Coveney Must grasp the Nettle of a Flawed Housing Report

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On June 17, the Oireachtas passed a motion calling for the establishment of a homes commission of inquiry. That motion was introduced in the Dáil in April. It introduced 10 specific recommendations intended to deliver affordable, quality homes for all. These recommendations include a homes commission of inquiry, the housing sale at market price legislation, an end to rent restrictions, and the establishment of a “serious offence” legal penalty for landlords who breach existing regulations. The recommendations were widely supported by the Dáil, with a cross-party consensus that the current housing crisis needs urgent action.

The Oireachtas must now act on these recommendations. The housing crisis is a national emergency. The consequences are already playing out in the lives of millions of people. People are living in unsafe, overcrowded conditions. Children are being denied basic amenities such as running water and sanitation. The health, safety, and well-being of our citizens are under threat. The time for action is now.

The government must take immediate steps to address the housing crisis. This includes increasing the supply of affordable homes, reforming the planning system, and strengthening the rights of tenants. The government must also ensure that the laws governing the rental market are effectively enforced.

The Oireachtas must also ensure that the homes commission of inquiry is established as soon as possible. This commission must have the power to investigate the causes of the housing crisis and make recommendations for reform. The commission must be independent and able to gather all necessary information.

The government must also work with local authorities to deliver affordable homes. This includes providing funding for new housing developments and streamlining the planning process.

The Oireachtas must also consider the introduction of rent control. This would help to keep rental costs down and make it easier for people to access affordable housing.

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