



From: The Minister

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Our ref: AQW 30594/22-27
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Justin McNulty MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont

Dear Justin

AQW 30594/22-27 – INFORMATION TO BE PLACED IN THE ASSEMBLY LIBRARY

Due to the volume of detail required to answer AQW 30594/22-27, 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, who has advised me as follows:

“Table 1 provides a breakdown of waiting time in months of applicant households on the Social Housing Waiting List as at 30/06/2025 by Parliamentary Constituency. Table 2 provides data on allocations from the Social Housing Waiting List (WL) for a 5-Year Period from 01/07/20 - 30/06/25 by Parliamentary Constituency and Mean and Median Waiting Time in Months (Mths) at the Point of Allocation. The tables should be viewed in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Table 1: No. of Applicant Households on the Social Housing Waiting List (WL) as at 30/06/25 by Parliamentary Constituency & Mean and Median Waiting Time in Months (mths) on the List.

Parliamentary Constituency	No. of Applicants on the WL as at 30/06/25	Mean Waiting Time (in mths) on the WL as at 30/06/25	Median Waiting Time (in mths) on the WL as at 30/06/25
<i>Belfast East</i>	2121	51.0	36.0
<i>Belfast East/South</i>	496	52.5	26.0
<i>Belfast North</i>	4627	53.4	36.0
<i>Belfast South</i>	3493	53.2	35.0
<i>Belfast South/Strangford</i>	147	52.5	39.0
<i>Belfast West</i>	4371	58.2	38.0
<i>Belfast West/North</i>	181	43.6	22.0
<i>Belfast West/South</i>	27	74.0	46.0
<i>East Antrim</i>	2044	45.5	26.0
<i>East Londonderry</i>	2723	49.8	37.0
<i>Fermanagh South Tyrone</i>	2255	42.4	25.0
<i>Foyle</i>	5193	54.4	37.0
<i>Lagan Valley</i>	1969	53.3	38.0

<i>Mid Ulster</i>	1394	48.3	31.0
<i>Newry & Armagh</i>	2326	54.0	34.0
<i>North Antrim</i>	2695	46.7	32.0
<i>North Down</i>	1947	50.5	32.0
<i>South Antrim</i>	1992	44.3	29.0
<i>South Down</i>	2133	58.3	45.0
<i>Strangford</i>	1732	49.8	30.0
<i>Upper Bann</i>	3157	43.9	28.0
<i>West Tyrone</i>	2106	45.4	28.0
<i>N. Ireland</i>	49129	51.1	33.0

Table 2: Allocations from the Social Housing Waiting List (WL) for a 5-Year Period from 01/07/20 - 30/06/25 by Parliamentary Constituency and Mean and Median Waiting Time in Months (Mths) at the Point of Allocation

Parliamentary Constituency	No. of Allocations	Mean Waiting Time (in mths) at the Point of Allocation	Median Waiting Time (in mths) at the Point of Allocation
Belfast East	1882	26.1	16.0
Belfast East/South	222	28.2	15.0
Belfast North	3413	29.1	19.0
Belfast South	1466	31.0	19.0
Belfast South/Strangford	71	30.9	17.0
Belfast West	2432	40.5	28.0
Belfast West/North	101	25.0	16.0
Belfast West/South	50	48.0	38.0
East Antrim	1582	27.5	16.0
East Londonderry	1461	30.7	20.0
Fermanagh South Tyrone	1284	25.8	16.0
Foyle	2986	34.0	23.0

<i>Lagan Valley</i>	1612	28.0	18.0
<i>Mid Ulster</i>	763	24.5	14.0
<i>Newry & Armagh</i>	1375	34.6	23.0
<i>North Antrim</i>	1932	26.0	15.0
<i>North Down</i>	1311	25.8	14.0
<i>South Antrim</i>	1384	26.6	16.0
<i>South Down</i>	881	32.0	20.0
<i>Strangford</i>	1577	22.5	12.0
<i>Upper Bann</i>	1565	27.0	16.0
<i>West Tyrone</i>	1151	28.7	18.0
<i>N. Ireland</i>	30501	29.7	18.0

Notes:

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>

You will note we have recorded these CLAs separately to allow the reader to make a determination as to where to record them.

- *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.*
- *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.”*