



03 September 2025

Dear Applicant

Our Ref: FOI 906

Your request for information received on 22 August 2025 has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Request

1. *Average waiting times (in weeks, months, or years) for applicants who were successfully allocated a social housing tenancy in each of the last five years (broken down by year).*
 - o *Please include overall averages, as well as breakdowns by housing stress status, Full Duty Applicant status, and household type (especially important to include "Elderly/Older Small Households").*
2. *Regional breakdowns by council areas of average waiting times for successful allocations in the same period.*
3. *If average waiting time data is not held, please provide:*
 - o *Any internal reports, analyses, or estimates of approximate waiting times.*
 - o *Any internal documents or briefings that reference typical or expected waiting times.*

Our response

Tables 1-4 below provide information on Mean and Median Waiting Times (in months) for applicant households at the point of allocations in the five years from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2025 (broken down by year), with the requested breakdowns. All tables should be viewed in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Table 1 below provides data on the number of housing allocations for each year from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2025 to applicants on the Social Housing Waiting List, by Mean & Median Waiting Time at the point of allocation (in months) and Housing Stress status:

Table 1: No. of allocations to applicant households from the Social Housing Waiting List from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2025 in Northern Ireland, by Housing Stress status															
Housing Stress status	Allocations 01/07/20 - 30/06/21			Allocations 01/07/21 - 30/06/22			Allocations 01/07/22 - 30/06/23			Allocations 01/07/23 - 30/06/24			Allocations 01/07/24 - 30/06/25		
	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)
Yes	6,654	25.4	16.0	5,843	28.1	18.0	5,383	30.1	19.0	5,544	31.3	19.0	6,039	35.0	22.0
No	270	19.0	9.0	268	18.3	7.0	203	17.0	6.0	163	20.3	8.0	134	23.4	7.5
N. Ireland Total	6,924	25.1	16.0	6,111	27.6	17.0	5,586	29.6	19.0	5,707	31.0	19.0	6,173	34.8	22.0

Table 2 below provides data on the number of housing allocations for each year from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2025 to applicants on the Social Housing Waiting List, by Mean & Median Waiting Time at the point of allocation (in months) and FDA status:

Table 2: No. of allocations to applicant households from the Social Housing Waiting List from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2025 in Northern Ireland, by FDA status															
FDA status	Allocations 01/07/20 - 30/06/21			Allocations 01/07/21 - 30/06/22			Allocations 01/07/22 - 30/06/23			Allocations 01/07/23 - 30/06/24			Allocations 01/07/24 - 30/06/25		
	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)
Yes	6,253	25.5	16.0	5,500	27.9	18.0	5,120	30.0	19.0	5,380	31.2	19.0	5,875	34.9	23.0
No	671	21.9	11.0	611	25.2	11.0	466	25.7	10.0	327	27.0	11.0	298	31.7	13.0
N. Ireland Total	6,924	25.1	16.0	6,111	27.6	17.0	5,586	29.6	19.0	5,707	31.0	19.0	6,173	34.8	22.0

Table 3 below provides data on the number of housing allocations for each year from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2025 to applicants on the Social Housing Waiting List, by Mean & Median Waiting Time at the point of allocation (in months) and Household Type:

Table 3: No. of allocations to applicant households from the Social Housing Waiting List from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2025 in Northern Ireland, by Household Type															
Household Type	Allocations 01/07/20 - 30/06/21			Allocations 01/07/21 - 30/06/22			Allocations 01/07/22 - 30/06/23			Allocations 01/07/23 - 30/06/24			Allocations 01/07/24 - 30/06/25		
	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)
Elderly/Older	1,130	24.1	12.0	1,015	23.1	10.0	1,054	23.9	10.0	1,047	25.1	10.0	1,109	27.8	11.0
Large Adult	79	34.7	25.0	78	44.4	31.5	83	50.5	40.0	98	40.3	24.0	92	53.6	31.5
Large Family	466	26.9	17.0	444	29.9	19.0	386	31.1	19.0	390	30.8	20.0	411	40.7	26.0
Single	3,181	24.6	16.0	2,750	26.8	18.0	2,404	29.8	20.0	2,378	31.7	21.0	2,583	36.2	25.0
Small Adult	275	26.1	15.0	239	32.8	21.0	230	35.2	22.0	214	35.0	21.5	266	37.4	24.0
Small Family	1,793	25.8	16.0	1,585	29.8	19.0	1,429	31.0	22.0	1,580	32.7	21.5	1,712	34.3	23.0
N. Ireland Total	6,924	25.1	16.0	6,111	27.6	17.0	5,586	29.6	19.0	5,707	31.0	19.0	6,173	34.8	22.0

