Mica Action Group (MAG) Timeline
*MICA/DEFECTIVE BLOCKS ISSUE (IRELAND)*

2011/2012 – A small number of homeowners met informally to discuss cracking to their homes. It became evident that homes had only thing in common – Cassidy Bros. blocks used – a group of up to 30 homeowners started legal proceedings against the supplier

Dec 2013 – Following a meeting in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal in Dec 2013 organised by Damien Mc Kay (Civil Engineer) following a swell of homeowners seeing advice regarding significant cracking to their homes – the Mica action group (MAG) was established – every member of the committee had an affected home.

April 2014 – Following recommendations from the Pyrite case in Leinster, contact was raised with the local authority (Donegal County Council) and a presentation was made to them in April 2014

April – June 2014 Contact was made with the Dept. of Housing and the issue was raised and MAG asked for government support into the issue. Response from government indicated that no evidence (besides anecdotal evidence) of any widespread problem existed and furthermore the government stated that this was a private matter between homeowners and the supplier(s)

July 2014 – MAG set up an online survey in an effort to collect data on the issue (scale, cause etc.). Almost 98% of homeowners cited Cassidy Bros. as the block provider

July – Nov 2014 - Inishowen Peninsula and wider Letterkenny/North West Donegal area was leaflet dropped, media campaign (papers, radio interviews) to raise awareness of the issue and to encourage homeowners to come forward

Nov 17th 2014 – A large public meeting was held with registered homeowners, political representatives and the media to present findings from survey and to discuss a strategy

4th Dec 2014 – Government officials from Dept of housing met with MAG representatives in Dublin to discuss findings of the survey and to discuss the issue. MAG called for a full investigation by Government into the issue. Government agreed to look further at the issue and to speak to key stakeholders – banks, Homebond, insurance companies etc.


May 2016 – Litigation case for affected homeowners collapses following confirmation that the supplier had no insurance and furthermore their company is now obsolete. Another company, rebranded has been set up with some former directors’ name omitted and other family members taking their place. The former company no longer exists and under Irish law cannot be sued

March 2016 - Expert Panel set up to investigate the defective blocks issue. MAG engages with the Expert Panel.

June 2016 – National Television programme ‘Primetime’ airs programme after detailed investigation into the defective blocks issue, finds overwhelming majority of affected homes had purchased blocks from Cassidy Bros. This concurs with MAG research findings that up to 88% of defective homes have been build with Cassidy Bros. blocks
June 2017 – Government publishes report into defective blocks issue indicating up to 4,800 homes may be affected in the county and finds blocks were ‘not fit for purpose’. Hundreds of social housing units also affected as well as public buildings, schools, hospitals etc

July 2017 – October 2018 – MAG lobbies government for a full redress scheme to compensate homeowners due to lack of government legislation in place to protect homeowners, laissez faire policies in the construction industry amounting to ‘self-regulation’

9th October 2018 – Government gains cabinet approval for a redress scheme to fix homes of those affected. Only principal private residences will be repaired

May 2019 – Government signs off redress scheme, handing control to local authority (Donegal County Council) to implement. Few details of the scheme have been released to date.

June 2019 – Councillors pass a motion to establish a Mica Steering Committee within the council to supervise the roll-out/ implementation of the mica scheme. MAG representatives are invited on the Mica Steering Committee

July 24, 2019 – MAG get private meeting with Minister for housing, Minister for Education and senior government officials to ask about timeline for opening of scheme and further details of the scheme

July 24, 2019 – Public meeting held with 500+ attendees + political representatives to discuss/communicate update on redress scheme

September 2019 – Affected homeowners await opening of redress scheme and full publication of details