

Empty Houses Need to be Used to Address Social Housing Crisis by Executive

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Aontú Deputy Leader & Cllr for Mid Ulster, Denise Mullen, has said that it is unacceptable to have over 20,000 empty homes across the North, whilst there are people homeless and on social housing waiting lists.

Cllr Mullen: “In my research, I have discovered that there are over 40,000 people on waiting lists for social housing across the North. All the while, barely 1,300 social houses were completed in 2020. At that rate of completion, it would take over 30 years to clear the waiting lists as they are now. House and rental prices, and once again the Stormont parties are asleep at the wheel. 20,000 empty homes across every constituency in the North could be brought into use immediately to relieve social housing waiting lists. The rate of construction and completion is shockingly slow, so why not use houses that are already built to fill demand. This isn't a complete fix to the housing crisis, but is a practical, cost-effective measure to begin solving the burgeoning crisis. How ineffective would Stormont have to be that it can't use empty houses to get people off the streets and off housing waiting lists?”