



Oifig an Aire
Office of the Minister

9 April, 2020.

Mr. Eoin O Broin, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy O Broin,

I refer to your email of April 9 requesting that a meeting be convened this month with officials from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Department of Finance and Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection and opposition spokespeople to discuss “mechanisms to address the rent arrears burden post crisis”.

The Government has put in place a range of income supports and legislative measures to keep people in their homes during the period of the Covid 19 emergency and to assist those in financial difficulty. These include, but are not limited to, a ban on Notices of Termination being issued and the ban on rent increases. You are also aware that tenants in financial difficulty can avail of the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment or the temporary COVID-19 Wage Subsidy scheme, as well as a range of income supports through the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection including Rent Supplement.

The situation with regard to vulnerable groups is being kept under constant review across all Government Departments. As part of this, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government is commissioning research from the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) to examine the efficacy of the income supports made available to those living in rented accommodation, and the level of arrears which may have arisen at the end of the emergency. This work is essential so a response, if required, is evidence-based.

Yours sincerely,

Eoghan Murphy, T.D.
Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government

