

6 March 2024

**Our Ref: FOI 303**

## **Request**

We received your request on 11 February 2024 for the following information:

- 1 How many applicants are currently on housing list?*
- 2 Excluding temporary accommodation have many people have been housed by the NIHE and its Housing Associations in each of the past 20 years?*
- 3 In each of the past 5 years how many applicants presenting themselves to the NIHE have been housed immediately. Please breakdown into permanent or temporary accommodation and distinguish between flat/house, hotel, B&B and Hostel accommodation?*
- 4 In each of the past 5 years how many applicants presenting themselves to the NIHE have been housed immediately without ever being on the Housing List? (Please include all applicants who where technically placed on the list to facilitate housing placement).*
- 5 In each of the past 10 years how many applicants have fallen off the housing list by failing to renew their application?*
- 6 How many housing units does the NIHE own and operate? Of this number how many are currently unallocated, please indicate how many are unallocated due to disrepair?*
- 7 Please disclose how many Housing Associations operate in Northern Ireland, their names and the number of properties / units they manage?*
- 8 Since the year 2000, please disclose for each year how many housing units have been built by the NIHE or Housing Associations. Please break this number down into the type of property ie general needs 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom etc?*

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

## **Our response**

### ***1 How many applicants are currently on housing list?***

Waiting List statistics are produced quarterly, therefore the most recently available are as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. The table below shows the numbers of applicants on the waiting list as at that date.

<b>Geography</b>	<b>All Applicants</b>	<b>Applicants in Housing Stress</b>	<b>Allocations to Applicants</b>
Northern Ireland	46461	34651	5691

\*Allocation information refers to the number of allocations in the preceding 12 month period.

Housing Stress refers to applicants who have been awarded 30 or more points under the Housing Selection Scheme.

### ***2 Excluding temporary accommodation have many people have been housed by the NIHE and its Housing Associations in each of the past 20 years?***

Please be advised that Housing Associations are entirely separate legal entities to the Housing Executive. As advised by email on 12<sup>th</sup> February, we have only been able to separate allocations by Housing Executive and by Housing Associations available from 2017 onwards. The first table therefore gives total allocations (Housing Executive and Housing Associations combined) by year from March 2004 to March 2016. The second table gives allocations broken down as requested from March 2017 to March 2023.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Allocations to Applicants in Northern Ireland</b>
Mar-04	8765
Mar-05	7920
Mar-06	8355
Mar-07	7780
Mar-08	7289
Mar-09	8144
Mar-10	9192
Mar-11	8071
*Apr -12	*7693
Mar-13	8145

Mar-14	8809
Mar-15	8129
Mar-16	7805

<b>Year</b>	<b><i>Allocations to Applicants in NI Allocated by NIHE</i></b>	<b><i>Allocations to Applicants in NI Allocated by HA</i></b>	<b><i>Allocations to Applicants in NI Total</i></b>
Mar-17	4404	3268	7672
Mar-18	4111	3262	7373
Mar-19	4066	3630	7696
Mar-20	3695	2959	6654
Mar-21	3156	2688	5844
Mar-22	3160	2850	6010
Mar-23	2801	2995	5796

\*Allocation figures are as at 31 March each year, with the exception of 2011-12. Figures quoted for 2011-12 were extracted on 1st May 2012, due to the implementation of a new electronic Housing Management System (HMS)'.

Allocation information refers to the number of allocations in the preceding 12 month period.

***3 In each of the past 5 years how many applicants presenting themselves to the NIHE have been housed immediately. Please breakdown into permanent or temporary accommodation and distinguish between flat/house, hotel, B&B and Hostel accommodation?***

Under Article 8 (1) of the Housing (NI) Order 1988 if the Housing Executive has reason to believe that an applicant may be homeless, eligible for assistance and have priority need we will offer temporary accommodation as part of our interim statutory duty. The Housing Executive does not however, maintain records of how many offers of accommodation are accepted or refused, and therefore do not hold the data requested.

All permanent allocations of social housing in Northern Ireland are made in accordance with the rules of the Housing Selection Scheme. Eligibility checks are performed on all applicants, their circumstances are assessed, and they are then placed on the Common Waiting List

with the result that there is always a period of time between applying and an offer of accommodation being made.

