



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

**IRELAND REPORT ON THE NON-ACCEPTED PROVISIONS  
OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER  
27 March 2025**

## **IRELAND 2025 REPORT ON THE NON-ACCEPTED PROVISIONS OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER**

Ireland ratified the Revised European Social Charter on 4 November 2000. When ratifying the Charter, Ireland declared that it considered itself bound by all of its provisions, except for Article 8 § 3, Article 21, Article 27 § 1(c), and Article 31. Ireland subsequently declared, at the High-Level Conference on the European Social Charter in Vilnius, Lithuania on 4 July 2024, that it considered itself bound by Article 8 § 3, and Article 27 § 1(c) of the Charter.

The following provisions of the Charter have not yet been accepted by Ireland:

- Article 21 – Right to Information and Consultation
- Article 31 – Right to Housing

Please find information below on the progress achieved towards accepting these provisions.

### **Article 21 – The Right to Information and Consultation**

*With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right of workers to be informed and consulted within the undertaking, the Parties undertake to adopt or encourage measures enabling workers or their representatives, in accordance with national legislation and practice:*

- a. to be informed regularly or at the appropriate time and in a comprehensible way about the economic and financial situation of the undertaking employing them, on the understanding that the disclosure of certain information which could be prejudicial to the undertaking may be refused or subject to confidentiality; and*
- b. to be consulted in good time on proposed decisions which could substantially affect the interests of workers, particularly on those decisions which could have an important impact on the employment situation in the undertaking.*

## Progress achieved towards acceptance

Since Ireland's last report on the non-accepted provisions of the European Social Charter, a range of new legislation has been enacted which provides additional clarity on the provision of information and consultation for workers. This includes:

- The [Employment \(Collective Redundancies and Miscellaneous Provisions\) and Companies \(Amendment\) Act 2024](#). The Act amends the Protection of Employment Act 1977, which governs collective redundancies procedures. Where collective redundancies are proposed due to the employer's insolvency, the 2024 Act makes it an explicit legal requirement for a "responsible person" (a liquidator, receiver or other court appointed officer overseeing the insolvency) to consult with and inform employees' representatives in the employer's place.
- [European Union \(Corporate Sustainability Reporting\) Regulations 2024 \(S.I. 336/2024\)](#) provides for consultation with employee representatives in relation to the sustainability information required.
- The [Protection of Employment Acts 1977 – 2024](#) make it mandatory for employers proposing a collective redundancy:
  - a. to engage in an information and consultation process with employees' representatives for at least 30 days, and
  - b. to notify the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment of the proposed collective redundancy.

As advised in previous reports, other legislation includes:

- The Employees Provision of Information and Consultation Act 2006 (No. 9 of 2006). An explanatory guidebook to the legislation is available here: [guide to information and consultation act.pdf](#)
- The Transnational Information and Consultation of Employees Act 1996 (No. 20 of 1996).

- The European Communities (European Public Limited-Liability Company) (Employee Involvement) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 623 of 2006).
- The European Communities (European Cooperative Society) (Employee Involvement) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 259 of 2007).
- European Communities (Cross-Border Mergers) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 157 of 2008).
- Protection of Employment (Exceptional Collective Redundancies and Related Matters) Act 2007 (No. 27 of 2007), and
- Regulation 8 of European Communities (Protection of Employees on Transfer of Undertakings) Regulations 2003 (SI No. 131 of 2003).

### **Conclusion in relation to Article 21**

Ireland will examine its position regarding Article 21(a and b) with a view towards moving to acceptance.

## Article 31 – The Right to Housing

*With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to housing, the Parties undertake to take measures designed:*

- 1. to promote access to housing of an adequate standard;*
- 2. to prevent and reduce homelessness with a view to its gradual elimination;*
- 3. to make the price of housing accessible to those without adequate resources*

## Progress achieved towards acceptance

### Housing for All

Government is fully committed to working with all stakeholders to deliver social, affordable and cost rental homes at scale and to continue accelerating housing supply across all tenures. This is demonstrated by the record level of investment which is being provided for the delivery of housing in 2025, with overall capital funding available of €6.5 billion. The capital provision is supplemented by a further €1.65 billion in current funding to address housing need.

