



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

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

Office of the Head of Finance, Finance Department,
Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, Ireland
T. 01 222 2102/3 E. finoff@dublincity.ie

Paul Gallagher SC
Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Government Buildings
Upper Merrion Street
Dublin D02 R583

2nd December, 2022.

Re: Issue of rent collection and arrears relating to social housing tenants

Dear Mr Gallagher,

I write to you, arising from the consideration by the Finance Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) of Dublin City Council, of the issue of rent collection and arrears relating to social housing tenants. You will be aware that rents for social housing units are determined on a differential basis, moving in line with change in income. In that way, social housing rents are not market led, stable and affordable being linked to ability to pay. Notwithstanding this, over recent years the level of rent arrears arising from the failure of some social housing tenants to discharge their weekly rent charge, has increased steadily. This is problematic on many levels, being in sharp contrast to the majority of social housing tenants who pay their rent charge in full and are without arrears. It was reported to the SPC that housing rent arrears owed to Dublin City Council by tenants currently amounts to €37.8m.

The members of the Finance SPC discussed this issue in detail at a meeting held on 17th November and agreed that it would be beneficial to seek the advice of your office on how Dublin City Council might use legal avenues to increase rent collection and reduce rent arrears. You or your nominee are invited to attend the next meeting of the SPC, scheduled for **Thursday 19th January at 2.30pm** to discuss this issue. The meeting will be held on a hybrid basis, with some Members attending in person at the Council Chamber, City Hall, Dublin 2 with others attending remotely via Zoom.

Please confirm attendance at your earliest convenience. You might also advise if it is intended that a report or presentation would be given to the SPC.

Yours sincerely

Clr Séamas McGrattan
Chairperson
Finance Strategic Policy Committee
Dublin City Council

