

Meeting of Informal Oireachtas Committee on Property Market Reform on 29.03.2022

The third meeting of the informal Oireachtas Committee on Property Market Reform took place on 29th March. This was the Committee's first in-person meeting, and it was held in the AV Room at Leinster House. The meeting was attended by almost 20 Oireachtas Members who were joined by IPAV's Pat Davitt (CEO), Tom Crosse (former President) and Ella Dunphy (former President) as well as guest speakers from ESB Networks, led by their Managing Director, Nicholas Tarrant. The meeting was as ever ably overseen by the Committee's Chairperson, Senator John McGahon.

Following Senator McGahon's opening of the meeting, IPAV Members had the opportunity to present to Oireachtas Members some of the results of our recent joint survey with the Irish Property Owners Association (IPOA) on the state of the Irish private rental market. Speakers highlighted the issue of non-institutional landlords leaving the market in the face of regulatory burdens and the impact this is having on already severely constrained supply on the market.

Subsequently, Nicholas Tarrant Managing of ESB Networks, joined by the Regional Customer Delivery Manager for Dublin, Brian Tapley, gave a presentation on behalf of their organisation. Their remarks focused on the €4.5bn investment that ESB Networks is making to increase the number of connections as well as the improvements being made to customer experience of the process through online systems and the establishment of single contact points in Dublin, where 40% of connections are made. They also underlined the need for cooperation with local authorities for ESB Network activities.

Following these presentations, Senator McGahon opened the floor to questions from the attending Oireachtas Members. This prompted an engaging and constructive discussion on issues including the increasing costs of construction, energy costs, demographic patterns of the buying and selling of residential property and electric vehicle charging infrastructure at homes. The meeting closed in a cordial atmosphere and the Committee's next meeting is due to take place on Wednesday, the 29th of June next.