

Framework for Practice

ARCT 30130

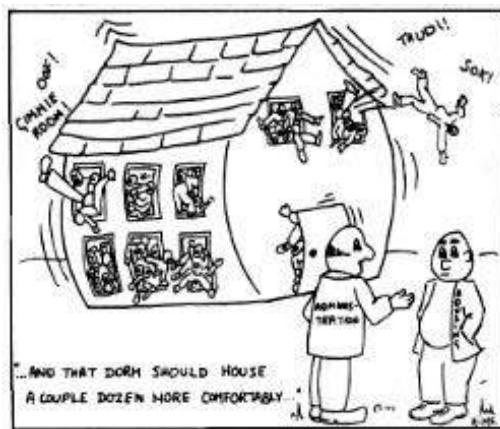


Breffní O'Brien



## Ireland 2040: Our Plan

Ireland today as we know it, for students and young professionals is a very difficult environment in which to flourish, with high rent rates for substandard accommodation, overcrowding and the lack of facilities to support young professionals on lower incomes, perceives Ireland as though it is a place of little promise. I chose the image below as I believe it represents what us students and soon to be young professionals have faced and will face over the coming years. I have come across 3 students in one small room paying €400 each and my sister, a highly qualified young professional, paying €1100 to live in a basement space with just one window opening.



With the spatial pattern of employment primarily flourishing in cities and suburban areas, I think it is crucial moving forward that whilst focusing on the growth of the economy and industries that specialist thought and planning needs to be focused on affordable and adequate housing to provide the workforce and students with a higher standard of living and a high quality of life. When thinking of urban planning and the fabric of our cities and towns, it is not enough to simply plan effective grid systems, roads and infrastructure, but to think of the individual in the city, be they young or old, employed or unemployed, and how the quality of their lives can be improved with carefully thought out planning of development in Ireland. In terms of urban sprawl, it is not enough to build housing estates and apartment blocks, but to create community environments with adequate facilities and create these with the natural environments well-being in mind.

I think that it is the housing in Ireland that is failing the Irish population, therefore we need to harness this opportunity to plan a better future for the people of Ireland and create a place where there is a higher quality of life, an overall societal wellbeing and a stricter approach to construction and development in terms of sustainable design and energy.