

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Grainia Long

2 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8PB

chiefexecutive@nihe.gov.uk

028 9598 2724

nihe.gov.uk

Dear Councillor,

Update on Belfast City Centre Waiting List

I am writing to update you on the development of the Belfast City Centre Waiting List for social housing. You will be aware that this is a topic which we have discussed with elected members on a number of occasions. It entails creating a new Common Landlord Area under the Housing Selection Scheme. Importantly, given the priority attached to this issue in 'Belfast Agenda', it allows households to express an interest in social housing in the city centre.

The development of the waiting list for the city centre is an important step in increasing housing supply and addressing housing need, and is a key delivery lever for the housing ambitions set out in 'Belfast Agenda'. It will contribute to the regeneration of the city and, as the establishment of this waiting list will draw on a wide and diverse range of households, will help promote balanced and sustainable residential communities in the city centre. All of these are key aspects of 'Belfast Agenda' and the Local Development Plan.

I am pleased to say that, with new social housing being completed in the city centre later this year, we are now in a position to implement the Belfast City Centre Waiting List.

Commissioned by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, and funded by the NIHE and the Department for Communities, Clanmil Housing Association is developing 81 new social housing apartments at Dargan House, Loftlines, in the Titanic area. These are part of a larger mixed tenure development and will include 1, 2, and 3-bedroom homes, as well as 8 specially designed wheelchair-accessible 2-bedroom units. This development has been identified as a potential 'Housing for All' Shared Housing Development and is expected to complete by late 2025.

During the week beginning 7th July 2025 we will write to all households who have expressed an interest in living within the Belfast area on their application for social housing, to make them aware that the new apartments are due to be allocated before the end of the year. In the letter we will ask those households who are interested in living within the new Belfast City Centre Common Landlord Area to get in touch with us by the 31 August 2025 to update their preferences. This is similar to an exercise we undertook in March 2020, when all applicants and transfers on the waiting list across the Belfast City Council area were invited to register their interest in city centre living. Following this exercise, 862 households joined a 'virtual city centre list'.

Housing For All

In the letter we will also make households aware that the Dargan House, Loftlines development has been identified as a potential 'Housing for All' Shared Housing Development.

The 'Housing for All' Shared Housing Programme has its origins in the NI Executive 'Together: Building a United Community Strategy' which reflects the Executive's commitment to improving community relations and continuing the journey towards a more united and shared society. Good Relations Support will be invested not just in this new development but in surrounding communities through a Good Relations Plan.

Applicants who decide to accept an offer of a home within a Shared Housing development must sign and comply with a 'Shared Housing Good Neighbour Agreement'.

Further information

If you or any of your constituents have queries about the Dargan House, Loftlines development or the Shared Housing Good Neighbour Agreement, please contact Clanmil Housing Association directly.

People who have any questions about their housing application should get in touch with their Housing Advisor in the Housing Executive or their Housing Association if they are currently a Housing Association tenant with a transfer application.

We have also put together a FAQs section on our website which can be accessed through this link Belfast City Centre CLA FAQs

Given the scale of housing need across Belfast, I am delighted that progress is being made in the development of much needed social homes in the city centre, and the development of the Belfast City Centre Waiting List is an important milestone in our partnership to deliver on the ambitions as set out in 'Belfast Agenda'.

Yours sincerely,

Grainia Long
Chief Executive

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Belfast City Centre Common Landlord Area (CLA)

