



Department for
Communities

An Roinn
Pobal

Mánnystrie o
Communities

From: The Minister

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Our ref: AQW 19493 /22-27
Date: 13 January 2025

Andy Allen MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont

Dear Andy

AQW 19493/22-27 – INFORMATION TO BE PLACED IN THE ASSEMBLY LIBRARY

Due to the volume of detail required to answer AQW 19493 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 Housing Executive.

I have sought the requested information from the Chief Executive, who has advised me as follows:

“(i) The Housing Executive, as of March 2024, maintains approximately 1,484.29 hectares of land. The table below shows the total land maintained in each Local Government District (LGD) in Northern Ireland.

| <i>LGD</i> | <i>Housing Executive Maintained Land (Ha)</i> |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Antrim and Newtownabbey</i> | <i>191.53</i> |
| <i>Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon</i> | <i>169.74</i> |
| <i>Belfast</i> | <i>232.08</i> |
| <i>Causeway Coast and Glens</i> | <i>91.85</i> |
| <i>Derry and Strabane</i> | <i>170.62</i> |
| <i>Fermanagh and Omagh</i> | <i>84.86</i> |
| <i>Lisburn and Castlereagh</i> | <i>126.48</i> |
| <i>Mid and East Antrim</i> | <i>136.84</i> |
| <i>Mid Ulster</i> | <i>65.83</i> |
| <i>Newry Mourne and Down</i> | <i>106.61</i> |
| <i>North Down and Ards</i> | <i>107.85</i> |
| <i>Totals</i> | <i>1,484.29</i> |

**Source: GIS Unit Grounds Maintenance Maintained Land*

Of the 1,484.29 hectares of maintained land, 114.81 hectares are classified on the Undeveloped Land Schedule (ULS). ULS land has been assessed as having development potential for housing. This land currently comprises 103 sites which are located across Northern Ireland as follows:

| <i>Region</i> | <i>No. of ULS Sites</i> | <i>Total Site Area (Ha)</i> |
|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Belfast</i> | <i>18</i> | <i>22.57</i> |
| <i>North</i> | <i>51</i> | <i>63.63</i> |
| <i>South</i> | <i>34</i> | <i>28.61</i> |
| <i>Totals</i> | <i>103</i> | <i>114.81</i> |

The remainder of land in Housing Executive ownership is classified as Existing Open Space. Existing Open Space lands considered to have development potential, subject to planning restrictions i.e. Planning Policy Statement 8 (PPS8) being overcome, are known as EOS Yes.

The Housing Executive has classified 184.45 hectares of land as EOS Yes currently comprising of 298 sites which are located across Northern Ireland as follows:

| <i>Region</i> | <i>No. of EOS Yes Sites</i> | <i>Total Site Area (Ha)</i> |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Belfast</i> | <i>39</i> | <i>20.84</i> |
| <i>North</i> | <i>151</i> | <i>121.38</i> |
| <i>South</i> | <i>108</i> | <i>42.23</i> |
| <i>Totals</i> | <i>298</i> | <i>184.45</i> |

The remaining 1,185.03 hectares of Existing Open Space has been assessed by the Housing Executive to have no development potential and has therefore been classified as amenity lands, known as EOS No.

ii) The Housing Executive does not retain dates of when sites first became vacant.”

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