

Single Lets and Bed and Breakfast Allocations.

Request

I would like to request the number of single lets that have been allocated to families of two people in Belfast since January 2023. Additionally, I am interested in understanding the criteria or methodology used by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to allocate these single lets.

Response

The Housing Executive do not allocate single let properties to applicants, but will make emergency placements to homeless applicants as part of a phased discharge of their statutory duty to provide Temporary Accommodation.

During the period 1st January to 9th October 2023, there were 99 placements to Single Let properties for applicants presenting from the Belfast City Council area where the household size was two people.

Such placements will be made to those applicants to whom there is a full or interim duty, can be for any length of time, and will be dependent on a number of criteria which will be considered at the time an applicant contacts the Housing Executive in regard to their requirement.

The Housing Executive does acknowledge that each situation will be different and individual assessments will take place when a household presents and requires temporary accommodation. Criteria taken into consideration will include, but are not limited to; family size and accommodation requirements, access to schools, health care, support networks, as well as accommodation availability at that particular time.

Request

I would appreciate information on the allocation process for bed and breakfast accommodations specifically for families of two people, where one adult and one child are involved. It would be helpful to know how these accommodations are allocated and if there are any specific considerations taken into account during this process.

Response

The criteria outlined above in Q.1 will be considered for any homeless applicant who presents to the Housing Executive, requiring temporary accommodation. Placements into bed and breakfast accommodation are made only when no suitable standard accommodation (i.e. NIHE or voluntary sector hostel, single let or other and Specialised Accommodation) is available at the time the household presents to the Housing Executive for temporary accommodation. It is intended that such placements

will be for the shortest possible time and households will be moved to standard accommodation as it becomes available.

Request

Finally, I kindly request clarification on the basis on which the Northern Ireland Housing Executive allocates both single lets and bed and breakfast accommodations to families of two people in Belfast.

Response

Please see the responses to Questions 1 & 2 above.