

11 October 2024

Our Ref: FOI 517

Request

We received your request on 13 September 2024 for the following information:

1. *How many people, not households, are currently on the Social Housing Waiting List?*
2. *How many people, not households, are currently deemed to be in housing stress?*
3. *How many people, not households, currently have FDA status?*
 - 3a. *Of those people with FDA status, what is the breakdown by (i) age, (ii) household type and (iii) local government district?*
4. *How many people, not households, are currently being accommodated in non-standard accommodation?*
5. *What was the total cost spent on non-standard accommodation from 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024?*

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

Our response

Waiting List statistics are produced quarterly, so the most recently available are as at 30th June 2024. The figures must be read with the accompanying notes.

1. ***How many people, not households, are currently on the Social Housing Waiting List?***

As at 30th June 2024, there were 47,936 households on the waiting list which equates to 88,880 people.

In the twelve months to end June 2024, there were 5708 allocations to applicant households on the waiting list. This equates to 10,687 people.

2. *How many people, not households, are currently deemed to be in housing stress?*

As at 30th June 2024, there were 36,137 households who were deemed to be in housing stress on the waiting list. This equates to 67,890 people

3. *How many people, not households, currently have FDA status?*

As at end June 2024, of the 47,936 households on the waiting list, 30,069 of these had been awarded FDA status and this equates to 58,241 people.

3a *Of those people with FDA status, what is the breakdown by (i) age, (ii) household type and (iii) local government district?*

The Housing Executive assess cases on the circumstances of the head of household. The FDA household figures are provided below for context, alongside the figures for total number of people within FDA households, broken down by age, household group and Local Government District.

(i) Age:

	FDA Households (assessed applicant only)	Number of people within FDA households	Allocations to FDA households (assessed applicant only)	Number of people allocated within FDA households
Under 18	2	19,235	2	3,576
18-25	3,861	7,778	774	1,352
26-39	11,712	13,928	1910	2,182
40-49	5,759	6,796	868	981
50-59	3,971	4,612	736	830
60-64	1,370	1,632	337	387
65 & over	3,394	4,260	754	905
TOTAL	30,069	58,241	5381	10,213

(ii) Household group:

	FDA households	Number of people in FDA households	Allocations to FDA households	Number of people allocated within FDA households
Single	14,092	16,040	2,272	2,708
Small family	8,186	21,603	1,545	4,059
Large family	2,466	11,739	384	1,712
Small adult	1,256	2,417	197	385
Large adult	637	2,111	96	301
Elderly	3,432	4,331	887	1,048
TOTAL	30,069	58,241	5,381	10,213

(iii) Local Government District

	FDA households	Number of people in FDA households	Allocations to FDA households	Number of people allocated within FDA households
Antrim & Newtownabbey	2,277	4,520	393	758
Ards & North Down	1,932	3,651	493	913
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	1,765	3,777	439	912
Belfast	9,218	17,569	1525	2,805
Causeway Coast & Glens	1,834	3,568	410	779
Derry & Strabane	4,312	7,990	577	1,072
Fermanagh & Omagh	1,110	2,045	179	331

	FDA households	Number of people in FDA households	Allocations to FDA households	Number of people allocated within FDA households
Lisburn & Castlereagh	1,681	3,388	307	603
Mid & East Antrim	2,045	3,894	459	799
Mid Ulster	1,103	2,392	274	575
Newry, Mourne & Down	2,792	5,447	325	666
TOTAL	30,069	58,241	5,381	10,213

In respect of the above figures, please note the following caveats:

- The figures are based on applicant households only, in line with normal reporting of applicant households on the waiting list. Transfer applicants are already housed and are not included.
- FDA refers to Full Duty Applicants – these are applicants accepted as being homeless, to whom the Housing Executive owes a duty under the Homelessness legislation, Article 10(2) of the Housing (NI) Order, 1988 to “secure that accommodation becomes available for his/her occupation”.
- Allocations data is for the preceding 12-month period to 30th June 2024.
- Household make up / grouping is recorded at point of application and may not reflect the current composition of the household. Note that applications are assessed on the circumstances of the head of household.
- Social housing waiting list and allocations data held by the Housing Executive, form part of the Northern Ireland Housing Bulletin, which is published quarterly as a National Statistic by the Department for Communities. Therefore, to avoid breaches of the code of practice for statistics, the most recent data provided is based on the most recently published data (end June 2024).

Q4) How many people, not households, are currently being accommodated in non-standard accommodation?

As of 30th June 2024, there were 777 people placed in in non-standard temporary accommodation.

Information on Homelessness is released on a regular basis and can be found on the DfC website [here](#). The current data release covers the period up to 30th June 2024. As a result, the Housing Executive cannot provide the information requested at the time of this request as this is currently exempt under FOI Act Section 22 -Information intended for future publication.

As this is a qualified exemption, we have considered the Public Interest Test.

Public interest factors in favour of disclosure: Promoting transparency, openness, accountability and understanding about how decisions are made.

Public interest factors in favour of maintaining the exemption: The information requested is due to be published on the Department for Communities website as part of the forthcoming data release in December 2024. As this information is of notable interest to the wider public, it is important that it can be accessed by all at the same time in an accurate form. This is in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

Outcome of the public interest test

After weighing up the competing public interest considerations, it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should not be disclosed until the future intended publication and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Q5) What was the total cost spent on non-standard accommodation from 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024?

The table below details non-standard temporary accommodation costs for the period 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024.

	April 23 - March 24
Total Non-Standard Expenditure	£12,221,624

This concludes our response.