

Important Communication: AHBs and Coronavirus

Dear AHBs

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Irish Government have escalated the national response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and continue to introduce additional measures to limit the spread of virus, alongside the implementation of economic measures to help those impacted.

The Regulation Office recognise the unprecedented circumstances that AHBs are facing as a consequence of the pandemic and that you will be working very hard to manage and mitigate the impact on your operations and to safeguard your staff, tenants, those who are homeless and other service users. We acknowledge and appreciate that this means that AHBs will be prioritising that work over other more routine activity. As such, we are now aligning the Voluntary Regulatory Environment to these new circumstances.

Reporting the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

It is vital that AHBs continue to monitor and manage the risks to both Business Continuity and Financial Viability caused by COVID-19. AHBs should continue to use our [Notifiable Events](#) process to report any emerging issues or significant concerns (as soon as you become aware of them) caused by the impacts of COVID-19. These could include, but are not limited to:

- Impact on staffing which may limit the organisations ability to deliver key services
- Impact on service delivery due to breakdown in contracts
- Issues concerning Tenant Safety
- Impact on rental income and arrears
- Cashflow and liquidity issues impacting Financial Viability
- Impact on current delivery of new social housing

Changes to our regulatory approach

To ensure that AHBs continue to focus on the delivery of services and prioritise the health and well-being of staff and tenants, the Regulation Office has changed its approach until further notice which means:

- We are postponing the issuance of Regulatory Assessment Reports for AHBs, other than for the most serious cases.
- We are postponing all Annual Regulatory Meetings but the most serious regulatory engagements to allow AHBs and us to focus on the most serious existing risks or those that emerge from the current pandemic.
- Where AHBs wish to conduct a Regulatory meeting we shall accommodate via conference call only.
- AHBs are required to inform the Regulation Office via Notifiable Events as outlined above.

We will continue to work closely with the DHPLG and representative bodies to coordinate our response to the current situation.

Please contact the Regulation Office at regulation@housingagency.ie if you have any questions on this.

Kind Regards,

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