

27 November 2023

Our Ref: FOI 198

Request

We received your request on 30 October 2023 for the following information:

Could I please request the following under FOI for dates between 01/11/2020 and 31/10/2023 with the data broken down by year:

- 1) The number of reports of Tenancy Fraud by area*
- 2) Outcome of investigations (number of properties which were found to be occupied, number of properties which were repossessed etc)*

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

Our response

1. The number of reports of Tenancy Fraud by area broken down by year:

Please refer to the tables below for the number of tenancy fraud reports reported by each area from 1st November 2020 – 30th September 2023.

1st November 2020 – 31 March 2021

Area	Reports of Tenancy Fraud Received
Ards & North Down	<10*
Causeway	20
Lisburn & Castlereagh	<10*
Mid & East Antrim	18
Mid Ulster	<10*
North Belfast	18
South & East Belfast	26
South Antrim	18
South	32
South Down	19

South West	11
West	17
West Belfast	31
Total	235

*Figures less than 10 have been anonymised to prevent a property/person being identified for GDPR reasons in compliance with Data Protection requirements.

1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022

Area	Reports of Tenancy Fraud Received
Ards & North Down	28
Causeway	65
Lisburn & Castlereagh	31
Mid & East Antrim	77
Mid Ulster	42
North Belfast	48
South & East Belfast	57
South Antrim	59
South	42
South Down	50
South West	24
West	29
West Belfast	47
Total	599

1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023

Area	Reports of Tenancy Fraud Received
Ards & North Down	38
Causeway	66
Lisburn & Castlereagh	41
Mid & East Antrim	97
Mid Ulster	40
North Belfast	50
South & East Belfast	83
South Antrim	60
South	57
South Down	82
South West	23
West	40
West Belfast	53
Total	730

1st April 2023 – 30th September 2023

Area	Reports of Tenancy Fraud Received
Ards & North Down	15
Causeway	34
Lisburn & Castlereagh	15
Mid & East Antrim	43
Mid Ulster	22
North Belfast	22
South & East Belfast	49
South Antrim	25
South	26
South Down	41
South West	13
West	23
West Belfast	28
Total	356

2. Outcome* of investigations (number of properties which were found to be occupied, number of properties which were repossessed etc)

**Please note that tenancy fraud investigations can be protracted, particularly in more complex cases and fraud reporting is done at a point in time. Case outcomes in any given time period will include cases opened in earlier ones. The Housing Executive provide tenancy fraud statistics to the Department for Communities on a quarterly basis. We are therefore unable to provide outcome statistics for October 2023 as these have not been finalised.*

From 01/04/2020 – 31/03/2021, the tenancy fraud figures were as follows:

- 480 new cases of suspected tenancy fraud were recorded across all areas
- 310 cases were closed with residency confirmed
- 181 properties subject to tenancy fraud were recovered.

From 01/04/2021 – 31/03/2022, the tenancy fraud figures were as follows:

- 599 new cases of suspected tenancy fraud were recorded across all areas
- 272 cases closed with residency confirmed
- 225 properties subject to tenancy fraud were recovered

From 01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023, the tenancy fraud figures were as follows:

- 730 new cases of suspected tenancy fraud were recorded across all areas.
- 404 cases closed with residency confirmed
- 233 properties subject to tenancy fraud were recovered

For the year to date (01/04/23 to 30/09/23) the tenancy fraud figures were as follows:

- 356 new cases new cases of suspected tenancy fraud were recorded across all areas
- 225 cases closed with residency confirmed
- 105 properties subject to tenancy fraud were recovered