



**An Bille um Thithíocht agus um Thionóntachtaí Cónaithe (Forálacha
Ilghnéitheacha), 2026**

Housing and Residential Tenancies (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2026

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated



**AN BILLE UM THITHÍOCHT AGUS UM THIONÓNTACHTAÍ CÓNAITHE
(FORÁLACHA ILGHNÉITHEACHA), 2026
HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)
BILL 2026**

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ACTS REFERRED TO

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Children Act 2001 (No. 24)
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Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 (No. 22)
Housing Acts 1966 to 2024
Housing Acts 1966 to 2026
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Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956 (No. 26)
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Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016 (No. 17)
Refugee Act 1996 (No. 17)
Residential Tenancies Act 2004 (No. 27)



**AN BILLE UM THITHÍOCHT AGUS UM THIONÓNTACHTAÍ CÓNAITHE
(FORÁLACHA ILGHNÉITHEACHA), 2026
HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)
BILL 2026**

Bill

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entitled

An Act to provide for additional requirements, relating to residency in the State, to be satisfied in order to be eligible for social housing support; to provide for an appeal of certain decisions relating to social housing support; for those purposes to amend the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009; to make provision in relation to the conduct of mediations, adjudications and Tribunal hearings by the Residential Tenancies Board; to increase the penalties for certain offences under the Residential Tenancies Act 2004; for those and other purposes to amend that Act; and to provide for related matters.

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Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:

PART 1

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PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL

Short title, collective citation, construction and commencement

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Housing and Residential Tenancies (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2026.
- (2) *Part 2* and the Housing Acts 1966 to 2024 may be cited together as the Housing Acts 1966 to 2026 and shall be construed together as one. 20
- (3) *Part 3* shall be included in the collective citation Residential Tenancies Acts 2004 to 2026 and shall be construed together as one with those Acts.
- (4) This Act, other than *section 29*, shall come into operation on such day or days as the Minister may by order or orders appoint either generally or with reference to any particular purpose or provision and different days may be so appointed for different purposes or different provisions. 25

Definition

2. In this Act, “Minister” means the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Repeal of provisions of Residential Tenancies Act 2004

3. Subsections (3) and (4) of section 39A of the Residential Tenancies Act 2004 are repealed.

PART 2

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSING (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 2009

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Interpretation (Part 2)

4. In this Part, “Act of 2009” means the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009.

Amendment of section 2 of Act of 2009

5. Section 2 of the Act of 2009 is amended, in the definition of “household”, by the substitution of “subject to section 18A” for “subject to sections 20 and 84”. 10

Interpretation (Chapter 3)

6. The Act of 2009 is amended, in Chapter 3 of Part 2, by the insertion of the following section before section 19:

“18A. In this Chapter—

‘habitually resident’ shall be construed in accordance with section 20A; 15

‘household’ means—

- (a) a person who lives alone,
- (b) 2 or more persons who live together, or
- (c) 2 or more persons who do not live together but who, in the opinion of the housing authority concerned, have a reasonable requirement to live together; 20

‘lawfully resident’ shall be construed in accordance with section 20A.”.

Amendment of section 20 of Act of 2009

7. Section 20 of the Act of 2009 is amended— 25
- (a) by the deletion of subsection (1), and
 - (b) in subsection (2), by the substitution of “subject to and in accordance with this section, regulations made for the purposes of this section, and section 20A” for “subject to and in accordance with regulations made for the purposes of this section”.

Residency requirements and social housing appeal

8. The Act of 2009 is amended by the insertion of the following sections after section 20:

“Residency requirements

- 20A.** (1) A household shall not be eligible for social housing support unless at the time of carrying out the social housing assessment— 5
- (a) subject to subsection (2), each member of the household is lawfully resident in the State,
 - (b) each member of the household is habitually resident in the State,
 - (c) in the case of—
 - (i) a member of the household who is a person referred to in subsection (3)(c), that member meets the conditions specified in subsections (8), and 10
 - (ii) a member of the household who is a person referred to in subsection (3)(i), that member meets the condition specified in subsection (9) or, where applicable, the condition specified in subsection (10), 15
- and
- (d) no member of the household is subject to a condition that either expressly or by necessary implication prohibits the availing by any such member of social housing support. 20
- (2) Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) shall not apply to a member of a household who is a child (within the meaning of the Children Act 2001).
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), a member of a household shall be considered to be lawfully resident in the State where the member is resident in the State and that residency is based on the member being— 25
- (a) an Irish citizen under the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Acts 1956 to 2024,
 - (b) a British citizen within the meaning of section 6A of the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956, 30
 - (c) a person availing of his or her right under the Regulations of 2015 to enter and reside in the State,
 - (d) a person who has been given a permission to remain in the State under section 49 of the Act of 2015, where the permission concerned is in force, 35
 - (e) a person who has been given a permission to reside in the State under section 54 of the Act of 2015, where the permission concerned is in force,

- (f) a person who has been given a permission to enter and reside in the State under section 56 of the Act of 2015, where the permission concerned is in force,
 - (g) a person who has been given a permission to reside in the State under section 57 of the Act of 2015, where the permission concerned is in force, 5
 - (h) a person who is a programme refugee within the meaning of section 59 of the Act of 2015, or
 - (i) a person who is a member of a class of persons prescribed under subsection (4), where the permission concerned is in force. 10
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3)(i), the Minister may, in accordance with this section and with the consent of the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, prescribe a class or classes of persons, being persons—
- (a) to whom such permission (other than a permission referred to in paragraphs (d) to (h) of subsection (3)) as may be specified by the Minister has been given, in accordance with the law of the State, to be or to remain in the State, and 15
 - (b) where considered appropriate, who have been lawfully resident for such period immediately preceding the giving of the permission referred to in paragraph (a), as may be specified by the Minister. 20
- (5) In prescribing a class of persons under subsection (4) (and in specifying a permission under paragraph (a) of that subsection and a period under paragraph (b) of that subsection), the Minister shall consider such matters as, in his or her opinion, are appropriate including the following: 25
- (a) the nature and purpose of the permission given to persons of the class concerned;
 - (b) any condition to which the persons of that class are subject, including— 30
 - (i) any condition as to duration of stay and engagement in employment, business or a profession in the State, and
 - (ii) any condition referred to in subsection (1)(d);
 - (c) where the duration of stay referred to in paragraph (b)(i) is a period of less than two years, any period immediately preceding the permission referred to in paragraph (a) during which that class of persons have been lawfully resident. 35
- (6) The Minister shall not prescribe as a class of persons under subsection (4)—
- (a) a class of persons subject to a condition referred to in subsection (1)(d), or 40

- (b) a class of persons in respect of whom a permission has been given under section 60 of the Act of 2015.
- (7) For the purposes of subsection (1), a housing authority shall, when determining whether a member of a household is habitually resident in the State, take into consideration all the circumstances of the case, including, in particular, the following:
 - (a) the length and continuity of the member’s residence in the State;
 - (b) the length and purpose of any absence, by the member, from the State;
 - (c) the nature and pattern of the member’s employment;
 - (d) the member’s main centre of interest;
 - (e) the future intentions of the member concerned as they appear from all the circumstances.
- (8) The conditions that apply to a member of a household referred to in subsection (3)(c) are that the member—
 - (a) has been lawfully resident in the State for a period of at least 3 months immediately prior to the day the application for social housing support is made by the household concerned, and
 - (b) is—
 - (i) in employment or self-employed in the State,
 - (ii) a family member (within the meaning of the Regulations of 2015) of a person to whom subparagraph (i) applies, or
 - (iii) a person to whom subparagraph (i) or (ii), as the case may be, no longer applies but who continues to reside in the State in accordance with the Regulations of 2015.
- (9) The condition that applies to a member of a household referred to in subsection (3)(i) is that the member has, on the day the application for social housing support is made, been—
 - (a) lawfully resident for a period, or periods comprising a total, of at least 5 years during the period of 8 years immediately preceding the day the application was made, or
 - (b) lawfully resident for a period, or periods comprising a total, of less than 5 years during the period of 8 years immediately preceding the day the application was made and is, on that day, resident in the State in accordance with a permission specified under subsection (4)(a) that is—
 - (i) in force, and
 - (ii) a permission to reside in the State for a period that enables a person to be, on the date of expiration of that permission, lawfully resident in the State for a period, or periods comprising

a total, of at least 5 years during the 8 years immediately preceding such date of expiration.

