



15 September 2025

Dear Applicant

Our Ref: FOI 903

Your request for information received on 15 August 2025 has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Request

1) Prisoner Rehousing Policies and Protocols

a) Copies of any current policies, protocols, or strategic documents outlining NIHE's approach to rehousing individuals upon release from prison, including those on remand or released under supervision.

2) Bail Hostels and Approved Premises

a) A list of bail hostels or approved premises funded or supported by NIHE for the purpose of housing individuals released from custody.

b) Criteria for placement in such accommodation and any referral or assessment processes involved.

c) Any standards or oversight mechanisms applied to these facilities.

1) Contracts with Private Landlords

a) Information on any schemes or agreements NIHE has with private landlords to provide accommodation for ex-offenders or individuals released on bail.

b) The number of such placements made in the past three years.

c) Any financial arrangements, incentives, or support provided to private landlords participating in these schemes.

4) Temporary and Emergency Accommodation

a) Procedures for assessing and providing temporary accommodation to individuals released from custody who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

b) Data on the number of individuals placed in temporary accommodation following release from prison over the past three years.

Our response

1) Prisoner Rehousing Policies and Protocols

a) Copies of any current policies, protocols, or strategic documents outlining NIHE's approach to rehousing individuals upon release from prison, including those on remand or released under supervision.

A copy of the Protocol for the Management of the Accommodation and Related Support Needs of People in Custody in Northern Ireland can be accessed using [this link](#).

Chapter 2 of the Housing Policy Guidance Manual is regarding Public Protection Arrangements for Northern Ireland (PPANI) and Dealing with Applications from Persons who are PPANI Eligible. This provides guidance for staff, relevant to their role within the Housing Executive in dealing with applicants who have received a custodial sentence or a suspended sentence in respect of a "relevant offence" or who have been charged with a "relevant offence" which could attract a custodial sentence, who are affected by Rules 62-67 of the Housing Selection Scheme.

You can access a full copy of this guidance using [this link](#).

Please be advised that this guidance is only applicable to those who are PPANI eligible, such as applicants convicted or charged with the sexual abuse of children.

This guidance is not applicable to 'prisoners' in a wider sense, where this is assumed to refer to any persons currently serving or previously having served a custodial sentence for any other reasons.

The Housing Executive does not have specific guidance applicable to 'prisoners' in a general sense regarding temporary accommodation placements. If an applicant is eligible and convictions are spent and not PPANI eligible there will be no additional guidelines or restrictions applied in respect of temporary accommodation.

2) Bail Hostels and Approved Premises

a) A list of bail hostels or approved premises funded or supported by NIHE for the purpose of housing individuals released from custody.

The Supporting People (SP) Programme, which is administered by the Housing Executive on behalf of the Department for Communities, provides grant funding for the provision of housing support services, to enable vulnerable people to live as independently as possible in the community.

The SP programme is focused on four thematic areas; working with people who are experiencing homelessness, young people, older people and people with a disability (including mental health and learning disabilities). Housing related support within the

homeless thematic area includes provision through short-term accommodation-based services for those in housing need. This provision includes Approved Premises.

The SP Programme provides grant funding to 4 Approved Premises for 'Offenders or People at risk of Offending' and to 3 services for 'Single Homeless with Support Needs' which have a number of approved beds. Please see list below.

	Bonds Hill	Centenary House	Dismas House	Edward Street	Innis Centre	MUST	Thompson House
Provider Organisation	Simon Community NI	The Salvation Army	Extern	Simon Community NI	Extern	Extern	Council for Social Witness
Location	Derry/Londonderry	Belfast	Belfast	Portadown	Belfast	Cookstown	Belfast
Landlord	Choice	The Salvation Army	Extern	Choice Housing	Radius Housing	Choice Housing	Radius Housing
TOTAL UNITS	33	89	14	15	20	20	19
PBNI units	4	13	14	15	20	6	19

b) Criteria for placement in such accommodation and any referral or assessment processes involved.

This is not within SP remit and therefore we do not hold the information.

c) Any standards or oversight mechanisms applied to these facilities.

SP undertake contract management activities. These include annual meetings with provider organisations to discuss key issues, as well as quality monitoring to assess services and ensure the effective delivery of housing-related support. Each service is subject to quality monitoring every three to five years, or earlier if necessary.

Please note. the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJI) is an independent body that inspects and reports on Northern Ireland's criminal justice system, including Approved Premises.

3) Contracts with Private Landlords

a) Information on any schemes or agreements NIHE has with private landlords to provide accommodation for ex-offenders or individuals released on bail.

b) The number of such placements made in the past three years.

c) Any financial arrangements, incentives, or support provided to private landlords participating in these schemes.

The Housing Executive does not operate such schemes and therefore does not hold this information.

4) Temporary and Emergency Accommodation

a) Procedures for assessing and providing temporary accommodation to individuals released from custody who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Please see the Protocol for the Management of the Accommodation and Related Support Needs of People in Custody in Northern Ireland, and the PPANI guidance as linked above in point 1.

As outlined above in point 1, the Housing Executive does not have specific guidance applicable to all individuals released from custody regarding temporary accommodation placements. If an applicant is eligible and convictions are spent and not PPANI eligible there will be no additional guidelines or restrictions applied in respect of temporary accommodation.

All applicants presenting as homeless are assessed under the same criteria in line with the Housing (NI) Order 1988, irrespective of any prior custodial sentence.

b) Data on the number of individuals placed in temporary accommodation following release from prison over the past three years.

The table below outlines the number of temporary accommodation placements made where an applicant was accepted as homeless due to release from prison.

Please be advised that the figures relate to placements rather than individuals; it is therefore possible an individual may have had multiple placements.

Please be further advised that these figures only represent placements made where an applicant was accepted as homeless due to release from prison. Applicants who were accepted as homeless for any other reason but who may subsequently present for temporary accommodation following release from prison are not captured within these figures.

Number of TA Placements	
Fiscal Year	Homeless Reason: Release from Prison
2022-2023	714
2023-2024	730
2024-2025	912

This concludes our response.