

Mary Curran

From: Minister O'Brien Office <ministerobrien-housing@corr.cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: 15 December 2023 11:28
To: finoff@dublincity.ie
Subject: HPLG-MOBO-04548-2023
Attachments: HPLG-MOBO-04548-2023.msg

Oifig an Aire

Office of the Minister

15th December 2023

RE: HPLG-MOBO-04548-2023

Dear Ms. Curran,

I refer to your correspondence dated 8 November and 7 December 2023, and to previous correspondence regarding the issue of rent arrears being accrued by tenants of Dublin City Council.

Regarding your query concerning the rationale of the dependency on a national rent scheme in order to introduce a direct deduction facility, the uncommenced Section 53 of the [Housing \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 2014](#) defines rent as:

“(a) rent payable by a tenant to a housing authority under section 31 of the Act of 2009, or

(b) rent contribution payable by a person to a housing authority under section 25 of the Act of 2009 or under section 44 ,

and references to rent arrears shall be construed accordingly;”

The uncommenced section 31 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 provides for the introduction of a standardised national scheme. Therefore, as it currently stands, any system of direct deduction under section 53 of the 2014 Act can only be made following the introduction of a national rent scheme made under section 31 of the 2009 Act.

The Programme for Government and Housing for All have committed to developing proposals for a standardised, national local authority social housing rent model. The objective is to develop and implement a model that provides the best blend between fairness, progressivity and sustainability.

The Department has completed an initial scoping exercise to determine the focus of the review, with an emphasis on achieving the best blend of equity, progressivity and sustainability and on protecting those on lowest incomes. This is a complex area and requires detailed and careful analysis. The Department's view is that further work is required to consider the practical application of such a scheme in the context of other reform package measures, as well as the broader circumstances of social housing funding programmes and the cost of living issues at this time. The [Housing for All Action Plan Update and Q3 2023 Progress Report](#) has a target completion date of Q4 2024 for the review of the differential rent system.

Proposals will be submitted for consideration by the Minister in due course and a decision to implement a standardised national rents scheme will be considered thereafter, as appropriate.

I trust this answers your queries.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh Redmond
Private Secretary