

Waiting list and allocations - Belmont Road, Wandsworth, Brooklands and Ballyhackamore.

1. **Can you please advise how many people, are currently on the NIHE waiting lists for 2 bedroom properties for areas - Belmont Road, Wandsworth, Brooklands and Ballyhackamore. If you could break this down into specific individual areas please.**

I must advise you that waiting list data is subject to change due to the number of applicants being placed on or removed from the list and that this data should be considered accurate only at the time of discovery. The information you requested is as follows

CLA	No. of Applicants
Ballyhackamore	125
Brooklands	52
Wandsworth	125

2. **Can you please advise how many 2 bedroom allocations have been actioned (including those from Housing Associations, as the same list is used) from April 2022 to date for the areas - Belmont Road, Wandsworth, Brooklands and Ballyhackamore. If you could break this down into specific individual areas please.**

There has been <10, two bedroom allocations actioned from April 2022 to date. We are unable to provide an exact number, a break down into specific individual areas and details of housing list as due to the low numbers, this information is exempt from disclosure in accordance with FOI Act S40 – Personal Information of a third party as disclosure would contravene data protection principle (a) in Article 5 of the UK GDPR.

3. **Can you please advise how many of these allocations were taken from the general housing list from April 2022 to date for the areas - Belmont Road,**

Wandsworth, Brooklands and Ballyhackamore. If you could break this down into specific individual areas please.

Please see response to question 2.

- 4. Can you please advise how many of these allocations were taken from the Transfer list from April 2022 to date for the areas - Belmont Road, Wandsworth, Brooklands and Ballyhackamore. If you could break this down into specific individual areas please.**

Please see response to question 2.

- 5. Can you please advise how many of these allocations were taken from the Management Transfer list from April 2022 to date for the areas - Belmont Road, Wandsworth, Brooklands and Ballyhackamore. If you could break this down into specific individual areas please.**

Please see response to question 2.

- 6. Can you please advise how many vacant 2 bedroom properties there are in areas -Belmont Road, Wandsworth, Brooklands and Ballyhackamore - including properties awaiting scheme work/not yet ready for allocation. If you could break this down into specific individual areas please**

The total number of 2 bed properties currently vacant in the areas requested is 3. We cannot define which areas they are in for the following reason. Due to the small number of properties relating to your request the Housing Executive considers that the requested information is not disclosable as this would likely prejudice the prevention or detection of crime. The relevant exemption is section 31 (1) (a) of the FOI Act 2000 (Prevention or detection of crime).

We are limited in the information that we can provide due to the use of Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act (explained in full below)

Public Interest Test

Section 31 is a 'qualified' exemption and I must now go on to consider if the public interest is in favour of maintaining the exemption or vice versa. On weighing the factors for and against disclosure I have concluded that the public interest lies in not disclosing the information at this time. I have set out below the factors which I have taken into account when reaching my conclusion.

Factors in favour of disclosure

- There is public interest in transparency and accountability of the department.
- Disclosure may promote public understanding
- There is public interest in good decision-making by public bodies.
- Public interest in bringing empty properties back into us.

Factors in favour of maintaining the exemption

- Some of the properties in question are those that are considered as 'long term' vacant and currently 'not lettable'. The disclosure of this information could likely lead to squatting and other criminal activity in and/or around these properties.
- In addition to the best use of stock, the NIHE has a public interest to protect its property and to avoid the considerable public expense that would be incurred dealing with crimes with empty or vacant properties.
- It is believed that the public interest lies in preventing the distress that is caused to victims of crimes of this nature. Residents who live in close proximity to such addresses would also be affected by crime committed within the vicinity and they would have a reasonable expectation of feeling secure in their homes.
- Although there is strong public interest in bringing properties back into use, the immediate concern is the protection of property and the well-being of residents.

We have reached the view that, on balance the public interest is better served by withholding the information relating to these addresses of vacant properties under Section 31(1) (a) of the Act at this time.