

20 November 2023

Our Ref: FOI 192

Request

We received your request on 25 October 2023 for the following information:

So that we can better understand the state of temporary accommodation in Belfast, please provide

1/ a current overview of the number of households in each type of temporary accommodation in Belfast.

2/ an indication of the number of households in each of the above categories that have approached the Housing Executive after having been granted refugee status by the Home Office.

3/ an indication of how many waiting list families are currently placed by the Housing Executive in hotel rooms (for instance at the Maldron Hotel near Belfast International Airport).

Also, please explain

4/ which of the five categories the hotel accommodation referred to in (3) falls under, or if it is recorded separately.

5/ where and how often this temporary accommodation information, broken down by accommodation type, is made public, and how (if possible) it can be accessed directly.

I would be grateful if you would supply this information by email.

In order to comply with all cost and time exemptions please provide me with as much of the data requested as possible. If I can help to clarify this request please contact me by email at paige@pprproject.org. I look forward to hearing from you promptly, as required by the legislation, and in any case within 20 working days.

Thank you and regards.

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

Our response

1. The table below outlines the number of current placements, as of 19th November 2023, in different types of accommodation made from the Belfast City Council area. The information is taken from a live data base and may therefore differ from published data.

The Housing Executive does not record placements by geographical location but by the office making the placement. As such, the placements below may not have all been made within the Belfast area.

<i>Type of Accommodation</i>	<i>Placements</i>
<i>Bespoke</i>	<i>37</i>
<i>Crash</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Non Standard</i>	<i>177</i>
<i>Hostels (NIHE)</i>	<i>103</i>
<i>Hostels (Vol. Sector)</i>	<i>389</i>
<i>Single Lets</i>	<i>1,379</i>
<i>HMO</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Leased property</i>	<i>93</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,194</i>

2. The Housing Executive has only recently commenced collecting this information and figures for the last quarter July-September 2023 will be published in due course. As such, the Housing Executive would consider disclosure exempt under Section 22.1(a) of the FOI Act 2000.

Section 22.1(a) states that:

(1) Information is exempt information if—

(a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),

3. The Housing Executive does not record placements by specific accommodation but does record placements made by each Area Office. As of 19th November 2023, there were 177 placements into non-standard accommodation made from the Belfast City Council area.

4. The use of Hotel accommodation is included within the non-standard accommodation category.
5. Updated information on temporary accommodation can be accessed quarterly via the DfC [website](#) alongside other homeless data.