

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

10 February 2026

MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 10th February, 2026 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

2. Deputation - Bryson Recycling

3. Restricted

- (a) St. Patrick's Day 2026 - Off-Street Car Parking (Pages 1 - 4)
- (b) HMO Review of Licence Scheme Changes - Update (Pages 5 - 14)
- (c) Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group (Pages 15 - 22)
- (d) Resources and Fleet - Christmas Collections 2025 (Pages 23 - 30)
- (e) Lagan Valley Regional Park - Update (Pages 31 - 38)

4. **Matters referred back from the Council/Motions**

- (a) Provision of Sustainable Burial Options (Pages 39 - 46)
- (b) Notices of Motion - Update (Pages 47 - 58)

5. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Resources and Fleet - Update (Pages 59 - 68)
- (b) Requests for the Use of Parks Events 2026 (Pages 69 - 74)
- (c) Net Zero Neighbourhood: A Community Climate Action Plan for Improving Lives – Partnership Agreement (Pages 75 - 106)
- (d) Social Supermarket Fund 2026/28 (Pages 107 - 108)
- (e) DfC - Consultation on 'Notice to Quit' proposals re: private rented sector (Pages 109 - 306)
- (f) Proposals for Dual Language Street Signs (Pages 307 - 310)

6. **Item Raised in Advance**

- (a) Irish Football Association - Grounds' Criteria (Councillor R. Brooks to raise)

Agenda Item 3a

By virtue of paragraph(s) 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Agenda Item 3b

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3, 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Agenda Item 3c

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of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Agenda Item 3d

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Agenda Item 3e

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Provision of Sustainable Burial Options
Date:	10 February 2026
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officer:	Seamus McBride, City Protection Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? <input type="checkbox"/> After Committee Decision <input type="checkbox"/> After Council Decision <input type="checkbox"/> Some time in the future <input type="checkbox"/> Never	

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion received at the meeting of the Council on 1st December 2025 in relation to Provision of Sustainable Burial Options.
1.2	This paper provides background information and an update regarding the Notice of Motion.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note and agree this report in response to the Notice of Motion. It is recommended that the inclusion of sustainable burial alternatives, such as natural burial areas or woodland internment spaces, will be considered within the design and planning of any new cemetery land.

3.0	Main report
3.1	A Notice of Motion was initially received at the Standards and Business Committee meeting of 20 November 2025 in relation to Provision of Sustainable Burial Options. Following the Council meeting of 01 December 2025, it was referred to the People and Communities Committee, and an initial report was presented to the Committee at its meeting of 02 December 2025.
3.2	Subsequently, a report was presented to the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group on 14 th January 2026, and, after discussion, the Working Group recommended that the Motion was referred to the People and Communities Committee.
3.3	<p>The motion calls upon the Council to explore the feasibility of providing sustainable burial options within existing or new cemeteries:</p> <p>"That this Council recognises the significant environmental impact of traditional burial and cremation practices, including high carbon emissions, chemical pollution, and long-term land use challenges, as highlighted in the All-Party Group on Climate Action's briefing paper "Beyond Burial and Cremation".</p> <p>This Council further acknowledges the growing public interest in more sustainable, dignified, and low-carbon alternatives to conventional practices – such as natural (green) burials, tree pod interment, and other emerging end-of life methods.</p> <p>Natural burial, which involves the use of biodegradable materials, avoids embalming, and often takes place in woodland or meadow settings with minimal ongoing maintenance, has already been successfully implemented elsewhere as a simple and ecologically restorative option.</p> <p>Accordingly, this Council agrees to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore the feasibility of providing sustainable burial options within existing or new cemeteries, including the designation of natural burial grounds or woodland burial areas within our district; and 2. Provide an update report on any identified legislative, planning, infrastructural, or regulatory barriers that may impact the delivery of these sustainable end-of-life options locally. " <p>Proposer: Councillor Hedley Abernethy Seconder: Councillor Tara Brooks</p>
3.4	The Committee is reminded that a report was presented to the Parks and Leisure Committee on 11 November 2010 (attached in Appendix 1). The report recommended that further investigations regarding the feasibility of providing a natural burial ground at Roselawn should take place, and that engineering and feasibility studies consultancy support would be required.

