

01 July 2024

**Our Ref: FOI 436**

## **Request**

We received your request on 07 June 2024 for the following information:

- 1) total number of homes you own in NI*
- 2) number of empty properties and how long empty*
- 3) how many recent immigrants / asylum seekers / non UK / non Irish are housed by NIHE currently? Please include in this category any individuals who may have joint nationality which includes UK / Irish together with any other nationality*
- 4) advise how many of these in homes and how many in hotels or other?*
- 5) how many locals are on waiting lists for homes*
- 6) Please advise how many people in NI currently classed as homeless*

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

## **Our response**

- 1) As of 1<sup>st</sup> June, the Housing Executive stock total was 82,711.
- 2) As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2024, there were 375 actionable, and 1269 non-actionable void dwellings. Actionable voids are properties which are vacant while in the process of being allocated/awaiting change of tenancy repairs. These may also include properties deemed to be difficult to let. Non-Actionable voids are properties that are not immediately available for allocation and are held vacant for operational reasons i.e. decanting purposes (where they are being used to house a tenant on a temporary basis pending works to their home), planned maintenance schemes, and properties which have been identified for sale/transfer or have approval for demolition. In the year 2023/24, the Housing Executive's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) target was to maintain relet times to an average of 33 void days. The actual relet time for the period was an average of 29 void days.

- 3) The Housing Executive does not hold information in the format in which has been requested. We have provided the Waiting List allocations data at the NI level for the 12 months to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 by the stated nationality of the applicant i.e. British, Irish, Northern Irish, Other Nationality. This information is available for previous years on request. Please be advised that Waiting List and allocations data are produced quarterly so the figures to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 are the most up to date available.

<b>Table 1: Allocations from 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024 at N. Ireland level by Nationality</b>	
<b>Nationality</b>	<b>No. of allocations</b>
British / Irish / Northern Irish	4,972
Other (incl. Mixed)	372
Unknown	365
Refused	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,710</b>

- 4) The figures provided for Q3 are allocations to permanent accommodation. As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, there was a total of 974 households in temporary accommodation\* where the nationality was listed as a nationality that was a nationality other than British/Irish/Northern Irish. It should be noted that the provision of nationality is a voluntary aspect of the application process for housing and homelessness assistance and therefore, these figures will be based on those who have provided their nationality. It should also be noted that 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 represents the most recent for which this data is available as this is included in the Department for Communities (DfC) Homelessness Bulletin with the Housing Executive unable to provide any information beyond 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 until the publication of the next Homelessness Bulletin.

\*Temporary accommodation includes options such as Single Lets, Voluntary Sector Hostels, Housing Executive Hostels and Non-Standard (Hotel/B&B)

- 5) The Housing Executive does not classify applicants in the format in which it has been requested.

The table below provides data on the number of applicant households on the Waiting List at NI level by nationality as at 31/03/2024. The figures are based on the recorded nationality of applicants. The table should be viewed in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

<b>Table 2: Waiting List as at 31/03/2024 at N. Ireland level by Nationality</b>	
<b>Nationality</b>	<b>No. of applicant households</b>
British / Irish / Northern Irish	37,668
Other (incl. Mixed)	5,061
Unknown	4,548
Refused	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,312</b>

**Notes:**

- This response is based on the most recently published data at the point of the request (allocations data up to 31/03/2024 and waiting list data as at 31/03/2024).
  - Allocations are aggregated over a 1-year period from 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024 and include allocations to both Housing Executive and housing association properties.
  - Waiting List data is a snapshot of the waiting list as it was on the last day of the specified quarter, in this case 31/03/24.
  - Nationality category Other (incl. Mixed) includes all recorded nationalities other than British, Irish or Northern Irish.
- 6) The table below provides data on the number of applicant households on the waiting list at N. Ireland level who have been awarded Full Duty Applicant status as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The table should be viewed in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

	<b>Full Duty Applicants</b>	<b>Allocations to all applicants</b>	<b>Allocations to FDA</b>
<b>NI Level</b>	<b>29,394</b>	<b>5,710</b>	<b>5,337</b>

**Notes:**

*Allocation information (all allocations and allocations to FDA applicants) refers to the number of allocations in the preceding 12 month period.*

*FDA refers to Full Duty Applicants – these are applicants accepted as being homeless, to whom the Housing Executive owes a duty under the Homelessness legislation, Article 10(2) of the Housing (NI) Order, 1988 to “secure that accommodation becomes available for his/her occupation”.*

*Social housing waiting list and allocations data held by the Housing Executive, form part of the Northern Ireland Housing Bulletin, which is published quarterly as a National Statistic by the Department for Communities. Therefore, in order to avoid breaches of the code of practice for statistics, the most recent data provided is based on the most recently published data.*

This concludes our response.