



CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS
ALLIANCE

Apartment Defects Campaign Update, 30 July 2020 – PLEASE SHARE

Meeting with Minister for Housing

The Construction Defects Alliance and the Apartment Owners' Network (AON) met with the Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien TD and his officials on Tuesday, 28 July last and the Minister has committed to meet with us again before the end of September.

The main purpose of this very productive meeting was to discuss how the proposal in the Programme for Government to conduct an examination – by July 2021 – of defective housing in the light of the recommendations of the *Safe as Houses?* report would be undertaken.

The Alliance and AON tabled a set of detailed proposals (<https://bit.ly/2DnqdWt>) outlining possible terms of reference for such an examination, a timetable and possible personnel for the proposed examination including people living in defective apartments. We stressed the importance of the process being as public as possible and that the Alliance and AON want to be consulted about it on an ongoing basis.

Minister O'Brien and his officials have agreed to respond to our proposals when we meet towards the end of September.

In addition to discussing this matter, the Alliance and AON were pleased to hear the Minister confirm that it is his aim to bring forward a proposal that is 'realistic and achievable' – which addresses the need for the restitution of defects as well as financial restitution for apartment owners – to put to the Cabinet Committee on Housing and then the Cabinet.

The Minister also stressed his commitment to improving OMC regulation and has asked his officials to look at the possibility of providing guidance to local authorities on including non-compliance with the Building Regulations within the ambit of Section 35 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as grounds for refusing planning permission.

Short-Term Proposals

The Construction Defects Alliance is also committed to advocating for short-term measures by Government to provide some relief to apartment owners facing financial stress because of levies for remediation works.

In this context, we are working on a budget submission and will be engaging with Government on this during August and September.

More on this in the coming weeks.

Ends.