

Subject: Open letter to Minister of Housing Darragh O'Brien
14th August 2023

Dear Minister Darragh O'Brien,

We are extending an invitation for you to attend a solidarity rally scheduled on 24th August at 6 pm in Applewood, Swords. This rally is for a tenant who is facing unjust eviction for no reason.

Will you stand with your community and support this tenant?

Residents in Applewood implore you to intervene in the eviction of these families and children. Multiple residents have received eviction notices from Jersia/LRC and they won't be the last.

The wave of evictions sweeping the country is leaving families with young children in an utterly dire situation. The escalating unaffordability of rents and mortgages has only exacerbated this crisis.

As you are aware, over 5,700 eviction notices have been issued in quarter 2 of this year. Nearly 13,000 people, including nearly 4,000 children, are homeless in Ireland.

Many families are left in the same situation with the unknown of what tomorrow holds. With our children being uprooted out of the community facing distress and uncertainty.

Our attempts to engage with Fingal County Council have unfortunately fallen on deaf ears. Hence, why we implore you to consider the following urgent actions:

- 1. Immediate Reinstatement of Eviction Ban:** reinstate the eviction ban, which would provide a temporary respite for vulnerable families.
- 2. Set up a meeting between Fingal County council and residents.** The Council could offer to purchase the property or provide alternative accommodation for residents who may not meet the requirements of other schemes.
- 3. Ensure that sanctions are imposed on Landlords not properly maintaining properties:** There have to be stricter penalties and sanctions for landlords who neglect their legal responsibility to maintain properties to adequate standards.
- 4. Attend the Solidarity Rally on 24th August at 6pm.** Face the tenants facing eviction in your own constituency and outline what you will do to intervene.

Sincerely,
Residents in Applewood