3.5	Subsequently, a Hydrogeological Survey was undertaken in 2014, but further substantial work did not proceed due to consideration of the proposed new crematorium, as the footprint of the potential new building is adjacent to the identified site for natural burials.
3.6	There is thus, currently, no provision for natural or green burials within cemeteries managed by the City Council. The Committee will be aware that the Council is actively engaged in reviewing potential land acquisition options for the development of a new cemetery.
3.7	As part of this process, the inclusion of sustainable burial alternatives, such as natural burial areas or woodland internment spaces, will be considered within the design and planning of any new site. The feasibility of incorporating such options will be subject to compliance with all relevant statutory and regulatory requirements, including planning, environmental and public health legislation.
3.8	The City Council's cemeteries operate under the Burial Grounds Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992, which remains the principal legislation governing burials. The development of sustainable burial options, such as natural or woodland burials grounds, is subject to a range of statutory planning requirements including detailed assessments of land use, ground conditions, drainage and potential environmental impacts to ensure suitability and long-term sustainability. This ensures that both environmental protections and public health safeguards will be maintained throughout the planning and operational processes.
3.9	Any decision to provide natural burial facilities will also involve engagement with local communities, potentially through a public consultation process, to assess levels of public interest and support for these environmentally conscious alternatives.
3.10	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> While the potential acquisition of land for the development of a new cemetery, and any associated plans for the inclusion of sustainable natural burial alternatives will have significant financial and resource implications, at this time, there are no specific, immediate financial and resource implications associated with this report.
3.11	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices
4.1	Report to Parks and Leisure Committee, 'Natural Burials', 11 November 2010

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Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Natural Burials
Date:	11 November 2010
Reporting Officer: Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure	
Contact Officer: Claire Sullivan, Policy and Business Development Officer	

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to:

- (i) provide Members with information on natural burials;
- (ii) seek the Committee's approval to further investigate natural burials at Roselawn and develop a feasibility study; and
- (iii) seek the Committee's approval to procure technical engineering and feasibility study consultancy support.

Relevant Background Information

Members will be aware that the Cemeteries Working Group on 9th August 2010 recommended that further work was undertaken to investigate the possibility of a natural (woodland) burial site and that this was agreed at the Parks and Leisure Committee on 16 September 2010.

Members will be aware that a member of the public has recently sent a letter to Councillors asking that the Council consider providing the option of natural burials (also known as woodland burials) and that the Council's decision to agree to investigate the possibility of a natural burial site has received media coverage. The Council has also received emails of support for the provision of natural burials from The Woodland Trust and Friends of Earth Northern Ireland.

Natural burial is when the body of the deceased is returned to the earth to recycle naturally in an environmentally sustainable way. The first natural burial site opened in the UK in 1993 and there are now over 250 around the UK, although there are currently none in Northern Ireland. There is a Natural Death Centre which established the Association of Natural Burial Grounds in 1994. The Association has a code of conduct for members including requirements around flora and fauna conservation, the use of biodegradable coffins and financial matters.

In a natural burial area graves are usually dug to a single depth and the body (preferably not embalmed) is buried in a bio-degradable coffin. Following an

interment, the ground would be allowed to settle and would then be grassed over and a small native species tree planted in it. The area would over time become a woodland, under planted with wild flowers and would be managed for the benefit of wildlife. The area would not have the appearance of a traditional cemetery although irregular winding paths are included to allow for visitor access. Graves are marked with a wooden marker and no other form of marker or memorial would be allowed. Fresh cuts flowers would be accepted but without any wrappings or ribbons nor as an arrangement in a container.

Key Issues

Development of natural burial ground at Roselawn

One of the options open to the Council is to develop a natural burial ground within the site at Roselawn. Roselawn Cemetery is the largest (268 acres) and busiest cemetery in Northern Ireland, carrying out 840 burials in 2009. The Council purchased an additional 10 acres in the 1980s and more recently a further 28 acres. This land is collectively called Section Y and plans are currently being drawn up to develop this as new burial ground.

Within this area provision could be made for a natural burial ground which is currently pasture/meadow green fields with mature trees and hedgerows. Tests could be carried out to determine if there is a particular area that is unsuitable for 'traditional' burial but could be used for a single depth natural burial thus maximising the use of this new land.

