



Department for
Communities

An Roinn
Pobal

Mánnystrie o
Communities

From: The Minister

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Our ref: AQW 16027/22-27
Date: 28 October 2024

Mark Durkan MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont

Dear Mark

AQW 16027/22-27 – INFORMATION TO BE PLACED IN THE ASSEMBLY LIBRARY

Due to the volume of detail required to answer AQW 16027/22-27, the information attached at Annex A has been placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Lyons', written over a light grey grid background.

**Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities**

ANNEX A

This issue is an operational matter for the NI Housing Executive. I have sought the requested information from the Chief Executive, who has advised me as follows:

“Disabled Facilities Grants are demand led and can only be initiated by a Health Trust Occupational Therapist recommendation; there is no direct application process to the Housing Executive.

There is no ‘waiting list’ for Disabled Facilities Grants; an applicant’s position in the process will change over time as they work through the various stages of the process.

There are currently 2,544 cases being administered by the Housing Executive through the various stages of the process.

(i) the number of people on a waiting list for adaptations to their homes under the Disabled Facilities Grant.

Table 1 below is a snapshot - as of 7 October 2024 - illustrating those DFG cases at the various stages of the grant-aid process. This is broken down by grant office and includes reference to the Council area the office covers.

(ii) the length of time they have been waiting, broken down by council area, for each of the last three years.

Whilst there is no waiting list to commence the Disabled Facilities Grant process, table 2 below shows the current average number of calendar days spent by an application at each stage up until a formal approval is issued to start works at the end of stage 4. This is provided by grants office with reference to the Council area the office covers.

Table 1:

Grant Office	Council areas	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5	Stage 6
		Recommendation received to Preliminary Inspection	Preliminary Inspection complete to issue of List of Grant Aided Works [LoGAW]	LoGAW issued to receipt of all required plans and documents from the grant applicant	Receipt of completed documents to issue of Approval to Start Work	Issue of Formal Approval to receipt of Satisfactory Completion of Works notice	Completion of works to Final Inspection & Payment
Number of Applications at each stage							
Belfast & South East	Belfast City Ards & North Down, Lisburn & Castlereagh	84	10	224	18	222	26
Derry	Derry City & Strabane	8	8	62	23	148	28
North East	Antrim & Newtownabbey Mid & East Antrim Causeway Coast & Glens	71	14	261	22	217	54
South	Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Newry Mourne & Down	84	9	273	30	259	18
West	Fermanagh & Omagh Mid Ulster	62	10	149	6	124	20
Total number of Cases		309	51	969	99	970	146

Please Note: Stages 3 and 5 rely on an applicant and / or their agent supplying the required information to complete. This is generally outside of the Housing Executive's control.

Table 2:

Grant Office	Council areas	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
		Recommendation received to Preliminary Inspection	Preliminary Inspection complete to issue of List of Grant Aided Works [LoGAW]	LoGAW issued to receipt of all required plans and documents from the grant applicant	Receipt of completed documents to issue of Approval to Start Work
Average number of calendar days					
Belfast & South East	Belfast City Ards & North Down, Lisburn & Castlereagh	32	30	378	14
Derry	Derry City & Strabane	31	12	141	17
North East	Antrim & Newtownabbey Mid & East Antrim Causeway Coast & Glens	25	19	307	24
South	Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Newry Mourne & Down	23	16	298	20
West	Fermanagh & Omagh Mid Ulster	33	9	185	13
Average number of calendar days		28	18	292	19

Please Note: Stage 3 relies on an applicant and / or their agent supplying the required information to complete. This is generally outside of the Housing Executive's control. “

For any future queries relating to operational matters, you may wish to contact the NIHE directly. Making direct contact with the ALB will ensure that you receive the information in the shortest possible timeframe and make best use of public resources.