- (10) Where a member of a household referred to in subsection (3)(i) is, on the day the application concerned is made, a connected member of another member of the household (including a member of the household referred to in that paragraph (i)) who satisfies subsection (1), the member may, instead of meeting a condition referred to in subsection (9), meet the condition that the member is, on the day the application is made, resident in the State in accordance with a permission specified under subsection (4)(a) that is—
- (a) in force, and
 - (b) a permission to reside in the State for any period that enables the member to be lawfully resident in the State for a period immediately following such day of application.
- (11) For the purposes of subsection (1), a member of a household shall not be considered to be habitually resident in the State where the member is—
- (a) a person who has made an application under Regulation 25 or 26 of the European Union (Subsidiary Protection) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 426 of 2013) (in this section referred to as the ‘Subsidiary Protection Regulations’) where the application has yet to be determined under the Subsidiary Protection Regulations,
 - (b) a person who has been notified under paragraph (a) of section 3(3) of the Act of 1999 that the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration proposes to make a deportation order where that notification is in force, whether or not that person has made representations under paragraph (b) of section 3(3) of that Act, where the Minister has not yet made a decision as to whether a deportation order is to be made in respect of such person,
 - (c) a person who was an applicant (within the meaning of the Refugee Act 1996) and in relation to whom a deportation order has been made under section 3(1) of the Act of 1999, where the deportation order concerned is in force,
 - (d) a person the subject of a deportation order (within the meaning of section 51 of the Act of 2015), where the deportation order is in force,
 - (e) a person the subject of a return order (within the meaning of section 51A of the Act of 2015), where the return order is in force,
 - (f) a person the subject of a removal order (within the meaning of Regulation 20(1) of the Regulations of 2015), where the removal order is in force,
 - (g) a person the subject of a notification under Regulation 21(1) of the Regulations of 2015, where the notification is in force and the

Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration has not yet made a decision to make a removal order,

(h) a person who—

(i) is an applicant (within the meaning of the Act of 2015), or

(ii) has made, or is deemed under the Act of 2015 to have made, an application under section 15 of that Act which has been refused under section 47 of that Act, 5

or

(i) a person who has been given permission to reside in the State under section 60 of the Act of 2015, where the permission concerned is in force. 10

(12) In this section—

‘Act of 1999’ means the Immigration Act 1999;

‘Act of 2010’ means the Civil Partnership and Certain Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act 2010; 15

‘Act of 2015’ means the International Protection Act 2015;

‘connected member’ means a member of a household referred to in subsection (3)(i) who is one of the following in relation to another member of the household referred to in subsection (3):

(a) a spouse of the second-mentioned member; 20

(b) a civil partner (within the meaning of section 3 of the Act of 2010) of the second-mentioned member;

(c) a cohabitant (within the meaning of section 171 of the Act of 2010) of the second-mentioned member;

‘Regulations of 2015’ means the European Communities (Free Movement of Persons) Regulations 2015 (S.I. No. 548 of 2015). 25

Social housing appeal

20B. (1) Subject to subsection (2), a household may appeal (in this section referred to as a ‘social housing appeal’) a determination made under section 20, or under regulations made under that section, by a housing authority that— 30

(a) the household is not qualified for social housing support,

(b) the household, having previously been determined to be qualified for social housing support, is no longer qualified for such support, or 35

(c) a particular form of social housing support is the appropriate form of such support for that household.

(2) Subsection (1) shall not apply to a household that is in receipt of social housing support.

- (3) A social housing appeal—
- (a) under paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (1) shall be on one or more of the grounds specified in subsection (4) only, and
 - (b) under subsection (1)(c) shall be on one or more of the grounds specified in subsection (5) only. 5
- (4) The grounds referred to in subsection (3)(a) are that the housing authority was in error in finding that—
- (a) the household exceeded the maximum income threshold applicable to the household concerned,
 - (b) the accommodation occupied by the household at the time of carrying out the social housing assessment would meet its housing need, 10
 - (c) alternative accommodation was available to the household that would meet its housing need,
 - (d) the household was not eligible under section 20(5) for social housing support, 15
 - (e) a member of the household required under paragraph (a) of section 20A(1) to be lawfully resident was not so lawfully resident,
 - (f) a member of the household required under paragraph (b) of section 20A(1) to be habitually resident was not so habitually resident, 20
 - (g) a member of the household required under paragraph (c) of section 20A(1) to meet a condition specified in that section did not meet that condition, or
 - (h) a condition specified in section 20A applied to a member of the household. 25
- (5) The grounds referred to in subsection (3)(b) are that the housing authority was in error in—
- (a) not taking into account social housing support that was previously provided by a housing authority or was in error in relation to the social housing support that was taken into account, 30
 - (b) its description and classification of the household’s need,
 - (c) its description of the household’s specific accommodation requirements according to a particular category of household need, or 35
 - (d) its description of the household’s accommodation need based on the composition of the household.
- (6) A social housing appeal shall be made to the chief executive of the housing authority concerned within 14 days of the notification by the housing authority to the household concerned of the making of a 40

determination in respect of the application for social housing support concerned under section 20.

- (7) A social housing appeal shall be in writing and shall—
 - (a) state whether the appeal is an appeal under paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of subsection (1), and 5
 - (b) state the ground or grounds on which the appeal is made.
- (8) A social housing appeal may, to support a ground of the appeal, be accompanied by any information previously provided to the housing authority concerned for the purpose of making the determination the subject of the appeal. 10
- (9) On receipt by a housing authority of a social housing appeal made in accordance with this section, the chief executive of the authority shall appoint an officer or employee of the authority to decide the appeal (in this section referred to as an ‘appeals officer’) and furnish that person with the social housing appeal. 15
- (10) An appeals officer shall be a person who—
 - (a) did not make the determination concerned, and
 - (b) is in a more senior role in the authority than the person who made the determination or in a role that is equivalent in seniority to a role that is more senior than the role of the person who made the determination. 20
- (11) An appeals officer shall be independent in the performance of his or her functions under this section.
- (12) An appeals officer—
 - (a) shall decide a social housing appeal within 28 days of receipt of the social housing appeal under subsection (9), and 25
 - (b) shall—
 - (i) confirm the determination concerned,
 - (ii) vary the determination, or
 - (iii) set aside the determination and, where the appeals officer considers it appropriate, make an alternative determination. 30
- (13) In deciding a social housing appeal, an appeals officer shall consider—
 - (a) all information provided by the household to the housing authority for the purpose of making the determination the subject of the appeal, 35
 - (b) the social housing appeal, and
 - (c) any accompanying information provided in accordance with subsection (8).

- (14) A decision of an appeals officer on a social housing appeal shall include reasons for the decision.
- (15) Where an appeals officer makes a decision on a social housing appeal under subparagraph (ii) or (iii) of subsection (12)(b), the date of the decision shall be deemed to be the date of the determination. 5
- (16) An appeals officer shall notify the household concerned of his or her decision on the social housing appeal concerned.
- (17) A decision of an appeals officer on a social housing appeal shall be final.”.

