

Data Exchange Agreement between Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) & Central Statistics Office (CSO)

The Residential Tenancies Board [RTB] is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities under the Data Protection Acts 1988 & 2003. An extract from the Register held by the RTB in accordance with the Residential Tenancies Act 2004 will be provided by the RTB to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) under the provisions of the **Statistics Act, 1993¹** and **Section 151(1) (f) of the Residential Tenancies Act 2004²**.

RTB will be providing an extract file to the CSO. The request is being made under Section 24 of the Statistics Act, 1993, and that any data received would be subject to the protections against disclosure of data contained in the Act and also in the national and EU data protection legislation. The request is being made for the joint purposes of making an assessment of the statistical potential of the data and also facilitating cooperation with the RTB on how its systems might be developed, as provided for under Section 31 of the Statistics Act, 1993.

The Register of Tenancies, in combination with other relevant data sources can provide valuable statistical information to inform policy with respect to the housing sector.

The Register of Tenancies is identified as having significant statistical potential for the conduct of a register-based Census of Population. A register-based Census would involve integrating a number of registers and other data sources, including the Local Property Tax register, the Register of Tenancies, , and possibly other sources such as Stamping duty returns; this linking would be done by Eircode, where available, but otherwise by matching address strings. Thus, a register of dwelling attributes is produced, including identification of the class of occupant (tenant, owner). It is hoped that such a register would lead to a reduction in the cost, and an increase in the quality, of the 2021 Census of Population.

The data will be transmitted to the CSO in the format of multiple tab delimited files. The method of transfer of the data will be via the RTB secure share file protocol. The information which will be provided is highly confidential and must not be disclosed to any person save in accordance with the purpose indicated and legislative provision. Data will be managed in accordance with the CSO's policy governing data obtained from external providers³.

¹ <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1993/act/21/enacted/en/html?q=statistics+act&years=1993>

² <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2004/act/27/enacted/en/html?q=residential+tenancies+act&years=2004>

³ (<http://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/informationfordataproviders/>)

To ensure comprehensive coverage of all tenancies (including short-term), the CSO will receive an extract of the Register of Tenancies **quarterly**. The first delivery will be in December 2016, with subsequent deliveries then following a March, June, September, December pattern.

Breaches of the transfer mechanism, unauthorised exposure or loss of information must be reported to both the Data Protection Officer in the RTB (Ms. Carmel Diskin) and the Data Protection Officer in Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government as soon as possible after such an incident.

CSO will accept responsibility for the information on successful delivery and apply appropriate security measures to the information held on behalf of the RTB and will protect such information from unauthorised access or disclosure.

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