

Sophie Kelly

From: Minister O'Brien Office <ministerobrien-housing@corr.cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 15 February 2023 14:53
To: Mary Curran
Subject: HPLG-MOBO-03124-2022

Oifig an Aire

Office of the Minister

15th February 2023

RE: HPLG-MOBO-03124-2022

Dear Ms. Curran

I refer to your recent correspondence regarding the issue of rent arrears being accrued by tenants of Dublin City Council and your query regarding the commencement of section 53 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014, which provides for the deduction of local authority rent, etc., by the Minister for Social Protection.

As previously advised the provision of a facility for the direct deduction of local authority rent payments from social welfare payments requires the prior introduction of a national rent scheme. Discussions on this matter that have taken place between the Department, the Department of Social Protection and the CCMA have identified a range of policy, legislative and technical issues that would need to be resolved prior to these changes being introduced.

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. It was intended to bring proposals for a national rent scheme to Government by Q2 2022 however, due to the current cost of living challenges this was deferred pending a review of Housing for All. This review has recently been concluded and it is now intended that proposals will be brought to Government by Q3 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh Redmond