

**COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL
FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2026

ITEM NO. 05

RENT ARREARS FIGURES - AI109550

Motion: Councillor J. Burtchaell

"That the Chief Executive provide details on any changes in the Council's aggregate rent arrears figures since the differential rents were increased earlier this year."

Report:

The Council operates a fair and transparent tiered escalation process to engage and support tenants who fall into arrears, including early engagement, sustainable arrears arrangement plans, referrals to MABS and sign up to the Household Budgeting scheme if applicable.

Rent arrears reached a peak of just over €10m in early 2023, just after the Covid epidemic. Since then, significant work has been undertaken through sustained engagement with our tenants, with arrears falling consistently to €8.3m at the start of 2026. Immediately following the introduction of the new differential rent scheme the overall arrears figure increased over the immediate period to €8.7m, which following investigation, was found to include a number of rent accounts that had not adapted to the new rent charge due to issues like Standing Orders not being updated. Accordingly, the Housing Dept contacted those tenants to offer further guidance and support on the transition with the result that, in the past 9 weeks rent arrears have stabilised and are not materially increasing.

Source of Report:

Paul Carroll, Director of Services, Housing Department.