

14 May 2024

**Our Ref: FOI 383**

## **Request**

We received your request on 26 April 2024 for the following information:

*By FOI 297, you sent us the 2022/23 figures for (1) the cost of housing benefit contributions to the private rented sector in Northern Ireland and (2) the total spend on new build social housing in Northern Ireland.*

*This request is for the same data for financial year 2023/24. We understand that during the 2023/24 financial year, in addition to the Housing Assistance Grant payments to housing associations to build new social housing, the Housing Executive also undertook its own new build social housing project (<https://www.itv.com/news/utv/2023-12-13/ni-housing-executive-begins-building-first-homes-in-almost-25-years>). We would be grateful if you would add direct expenditure by the Housing Executive for these new build works, if any, to the HAG total for 2023/24, to ensure an accurate portrayal of public expenditure on new build social homes over the financial year 2023/24.*

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

## **Our response**

- 1) The 2023/24 cost of Housing Benefit contributions to the private rented sector in Northern Ireland is £166.6m. Please note this figure excludes Housing Benefit contributions paid to Housing Associations as we don't consider these part of the private rented sector. The comparative 2022/23 figure did include Housing Benefit contributions paid to Housing Associations.
- 2) The total spend on new build social housing in Northern Ireland in 2023/24 is £161.8m. Please note this figure only represents NIHE's contribution to the New Build programme in the form of Housing Assistance Grant (HAG) provided to Housing Associations.  
The Housing Executive has also spent £0.4m on its New Build Pilot in 2023/24, with a total cost of £1.3m.