

Ann Owens

Glebe

Carndonagh

Co. Donegal

June 11, 2018

Mr. Leo Varadkar

Department of the Taoiseach

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An Taoiseach

I am writing to you on behalf of the Mica Action Group (MAG) which was established in 2013 to lobby for a redress scheme for householders whose homes are built from defective building blocks. We welcome the completion by the NSAI of a draft standardized protocol, to enable engineers and others to survey homes and make best practice recommendations on how to repair homes to a satisfactory standard. The six-week public consultation period will permit stakeholders to engage in and make revisions to the final protocol document. We are aware that the protocol is stand-alone and as such, is a matter separate and independent of any redress scheme.

As a pressure group, MAG, with reasonable expectation of redress would ask that the government now take whatever measures is necessary to announce a redress scheme in principle and ring-fence a substantive financial package in the October 2018 budget. This would allow the scheme to commence towards the end of 2018/early 2019 for homes most seriously affected, some of which have now been condemned and abandoned. Timely redress, given the deleterious nature of unfit building blocks will in the long term, save the public purse and indeed may save lives.

We again urge the government to take the final step in announcing a redress scheme in principle and to allocate and ring fence at least a first promissory tranche of funding in the October 2018 budget. MAG will continue, as it has done for the last number of years, to assist you in providing technical data and to acting as a conduit from government to affected householder.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Kindest regards.

Ann Owens

Chairperson – MAG

CC: Minister Pascal Donohoe, Minister Eoghan Murphy, Minister Damien English, Minister Joe McHugh, Minister Michael Ring, Minister Paudie Coffey.