To comply with the Department of the Environment legislation, the ground that is selected at Roselawn Cemetery for a natural burial ground must not be located within certain distances of specific types of water; these are

- at least 10 metres from any 'dry' ditch or field drain
- at least 30 metres from any spring or any running or standing water
- at least 50 metres from any well, borehole or spring that supplies water for use.

The Council currently operate a woodland copse at the Roselawn site for cremated remains. This is an area of birch trees underplanted with naturalising bulbs such as bluebells and wood anemones which has been planned to specifically create a traditional woodland environment and to encourage fauna and wildlife. Chemical weed control is not used and in order to keep this area as natural as possible no floral tributes, plaques or any form of memorialisation can be left in the woodland copse. Cremated remains may be buried (poured into the ground or buried in a biodegradable urn) or scattered in the woodland copse. This area has been in operation since 1993 and to date 157 cremated remains have been laid to rest in this area.

Use of a private provider

In the period since the issue of natural burials was brought to the Cemeteries Working Group (August 2010), a natural burial ground has been opened in Co Wexford by The Green Graveyard Company Limited. This company is based in Co Donegal and it is currently exploring options to open a natural burial ground in Northern Ireland. The owner has expressed an interest in operating a natural burial ground on behalf of the council although no formal discussions have taken

place. If the Council were to pursue this option it would only be workable at a new site which was used exclusively for natural burials.

Next steps

It is recommended that the next step in this process is a feasibility study which will investigate the options of providing a natural burial ground at the Roselawn site. Due to the specialised nature of this topic it is recommended that the Council become a provisional member of the Association of Natural Burial Grounds to avail of their knowledge and experience. It may also be necessary to commission external support for the feasibility study and officers will endeavour to keep this to the minimum level.

It is proposed that the feasibility study will examine a range of issues related to natural burials including:

Demand for Natural Burials

Work needs to be undertaken to assess the potential demand for natural burial in Belfast. The Natural Death Centre estimate that 4% of all burials in Great Britain are natural burials and that there is a 30% growth per annum.

Impact on other provision

We will be required to assess the potential impact that providing the option of a natural burial will have on our traditional burial service and cremation and the implications that providing single use graves will have on our future burial land requirements.

Location of Natural Burial Ground

Further boreholes tests need to be undertaken within the Roselawn site to determine the rock profile and soil conditions. This will allow us to identify areas that are not suitable for traditional burials but in which we could bury one body thus maximising the use of land. Technical engineering support will be required for this element.

Costs and charges

An initial search via the internet of the charges for natural burial grounds elsewhere show that these range from £450 for a single plot to £5000 for a double plot. All of the sites looked at had an additional charge for grave digging. The charges for the new natural burial ground in Co Wexford range from €715.05 for a single plot to €2497 for a family plot. We do not currently have any information on the costs of providing natural burials and further work needs to be carried out to determine these costs and what the Council should charge for this service.

Size of plots

Another issue that needs to be considered as part of the development of the feasibility study is whether the council wishes to provide single, double or larger plots. The practice elsewhere varies with some sites providing only single plots while others also provide the option of a double plot. Initial investigations would suggest that the natural burial ground in Co Wexford is the only site to provide plots for 3 and 4 people.

Terms and conditions

As part of the development of a feasibility study Page 45 terms and conditions will be

drawn up, these will include conditions relating to what is permissible on graves and the types of coffins that we will allow for this type of burial. These will be based on guidance from the Association of Natural Burial Grounds and best practice from other natural burial grounds.

Other issues may arise through the process and these will be addressed in the feasibility study.

Resource Implications

Financial

Technical engineering support - it is estimated this will be in the region of £20,000.

Feasibility study support - it is estimated that this will be in the region of £10,000 and will include the £75 membership fee for the Association of Natural Burial Grounds.

Human Resources

The feasibility study will be met through existing resources.

Asset and Other Implications

N/A

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- (i) agree that council officers further investigate the feasibility of providing a natural burial ground at Roselawn and produce a feasibility study; and
- (ii) agree that council officers procure technical engineering and feasibility study consultancy support as required.

Decision Tracking

A detailed feasibility study for the provision of natural burials at Roselawn will be brought to Committee in March 2011 by the Policy and Business Officer.