Transitional provisions 10

9. (1) This section shall apply to—
- (a) an application for social housing support where, before the coming into operation of *section 8*, the housing authority concerned has not yet determined the application,
 - (b) a review in accordance with regulations made under section 20 of the Act of 2009 of a social housing assessment where, before the coming into operation of *section 8*, the housing authority has not yet concluded the review, and 15
 - (c) a summary under section 21 of the Act of 2009 where, before the coming into operation of *section 8*, the housing authority has not yet completed the summary.
- (2) The housing authority may give notice in writing to the household to which an application, a review or a summary, referred to in *subsection (1)* relates— 20
- (a) stating that the household shall complete and submit to the housing authority a form prescribed by the Minister for the purposes of demonstrating that each member of the household satisfies paragraphs (b) and (d) and, where applicable, paragraph (c), of section 20A(1) of the Act of 2009, and 25
 - (b) specifying a period of not less than 21 days from the date of the notice within which the form shall be submitted to the housing authority.
- (3) The housing authority may, where it considers it appropriate to do so, extend the period referred to in *subsection (2)(b)*.
- (4) The Minister may prescribe a form for the purposes of *subsection (2)* and, in so prescribing, may prescribe the information and particulars to be provided by a household in that form and verification to be provided by the household of such information and particulars. 30
- (5) A housing authority shall, in determining an application, concluding a review or completing a summary, referred to in *subsection (1)*, take into consideration information submitted in accordance with a notice given under this section. 35
- (6) A person is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €2,000 where he or she is a member of a household to which a notice is given under this section and, in purported compliance with that notice, the person—

- (a) knowingly makes any statement or representation which is to his or her knowledge false or misleading in any material respect, or knowingly conceals any material fact, or
 - (b) furnishes, or causes or knowingly allows to be furnished, any information which he or she knows to be false in a material particular. 5
- (7) An offence under *subsection (6)* may be prosecuted by the housing authority who gave the notice under this section to the household referred to in that subsection.

PART 3

AMENDMENTS TO RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT 2004

Definition 10

10. In this Part, “Act of 2004” means the Residential Tenancies Act 2004.

Amendment of section 4 of Act of 2004

11. Section 4(1) of the Act of 2004 is amended by the insertion of the following definition:

“ ‘personal data’ has the meaning it has in Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016¹ on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation);”.

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Amendment of section 6 of Act of 2004

12. Section 6 of the Act of 2004 is amended— 20

(a) in subsection (1)—

(i) by the insertion of “, issued” after “to be served”, and

(ii) by the insertion of “, issued to” after “served on”,

(b) in subsection (2)—

(i) by the insertion of “or other document” after “notice”, and 25

(ii) by the insertion of “, issued to” after “served on”,

(c) in subsection (4), by the insertion of “or other document” after “notice” in both places where it occurs, and

(d) in subsection (6)—

(i) by the insertion of “or other document” after “notice” in both places where it occurs, and 30

(ii) by the insertion of “, issued” after “served” in both places where it occurs.

¹ OJ No. L119, 4.5.2016, p. 1

Amendment of section 9 of Act of 2004

13. (1) Section 9 of the Act of 2004 is amended—

(a) in subsection (1)—

(i) by the substitution of “class A fine” for “fine not exceeding €3,000”, and

(ii) by the substitution of “12 months” for “6 months”,

and

(b) in subsection (2), by the substitution of “class D fine” for “fine not exceeding €250”.

(2) The amendments of section 9(1) of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)(a)* shall apply only in respect of an offence committed under the said section 9(1) after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)(a)*. 10

(3) The amendment of section 9(2) of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)(b)* shall apply only in respect of an offence committed under the said section 9(2) after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)(b)*.

Amendment of section 12 of Act of 2004

14. (1) Section 12 of the Act of 2004 is amended—

(a) in subsection (1)(i)—

(i) by the insertion of “a tenancy of a dwelling referred to in section 3(4), a cost rental tenancy (within the meaning of the Affordable Housing Act 2021) or” after “other than”, and

(ii) by the deletion of “and the Board”,

(b) by the addition of the following subsections after subsection (5):

“(6) A landlord under a tenancy to which paragraph (i) of subsection (1) applies shall, within one month from the commencement of a tenancy, give to the Board, in writing, the information required to be furnished to the tenant under that paragraph. 25

(7) A person who fails to comply with the requirements of subsection (6) shall be guilty of an offence.

(8) Where the Board has reasonable grounds for believing that a person has committed an offence under subsection (7), it may serve on the person a notice in the prescribed form (in this section referred to as a ‘fixed payment notice’) stating that— 30

(a) the person is alleged to have committed an offence under subsection (7) (in this section referred to as the ‘alleged offence’),

(b) the person may, during the period of 28 days beginning on the date of the fixed payment notice, make to the Board a payment of €100 or such greater amount not exceeding €500 as may be prescribed, accompanied by the notice or a copy thereof, 35

- (c) the person is not obliged to make the payment specified in the notice,
 - (d) a prosecution of the person in respect of the alleged offence will not be instituted during the period of 28 days beginning on the date of the notice, and 5
 - (e) if the payment specified in the notice is made during that period, no prosecution in respect of the alleged offence will be instituted.
- (9) Where a fixed payment notice is served—
- (a) the person to whom it applies may make a payment in accordance with subsection (8)(b), 10
 - (b) the Board shall, upon receipt of the payment, issue a receipt for it,
 - (c) any payment received by the Board shall not be recoverable by the person who made it, and
 - (d) a prosecution in respect of the alleged offence shall not be instituted during the period specified in subsection (8)(b) and, if payment so specified is made during that period, no prosecution in respect of the alleged offence shall be instituted. 15
- (10) In proceedings for an alleged offence, it shall be a defence for the defendant to prove that the defendant has made a payment in accordance with subsection (8)(b) pursuant to a fixed payment notice served in respect of the alleged offence. 20
- (11) Payments received by the Board under this section shall be paid into or disposed of for the benefit of the Exchequer.”.
- (2) The amendments of section 12 of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)(b)* shall apply only in respect of a tenancy to which section 12(1)(i) of the Act of 2004 applies that is created after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)(b)*. 25

Provision in aid of enforcement of requirements relating to setting of rent

15. (1) The Act of 2004 is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 22A:

- “22B.** (1) Where the Board has reasonable grounds for believing that a person has committed a relevant offence, it may serve a notice in writing (in this section referred to as a ‘fixed payment notice’) in the prescribed form stating that— 30
- (a) the person is alleged to have committed the relevant offence concerned (in this section referred to as the ‘alleged offence’), 35
 - (b) the person may, during the period of 28 days beginning on the date of the fixed payment notice, make to the Board a payment of €200 or such greater amount not exceeding €1,000 as may be prescribed, accompanied by the notice or a copy thereof,

- (c) the person is not obliged to make the payment specified in the notice,
 - (d) a prosecution of the person in respect of the alleged offence will not be instituted during the period of 28 days beginning on the date of the notice, and 5
 - (e) if the payment specified in the notice is made during that period, no prosecution in respect of the alleged offence will be instituted.
- (2) Where a fixed payment notice is served—
- (a) the person to whom it applies may make a payment in accordance with subsection (1)(b), 10
 - (b) the Board shall, upon receipt of the payment, issue a receipt for it,
 - (c) any payment received by the Board shall not be recoverable by the person who made it, and
 - (d) a prosecution in respect of the alleged offence shall not be instituted during the period specified in subsection (1)(b) and, if payment so specified is made during that period, no prosecution in respect of the alleged offence shall be instituted. 15
- (3) In proceedings for an alleged offence, it shall be a defence for the defendant to prove that the defendant has made a payment in accordance with subsection (1)(b) pursuant to a fixed payment notice served in respect of the alleged offence. 20
- (4) The Minister may prescribe different amounts for different offences for the purposes of subsection (1).
- (5) Payments received by the Board under this section shall be paid into or disposed of for the benefit of the Exchequer. 25
- (6) In this section, ‘relevant offence’ means an offence under subsection (6A) or (6C) of section 19, or an offence under subsection (4) of section 22.”.
- (2) The amendments of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)*—
- (a) in so far as they relate to an offence under subsection (6A) or (6C) of section 19 of that Act, shall apply only in respect of the setting of the rent under the tenancy of a dwelling after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)*, and 30
 - (b) in so far as they relate to an offence under subsection (4) of section 22 of that Act, shall apply only in respect of a notice referred to in that section served after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)*. 35

Amendment of section 56 of Act of 2004

16. Section 56 of the Act of 2004 is amended—

- (a) in subsection (3)—

- (i) by the substitution of “the adjudicator or the Tribunal, as the case may be,” for “he, she or it”,
 - (ii) in paragraph (b), by the insertion of “and subsection (3A)” after “section 118”, and
 - (iii) in paragraph (c), by the insertion of “and subsection (3A)” after “section 18”,
and
- (b) by the addition of the following subsection after subsection (3):
- “(3A) A determination under paragraph (b) or (c) of subsection (3)—
- (a) shall not include a direction that the complainant be permitted to resume possession of the dwelling where the adjudicator or the Tribunal is satisfied that the landlord of that dwelling has entered into an enforceable agreement of the type referred to in paragraph 3 of the Table to section 34, and
 - (b) that is made where the landlord of the dwelling has entered into an enforceable agreement of the type referred to in paragraph 3 of the Table to section 34 shall not have effect in so far as the determination comprises a direction that the complainant be permitted to resume possession of the dwelling.”.

