

# Topical Digest

## Homelessness in Northern Ireland

Third Edition

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Research and  
Information  
Service



# Topical Digest

## Homelessness in Northern Ireland

26 November 2024

**Homelessness Awareness Week in Northern Ireland is taking place between Monday 2 to Sunday 8 December 2024. This topical digest looks at homelessness in Northern Ireland and brings together a snapshot of some of the most recent strategies, reports, statistics and articles on this complex and cross-cutting issue.**

**Should MLAs or their constituency staff require any assistance in accessing the material listed in this digest they can contact the Library via the enquiry desk, or by email or telephone: [library@niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:library@niassembly.gov.uk) | 028 90 521250.**

## 1 Homelessness Awareness Week Northern Ireland

- Homeless Connect, [Homelessness Awareness Week Programme 2024](#)
- Homeless Connect, Homelessness Awareness Week, [Events](#)
- [All Party Group on Youth Participation evidence session on youth homelessness](#) (5 December 2024). See also the work of the [All Party Group on Homelessness](#)

## 2 Strategies, action plans and programmes

### Departmental

- Housing Executive, Ending Homelessness Together Action Plans for [Year One](#), [Year Two](#) and [Year Three](#) and [Year One Progress Report](#) (2023)
- Housing Executive, [Sanctuary Scheme Review](#) (January 2023)
- Housing Executive, [Ending Homelessness Together: Homelessness Strategy 2022-27](#) (2022)
- Housing Executive, [Strategic Action Plan for Temporary Accommodation 2022–2027](#) (November 2022)
- Department for Communities, [Interdepartmental Homelessness Action Plan: Year Four Report](#) (2024)
- Department for Communities, [Interdepartmental Homelessness Action Plan: Year Four](#) (2023)
- Department for Communities, [The Supporting People Policy Framework Northern Ireland](#) (September 2023)
- Department of Health, [Strategic Framework to Tackle the Harm from Substance Use 2021–31](#) (September 2021)
- Department for Communities, [Supporting People Programme](#)
- Department for Communities, [Poverty Policy](#)

### Other

- Simon Community, [Doing Things Differently: Simon Community's Strategy 2024-2029](#) (March 2024)
- Oak Foundation, [Providing housing solutions in Northern Ireland](#) (June 2023)
- The Community Foundation Northern Ireland, [Community Solutions to Housing & Homelessness](#) (Accessed 20 November 2024)

### 3 Research reports

- Simon Community, [Simon Community Submission to the Draft Programme for Government Consultation 24-27](#) (November 2024)
- Housing Rights, [Briefing paper on Northern Ireland Assembly recall Thursday 8th August](#) (August 2024)
- Chartered Institute of Housing, [CIH Northern Ireland's agenda for change: Tackling the housing and homelessness crisis](#) (August 2024)
- Simon Communities of Ireland & Simon Community, [Under the Radar: Unveiling Hidden Homelessness Across the Island of Ireland](#) (May 2024)
- Simon Community, [Access to healthcare for women experiencing homelessness](#) (March 2024)
- Northern Ireland Audit Office, [Work in Progress – Homelessness](#) (November 2023)
- Eileen Mitchell, Dermot O'Reilly, Diarmuid O'Donovan, Declan Bradley, [Predictors and Consequences of Homelessness: Protocol for a Cohort Study Design Using Linked Routine Data](#) JMIR Research Protocols (July 2023)
- Housing Rights, [Putting the US into hoUSing](#) (June 2023)
- NICCY/QUB Centre for Children's Rights, [A Place to Call Home: A rights-based approach to understanding the lived experience of children and families facing homelessness or housing insecurity](#) (February 2023)
- Simon Community/DePaul, [Mental health and homelessness](#) (January 2023)
- Homeless Connect, [Staffing Challenges within the Northern Ireland Homelessness Sector](#) (September 2022)
- Focus Ireland, [From Rebuilding Ireland to Housing for All: International and Irish lessons for tackling homelessness](#) (September 2022)
- NICCY/QUB, [Scoping Paper to consider Children and Young People affected by Homelessness or Housing Insecurity in Northern Ireland](#) (April 2022)
- Housing Executive, [Evaluation of the Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2017 – 2022 Ending Homelessness Together](#) (April 2022)
- Northern Ireland Youth Forum, [kNowhere to Go?: a peer approach to preventing homelessness in Northern Ireland](#) (February 2022)
- Simon Community/Ulster University, ['Hidden' Homelessness in Northern Ireland](#) (2021)
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive, [Research publications on homelessness](#) (Accessed 18 November 2024)
- ADR UK, [Understanding the predictors and consequences of homelessness in Northern Ireland](#) (Accessed 18 November 2024)



## 4 Statistical sources

- NISRA/Housing Executive/Department for Communities, [Northern Ireland Housing Bulletin, July-September 2024](#) (November 2024)
- NISRA/Department for Communities/Housing Executive, [Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin October 2023-March 2024](#) (June 2024), next edition due for release on 12 December 2024.
- NISRA/Department for Communities, [The Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2023-2024](#) (June 2024), next edition due for release in autumn 2025.

