

3rd June 2024

Our Ref: FOI 414

Request

We received your request on 23rd May 2024 for the following information:

Please can you send me answers for the following questions about your organisation:

- *How many homes to let at social rent do you have in your housing stock, either directly or through an ALMO or a wholly owned housing company (please list them separately?)*
- *If your council has transferred its housing stock to a housing association or another third party or arms-length organisation, please tell me its name.*
- *How many comms people in your organisation work solely on housing communications? This includes anyone tasked with things like media relations, social media, marketing, web operations, publications, public affairs, and so on.*
- *Are those staff members paid for from funds in your housing revenue account (ie your tenants rent) or by other means? Please explain how if it's the latter.*

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

Our response

- 1. How many homes to let at social rent do you have in your housing stock, either directly or through an ALMO or a wholly owned housing company (please list them separately?)**

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive is a Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB). It is not a council. We are a public sector landlord of 83,100 homes that operates across Northern Ireland.

We are also responsible for other strategic housing functions and services across Northern Ireland - similar to those that are carried out by local authorities and housing agencies in other parts of the UK. These include: carrying out homelessness assessments and in securing housing and temporary accommodation for the homeless; examining housing conditions and housing requirements; drawing up wide ranging programmes to meet these

needs; improvement of the condition of housing stock including providing grant payments to improve private sector homes; managing the social housing new build development programme for NI; providing housing information and advisory services; administering the Supporting People programme and Housing Benefit.

There is also a statutory requirement on the Housing Executive to “establish such housing information and advisory services as it considers desirable”.

It should be noted that there are two funding streams within the organisation.

- (a) Landlord Services which operates on a largely self-financing basis through rental income from the 83,100 social homes. This area of the business is primarily responsible for delivering an effective tenancy management service along with stock investment.
- (b) Regional Services which is wholly reliant on the availability of Government funding for all other functions.

2. *If your council has transferred its housing stock to a housing association or another third party or arms-length organisation, please tell me its name.*

N/A

3. *How many comms people in your organisation work solely on housing communications? This includes anyone tasked with things like media relations, social media, marketing, web operations, publications, public affairs, and so on.*

There are currently 24 posts working in the communications team in NIHE. This work is for all communications functions: public relations; public affairs, including work with the Northern Ireland Assembly; tenant communications and campaigns; conference and event management; marketing and job advertising; graphic design, photography and video; web and social media; internal communications and CSR. With the exception of the placement of job advertisements, all communication functions for the organisation are provided by the inhouse team.

4. *Are those staff members paid for from funds in your housing revenue account (ie your tenants rent) or by other means? Please explain how if it's the latter.*

Given the mixture of landlord (housing) functions and regional (strategic services) activities within NIHE, the Communications Team costs (as with other support services in the organisation) are split between the two funding streams as outlined above in Q1. The costs associated with the staff members for the Communications Team are divided into 62% being funded by Landlord Services (rental income) and 38% through Regional Services (government grant) funding.

This concludes our response.