

**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 2021 survey will be the thirteenth 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

David Moore – NIHE

Denise Conlon – NIHE

John McMullan – NIHE

Michelle Bamford – DfI

Catherine Blease – NIHE

Lesley Curry – DfC

Andy Frew – NIHE

Robert Clements – NIHE

Colm McQuillan – NIHE

Sinead Collins – NIHE

Claire Patton – DfI

Martin McDermott – DfC

Oliver McHugh – DfC

Erin Savage – DfC

Susan Wilken - DfI

NIHE Research Team – Karly Greene, Jahnet Brown, Donna McLarnon, Gerard Jervis,

Claire Kennedy

Avril Hiles – DfC

Andy Kennedy – NIHE

Stephen McGonagle – DfE

Katie Fulton – DfC

Sharon Jeffers – NIFHA

Helen McAdam – DoF

Siobhan McCauley – NIHE

Claire Shortt – BCC

Catherine McFarland – NIHE

Paul Isherwood – NIHE

Aileen Gordan – ABC Council

Andy Clement – DfC

Ciara Cunningham – DoF

Pat Austin – NEA

Hugh McVeigh – NEA