The Irish Council for Social Housing (ICSH) is the national federation of housing associations. Our members collectively manage 35,000 homes and house 75,000 people including low-income families and individuals, homeless persons, people with a disability and older people. ICSH members have delivered and manage housing 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 on the last page, so please do not hesitate to contact us throughout 2020.
ICSH Services to Members

- Advice and guidance on development & management, governance and collaboration, housing finance
- ICSH field advice service, supporting members and meeting with staff and directors
- Assistance with Residential Tenancies Board queries, registrations and disputes
- Biennial National Social Housing and Housing Finance Conferences
- 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
- ICSH regional and county meetings
- Guidance on governance and ICSH Governance Support and Consultancy Service
- Promotion of members and the sector
- Representation on local, regional, national and EU fora promoting the role of housing associations and representing their interests

2019 Highlights

- 350 delegates attended the ICSH Biennial National Social Housing Conference 2019 in Wexford
- Record number of entries for the 2019 ICSH / Allianz Community Housing Awards
- Digital brochure showcasing Community Housing Award winners viewed extensively and widely shared on social media
- Regional Meetings held in Limerick, Cork, Mayo, Cavan and Kilkenny with strong turnout and engagement
- Annual General Meeting held on 19th June 2019 with Minister Damien English addressing delegates
- 2018 ICSH Housing Association Activity Report on record sector output launched demonstrating the record levels of social housing output by the sector: 3,219 new social homes delivered
- Informative and very well attended one-day seminars delivered on CAS procedures, CALF financing and approvals and compassion fatigue
- Continuing high levels of participation in HAPM with demonstrating excellent housing management in the sector
- ICSH involvement in EU Erasmus+ TopHouse project continued with information sessions and pilot training events held
- Over 1,100 staff and volunteers of ICSH members vetted through our Garda Vetting Service
- Continued successful delivery of the ICSH / CIH Level 4 Certificate in Housing
- Partnered with Age Friendly Ireland to host a Housing and Public Realm Training Workshop in July
- Meeting for Board Members held on Reclassification and Strategic issues for Tier 3 Housing Associations
- Continued representation and promotion of sector on a number of national bodies
- Ongoing analysis of Rebuilding Ireland progress and increased delivery by the sector
- Governance and regulation support for members engaging with the VRC including support around latest Performance Standard chapter
- 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
- Engagement with members across social media on Twitter and Facebook
Stakeholder Engagement

Submissions made by ICSH to Government with many outcomes sought being achieved:
- Input to Housing Regulation Bill – submission and meetings with the DHPLG
- Meetings throughout the year with the Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Planning and Local Government on issues of AHB classification, output and pre-legislative scrutiny of the Land Development Agency
- Meeting with and submission made to Dáil Public Accounts Committee on the role of AHBs
- Meetings with the DHPLG and Department of Health through the Housing for Older people Steering Group
- Working policy paper submitted to the DHPLG on properties in social housing
- Worked with Dublin City Council on a Memorandum of Understanding for AHB schemes
- Inputted on CAS Circulars in relation to Development Allowances and new CAS Circular
- Engagement with candidates in 2019 local elections to promote interests of sector
- Worked with stakeholders on developing a new CALF model
- Input to RTB Amending legislation 2019
- Presentation on AHBs to Dublin City Council Housing SPC
- Spoke at a Public Round Table Discussion on Public Housing with Dublin City Council
- Met with a European Commission Semester Mission
- Regular meetings with political parties and spokespeople
- Age Friendly NGO Forum – Local Authority Practitioners Networking Event
- Pre-Budget submission
- Submission on Volunteering Strategy February
- Submission to Homeless Action Plan Framework for Dublin 2019 to 2021
- Submission to the Joint Committee on the NHSPWD Housing for People with a Disability Report
- Submission made on the Social Enterprise Strategy

The ICSH also sits on many fora representing the interests of members: Dublin Social Housing Taskforce, Galway Social Housing Taskforce, Cork Social Housing Taskforce, Cork City and County AHB / LA Forum, AHB Pillar 2 Working Group; AHB Services Unit Forum, Housing for Older People Steering Group, Advisory Committee to new Multi Supplier Framework Agreement for the provision of Architect Led Design Team Services for the Provision of Social & Affordable Residential Developments, Steering Group for the Dublin City Festival of Public Housing, Department of Housing and Health; Dublin City Council Strategic Housing Policy Committee; Dublin City Council Disability Steering Group; Dublin City Council Housing with Care Steering Group; RTB Legislation, Practice & Procedures Committee; RTB Stakeholders Group; FEANTSA Housing Working Group; Housing Europe; Dublin Regional Homeless Executive; Housing Agency Board; Interim Regulation Committee; Housing Training Network; HSE CHO7 Community Living Implementation Group; Community and Voluntary Pillar; Housing Subgroup of the National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities State of Ireland Advisory Group, Age Friendly NGO Forum

Issues and Agenda for 2019
- Continue to support the sector to increase delivery of new homes and meeting Rebuilding Ireland targets
- Continue to work on reversing CSO decision to reclassify developing AHBs
- Support members following commencement of Housing (Regulation of Approved Housing Bodies) Act
- Supporting partnerships, joint ventures and collaborations with local authorities and private sector
- Continue to advise members on funding available through CAS, CALF and P&A and other financial options
- Respond to ongoing housing crisis
- Supporting unique transitional accommodation and services in the sector
- 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 May
- Specific events for Tier 1 members and disability housing providers to engage on issues unique to them
- Continue to advise members on RTB procedures and dispute resolution process
- Development and delivery of new education and training events throughout the year
- Continued promotion and communication of sector activities
- Further develop engagement with members and key stakeholders through social media
- ICSH Biennial Housing Finance and Development Conference
ICSH Contacts

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