



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála
agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning
and Local Government



Oifig an Aire
Office of the Minister

9 February 2018

Mr. Colm Murphy,
Meeting Administrator
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.

RE: REP244/EM/18

Dear Mr. Murphy,

I have been asked by Mr. Eoghan Murphy T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning, and Local Government to refer to the motion from South Dublin County Council in relation to homelessness policy.

Addressing the issue of homelessness is a key priority for the Minister and for the Government as a whole. You may be aware that in 2016 the Minister published Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness. This plan provides a multi-stranded, action-oriented approach to achieving the Government's key housing objectives and to tackle homelessness in a comprehensive manner. The plan can be accessed at rebuildingireland.ie. A whole of Government approach is being taken to dealing with the issues associated with homelessness i.e. housing, welfare, healthcare, etc. and accordingly the implementation of Rebuilding Ireland is being advanced across a number of departments and agencies.

The long-term solution to the current homeless issue is to increase the supply of homes; accordingly Rebuilding Ireland is designed to accelerate all types of housing supply – social, private and rental. During the lifetime of the Plan some 47,000 new social houses will be provided, supported by Exchequer investment of over €5 billion, and housing output generally will be progressively increased towards the target of producing 25,000 houses per year through all channels.



The Plan provides for early solutions to address the high number of households in emergency accommodation, such as the delivery of independent tenancies through the various social housing supports programmes. This will include the delivery of increased social housing supply through new-build, acquisition and refurbishment schemes. A significant programme of returning void local authority units to productive use has been in operation over the past few years. Independent tenancies will also be provided for homeless households in the private rented sector through housing supports such as the enhanced Housing Assistance Payment.

Finally it is worth noting that significant additional resources have been put in place to tackle homelessness; the level of Exchequer funding available through this Department has more than doubled in the few years since 2013 when €45 million was made available to €116 million that has been provided for in Budget 2018.

I trust this information has been of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

PP 
Niamh Redmond
Private Secretary