



**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Working Group on the Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme

Meeting Minutes 29/09/2021



29th September 2021

Venue; Meeting held virtually via Webex
Date & Timings: 29/09/2021 @ 17:30
Working group attendees: Graham Doyle , Secretary General, D/HLGH- Chairperson Barry Quinlan , Assistant Secretary, D/HLGH Paul Benson , Principal Officer, D/HLGH John O'Connor , Independent Housing Expert and Advisor Michael Doherty , Donegal Homeowner Eileen Doherty , Donegal Homeowner Joe Morgan , Donegal Homeowner Eamonn Jackson , Donegal Homeowner Martina Hegarty , Mayo Homeowner Julie Tracey , Mayo Homeowner Thomas Gilligan , Director of Services of Mayo County Council
Other attendees: Darragh O'Brien , TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Kevin Dillon , Ministers Special Advisor Niamh Drew , Ministers Programme Manager Noel Halvey , Assistant Principal Officer, D/HLGH, Group Secretary Michael Carr
Apologies:
Circulation: Attendees plus Niamh Redmond, Ciara Shaughnessy, Laura Mannion.

Agenda item 1: Endorse amended meeting minutes from meeting six.¹

Discussion points:		
Decisions Taken: Minutes Endorsed		
Dissension from Decisions:		
Actions required	By whom	By when

Agenda Items 2: Homeowners position

Discussion points: Eileen Doherty ran through the defective concrete block working group position from the homeowner perspective. Joe Morgan outlined details of the SCSi calculator Michael Doherty outlined what 100% was through the SCSi calculator and a need to provide a Turnkey model through the housing agency. Eileen Doherty completed the presentation and outlined the distressing situation faced by homeowners. Details for discussion include; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100% Redress• Home owner assurances• Property exclusions• Testing & Delays• LA administration• Special provisions• IS:465 Protocol• SEAI Grants• Public Enquiry		
Decisions Taken:		
Dissension from Decisions:		
Actions required	By whom	By when

¹ Meeting seven minutes pending approval.

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Agenda Item 3: DHLGH Response

Discussion points: Minister O'Brien responded to the presentation made and outlined the scheme as it stands does not work. The presentation and homeowners position will be shared with Government Colleagues, specifically, the Taoiseach, Tánaiste and Minister Ryan. Discussions will also continue to take place with Minister Donohoe and Minister McGrath.

All issues from the homeowners have been heard and a memo to Cabinet will be provided in the next 2 to 3 weeks.

Issues that can be expedited in the shorted term such as upfront costs will be looked at. It was also outlined that we are only a couple of weeks away from an overall agreed position with long and short term arrangements being looked at.

Decisions Taken:

Dissension from Decisions:

Actions required	By whom	By when

Agenda Item 4: AOB

Discussion points: Q&A took place with issues around speed of implementation of new measures discussed. All cost increasing measures would need to be costed and reported on and brought forward in consultation with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and Department of Finance.

Like for like replacements could be looked at with a view to implement changes more rapidly with regard to planning exemptions.

A report would be distributed to all Working Group members by COB September 30th.

Decisions Taken:

Dissension from Decisions:

Actions required	By whom	By when

This concluded the meeting:

2017

