

## **Inspections of Houses for Asylum Seekers and Refugees**

### **1. What post / section of the Housing Executive is responsible for carrying out these inspections?**

The Refugee Resettlement Team within the NIHE specifically set up to manage Syrian VPRS and Afghan Resettlement Schemes

### **2. When do the inspections take place? (before, during, after tenancies?)**

Currently houses are inspected when any of the following occur-

- They are brought on for use under the schemes
- Change of placement if property is being reused
- Issues of serious disrepair reported

Prior to Covid 19 the inspections took place as per above as well as on a rolling basis.

### **3. How often is each property inspected?**

Due to Covid 19, houses are no longer routinely inspected unless they meet the above criteria.

We do not collate information on how often properties were inspected. Prior to Covid 19 the Team carried out periodic inspections of properties. The aim was to inspect each property at least annually. However it is estimated that, forgoing issues around gaining access, properties were on average inspected approximately every 7 months.

### **4. How many such inspections have been carried out in the last six months in Belfast? In Derry?**

There have been 12 inspections.

**5. In the course of the above, how many properties were deemed to be, in the Minister's phrase, "unsuitable due to disability or mobility issues or for any reason at all"?**

4 Properties were deemed to be unsuitable

**6. In these cases, how was the matter addressed? (eg households moved? Works carried out? Other?)**

With one household, there was a visit to maximise housing points as the family had refused to move to alternative suitable temporary housing. They expressed their wish to wait for a permanent housing option.

Another inspection showed serious disrepair and the household was moved to alternative temporary accommodation.

One household was offered new temporary accommodation, which they did not accept as it did not meet their needs.

One household had a small 3rd bedroom and due to the size criteria it was deemed that there was an issue of overcrowding and 10 points were subsequently awarded. The family are being considered for a move should a suitable alternative become available.