

04 April 2025

Our Ref: FOI 722

Request

We received your request on 24 March 2025 for the following information:

I request information on the actions taken by NIHE regarding the construction of a three sided, concrete based stand from which flags are being flown at the corner of the Drumhirk Road and the West Circular Road Bangor on land which I understand is controlled by the NIHE and is at the entrance to the Kilcooley Estate. Hereafter referred to as a flag plinth.

My FOI request is to confirm the following:

Is this land owned by NIHE or does it otherwise have a responsibility for this land? The What three words locator words for it are Tamed.ending.cargo

If the land is in NIHE responsibility or ownership, was the construction of the flag plinth with NIHE's approval before, during or after its construction? Did NIHE personnel in working time, meet in any formal or informal way with the flag plinth builders before, during or after its construction?

Was any NIHE funding used to create the flag plinth?

Has NIHE approved the flying of the Union Flag, the Ulster Banner or a flag carrying the words Ulster Defence Association?

Was planning permission sought for this flag plinth or any other statutory consent sought for the flying of any flags on it.

Has the local community in Kilcooley or neighbouring areas been consulted on the construction of this flag plinth or the flying of flags from it and what was the outcome of that consultation?

If the NIHE has not approved the construction of this flag plinth, is it the NIHE's

intention to have this removed from its land and if so when?

Has any equality impact assessment been undertaken on the creation of this flag plinth or flying of flags from it.

Please do not display my name or address on any publicly accessible record relation to these FOI questions

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

Our response

1. Is this land owned by NIHE or does it otherwise have a responsibility for this land? The What three words locator words for it are Tamed.ending.cargo

This land is owned by the Housing Executive.

2. If the land is in NIHE responsibility or ownership, was the construction of the flag plinth with NIHE's approval before, during or after its construction? Did NIHE personnel in working time, meet in any formal or informal way with the flag plinth builders before, during or after its construction?

No formal or informal meetings were held between the Housing Executive and the flag plinth builders, nor approval sought or granted.

3. Was any NIHE funding used to create the flag plinth?

No funding has been requested or granted in relation to this flag plinth.

4. Has NIHE approved the flying of the Union Flag, the Ulster Banner or a flag carrying the words Ulster Defence Association?

No such request for approval has been made to the Housing Executive.

5. Was planning permission sought for this flag plinth or any other statutory consent sought for the flying of any flags on it.

Planning permission is outside the remit of the Housing Executive and is a matter for the council.

6. Has the local community in Kilcooley or neighbouring areas been consulted on the construction of this flag plinth or the flying of flags from it and what was the outcome of that consultation?

The Housing Executive has not been made aware of any consultation in relation to this matter.

7. If the NIHE has not approved the construction of this flag plinth, is it the NIHE's intention to have this removed from its land and if so when?

As stated, although this is Housing Executive land, no permission was requested, or granted, by us for this structure, or these flags, to be installed at this location. The flags have been there for quite some time but the structure is a recent installation.

We would have concerns about the safety of Housing Executive contractors removing either the structure or the flags without assurances from the community that there would be no negative repercussions for them, or other Housing Executive staff working in the area if they were to do so.

8. Has any equality impact assessment been undertaken on the creation of this flag plinth or flying of flags from it.

Not that the Housing Executive has been involved in.

This concludes our response.