



CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS
ALLIANCE

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CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS ALLIANCE FULLY SUPPORTS 24-HOUR LEINSTER HOUSE PROTEST OVER PROVISION OF INTERIM MEASURES' FUNDING

Alliance calls for immediate setting up of Temporary Administrative Scheme to enable roll-out of fire alarm upgrades and securing of fire-safe means of escape from this autumn

The Construction Defects Alliance has today offered its full support to the 24-hour protest outside Leinster House over the provision of Government funding for interim fire safety measures in apartment complexes affected by fire safety defects.

Alliance spokesperson, Pat Montague, called for Government to act immediately on setting up a Temporary Administrative Scheme – to be managed by the Housing Agency – to enable the roll-out from this autumn of fire alarm upgrades and making escape from buildings fire-safe.

“The report of the Working Group on Defective Homes – published nearly a year ago – indicated that around 90,000 apartments and duplexes are affected by fire safety defects. We understand that the recently completed – but yet-to-be published – draft Fire Safety Code of Practice says that, where necessary, interim measures should be carried out – pending the implementation of full remedial works – to enable continued use of defective building as an apartment/duplex building.

“Crucially – because many developments will be waiting for a number of years to have remedial works completed – where such interim fire safety measures are indicated by fire safety assessment, the draft Code of Practice is understood to propose that interim measures should be considered for IMMEDIATE implementation pending completion of remedial works following consultation with the relevant fire authority,” Pat Montague said.

Mr Montague said that the Construction Defects Alliance understands that the draft Code of Practice suggests that the type of interim fire safety measures envisaged include – amongst many items – the provision of an enhanced fire alarm system to ensure early detection and warning, together with enhanced fire safety management measures to ensure safe egress from the building and temporary fire resisting construction.

“It is crucial that the Government acts immediately by publishing the draft Code of Practice and then, on foot of it, by setting up a Temporary Administrative Scheme – under the Housing Agency – to enable the roll-out of fire alarm upgrades and other interim measures. In this regard, the Construction Defects Alliance and Government representatives agreed in autumn 2022 that an allocation would be made for the support of interim fire safety measures scheme in 2023. The Minister and his advisers have confirmed publicly and privately that funds are in place for an interim fire safety measures scheme to commence in 2023 so there is no reason why an interim measures scheme can’t commence within a matter of months so that people are kept safe in their homes pending full remediation,” Pat Montague concluded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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