10 December 2024

Our Ref: FOI 590

Request

We received your request on 12 November 2024 for the following information:

1. Average amount of points at the point of house allocation in the last 12 months or as close to it as possible.

2. How long was the average wait once those amount of points had been reached?

The areas I am requesting this information for is as follows

CLA - Hannahstown
CLA - Divis Complex
CLA - Falls Lower
CLA - Falls CT / Clonard Cres

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

Our response

1. Average amount of points at the point of house allocation in the last 12 months or as close to it as possible.

2. How long was the average wait once those amount of points had been reached?

Further to your clarification in which you confirmed you would be happy to receive average waiting time from the point the applicant joined the waiting list, the table below provides data on the number of allocations for a 1-year period from 01/10/2023 to 30/09/2024 including Mean & Median Points and Mean & Median Waiting Time (in months) on the social housing waiting list at the point of allocation in the following Common Landlord Areas (CLAs):

- Divis Complex
- Falls Court/Clonard Cres
- Hannahstown
- Lower Falls Grosvenor

The table should be viewed in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

I would note that there has been a higher than typical number of allocations within the Hannahstown CLA due to the completion of a large new social housing scheme in the area by Apex Housing Association.

Allocations 01/10/2023 - 30/09/2024 in requested Common Landlord Areas (CLAs) by Mean & Median Points and Mean & Median Waiting Time (in months) on the Waiting List at the point of allocation					
CLA / Geography	No. of allocations	Mean Points on the Waiting List at the point of allocation	Median Points on the Waiting List at the point of allocation	Mean Months on the Waiting List at the point of allocation	Median Months on the Waiting List at the point of allocation
Divis Complex	14	163.4	174.0	39.2	25.5
Falls Court/Clonard Cres	<10	173.9	171.0	33.4	31.0
Hannahstown	70	220.3	214.0	46.1	35.0
Lower Falls Grosvenor	18	134.0	161.0	27.6	28.0
N. Ireland Total	**5,863**	**151.9**	**150.0**	**31.7**	**20.0**

Notes:

- This response is based on the most recently published data at the point of the request (allocations up to 30/09/2024)
- Allocations data includes 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.

3. Would it also be feasible to request information on the total number of houses currently available in those CLAs?

There were no 3-bedroom properties available for allocation in the CLAs requested, as of 14th November 2024.

This concludes our response.