Amendment of section 64A of Act of 2004

- 17.** (1) Section 64A of the Act of 2004 is amended by—
- (a) the insertion of “or a statement or statutory declaration accompanying the notice of termination or a notification related to the notice of termination given under section 67(3) or 68(3)(a)” after “during the service of, the notice of termination”, and
 - (b) the substitution of “if the adjudicator or Tribunal” for “if he, she or it”.
- (2) The amendment of section 64A of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)(a)* shall apply only in respect of a notice of termination, statement, statutory declaration or notification referred to in that section served after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)*.

Amendment of section 65 of Act of 2004

- 18.** (1) Section 65(4) of the Act of 2004 is amended by the substitution of “120 days” for “90 days”.
- (2) The amendment of section 65(4) of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)* shall apply only in respect of a notice of termination referred to in that section served after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)*.

Amendment of section 66 of Act of 2004

- 19.** (1) Section 66(2A)(a)(i) of the Act of 2004 is amended by the insertion of “or a statement or statutory declaration accompanying the original notice or a notification related to

the original notice given under section 67(3) or 68(3)(a),” after “the service of, the original notice,”.

- (2) The amendment of section 66(2A) of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)* shall apply only in respect of a notice of termination or a notification referred to in that section served after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)*. 5

Amendment of section 71 of Act of 2004

20. (1) Section 71(1)(c) of the Act of 2004 is amended by the substitution of “90 days” for “28 days”.

- (2) The amendment of section 71 of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)* shall apply only in respect of a notice of termination referred to in that section served after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)*. 10

Amendment of section 72 of Act of 2004

21. (1) Section 72 of the Act of 2004 is amended—

- (a) in subsection (1), by the substitution of “90 days” for “28 days”,
(b) in subsection (2), by the substitution of “90 days” for “28 days”, and 15
(c) in subsection (3), by the substitution of “issued” for “made”.

- (2) The amendments of section 72 of the Act of 2004 effected by *paragraphs (a)* and *(b)* of *subsection (1)* shall apply only in respect of a notice of termination referred to in that section served after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)*.

Amendment of section 78 of Act of 2004

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22. Section 78(1)(n) of the Act of 2004 is amended by the substitution of “issued” for “made”.

Amendment of section 95 of Act of 2004

23. (1) Section 95 of the Act of 2004 is amended—

- (a) in subsection (5), by the insertion of “, but shall otherwise maintain the confidentiality of the mediation and shall not disclose the report to any other person” after “Director”, 25
(b) in subsection (5A), by the substitution of “10 working days” for “10 days”, and
(c) in subsection (5B)(a), by the substitution of “subsection (4)(b)” for “subsection (3)(b)”. 30

- (2) The amendments of section 95 of the Act of 2004 effected by *paragraphs (a)* and *(b)* of *subsection (1)* shall apply only in respect of a mediation the date of completion of which under that section occurs after the date of commencement of those paragraphs.

Amendment of section 96 of Act of 2004

24. (1) Section 96 of the Act of 2004 is amended—

(a) by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (1):

“(1) Where the report furnished to the Director under section 95(5) states that there is agreement between the parties and that the agreement resolves the dispute, the Director shall, as soon as practicable, prepare and issue a determination order under section 121 in respect of the dispute.”, 5

(b) in subsection (2)(b), by—

(i) the substitution of “dispute, or” for “dispute,” in subparagraph (i), 10

(ii) the substitution of “parties,” for “parties, or” in subparagraph (ii), and

(iii) the deletion of subparagraph (iii),

and

(c) by the addition of the following subsection after subsection (2):

“(3) Where, within the period of 10 working days following the completion of a mediation, a party to the mediation has made a notification to the mediator and the Board under section 95(5A), the Board shall refer the dispute to the Tribunal.”. 15

(2) The amendments of section 96 of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)* shall apply only in respect of a mediation the date of completion of which under section 95 of the Act of 2004 occurs after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)*. 20

Amendment of section 97 of Act of 2004

25. (1) Section 97 of the Act of 2004 is amended—

(a) by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (4):

“(4A) Where an adjudication relates to a matter in connection with a notice of termination referred to the Board for resolution under section 76, the adjudicator shall have regard to any advice referred to in section 67(3A) when making a decision or determination in relation to the matter.”, 25

(b) by the addition of the following subsections after subsection (7): 30

“(8) An adjudicator may receive evidence in accordance with subsection (9) where an adjudication relates to—

(a) a matter referred to the Board under section 76 that relates to—

(i) an alleged failure by a tenant to comply with section 16(h),

(ii) alleged behaviour of a tenant that is threatening to the fabric of the dwelling or the property containing the dwelling, or 35

(iii) an alleged failure by a landlord to comply with section 12(1)(a),

or

(b) a complaint referred to the Board under section 77 that relates to—

(i) an alleged breach of the duty of a landlord to enforce the obligation of a tenant under section 16(h), or

(ii) an alleged breach of the duty of a landlord not to allow behaviour of a tenant that is threatening to the fabric of the dwelling concerned or the property containing the dwelling. 5

(9) Where subsection (8) applies, the adjudicator may—

(a) receive evidence from a person who could be affected by the alleged failure, behaviour or breach, or 10

(b) receive as evidence of the alleged failure, behaviour or breach, a statement by a member of An Garda Síochána or an officer of a housing authority that the member or officer believes the alleged failure, behaviour or breach is occurring or has occurred, if the adjudicator is satisfied that— 15

(i) there are reasonable grounds for the belief, and

(ii) a person other than the member or officer would be deterred or prevented by violence or threat of violence to the person or to a person associated with that person, or to property of the person or of a person associated with that person, from giving such evidence.”, 20

and

(c) by the addition of the following subsections after subsection (9) (inserted by paragraph (b)):

“(10) An adjudication shall be conducted in public unless the adjudicator determines in accordance with rules made under section 109 that, due to the existence of special circumstances, the adjudication or part of it should be conducted otherwise than in public. 25

(11) Where an adjudication or part of it is conducted otherwise than in public, a person shall not knowingly or recklessly publish the name, address, contact details or other personal data of a party to the adjudication. 30

(12) A person who contravenes subsection (11) shall be guilty of an offence.

