

28 November 2025

Dear Applicant

Our Ref: FOI 988

Your request for information received on 06 November 2025 has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Request

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request recorded information regarding the availability and stock levels of two-bedroom houses within the Rathcoole and Rathfern areas of Newtownabbey.

Specifically, I would like to request the following information:

- 1. The total number of two-bedroom social housing properties currently owned or managed by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive within the Rathcoole and Rathfern areas.*
- 2. The number of these two-bedroom properties that are currently vacant and available for let (or "ready to let") as of the date of this request or the most recent practicable date.*
- 3. The number of applicants currently on the waiting list specifically for a two-bedroom property in the Rathcoole and Rathfern areas (including those who have selected these areas as their first choice).*

Our response

- 1. The total number of two-bedroom social housing properties currently owned or managed by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive within the Rathcoole and Rathfern areas.**

Table 1 below shows the count of 2-bedroom Housing Executive domestic properties in the Rathcoole and Rathfern Common Landlord Areas (CLAs) as of 10th November 2025.

Table 1	2 Bedroom Stock Count
Rathcoole	656
Rathfern	29
Grand Total	685

2. The number of these two-bedroom properties that are currently vacant and available for let (or "ready to let") as of the date of this request or the most recent practicable date.

There are 18 properties currently 'ready to let' as of 25/11/2025.

3. The number of applicants currently on the waiting list specifically for a two-bedroom property in the Rathcoole and Rathfern areas (including those who have selected these areas as their first choice).

Waiting List and allocations statistics are produced quarterly, therefore the most recently available are as at 30th September 2025, however 2nd/subsequent choice are not included in these, this information is therefore not held.

The table below provides data for applicants on the waiting list, and applicants in housing stress, who require a 2-bedroom property, as well as allocations into 2-bedroom properties, at 30th September 2025, for Rathcoole and Rathfern Housing Need Assessment (HNA) areas.

The figures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Applicants and allocations of two-bedroom properties			
HNA area	Applicants on waiting list	Applicants in Housing Stress	Allocations
Rathcoole	103	90	54
Rathfern	24	19	<10
Total	127	109	-

Notes

- Applicant Information (all applicants / applicants in housing stress) is as at end September 2025.
- Please note that the data on applicants on waiting list and applicants in housing stress is based on first preference choices only for the stated areas.
- Allocation information refers to the number of allocations in the preceding 12-month period.
- Please note that where there are less than 10 allocations, they have been listed as <10 in compliance with Data Protection requirements.
- It should be noted that, in certain circumstances, the Housing Selection Scheme (HSS) rules can afford an additional bedroom entitlement to an applicant, based on their individual needs. The bedroom entitlement in this dataset corresponds to the minimum bedroom requirements under the rules of the HSS, therefore the 'actual' bedroom need of some applicants included in it may vary from the 'calculated' need.

This concludes our response.