

21 December 2023

Our Ref: FOI 227

Request

We received your request on 23 November 2023 for the following information:

Please can you provide a list of current NIHE managed Traveller Accommodation Sites in Northern Ireland.

Please can you specify for each site:

- 1. The Site Designation eg Transit Site, Serviced Site, Grouped Housing*
- 2. The Number of Pitches per site.*
- 3. The Current Occupancy Rates per site.*
- 4. The Current Licensing Status of Each Site ie Licensed or Non Licensed Site.*
- 5. The Current waiting lists per site.*

For comparative reasons can you also provide a list of NIHE managed Traveller Accommodation Sites in Northern Ireland in March 2018 and specify for each site

Please can you provide a list of NIHE managed Traveller Accommodation Sites in Northern Ireland that have been closed or sold since March 2018.

Please can you provide a list of NIHE managed Traveller Accommodation Sites in Northern Ireland that have been built or bought since March 2018.

Please can you provide a list of NIHE managed Traveller Accommodation Sites in Northern Ireland that have had pitch capacity increased since March 2018 and the resulting increase in capacity.

Please can you provide a list of NIHE managed Traveller Accommodation Sites in Northern Ireland that have had pitch capacity reduced since March 2018 and the resulting reduction in capacity.

Please can you provide statistics on the number of evictions from NIHE Managed Traveller Accommodation Sites in Northern Ireland since March 2018 and specify

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reason for eviction, eg site closure, rent arrears, antisocial behavior, abandoned caravan etc.

Please advise NIHE policy / rules to be followed for returning property to owner in the event of an eviction or lawful closure of a site.

Please advise the maximum allowed timeframe within which property must be returned to owners or removed from the site in order to facilitate new tenants.

Please advise how many vacant or unsafe caravans have been removed from site by NIHE.

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

Our response

1. Please can you provide a list of current NIHE managed Traveller Accommodation Sites in Northern Ireland.

Please can you specify for each site:

1. The Site Designation eg Transit Site, Serviced Site, Grouped Housing

2. The Number of Pitches per site.

3. The Current Occupancy Rates per site.

4. The Current Licensing Status of Each Site ie Licensed or Non Licensed Site.

5. The Current waiting lists per site.

The below table provides the requested information as at November 2023

Location	Type	No of pitches	Occupancy Rate	Licence status	Current Waiting List
Acorn Grove, Craigavon	Serviced	6	6	Yes	0
The Glen serviced site, Coalisland	Serviced	16	16	Yes	0
Ballyarnett, Derry/Londonderry	Transit	11	7	Pending works	0
Legahory Close, Craigavon	Emergency Halting Site	8	4	Pending works	0
Daisyfield, Derry/Londonderry	Serviced & Transit	6 Serviced 6 Transit	0	No	0
Greenbrae, Strabane	Transit	6	0	No	0

2. For comparative reasons can you also provide a list of NIHE managed Traveller Accommodation Sites in Northern Ireland in March 2018 and specify for each site

1. The Site Designation e.g., Transit Site, Serviced Site, Grouped Housing
2. The Number of Pitches per site.
3. The Current Occupancy Rates per site.
4. The Current Licensing Status of Each Site ie Licensed or Non Licensed Site.
5. The Current waiting lists per site.

The below table provides the requested information as at March 2018.

Location	Type	No of pitches	Occupancy Rate as at March 2018	Licence status	Waiting List as at March 2018
Acorn Grove, Craigavon	Serviced	6	6	Application made	0
The Glen serviced site, Coalisland	Serviced	16	16	Application made	0
The Glen transit site, Coalisland	Transit	4	4	Application made	0
Ballyarnett, Derry/Londonderry	Transit	11	2	Pending works	0
Glen Road Heights	Serviced	9	0	No	0
Legahory Close, Craigavon	Emergency Halting Site	8	5	Application made	0
Daisyfield, Derry/Londonderry	Serviced	6 Serviced 6 Transit	0	No	0
Greenbrae, Strabane	Transit	6	0	No	0

3. Please can you provide a list of NIHE managed Traveller Accommodation Sites in Northern Ireland that have been closed or sold since March 2018.

Since March 2018 the following sites have been sold or closed:

- The Glen transit site, Coalisland has been sold.
- Glen Road Heights, Belfast has been decommissioned due to threat to life.

4. Please can you provide a list of NIHE managed Traveller Accommodation Sites in Northern Ireland that have been built or bought since March 2018.

No new managed Traveller Accommodation Sites have been built or bought since March 2018.

5. Please can you provide a list of NIHE managed Traveller Accommodation Sites in Northern Ireland that have had pitch capacity increased since March 2018 and the resulting increase in capacity.

No managed Traveller Accommodation Sites have had their pitch capacity increased since March 2018

6. Please can you provide a list of NIHE managed Traveller Accommodation Sites in Northern Ireland that have had pitch capacity reduced since March 2018 and the resulting reduction in capacity.

No current managed Traveller Accommodation Sites have had their pitch capacity reduced since March 2018. See response to Q3 in respected of sites that have been sold or closed since March 2018.

7. Please can you provide statistics on the number of evictions from NIHE Managed Traveller Accommodation Sites in Northern Ireland since March 2018 and specify reason for eviction, eg site closure, rent arrears, antisocial behaviour, abandoned caravan etc.

The Housing Executive have not evicted any occupant of any Traveller site since statutory takeover in Dec 2003.

8. Please advise NIHE policy / rules to be followed for returning property to owner in the event of an eviction or lawful closure of a site.

As above no evictions have taken place. In event of an eviction, the Housing Executive would arrange at an agreed time to meet with previous tenant to allow any items to be removed. This would also apply to the lawful closure of a site.

9. Please advise the maximum allowed timeframe within which property must be returned to owners or removed from the site in order to facilitate new tenants.

If items remain, the Housing Executive would store items up to a maximum of 6 months. If accommodation is required for a new tenant, items would be removed and stored asap after eviction/termination or otherwise. If contact details are know previous occupant would be kept fully abreast of developments.

10. Please advise how many vacant or unsafe caravans have been removed from site by NIHE.

Acorn Grove, Craigavon - 0
The Glen serviced site, Coalisland - 0
The Glen transit site, Coalisland - 0
Ballyarnett, Derry/Londonderry - 2
Glen Road Heights - 0
Legahory Close, Craigavon - 0
Daisyfield, Derry/Londonderry - 0
Greenbrae, Strabane - 0

This concludes our response.