

Response to: FOI 105 October 2023

For further information contact: foi@nihe.co.uk

NIHE clients placed at Oaktree B&B

- 1. From September 2022 to August 2023, broken down by month
 - (i) how many individual NIHE clients were placed in Oaktree B&B in Derry;

The Housing Executive does not hold this data in the format requested. The Housing Executive records data on non-standard placements using free text fields on our Housing Management System and therefore, there is no readily identifiable option to extract placements in Oaktree B&B. From 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023 there was a total of 4,205 non-standard placements provided by the Housing Executive. Provision of the requested data would involve a review of all 4,205 placements to identify Oaktree placements and for each of those placements a database would have to be created for each of the days from 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023 to allocate the number of individuals placed based on the start date of their placement and the subsequent length of stay for each placement.

Additionally, as the query relates to placements which were in situ on 1st September 2022 there would be a need to carry out a similar review for any placements which started prior to 1st September 2022 but may have carried across in to the timeframe outlined in this request. In the period from 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022 there was a total of 3,828 placements in non-standard accommodation.

For this reason, it will not be possible to make this available to you without exceeding the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the FOI Act. Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for the Housing Executive is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one or more individuals spending 18 hours in determining whether the Housing Executive holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting it.

Also it is not possible to reduce or narrow the scope of your request in any meaningful way to bring it under the cost limit.

(ii) how many individual nights did the NIHE purchase from Oaktree B&B in Derry; and

As above

(iii) for each of these months, please provide the highest nightly total of NIHE clients residing at Oaktree B&B in Derry.

As above

2. When was the NIHE first notified that Oaktree B&B in Derry would have additional capacity to house NIHE clients at 6 Spencer Road and what checks were carried out before placing NIHE clients there.

The owner of 6 Spencer Road submitted evidence of a Building Control application and Health and Safety installations to the Housing Executive on 27 July in regard to the property. No placements were made prior to that date.