

31 October 2025

Dear Applicant

Our Ref: FOI 952

Your request for information received on 03 October 2025 has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Request

1. *The allocation of all sex offenders who are currently on the sex offenders register and are residents in Radius Housing Association Apartments based in Clifton House North Queen Street.*
2. *It has already been confirmed by a FOI from the PSNI that currently 200 sex offenders reside in North Belfast. How many have the NIHE placed in Radius Housing Association in Clifton House?*
3. *How does the NIHE give these offenders higher points for housing when released from prison over the heads of people who have been on the housing waiting list for years, given there is a waiting list of over 4000 people for North Belfast.*
4. *What other residential areas in North Belfast are they residing in?*
5. *What steps have the NIHE & The Probation Board taken to protect our children who play in the local parks, attend local nurseries and shops. and even play in the grounds of Clifton House or visit the property to see grandparents and relatives.*
6. *Why was Radius Housing Association not informed that these sex offenders were being placed in their development at Clifton House?*

In conclusion we are aware that there are convicted sex offenders currently residing in Clifton House.

Our response

At the outset of this response it should be noted that in providing accommodation of any type, the Housing Executive has a statutory duty to carry out an assessment of each case to determine eligibility in order to identify if the statutory requirement for provision of accommodation has been met. While these assessments may include contact with other statutory or voluntary agencies, the Housing Executive does not keep specific details of an

applicant's criminal record beyond the assessment process. The Housing Executive is mindful of the Data Protection Regulations 2018 and in compliance with this we are not in a legal position to record details of specific offending history on any of our systems and therefore cannot provide the data requested.

While details of an applicant's offending history are not retained beyond the period required, and therefore cannot be reported on, staff responsible for the allocation of accommodation are aware of the need to carry out relevant checks, where applicable, as part of the Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland (PPANI). As part of PPANI the Housing Executive works alongside other key stakeholders including the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Probation Board for Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Prison Service as required, to manage the risks posed by certain sexual and violent offenders when they are released from prison into the community.

- 1. The allocation of all sex offenders who are currently on the sex offenders register and are residents in Radius Housing Association Apartments based in Clifton House North Queen Street.**
The Housing Executive does not hold this information.
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- 3. How does the NIHE give these offenders higher points for housing when released from prison over the heads of people who have been on the housing waiting list for years, given there is a waiting list of over 4000 people for North Belfast.**
All applicants for social housing in Northern Ireland are subject to assessment under the rules of the Housing Selection Scheme. The Housing Selection Scheme does not provide any prioritisation for offenders of any type in respect of the award of points or the allocation of housing.
- 4. What other residential areas in North Belfast are they residing in?**
The Housing Executive does not hold this information.
- 5. What steps have the NIHE & The Probation Board taken to protect our children who play in the local parks, attend local nurseries and shops. and**

even play in the grounds of Clifton House or visit the property to see grandparents and relatives.

Article 50 of the Criminal Justice (N.I.) Order 2008, specifies the agencies which have a duty to co-operate to ensure effective assessment and management of the risks posed by certain sexual and violent offenders. As previously noted, the Housing Executive works alongside other key stakeholders including the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Probation Board for Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Prison Service as required, to manage the risks posed by certain sexual and violent offenders when they are released from prison into the community. Further information on the Public Protection Arrangements Northern Ireland (PPANI) are available on [this link](#).

6. Why was Radius Housing Association not informed that these sex offenders were being placed in their development at Clifton House?

For any applicants who are subject to PPANI it is the responsibility of the social housing provider to request an accommodation suitability check where appropriate. The Housing Executive will ensure that all accommodation checks are carried out via engagement with other organisations within PPANI. The Housing Executive will notify the respective social housing provider as to the outcome of any accommodation suitability check, but it should be noted, such checks are only applicable to certain sexual and violent offenders i.e. those subject to PPANI.

This concludes our response.