(13) Criminal proceedings for an offence referred to in subsection (12) shall not lie against a member of the staff of the Board or an adjudicator in respect of anything done in good faith by the member of the staff or adjudicator in the course of the performance or purported performance of functions under this Act. 35

(14) Each witness of a party before an adjudicator (including the party as witness) may be cross-examined by or on behalf of each other party. 40

(15) A person giving evidence in an adjudication shall be entitled to the same immunities and privileges as a witness before the High Court.	
(16) An adjudicator may require that evidence be given in an adjudication by a person on oath or affirmation and for that purpose may administer or cause to be administered an oath or affirmation to the person.”.	5
(2) The amendment of section 97 of the Act of 2004 effected by <i>subsection (1)(b)</i> shall apply only in respect of a matter or complaint referred to the Residential Tenancies Board under section 76 or 77 of the Act of 2004 after the date of commencement of <i>subsection (1)(b)</i> .	
(3) The amendment of section 97 of the Act of 2004 effected by <i>subsection (1)(c)</i> shall apply only in respect of a matter or complaint referred to the Residential Tenancies Board under section 76 or 77 of the Act of 2004 after the date of commencement of <i>subsection (1)(c)</i> .	10
 Amendment of section 98 of Act of 2004	
26. (1) Section 98 of the Act of 2004 is amended—	15
(a) in subsection (1)(a), by the substitution of “10 working days” for “10 days”, and	
(b) in subsection (4), by the substitution of “in accordance with section 123(1)(c)” for “on a determination order under section 121 being made in relation to it”.	
(2) The amendment of section 98(1) of the Act of 2004 effected by <i>subsection (1)(a)</i> shall apply only in respect of a decision referred to in that subsection of which the adjudicator is first informed after the date of commencement of <i>subsection (1)(a)</i> .	20
(3) The amendment of section 98(4) of the Act of 2004 effected by <i>subsection (1)(b)</i> shall apply only in respect of a determination order under section 121 issued after the date of commencement of <i>subsection (1)(b)</i> .	
 Amendment of section 99 of Act of 2004	
27. Section 99(4) of the Act of 2004 is amended by the substitution of “preparing and issuing” for “making”.	25
 Amendment of section 101 of Act of 2004	
28. (1) Section 101(1) of the Act of 2004 is amended—	
(a) in paragraph (a), by the substitution of “aware, and” for “aware,”,	30
(b) in paragraph (b), by the substitution of “member.” for “member,”, and	
(c) by the deletion of paragraph (c).	
(2) The amendments of section 101(1) of the Act of 2004 effected by <i>subsection (1)</i> shall apply only in respect of a mediation or adjudication arranged under Part 6 of the Act of 2004 after the date of commencement of <i>subsection (1)</i> .	35

Amendment of section 103 of Act of 2004

29. (1) Section 103 of the Act of 2004 is amended—

(a) in subsection (1B)—

(i) in paragraph (a)—

(I) in subparagraph (i), by the insertion of “or complaint” after “dispute”, 5

(II) by the substitution of the following subparagraph for subparagraph (ii):

“(ii) the Tribunal considers that in the particular circumstances it would be appropriate to request the Board to refer the dispute or complaint to a Tribunal composed of 3 members,”,

and 10

(III) by the substitution of “request the Board to do so” for “so refer the matter to the Board accordingly”,

and

(ii) in paragraph (b), by the insertion of “or complaint” after “dispute”,

and 15

(b) in subsection (1D), by the substitution of “subsection (1A)” for “this subsection”.

(2) *Subsection (1)* shall commence on the date of commencement of section 44 of the Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016.

Amendment of section 104 of Act of 2004

30. (1) Section 104 of the Act of 2004 is amended— 20

(a) in subsection (5)(a), by the substitution of “10 working days” for “21 days”, and

(b) by the addition of the following subsection after subsection (7):

“(8) The Tribunal shall, on the hearing of a dispute referred to it under section 94 or 96(2) or an appeal under section 100, have regard to any advice referred to in section 67(3A) in relation to the matter the subject of the dispute or appeal, as the case may be, when making a determination under section 108.”. 25

(2) The amendment of section 104 of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)(a)* shall apply only in respect of a notice given under subsection (3) of that section after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)(a)*. 30

Amendment of section 105 of Act of 2004

31. (1) Section 105 of the Act of 2004 is amended by the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (1):

“(1A) The Tribunal may receive evidence in accordance with subsection (1B) where the dispute relates to— 35

(a) a matter referred to the Board under section 76 that relates to—

- (i) an alleged failure by a tenant to comply with section 16(h),
- (ii) alleged behaviour of a tenant that is threatening to the fabric of the dwelling or the property containing the dwelling, or
- (iii) an alleged failure by a landlord to comply with section 12(1)(a),
or 5
- (b) a complaint referred to the Board under section 77 that relates to—
 - (i) an alleged breach of the duty of a landlord to enforce the obligation of a tenant under section 16(h), or
 - (ii) an alleged breach of the duty of a landlord not to allow behaviour of the tenant that is threatening to the fabric of the dwelling or the property containing the dwelling. 10
- (1B) Where subsection (1A) applies, the Tribunal may—
 - (a) receive evidence from a person who could be affected by the alleged failure, behaviour or breach, or
 - (b) receive as evidence of such alleged failure, behaviour or breach a statement by a member of An Garda Síochána or an officer of a housing authority that the member or officer believes the alleged failure, behaviour or breach is occurring or has occurred, if the Tribunal is satisfied that— 15
 - (i) there are reasonable grounds for the belief, and 20
 - (ii) a person other than the member or officer would be deterred or prevented by violence or threat of violence to the person, or to a person associated with that person, or to property of the person or of the person associated with that person, from giving such evidence.”. 25
- (2) The amendment of section 105 of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)* shall apply only in respect of a matter or complaint referred to the Residential Tenancies Board under section 76 or 77 of the Act of 2004 after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)*.

Amendment of section 106 of Act of 2004 30

32. (1) The Act of 2004 is amended by the substitution of the following section for section 106:

“**106.** (1) Proceedings before the Tribunal shall be conducted in public unless the Tribunal determines in accordance with rules made under section 109 that, due to the existence of special circumstances, the proceedings or part of them should be conducted otherwise than in public. 35

(2) Where proceedings, or part of them, are conducted otherwise than in public, a person shall not knowingly or recklessly publish the name,

address, contact details or other personal data of a party to the proceedings.

(3) A person who contravenes subsection (2) shall be guilty of an offence.

(4) Criminal proceedings for an offence referred to in subsection (3) shall not lie against a member of the staff of the Board or a member of the Tribunal in respect of anything done in good faith by the member of the staff or the member of the Tribunal in the course of the performance or purported performance of functions under this Act.” 5

(2) The amendment of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)* shall apply only in respect of a matter or complaint referred to the Residential Tenancies Board under section 76 or 77 of the Act of 2004 after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)*. 10

Amendment of section 109 of Act of 2004

33. Section 109(2)(d) of the Act of 2004 is amended by the substitution of “prepare and issue a determination order” for “make a determination order” in both places where it occurs.

Amendment of section 112 of Act of 2004

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34. (1) Section 112 of the Act of 2004 is amended by the deletion of “or adjudicator” in each place in which it occurs.

(2) The amendment of section 112 of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)* shall apply only in respect of a mediation or adjudication arranged under Part 6 of the Act of 2004 after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)*. 20

Amendment of section 115 of Act of 2004

35. Section 115 of the Act of 2004 is amended—

(a) in subsection (2)(g), by the insertion of “subject to subsection (2A),” before “a declaration with regard to the right to return”,

(b) by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (2): 25

“(2A) A declaration made under subsection (2)(g) where the landlord has entered into an enforceable agreement of the type referred to in paragraph 3 of the Table to section 34 shall not have effect.”,

(c) in subsection (3), by the substitution of “Subject to subsection (6), the amount” for “The amount”, and 30

(d) by the addition of the following subsection after subsection (5):

“(6) The amount (or, as appropriate, the aggregate of the amounts), that an adjudicator or the Tribunal may direct to be paid to a party under subsection (3), together with the amount of costs or expenses that may be awarded to a party in accordance with subsection (5), including any costs referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) of section 5(3), shall not exceed the monetary limit for an action in tort for the time being standing specified of the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court.” 35

Amendment of section 121 of Act of 2004

36. (1) Section 121 of the Act of 2004 is amended by the addition of the following subsection after subsection (8):

“(9) The Director may, by notice in writing given to the parties concerned, correct any mistake (including any omission) of an administrative or clerical nature in a determination order.”. 5

(2) The amendment effected by *subsection (1)* shall apply only in respect of a determination order issued under section 121 of the Act of 2004 after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)*.