Under *Housing for All* - Ireland's housing plan to 2030 - the Government aims to deliver 47,600 new build social homes and a further 3,500 social homes through long-term leasing in the period 2022-2026. Under the plan, there was provision for 200 social housing acquisitions each year. However, for 2023 and 2024, the Government agreed that there would be an increased provision for social housing acquisitions and Ireland's Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage would fund local authorities to acquire at least 1,500 social homes.

Last November, the Government approved new national housing targets up to the year 2030. 303,000 homes will aim to be delivered in the period from 2025 to 2030, equating to an annual average of 50,500 homes, building up to 60,000 in 2030. The revised targets were informed by research and modelling by Ireland's Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) on population projections and long-run housing demand, which was published during the summer. The revised national housing targets will inform the revision to existing social housing targets. Work is ongoing in this regard.

*Housing for All* is supported by an investment package of over €4bn per annum, through an overall combination of €12bn in direct Exchequer funding, €3.5bn in funding through the Land Development Agency (LDA) and €5bn funding through the Housing Finance Agency.

## **Rental Accommodation**

The minimum standards for rental accommodation are prescribed in the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 and specify requirements in relation to a range of matters, such as structural repair, sanitary facilities, heating, ventilation, natural light, fire safety and the safety of gas, oil and electrical supplies.

These Regulations apply to all properties that are let or available for let. All landlords, have a legal obligation to ensure that their rented properties comply with the standards set down in the Regulations. Responsibility for the enforcement of the Regulations in the private rental sector rests with the relevant local authority.

The Government is committed to ensuring that a stock of high quality accommodation is available for those who live in the private rented sector. *Housing for All* sets an annual target for the inspection of 25% of all private residential tenancies. A total of €10.5 million in Exchequer funding is being made available by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to local authorities this year to help them meet their private rental inspection targets.

The Department's policy of setting private rental inspection targets for local authorities and providing ring-fenced Exchequer funding as a subvention to help them reach those targets is helping to increase the inspection capacity of local authorities and compliance levels in the private rental sector.

The number of inspections conducted has quadrupled in recent years. They have increased from an average of 20,000 a year in the period 2005 to 2017 to over 49,000 in 2022, over 63,500 inspections in 2023, and preliminary data indicates an all-time-high of 80,000 in 2024. This is despite many local authorities encountering difficulties with staff recruitment and retention. Preliminary data shows that the number of inspections undertaken by local authorities in 2024 increased by 26%, while the

number of dwellings being found compliant on a first or subsequent inspection rose by 56%.

## **Homelessness**

As previously advised in 2022, Ireland signed the Lisbon Declaration on the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness in 2021. The Declaration commits member states to work towards ending homelessness by 2030.

The signing of the Declaration was accompanied by the establishment of the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness (EPOCH), which gave effect to an action contained in the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan. This Plan committed to the launch of a platform “to support Member States, cities and service providers in sharing best practices and identifying efficient and innovative approaches.”

Members of the Platform committed to work on concrete deliverables. A work programme for the Platform provides details on the specific actions to be implemented.

Key actions for national, regional and local authorities include: the development and adoption of strategies for the eradication of homelessness; the support of policy measures with adequate funding, including the promotion and monitoring of EU funding at a local level; and the sharing of good practices in combatting homelessness.

Under *Housing for All*, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has committed to “actively participate through the newly established European Platform on Combatting Homelessness to advance the Lisbon Declaration on Combatting Homelessness signed in June 2021”.

Under EPOCH, Ireland has committed to “promote the prevention of homelessness, access to permanent housing and the provision of enabling support services to the homeless”. *Housing for All* outlines exactly how the Government will work towards ending homelessness by 2030, detailing 18 distinct actions tailored to achieve this target. This includes increasing access to supports for both individuals and families.

In addition, Ireland has committed to “welcome the involvement of all relevant

stakeholders in the design and implementation of these policy measures”. The formation of the National Homeless Action Committee (NHAC) has brought together all relevant Government departments and external stakeholders, including NGOs, to provide oversight of the delivery of *Housing for All* commitments. NHAC ensures that a wide range of stakeholders can input into the formulation of Homelessness policy.

