

**Private Rented Housing Sector  
SUIT (Service User Involvement Team)  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

1. How does the private rented housing sector meet the needs of the clients you support?  
**A. The private rented housing sector provides an opportunity for those that access our service to gain housing as part of their recovery from addiction.**
2. What advice do you give your clients to help them be successful in accessing or living in the private sector?  
**A. Ensure that they are made aware of the processes in place to be considered for housing within the private rented sector. Things such as -:**
  - a. **Acceptance of DSS applicants**
  - b. **All costs involved (including pre tenancy, furniture, top up's etc.)**
  - c. **Requirement to have a working guarantor in place**
  - d. **Assessing whether there are any previous rent arrears & addressing them**
3. Are you aware of the rent with confidence scheme?  
**A. Yes**
4. What effects has the national rent deposit scheme had on your clients?  
**A. The rent deposit scheme is a vital resource for the vast majority of our clients with housing needs.**
5. What would you like to see done to improve the private rented housing sector?
  - **Standardisation of the basic requirements (inc. fixtures and fittings) on properties that are available**
  - **Clarity over the type of tenancy that is being offered**
  - **A charter for landlord and tenants, in order to minimise confusion, conflict and discrepancies**
  - **To see housing benefit rates increase in accordance with market conditions**
  - **A training package for landlords to undertake, in order to increase knowledge and understanding of social issues that vulnerable people face (inc. addiction, mental health, criminal justice etc.)**