Table 4 below provides data on the number of housing allocations for each year from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2025 to applicants on the Social Housing Waiting List, by Mean & Median Waiting Time at the point of allocation (in months) and Local Government District:

Table 4: No. of allocations to applicant households from the Social Housing Waiting List from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2025 in Northern Ireland, by Local Government District															
Local Government District	Allocations 01/07/20 - 30/06/21			Allocations 01/07/21 - 30/06/22			Allocations 01/07/22 - 30/06/23			Allocations 01/07/23 - 30/06/24			Allocations 01/07/24 - 30/06/25		
	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)
Antrim & Newtownabbey	527	21.6	13.0	573	25.4	15.0	521	25.9	15.0	411	27.9	16.0	512	33.7	21.0
Ards & North Down	613	21.0	12.0	539	23.4	12.0	467	25.5	15.0	502	23.5	13.0	485	26.8	15.0
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	495	22.2	13.0	486	24.0	14.5	399	28.7	17.0	502	30.6	19.0	388	28.7	16.0
Belfast	1,819	27.3	17.0	1,636	31.3	21.0	1,509	33.8	22.0	1,616	31.8	20.0	1,677	38.9	26.0
Causeway Coast & Glens	439	25.1	16.0	407	27.5	18.0	341	31.2	20.0	432	33.2	20.0	387	32.4	21.0

Table 4: No. of allocations to applicant households from the Social Housing Waiting List from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2025 in Northern Ireland, by Local Government District

Local Government District	Allocations 01/07/20 - 30/06/21			Allocations 01/07/21 - 30/06/22			Allocations 01/07/22 - 30/06/23			Allocations 01/07/23 - 30/06/24			Allocations 01/07/24 - 30/06/25		
	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months)	Median Waiting Time (in months)
Derry & Strabane	802	29.6	19.0	829	31.5	21.0	657	30.0	19.0	600	35.5	23.0	761	40.9	29.0
Fermanagh & Omagh	310	22.4	14.0	199	20.3	14.0	219	24.4	16.0	209	27.5	17.0	230	31.3	21.0
Lisburn & Castlereagh	540	26.2	17.0	345	23.3	15.0	402	27.7	19.0	318	28.7	18.0	438	33.1	22.0
Mid & East Antrim	639	21.8	13.0	485	23.5	13.0	412	27.0	15.0	487	30.0	18.0	613	30.0	18.0
Mid Ulster	331	22.6	13.0	237	24.1	13.0	271	25.1	16.0	295	30.2	17.0	281	27.3	17.0
Newry, Mourne & Down	409	29.4	19.0	375	33.0	24.0	388	32.8	23.0	335	37.8	24.0	401	41.4	30.0
N. Ireland Total	6,924	25.1	16.0	6,111	27.6	17.0	5,586	29.6	19.0	5,707	31.0	19.0	6,173	34.8	22.0

Notes:

- This response is based on the most recently published data (allocations up to 30/06/2025).
- Allocations are aggregated over five 1-year periods from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2025 and include allocations to both Housing Executive and housing association properties.
- Applicants in Housing Stress are those that have been placed on the Common Waiting List and have been assessed with 30 points or more.
- A Full Duty Applicant is a person 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”.
- Household Composition/Type is recorded on our systems at the point of application and may not reflect the composition of the household at the point of allocation.
- When a question of “average waiting times” or “average points” is asked, MEAN and MEDIAN averages are provided.

Reasons for this include:

The MEAN (arithmetic average) is useful for understanding overall trends but can be heavily skewed by outliers (unusually high or low values) – for example, applicants who have been on the waiting list for a number of years or who have just joined the waiting list.

The MEDIAN (middle value, a measure of central tendency) is less affected by outliers and represents a “typical” case better when the data is skewed.

By presenting both, we ensure that the analysis captures both central tendency and the potential impact of unusually high or low values.

We also note that when the number of applicants is small, statistical indicators become less reliable and have a much lower predictive value regarding the “typical” experience. In such cases, the figures may be more indicative of the specific circumstances of the individual applicant households rather than a broader trend. Caution must be exercised when interpreting the results.

Section 13(1) of the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007 states that ‘the person producing any official statistics which are designated under section 12 as National Statistics must ensure that the Code of Practice for Statistics under section 10 continues to be complied with in relation to those statistics.’ Provision of the requested figures before publication of the DfC Housing Bulletin in which the dataset from which they would be drawn is published would be a failure to comply with the Code in respect of parts T3.3 and T3.4. The figures beyond the period already covered by the latest Housing Bulletin (after 30/06/2025) are therefore currently exempt from disclosure under Section 44 of the Freedom of Information Act – disclosure prohibited by other legislation, pending publication of the next Housing Bulletin.

This concludes our response.