



**Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG**

Telephone: (028) 90512692
e-mail: private.office@communities-ni.gov.uk
Our ref: AQW 9040/22-27
Date: 17 May 2024

Patsy McGlone MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont

Via email: patsy.mcglone@MLAniassembly.org.uk

Dear Patsy,

AQW 9040/22-27 – To ask the Minister for Communities following comments by the Speaker at the conclusion of Question Time on 12 March 2024, (i) how many people are on the housing waiting list; (ii) how many of these people are living in housing stress; and (iii) to detail the average waiting time for housing allocations, broken down by constituency.

The relevant information in answer to AQW 9040/22-27 has been placed in the Assembly library due to the volume of information.

Yours sincerely,

**Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities**

The following information has been provided to the Minister for Communities by the Housing Executive:

“The waiting list figures and those in housing stress broken down by parliamentary constituency as at December 2023 are:

Parliamentary Constituency	Total No. Applicants	Housing Stress Applicants (30 points or more)	Allocations
<i>Belfast East</i>	2079	1527	326
<i>Belfast East/South</i>	410	306	47
<i>Belfast North</i>	4476	3587	730
<i>Belfast South</i>	3034	2436	279
<i>Belfast South/Strangford</i>	120	97	17
<i>Belfast West*</i>	4049	3387	470
<i>Belfast West/North</i>	134	100	22
<i>East Antrim</i>	1910	1396	237
<i>East Londonderry</i>	2615	1578	290
<i>Fermanagh South Tyrone</i>	2114	1400	258

<i>Foyle</i>	4850	3828	543
<i>Lagan Valley</i>	2006	1575	286
<i>Mid Ulster</i>	1330	853	133
<i>Newry & Armagh</i>	2271	1676	263
<i>North Antrim</i>	2590	1792	285
<i>North Down</i>	1957	1416	255
<i>South Antrim</i>	1860	1455	262
<i>South Down</i>	2160	1779	156
<i>Strangford</i>	1697	1261	313
<i>Upper Bann</i>	2860	1830	329
<i>West Tyrone</i>	1939	1372	190
Grand Total	46461	34651	5691

**Belfast South/West PC has been merged with Belfast West to enable totals to be provide.*

- (i) to detail the average waiting time for housing allocations, broken down by constituency.**

Table 1 below provides data on the number of allocations, average waiting time (in months) and average points at the point of allocation at Northern Ireland and Parliamentary Constituency level for the 5-year period from 01/01/19 to 31/12/23. Please note, the table should be viewed in conjunction with the accompanying notes.”

Table 1:

Table 1: Allocations 01/01/2019-31/12/2023 by Mean & Median Waiting Times (Mths) and Mean & Median Points at Parliamentary Constituency level					
Parliamentary Constituency	No. of Applicant Households	Mean Mths on the WL at the Point of allocation	Median Mths on the WL at the Point of allocation	Mean Points at the Point of allocation	Median Points at the Point of allocation
<i>Belfast East</i>	1,821	22.7	14.0	135.3	132.0
<i>Belfast East/South</i>	214	23.7	14.0	139.3	140.0
<i>Belfast North</i>	3,575	26.1	17.0	142.3	140.0
<i>Belfast South</i>	1,497	27.7	16.0	143.2	140.0
<i>Belfast South/Strangford</i>	66	29.1	16.5	128.8	140.0
<i>Belfast West</i>	2,285	36.5	25.0	165.5	166.0
<i>Belfast West/North</i>	111	26.6	19.0	140.8	136.0

<i>Belfast West/South</i>	33	32.2	21.0	186.0	160.0
<i>East Antrim</i>	1,374	22.5	12.0	132.1	130.0
<i>East Londonderry</i>	1,439	27.4	17.0	135.0	138.0
<i>Fermanagh South Tyrone</i>	1,232	23.5	14.0	130.0	140.0
<i>Foyle</i>	3,105	30.7	20.0	172.4	176.0
<i>Lagan Valley</i>	1,599	24.3	16.0	152.6	154.0
<i>Mid Ulster</i>	863	22.9	12.0	118.8	130.0
<i>Newry & Armagh</i>	1,272	30.7	20.0	140.7	152.0
<i>North Antrim</i>	1,945	22.3	12.0	125.7	130.0
<i>North Down</i>	1,397	23.5	13.0	162.4	150.0
<i>South Antrim</i>	1,356	23.9	13.0	141.8	140.0
<i>South Down</i>	1,021	30.0	18.0	152.4	154.0
<i>Strangford</i>	1,645	19.8	11.0	150.3	144.0
<i>Upper Bann</i>	1,627	23.5	14.0	126.7	132.0
<i>West Tyrone</i>	1,052	23.8	14.0	126.4	136.0
<i>N. Ireland</i>	30,529	26.1	16.0	144.5	142.0

Notes:

- *This response is based on the most recently published data (allocations for the period from 01/01/19 to 31/12/23).*
- *Allocations data is a rolling 5-year total.*
- *Allocations data includes allocations to both Housing Executive and housing association properties.*
- *The reporting unit for applications is the Common Landlord Area (CLA). The Following Common Landlord Areas (CLAs) within an NIHE District cross Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries:*

NIHE CLA	Parliamentary Constituency
<i>Cregagh Castlereagh</i>	<i>Belfast East/South</i>
<i>Willowfield/Upper Castlereagh Road</i>	<i>Belfast East/South</i>
<i>Bridge End / Rotherdam Court</i>	<i>Belfast East/South</i>
<i>Carryduff</i>	<i>Belfast South/Strangford</i>
<i>Ainsworth</i>	<i>Belfast West/North</i>
<i>Twaddell/Upper Woodvale</i>	<i>Belfast West/North</i>
<i>Carrick Hill / Unity Flats</i>	<i>Belfast West/North</i>
<i>Hamill St / John St</i>	<i>Belfast West/South</i>

- *When a question of “average waiting times” or “average points” is asked, MEAN and MEDIAN averages are provided.*
- *Reasons for this include:
The MEAN is the arithmetic average and as a statistic can often be unreliable, having been skewed by significant outliers i.e. applicants who have been on the waiting list for a number of years.
This degree of skewing makes the arithmetic average, the MEAN, unreliable. Therefore, following expert advice on this matter a methodology that utilises the MEDIAN (a measure of central tendency) as a more reliable indicator in relation to Waiting Lists and Allocations is also provided.”*