



CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS ALLIANCE

Apartment Defects Campaign Update, 22 May 2020 – PLEASE SHARE

Programme for Government Talks

Since our last ezine two weeks ago, the Construction Defects Alliance and the Apartment Owners' Network has met with all of the parties and groupings in the Oireachtas apart from Fine Gael (more on this shortly).

Based on these meetings and briefings from trusted and well-informed sources, we know the defects issue has been thoroughly discussed in the Programme for Government (PFG) talks including the joint proposals submitted by the Apartment Owners' Network and the Alliance.

While the process of negotiating the PFG is ongoing and hasn't concluded yet, we're hopeful that the defects issues will be in the PFG. The proposals may well end up being quite high-level but if we get a Minister who is committed to the defects issue, then that gives us something to build on.

As we've said repeatedly, the manifestoes gave us the toe in the door and the PFG will give us a foot in the door but there will be much work to do after that and we'll be looking for your help again.

Response from Current Government

While the feedback from the PFG Talks are positive, the response from the current Government unfortunately tends to be disappointing.

Recently, Deputies Cian O'Callaghan and Eoin Ó Broin submitted Parliamentary Questions (PQs) on the defects issue and the answer (available at this link <https://bit.ly/3gh1ceD>) indicates that the Department of Housing is still holding largely to their long-established line – 'here's all we've done to improve building control. However, they did express a willingness to engage about improving consumer protection in the future.

We've been pursuing both Ministers, Damien English and Eoghan Murphy, for a meeting but no joy as of yet. We've asked Minister Josepha Madigan and Deputy Neale Richmond to follow up on our meeting requests and we know they have. We'll keep you informed of any developments on this front.