



An tAire do Rialtas Áitiúil agus Forbairt Uirbeach  
Minister for Housing and Urban Development

11<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Ms Ann Owens  
Joint Secretary  
Mica Action Group  
ann.owens@citinfo.ie

RE: REP37/DE/18

Dear Ann,

I refer to your recent correspondence in relation to Pyrite/Mica redress.

As you are aware, the Expert Panel on concrete blocks was established by this Department in 2016, to investigate problems that have emerged in the concrete blockwork of certain dwellings in Counties Donegal and Mayo.

The panel had the following terms of reference:

- (i) To identify, insofar as it is possible, the numbers of private dwellings which appear to be affected by defects in the blockwork in the Counties of Donegal and Mayo;
- (ii) To carry out a desktop study, which would include a consultation process with affected homeowners, public representatives, local authorities, product manufacturers, building professionals, testing laboratories, industry stakeholders and other relevant parties, to establish the nature of the problem in the affected dwellings;
- (iii) To outline a range of technical options for remediation and the means by which those technical options could be applied; and
- (iv) To submit a report within six months.

On 13 June 2017, the report of the *Expert Panel* was published and included eight recommendations which this Department are actively progressing with the relevant stakeholders.

The Department has prioritised the implementation of Recommendations 1 and 2, and work is ongoing in their implementation.



With regard to Recommendation 1, the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) Technical Committee, established to scope and fast track the development of a standardised protocol, held its inaugural meeting on 11 September 2017 and has held several further meetings since.

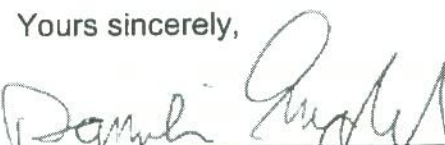
The standardised protocol will inform the course of action in relation to remedial works for all affected householders. The Department understands from the NSAI that the Technical Committee is in the process of finalising the standardised protocol, which will be available for public consultation shortly.

With regard to Recommendation 2, the Department has been in contact with Engineers Ireland in relation to the establishment of a register of competent engineers for homeowners/affected parties' reference. Engineers Ireland have provided assurance that they will collaborate with the Department, the NSAI and others on measures to establish such a register.

In addition, and in light of the information contained in the report, I am currently considering what further actions may be required to assist the parties directly involved in reaching a satisfactory resolution to the problems that have emerged in the two counties.

I trust the above clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

  
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Damien English T.D.  
Minister for Housing and Urban Development

Please note: I am a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015