



CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS ALLIANCE

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CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS ALLIANCE WELCOMES ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP ON DEFECTIVE HOUSING

Critical that Working Group issues recommendations in time so that Budget 2022 sees commencement of financial measures to support owners of defective homes

The Construction Defects Alliance has welcomed the establishment of the Working Group on Defective Homes by the Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien TD under the chairmanship of Séamus Neely, former CEO of Donegal County Council. This development is in line with the Programme for Government commitment to carry out a review of defective homes – in the light of the Oireachtas Housing Committee's report *Safe as Houses?* – within the first 12 months of the lifetime of the Government.

Kath Cottier, Chair of the Construction Defects Alliance, said that they are particularly pleased that Minister O'Brien and the Department are honouring their commitment to have two apartment owners on the Working Group – one from the Construction Defects Alliance and one from the Apartment Owners' Network. The Alliance is also pleased that their proposal to have someone with financial expertise on the Working Group has been taken on board with the inclusion of a Department of Finance representative.

"The Minister has been clear that the Working Group will get underway in the first quarter of 2021 and our understanding is that the first meeting will take place towards the end of March. However, that leaves a very tight timeframe for the delivery of the Working Group's work by July this year in line with the Programme for Government's clear commitment on the matter.

"In this context, we understand that the Working Group will be prioritising apartment buildings affected by fire safety and architectural defects and this would appear to make sense. However, it is critical that the Working Group issues its recommendations in time to allow the Minister Darragh O'Brien to ensure that Budget 2022 – due to be announced on

12 October next – sees the commencement of the financial supports for apartment owners affected by defects due to shoddy building, as the Minister has publicly committed to doing,” Kath Cottier concluded.

Notes to Editors

The Construction Defects Alliance is an informal network of hundreds of apartment owners, Owners’ Management Companies and construction professionals dealing with defective apartments.

It is estimated that between 90,000 to 100,000 Celtic Tiger-era apartments are affected by significant fire and other defects – due to shoddy building – costing anywhere from €3,000 to €60,000 per apartment to remediate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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