



5 September 2025

Dear Applicant

Our Ref: FOI 901

Your request for information received on 28 July 2025 has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Request

1. *Records or statistics on individuals citing racist or xenophobic threats, attacks, harassment, intimidation or similar as a factor in their application for:*
 - *Emergency housing*
 - *Homelessness support*
 - *Transfers or removals*
2. *Volume of contacts or referrals received that mention:*
 - *Being « burnt out », « bricked out » or intimidated out of their homes*
 - *Hate crimes*
 - *Race-related or politically motivated intimidation*
3. *Any available breakdowns of these incidents by:*
 - *Year*
 - *General location (postcode, ward, or district level)*
4. *If available, internal assessments or staff feedback (even anonymized or high-level) referencing:*
 - *How racist intimidation affects workload, morale, or housing pressure*
 - *Links between known public hate incidents (e.g. bonfire effigies, protests, riots) and housing demand spikes*

Our response

Table 1 below outlines homeless presentations and acceptances due to Intimidation-Racial in 2024/25, broken down by area.

Table 1

Intimidation- Racial 2024/25		
Area Office	Presentations	Acceptances
Belfast HSST	11	5
Causeway Area	<5	<5
Lisburn / Castlereagh Area	<5	<5
Mid and East Antrim Area	<5	<5
Mid Ulster Area	<5	<5
North Belfast Area	<5	<5
North Down and Ards Area	<5	<5
South and East Belfast Area	<5	<5
South Antrim Area	<5	<5
South Area	<5	<5
South Down Area	<5	<5
South West Area	<5	<5
West Area	<5	<5
West Belfast Area	<5	<5
Total	21	14

In addition, a number of cases involving racist/ xenophobic threats or harassment may also fall within homeless presentations/ acceptances due to Neighbourhood Harassment, however the Housing Executive does not record this by subcategories. These figures are published as part of the Department for Communities Homelessness Bulletin and can be found in tabs 1.1 and 2.1 of [this link](#).

Please be advised that the Housing Executive records homeless presentations and acceptances based on the primary reason for homelessness. A manual review of case records would be necessary to ascertain whether an individual cited racist/ xenophobic threats, attacks or harassment as a contributing factor in their application or their request for temporary accommodation and/ or storage of their belongings, beyond it being their primary reason for homelessness.

This also applies to volume of contacts received that may mention race related intimidation, hate crime etc., whereby a manual review of case records would be required to locate and extract such information.

The Housing Executive may therefore hold some information within the scope of your request. However, it will not be possible to make this available to you without exceeding the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the FOI Act.

As outlined above, a manual review of a significant number of case records, including individual case notes, would be required to locate and extract the information requested, and this would go beyond the 'appropriate limit'.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where it is estimated that the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for the Housing Executive is set at £450. This represents the cost of one or more individuals spending 18 hours collectively in determining whether the Housing Executive holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The Housing Executive considers that it is not reasonably practicable to reduce or narrow the scope of your request to bring it under the cost limit.

If available, internal assessments or staff feedback (even anonymized or high-level) referencing:

- *How racist intimidation affects workload, morale, or housing pressure*
- *Links between known public hate incidents (e.g. bonfire effigies, protests, riots) and housing demand spikes*

The above information is not held.

This concludes our response.