Amendment of section 123 of Act of 2004

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37. (1) Section 123 of the Act of 2004 is amended by—

(a) the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (1):

“(1) Subject to subsection (2), a determination order shall become binding on the parties concerned—

(a) in the case of a determination order embodying the terms of an agreement referred to in section 96(1), on the expiry of the period referred to in section 95(5A) unless, before the expiry of that period, a notification is made to the mediator and the Board under the said section 95(5A) in respect of the agreement, 15

(b) in the case of a determination of an adjudicator under section 97(4)(a), on the expiry of the period referred to in section 100(2) unless, before the expiry of that period, an appeal is made under section 100(1) in respect of the determination, and 20

(c) in the case of a determination of an adjudicator under section 97(4)(b), on the order being issued to the parties.”, 25

(b) the insertion of the following subsections after subsection (5):

“(5A) The High Court shall, on an appeal under subsection (3) from a determination of the Tribunal other than a determination not to deal with the dispute in accordance with section 85—

(a) where its determination on the appeal does not require the Director to cancel or vary the determination order under subsection (5), direct the party or parties concerned to comply with the determination order in the terms as it was originally issued, and 30

(b) where its determination on the appeal requires the Director to vary the determination order under subsection (5), direct the party or parties concerned to comply with the determination order in the terms as it will stand following such variation. 35

(5B) Where the High Court directs the Director to cancel or vary the determination order concerned under subsection (5), it may direct the Director to direct that a fresh determination of all or part of the dispute shall be made by the adjudicator or the Tribunal as appropriate (and 40

the making of any such fresh determination shall be preceded by a re-hearing of the matter by the adjudicator or the Tribunal and the provisions of Chapters 4 to 7 shall apply accordingly).

(5C) At any time during the course of an appeal under this section, the High Court may make such ancillary or other orders, including an order for possession of a dwelling the subject of a determination order or an interim order directing the payment of rent due, as it considers just. 5

(5D) The Board may furnish to the registrar of the High Court such information derived from the register as, in its opinion, is likely to assist in the execution of an order made by the Court under subsections (5) to (5C) (including, if the Court gives a direction authorising the Board to give that number to the registrar, the personal public service number of any party concerned).”, 10

(c) in subsection (6)(b)(i), by the substitution of “issued” for “made”,

(d) the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (7): 15

“(7A) Where, due to the existence of special circumstances identified by an adjudicator under section 97(10) or the Tribunal under section 106(1), an adjudication or Tribunal hearing or part of it is to be conducted otherwise than in public, the Board shall redact from the determination order that it publishes under subsection (7) the name, address, contact details and other personal data of the parties concerned.”, 20

and

(e) the substitution of the following subsections for subsection (8):

“(8) In this section, ‘relevant period’ means a period beginning on the date that the determination order concerned is issued to the parties for a duration— 25

(a) of 21 days, or

(b) specified by the High Court pursuant to an application under subsection (9).

(9) Any of the parties concerned may make an application to the High Court for an order extending the period referred to in subsection (8)(a). 30

(10) An application under subsection (9) shall—

(a) state the reason why the applicant is seeking an extension of the period referred to in subsection (8)(a), and 35

(b) be made on motion (grounded on affidavit) on notice to the Board and any other party or notice party to the proposed appeal.

(11) The High Court may, upon application to it under subsection (9), make an order extending the period referred to in subsection (8)(a) and specifying the duration of the period within which an appeal under subsection (3) may be made, if it is satisfied that— 40

- (a) there is good and substantial reason for doing so, and
 - (b) the circumstances that resulted in the applicant seeking an extension of the period referred to in subsection (8)(a) were outside the control of the applicant.”.
- (2) The amendments of section 123 of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)(a)* shall apply only in respect of a determination order under section 121 of the Act of 2004 issued after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)(a)*. 5
 - (3) The amendments of section 123 of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)(b)* shall apply only in respect of an appeal under section 123(3) of the Act of 2004 made after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)(b)*. 10
 - (4) The amendments of section 123 of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)(d)* shall apply only in respect of a matter or complaint referred to the Residential Tenancies Board under section 76 or 77 of the Act of 2004 after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)(d)*.
 - (5) The amendments of section 123 of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)(e)* shall apply only in respect of a determination order under section 121 of the Act of 2004 issued after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)(e)*. 15

Amendment of section 124 of Act of 2004

38. (1) Section 124 of the Act of 2004 is amended by—

- (a) the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (2): 20
 - “(2) On such an application and subject to section 125, the District Court shall, if it is satisfied that the determination order has been issued to the party concerned (in this section referred to as the ‘respondent’) and that the respondent has failed to comply with one or more terms of the determination order concerned, make an order directing the respondent to comply with that term or those terms.”. 25
 - (b) the deletion of subsections (3), (4) and (5),
 - (c) the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (6):
 - “(6) If the applicant under this section is not the Board, and the respondent proposes to oppose the application, the respondent shall give the Board at least 10 working days’ notice specifying that the respondent proposes to oppose the application on the ground that— 30
 - (a) the determination order has not been issued to the respondent, or
 - (b) the determination order ought to be cancelled under section 125, and the Board shall be entitled to appear and be heard at the hearing of the application.”. 35
- and
- (d) in subsection (10), by the insertion of “for an action in tort” after “shall be the monetary limit”.

- (2) The amendments effected by *subsection (1)* shall apply only in respect of an application under section 124 of the Act of 2004 made after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)*.

Amendment of section 125 of Act of 2004

39. (1) Section 125 of the Act of 2004 is amended by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (4): 5

“(4) Without prejudice to subsection (3), if the determination order, the subject of an application under section 124, is one requiring a dwelling to be vacated and—

(a) the basis for that requirement is that the tenancy concerned was validly terminated by service of a notice of termination, and 10

(b) that notice was served by reason of the tenant’s failure to pay an amount of rent due,

the District Court may, before hearing any arguments or receiving any evidence in relation to whether good and substantial reasons referred to in subsection (1) have been established, require the respondent to lodge in court or pay to the applicant, as it thinks appropriate, that amount of rent together with such amount as it specifies in respect of the dwelling's continued occupation by the respondent after the service of that notice.”. 15 20

- (2) The amendment effected by *subsection (1)* shall apply only in respect of an application under section 124 of the Act of 2004 made after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)*.

Amendment of section 137 of Act of 2004

40. Section 137(6) of the Act of 2004 is amended— 25

(a) by the insertion, in paragraph (b), of “or, where an amount stands declared for the time being under subsection (1) of section 138 for the purposes of this paragraph, a fee of that amount,” after “€10”, and

(b) by the substitution of “subsection (2) or (2B) of that section” for “subsection (2) or subsection (2B)”. 30

Amendment of section 137A of Act of 2004

41. Section 137A of the Act of 2004 is amended—

(a) in subsection (1)—

(i) by the insertion of “, or an application referred to in subsection (2B) of section 134 in respect of a tenancy of a dwelling referred to in section 3(4),” after “subsection (2A) of section 134”, and 35

(ii) by the substitution, in paragraph (b)(ii), of “subsection (1A)” for “subsection (1)”,

- (b) in subsection (4)(b)(ii), by the substitution of “subsection (1A)” for “subsection (1)”,
- (c) in subsection (6)—
 - (i) by the insertion of “, or an application referred to in subsection (2B) of section 134 in respect of a tenancy of a dwelling referred to in section 3(4) is made after the expiration of the period specified in the said subsection (2B)” after “that subsection”, and 5
 - (ii) by the insertion, in paragraph (b), of “or, where an amount stands declared for the time being under subsection (1A) of section 138 for the purposes of this paragraph, a fee of that amount,” after “€5”, 10
- and
- (d) by the deletion of subsection (7).

