

To the Members of the Finance SPC  
Dublin City Council

April 2022



### **Follow up on Meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

*The members requested a report detailing how often DCC has approached the Courts to make an Order to deal with problematic tenants with rent arrears, to allow for a deduction at source.*

The legislative process for pursuing tenants for rent related obligations is provided for in the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. This legislation only provides for the seeking of an Order for Possession in the District Court.

Under S 12 (8) of the 2014 Act a District Court Judge may adjourn proceedings under this section for a period fixed by the court, with or without imposing conditions as to the conduct of the tenant or a household member with regard to payment of either or both rent and rent arrears or otherwise. The imposition of such conditions are at the discretion of the judge.

As Section 53 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) has not been enacted, mandatory deduction of rent from social welfare is not an option. Household Budget is the “opt in” mechanism for deduction at source where tenants are paid via An Post, while those who receive their welfare payment through the bank can avail of Direct Debit. A maximum of 25% of income can be deducted from income via Household Budget.

Executive Housing Officer are in attendance at Court Hearings and have the necessary forms on hand to sign tenants up to Direct Debit or Household budget should the courts grant an adjournment.

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