



Ref: JD24-191

6 February 2019

Ms Marcia D'Alton
info@marciadalton.net

Dear Ms D'Alton

I wish to refer to your recent letter concerning Housing for the Elderly.

A key principle underpinning Government policy is to support older people to live independently in their own homes and communities. The changing demographics and the implications for future health care costs underpin the importance of developing a wider choice of appropriate housing options for older people. The objective is to encourage and facilitate timely planning by older people for their future housing needs, and to rebalance the care model away from residential care to supporting people to remain in their own communities for as long as possible. As the research shows, this reflects the preferences of older people themselves.

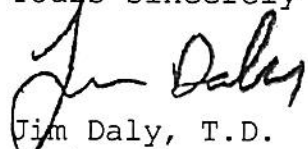
Our aim is to ensure that older people will have more choice by developing a range of housing options that are suited to their needs, so they can choose the right option for them. These options may include supported community developments akin to retirement villages, housing with supports projects or other initiatives.

Last November, I hosted an expert conference on housing for older people with my colleague Mr. Damien English T.D. Minister for Housing and Urban Development. The overwhelming view of participants, shared by experts, was that the development of a range of community supports and services in close proximity to older people is key to enabling them to remain living in their chosen environment. The outcome of this conference are being used by officials from both Departments working collaboratively together to inform the development of a suitable policy framework for housing for older people.

This work is actively progressing and a policy framework will be published shortly.

I hope that this information will be of some assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim Daly".

Jim Daly, T.D.

Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People