

22 October 2024

Our Ref: FOI 530

Request

We received your request on 24 September 2024 for the following information:

- *how many home adaptations were delivered in each financial year between 2019-2024 under the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG).*
- *how many of the home adaptations delivered, as outlined above, related to applicants under the age of 18, and how many related to adults aged between 18 and 64, by each individual financial year.*
- *of home adaptations delivered under the DFG in each financial year between 2019-2024, what was the average amount of time, in days, for a home adaptation to be completed from the time of the resident's initial enquiry.*
- *of home adaptations delivered under the DFG in each financial year between 2019-2024, what was the average amount of time, in days, for a home adaptation to be completed from the time of the initial enquiry for cases relating to applicants under 18 years of age.*
- *of home adaptations delivered under the DFG in each financial year between 2019-2024, what was the average amount of time, in days, for a home adaptation to be completed from the time of the initial enquiry for cases relating to applicants aged 18-64.*
- *among residents whose DFG enquiries or applications remain open, what is the longest amount of time a case has been ongoing (in days), starting from the point at which the resident first enquired about a home adaptation and specifying if the applicant was under 18 years old or between the age of 18-65.*
- *what was the total cost of the home adaptations delivered under the DFG in each financial year between 2019-2024.*
- *whether the Housing Executive uses discretionary powers to top up grants.*

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

Our response

Question 1.

How many home adaptations were delivered in the following financial years under the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)?

- I) 2019-20
- II) 2020-21
- III) 2021-22
- IV) 2022-23
- V) 2023-24

Answer:

Financial Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Number of DFGs Completed	836	624	654	655	696

Question 2.

How many of the home adaptations delivered, as outlined in question 1, related to

- a) under-18s, and
- b) adults aged between 18 and 64?

Please break the figures down by the following financial years:

- I) 2019-20
- II) 2020-21
- III) 2021-22
- IV) 2022-23
- V) 2023-24

Answer:

Category / Financial year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Number of completions for under 18's (<i>at date of approval</i>)	45	28	36	38	47
Number of completions for 18-64 (<i>at date of approval</i>)	362	273	270	227	263

Questions 3-5

To provide clarity for questions 3-5, the first point of contact for the Housing Executive is a Health Trust Occupational Therapist's (OT) recommendation. The table below illustrates the private sector grants process in respect of a Disabled Facilities Grant:

Stage 1	OT recommendation received to Housing Executive Technical Officer inspection
Stage 2	Inspection to issue List of Grant-Aid Works
Stage 3	List of Grant-Aid Works issued to receipt of all required plans and documents from the grant applicant
Stage 4	Receipt of completed documents to issue of Approval to Start Work
Stage 5	Issue of Formal Approval to receipt of Satisfactory Completion of Works notice
Stage 6	Completion of works to Final Inspection (Housing Executive and OT) and Payment of grant-aid monies.

It is important to note that Stage 3 and Stage 5 are both generally outside of the Housing Executive's control. These two stages rely on an applicant and / or their agent supplying the required information to complete.

The answers to questions 3-5 provide both the total processing time (stages 1-6) for a DFG that completed within that financial year and the processing time only for those stages within the Housing Executive's control (stages 1, 2, 4 & 6), for all DFG's in that category that completed a stage in that financial year.

Question 3

Of home adaptations delivered under the DFG in the following financial years, what was the average amount of time, in days, for a home adaptation to be completed from the time of the resident's initial enquiry*?

- I) 2019-20
- II) 2020-21
- III) 2021-22
- IV) 2022-23
- V) 2023-24

***Please understand 'first enquired' as the first contact made by/on behalf of the resident with the Housing Executive regarding a home adaptation, rather than the point at which an application was formally submitted.**

Answer:

Financial Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Average Days - OT Referral to Satisfactory Completion (Stages 1-6)*	876	928	954	989	903
Average Days within Housing Executive Control (Stages 1, 2, 4 & 6)*	339	615	385	258	239

*Please note that Covid-19 restrictions and subsequent construction supply chain factors has impacted.

Question 4.

Of home adaptations delivered under the DFG in the following financial years, what was the average amount of time, in days, for a home adaptation to be completed from the time of the initial enquiry for cases relating to under-18s?

- I) 2019-20
- II) 2020-21
- III) 2021-22
- IV) 2022-23
- V) 2023-24

Answer:

Financial Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Average Days - OT Referral to Satisfactory Completion (Stages 1-6)*	1281	1215	1212	1321	1000
Average Days within Housing Executive Control (Stages 1, 2, 4 & 6)*	374	453	265	223	200

*Please note that Covid-19 restrictions and subsequent construction supply chain factors has impacted.

Question 5.

Of home adaptations delivered under the DFG in the following financial years, what was the average amount of time, in days, for a home adaptation to be completed from the time of the initial enquiry for cases relating to those aged 18-64?

- I) 2019-20
- II) 2020-21
- III) 2021-22
- IV) 2022-23
- V) 2023-24

Answer:

Financial Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Average Days - OT Referral to Satisfactory Completion (Stages 1-6)*	837	976	1038	1069	986
Average Days within Housing Executive Control (Stages 1, 2, 4 & 6)*	356	648	428	273	219

*Please note that Covid-19 restrictions and subsequent construction supply chain factors has impacted.

Question 6.

Among residents whose DFG enquiries or applications remain open, what is the longest amount of time a case has been ongoing (in days)? Please provide a figure from the point at which the resident first enquired* about a home adaptation.

***Please understand ‘first enquired’ as the first contact made by/on behalf of the resident with the Housing Executive regarding a home adaptation, rather than the point at which an application was formally submitted. If such timeframes cannot be calculated because the data is not accessible in this format, please provide timeframes using the nearest data you have available, and explain what this timeframe relates to**

As of 24 September 2024, the longest ‘live’ case has been open 5,324 calendar days.

It is important to note that in relation to this case there are a number of external factors outside of the Housing Executive’s control that have kept this ‘live’. The Housing Executive are currently working to bring this case to a close.

Question 7.

Does the case in question 6 relate to an individual aged i) under-18, ii) 18-64 or iii) 65 and over?

65 years and over

Question 8.

What was the total cost of the home adaptations delivered under the DFG in each of the following financial years?

I) 2019-20

II) 2020-21

III) 2021-22

IV) 2022-23

V) 2023-24

Financial year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Value of DFGs completed	£10,348,193	£9,101,531	£8,865,960	£10,305,682	£11,905,471

This concludes our response.