



24 June 2025

Dear Applicant

Our Ref: FOI 795

Your request for information received on 02 June 2025 has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Request

2. Can I please request the most recent and up to date housing application guidance and all details of types of points that can be awarded.

3. Can I please request an answer to the following questions.

3A - Regarding the current NIHE Housing Waiting List how many applicants have been on the Housing List for 10 years or more?

3B - Of all successful housing applications in the Strathfoyle area over these past five years how many were allocated to Male Applicants Only? and Female Applicants Only?

3C - Following the recent review of the selection scheme points allocation review in NI what were the recommendations that have been implemented and in particular what changes were recommended in relation to 'Time In Housing Need'? Have these been implemented?

Our response

2. Can I please request the most recent and up to date housing application guidance and all details of types of points that can be awarded.

Guidance on Housing Application and the types of points awarded can be found by following this link [Chapter 3 Ranking of Applicants](#)

3A – Regarding the current NIHE Housing Waiting List how many applicants have been on the Housing List for 10 years or more?

Waiting List statistics are produced quarterly so the most recently available are as at 31st March 2025. The table below provides the requested information on numbers of applicants who have been on the Waiting List for 10 years or more as at 31st March 2025.

Waiting list and allocation data for those waiting 10 years or more	
Applicants	4,811
Applicants in Housing Stress	3,986
Allocations	233

3B - Of all successful housing applications in the Strathfoyle area over these past five years how many were allocated to Male Applicants Only? and Female Applicants Only?

Only single applicant households in the household classification are broken down by gender. The first table below provides information on the number of allocations in Strathfoyle CLA for the 5 years to 31st March 2025 to single males and single females.

Allocations Strathfoyle CLA	Male Single* Applicants	Female Single* Applicants
March 2021	<10	<10
March 2022	<10	<10
March 2023	<10	<10
March 2024	<10	0
March 2025	0	0
Grand Total	13	<10

The second table provides data on the total number of housing allocations for the 5 years to 31st March 2025 to all applicants on the Social Housing Waiting List in Strathfoyle CLA, by the gender of the main applicant, although please note that there may be other genders within the household.

All tables must be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Allocations 01/04/2020 - 31/03/2025 to applicants on the waiting list in Strathfoyle CLA by Sex of the main applicant		
NIHE CLA/Geography	Sex	No. of allocations
Strathfoyle CLA	Female	22
	Male	16
	<i>Strathfoyle CLA Total</i>	38
N. Ireland Total	Female	17,406
	Male	12,005
	<i>N. Ireland Total</i>	29,411

Notes

- Please note that where there are less than 10 allocations, they have been listed as <10 in compliance with Data Protection requirements.
- Applicant Information (all applicants and applicants in housing stress) is as at end March of the respective year.
- Allocation information refers to the number of allocations in the preceding 12 month period.
- Please note that household group is recorded at point of application and may not reflect the current composition of the household.

3C - Following the recent review of the selection scheme points allocation review in NI what were the recommendations that have been implemented and in particular what changes were recommended in relation to 'Time In Housing Need'? Have these been implemented?

The Fundamental Review of Allocations (FRA) Implementation Project is currently in Stage 3 of a 4 stage delivery timeline with 10 of the 20 Proposals for Change, which the Department for Communities' consulted upon and asked the Housing Executive to take forward, implemented to date. Details of the changes which have been implemented in Stages 1 and 2 can be found on the FRA Project pages of the Housing Executive website linked here: [The Housing Executive - Fundamental Review of Allocations](#).

Proposal 10 relates to the introduction of banding. Under this approach applicants will be assessed and points awarded, just as they are in the Selection Scheme at present, and their points will then be used to place them into a band, alongside other applicants with

similar levels of need. Under the new system when a property becomes available it will be allocated to the relevant applicant who has waited the longest in the highest need band. This Proposal should ensure that those applicants in the greatest housing need receive priority, with greater recognition of their time in need than in the current points approach. Waiting time is given fairly low priority in the current Selection Scheme, with only two 'Time in Housing Need' points per year (for a maximum of five years) awarded to applicants in housing need after they have spent two years on the waiting list

This Proposal attempts to gain the benefits of points (objective measurement of need) with the benefit of bands (recognition of waiting time for applicants in similar levels of need). The Department believes that this proposal maintains the principle of allocation on the basis of greatest need but allows for consideration of the time spent at that level of need and delivers the precise assessment of need of the points system, but should address the impact of the current Selection Scheme, where some applicants are experiencing very long waiting times, despite being in a high level of need, and will help address longstanding housing need more effectively.

Proposal 10 is scheduled to be introduced in the final group on changes in Stage 4 of the Project with an estimated date of September 2026. Further information relating to Proposal 10 and the Banding model and all the FRA changes can be found in the Consultation documents on the Department for Communities website, please visit: [A Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations | Department for Communities](#).

This concludes our response.