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The destruction of the construction industry by Irish Water.

Despite a national shortage of houses in Ireland and every possible effort being made to remedy the situation by all groups involved in construction vested interest wins out again and again. Despite numerous appointments of so-called housing ministers, the situation remains dire and with the present lack of commitment for change will only get worse. Having spent decades involved in the provision of services to the construction industry and seeing first-hand the devastating effect the public sector quangos are having on what otherwise is a very efficient house building operation we are calling for constructive dialogue to introduce necessary change before it's too late. For decades builders have been vilified in the media without a top to bottom review as to what is really going on. Today we share the views of one builder on the frustrations of the present situation. We would like to clarify we are not builders but sub-contractors to the building industry and would be interested in making things better for all. We have spoken to numerous builders and all express their concerns with Irish Water which is probably the biggest waste of money quango ever set up in the state.

The following is the experience of one builder from a start-up green field site.

Normally when we arrive on site there is existing infrastructure adjacent or parallel to the site boundary. We start off by setting up a site compound, which requires drinking water sewage connection and mains water for toilets and washing facilities. Traditionally county councils would give a temporary connection once we moved onto site. Now it takes in the region of ten months being bounced from one department to another in Irish water to get an agreement signed to get connected. In the meantime, we must dig a hole in the ground to put in a tank and hire a contractor once a week to collect the sewage. We must draw water from off site and fill large tanks and pump water to toilets. Drinking water must be transported to site daily. Signs must be erected to make sure nobody drinks water from the wrong source. This is a small example of the delays caused to the efficient construction and cost of badly needed family homes. Wake up minister before our patients run out.