

28 February 2025

Our Ref: FOI 661

Request

We received your request on 30 January 2025 for the following information:

To align with the new Housing Bulletin (Oct-Dec 24) figures that are due out on 27th February, may I please submit a FOI request for the below information:

1. *How many people, not households or applicants, are currently on the Social Housing Waiting List?*
 - 1a. *Of those people on the waiting list, what is the breakdown by (i) age, (ii) household type and (iii) parliamentary constituency area?*
2. *How many people, not households or applicants, on the Social Housing Waiting List are currently deemed to be in housing stress?*
3. *How many people, not households or applicants, on the Social Housing Waiting List have complex needs?*
4. *How many people, not households or applicants, on the Social Housing Waiting List have been granted leave to remain (i.e. refugee status)?*
5. *How many people, not households or applicants, currently have FDA status?*
 - 5a. *Of those people with FDA status, what is the breakdown by (i) age, (ii) household type and (iii) parliamentary constituency area?*
6. *How many people, not households or applicants, have both FDA and refugee status?*
7. *How many people, not households or applicants, are currently being accommodated in non-standard accommodation?*
 - 7a. *Of those people currently being accommodated in non-standard accommodation, how many have been granted leave to remain (i.e. refugee status)?*

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Our response

- 1. How many people, not households or applicants, are currently on the Social Housing Waiting List?**

2. How many people, not households or applicants, on the Social Housing Waiting List are currently deemed to be in housing stress?
3. How many people, not households or applicants, on the Social Housing Waiting List have complex needs?
5. How many people, not households or applicants, currently have FDA status?

The table below provides statistics as at 31st December 2024 at the NI level, for the number of people on the waiting list (within applicant households), those in housing stress, those with FDA status, those with complex needs and allocations to applicants. The table must be read in conjunction with the following notes.

	Applicants (Number of people)	Applicants in HS (Number of people)	FDA Applicants (Number of people)	Applicants with Complex Needs (Number of people)	Allocations (Number of people)
Northern Ireland	89,098	68,898	59,518	21,635	11,585

Notes

- Allocation information refers to the number of allocations in the preceding 12 month period.
- FDA refers to Full Duty Applicants – these are applicants accepted as being homeless, to whom the Housing Executive owes a duty under the Homelessness legislation, Article 10(2) of the Housing (NI) Order, 1988 to “secure that accommodation becomes available for his/her occupation”.
- Housing Stress refers to applicants who have been awarded 30 or more points under the Housing Selection Scheme.

1a. Of those people on the waiting list, what is the breakdown by (i) age, (ii) household type and (iii) parliamentary constituency area?

5a. Of those people with FDA status, what is the breakdown by (i) age, (ii) household type and (iii) parliamentary constituency area?

The tables below provides statistics as at 31st December 2024 at the NI level for the number of people on the waiting list, those in housing stress, those with FDA status and allocations to applicants, broken down by age, household type and Parliamentary Constituency. The tables must be read in conjunction with the following notes.

Age	Applicants (Number of people)	Applicants in HS (Number of people)	FDA Applicants (Number of people)	Allocations (Number of people)
Under 18	25462	20440	18567	3911
18-25	11476	9103	7913	1391
26-39	20568	16375	14278	2502
40-49	11196	8644	7452	1180

50-59	8126	5852	4851	966
60-64	3365	2268	1761	490
65 and over	8905	6216	4696	1145
Grand Total	89098	68898	59518	11585

Household Type	Applicants (Number of people)	Applicants in HS (Number of people)	FDA Applicants (Number of people)	Allocations (Number of people)
Elderly	8548	5871	4497	1275
Large Adult	3558	2521	2167	306
Large Family	16856	13323	12114	1796
Single	24920	19831	16498	3057
Small Adult	4371	3025	2458	491
Small Family	30845	24327	21784	4660
Grand Total	89098	68898	59518	11585

