



21 August 2025

Dear Applicant

Our Ref: FOI 881

Your request for information received on 05 August 2025 has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Request

I would be grateful if you could provide the following data for the last five years (or the most recent period for which data is available):

- 1. The number of applicants currently on the waiting list for social housing in the Lower Market Area of Belfast.*
- 2. A breakdown of the type of accommodation requested by these applicants e.g. houses, flats, bungalows, etc.*
- 3. The number of housing properties that have become available for allocation in the Lower Market Area.*
- 4. A specific breakdown of the number of ground-floor flats that have become available for allocation.*

Our response

Further to your clarification of 19th August in which you accepted the Lower Ormeau Housing Need Assessment Area geography, the table below provides you with the requested information for the Lower Ormeau for the 5 years to 31st March 25 and the most recently available data as at 30th June 2025.

I would note that at application stage applicants are assessed based on the number of bedrooms they require, not the type of property they would like, with records also kept of those who require ground floor accommodation. Therefore in response to part 2 of your request we have included applicants by bedroom requirements and ground floor requirement.

The table must be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Lower Ormeau HNA						
Categories	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23	Mar-24	Mar-25	Jun-25
Applicants	440	461	554	669	795	816
Applicants in Housing Stress (HS)	353	371	458	568	714	734
Allocations	61	45	36	32	42	47
Applicants with 1 Bed requirement	308	315	398	488	590	600
Applicants with 2 Bed requirement	68	78	84	99	110	114
Applicants with 3 Bed requirement	47	49	50	54	61	64
Applicants with 4+ Bed requirement	17	19	22	28	34	38
Applicants in HS with 1 Bed requirement	243	247	322	402	524	531
Applicants in HS with 2 Bed requirement	53	64	74	93	100	106
Applicants in HS with 3 Bed requirement	42	44	42	46	58	61
Applicants in HS with 4+ Bed requirement	15	16	20	27	32	36
Allocations to 1 Bed property	21	25	14	<10	11	13
Allocations to 2 Bed property	28	15	17	20	19	20
Allocations to 3 Bed property	<10	<10	<10	<10	12	14
Allocations to 4+ Bed property	<10	<10	<10	<10	0	0
Applicants with Ground Floor requirement	30	36	39	37	47	47
Applicants in HS with Ground Floor requirement	28	34	36	36	46	46
Allocations to Flat	40	20	21	19	19	22
Allocations to Ground Floor Flat	11	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10

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, applicants in housing stress, applicants with GF requirement) is as at end of the respective month for the stated year.
- Allocation information refers to the number of allocations in the preceding 12 month period.
- In relation to applicant bedroom requirements, it should be noted that, in certain circumstances, the Housing Selection Scheme rules can afford an additional bedroom entitlement to an applicant, based on their individual needs. The bedroom entitlement in this dataset corresponds to the minimum bedroom requirements under the rules of the HSS, therefore the 'actual' bedroom need of some applicants included in it may vary from the 'calculated' need.
- 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 (end June 2025).

This concludes our response.