

ALONE Home Truths Housing Campaign
The Government needs to wake up to the housing crisis

Dublin 2nd May ALONE, the charity that cares for older people in need, has revealed that 25% of all calls to ALONE relate to older people's housing needs. There are currently 4,765 older people in Ireland in need of housing and there are 2,000 steered up houses in Ireland with no plans in place for their future usage.

ALONE reports that older people are increasingly finding themselves in situations where they are homeless or living in unsafe and unsuitable conditions. In the last month ALONE have seen a 50% increase in calls for support with a majority of these relating to housing issues. One such case is of an older couple who have been given one week to move out of their rented home as their rent supplement was reduced and they can no longer afford their home.

'In a time when rents are increasing across the board, it's hard to understand why the Department of Social Protection are insisting people negotiate lower rents or face having to move. This problem is that there is a serious lack of suitable, affordable accommodation for vulnerable older people so some have no choice but to rely on homeless services.' Sean Moynihan, CEO ALONE.

ALONE believes that every older person has the right to age safely and securely in their own homes for as long as possible. 'Without security of a home in old age the physical and mental health of older people are severely impacted' says Sean Moynihan. Tom, 69 lost his home almost 20 years ago and has been moving between rented accommodation ever since. 'I felt I did not fit into the community and never would be considered part of it'

Sean Moynihan CEO of ALONE said, "The Government needs to wake up to the housing crisis, we're already at disaster point and not enough is being done to care for the older people in our society. These are people who have given their lives to this country and the Government is standing idly by as older people are cast out onto the streets."

Last week ALONE launched a housing campaign calling on local Government candidates to promise that if elected they will work to resolve the housing crisis facing older people and release boarded up houses to be utilised by charities like ALONE. All candidates have been asked to sign an online petition which can be viewed online here: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/release-boarded-up-homes-for-older-people-in-need> Already candidates from Cavan, Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Kilkenny, Leitrim, Limerick, Longford, Mayo, Roscommon, Wexford and Wicklow have signed up to the petition. ALONE ask that the public query their local candidates stance on housing and specifically, what will they do to solve the housing crisis facing older people.

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