



PRESS RELEASE

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Statement on Albert Risso House

The representations made by the Tenants' Association of Albert Risso House with regard to the provision of wardens is misleading in the context of the situation.

Albert Risso House and Bishop Canilla House were built by the previous administration who, for understandable reasons, established a different set of arrangements for wardens, security and maintenance in Albert Risso House from those at Bishop Canilla House.

Albert Risso House is much bigger than any of the other elderly persons' homes and as a result, the function of its wardens is on security whilst maintenance and repair works are undertaken by another contractor. In contrast, wardens in all the other, smaller, blocks carry out the function of both security warden and caretaker dealing with repairs. Therefore, the wardens at Albert Risso House have a different, narrower role to the wardens at the other blocks and it is misguided to make comparisons between the two.

Nevertheless, the overall service provided in the blocks for the elderly is the same, despite the reality that there may be a difference in the hours worked by the individual warden at Albert Risso House. In addition, there is a duty rota for response to panic buttons at all times, this includes after hours.

Earlier this year, the front door lock at Albert Risso House was upgraded to a fob system and the premises are more secure as a result. Furthermore, this government's significant increase in investment in domiciliary care has benefitted all tenants of Albert Risso House. As a result, many more people now benefit from home help than ever before.

Notwithstanding all the above, the issue of wardens and maintenance in all the blocks for the elderly is currently under review and there has been an in-depth analysis of all the services provided and their costs. The results of this analysis are now being studied by the Minister for Housing and her teams at the Housing Department and the Housing Works Agency. These teams are close to completing this work and are expected to make recommendations regarding the best way of providing the best service at the best value for money by the end of the year.