

Newsletter June 2025

Welcome to the June edition of The Housing Agency newsletter.

This month we marked a milestone in the Croí Cónaithe (Cities) scheme as the first apartments to be delivered under the scheme went on sale, meanwhile a review of Rent Pressure Zones undertaken by the Agency was published and the International Social Housing Festival came to Dublin.

We hope you enjoy the June edition. For the best viewing experience, please open this newsletter in your browser.



THE HOUSING AGENCY

Croí Cónaithe (Cities) further call for expressions of interest

Minister for Housing James Browne TD joined CEO of The Housing Agency, Martin Whelan, and CEO of Park Developments, Seán O'Neill, in Dublin 18 last week to mark the launch of the latest call for apartment builders to seek funding under the Croí Cónaithe (Cities) Scheme. The scheme aims to deliver more apartments for owner-occupiers in city locations by making available funding for developments that would otherwise not be viable.

They toured Park Development's new development, Woodward Court, where apartments went on sale.

Commenting on the latest call, Mr Whelan said: "The Croí Cónaithe (Cities) Scheme is working effectively and gaining strong momentum in delivering much-needed new homes for first-time buyers and other owner-occupiers. It is adding to housing supply by funding a range of apartment developments that might not otherwise be built".

LEARN MORE

THE HOUSING AGENCY

Review of Rent Pressure Zones report published

The Housing Agency was asked by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to undertake a review of the current Rent Pressure Zone system and to examine potential options for rent regulation.

The review examined the introduction, operation and evolution of RPZs within the wider context of rent regulation in Ireland and internationally. It involved engagement with a wide variety of stakeholders, including investors, representatives of landlord and tenant advocacy groups, academics and the Residential Tenancies Board.

The review identified a preferred option of modifying the current RPZ system.

READ THE REPORT

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL HOUSING FESTIVAL 2025

The Housing Agency at the International Social Housing Festival



Housing Agency staff were out in force at the International Social Housing Festival which was held in Dublin for the first time earlier this month.

The event saw more than 2,000 delegates from around the globe gather to enjoy over 300 presentations, seminars, workshops, site visits and social and cultural events.

Housing Agency staff hosted and took part in discussions on a range of topics including affordable housing delivery, cost rental, community-led housing, supported housing, housing for older people and those with disabilities, Housing First and careers in housing.

Thank you to all the delegates who visited our exhibition stand.



THE HOUSING AGENCY

Research Support Programme 2025 is now open

The 2025 Research Support Programme is now open for proposals.

The programme aims to fund projects which respond to key issues in housing and that have the potential to impact on housing policy and practice.

Since 2020, The Housing Agency has supported 24 independent research projects on topics including affordability, vacancy, youth homelessness, biodiversity and Modern Methods of Construction.

Projects are one year in duration and receive up to €30,000 in funding. Funding is available to researchers in Ireland and internationally.

The closing date for receipt of applications is August 29, 2025.

APPLY NOW

HOUSING TRAINING

Training Needs Assessment

In October 2024, The Housing Agency launched the latest Training Needs Analysis Survey. This survey, conducted periodically, enables us to provide updated training that meets the evolving needs of practitioners.

The 2021 Training Needs Analysis led to several targeted training initiatives, including the Tenant Engagement Series, the Trauma-Informed Care webinar series and the ongoing development of a National Apprenticeship in Social and Affordable Housing and Housing Services.

Thank you to those who took part in the latest survey which has shown there is a huge appetite for training in the housing sector, with priorities focussing on knowledge,

information and learning practical skills.

The Agency will now take the information garnered from the survey to inform future training provision and prioritise and plan the delivery of future training.

Click here for more information on upcoming training and courses - <u>Housing Training</u> <u>Home - Housing Training Portal</u>



HOUSING FIRST

Housing First Annual Conference

The Housing First Annual Conference takes place in Cork this week and will explore the theme of 'Supporting Housing First Values and Insights Nationally'.

The conference is aimed at Housing First practitioners, including those working with service providers, local authorities, the HSE and NGOs, and Homeless Prevention staff.

Guest speakers will offer insights on topics including women in homelessness and addiction, dual diagnosis, tenant engagement, probation and community of practice.

The conference takes place in Millenium Hall, Cork City Council, on June 19th with site visits to three Housing First services taking place on June 18th from 2pm to 5pm.

Conference spaces are limited so please email <u>info@housingfirst.ie</u> to confirm attendance.

PART V

Part V Resource Pack

The Housing Agency has recently published the fourth edition of the Part V Resource Pack for local authorities and those delivering housing in the private sector. This is a step-by-step guide to making a Part V agreement covering areas including exemptions,

requirements for planning applications and documentation to be provided to both sides to assist in negotiations.

The fourth edition has been updated to include all changes to Part V prior to the Planning and Development Act 2024. A revised fifth edition will be issued once the Planning and Development Act 2024 is commenced. The new Resource Pack is available on our website along with other Part V written and video resources. Click the button below to access them.

LEARN MORE

MUDs



500 Attend Live Webinar Held in Conjunction with PSRA

Some 500 people attended our live webinar 'OMCs, Agents, and the Letter of Engagement: Insights from the PSRA' on May 20th, which was held in collaboration with the Property Services Regulatory Authority.

If you missed the session, or wish to re-visit key takeaways, the recording is available on our YouTube channel.

WATCH HERE

Engagement with Professional and Trade Bodies

In April and May, The Housing Agency's MUDs section presented at training events hosted by Chartered Accountants Ireland, the Construction Industry Federation, the Chartered Institute of Housing, and the Irish Lift and Escalator Association. Sessions focussed on the role of owners' management companies (OMCs), their finances and governance, and recent developments in relevant law and regulation. Engagement with professional, trade, and representative bodies is a key part of the Agency's outreach to support MUDs and OMCs.

Email MUD@housingagency.ie to engage with the MUDs section.

Upcoming MUDs Outreach Events

In September and October The Housing Agency will host public information meetings for MUDs stakeholders such as directors of OMCs, residents, and property professionals. Meeting dates and locations are as follows:

Outreach Events for Stakeholders in Multi-Unit Developments

Wednesday, 10 September Wednesday, 17 September Wednesday, 24 September Wednesday, 1 October Wednesday, 15 October Wednesday, 22 October

Landmark Hotel, Carrick on Shannon Clayton Hotel, Galway Louis Fitzgerald Hotel, Dublin Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dublin Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick Clayton Silver Springs Hotel, Cork

Events are free to attend and start at 7pm.

To register and for more information please visit

www.housingagency.ie/news-and-events



The evening meetings, starting at 19:00, will cover:

- Challenges faced by OMCs & managed estates
- · Roles and responsibilities
- · Resources available

Attendance places, while free of charge, are limited.

REGISTER HERE

Events and resources



Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2024

The SSHA for 2024 gathers information provided by local authorities about households that are qualified for social housing support but whose social housing need is not currently being met.

Age Friendly Homes

Repair and Leasing Scheme, Call for Expressions of Interest

The Housing Agency is currently seeking submissions for the Repair and Leasing Scheme through an open Expression of Interest.

The Housing Training Network

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 - <u>Housing for All E-Zine</u>

This website provides support and information on housing topics of relevance to older people The Housing Training Network is a website that provides Housing Professionals with information on upcoming training, courses and events.

Affordablehomes.ie

This website allows visitors to browse affordable purchase and cost rental homes in their area and see which developments are coming soon.

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.

The Housing Agency

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