

## **Electric Ireland complete energy saving retrofit work on 30 ALONE houses**

*Older residents in ALONE housing benefit from energy saving measures as part of donation to charity from Electric Ireland*

**Dublin, August 30, 2012** ALONE, the charity which provides support for older people in need of assistance, today announced the completion of a substantial retrofit of 30 of its housing units. This retrofitting was carried out as part of a generous donation from Electric Ireland and will have long term benefits for ALONE residents. The energy saving measures were used to bring the ALONE houses up to the current standards for insulation. The works will reduce energy usage, and therefore energy bills for ALONE residents.

The work was carried out by Electric Ireland as part of a major donation to the charity last December which incorporated a financial donation to support the ALONE fuel affordability programme, and also the provision of the work to retrofit the ALONE properties. Fuel poverty is an ever growing concern for ALONE and for many older people and marginalized groups, and Electric Ireland's generous donation to ALONE will go some way towards combating this problem. The retrofitting work took place over a two month period in a variety of ALONE houses. As one of its core services, ALONE provides permanent housing for almost 100 older people who would otherwise be at risk of homelessness. The charity is celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012.

Margaret McGlone, ALONE resident in Drumcondra, commented "The retrofit will make such a huge difference to me, particularly with cost of energy bills always being a worry. The house is already starting to feel more comfortable and warm, so I'm sure it will be great when the winter sets in. The work was done really quickly and was no trouble to me at all."

Sean Moynihan, CEO of ALONE commented, "We are delighted that the retrofit work has been completed with a minimum of disruption to our residents. The retrofit will ensure that the residents in these 30 ALONE properties will stay well and warm this winter, a time which is particularly difficult for older people. Insulation is one of the most effective elements in minimising the effects of fuel poverty. During the winter period, ALONE assists more than 1,000 older people who suffer the effects of fuel poverty, so initiatives such as this retrofit programme will provide immediate and long term benefits for our residents."

Brian Dowd Energy Services Manager, Electric Ireland commented "We are delighted that we were able support ALONE and their residents by improving the energy efficiency of these homes. The works carried out will provide a greater level of protection from the cold during the winter months and will deliver an increased level of comfort for the residents. It was most rewarding for Electric Ireland and our staff to be involved in this worthwhile project."

The benefits of the retrofit extend beyond reduced energy bills – it will have the added advantage of slowing down the heat loss from the properties,

therefore ensuring that the temperature stays higher throughout the day. As less fuel will be required to heat the properties, this will also have additional benefits for the environment. The work carried out as part of the retrofit included internal wall insulation; flat roof and ceiling insulation along with draft proofing, reducing extra vents where possible, and the provision of energy saving light bulbs.

ALONE provides supports for older people in need of assistance through its befriending service, permanent housing for those at risk of homelessness, and crisis supports in the community. The charity is a vocal advocate for the need to address the issue of fuel poverty. ALONE was this year awarded an ISO International Quality Certification, only the second charity in the country to receive this certification.

## **ENDS**

For further information on ALONE, please contact Glenn Hogarty, Limelight Communications, (01) 668 0600

Further information:

### *About Electric Ireland*

Electric Ireland, part of ESB Group is Ireland's leading energy supplier providing choice and value in electricity and gas to residential and business customers. As part of its Energy Services business, ESB Electric Ireland now offers a full range of grant-assisted insulation and energy efficiency measures to householders nationwide. All ESB Electric Ireland's products and services are backed by unrivalled experience and commitment to customer service.