

4 April 2024

Our Ref: FOI 340

Request

We received your request on 11 March 2024 for the following information:

I am contacting you on behalf of the BBC NI Evening Extra radio programme. Under a freedom of Information, I would like to know the following:

How many hotel rooms and guest houses have the Housing Executive been using over the past five years to place people who are in a temporary or emergency situation? Can we get a break-down from 2019 to 2024?

How many children have been living in hotel/guest house temporary and emergency accommodation in the past five years?

How much has the Housing Executive spent over the last five years on private hotels and guest houses used as temporary/ emergency accommodations? Can we get a break-down for each category and each year?

How much has the Housing Executive spent to transport temporary tenants from one accommodation to another? Do you hold a breakdown of areas where people have been moved from/to?

How many temporary properties on average does a tenant/lodger go to before a suitable / long term accommodation is found/offered?

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

Our response

1. How many hotel rooms and guest houses have the Housing Executive been using over the past five years to place people who are in a temporary or emergency situation? Can we get a break-down from 2019 to 2024?

The Housing Executive records temporary accommodation provision by the number of placements rather than the number of hotel rooms and guest houses. The table below details the number of placements from 2019/20 onwards.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Placements in non-standard</i>
<i>2019/20</i>	<i>1,648</i>
<i>2020/21</i>	<i>5,350</i>
<i>2021/22</i>	<i>4,170</i>
<i>2022/23</i>	<i>3,809</i>
<i>2023/24 (1st April to 31st December only)</i>	<i>3,509</i>

The following should be noted:

- There has been a significant increase in demand for temporary accommodation since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020.*
- The number of placements relate to placements where the start date of the placement is between 1st April and 31st March for each respective year with the exception of 2023/24 where data is only available for 1st April to 31st December.*
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2. How many children have been living in hotel/guest house temporary and emergency accommodation in the past five years?

Data on the number of children in temporary accommodation is available on the Department for Communities website. Current published data from Jan 2019 to July 2023 is available [here](#).

Additional data will be published on the website in 2024 as part of the scheduled release of statistics and as such remains exempt under FOIA Section 44, disclosure is prohibited by other legislation. Section 13(1) of the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007, states that ‘the person producing any official statistics which are designated under section 12 as National Statistics must ensure that the Code of Practice for Statistics under section 10 continues to be complied with in relation to the statistics.’

Provision of more recent data before publication of the National/Official Statistic to which it relates would be a failure to comply with the Code in respect of T3: Orderly release.

3. How much has the Housing Executive spent over the last five years on private hotels and guest houses used as temporary/ emergency accommodations? Can we get a break-down for each category and each year?

The table below provides the expenditure on non-standard accommodation from the April 2019 - Mar 2023 period. As data is for financial years, a figure for the current 2023/24 year is not available. No further breakdown is available.

Year	Expenditure on Non-standard
2019/20	£1,932,230
2020/21	£5,092,001
2021/22	£5,766,932
2022/23	£7,621,285

In interpreting this data, the following should be noted:

- There has been a significant increase in demand for temporary accommodation since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020*
- Expenditure figures relate to costs incurred during each financial year and there may be cases where a placement started in the previous financial year with costs continuing into the subsequent financial year.*
- Costs for placements in non-standard accommodation will be influenced by the size of the household and length of placement.*

4. How much has the Housing Executive spent to transport temporary tenants from one accommodation to another? Do you hold a breakdown of areas where people have been moved from/to?

During the 2022/23 financial year, the Housing Executive spent £193,064 on taxi costs. The Housing Executive does not record details of individual destinations served.

5. How many temporary properties on average does a tenant/lodger go to before a suitable / long term accommodation is found/offered?

The Housing Executive does not record the data in the format requested. The table below details the average length of stay in temporary accommodation for 2022/23 across the various types of accommodation used by the Housing Executive:

Year	Bespoke Facility of Temporary Accommodati on	Crash: Volunta ry Sector	Singl e Lets	DIM E*	Volunta ry Sector Hostels	Housin g Executi ve Hostels	Hotel/B& B	Tot al
2022/23	85	42	568	27	202	287	28	228

*DIME refers to Dispersed Intensively Managed Emergency Accommodation

This concludes our response.