



Irish Council  
for Social Housing

# Irish Council for Social Housing

## Member Services 2019

“The Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH) is the national federation of housing associations. Our members collectively manage 33,000 homes and house 75,000 people including low-income families and individuals, homeless persons, people with a disability and older people. ICSH members operate in every local authority area in the country and in over 500 communities across Ireland. A key aspect of the ICSH's work is offering advice, support and assistance to members on any issues they may be facing.

We would urge all members to contact the ICSH throughout the year for advice or assistance on any issue that they may be dealing with. Full contact details of all ICSH staff are included. So please do not hesitate to contact us throughout 2019.”



# ICSH Services to Members

- Advice and guidance on development & management, governance and collaboration and housing finance
- ICSH field advice service, supporting members and meeting with staff and directors
- Assistance with Residential Tenancies Board queries, registrations and disputes
- *Social Housing* newsletter, ICSH briefing notes and email bulletin
- Garda vetting for staff and volunteers
- Group insurance facility
- ICSH website and Twitter (@icsh\_ie) updated regularly with latest news
- continuing professional development seminars
- Biennial National Social Housing and Housing Finance Conference
- ICSH regional and county meetings
- Guidance on governance and ICSH Governance Support and Consultancy Service
- Guidance and support on collaboration initiatives
- Promotion of members and sector representation on local, regional, national and EU fora promoting the role of housing associations

## 2018 Highlights



- Over 270 delegates attended the 2018 ICSH Finance and Development Conference
- Informative one-day seminars delivered on Compassion Fatigue, GDPR and RTB Dispute Resolution Procedures
- Tier One Seminar held in the Ashling Hotel in Dublin
- 2017 ICSH Housing Association Activity Report on record sector output: 2,330 homes delivered
- Published innovative housing management solutions in the community-based non-profit housing sector and increased number of new collaborative initiatives and mergers
- Continued representation and promotion of sector on a number of national bodies
- AGM attended by Minister Eoghan Murphy and launch of the ICSH Annual Report 2017
- Over 800 staff and volunteers of ICSH members vetted through our Garda Vetting Service
- Continued successful delivery of the ICSH / CIH Level 4 Certificate in Housing
- Continued participation in HAPM, accounting for 20,136 units in the sector
- Continued analysis of *Rebuilding Ireland* progress and increased delivery by the sector
- Worked with AHBs and PWC identifying off-balance sheet funding with Stage 2 completed
- Hosting meeting of EU TOPHOUSE Erasmus programme with European partners for project developing skills and competences for staff providing housing and support services to people with disabilities
- Presented at Oireachtas Housing Committee on Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government on classification and social housing financing
- Governance and regulation support for members engaging with the VRC
- Advice service for members on management, financial compliance, development and governance
- Briefing local authorities, SPCs and full Council meeting on AHBs role in meeting housing need
- Five regional meetings held around the country in 2018
- BHP continue to provide a valued group insurance scheme to ICSH members (now at 213 members) providing excellent service along with significant savings

# Stakeholder Engagement

## Submissions made by ICSH to Government with many outcomes sought being achieved:

- Briefings to Ministers Eoghan Murphy, Damien English and Paschal Donohoe
- Briefing at the AHB Summit organised by Government
- ICSH Pre-Budget Submission 2019
- Submission on classification of AHBs
- Submission was made to the Housing Agency on the review of P&A and CALF
- Submission on the review of the local property tax to retain the status quo position
- Submission to the Minister regarding the RTB proposed annual registration fees and amendment legislation
- Presented at the Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government on the Reclassification of AHBs
- Submission to the Dublin Region Homeless Executive on the development of the Framework Statutory Homeless Action Plan for the Dublin region 2017-2020
- Ongoing engagement with DHPLG on Rebuilding Ireland through the Dublin Social Housing Taskforce, the Cork Housing Delivery Taskforce and the AHB Services Unit
- Submission to Ministers Damien English and Jim Daly on Housing for Older People
- Representation on the Joint Steering Group on Housing for Older People
- Briefing note to the sector for the Public Accounts Committee (PAC)
- Invited to Briefing at EU institutions

**The ICSH also sits on many fora representing the interests of members:** Housing for Older People Steering Group, Department of Housing and Health; DCC Strategic Housing Policy Committee; DCC Disability Steering Group; DCC Housing with Care Steering Group; RTB Legislation, Practice & Procedures Committee; FEANTSA Housing Working Group; Housing Europe; Dublin Regional Homeless Executive; Housing Agency Board; Interim Regulation Committee; Housing Training Network; Community and Voluntary Pillar; Housing Subgroup of the National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities State of Ireland Advisory Group

**ICSH involvement in *Rebuilding Ireland* includes representation on:** Dublin Taskforce; Cork Delivery Group; AHB Pillar 2 Working Group; AHB Services Unit Forum

## Issues and Agenda for 2019

- Increased delivery of new homes: meeting targets set out in Rebuilding Ireland through CAS
- Ensure smooth transition to new CALF and P&A funding scheme and other forms of affordable housing delivery
- Reverse CSO recommendation to reclassify Tier 3 housing associations as part of local government sector & examination of status of Tier 1s and Tier 2s. Information Event for Tier 3 Board Members and Chairs in 2019. Meeting of Tier 2s on classification impact (to begin from 2019).
- Proposed legislation on regulation of the sector and impact of changes under the Residential Tenancies Act
- Supporting partnerships, joint ventures and collaborations with local authorities and private sector
- Responding to homeless crisis and evolving issues
- Transitional accommodation and services
- Continuing focus on governance and compliance issues for the sector
- Continued roll-out of ICSH / CIH Certificate in Housing Profession
- Regional meetings to be held around the country from April to June
- Continue to support members through the RTB dispute resolution process
- Rollout of EU Erasmus programme (TOPHOUSE) for special needs housing
- Development and delivery of new education and training events throughout the year
- Development and completion of 3-year ICSH Strategic Plan
- Models for best practice: Tier 1 collaborative working
- Continued promotion and communication of sector activities
- 9th Allianz Biennial Community Housing Awards
- ICSH Biennial Social Housing Conference 26th & 27th September 2019





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