Parliamentary Constituency	Applicants (Number of people)	Applicants in HS (Number of people)	FDA Applicants (Number of people)	Allocations (Number of people)
Belfast East	3702	2881	2493	655
Belfast East/South	752	592	509	71
Belfast North	8156	6852	6135	1142
Belfast South	5758	4825	4488	499
Belfast South/Strangford	282	242	219	10
Belfast West	8208	7194	6636	1156
Belfast West/North	303	234	212	22
Belfast West/South	38	36	35	25
East Antrim	3631	2683	2369	731
East Londonderry	5037	3268	2700	517
Fermanagh South Tyrone	4552	2942	2180	545
Foyle	8842	7389	6861	891
Lagan Valley	3736	3047	2684	631
Mid Ulster	2760	1949	1525	265
Newry & Armagh	4500	3250	2611	730
North Antrim	4847	3402	2864	710
North Down	3349	2563	2175	445
South Antrim	3597	2936	2601	496

South Down	4051	3385	2928	293
Strangford	3144	2397	2050	604
Upper Bann	6160	4262	3250	547
West Tyrone	3693	2569	1993	600
Grand Total	89098	68898	59518	11585

Notes

- Applicant Information is as at end December 2024.
- Allocation information refers to the number of allocations in the preceding 12 month period.
- Please note that household group is recorded at point of application and may not reflect the current composition of the household.
- FDA refers to Full Duty Applicants – these are applicants accepted as being homeless, to whom the Housing Executive owes a duty under the Homelessness legislation, Article 10(2) of the Housing (NI) Order, 1988 to “secure that accommodation becomes available for his/her occupation”.
- Housing Stress refers to applicants who have been awarded 30 or more points under the Housing Selection Scheme.
- The reporting unit for applications is the Common Landlord Area (CLA) and in some places these CLAs traverse parliamentary boundaries so, for reporting purposes, a hybrid parliamentary category has been created. The table below lists the CLAs and the corresponding parliamentary category to provide context.

Common Landlord Area (CLA) and corresponding Parliamentary Constituency	
CLA	Parliamentary Constituency
Cregagh Castlereagh	Belfast East/South
Willowfield/Upper Castlereagh Road	Belfast East/South
Carryduff	Belfast South/Strangford
Ainsworth	Belfast West/North
Twaddell/Upper Woodvale	Belfast West/North
Hamill St / John St	Belfast West/South
Carrick Hill / Unity Flats	Belfast West/North
Bridge End / Rotherdam Court	Belfast East/South

4. How many people, not households or applicants, on the Social Housing Waiting List have been granted leave to remain (i.e. refugee status)?

6. How many people, not households or applicants, have both FDA and refugee status?

7a. Of those people currently being accommodated in non-standard accommodation, how many have been granted leave to remain (i.e. refugee status)?

Regarding the above points 4, 6 and 7a, the Housing Executive holds information within the scope of your requests. However, it will not be possible to make this available to you without exceeding the ‘appropriate limit’ as defined by the FOI Act.

The Housing Executive records information relating to persons from abroad/ persons subject to immigration control to establish a person’s eligibility for homeless assistance and allocations of social housing. In order to determine if persons from abroad are eligible by

virtue of being granted leave to remain, or if they have been granted refugee status, this would involve a manual review of records to retrieve the information relevant to your request and this would go beyond the 'appropriate limit'.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where it is estimated that the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for the Housing Executive is set at £450. This represents the cost of one or more individuals spending 18 hours collectively in determining whether the Housing Executive holds the information, locating, retrieving, and extracting it.

The Housing Executive is not qualified to provide immigration advice; however, it is appropriate to advise that the terms 'leave to remain' and 'refugee status' are distinct terms with separate definitions.

7a How many people, not households or applicants, are currently being accommodated in non-standard accommodation?

On 30th September 2024, there were 823 people in non-standard accommodation placements. Current placements in temporary accommodation are part of the Department for Communities (DfC) Homelessness Bulletin and, at present, September 30th is the most recent date for which this is available. Data for 31st December 2024 will be available upon the next publication of homelessness data which is scheduled for March 2025.

This concludes our response.