



Department for

Communities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

From: The Minister

Level 9

Causeway Exchange

1-7 Bedford Street

Belfast

BT2 7EG

e-mail: private.office@communities-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: AQW 30092/22-27

Date: 30 December 2025

Patsy McGlone MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont

Dear Patsy

AQW 30092/22-27 – INFORMATION TO BE PLACED IN THE ASSEMBLY LIBRARY

Due to the volume of detail required to answer AQW 30092/22-27, the information attached at Annex A has been placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Lyons MLA

Minister for Communities

This is an operational matter for the Housing Executive. I have sought the requested information from the Chief Executive of the Housing Executive, and she has responded as follows.

“In relation to parts (i) and (ii) of this question, table 1 provides a breakdown of applicant households on the Social Housing Waiting List as at 30/06/2025 by Local Government District; and Housing Stress status and allocations to applicants over the 12 months to 30/06/25. The table should be viewed in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Table 1: No. of applicant households on the Social Housing Waiting List as at 30/06/2025, by Local Government District and Housing Stress status.

Local Government District	Housing Stress status		Total no. of applicant households on the WL	Allocations to Applicants
	Yes	No		
<i>Antrim & Newtownabbey</i>	2,739	742	3,481	512
<i>Ards & North Down</i>	2,465	839	3,304	485
<i>Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon</i>	2,795	1,358	4,153	388
<i>Belfast</i>	11,371	2,228	13,599	1,677
<i>Causeway Coast & Glens</i>	2,528	1,299	3,827	387
<i>Derry & Strabane</i>	5,056	1,309	6,365	761
<i>Fermanagh & Omagh</i>	1,638	698	2,336	230
<i>Lisburn & Castlereagh</i>	2,036	462	2,498	438
<i>Mid & East Antrim</i>	2,516	802	3,318	613

<i>Mid Ulster</i>	<i>1,588</i>	<i>738</i>	<i>2,326</i>	<i>281</i>
<i>Newry, Mourne & Down</i>	<i>3,207</i>	<i>715</i>	<i>3,922</i>	<i>401</i>
<i>N. Ireland Total</i>	<i>37,939</i>	<i>11,190</i>	<i>49,129</i>	<i>6,173</i>

In relation to question (iii) of the request, Table 2 below provides data on:

- a) the number of applicant households on the Social Housing Waiting List as at 30/06/2025 by Mean & Median Waiting Time (in months) and Mean & Median Points on the waiting list, and;*
- b) the number of allocations from the Social Housing Waiting List for a 5-year period from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2025 by Mean & Median Waiting Time (in months) and Mean & Median Points at the point of allocation, broken down by Local Government District. The table should be viewed in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

Table 2: No. of applicant households on the Social Housing Waiting List as at 30/06/2025 by Mean & Median Waiting Time (in months) and Mean & Median Points on the waiting list and No. of allocations from the Social Housing Waiting List for a 5-year period from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2025 by Mean & Median Waiting Time (in months) and Mean & Median Points at the point of allocation, broken down by Local Government District

Local Government District	Social Housing Waiting List as at 30/06/2025					Allocations from the Social Housing Waiting List for a 5-year period from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2025				
	No. of applicant households on the WL	Mean Waiting Time (in months) on the WL	Median Waiting Time (in months) on the WL	Mean Points on the WL	Median Points on the WL	No. of allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in months) at the point of allocation	Median Waiting Time (in months) at the point of allocation	Mean Points at the point of allocation	Median Points at the point of allocation
Antrim & Newtownabbey	3,481	46.7	29.0	87.0	100.0	2,544	26.8	16.0	144.3	140.0

<i>Ards & North Down</i>	3,304	50.1	30.0	83.4	100.0	2,606	23.9	13.0	161.2	152.0
<i>Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon</i>	4,153	44.4	28.0	66.8	70.0	2,270	26.7	16.0	124.5	132.0
<i>Belfast</i>	13,599	54.5	36.0	90.8	100.0	8,257	32.5	21.0	148.1	144.0
<i>Causeway Coast & Glens</i>	3,827	51.4	37.0	68.1	74.0	2,006	29.8	19.0	135.0	140.0
<i>Derry & Strabane</i>	6,365	53.0	35.0	97.6	110.0	3,649	33.4	22.0	167.4	170.0
<i>Fermanagh & Omagh</i>	2,336	43.1	27.0	76.0	80.0	1,167	25.1	16.0	134.3	144.0
<i>Lisburn & Castlereagh</i>	2,498	54.2	39.0	91.0	100.0	2,043	27.9	18.0	152.4	152.0
<i>Mid & East Antrim</i>	3,318	42.9	26.0	80.3	92.0	2,636	26.3	15.0	132.0	132.0
<i>Mid Ulster</i>	2,326	45.9	28.0	70.9	74.0	1,415	25.8	15.0	129.2	140.0

<i>Newry, Mourne & Down</i>	3,922	57.9	42.0	97.9	110.0	1,908	34.8	24.0	163.2	168.0
<i>N. Ireland Total</i>	49,129	49.5	30.0	82.7	100	30,501	28.5	16.0	144.7	144.0

Supporting Notes:

- *This response is based on the most recently published data from our Housing Management System (data up to 30/06/2025).*
- *Waiting List data is a snapshot of the Social Housing Waiting List as it was on the last day of the specified quarter, in this case 30/06/2025.*
- *Allocations are aggregated over a 5-year period from 01/07/2020 to 30/06/2025 and include allocations to both Housing Executive and housing association properties.*
- *Applicants in Housing Stress are those that have been placed on the Common Waiting List and have been assessed with 30 points or more.*
- *When a question of “average waiting times” or “average points” is asked, MEAN and MEDIAN averages are provided.*

Reasons for this include:

- *The MEAN (arithmetic average) is useful for understanding overall trends but can be heavily skewed by outliers (unusually high or low values) – for example, applicants who have been on the waiting list for a number of years or who have just joined the waiting list.*
- *The MEDIAN (middle value, a measure of central tendency) is less affected by outliers and represents a “typical” case better when the data is skewed.*

By presenting both, we ensure that the analysis captures both central tendency and the potential impact of unusually high or low values.

We also note that when the number of applicants is small, statistical indicators become less reliable and have a much lower predictive value regarding the “typical” experience. In such cases, the figures may be more indicative of the specific circumstances of the individual applicant households rather than a broader trend. Caution must be exercised when interpreting the results.

Section 13(1) of the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007 states that ‘the person producing any official statistics which are designated under section 12 as National Statistics must ensure that the Code of Practice for Statistics under section 10 continues to be complied with in relation to those statistics.’ Provision of the requested

figures before publication of the DfC Housing Bulletin in which the dataset from which they would be drawn is published would be a failure to comply with the Code in respect of parts T3.3 and T3.4. The figures beyond the period already covered by the latest Housing Bulletin (after 30/06/2025) are therefore currently exempt from disclosure under Section 44 of the Freedom of Information Act – disclosure prohibited by other legislation, pending publication of the next Housing Bulletin.”