

15 February 2024

**Our Ref: FOI 258**

## **Request**

We received your request on 04 January 2024 for the following information:

***I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following:***

- the amount spent by Northern Ireland Housing Executive lodging homeless people in "non-standard"/specialist accommodation such as hotels and guesthouses in the years from 2019-2023***
- the number of placements made in "non-standard" premises in the years from 2019-2023***
- a breakdown as follows:***
  - In 2019/20, the Housing Executive spent £xx on xx placements***
  - In 2020/21, the Housing Executive spent £xx on xx placements***
  - In 2021/22, the Housing Executive spent £xx on xx placements***
  - In 2022/23, the Housing Executive spent £xx on xx placements***

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

## **Our response**

The table below details the total number of placements in non-standard (Hotel/B&B) provided by the Housing Executive from 2019/20 to 2022/23.

Year	Total Numbers of Non-standard Placements
2019/20	1,648
2020/21	5,350
2021/22	4,170
2022/23	3,809

NB: The figures above relate to the number of placements rather than households and some households will have received more than one placement.

- The table below details the Housing Executive's expenditure on non-standard accommodation (Hotel/B&B) from 2019/20 to 2022/23.

Year	Expenditure on Non-standard
2019/20	£1,932,230
2020/21	£5,092,001
2021/22	£5,766,932
2022/23	£7,621,285

*In interpreting this data, the following should be noted:*

- As evidenced by both tables, there has been a significant increase in demand for temporary accommodation since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020.
- The number of placements relate to placements where the start date of the placement is between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> March for each respective year.
- The expenditure figures relate to costs incurred during each financial year and there may be cases where a placement started in the previous financial year with costs continuing into the subsequent financial year.
- Costs for placements in non-standard accommodation will be influenced by the size of the household and length of placement.

- In all cases, Housing Executive staff will seek alternative temporary accommodation provision, but such supply is influenced by other factors such as availability of permanent options for move-on from temporary accommodation.

This concludes our response.