

The background of the slide is a photograph of a city construction site. In the foreground, there is a concrete wall and a black metal fence. Behind the fence is a multi-story brick building with many windows. In the background, several large blue construction cranes are visible against a blue sky with white clouds. A large white number '6' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

6

Establish a Commission on Housing



6 Establish a Commission on Housing

The Programme for Government commits to establishing a Commission on Housing to examine issues such as tenure, standards, sustainability and quality-of-life issues in the provision of housing, all of which have long-term impacts on communities. The establishment of the Commission presents an opportunity to take a long-term strategic view on these aspects of housing, over an extended time horizon, as well as the other issues identified as being suitable for in-depth examination, as set out below.

6.1 Policy areas for review

Subject to final approval by the Government of the Commission's Terms of Reference (in due course), it is envisaged that the Commission will, inter alia, address various housing issues, examining how to build on the policy changes outlined in *Housing for All* in those areas. Its work will include examining areas such as:

- Providing balance and choice of tenures;
- The future of rent controls, rental and income supports;
- The merits of an independent social housing regulator; and
- The optimum role of Approved Housing Bodies in housing provision.

It is envisaged that a Commission on Housing will bring together experts from various housing-related sectors and will take a trans-governmental and enduring approach to our current housing crisis, and will play a role in the State achieving good quality, affordable homes for all.

6.2 Referendum on Housing

It is planned that the Commission on Housing will work to bring forward proposals on the referendum on housing referred to in the Programme for Government. The Commission will establish a sub-committee with appropriate expertise to examine the complex constitutional questions arising and examine the various proposals that have been made around potential wording for an amendment to the Constitution. It will advise the Government in an independent and objective manner regarding the critical factors for consideration and will make recommendations as to the appropriate wording to be put to the people.

6.3 Establishment of the Commission

The Commission on Housing will be formally established later in 2021, once the Terms of Reference and Membership of the Commission have been finalised. The Terms of Reference will be drafted in consultation with the Chair designate, having regard to the Programme for Government and the priorities set out in *Housing for All*.

The Commission will be time bound with a reporting requirement, which will help it to achieve its objectives. The final Terms of Reference will be published before the Commission's establishment later in 2021.

Housing Policy Objective 29: Establish a Commission on Housing

No.		Timeline	Lead
29.1	Establish a Commission on Housing to examine issues including standards, sustainability and quality-of-life issues in the provision of housing	Q4 2021	DHLGH



