



CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS
ALLIANCE

Apartment Defects Campaign Update, 27 July, 2024 – PLEASE SHARE

Update on Interim Remediation Scheme

You may have seen an article in this morning's Irish Times (<https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/housing-planning/2024/07/01/six-months-after-schemes-opening-no-state-payments-yet-made-to-owners-of-defective-apartments-for-fire-safety-works/>) on the very slow progress of the Interim Remediation Scheme which is supposed to provide funding for fire alarm upgrades or replacements and making sure escape routes are fire-safe

This scheme – which the Alliance first proposed two years ago – was opened for applications by The Housing Agency on 11 December last and to date:

- Over 150 valid applications have been received;
- These applications cover around 16,000 apartments and duplexes;
- No funding has yet been issued so no interim works have been undertaken.

The root of the very slow progress to date appears to be difficulties between the local authority fire services and the Department of Housing on the fire services' need for additional personnel to review applications for this scheme and differing interpretations over what fire safety works should be done under the full remediation scheme.

To be frank, these issues should have been sorted before the Interim Remediation Scheme was launched last year but they weren't.

In early May, Minister Darragh O'Brien personally intervened to try to sort out the issues and a compromise was reached that four pathfinder projects would be processed initially and – based on the learnings from the pathfinder process – the remaining applications would be processed. To be clear, the pathfinder process has been helpful in identifying issues that could help the full remediation scheme run smoother.

However, while these learnings may well be helpful in the medium term the reality is that over 10 weeks later, the pathfinder projects' applications have still not been processed. The Alliance has directly communicated our frustration at the slow progress

here to the Minister and we have asked that he take personal control over getting these issues sorted so that works on the pathfinder projects can commence in September.

We will keep you posted on this.

Retrospective Payments Scheme

While the Alliance has been working intensely to get the Interim Remediation Scheme functioning properly, we have not forgotten that a significant number of you have had remediation works undertaken and are out of pocket as a result. As many of you will know, Government has committed to reimbursing people who have paid for remediation works and the Minister has said that payments would commence this year.

To move this process along, the Alliance has prepared a paper (https://www.constructiondefectsalliance.ie/assets/files/pdf/cda_retrospective_payments_scheme_paper_july_2024.pdf) which we have submitted to Government. We have had very detailed and fruitful discussions on this with The Housing Agency recently and expect to be meeting with the Minister and his officials on this in the coming weeks.

Budget 2025 Submission

Finally, the Alliance has prepared and submitted a detailed and costed paper on our Budget 2025 asks a copy of which can be accessed here https://www.constructiondefectsalliance.ie/assets/files/pdf/cda_budget_2025_submission_june_2024.pdf.

Ends.