



## Meath Lagging Behind in Provision of Social Housing

### Slow progress on Social Housing Stock Prolonging Housing Crisis - Aontú

Aontú Councillor for Navan **Emer Tóibín** was disappointed to see the low level of Social Housing provided in 2020 and 2021 for the county of **Meath**. Figures released to Aontú show that the number of new Social Housing builds is one of the worst in the country for the size and population of our local authority.

**Ms Tóibín;** *“The numbers of Social Housing new builds is far below what has been promised by successive government for over a decade now. Nationally 5,073 new social houses were built in 2020, this is far below the promised delivery of 11,000. A total of 313 units were built in Meath in 2020, unfortunately, when the figures are adjusted for population we are one of the lowest in the country.”*

The use of the HAP and RAS system has resulted in 624 further units being sourced across the county. Sourcing homes this way is to be welcomed but these are not a long term solution; this housing stock is expensive and is not permanent for the housed family.

**Threshold**, the national housing charity, whose aim is to secure housing for all, particularly for households facing poverty and exclusion, are concerned that “many tenants in receipt of HAP are spending essential household income on rent top-ups because the level of HAP payments does not cover real market rent”.

Unfortunately 2021 shows no sign of any improvement, the figures released to Aontú show that **only 29 new houses were completed** up to July of this year. Aontú sought cross party support in the Dáil that would deem the building of homes as essential. The failure of the government



to support this measure meant that 800 new homes per week were not being completed as the figures from Construction Federation Ireland revealed.

**Ms Tóibín;** *“There is an over-reliance on the private rented sector to provide social housing and it clearly isn’t working. Years of underinvestment and neglect of many sections of the housing system has ensured not enough houses are being delivered and homelessness is scourge that the government Ministers don’t have the appetite to resolve.”*

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