Oifig an Aire

Office of the Minister

26th April 2024

RE:  HPLG-MOBO-01299-2024

Dear Ms. Farrell,

I have been asked by Mr. Darragh Oâ€™Brien, TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, to reply to your recent correspondence in relation to social housing applicants having the ability to move to another County and keep their time on the list (**SM11/0224)**. The Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter, the contents of which have been noted.

The Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011, as amended, provide that households may apply for support to one local authority only. Usually, this will be the local authority for the area in which the household normally resides or with which the household has a local connection. Local authorities may also, at their discretion, assess households with no link to the area for support.

A household, meeting either the residence or local connection condition, may specify up to three areas of choice for receipt of support in the areas of all local authorities in the county and city concerned and, if qualified, will be entered on the housing waiting list of each of those local authorities. In accordance with Regulations, a household may not change their areas of choice for a year. If after a year they decide to change their location choices, then the restriction on changing the choices again for a year applies again, and so on.

Generally, is not possible for a household previously on one social housing waiting list to carry the time spent on that list when applying to another local authority. This ensures any unfairness that might arise for households already on a waiting list in a receiving local authority is avoided.The oversight and practical management of social housing waiting lists, including the allocation and transfer of tenancies, is a matter for the relevant local authority in accordance with the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, and associated regulations.

Households are reassessed against the eligibility and need criteria set down in the relevant legislation when transferring to another local authority area. If deemed eligible, they qualify for the suite of social housing supports, including the Housing Assistance Payment, and are placed on the housing list to be considered for suitable tenancies in accordance with the relevant local authorityâ€™s allocation scheme. Notwithstanding, local authorities may prioritise allocations to those households they consider to be most in need at any moment in time.

The Minister currently has no plans to change this policy.

I trust the above has been of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Niamh Redmond

Private Secretary