



CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS ALLIANCE

General Election Week 1 Update

Seminar on *Safe As Houses?*, Tuesday, 21 January

Next Tuesday, 21 January, Deputy Eoin Ó Broin – the author of the *Safe As Houses?* report which proposed redress for owners of defective apartments – will be holding a seminar on the defects issue in the Irish Architectural Archive on Merrion Square, Dublin. Details below.

LUNCH TIME SEMINAR:	Chair:
SAFE AS HOUSES? A report on Building Standards, Building Controls and Consumer Protection TWO YEARS ON	MICK CLIFFORD (Investigative Journalist and Author)
	Speakers include:
	ORLA HEGARTY (Assistant Professor at UCD, School of Architecture, Planning & Environmental Policy)
	JOE CORR (Professional planner, former President of the Irish Planning Institute and former Green Party Mayor of Fingal County Council)
Tuesday 21st January 2020 12:30 to 2pm Irish Architectural Archive, Merrion Square, Dublin 2.	CIARA HOLLAND (Construction Defects Alliance)
<small>Please Register on: Eventbrite- Safe as Houses? Two years on</small>	Seminar hosted by:
	Eoin Ó Broin TD Sinn Féin spokesperson on Housing, Planning and Local government and rapporteur of the Safe as Houses Oireachtas Committee Report on the issue of building control and latent defects ✉: eoin.obroin@oir.ie 

There are 20 places left for the event and we would encourage anyone interested to book a place (it's free) ASAP by clicking on the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/safe-as-houses-two-years-on-tickets-88670741575?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Taking Action

The General Election is now up and running and we're hoping for some positive news from the political parties over the coming days on what they might do to help apartment owners affected by defects. In this regard, we had a very positive engagement with Róisín Shortall, Co-Leader of the Social Democrats.

However, the next three weeks give us an ideal opportunity to cement the commitment of the political parties and the new TDs to put in place some sort of redress scheme. In this regard, from early next week, on www.constructiondefectsalliance.ie we will have template letters that you can send out to candidates as well as posters you can put in your windows.

Your active involvement in the lobbying of candidates – and that of your friends and neighbours – could make a big difference.

More details on the Construction Defects Alliance's election campaign early next week.

Meeting with Minister and Department

As we know the General Election was called last Tuesday morning, but despite that, the Alliance had a very constructive meeting with Minister Damien English and senior officials in the Department of Housing.

They heard at first hand the difficulties being experienced by apartment owners in terms of having to pay for remediation works, deal with skyrocketing insurance costs and being unable to sell their homes. The Alliance also strongly outlined the need for redress – whether that's in the form of mica or pyrite type redress scheme, low-cost loans and tax breaks.

The meeting which was originally scheduled for one hour – lasted for nearly two – and it was agreed that direct engagement with the senior officials in the Department would resume after the General Election.