Amendment of section 138 of Act of 2004

42. Section 138 of the Act of 2004 is amended—

- (a) in subsection (1)— 15
 - (i) by the substitution of the following paragraphs for paragraphs (i) and (ii):
 - “(i) in the case of paragraph (a)(ii) or (b)(ii) of section 137(1)—
 - (I) €40, or
 - (II) the amount that was last previously declared (in exercise of the power under this subsection) for the purposes of the said paragraph (a)(ii) or (b)(ii), as the case may be, 20
 - (ii) in the case of paragraph (a)(ii)(I) or (b)(ii)(I) of section 137(4)—
 - (I) €170, or
 - (II) the amount that was last previously declared (in exercise of the power under this subsection) for the purposes of the said paragraph (a)(ii)(I) or (b)(ii)(I), as the case may be, 25
 - or
 - (iii) in the case of section 137(6)(b)—
 - (I) €10 in respect of each month or part of a month falling after the expiration of the period specified in subsection (2) or (2B) of section 134, as the case may be, or 30
 - (II) the amount that was last previously declared (in exercise of the power under this subsection) in respect of each month or part of a month for the purposes of the said section 137(6) (b),” 35

and

- (ii) by the substitution of “subsection (1), (4) or (6) of section 137” for “subsection (1)(b) or (4)(b) of section 37”,
- (b) in subsection (1A)—
 - (i) by the substitution of the following paragraphs for paragraphs (i) and (ii):
 - “(i) in the case of section 137A(1)(b)— 5
 - (I) €20, or
 - (II) the amount that was last previously declared (in exercise of the power under this subsection) for the purposes of that provision,”
 - (ii) in the case of section 137A(4)(b)— 10
 - (I) €85, or
 - (II) the amount that was last previously declared (in exercise of the power under this subsection) for the purposes of that provision,
 - or 15
 - (iii) in the case of section 137A(6)(b)—
 - (I) €5 in respect of each month or part of a month falling after the expiration of the period specified in section 134(2A) or (2B), as the case may be, or
 - (II) the amount that was last previously declared (in exercise of the power under this subsection) in respect of each month or part of a month for the purposes of the said section 137A(6)(b),” 20
 - and
 - (ii) by the substitution of “subsection (1), (4) or (6) of section 137A” for “subsection (1)(b) or (4)(b) of section 137A”, 25
 - (c) in subsection (2)(b), by the substitution of “subsection (1), (4) or (6) of section 137” for “subsection (1)(b) or (4)(b) of section 137”, and
 - (d) in subsection (2A)(b), by the substitution of “subsection (1), (4) or (6) of section 137A” for “subsection (1)(b) or (4)(b) of section 137A”. 30

Amendment of section 144 of Act of 2004

43. (1) Section 144 of the Act of 2004 is amended—

- (a) in subsection (1)—
 - (i) by the substitution of “ought to be or ought to have been registered in the register has not been the subject of an application for registration under section 134, it may serve” for “ought to be registered in the register has not been the subject of an application for registration under section 134, it shall serve”, and 35

- (ii) by the substitution of “considers to be or to have been” for “considers to be”,
- (b) in subsection (7)—
- (i) by the substitution of “ought to be or ought to have been registered” for “ought to be registered”, and
- (ii) by the substitution of “exists or existed in respect of a dwelling and, accordingly, ought to be or ought to have been registered” for “exists in respect of a dwelling and, accordingly, ought to be registered”, 5
- and
- (c) by the addition of the following subsections after subsection (7):
- “(8) Where the Board has reasonable grounds for believing that a person 10
has committed an offence under subsection (4), it may serve on the
person a notice in the prescribed form (in this section referred to as a
‘fixed payment notice’) stating that—
- (a) the person is alleged to have committed an offence under 15
subsection (4) (in this section referred to as the ‘alleged offence’),
- (b) the person may, during the period of 28 days beginning on the date
of the fixed payment notice, make to the Board a payment of €100
or such greater amount not exceeding €500 as may be prescribed,
accompanied by the notice or a copy thereof,
- (c) the person is not obliged to make the payment specified in the 20
notice,
- (d) a prosecution of the person in respect of the alleged offence will
not be instituted during the period of 28 days beginning on the date
of the notice, and
- (e) if the payment specified in the notice is made during that period, no 25
prosecution in respect of the alleged offence will be instituted.
- (9) Where a fixed payment notice is served—
- (a) the person to whom it applies may make a payment in accordance
with subsection (8)(b),
- (b) the Board shall, upon receipt of the payment, issue a receipt for it, 30
- (c) any payment received by the Board shall not be recoverable by the
person who made it, and
- (d) a prosecution in respect of the alleged offence shall not be
instituted during the period specified in subsection (8)(b) and, if
payment so specified is made during that period, no prosecution in 35
respect of the alleged offence shall be instituted.
- (10) In proceedings for an alleged offence, it shall be a defence for the
defendant to prove that the defendant has made a payment in
accordance with subsection (8)(b) pursuant to a fixed payment notice
served in respect of the alleged offence. 40

- (11) Payments received by the Board under this section shall be paid into or disposed of for the benefit of the Exchequer.”
- (2) The amendments of section 144 of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)(c)* shall apply only in respect of a notice served under section 144(3) of the Act of 2004 after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)(c)*. 5

Amendment of section 144A of Act of 2004

44. (1) Section 144A of the Act of 2004 is amended—

(a) in subsection (1), by the substitution of “If it appears to the Board that a landlord under a tenancy has failed to comply with section 139(1), the Board may” for “As soon as practicable after it has formed the opinion that a landlord under a tenancy has failed to comply with section 139(1), the Board shall”, and 10

(b) by the addition of the following subsections after subsection (4):

“(5) Where the Board has reasonable grounds for believing that a person has committed an offence under subsection (4), it may serve on the person a notice in the prescribed form (in this section referred to as a ‘fixed payment notice’) stating that— 15

(a) the person is alleged to have committed an offence under subsection (4) (in this section referred to as the ‘alleged offence’),

(b) the person may, during the period of 28 days beginning on the date of the fixed payment notice, make to the Board a payment of €100 or such greater amount not exceeding €500 as may be prescribed, accompanied by the notice or a copy thereof, 20

(c) the person is not obliged to make the payment specified in the notice,

(d) a prosecution of the person in respect of the alleged offence will not be instituted during the period of 28 days beginning on the date of the notice, and 25

(e) if the payment specified in the notice is made during that period, no prosecution in respect of the alleged offence will be instituted.

(6) Where a fixed payment notice is served— 30

(a) the person to whom it applies may make a payment in accordance with subsection (5)(b),

(b) the Board shall, upon receipt of the payment, issue a receipt for it,

(c) any payment received by the Board shall not be recoverable by the person who made it, and 35

(d) a prosecution in respect of the alleged offence shall not be instituted during the period specified in subsection (5)(b) and, if payment so specified is made during that period, no prosecution in respect of the alleged offence shall be instituted.

- (7) In proceedings for an alleged offence, it shall be a defence for the defendant to prove that the defendant has made a payment in accordance with subsection (5)(b) pursuant to a fixed payment notice served in respect of the alleged offence.
- (8) Payments received by the Board under this section shall be paid into or disposed of for the benefit of the Exchequer.” 5
- (2) The amendments of section 144A of the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)(b)* shall only apply in respect of a notice served under section 144A(3) of the Act of 2004 after the date of commencement of *subsection (1)(b)*.

Amendment of section 145 of Act of 2004 10

45. Section 145 of the Act of 2004 is amended by—

(a) the substitution of the following subsections for subsection (1):

“(1) Where the Board has reasonable grounds for believing that any activity in connection with the letting or tenancy of a dwelling (in this section referred to as the ‘dwelling concerned’) is carried on at a premises, a person authorised in writing by the Board for the purposes of this section as respects the premises may, at all reasonable times, enter into and inspect that premises for the purposes of— 15

(a) forming an opinion as to whether any activity in connection with the letting or tenancy of any dwelling (including the dwelling concerned) is being, or has been, carried on at the premises, 20

(b) forming an opinion as to whether a tenancy of the dwelling concerned that ought to be, or ought to have been, registered in the register has been the subject of an application for registration under section 134, 25

(c) ascertaining the particulars to be specified in an application under section 134 in respect of a tenancy of the dwelling concerned, or

(d) determining the correctness of any particular specified in an application made under section 134 in respect of a tenancy of the dwelling concerned. 30

(1A) A person referred to in subsection (1) shall not, other than with the consent of the occupier, enter a private dwelling without a warrant issued under subsection (1B) authorising the entry.

