

Kellie Armstrong MLA
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw, Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Dear Kellie

AQW 31848/22-27

You recently submitted an Assembly Written Question AQW 31849/22-27, requesting the number of individuals his Department estimates work in services provided through the Supporting People programme, broken down by (i) Supporting People thematic area; and (ii) primary client group.

As outlined in my response, due to the large volume of detail required to provide an answer, I have arranged for this to be deposited in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely



Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities

Annex A

AQW 31848/22-27 - To ask the Minister for Communities to detail the number of individuals his Department estimates work in services provided through the Supporting People programme, broken down by (i) Supporting People thematic area; and (ii) primary client group.

This is an operational matter for NIHE.

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

‘Please see the table below, which provides the requested detail regarding employees working in services funded through the Supporting People (SP) Programme broken down by (i) Supporting People thematic area; and (ii) primary client group. ‘

Thematic Area	Primary Client Group	No. of Paid Managers (FTE)	No. of Paid Front-Line Staff (FTE)	Total Employees (FTE)
Disability and Mental Health		193.1	1,943.7	2,136.8
	<i>People with a Physical or Sensory Disability</i>	7.9	105.3	113.2
	<i>People with Learning Disabilities</i>	129.5	1,148.2	1,277.7
	<i>People with Mental Health Problems</i>	55.7	690.2	745.9
Homeless		91.2	680.7	771.9
	<i>Homeless Families with Support Needs</i>	27.5	96.3	123.8
	<i>Offenders or People at risk of Offending</i>	3.0	31.7	34.7
	<i>People with Alcohol Problems</i>	7.1	51.0	58.1
	<i>People with Drug Problems</i>	0.3	2.7	3.0
	<i>Single Homeless Crisis Accommodation Service</i>	6.1	11.4	17.5
	<i>Single Homeless with Support Needs</i>	26.1	345.6	371.7
	<i>Traveller</i>	3.0	27.2	30.2
	<i>Women at Risk of Domestic Violence</i>	17.9	114.8	132.8
Older People		144.4	664.7	809.1
	<i>Frail Elderly</i>	6.4	63.4	69.8
	<i>Older People with Mental Health Problems / Dementia</i>	12.1	172.7	184.8
	<i>Older people with support needs</i>	126.0	428.5	554.5
Young People		36.9	338.0	374.9
	<i>Young People</i>	36.9	338.0	374.9
Grand Total		465.6	3,627.1	4,092.7

'Supporting Notes:

- (1) Figures are based on employment information submitted by providers in their annual SP financial returns.*
- (2) Information is based on Full Time Equivalent (FTE) not individuals.*
- (3) Information is based on 23/24 financial returns from providers. 2024/25 provider financial returns are still being managed.*
- (4) Providers did not complete the requested employment information for a total of 103 SP funded services in 23/24 (circa 12% of the total number of services). Information therefore understates the total full-time equivalents.*
- (5) Special Needs Management Allowance (SNMA) services are excluded. SP do not request annual financial returns for SNMA provision.'*