



The Douglas Road home which is the first house in Ireland to achieve Home Performance Index gold certification from the Irish Green Building Council.

Green home delivers another first for Cork

■ Gráinne McGuinness

A private house on the Douglas Road in Cork has become the first home in Ireland to receive Home Performance Index (HPI) gold certification from The Irish Green Building Council.

The house was designed by Wain Morehead Architects in Cork and achieved the exacting label for its quality and environmental performance. The house has a BER standard of A1 and was designed to have exemplary levels of water efficiency. The home also has electric car charging on site.

John Morehead, Managing Director of Wain Morehead Architects said: "We are very proud to receive the first HPI Gold Label for this project. This is our third certified passive house in Cork. It ticked all the boxes for the HPI which was nice for us."

"HPI not only looks at the energy usage it also looks at the sustainability side - it is about the environment, health and wellbeing, access to play areas and public transport."

Speaking about this achievement, Irish Green Building Council (IGBC) CEO Pat Barry said: "The home was designed with a great focus on the wellbeing of the users. It has excellent day lighting, very good indoor air quality and is extremely energy efficient."

Cancer 'cures': Legal action call on fake news

THE Head of Research for the Irish Cancer Society has called for the deliberate spreading of "fake news" about cancer treatments to be punishable by law in Ireland.

Dr Robert O'Connor cited the Cancer Act of 1939, a law in the UK which makes it a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment or fines, to say that something is a cancer treatment when it is not.

"You can today put up (online) that apples cure cancer and no one can stop you making that claim or make you responsible for that, but if you made false claims about financial transactions or insurance, you could actually be prosecuted over those," said Dr O'Connor.

"We need to apply the same rigour to the health sector that we do to the financial regulations and other aspects of life, so the public are protected."

Dr O'Connor was speaking ahead of "Decoding Cancer," an event focused on debunking the fake news and myths surrounding cancer, which takes place this Thursday in Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, UCC as part of Cork Science Festival.

"If people are misinformed over what they can do to treat and prevent cancer, then this can have a huge impact on the amount of people getting it (cancer)," he said.

"Vaccination is another way of preventing it. The HPV vaccination has proved time and again its benefits, yet there is information going around that is undermining the confidence of parents when deciding to have their child vaccinated," he added.

"We definitely need to work with the social media suppliers as well, the Facebooks, Google and Instagram because all of this information is out there and we have to find a way to make people responsible for what they put up online," he said.

"Most people are just trying to help, spreading the word on what they feel is genuine news and information but others are out to exploit people who are ill and seeking advice and this has to be stopped."

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