

30 January 2024

Our Ref: FOI 261

Request

We received your request on 08 January 2024 for the following information:

1 Can NIHE please provide a breakdown of the number of people who applied for emergency accommodation over the last 5 years? (Including the most recent data available).

Can it be broken down into each year?

Can it be broken down into each council area?

2 Can you note the number of successful applicants for each year and for council area?

3 Can you break the information down for each year to show the nationality of applicants and how many applied/were successful in each council area?

4 If possible, can you also provide a breakdown of those in emergency accommodation over that period based on religion?

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Our response

1 Can NIHE please provide a breakdown of the number of people who applied for emergency accommodation over the last 5 years? (Including the most recent data available).

Can it be broken down into each year?

Can it be broken down into each council area?

The Housing Executive has taken references to emergency accommodation to refer to temporary accommodation. In Northern Ireland the Housing (NI) Order 1988 (as amended) identifies the Northern Ireland Housing Executive as the agency tasked with responding to homelessness. The Order places a statutory duty on the Housing Executive to provide interim and/or permanent accommodation for certain homeless households, dependent upon investigations and assessment of their circumstances.

In order to be “accepted” as statutorily homeless, a household must meet the four tests of:

- Eligibility
- Homelessness
- Priority Need
- Intentionality

Any household that meets these four tests will be accepted as a ‘Full Duty Applicant’ (FDA) and will be owed a full housing duty. The full housing duty includes ensuring that accommodation is made available for the household as well as the provision of temporary accommodation where necessary and assistance with the protection of the household’s belongings.

The table in response to Question 2 details the number of placements in temporary accommodation provided by the Housing Executive for the past 5 years broken down by Council. It should be noted that the Council area refers to the area to which the Housing Executive presented as homeless.

2 Can you note the number of successful applicants for each year and for council area?

The table below details the number of placements in temporary accommodation provided by the Housing Executive for the past 5 years broken down by Council. It should be noted the Council area refers to the area to which the household as presented as homeless and some households will have received more than one placement.

Council	Placements 2018/19	Placements 2019/20	Placements 2020/21	Placements 2021/22	Placements 2022/23
Antrim & Newtownabbey	79	221	130	487	593
Ards & North Down	165	190	362	384	484
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	181	162	381	379	415
Belfast	1,303	1,664	5,149	4,479	4,605
Causeway Coast and Glens	113	146	467	426	550
Derry City and Strabane	642	1,046	1,250	1,161	1,335
Fermanagh and Omagh	152	260	222	218	256
Lisburn and Castlereagh	174	220	428	500	581
Mid and East Antrim	253	347	629	509	686
Mid Ulster	107	107	237	201	213
Newry, Mourne and Down	174	164	497	521	517