

23 May 2024

Our Ref: FOI 391

Request

We received your request on 02 May 2024 for the following information:

What were the average number of points held by applicants allocated a property in the Ballygowan area between 1/6/23 and 1/5/2024

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

Our response

Further to your clarification of 3rd May, in which you confirmed that you would be happy to accept the requested information for the period 01/04/23 to 31/03/24, the table below provides data on the number of allocations and average points at the point of allocation for the Ballygowan Common Landlord Area (CLA) for the 1-year period from 01/04/23 to 31/03/24. The table should be viewed in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Allocations 01/04/23-31/03/24 at Ballygowan CLA level by Mean & Median Points on the Waiting List at the point of allocation			
CLA	No. of allocations	Mean Pts at the point of allocation	Median Pts at the point of allocation
Ballygowan	11	220.5	190.0
N. Ireland Total	5,710	149.1	148.0

Notes:

- This response is based on the most recently published data (allocations for the period from 01/04/23 to 31/03/24).
- Allocations data is a rolling 1-year total and includes allocations to both Housing Executive and housing association properties.

- When a question of “average waiting times” or “average points” is asked, MEAN and MEDIAN averages are provided.

Reasons for this include:

The MEAN is the arithmetic average and as a statistic can often be unreliable, having been skewed by significant outliers i.e. applicants who have been on the waiting list for a number of years.

This degree of skewing makes the arithmetic average, the MEAN, unreliable.

Therefore, following expert advice on this matter a methodology that utilises the MEDIAN (a measure of central tendency) as a more reliable indicator in relation to Waiting Lists and Allocations is also provided.

This concludes our response.