

**From: The Minister**

**Sian Mulholland MLA  
Northern Ireland Assembly  
Parliament Buildings  
Ballymiscaw  
Stormont**

Dear Sian,

**AQW 44130/22-27– INFORMATION TO BE PLACED IN THE ASSEMBLY LIBRARY**

Due to the volume of detail required to answer AQW 44130/22-27, the information attached at Annex A has been placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely,



**Gordon Lyons MLA  
Minister for Communities**

## AQW 44130 22-27 – 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:

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Programmes	Initiatives	Engagements
<p><i>External Cyclical Maintenance (ECM) – The Housing Executive site at Acorn Grove is included in the ECM programme. The last ECM took place in November 2018. The next ECM is due in April 2029.</i></p>	<p><i>The Housing Executive is taking forward several workstreams regarding Irish Travellers. This includes an Irish Traveller Accommodation Needs assessment, Irish Traveller Serviced site management policy, development of an electronic system to record applications for serviced sites and development of a site identification process.</i></p>	<p><i>NIHE site inspections – The Housing Executive local office staff regularly visit operational sites at Ballyarnett, Derry, Acorn Grove, Craigavon, Legahory Close, Craigavon and An Tearnann, Coalisland to discuss any potential issues on each site with residents.</i></p>
<p><i>Redevelopment works – Following a strategic review of NIHE sites, redevelopment of two sites is underway at Legahory Close, Craigavon and Ballyarnett, Derry. Both schemes are going through the planning process at present.</i></p>	<p><i>Irish Traveller Accommodation Strategy – The Housing Executive is drafting the successor to the Irish Traveller Accommodation Strategy 21-26 and associated action plan. An extensive 12-week consultation will take place.</i></p>	<p><i>Irish Traveller Liaison Officer – The Housing Executive’s Irish Traveller Liaison Officer regularly visits NIHE owned sites to engage with residents. They also engage with Irish Travellers in settled accommodation and on Unauthorised Encampments as required.</i></p>
<p><i>Irish Traveller Accommodation Survey – The Housing Executive carries out a Survey every five years to assess current and preferred</i></p>	<p><i>All Island transitory research – The Housing Executive is joint funding research into transitory living the Irish</i></p>	<p><i>Health and Safety – Every quarter, the Housing Executive’s Health and Safety Manager and the Irish Traveller Liaison Officer inspect all</i></p>

<p><i>accommodation within the Irish Traveller community. An independent research company is procured to carry out the fieldwork. Work is underway on the 2026 Survey.</i></p>	<p><i>Housing Agency. The tender has been advertised.</i></p>	<p><i>NIHE owned sites to ensure there are no Health and Safety issues. Any issues identified are issued to local offices for action.</i></p>
	<p><i>Community Planning Partnerships – The Housing Executive has been presenting to each Community Planning Partnership to raise awareness for NIHE services and call for sites for Irish Traveller use.</i></p>	<p><i>Irish Traveller Accommodation Survey – As part of the consultation for the Irish Traveller Accommodation Survey, NIHE staff engaged with site residents on Ballyarnett, Derry, Acorn Grove, Craigavon, Legahory Close, Craigavon and An Tearmann, Coalisland. NIHE staff also attended Derry Travellers Group to discuss the survey. NIHE engaged with Omagh Traveller Group for feedback also.</i></p>
		<p><i>NIHE worked collaboratively with Toybox Early Years to deliver a play area for residents at Acorn Grove. Residents on site were consulted as part of this work.</i></p>
		<p><i>An Tearmann – NIHE have been engaging with residents on An Tearmann, Coalisland around ongoing maintenance and improvement works on the site.</i></p>

		<i>Meetings and Fora – NIHE staff attend TEO’s Traveller Thematic Group in addition to PHA Regional Traveller Action Groups. This provides an opportunity to engage with partners to discuss and address issues in relation to Irish Travellers.</i>
		<i>Belfast Traveller Network Traveller Awareness Event on 10th March, which was attended by the Housing Equality Team, Irish Travellers Policy Unit (ITPU), and Housing Solutions. This event involved discussing barriers facing Irish Traveller communities via an open panel discussion, interactive stands and a cultural heritage display delivered by Meath Travellers.</i>
<i>The Supporting People (SP) Programme, administered by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive on behalf of the Department for Communities, provides grant funding towards the provision of housing-related support services to enable vulnerable individuals to live independently in the community. SP</i>		

<p><i>funded provision includes 31 units of Traveller specific Floating Support, providing advice, support and guidance to help Travellers secure appropriate accommodation, sustain tenancies, and live independently.</i></p>		
		<p><i>The Housing Executive also engages with a number of statutory and voluntary sector organisations on a quarterly basis in the delivery of our Domestic Abuse Action Plan. This engagement includes the Traveller Project Co-ordinator from Community Restorative Justice Ireland.”</i></p>