority (PSRA) will hold a webinar to provide insights into the importance of the Letter of Engagement between owners' management companies (OMCs) and licensed property management agents.

Tuesday, 20th May 2025 @12.30pm

For more information and to register please visit housingagency.ie/news-and-events

Webinar: OMCs, Agents, and the Letter of Engagement: Insights from the Property Services Regulatory Authority

The Property Services Regulatory Authority and The Housing Agency will hold a lunchtime live webinar to provide insights into the importance of the Letter of Engagement (or contract) between owners' management companies (OMCs) and licensed property management agents.

Maeve Hogan, Chief Executive Officer of the PSRA, will provide an overview of:

- Relevant legislation
- Main features of the Letter of Engagement, including consumer protections
- Interaction with Minimum Standards for licensed agents
- Frequently arising matters / queries
- Sources of further guidance and information

The webinar will be of interest to people involved with OMCs and multi-unit developments, including directors of OMCs, licensed property management professionals, residents, Local Authorities, and Approved Housing Bodies.

The hour-long webinar will take place at 12.30pm on Tuesday 20 May 2025.

Register for the webinar here – [Webinar: OMCs, Agents, and the Letter of Engagement: Insights from the PSRA | The Housing Agency](#).

MUDs Outreach

In February and March, our MUDs Advisor David Rouse addressed a total of over 320 attendees at separate webinars, hosted by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants Ireland, the Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland, and the Irish Property Owners' Association.

Audiences heard from David about the growth of the apartment and managed estate sector in Ireland's housing stock, and the resources and supports available for participants such as directors of owners' management companies (OMCs). The Agency's engagement with professional and representative organisations helps to develop stakeholder capacity in the MUDs and apartment sector.

Events and resources



Research Support Programme: Housing Challenges and Needs of Migrants in Ireland

The Research Support Programme aims to fund projects which respond to key topical issues in housing, with potential to impact on housing policy and practice. Migrant Housing Needs explores access to housing among the migrant community in Dublin. Drawing on the period March 2020 to July 2022, this research examines the critical juncture of the Covid-19 pandemic and recovery period and the influx of Ukrainian refugees.

Data Insight Series

Issue 10 of the Data Insight Series focuses on women and housing in Ireland. Using the most up-to-date data available, this issue examines the housing experiences of women in Ireland. This edition serves as an update to Issue 4: "Women and Housing", published in April 2023.

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.

Multi Owned Residential Properties Masterclass

On 28 May, our MUDs Advisor, David Rouse, will present at a live online course Multi-Owned Residential Properties – Legal, Tax & Regulatory Insights hosted by Chartered Accountants Ireland. More details are available from Chartered Accountants Ireland at www.charteredaccountants.ie/Meetings/Meeting.aspx?ID=54253

International Social Housing Festival

The International Social Housing Festival comes to Dublin from June 4th - 6th. The Housing Agency has made seven proposals which have been accepted. The Agency will have an exhibition stand and will run seven events during the festival.

The Housing Training Network

The Housing Training Network is a website that provides Housing Professionals with information on upcoming training, courses and events.

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.

Housing for all E-Zine

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

Home and Supports Hub

The Home and Supports Hub website is a central resource which contains information, supports and services needed to access independent living.

Eolas Housing Ireland Conference 2025

The Eolas Housing Ireland Conference took place in Croke Park and featured presentations by Housing Agency staff. Director of Insights and Operations, David Silke presented 'Innovation in Housing: The Next Decade'; Jim Baneham, Director of Delivery and Innovation delivered a presentation 'Delivering Social and Affordable Housing at Scale'.

These were followed by 'Accessible Housing & Sustainable Communities' chaired by Roslyn Molloy, Head of Policy, Practice and Communications. Head of Local Authority Services, Patrick McCarthy rounded up contributions with a

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