

28 June 2024

Our Ref: FOI 408

Request

We received your request on 21 May 2024 for the following information:

1) In relation to NIHE Properties that have been built for Social Housing in / on Gavaghy Road and Killicomaine Estate Portadown .

*How many properties has the NIHE gifted / Donated Free of charge to Community groups / Residents Associations along with any Renovations to these properties.
How many properties over previous 2 yrs period*

*On the above estates
Has NIHE gifted / Donated Zoned lands in these estates for any other reason other than Developments .
Allotments , Plantings , Furniture , other*

What land was provided !

2) Does / Has NIHE paid wages directly to any persons in a Social Enterprise or Charity in the above areas either directly or by way of the S E / Charity

Please advise

3) In reference to All Demolished properties in Parkmore Estate and Westacres Estate Craigavon

*What is the cost to maintain such vacant open spaces ?
Grass cutting and general up keep as per vacant Zoned lands the NIHE OWN and left vacant as per previous demolished property built .*

Period of request 2 yrs

*4)
Can you provide information who in N I H E is responsible or in charge of decision*

making for Social Enterprises / Charities / Resident Groups in the Portadown area and what funds have been allocated over the last 2 yrs for any one of the above

30.05.2024 - clarifications added, new wording:

Q1 In relation to NIHE Properties that have been built for Social Housing in / on Gavaghy Road and Killicomaine Estate Portadown:

a) How many properties over the last 2 years has the NIHE gifted / Donated Free of charge to Community groups / Residents Associations thus denying local persons awaiting Social Housing? If there are such properties and Renovations / Repairs have been carried out – did NIHE donate funds or have works carried out?

b) Has NIHE gifted / Donated Zoned lands in these estates for any other reason other than Developments. Allotments, Plantings, Furniture, other. What land was provided! Limited to the last 2 years

Q2 Does / Has NIHE paid wages directly over the last 3 years to any persons in a Social Enterprise or Charity in the above areas either directly or by way of the S E / Charity?

Q3 In reference to All Demolished properties in Parkmore Estate and Westacres Estate Craigavon. What is the cost to maintain such vacant open spaces ? Grass cutting and general upkeep as per vacant Zoned lands the NIHE OWN and left vacant as per previous demolished property built. Period of request 2 yrs.

Q4 Can you provide information who in N I H E is responsible or in charge of decision making for Social Enterprises / Charities / Resident Groups in the Portadown area and what funds have been allocated over the last 2 yrs. for any one of the above.

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

Our response

- 1) Over the last 2 years, the Housing Executive has not gifted/donated free of charge any properties to Community Groups/Residents Associations in/on the Garvaghy Road or Killicomaine Estate in Portadown.
- 2) Communities Funding programmes have not paid any wages directly over the last 3 years to any persons in a Social Enterprise or Charity in the above areas.

The Housing Executive has, over the April 2021 to March 2024 period, through the Homelessness Prevention Fund, funded salary costs to the amount of £89,900 in regard of two community organisations. While neither organisation is based within the areas specified, they will operate within both areas.

The Sustaining Tenancies Funding Programme (STFP) was launched in October 2021 with the aim of providing funding to projects which support the sustainability and resilience of Housing Executive tenancies. To date we have invested approximately

£3m, which has supported 52 projects across Northern Ireland. The STFP has not yet funded any projects specific to Garvaghy Road or Killicomaine Estate. However, there have been a number of projects, larger in geographical scale, funded within the South Region which have included Portadown within their catchment areas. These are listed in the table below, along with confirmation if the grant award included salary costs, the broader geographical coverage of the project, year of award, and if these projects are still active.

