

21 March 2025

Our Ref: FOI 693

Request

We received your request on 27 February 2025 for the following information:

I am writing to submit a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) by your department, specifically in relation to empty properties.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information:

- 1. The number of times a Compulsory Purchase Order has been carried out by your department in the last five years on empty dwelling houses and dormant properties that have been left vacant.*
- 2. The council areas in which these CPOs were undertaken.*

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

Our response

Further to your clarification of 28th February, in which you confirmed that you were interested in standard empty dwellings that could be regenerated back to a home for a family to live in, rather than compulsory acquisitions for the purpose of demolition under wider regeneration initiatives, I can confirm that the Housing Executive has not used its powers of compulsory acquisition under Article 87 of the Housing (NI) Order 1981 to acquire any properties in the last five years.

It has acquired 2 individual properties in the Belfast City Council area in the last 5 years but this was for the purpose of demolition to address blight rather than renovation.

This concludes our response.