

26 November 2024

**Our Ref: FOI 577**

## **Request**

We received your request on 29 October 2024 for the following information:

*Activist Brid Ruddy stated some years back that the total HMO Grant for all of N.Ireland was £43 million.*

*Is it possible to verify this?*

*Is it possible, under FOI to name the persons who wrote the South Belfast Sector Study 2006, and whether an update document is planned, and why this hasn't already happened?*

The following clarification information was subsequently provided:

*Ms Brid Ruddy had stated on her Twitter account a few years back that the amount of HMO Grants paid out by NIHE was £43m.*

*The Grants Applications ended on 31st October 2004, so the time period would be from the starting date of the scheme, until the date that the last Grant was paid out, presumably some time in 2005.*

*So it would appear that this period may have consisted of more than one Financial year.*

*Also, a specific amount of HMO Grant funds would have been specified prior to the start of the scheme.*

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

## **Our response**

- 1. Activist Brid Ruddy stated some years back that the total HMO Grant for all of N.Ireland was £43 million. Is it possible to verify this?**

From the 2000/01 financial year to the point the Housing Executive ceased involvement (end March 2019), £33.8m was spent on this scheme.

- 2. Is it possible, under FOI to name the persons who wrote the South Belfast Sector Study 2006, and whether an update document is planned, and why this hasn't already happened?**

The South Belfast Sectoral Study was completed by the Housing Executive's Belfast Area Planning Team. The remit of that team has now been subsumed into the Housing Executive's Belfast Place Shaping Team. The names of individual officers involved in the preparation of this study are exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act- Personal Data.

There are no current plans to update this study.

There were sectoral studies of North, South, West and East Belfast at the time the South Belfast Sectoral Study was produced. The North and West studies led on to Strategies for those areas. The South Belfast Sectoral Study did not, as largely the market was buoyant and housing need was not as high as the other areas. The Village URA was already initiated at this stage and was taken forward separately.

The Housing Executive engages through Placeshaping Teams in collaboration with other key stakeholders through Community Planning Partnerships in addressing issues arising in the areas that it serves.

This concludes our response.