



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

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Dear Grainia

Public Accounts Committee Evidence Session

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) wishes to thank you and Catherine for attending to give evidence to our inquiry into Homelessness in Northern Ireland on 13 November 2025.

Following the session, Members would be grateful if you could provide the following to assist in their considerations;

1. Homelessness Data

- There are 31,719 homeless households with full duty applicant status. How many individuals does this represent?
- Please provide a breakdown of the 31,719 homeless households by household type (single males, families, single females, complex needs etc)?
- Breakdown of those not captured within statutory homelessness (sofa-surfers, hidden homeless, adults 18+ unable to form separate households, other categories).
- The NIHE outlined that NI has a more generous and wider definition of homelessness. Can this please be explained further?
 - Can a comparison with the statutory definitions of homelessness in Scotland, England and Wales please be provided, noting where the definition in Northern Ireland is both wider and narrower?

- Is it the Housing Selection Scheme rather than legislation which means the discharge of the accommodation duty in Northern Ireland is more restrictive?

2. Temporary Accommodation

- Full breakdown of the 5,412 households in temporary accommodation (type, cost, duration, geography).
- From 2017, can you provide a breakdown by year of the number of placements in temporary accommodation?
- To add to the analysis presented in the NIAO report, can you provide a breakdown by accommodation type (single lets, hostels, hotels, B&Bs etc) of the number of temporary accommodation placements on 1 April 2025?
- The Committee was told the unit cost of hotels and B&Bs has reduced by 11%. Can the supporting data and analysis for this please be provided?
- The Committee was told a VFM framework for Temporary Accommodation has been implemented. Can the detail, please, be provided as to: how the [Centre for Homelessness Impact report](#) value for money recommendations have been addressed; action plans developed for implementation; and progress and impact to date?
- In terms of the purchase of 600 homes for temporary accommodation:
 - have any specific properties been identified for purchase;
 - have specific locations been identified;
 - is there a specific timeframe for first purchases;
 - what process will be followed for purchases; and
 - will former social houses be targeted for purchase?

Evidence on Higher-Quality Accommodation and Cost Avoidance

- The NIHE outlined that ‘without question’ there have been savings for Health, Justice and Education by its decisions: to prioritise own front door temporary accommodation; and to not place children in hotel accommodation for more than two weeks. Can the data, statistical analysis, and breakdown of the financial savings to Health, Justice and Education please be provided for NIHE’s statement?
- The NIHE outlined it had made savings of £13.8 million over the last three years. Can the data and statistical analysis please be provided for these savings? Can the NIHE also confirm these have not resulted in cash savings for NIHE which could be re-invested to prevention?’

4. NIHE Stock, Viability and House Sales

- Updated social housing numbers to 31 March over the past 10 years in terms:
 - Housing stock
 - SHDP completions
 - House sales

- Actionable voids
 - Non-actionable voids (***You may need to consult with DfC regarding RHA numbers***)
- For the past 10 years, details of the number of House Sale scheme properties:
 - sold by the former tenant within 5 years of purchase, along with details of discounts fully recovered by NIHE;
 - sold by the former tenancy within 10 years of purchase, along with details of where NIHE has been given the option of re-purchasing;
 - re-purchased by NIHE/RHAs at market value;
 - let in the private rental sector; and
 - used for temporary accommodation? (***You may need to consult with DfC regarding RHA numbers***)
 - For NIHE properties sold under the house sales scheme over the past 10 years, can the number of properties which had planned maintenance works and adaptations performed within the 5 years prior to sale please be provided? Please provide the total cost of these planned maintenance and adaptation works.

5. Domestic Violence Protocols

- Further information on NIHE's domestic violence protocol, allocation outcomes, the Domestic Violence Action Plan and the Sanctuary Scheme.

6. Rehousing and Voids

- Average time homeless individuals spend in temporary accommodation before rehousing as at April 2025:
 - broken down by less than 6 months, 6-12 months, 1-5 years and more than five years?
 - broken down by temporary accommodation type (single let, hostels, hotels etc)?

Please respond by email using the address above by **Friday, 12 December 2025**.

Yours sincerely



Daniel McCrossan
Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee