



CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS
ALLIANCE

For release: Thursday, 21 January 2020

CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS ALLIANCE WELCOMES APPOINTMENT OF SEAMUS NEELY AS CHAIR OF DEFECTS WORKING GROUP

The Construction Defects Alliance has welcomed today's announcement that the former CEO of Donegal County Council, Seamus Neely, has been appointed by the Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien TD, as Chair of the Defects Working Group.

The Defects Working Group is being established to assess the scope and the scale of the defects issue – it's estimated that around 100,000 Celtic Tiger era apartments are affected by fire and other defects – the cost of remediating those defects and to recommend how those financial costs might be addressed (currently it's being left to apartment owners who are in no way responsible for the defects to pay thousands of Euros to rectify these defects).

Kath Cottier, Chair of the Construction Defects Alliance said: "Seamus Neely brings a strong knowledge of local government and building control to the Working Group as well as hands-on experience in Donegal of setting up a remediation process for those affected by defects – in his case mica and pyrite. This knowledge and experience will prove invaluable in guiding the work of the Defects Working Group.

"We in the Alliance are now looking forward to the terms of reference for the Working Group being finalised as well as its modus operandi and timetable being set out. It's vital that the work gets underway as soon as is possible so that it reports back by July – as required by the Programme for Government – in time for its recommendations to be taken into account in Budget 2022.

"In addition, we look forward to the membership of the Working Group being completed including the appointment of two apartment owners – to be nominated by the Apartment Owners Network and the Construction Defects Alliance respectively – as proposed by Minister O'Brien late last year, so that the Working Group's deliberations can get underway as soon as is practically possible," Kath Cottier concluded.

Notes to Editors

The Construction Defects Alliance (www.constructiondefectsalliance.ie) is an informal grouping – which has the support of the Apartment Owners’ Network (AON) – currently involving hundreds of apartment owners and OMCs from many different locations around the country which are affected by construction defects.

The Alliance’s objective is the implementation of the recommendations of the Oireachtas Housing Committee’s 2018 report on tackling defects *Safe as Houses?* (https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/32/joint_committee_on_housing_planning_and_local_government/reports/2018/2018-01-24_report-safe-as-houses-a-report-on-building-standards-building-controls-consumer-protection_en.pdf)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Pat Montague 087-2549123