

Oifig an Cheannasaí Airgeadais, An Roinn Airgeadais,
Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8, Éire

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Minister Darragh O'Brien T.D.,
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Custom House,
Dublin 1.

CC Graham Doyle, Secretary General, DHLGH

7th December, 2023.

RE: National Differential Rent Scheme

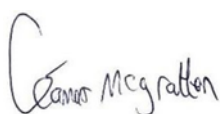
Dear Minister O'Brien,

I write to you on the matter of the deduction of differential rents from the social welfare transfer payments of social housing tenants. This provision is in place for some time in other jurisdictions, operating effectively. Supporting those living in poverty to avoid arrears and create a stable approach to personal financial management, thus avoiding debts, is documented to be beneficial in developing the life skill of personal budgeting. It has been a matter discussed over time by Dublin City Council's Finance Strategic Policy Committee. The discussion held by the SPC has focused on mechanisms and approaches that can be introduced to assist Dublin City Councils social housing tenants.

Previous correspondence on this matter from you and your Department referenced that the introduction of the facility for direct deduction of differential rents due from social welfare transfer payments of social housing tenants is dependent on the introduction of a national differential rents scheme. At the meeting of the Finance SPC held on 16th November, the SPC members sought to have an explanation for the rationale of the referenced dependency on a national differential rents scheme in order to introduce a direct deduction facility.

I look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Clr Séamas McGrattan,

**Chairperson Finance Strategic Policy Committee
Dublin City Council**