

27 April 2022

Ms. Lisa Flanagan

[lisa.flanagan@dublincity.ie](mailto:lisa.flanagan@dublincity.ie)

RE: HPLG-MOBO-00885-2022

Dear. Ms. Flanagan,

I refer to your recent correspondence regarding the request for participation by elected members on the working group on the commencement of section 53 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. I also wish to refer further to the previous correspondence on these issues from the Finance and Strategic Policy Committee that was received in February this year.

In the reply to the February correspondence the Department acknowledged that it is cognisant of the consistent problems arising as a result of rent arrears across the country and acknowledged that while a (direct) deduction at source facility would have the potential to prevent rent arrears arising in the first instance, such a facility relies on the development and implementation of a national standardised rents system.

*The Finance and Strategic Policy Committee was advised that Housing for All and the Programme for Government commit to introducing a standardised national differential rents system to ensure, among other things, fairness for tenants across all local authority areas. The Committee was further advised that the Department was considering several alternatives to the current system of the different local authority rent schemes and that a working group has been established, with representatives from the Department, the Department of Social Protection, the LGMA and the CCMA, to examine the feasibility of introducing a system of direct deduction from source for local authority rent payments.*

The Department is in the process of examining these proposals, however, given the emerging cost of living challenges in recent months, it is considered appropriate to defer implementation of this action in 2022 and thus any further consideration of the commencement of section 53 by the working group at the present time. It is hoped to revisit these issues at a future date.

Yours sincerely

**Niamh Redmond**  
**Private Secretary**

**From:** Housing Minister  
**Sent:** Friday 8 April 2022 09:57  
**To:** 'lisa.flanagan@dublincity.ie' <[lisa.flanagan@dublincity.ie](mailto:lisa.flanagan@dublincity.ie)>  
**Subject:** HPLG-MOBO-00885-2022

8 April 2022

Ms. Lisa Flanagan

[lisa.flanagan@dublincity.ie](mailto:lisa.flanagan@dublincity.ie)

RE: HPLG-MOBO-00885-2022

Dear. Ms. Flanagan,

Thank you for your email to Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, in connection with your housing query.

Your correspondence is currently receiving attention and a further reply will issue as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

**Niamh Redmond**  
**Private Secretary**