



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

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Homeless Connect

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nicola.mccrudden@homelessconnect.org

Dear Nicola,

Inquiry into Homelessness in Northern Ireland

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) wishes to thank you, Mark, Jim and David for attending to give evidence to our inquiry into Homelessness in Northern Ireland on 27 November 2025. Members found the session extremely informative, and your insights will play an important role in shaping the Committee's report.

During the session, witnesses referred to several pieces of information that would assist the Committee in its further deliberations. Members would be grateful if you could liaise with the other witnesses in providing the following information:

1. Person-Level Data on the Scale of Homelessness

Members welcomed your references to the *number of people* affected by homelessness, as distinct from the "households" measure used in official reporting. Please provide:

- the person-based figures you cited for December 2020, June 2024, and the most recent figures available, and
- any further person-level datasets you hold which illustrate the changing scale, profile, or trends in homelessness.

2. Prevention Models and Outcomes

The Committee would appreciate the additional information you offered to share on prevention activity, specifically:

- Information on the prevention programmes discussed (e.g., Max Programme, prison release, care leavers).
- Available evaluation findings or outcomes.

3. Governance Structures and Blockages

Witnesses described a range of governance groups currently operating across departments and agencies, and the challenges posed by their structure, capacity, and seniority.

To support the Committee's consideration of this issue, please provide:

- a summary of the existing governance structures relating to homelessness;
- any examples demonstrating where governance arrangements have impeded progress;
- Any proposals for simplifying or strengthening governance arrangements.

4. Case Studies and Lived Experience Evidence

Members indicated an interest in case examples to support the report's recommendations. Where possible, please provide:

- anonymised case studies illustrating access barriers, complex needs, and experiences in temporary accommodation;

5. Data on Costs, Demand Pressures and Prevention Savings

You referenced a number of figures relating to temporary accommodation expenditure. The Committee would welcome:

- Information on temporary accommodation costs (including the figures referenced).
- Any modelling showing the comparative cost of crisis response versus prevention.
- Any evidence of rising demand and the resource pressures on your services.

6. Voluntary and Community Sector Data

You referenced significant datasets and metrics available within the sector that are not effectively used by the Department. Please could you provide:

- A list of datasets, indicators or monitoring tools held by your organisations.
- Examples illustrating how these could improve departmental decision-making if properly utilised.

I would be grateful if you could provide the above information by **5 January 2026** or please contact the Committee Clerk, Lucia Wilson, if you require an extension or if you need further clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Diane Forsythe

**Diane Forsythe
Deputy Chairperson
Public Accounts Committee**