Organisation	Total Amount Awarded	Salary Costs included in award	Geographical Coverage	Financial Year awarded	Ongoing/Ended
Healthy Kidz CIC	£10,380	Yes	Portadown Tandragee Craigavon Banbridge	2022/23	Ended (07/03/2022-30/09/2022)
Laurencetown, Lenaderg and Tullylish Community Association (LLTCA)	£34,300	Yes	Laurencetown Bleary Loughbrickland Tandragee Scarva Donacloney Waringstown Banbridge Outskirts of Lurgan & Portadown	2022/23	Ended (11/07/2022-30/04/2024)
NI Alternatives	£99,900	Yes	North Belfast Greater Shankill South Belfast East Belfast North Down and Ards Portadown Magherafelt	2024/25	Ongoing (01/04/2024-31/03/2027)
Inspire Wellbeing	£99,994	Yes	Armagh Dungannon Newry Craigavon Lurgan Portadown Banbridge	2024/25	Ongoing (01/05/2024-30/04/2026)
Belfast Central Mission HSOP (South)	£40,929	Yes	Newry Armagh Dungannon Craigavon Lurgan Portadown South Armagh	2022/23	Ongoing (11/07/2022-30/06/2024)

- 3) The cost for Grounds Maintenance to maintain the routine grass cutting/weed control in Parkmore and Westacres Estate on all vacant open spaces under NIHE ownership.

Parkmore Estate

2022-2023 £15,697.18

2023-2024 £17,086.07

Westacres Estate

2022-2023 £10,946.84

2023-2024 £9,019.01

- 4) Working closely within our estates to foster vibrant, stable and sustainable communities has always been a key priority for the Housing Executive. Local Area Office staff work within Housing Executive Communities directly with Social Enterprises, Community & Resident Groups, Charities etc. Central Communities Teams provide administrative support, policy and guidance for the local Area Offices including on decisions for funding programmes such as Social Enterprise funding, Community Involvement and Cohesion funding, Community Safety funding.

Over the last 2 years the following funding has been provided to social enterprises/charities/ residents groups in the Portadown area from the following Communities funding streams:

- 2022/23 – Community Cohesion funding awarded - £58,314
Community Involvement funding awarded - £4,943
Community Safety funding awarded - £79,194
- 2023/24 – Community Cohesion funding awarded - £72,599
Community Involvement funding awarded - £21,819
Community Safety funding awarded - £80,936
Social Enterprise funding awarded - £10,000

The Housing Executive has awarded £30,050 from the Homelessness Prevention Fund to a community organisation within the Portadown area in the period April 2022 to March 2024. The Homelessness Prevention Fund is subject to an application process which is advertised to the Sector through a range of communication channels. Upon receipt of applications a panel including staff from a range of operational and central services roles will review applications and rank in accordance with the objectives of the Homelessness Prevention Fund for each respective year. The decision as to which applications are supported will be submitted to the Housing Executive's Executive Team for approval.

The amount of Sustaining Tenancies Funding Programme (STFP) awards allocated to relevant projects is included in the table at Question 2 (above).

The Sustaining Tenancies Funding Programme (STFP) application window is open for a fixed period (or tranche) in each financial year. The application process for this funding stream has 2 stages:

- a) Expression of Interest: Eligibility checks are completed, and shortlisting determined by a panel made up of a minimum of 3 members of the central Sustaining Tenancies Funding team and/or central Housing Policy and Tenancy Management team.
- b) Full application and Showcase: The successful applications are determined by 3 panels – one for each Housing Executive administrative region; Belfast Region, North Region and South Region. Each panel consists of at least 3 members of staff, usually made up of 2 representatives of frontline services within the region and 1 member of the central Sustaining Tenancies funding team and/or central Housing Policy and Tenancy Management team.

The list of successful projects in each tranche is approved by the Executive Team. In circumstances where a voluntary organisation/body or community group receiving an award of Sustaining Tenancies Funding has also received funding for other projects/purposes from another relevant Housing Executive funding stream, such that the organisation will receive more than £100k combined in any financial year, award of funding for the project will be approved by the Board.

Portadown is an urban settlement- population over 5000 people and so would not attract any funding streams in respect of rural issues such as village catalyst. The Rural Unit is also responsible for the Small Pockets of Deprivation funding programme, but none of the SPOD funded groups are located in Portadown, in either named estate or Portadown as a whole.

This concludes our response.