

Human Rights and Finance

Part one

1. How is the Housing Executive funded?

The Housing Executive is currently split into 2 distinct operations and the funding arrangements for each are different. The two distinct operations are:

- Landlord Services (a quasi-public body) - which is primarily funded via property rental income (circa £302m 2022/23), augmented by Grant in Aid from the Department for Communities (DfC)
- Regional Services (a Non Departmental Public Body) – which is funded by Grant in Aid from DfC.

2. How much does the Housing Executive receive from the public purse?

In the 2022/23 confirmed budget, NIHE has been allocated a total of £394,723k to manage its key programmes. This is split into £30,365k for Landlord Services and £364,258k for Regional Services.

Part two

1. How does NIHE uphold the Human Rights Act of Northern Ireland?

The Housing Executive recognises the importance of the Human Rights Act and the requirement not to act in ways which are incompatible with the rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

Human Rights are complex and multi layered and link with a wide range of conventions and declarations all designed to support, promote and progressively realise the rights and freedoms belonging to all human beings.

We have a number of actions in place to gain a better understanding of Human Rights and to ensure that we acknowledge Human Rights in all we do.

These include:

Staff training on Equality Awareness and Human Rights. This is a basic awareness course designed to give staff an understanding of the range of legislation in place to prevent discrimination, challenge inequalities and protect Human Rights; and the interrelationship between these areas of law.

Guidance Notes for Staff and for Senior Staff: We have developed guidance notes for staff explaining Human Rights and a more detailed note for Managers highlighting the obligations to accommodate human rights in policy, strategy and decision making.

Policy Development and Screening. We have added a section on Human Rights into our Policy Screening report to remind policy writers of the need to give careful consideration to Human Rights in policy development. This is part of an iterative process where the policy writer will have engaged the Equality team on any issues of an equality or human rights nature.

Legal Advice: We have a Legal Department where policy writers and Managers can seek advice on any matter where legal clarity is required.

2. How does it ensure that the housing associations uphold the Human Rights Act, bearing in mind that they are separate entities.

The Housing Executive does not hold / perform any regulatory role over Housing Associations. The Department for Communities is the Regulatory Authority for Registered Housing Associations (RHAs) in Northern Ireland.

3. On what basis does NIHE allocate housing when a tenant is illegally evicted, and the court case overturned?

We have interpreted your question to query if there is a separate policy in terms of allocating in cases such as 'when a tenant is illegally evicted, and the court case overturned'.

There is no separate or specific policy covering these particular circumstances. As a general rule allocations are made to the highest pointed relevant applicant on the common waiting list. Access to the common waiting list follows assessment under the Rules of the Housing Selection Scheme.