



07 May 2025

Dear Applicant

Our Ref: FOI 749

Your request for information received on 07 April 2025 has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act, we would like to request the following data/information, disaggregated by (A) Local Government District, and (B) Year.

C: The number of requests to review the suitability of a temporary accommodation placement.

D: The number of homeless applicants who have (i) requested a review of the suitability of a placement, and (ii) moved to or remained in the placement under review, during the time in which the Review was conducted.

E: The number of homeless applicants who have (i) requested a review of the suitability of a placement, but (ii) did not move to or did not remain in the placement under review, during the time in which the Review was conducted.

F: Of those applicants who did not move to, or remain in, a placement they perceived to be unsuitable, the number of applicants who received a notice informing them that they would receive no further offers of temporary accommodation until the Housing Executive completed the review.

The data can be provided in the below format. We have broken Year into 5 categories.

Our response

The Housing Executive holds information within the scope of your request. However, it is not captured in a way that enables us to extract it other than by undertaking a significant manual exercise and this would take beyond the 'appropriate limit' as defined by the FOI Act.

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.

For Belfast Region, our records of review requests begin in June 2020. There are 183 in total up to the end of 2024 broken down as follows:

2020 – 5
2021 – 32
2022 – 65
2023 – 32
2024 – 49

For South Region, our records of review requests begin in 2016. There are 41 in total up to the end of 2024 broken down as follows:

2016-2018 – 2
2019-2021 – 15
2022-2024 – 24

For North Region, our records of review requests begin in 2021. There are 95 in total up to the end of 2024, broken down as follows:

2021 – 37
2022 – 16
2023 – 12
2024 – 20
2025 - 10

For those cases it would be necessary to read all the notes recorded on the Housing Management System around the time of the offer to establish if the applicant remained there during the review period or not.

The Housing Executive may be able to provide some information if you reduce or narrow the scope of your request to bring it under the cost limit.

We have undertaken a sampling exercise and estimate that it would take 30 minutes per case.

Also, for point D, we would require clarification on whether this relates to the location of the accommodation offered, the address from which the applicant presented as homeless, or the address of the local office that the applicant presented to.

This concludes our response.