

18 June 2024

**Our Ref: FOI 422**

## **Request**

We received your request on 29 May 2024 for the following information:

*Please can you provide the number of vacant 2 bedroom NI housing executive properties currently within the areas below (North Belfast). If possible could I please request the information is correct and up to date at the time of sending.*

*Alliance  
Ardoyne  
Oldpark*

*Would it also be possible to find out the average time a person spent on the waiting list with 130+ points before receiving an allocation in these areas?*

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

## **Our response**

***Please can you provide the number of vacant 2 bedroom NI housing executive properties currently within the areas below (North Belfast). If possible could I please request the information is correct and up to date at the time of sending.***

***Alliance  
Ardoyne  
Oldpark***

The table below shows the number of void 2 bedroom Housing Executive properties, in the Common Landlord Areas (CLAs) requested, as of 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Where there is a total lower than 10, it has been listed as <10 in compliance with data protection requirements.

<b>Common Landlord Area (CLA)</b>	<b>Count of properties</b>
ALLIANCE	<10
ARDOYNE	<10
OLDPARK	<10

***Would it also be possible to find out the average time a person spent on the waiting list with 130+ points before receiving an allocation in these areas?***

Further to your clarification of 30<sup>th</sup> May, in which you confirmed that you wished to be provided the average time for a 2 bed house or bungalow only, the table below provides data on the number of allocations to applicants on the waiting list with 130+ points in Alliance Common Landlord Area, Ardoyne Common Landlord Area and Oldpark Common Landlord Area, for those property types, by Mean and Median Waiting Time (in months) at the point of allocation for a 5-year period from 01/04/2019 to 31/03/2024. The table should be viewed in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

<b>Allocations 01/04/2019 - 31/03/2024 to applicants on the waiting list with 130+ points in Alliance CLA, Ardoyne CLA and Oldpark CLA by Mean &amp; Median Waiting Time (in months) on the Waiting List at the point of allocation</b>			
<b>NIHE CLA / Geography</b>	<b>No. of allocations (2-bedroom houses and 2-bedroom bungalows only)</b>	<b>Mean Months at the point of allocation</b>	<b>Median Months at the point of allocation</b>
Alliance CLA	<10	27.6	21.0
Ardoyne CLA	82	30.5	21.0
Oldpark CLA	49	37.3	36.0
<b>N. Ireland Total</b>	<b>5,641</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>19.0</b>

## Notes:

- This response is based on the most recently published data at the point of the request (allocations up to 31/03/2024)
- Allocations are aggregated over a 5-year period from 01/04/2019 to 31/03/2024 and include allocations to both Housing Executive and housing association properties.
- When a question of “average waiting times” or “average points” is asked MEAN and MEDIAN averages are provided.

Reasons for this include:

The MEAN is the arithmetic average and as a statistic can often be unreliable, having been skewed by significant outliers i.e. applicants who have been on the waiting list for a number of years.

This degree of skewing makes the arithmetic average, the MEAN, unreliable.

Therefore, following expert advice on this matter a methodology that utilises the MEDIAN (a measure of central tendency) as a more reliable indicator in relation to Waiting Lists and Allocations is also provided.

- UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 - It is important to note the GDPR & Data Protection Act 2018 regarding the potential risk of identifying individuals and individual households. Guidance from NISRA suggests that equality monitoring information should not be disclosed in sensitive cases where individuals or individual households could be identified. Also, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) 'Anonymisation: Managing Data Protection Risk' Code of Practice states 'where less than 10 responses have been given to an answer that identifies something factual, all variables relating to that question have been suppressed'. However, 'it should be noted that attitudinal questions are not bound by this rule, in addition to responses of 'Don't know', 'Refused', 'Other' or similar'. As the information provided is considered sensitive, some statistical disclosure controls may have been placed on the tables with the omission of data in cases where there are less than ten Applicants.
- <10 are cases where the number of allocations is less than 10.

This concludes our response.