

24 June 2024

Our Ref: FOI 434

Request

We received your request on 06 June 2024 for the following information:

- 1. Can you clarify if any payments made to housing association 'intermediate rent' schemes or similar may be counted as Private Rented Sector?*
- 2. In order to amend any inaccuracies, we would be grateful for a corrected set of figures for all of the years referenced (2012/13 – 2022/23), with housing benefit payments to housing association social homes excluded from the 'housing benefit payments to private rental sector' totals. If it would be possible to send an explainer of what the amended totals include, that would be helpful, to avoid further misunderstanding.*

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

Our response

- Intermediate Rent is a new housing rental model for the local housing market in Northern Ireland. There are currently no Intermediate Rent homes available to rent. Therefore, the Housing Benefit payments detailed below for the Private Rented Sector do not include Intermediate Rent homes.
- Please see the table below for the split of Housing Benefit payments to Housing Associations and to the Private Rented Sector by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive from 2016/17 to 2023/24.

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Housing Associations	133.5	135.2	140.4	137.1	134.3	129.5	128.9	136.0
Private Rented Sector	283.1	272.7	249.5	215.2	207.4	187.9	174.5	166.6
Total	416.6	407.9	389.9	352.3	341.7	317.4	303.4	302.5

Prior to 2016/17 the cost of housing benefit figures for Private Rented Sector and Housing Associations are consolidated with no split available. Therefore, NIHE are unable to provide any further analysis beyond the responses already provided in relation to the years 2012/13 to 2015/16.

This concludes our response.