

31 October 2025

Dear Applicant

**Our Ref: FOI 951**

Your request for information received on 02 October 2025 has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

**Request**

1. *Provide the number of single males who have presented as homeless to NIHE in each of the last 5 years.*
2. *Provide the number of single males who have presented as homeless to NIHE and been deemed to be in priority need in each of the last 5 years.*
3. *Provide the number of single males leaving MEARS accommodation who have presented as homeless to NIHE in each of the last 5 years.*
4. *Provide the number of single males leaving MEARS accommodation who have presented as homeless to NIHE and been deemed to be in priority need in each of the last 5 years.*
5. *Provide any internal NIHE guidance, policies, or criteria relating specifically to the assessment of homelessness applications from individuals granted refugee status/leaving MEARS accommodation.*
6. *Provide the number of units of temporary accommodation currently set aside specifically for those leaving MEARS accommodation, if any.*

**Our response**

*It should be noted that figures below relate to the following household types with the household type recorded at the time of placement. It should also be noted that the figures below were extracted from a live database in order to provide information required for this query and will therefore differ from published data.*

- *Single Male 16-17*
- *Single Male 18-25*
- *Single Male 26-59*

1. *Provide the number of single males who have presented as homeless to NIHE in each of the last 5 years.*

The table below details the number of overall presentations from the household types listed above over the past 5 years:

Year	Number of Presentations (Overall)
2020/21	5,768
2021/22	5,327
2022/23	5,200
2023/24	5,757
2024/25	5,423

2. *Provide the number of single males who have presented as homeless to NIHE and been deemed to be in priority need in each of the last 5 years.*

The table below details the number of overall presenters deemed to be in Priority Need over the past 5 years:

Year	Number of Presenters deemed to be in Priority Need
2020/21	2,938
2021/22	2,857
2022/23	2,838
2023/24	3,378
2024/25	3,138

3. *Provide the number of single males leaving MEARS accommodation who have presented as homeless to NIHE in each of the last 5 years.*

Those presenting as homeless directly from MEARS accommodation are recorded under the homelessness reason 'No Accommodation in Northern Ireland: Section 95'. The table below details the number of presentations from the household types listed above, where the established reason was No Accommodation in Northern Ireland: Section 95, over the last 5 years. It should be noted that this information has only been collected from July 2023 and therefore information is not held for 2020/21 to 2022/23.

Year	Number of Presentations (No Accommodation in Northern Ireland: Section 95)
2020/21	N/A
2021/22	N/A
2022/23	N/A
2023/24	284
2024/25	373

4. *Provide the number of single males leaving MEARS accommodation who have presented as homeless to NIHE and been deemed to be in priority need in each of the last 5 years.*

The table below details the number of presenters due to No Accommodation in Northern Ireland: Section 95 deemed to be in Priority Need over the past 5 years. It should be noted that this information has only been collected from July 2023 and therefore information is not held for 2020/21 to 2022/23.

Year	Number of Presenters deemed to be in Priority Need (No Accommodation in Northern Ireland: Section 95)
2020/21	N/A
2021/22	N/A
2022/23	N/A
2023/24	282
2024/25	366

5. *Provide any internal NIHE guidance, policies, or criteria relating specifically to the assessment of homelessness applications from individuals granted refugee status/leaving MEARS accommodation.*

All internal guidance and policies relates to the homelessness client group as a whole with the exception of guidance on Priority Need which is attached and contains specific guidance on former asylum seekers which can be found on page 10. It should be noted that Priority Need is not automatically awarded as per figures above. It should however be noted, that as per the attached file 'Former asylum seekers may well have experienced persecution or trauma in their country of origin or severe hardship in their efforts to reach the UK and may be vulnerable as a result' and the Housing Executive will seek to evidence this accordingly in deeming any household to be in Priority Need.

6. *Provide the number of units of temporary accommodation currently set aside specifically for those leaving MEARS accommodation, if any.*

The Housing Executive does not allocate any temporary accommodation specifically for those leaving MEARS accommodation. Any provision of temporary accommodation to those leaving MEARs accommodation is via the overall portfolio which is accessible for all clients groups unless, for example, a hostel is for a specific client group such as singles or families.

This concludes our response.