

**MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK TO BE HELD ON Monday 11th
July, 2022**

Question submitted by Councillor C. Slattery

I will ask at the next Meeting if there are any plans to recruit more staff for the Rent Section of the Council as there are backlogs with rent assessments resulting in people whose circumstances have changed being hit with huge arrears in rent up to six months or more in some cases.

REPLY

The approved staff complement in the Rents Unit is adequate to deal with the workload arising. Similar to any other business unit within the Council, the pandemic has interfered to some extent with the normal workflow on an intermittent basis over the past two years.

Under the terms of the standard Letting Agreement signed by tenants, it is their responsibility in the first instance to advise the Council of any variations in income within the household, either up or down, so that their rent can be adjusted accordingly. This is clearly explained to them at pre-tenancy induction training. Some tenants appear reluctant to do this, particularly when there can be an upward revision to the rent accruing. In such situations, it may well be many months, or even longer, before the Council becomes aware of such a change in circumstances and, furthermore, there can be further delays caused by incomplete or inadequate documentary proof being submitted. This can lead in some cases to significant arrears having to be ultimately applied to the account. Individual tenants, or members on their behalf, should contact the rent account manager for their area with any concerns.

Caroline Curley

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Director of Services,

Housing Development Directorate