



An Bille um Pas Tithíochta Sóisialta, 2026
Social Housing Passport Bill 2026

Meabhrán Miniúcháin
Explanatory Memorandum



AN BILLE UM PAS TITHÍOCHTA SÓISIALTA, 2026
SOCIAL HOUSING PASSPORT BILL 2026

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Section 2 (a) This section empowers the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to establish by way of regulations a social housing passport.

This will allow households on the Local Authority social housing waiting lists to apply to transfer to the housing list of another local authority and to take their time on list with them, based on criteria set out in the Ministers regulations.

It will also households in receipt of social housing support (Council tenants, AHB tenants, traveller specific accommodation tenants and tenants in RAS or HAP tenancies) to apply to be included in another local authorities transfer list taking their time on list with them, based on criteria set out in the Ministers regulations

The criteria can include employment, education, medical treatment, domestic and gender based violence, exceptional and compassionate grounds.

The regulations would be accompanied by a Ministerial Circular setting out how the social housing passport should operate and list the documents required in any application for the social housing passport such as: a letter of offer of employment from an employer, a letter of confirmation of attendance or offer of a place at an educational institution for a member or members of the household; a letter from a qualified medical practitioner of medical treatment; a letter from An Garda Síochána or a domestic violence support organisation or domestic violence refuge; other documentation that may be required to demonstrate exceptional or compassionate grounds.

Section 2 (b) This section empowers the Minister to set out in the regulations a procedure for prioritising social housing passport applications in cases where there is a threat to life or safety of the applicant or a member of their housing such as in cases of domestic and gender-based violence.

Section 2 (c) This section empowers the Minister following consultation with their counterpart in the Northern Executive to extend the operation of the social housing passport on an all Island basis.

*Eoin Ó Broin TD, Mark Ward TD, Louise O'Reilly TD,
Feabhra, 2026.*