## 5 Selection of departmental news releases

- Department for Communities, [Lyons pays tribute to frontline housing staff following hate crime incidents](#) (15 August 2024)
- Department for Communities, [Minister announces new funding offer to deliver affordable homes for rent](#) (14 May 2024)
- Department for Communities, [Minister outlines vision for housing ahead of opening new £100m development](#) (20 March 2024)
- Department for Communities, [Minister announces a further £3m for Supporting People programme](#) (6 March 2024)
- Department for Communities, [New housing policy to deliver more affordable rented homes](#) (30 March 2023)

## 6 Selection of media and other articles

- ['Record-breaking' emergency housing demand over weekend](#), BBC News, 25 November 2024.
- [Rise in homelessness 'deeply concerning' says charity](#), Belfast Telegraph, 22 November 2024.
- [Housing Executive annual taxi bill to transport homeless skyrockets to over £260k](#), Belfast Telegraph, 18 November 2024.
- [Mobile health clinic bringing vital services to Northern Ireland homeless community](#), Belfast Live, 13 November 2024.
- [Northern Ireland charity appeals for help as 5,000 children homeless this Christmas](#), Belfast Live, 11 November 2024.
- [Huge increase in NI homelessness over the last decade is laid bare by new figures](#), Belfast Telegraph, 4 November 2024.
- [Homeless people encouraged to vote to bring 'real, solid change' on housing](#), Belfast Telegraph, 30 October 2024.

- [Housing homeless people in glamping pods branded 'desperate'](#), BBC News, 24 October 2024.
- [Belfast feeding station for homeless appealing for supplies as weather turns](#), Belfast Live, 12 October 2024.
- [Nowhere to Call Home](#), BBC Spotlight, 9 October 2024.
- ['We're kids, we're not ready to be on the streets'](#), BBC News, 8 October 2024.
- [Big Sleepout at Stormont to show that 'homelessness unacceptable'](#), Belfast Telegraph, 19 September 2024.
- [Housing sector welcomes Northern Ireland draft programme for government as 'starting point'](#), Housing Today, 11 September 2024.
- [NI's approach to homelessness must change before it becomes 'unfixable', warns charity boss](#), Belfast Telegraph, 9 September 2024.
- [Housing crisis: 'Bleak picture' as 50 households a day presenting as homeless across NI](#), Belfast Live, 22 August 2024.
- [NI Housing Executive chief 'fully expects' more homeless on streets and further risk of deaths](#), Belfast Telegraph, 2 August 2024.
- [Executive seeks more money as homelessness rises](#), BBC News, 2 August 2024.
- [Homeless sector organisation 'stands in solidarity' with Welcome Organisation after graffiti threats](#), Belfast Telegraph, 26 July 2024.
- [Threatening graffiti appears near homeless charity](#), BBC News, 24 July 2024.
- [80,000 people now homeless in Northern Ireland, say Simon Community in 'shocking' new findings](#), View Digital, 12 June 2024.
- [Temporary accommodation provision dominating homelessness budget](#), Agenda NI, April 2024.
- [£20m bill to put up NI's homeless in hotels and B&Bs 'highlights need for more social housing'](#), Belfast Live, 3 March 2024.

## 7 Useful Links

Assembly Questions on the topic of homelessness can be accessed via [this link](#), or by navigating to the AIMS Portal on the Assembly website.

- [All Party Group on Homelessness](#)
- [Department for Communities - Supporting people and homelessness](#)
- [DePaul – Housing First Belfast](#)
- [East Belfast Mission](#)
- [Extern](#)
- [Homeless Connect](#)
- [Homeless Connect Members Directory](#)
- [Housing Rights advice on homelessness](#)
- [MACS](#)

- [NI Direct pages on homelessness](#)
- [Salvation Army](#)
- [Shelter NI – Quarterly Newsletter](#)
- [Simon Community](#)
- [Welcome Organisation](#)
- [Women’s Aid Federation NI](#)

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