NHAC is a cross-governmental and inter-agency oversight group with membership drawn from key Departments, agencies and stakeholders. There are 22 different organisations represented on NHAC.

The overarching objective of NHAC is to ensure that a renewed emphasis is brought to collaborating across Government to implement actions in *Housing for All*, along with bringing better coherence and coordination of homeless-related services in delivering policy measures and actions to address homelessness. Beyond this, the Committee also has a role in addressing emerging homeless-related issues and in developing further responses.

Budget 2025 has made a record €6 billion funding in capital available to help delivery social, affordable and cost rental homes. Budget 2025 includes over €2 billion capital investment in social housing focused on new build homes by local authorities and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs).

*Housing for All* focuses on tackling supply and affordability, with measures to increase and accelerate home-building, provide quality social and affordable housing, and look after the most vulnerable in society and end homelessness by 2030 in accordance with the Lisbon Declaration.

To this end, Government will inter alia support delivery of 90,000 social homes over the decade of the plan, as well as 36,000 affordable purchase and 18,000 cost rental homes. This includes a target of more than 10,000 social and 6,400 affordable and cost rental homes for 2025.

Funding of €303 million will be available for the delivery of homeless services in 2025. This will ensure that local authorities can provide emergency accommodation,



homeless prevention and tenancy sustainment services (including Housing First) and other services to households experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, and that these households in emergency accommodation are supported to exit homelessness to tenancies as quickly as possible.

Capital funding of €25m will support the delivery of high quality transitional and emergency accommodation for individuals experiencing homelessness. This will be kept under ongoing review throughout 2025.

Resolving the current homelessness crisis remains a top priority for Government. This is emphasised in the Programme for Government commitments to;

- Reaffirm our commitment to the Lisbon Declaration, and work towards ending homelessness by 2030.
- Provide emergency accommodation for everyone who needs it with special supports for children.
- Ensure a holistic, cross departmental approach to homelessness prevention.
- Require local authorities to prioritise the leasing of one-bedroom units, addressing the immediate needs of single households.
- Focus social housing allocations on getting families out of long-term homelessness.
- Continue the Social Housing Tenant in Situ Programme to prevent homelessness, with annual targets and budgets assigned for each local authority.
- Fully implement the Youth Homelessness strategy.
- Reform the 1988 Housing Act.

In the 2020 Report on the non-accepted provisions of the Charter, Ireland stated that Article 31 of the revised Charter could not be accepted due to existing provisions in the Irish Constitution that have not changed since ratification, adding that the question of accepting Article 31 would be re-examined if and when the constitutional position changes.

Ireland is satisfied the substantive rights already provided through legislation; the measures being taken to combat homelessness; the actions to accelerate delivery of social and affordable housing under the *Housing for All* plan; and the commitment to a referendum on housing, provide a possible path to accepting Article 31 of the revised Charter.

### **Conclusion in relation to Article 31**

As outlined in previous Reports, Article 31 of the revised Charter cannot be accepted due to existing provisions within the Irish Constitution that have not changed since ratification. The question of accepting Article 31 will be re-examined if and when the constitutional position changes.

The possibility of such a change was examined by the Housing Commission, which was established in December 2021 to consider housing policy post-2030 as well as to advise Government on critical factors to be considered regarding a referendum on housing and appropriate wording for a constitutional change. The Commission reported to the Minister for Housing in May 2024.

Following a Government decision on next steps in July 2024, the Commission's referendum reports were submitted to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing in order to facilitate as wide a government perspective as possible in respect of a possible change to the Constitution. An inter-departmental group was also established to consider the reports, and the Joint Oireachtas Committee's considerations and to make policy recommendations to government vis-à-vis a referendum on housing.

The Committee was unable to report prior to the dissolution of the Dáil late last year – the reports have not been resubmitted to date. Next steps will be considered in the context of broader Programme for Government commitments.

The position with regard to accepting Article 31 will be kept under review and re-examined as appropriate in the context of these considerations.