

From: The Minister

Date: 12 October 2026

Cheryl Brownlee MLA
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont

Dear Cheryl,

AQW 52196/22-27– INFORMATION TO BE PLACED IN THE ASSEMBLY LIBRARY

Due to the volume of detail required to answer AQW 52196/22-27, the information attached at Annex A has been placed in the Assembly Library.

Yours sincerely,



**Gordon Lyons MLA
Minister for Communities**

This issue is an operational matter for the Housing Executive, they have advised me as follows:

“The table below provides data on the number of allocations to applicant households on the Social Housing Waiting List for a 1-year period from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026 in the following geographies:

- *Carrickfergus Town Group Housing Need Assessment (HNA) Area*
- *Larne Town Group Housing Need Assessment (HNA) Area*
- *Whitehead Housing Need Assessment (HNA) Area*
- *Greenisland Housing Need Assessment (HNA) Area*
- *Islandmagee Housing Need Assessment (HNA) Area*
- *Ballycarry Housing Need Assessment (HNA) Area*

by Mean & Median Waiting Time on the Waiting List (in months) and Mean & Median Points at the point of allocation, broken down by dwelling type. The table should be viewed in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

<i>No. of allocations to applicant households on the Social Housing Waiting List for a 1-year period from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026, narrowed down to requested geographies (Group HNA & HNA level), by Mean & Median Waiting Time (in months) and Mean & Median Points at the point of allocation</i>						
<i>Group HNA / HNA / Geography</i>	<i>Dwelling Type</i>	<i>No. of allocations</i>	<i>Mean Waiting Time (in months) at the point of allocation</i>	<i>Median Waiting Time (in months) at the point of allocation</i>	<i>Mean Points at the point of allocation</i>	<i>Median Points at the point of allocation</i>
	<i>Bungalow</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>35.7</i>	<i>23.0</i>	<i>146.8</i>	<i>140.0</i>

No. of allocations to applicant households on the Social Housing Waiting List for a 1-year period from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026, narrowed down to requested geographies (Group HNA & HNA level), by Mean & Median Waiting Time (in months) and Mean & Median Points at the point of allocation						
Group HNA / HNA / Geography	Dwelling Type	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
Carrickfergus Town Group HNA Area	<i>House</i>	64	49.6	33.5	161.8	160.0
	<i>Ground Floor Flat</i>	26	30.7	15.5	128.5	133.0
	<i>Upper Floor Flat</i>	28	28.8	18.0	129.9	140.0
	<i>Maisonette</i>	<10	x	x	x	x
	<i>Sheltered Accommodation</i>	16	22.9	10.0	117.3	110.0
Larne Town Group HNA Area	<i>Bungalow</i>	<10	x	x	156.4	132.0
	<i>House</i>	12	22.5	12.0	163.2	160.0
	<i>Ground Floor Flat</i>	14	29.6	27.5	134.9	145.0
	<i>Upper Floor Flat</i>	19	20.6	9.0	115.6	130.0
	<i>Sheltered Accommodation</i>	<10	x	x	136.3	134.0
Whitehead HNA Area	<i>Bungalow</i>	<10	38.3	19.0	119.3	120.0
	<i>House</i>	<10	x	x	172.7	168.0

No. of allocations to applicant households on the Social Housing Waiting List for a 1-year period from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026, narrowed down to requested geographies (Group HNA & HNA level), by Mean & Median Waiting Time (in months) and Mean & Median Points at the point of allocation						
Group HNA / HNA / Geography	Dwelling Type	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
	Ground Floor Flat	<10	x	x	x	x
	Upper Floor Flat	<10	x	x	136.0	136.0
	Sheltered Accommodation	<10	x	x	119.5	117.5
Greenisland HNA Area	House	<10	x	x	160.0	160.0
	Ground Floor Flat	<10	x	x	138.8	140.0
	Upper Floor Flat	10	16.5	17.0	129.4	131.0
	Sheltered Accommodation	<10	x	x	x	x
Islandmagee HNA Area	Bungalow	<10	x	x	x	x
	House	<10	x	x	x	x
Ballycarry HNA Area	-	0	-	-	-	-
N. Ireland Total	All dwelling types	5,934	37.4	24.0	145.5	148.0

Notes:

- *This response is based on the most recently published data from the Housing Management System (up to 30/06/2026).*
- *Allocations are aggregated over a 1-year period from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026 and include allocations to 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.

- *Where the number of allocations is less than 10, the figure has been shown as <10 in accordance with Data Protection and UK GDPR requirements.*

- *Further in the interest of Data Protection, we have had to remove points/waiting time data for some categories where there was only one allocation or less than 10 allocations and where the value was substantially different (we used a deviation of 20%) from the overall N. Ireland mean average.*

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 30/06/2026) are therefore currently exempt from disclosure, pending publication of the next Housing Bulletin.”