(1B) A judge of the District Court, if satisfied on the sworn information of a person referred to in subsection (1) that— 35

(a) there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that any information or records, as the said person may reasonably require for the purposes of the said person’s authorisation under this section, is or are held on any premises or any part of any premises, and

(b) the said person, acting under authority for the purposes of this section, has been prevented from entering the premises or any part thereof,

may issue a warrant authorising a person authorised in writing by the Board for the purposes of this section, accompanied if necessary by other persons, at any time or times within 30 days from the date of issue of the warrant and on production if so requested of the warrant, to enter, if need be by reasonable force, the premises or part of the premises concerned for the purposes of this section. 5

(1C) An application for a warrant under subsection (1B) shall be made to a judge of the District Court for the time being assigned to the District Court District within which the premises in respect of which the application is made is situated.” 10

(b) by the substitution of the following for subsection (2):

“(2) A person shall not be authorised under subsection (1) unless the Board has reasonable grounds for believing that there has been a failure to comply with section 134 in respect of the dwelling concerned.” 15

and

(c) in subsection (4), by the insertion of “, or ought to have been,” after “ought to be”. 20

Amendment of section 148AG of Act of 2004

46. Section 148AG of the Act of 2004 is amended—

(a) in subsection (1), by the insertion of “or to a fixed payment notice under section 12, 22B, 144 or 144A being served in respect of that offence” after “conduct concerned”, 25

(b) in subsection (2)—

(i) by the insertion of “, or a fixed payment notice under section 12, 22B, 144 or 144A has been served on the landlord,” after “against a landlord”, and

(ii) by the insertion of “or the fixed payment notice has been served, as the case may be,” after “the proceedings have been or are being brought”. 30

Amendment of section 161 of Act of 2004

47. Section 161 of the Act of 2004 is amended—

(a) by the insertion of the following subsection after subsection (2):

“(2A) During a period when—

(a) the Director is, by reason of illness or otherwise, unable to perform the functions of Director, or 35

(b) the office of Director is vacant,

specified functions of the Director may, during that period, at the request of the Board and with the consent of the Minister, be performed by a member of staff of the Board designated to act as the deputy for the Director (in this section referred to as the ‘Deputy Director’).”,

5

and

(b) by the addition of the following subsection after subsection (5):

“(5A) A reference in this Act to the Director, in so far as it relates to a function to be performed by a Deputy Director under subsection (2A), shall include a reference to the Deputy Director designated under that subsection to perform that function.”

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Amendment of section 176 of Act of 2004

48. Section 176(3) of the Act of 2004 is amended by the substitution of “issued under section 121” for “made under section 121” in both places where it occurs.

Amendment of Schedule 2 to Act of 2004

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49. (1) Schedule 2 to the Act of 2004 is amended by the insertion of “subsection (1)(i) or (6) of section 12,” before “subsection (4) or (5B) of section 19” in paragraph (a).

(2) The amendment of Schedule 2 to the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)* shall apply only in respect of a contravention of subsection (1)(i) or (6) of section 12 of the Act of 2004 occurring after the date of the commencement of *subsection (1)*.

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Amendment of Schedule 3 to Act of 2004

50. (1) Schedule 3 to the Act of 2004 is amended—

(a) in Part 1—

(i) by the substitution of the following paragraph for paragraph 7:

“7. The oral hearing shall be conducted in public unless the authorised officer determines, in accordance with rules made under section 148AF, that due to the existence of special circumstances it, or part of it, should be conducted otherwise than in public.”

25

and

(ii) by the insertion of the following paragraphs after paragraph 7:

30

“7A. Where an oral hearing or part of it is conducted otherwise than in public, a person shall not knowingly or recklessly publish the name, address, contact details or other personal data of a party to the oral hearing.

7B. A person who contravenes paragraph 7A shall be guilty of an offence.

35

7C. Criminal proceedings for an offence referred to in paragraph 7B shall not lie against a member of the staff of the Board or an authorised officer in respect of anything done in good faith by the member of the

staff or authorised officer in the course of the performance or purported performance of a function under this Act.”,

and

(b) in Part 2—

(i) by the substitution of the following paragraph for paragraph 7: 5

“7. The oral hearing shall be conducted in public unless the decision maker determines, in accordance with rules made under section 148AF, that due to the existence of special circumstances it, or part of it, should be conducted otherwise than in public.”,

and 10

(ii) by the insertion of the following paragraphs after paragraph 7:

“7A. Where an oral hearing or part of it is conducted otherwise than in public, a person shall not knowingly or recklessly publish the name, address, contact details or other personal data of a party to the oral hearing. 15

7B. A person who contravenes paragraph 7A shall be guilty of an offence.

7C. Criminal proceedings for an offence referred to in paragraph 7B shall not lie against a member of the staff of the Board or the decision maker in respect of anything done in good faith by the member of the staff or decision maker in the course of the performance or purported performance of a function under this Act.”. 20

(2) The amendments of Schedule 3 to the Act of 2004 effected by *subsection (1)* shall apply only—

(a) in the case of the amendments in *paragraph (a)* of that subsection, in respect of an oral hearing conducted under section 148S(14) of the Act of 2004 after the date of commencement of that paragraph, and 25

(b) in the case of the amendments in *paragraph (b)* of that subsection, in respect of an oral hearing conducted under subsection (6)(a) or (7)(a) of section 148X of the Act of 2004 after the date of commencement of that paragraph.

An Bille um Thithíocht agus um
Thionóntachtaí Cónaithe (Forálacha
Ilghnéitheacha), 2026

BILLE

(mar a tionscnaíodh)

dá ngairtear

Acht do dhéanamh socrú maidir le ceanglais bhreise, a bhaineann le cónaí sa Stát, a bheidh le comhlíonadh chun bheith incháilithe le haghaidh tacaíocht do thithíocht shóisialta; do dhéanamh socrú maidir le hachomharc i gcoinne breitheanna áirithe a bhaineann le tacaíocht do thithíocht shóisialta; chun na geríoch sin, do leasú Acht na dTithe (Forálacha Ilghnéitheacha), 2009; do dhéanamh socrú i ndáil leis an mBord um Thionóntachtaí Cónaithe do sheoladh idirghabhálacha, breithnithe agus éisteachtaí Binse; do mhéadú na bpionós i leith cionta áirithe faoin Acht um Thionóntachtaí Cónaithe, 2004; chun na geríoch sin agus chun críoch eile, do leasú an Achta sin; agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

An tAire Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus
Oidhreacht a thíolaic,
3 Meitheamh, 2026

Housing and Residential Tenancies
(Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2026

BILL

(as initiated)

entitled

An Act to provide for additional requirements, relating to residency in the State, to be satisfied in order to be eligible for social housing support; to provide for an appeal of certain decisions relating to social housing support; for those purposes to amend the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009; to make provision in relation to the conduct of mediations, adjudications and Tribunal hearings by the Residential Tenancies Board; to increase the penalties for certain offences under the Residential Tenancies Act 2004; for those and other purposes to amend that Act; and to provide for related matters.

Presented by the Minister for Housing, Local
Government and Heritage,
3rd June, 2026

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR
Le ceannach díreach ó
FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS,
BÓTHAR BHAILE UÍ BHEOLÁIN, CILL MHAIGHNEANN,
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 8, D08 XAO6.
Teil: 046 942 3100
r-phost: publications@opw.ie
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