

**Northern Ireland House Condition Survey
User Engagement Group
Terms of Reference**



Background

The Northern Ireland House Condition Survey (NIHCS) is the only source for key Government measures of housing quality (Decent Homes Standard, including the traditional unfitness standard, fuel poverty and the energy efficiency of homes. It also provides an update on the dwelling stock, its residents and other measures of housing quality, including its state of repair and the Housing Health & Safety Rating System. The NIHCS was introduced in 1974, and the 2016 survey will be the twelfth such survey to be carried out in Northern Ireland. THE NIHCS meets the Northern Ireland Housing Executive's statutory responsibility in relation to housing research: The Housing (NI) Order 1981 states that the Housing Executive 'shall regularly examine housing conditions and need'.

Aim

To enhance the value of the Northern Ireland House Condition Survey by regular engagement with users.

Remit

The group will bring users of the NIHCS together to exchange information and views, and to ensure the survey and analysis meet users' needs.

The main elements of the group's work are to:

- provide feedback on the questionnaire
- discuss any changes to methodology
- ensure the statistics produced meet the users' needs
- examine potential uses for the statistics in the future
- discuss policy changes which may impact on the survey

Methods of working

The group will meet roughly once a quarter – although it may be sufficient at some points in time to have 'virtual' meetings or more regular meetings in the run up to fieldwork or before key statistics are to be published.

Minutes of meetings will be placed on the NIHE website.

Membership

Aidan Campbell – Rural Community Network
Ciara Cunningham – Department for Finance & Personnel
Claire Shortt – Belfast City Council
Jennifer Doak – ABC Council
John Downey – Department for Communities
Maryann Dempsey – Department for Communities

Sharon Jeffers – Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations

Suzanne Bagnall – DOE

Noel Rice – NIHE

Robert Clements – NIHE

Sinead Collins – NIHE

NIHE Research Team - Joe Frey, Jahnet Brown, Donna McLarnon