

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For release on: 03 August 2023**

# **Survey shows harsh impact of cost of living crisis on private renters in Northern Ireland**

Renters' Voice, a group of private renters, are calling for urgent government action to be taken to offset the devastating impacts of the cost-of-living crisis.

The group recently surveyed private renters in Northern Ireland about their experience of the cost-of-living crisis. 89% of respondents reported that they were worried about paying their bills because of the crisis. Furthermore, 44% responded that if the current cost-of-living crisis continues, their current rental situation will become unsustainable.

54% of respondents answered that they currently cannot afford to cover the costs of all their household expenses. When asked to rank their bills, 74% of those unable to afford all of their household expenses said that they prioritised paying rent over essentials such as electricity, heating, groceries.

The survey highlighted the mental and physical toll of private renting through the crisis, with just over half of respondents reporting that the cost-of-living crisis has negatively impacted their physical and mental health.

When asked what changes they would like to see to mitigate the impact of the crisis, the most popular response was a government enforced rent control such as a rent freeze, reduction or cap with almost 70% of respondents calling for this intervention.

Renters' Voice is urgently calling for the Northern Ireland Assembly to be restored and for urgent government action to be taken to address the serious issues private renters are dealing with.

### **Renters' Voice Group member Jenni Millar commented:**

"Our recent survey has shown that tenants are prioritising paying rent over and above every other bill, this is having devastating effects on physical and mental health and will only further increase as prices keep rocketing. It is a widespread catastrophe on course to hit if something is not done. Housing is so much more than a physical roof over your head, it is a basic need and if those aren't met, nothing else can effectively function."

-ENDS-

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

A copy of the February 2023 cost of living crisis survey report [can be found here](#).

### **About Renter's Voice**

Renters' Voice is a project for people renting from a private landlord or letting agent and who want to improve things for private tenants in Northern Ireland. They are supported by Housing Rights and funded by the Nationwide Foundation, but our voice is our own.

They aim to build:

- A strong voice for private tenants in Northern Ireland, and
- A culture of tenant participation in the development of the private rented sector.

**For further information and media enquiries please contact:  
noeleenlynn@housingrights.org.uk**