

Housing POLICY PANEL



BIANNUAL REPORT 2021-2023

The Independent Tenant
Organisation for Northern Ireland

Supporting Communities
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**Supporting
Communities**
Empowering Society

PANEL HIGHLIGHTS

CONSULTATIONS

The Panel responded to the following consultations:

- June 2021 - Housing Supply Strategy Call for Evidence
- November 2021 - Consultation on Immediate Rent Proposals
- February 2023 - Review of the Regulatory Framework for RHAs

MANIFESTO

The Panel wrote an election manifesto for 2022, which remains in place.

[Read it here.](#)

SHAPING TRAINING

The Panel piloted a new training course in January 2023.

The Panel assisted Supporting Communities & Housing Rights by piloting a course designed to provide tenants and other learners with a greater knowledge of the social housing sector as a springboard to further development opportunities creating pathways to employment and further education.

TENANT ADVOCATE

The Panel elected its first chairperson & official Tenant Advocate.

Patricia McQuillan, MBE, has been a longstanding representative for social housing tenants, serving on the Housing Executive's Central and Rural Housing Forums for over 20 years, as well as working tirelessly within her local community of Moneydig, Garvagh.

2021-23 SUMMARY

The work of the Housing Policy Panel was slowed somewhat over the past few years by the Covid pandemic. The group has continued to meet online, holding nine meetings since March 2021 and has made progress on their overall work plan.

The HPP appointed a Tenant Advocate earlier this year, a position that will also act as Chair for the Panel. This appointment fulfils the key remaining goal for the Independent Tenant Organisation's initial set of tasks as outlined in the Tenant Participation Strategy for NI (2015-2020).

The Panel, which has gained several new members, now has representation from 8 out of 20 registered housing associations and the Housing Executive. We look forward to resuming our in-person meetings and good practice visits to learn about the work of housing providers throughout Northern Ireland.

ABOUT THE HPP

As part of its role as the appointed Independent Tenant Organisation for Northern Ireland, Supporting Communities was tasked by the Department for Communities (DfC) to develop a Housing Policy Panel (HPP) made up of tenants/residents living within the social housing sector in Northern Ireland.

The Housing Policy Panel's role is to act as a consultative body for DfC, focusing on social housing-related matters. The Panel also represents the interests of social housing tenants in the development of Departmental policies. It provides a voice to ensure that tenants' rights and concerns are represented and considered at a strategic level.

Since its first meeting in 2017, the HPP has been regularly convened by Supporting Communities.

Thank You to Our Members



PANEL MEMBERS

- Chris Craig, Alpha Housing (NI) Ltd
- Anne Sheldon, Apex Housing Association
- Patrick Monteague, Ark Housing Association
- Bill Jeffrey, Choice Housing
- Paul McCallion, Choice Housing
- Elishia Mullan, Clanmil Housing
- Joanna Betts, Grove Community Housing Association
- Dave Maher, Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Ltd
- Amanda Stewart, Housing Executive Central Housing Forum
- Linda Watson, Housing Executive Central Housing Forum
- Patricia McQuillan, Housing Executive Central Housing Forum
- Valerie Rooney, Housing Executive Central Housing Forum
- Bobby McConnell, Radius Housing
- Vincenzo Mesce, Radius Housing

THANK YOU TO PAST MEMBERS

- Billy McKee RIP, Choice Housing
- Danny O'Neill, Radius Housing
- Jack Close, Clanmil Housing
- Jacqueline Gillespie RIP, NB Housing
- Michael Carlin, Apex Housing Association
- Teresa McDonough, Habinteg Housing Association (Ulster) Ltd
- Sylvia Connachan, Choice Housing



HPP members January 2020