***4 In each of the past 5 years how many applicants presenting themselves to the NIHE have been housed immediately without ever being on the Housing List? (Please include all applicants who where technically placed on the list to facilitate housing placement).***

All permanent allocations of social housing in Northern Ireland are made in accordance with the rules of the Housing Selection Scheme and from a Common Waiting List used by all Registered Social Landlords. The application process set out above applies to all applicants accessing the list; no permanent allocations of social housing have been made to anyone not appearing on it.

***5 In each of the past 10 years how many applicants have fallen off the housing list by failing to renew their application?***

The table below details the number of applications that were cancelled owing to failure to reply to a reminder notice, broken down by financial year (the data for the year 2023/24 is for the first 3 quarters of the year). Please note that some applicants who are removed from the waiting list may subsequently re-apply for social housing at a later date and are therefore re-included on the Waiting List.

<b><i>Financial Year</i></b>	<b><i>Count of Cancelled Applications</i></b>
<b><i>2014/2015</i></b>	9705
<b><i>2015/2016</i></b>	8618
<b><i>2016/2017</i></b>	7582
<b><i>2017/2018</i></b>	7327
<b><i>2018/2019</i></b>	6747
<b><i>2019/2020</i></b>	5458
<b><i>2020/2021*</i></b>	1485
<b><i>2021/2022</i></b>	6310
<b><i>2022/2023</i></b>	6107
<b><i>2023/2024</i></b>	3967

*\*Following the first Covid lockdown in March 2020, changes were made to the Waiting List annual renewals process and procedures to accommodate the COVID-19 restrictions. These changes were in place throughout 2020/2021 and may have resulted in a number of applicants being retained on the Waiting List who would otherwise have been removed as a result of the No Reply to Renewal Reminder process under normal operational activity.*

***6 How many housing units does the NIHE own and operate? Of this number how many are currently unallocated, please indicate how many are unallocated due to disrepair?***

As of the 1/2/24 the Housing Executive's stock total was 82,869. At that time there were 381 actionable, and 1222 non-actionable void properties.

Actionable voids are properties which are vacant while in the process of being allocated/awaiting change of tenancy repairs. These may also include properties deemed to be difficult to Let.

Non-Actionable voids are properties that are not immediately available for allocation and are held vacant for operational reasons i.e. decanting purposes (where they are being used to house a tenant on a temporary basis pending works to their home), planned maintenance schemes, and properties which have been identified for sale/transfer or have approval for demolition

***7 Please disclose how many Housing Associations operate in Northern Ireland, their names and the number of properties / units they manage?***

The Housing Executive does not hold information meeting the description of your request. Details of Housing Associations operating in Northern Ireland are available on the [website](#) of the Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations.

***8 Since the year 2000, please disclose for each year how many housing units have been built by the NIHE or Housing Associations. Please break this number down into the type of property ie general needs 1 bedroom, 2 bedroom etc?***

The Housing Executive has been responsible for the delivery of new social housing via the Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP) since 2007/08. Since this time, all new social housing has been delivered by housing associations.

The table below details the total new social housing Completions for the period 2007/08 to 2022/23 (and 2023/24 to-date). Please note that details of property types were not routinely recorded until 2015/16 and a breakdown of property types can therefore only be provided for the period 2015/16 – 2022/23 (and 2023/24 to-date).

Prior to 2007/08 the delivery of new social housing was the responsibility of the then Department for Social Development (DSD).

<b>Completion Year</b>	<b>Shared</b>	<b>Nr 1-bed</b>	<b>Nr 2-bed</b>	<b>Nr 3-bed</b>	<b>Nr 4-bed+</b>	<b>Total Units</b>
<b>2007/08</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1,410</b>
<b>2008/09</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1,365</b>
<b>2009/10</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1,504</b>
<b>2010/11</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1,409</b>
<b>2011/12</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1,310</b>
<b>2012/13</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1,254</b>
<b>2013/14</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1,967</b>
<b>2014/15</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1,658</b>
<b>2015/16</b>	66	110	567	436	30	<b>1,209</b>
<b>2016/17</b>	36	250	676	393	32	<b>1,387</b>
<b>2017/18</b>	54	199	780	434	40	<b>1,507</b>
<b>2018/19</b>	17	262	916	474	13	<b>1,682</b>
<b>2019/20</b>	16	367	804	406	33	<b>1,626</b>
<b>2020/21</b>	21	156	774	325	28	<b>1,304</b>
<b>2021/22</b>	4	135	425	256	15	<b>835</b>
<b>2022/23</b>	0	227	817	341	64	<b>1,449</b>
<b>2023/24 (to-date)</b>	0	132	523	204	16	<b>875</b>

This concludes our response.