



Borderwise:

Housing

This factsheet aims to provide information for people living in the Northern Ireland who want to move to the Republic of Ireland (ROI) to live.



Renting a Home

In addition to the rights which may be set out in a tenancy agreement, all private rented tenants have basic rights. These include;



- You are entitled to certain minimum standards of accommodation.
- You are entitled to a rent book.
- You have the right to contact the landlord or their agent at any reasonable times.
- Your landlord is only allowed to enter your home with your permission, except in an emergency.
- You are entitled to a certain amount of notice of the termination of your tenancy.
- You are entitled to refer any disputes to the Private Residential Tenancies Board (PRTB) without being penalised for doing so



Minimum Physical Standards

Your landlord, the local authority or housing association has a legal duty to make sure your home complies with certain minimum physical standards. The landlord must:

- Ensure that the house is essentially sound with roof, floors, ceilings, walls and stairs in good repair and not subject to serious dampness or rotting
- Provide a sink with hot and cold water.
- Provide a bath or shower and toilet.
- Provide appliances for space heating, which may include an open fire
- Provide facilities for installation of cooking equipment and facilities for the hygienic storage of food
- Ensure that electricity or gas supplies are in good repair and safe
- Ensure that every room has adequate ventilation and both natural and artificial lighting
- Ensure that all unoccupied basements, outbuildings, yards and forecourts are kept in good repair.

If you feel your accommodation does not meet these standards you can complain to your Local authority. If you are living in private rented accommodation you should contact The Private Residential Tenancies Board (PRTB).

Going
South

The Private Tenancies Board (PRTB)

The Private Residential Tenancies Board is an organisation set up by the Irish Government. Its main role is to provide a dispute resolution service for landlords and tenants. For more information Telephone: +353 1 6350600

Local Authority and Social Housing

Local authorities in Ireland are the main provider of social housing for people who need housing and cannot afford to buy their own homes. Local authority housing is allocated according to housing need, and rents are based on your ability to pay. If you think you may qualify, you should apply to your local authority, which will take account of factors such as your household size, income, your present accommodation (if any), the condition of that accommodation and any special circumstances, including age, disability, medical circumstances, etc. Someone from the local authority may visit you to assess your present housing circumstances. For further information contact the Housing Department of your Local Authority.

Rent Supplement

If you are living in private rented accommodation and cannot afford to pay the rent, you may qualify for rent supplement from your local health board. The amount of rent supplement you will be entitled to will be calculated by the Community Welfare Officer. For more information contact your local health centre.

Housing Associations

Housing associations are independent non-profit making organisations that provide rented housing for people who cannot afford to buy their own homes. In order to qualify you must be registered on the local authority housing waiting list and there is usually a means test. Further information is available online at: www.icsh.ie

Buying a Private House

Most people in the Republic of Ireland own their own home. However the process of buying and selling can be complex and expensive. It is advisable to consider your options carefully. For further information contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau in Northern Ireland Tel: 028 9023 1120 or Citizens Information Board if you reside in the Republic of Ireland Tel: 1890 777 121

Shared Ownership Scheme

The Shared Ownership Scheme is aimed at people in Ireland who cannot afford to buy their entire home in one go. It allows you to buy a proportion of your home to begin with. Ownership is shared between yourself and the local authority. For further information, contact the local authority in the area where you want to buy a house.

The Affordable Housing Scheme

The Affordable Housing Scheme is a scheme that aims to help lower income households to buy their own homes. Further information is available by telephoning +353 1 6564100 or alternatively by visiting the website: www.affordablehome.ie

Contact Details

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