

Housing
Executive
Equality Unit

**Equality Bulletin Number 35 – BME and Migrant
Worker Mapping Update**

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Black and minority ethnic (BME) and Migrant Worker Mapping Update 2012

Introduction

This sixth annual mapping report provides an update on key indicators relating to the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) and Migrant Worker communities across Northern Ireland. Previous reports have been used widely by Staff and outside organisations including Councils and the Equality Commission. The district survey section has been used by Demography and Methodology Branch of NISRA in their annual migration report. The findings of previous reports have also been presented as part of a series of training seminars organized by Diversity in Action NI (DIANI).

Purpose

The core aim of this Equality Unit project is to track the current BME and migrant worker populations by Housing Executive District / Local Government District, and to develop and improve our understanding of the flow of migrant workers in Northern Ireland.

This report will provide additional data to help inform planning, resource and management decisions over the medium term.

Content

In addition to key population and employment statistics, the report includes a survey of all NIHE District Offices and case studies of Armagh, Craigavon, Dungannon, Newry and South Belfast districts.

Key findings:

Although key indicators show falling numbers of migrant workers moving to Northern Ireland activity associated with the work of the Housing Executive has increased. One example taken from the district survey is the number of applications from migrant worker households for social housing which increased from 998 in the year to 31st July 2007 to 1,870 in the year to 31st July 2011. The increase in the level of activity associated with the work of the Housing Executive is shown by Table 1 on page 4 of this bulletin.

Anecdotal information from District offices suggest an increasing number of settled migrant families compared to a number of years ago when there were more single migrant workers. It was estimated that at 31st July 2011, 80% of the 779 migrant worker tenant households were families.

This survey included questions on the Roma community for the first time. From the questionnaire it was found that Roma families are living in four districts including Antrim, Armagh, Dungannon and South Belfast. Main reasons for visiting the district offices included “seeking accommodation” and “to find out about housing applications”.

Section 1: Demographics and Other Statistical Indicators

There are no accurate figures on the number of migrant workers currently living in Northern Ireland. The situation is complicated by the fact that EU citizens have the right to move freely into and out of Northern Ireland without their details being recorded. The key indicators

have limitations but collectively they provide a collage of BME and migrant worker activity across Northern Ireland.

- NISRA mid year population estimates shows a 0.6% increase in the population from 1,788,896 at mid 2009 to 1,799,392 at mid 2010. This compares to a 0.8% increase in the year to mid 2009 and 0.9% in the year to mid 2008.
- Net total external migration for the one year period from mid 2009 to mid 2010 was -20. This decrease compares with 2,120 in the year to mid 2010 and 5,743 in the year to mid 2009.
- The Claimant Count rate has increased by 3,590 or 6.3% from 57,045 to 60,635 in Northern Ireland between July 2010 and July 2011.
- Births registered in Northern Ireland Classified by Mother's Country of Birth shows 2,473 or 9.8% of mothers were from outside the UK and Republic of Ireland (R.O.I.) in 2010. This compares to 2,318 (or 9.3% of all births in NI) during 2009.
- Worker Registration Scheme approvals were granted to 2,910 applicants in Northern Ireland between April 2010 and March 2011. Polish (1,100 or 38%) and Lithuanian (1,035 or 36%) made up 74% of all applications.
- National Insurance Number Applications made by non UK or R.O.I. nationals in Northern Ireland peaked at 21,472 in 2007/08. The number has since fallen by 17% to 17,848 in the 2008/09, a further 44% to 9,991 in 09/10 and has levelled off at 9,944 in 2010/11.

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- National Insurance Number Registrations to adult overseas nationals entering Northern Ireland increased by 25% from 7530 in 2009/10 to 9390 in 2010/11. This follows a decrease by 40% from 12,620 in 2008/09 to 7,530 in 2009/10.

Section 2: Housing Activity / Trends

Key findings from the 2011 survey have been compared to the previous four surveys in Table 1:

Table 1: Housing Activity / Trends 2007 - 2011

	31st July 2007	31st July 2008	31st July 2009	31st July 2010	31st July 2010
Migrant worker households applying for social housing in the one year period	998	1,055	1,225	1,368	1,870
Migrant worker households allocated social housing in one year	202	143	205	256	268
Migrant worker tenant households on each date	353	353	503	653	779
Migrant worker households awarded full duty applicant (FDA) status in one year		172	189	237	341
Migrant Worker Households Claiming Housing Benefit in one year period				979	1,369

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The full report is available in the NIHE website at
www.nihe.gov.uk/bme_and_migrant_worker_mapping_update_2012_published_2012.pdf

If you would like further information or advice please contact the Equality Unit:

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