

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) meets long term housing need through the use of private rented accommodation.

The RAS was established in 2004, and placed responsibility on local authorities to meet the accommodation needs of people in receipt of rent supplement for 18 months or longer, and assist those who are assessed as having a long-term housing need.

RAS provides a more structured, accommodation-based approach to the use of the private rented sector to meet long-term housing need reducing dependence on temporary income support payments, i.e. rent supplement.

While RAS is now defined in legislation as a form of social housing support, it is still a targeted programme for accommodating households in receipt of rent supplement.



## Rental Accommodation Scheme

Housing and Community Directorate  
City Hall  
Anglesea Street  
Cork

Phone: 021 4924690 or 021 4924724

Fax: 021 4924673

E-mail: [ras@corkcity.ie](mailto:ras@corkcity.ie)



Tenant guide to entering the scheme



Your Route to Added Security

# Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) - Tenants

## What is RAS?

The Rental Accommodation scheme was first introduced in 2004 as a means to secure property in the private rented sector to provide social housing for people deemed to have a long-term housing need.

The scheme specifically targets those in receipt of rental supplementary welfare from the Department of Social Protection for a period of 18 months or more. Such persons may be deemed to have a long-term housing need and will be invited for interview to assess their eligibility to enter the scheme.

Failure to attend for interview to be assessed for eligibility may have implications for people who wish to avail of other state services for housing supports.

## How does RAS work?

RAS involves a three-way relationship between:

### 1. Housing authority and Landlord:

The local authority enters into an agreement with the property owner to make the property available to the RAS for an agreed term.

### 2. Landlord and Tenant:

The eligible RAS tenant, signs a residential tenancy agreement with the landlord. The key private rented landlord/tenant relationship continues under the RAS.

### 3. Housing Authority and Tenant:

The RAS tenant pays a differential rent to the local authority and the local authority will make payments to the landlord on the recipient's behalf. When the tenant takes up a RAS tenancy they are deemed to be in receipt of social housing support and their housing need is met.

## How do I qualify?

In order for a person(s) to be accepted to the scheme they must

- Be in receipt of rental supplement for 18 months or more.
- Have an open up to date social housing application.
- Have a valid GNIB (Garda National Immigration Bureau) card which requires a stamp 4 for a minimum of 5 years where applicable.
- Pass a Garda check with no criminal convictions that may be considered as impacting on good estate management.
- No rent arrears in a previous tenancy particularly in a social housing tenancy.

If a tenant provides false information on application, the application may be deferred or suspended depending on the seriousness of the breach. Any breaches may also be notified to the Superintendent Community Welfare Officer in the Health Services Executive, who will decide on the implications for your Rent Supplement payment.

## What are the benefits for me?

Some of the benefits currently being availed of by RAS tenants include

- Access to an alternative choice of long term housing
- Tenants can stay in the scheme upon taking up full time employment unlike rental supplementary welfare.
- Greater security of tenure.

- Providing the necessary platform to accessing employment, training or education opportunities which may lead to broader accommodation options in the future.
- Good quality accommodation.

## How do I register

Tenants who meet the eligibility criteria and wish to be considered for the scheme can do so by making an appointment with the RAS section of the Housing and Community Directorate, City Hall. An appointment request can be made by either by

- Emailing [ras@corkcity.ie](mailto:ras@corkcity.ie)
- Telephone on either 021 4924690 or 021 4924724
- Writing to Rental Accommodation Scheme Applications, Housing and Community, City Hall, Cork.

Appointments must be made in advance by one of the above methods.

Prospective tenants are asked to arrive for appointments on time as scheduled appointments are reserved. If you cannot attend for any reason please give 48 hours notice where possible to allow us to fill the vacant appointment

**If you have queries please contact us by phone or email our contact details can be found on the front of this leaflet.**