

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALONE Congratulates New Councillors
The charity looks forward to working newly elected councillors who supported ALONE campaign calling for suitable housing for older people

Dublin, 26th May 2014 ALONE, the charity that cares for older people in need, are thanking all candidates and members of the public who supported their Home Truths Housing Campaign over the past month. The campaign ended in success last week as the government announced that they will be bringing over two thousand boarded-up houses, over the next three years, back to suitable living conditions.

Over the course of the campaign 150 local election candidates from around the country pledged their support to ALONE's plea, calling on the government to release unused houses to social housing providers like ALONE so that they can provide homes to the most vulnerable in society.

Newly elected councillors who were particularly supportive of the campaign included;

- Fintan Phelean, Fianna Fail, Carlow
- Brid Smith, People Before Profit, Ballyfermot-Drimnagh
- Tina MacVeigh, People Before Profit, Crumlin-Kimmage
- Dermot Lacey, Labour, Pembroke-Southdock
- Catherine Martin, Green Party, Dundrum
- Anne Marie Dermody, Fine Gael, Rathfarnham

Sean Moynihan said of the election results, "We want to thank all of the local election candidates who supported our campaign, we extend our commiserations to those who didn't quite make it, and we wish the best of luck to our newly elected councillors. We hope that all will continue to keep the needs and rights of older people to the fore of their concerns."

Speaking of ALONE's Housing Campaign, Sean Moynihan, CEO of ALONE said, "For the last month we have been tirelessly campaigning for the government to take notice of the housing needs of older people. We welcome the recent announcement of a plan to tackle homelessness however, this is only the start. The fact is that there are still 4,765 older people in need of housing right now and we need to ensure that they are not forgotten in the wider housing discussions. We are still looking to partner with the government to address the complex care and housing needs of older people, by partnering with organisations like ALONE instead of private developers the government can make their funds go further".

ALONE can be contacted on (01) 679 1032 for those who have concerns about their own wellbeing, or the wellbeing of a vulnerable older person in the community or visit www.alone.ie

ENDS

About ALONE:

Established in 1977, ALONE provides vital supports to the one in ten older people who are in need. The charity provides a volunteer befriending service, campaigning services, a community response service and provides 100 age-friendly homes to older people in need. ALONE receives no state funding for their day to day activities, it is through the donations from members of the public that the organisation can carry out its essential activities.

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