

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 2023 survey is 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 virtually roughly once a quarter, although there may be 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:

Pat Austin - NEA
Michelle Bamford - DfI
Catherine Blease – NIHE
Andy Clement – DfC
Robert Clements – NIHE
Sinead Collins - NIHE
Denise Conlon – NIHE
Meabh Cormacain - DfC
Ciara Cunningham – LPS
Lesley Curry – DfC
Andy Frew – NIHE
Jennifer Hawthorne – NIHE
Ailbhe Hickey – NIHE
Paul Isherwood – NIHE
Sharon Jeffers - NIFHA
Donna Knowles – DfC
Andy Kennedy – NIHE
Helen McAdam – DoF
Catherine McFarland – NIHE
Stephen McGonagle – DfE
Oliver McHugh – DfC
John McMullan – NIHE Board
Hugh McVeigh – NEA
David Moore- NIHE
Susan O'Hare – NIHE
Claire Patton - DfI
Emma Stubbs - NIHE
Susan Wilkin – DfI

NIHCS team:

Ursula McAnulty
Jahnet Brown
Donna McLarnon
Gerard Jervis