Subject:	Notices of Motion Update – February 2026
Date:	10 th February 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales - Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Vivienne Roach - Executive Support Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input type="text"/></p> <p>1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</p>	
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <p>After Committee Decision <input type="checkbox"/> After Council Decision <input type="checkbox"/> Sometime in the future <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/></p>	

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues	
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance allocated to the People and Communities Committee.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>It is recommended that People and Communities Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the updates to all Notices of Motion / Issues Raised in Advance that People and Communities Committee is responsible for as referenced in Appendix 1; and • Agree to the closure of 17 Notices of Motion / Issues Raised in Advance, as referenced in Appendix 1 and noted in paragraph 3.5 below.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>Members will recall that the previous Notices of Motion update was presented to People and Communities Committee in August 2025.</p>
3.2	<p>This report provides an overview of the progress on those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which remained open following the February 2025 update, and those Motions and Issues which have since arisen.</p>
3.3	<p>Notice of Motion Updates</p> <p>There are currently 54 active Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which the People and Communities Committee is responsible for. An update on those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which remain active on the live database is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>Closure of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance</p> <p>At SP&R Committee on 20th November 2020, it was agreed that Notices of Motion could be closed for one of two reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1 - Notices of Motion which contained an action that has been completed. All Notices of Motion within this category contained a specific task that has since been complete. It is worth noting that, when Committee agree to action a Notice of Motion, there are sometimes additional actions agreed alongside the Notice of Motion. As these are not technically part of the Notice of Motion, they are taken forward through normal committee decision making processes. The Notice of Motion can therefore be closed, but additional actions related to it will continue to be progressed and reported to the committee. These additional actions are not contained in this report but will be noted in the live database moving forward. • Category 2 - Notices of Motion have become Council policy or absorbed in to a strategic programme of work. These Notices of Motion did not contain a specific task that could be complete. Instead, they were more strategic in nature and required changes in Council policy and/ or strategy for long term outcomes. Those listed within this category have all been agreed by Committee and are now either Council policy or are currently being implemented through a Council strategy that is managed by a Standing Committee through the corporate planning process. <p>Following an update of those Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance on the live database, it is recommended that Members approve the following Motions/Issues for closure.</p>

3.4

Category 1 Recommended Closures:

Dilapidated Buildings (Ref: 379) Cllr Brooks

At the request of Councillor R. Brooks, the Committee agreed to write to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) urgently seeking the Minister to bring forward a Dilapidation Bill.

At the request of Councillor de Faoite it was agreed to also write to the Department of Finance and Department for Communities seeking the allocation of a package of funding to address derelict building in the city.

It was further agreed that officers would submit a report to a future meeting detailing the number of derelict buildings on arterial routes throughout the city.

A Committee report taken to P&C Committee in April 2025, detailing the work done to identify the derelict properties that currently existing on arterial routes and to outline proposed approach to tackle these properties.

This Issue can now be closed.

Provision of toilet facilities at Falls Park (Ref 387) Cllr Donnelly

At the request of Councillor M. Donnelly, the Committee agreed to assess if the bowling pavilion at Falls Park could be made accessible for the use of its toilet facilities for users of Falls Park.

At the request of further Members, the Committee also agreed to submit a report to a future meeting considering the provision of toilet facilities at other parks throughout the city, to include Woodvale Park and at Shaws Bridge.

Councillors engaged in August 2025 and measures are currently in place in Falls Park.

This Issue can now be closed.

Knockbreda Road Crossing (Ref: 399) Cllr Maghie

At the request of Councillor Maghie, the Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure seeking an update as to when works would commence for the Knockbreda Road crossing and agreed to ask DfI how it could expedite the public consultation process for further applications.

The Council are undertaking an additional survey of residents as per the February 2025, committee.

This Issue can now be closed.

Pitch Bookings at Sally Gardens (Ref: 405) Cllr Garrett

At the request of Councillor Garrett, the Committee agreed that officers would liaise with teams and service users at the Sally Gardens Playing Fields to ascertain the underlying reasons for recurring pitch cancellations with a view to enabling other teams and clubs to maximise use of the facility in the event of such cancellations.

It was noted that a report in this regard would be submitted to a future meeting.

An update report was presented to committee in October 2025.

This Issue can now be closed.

Vital Role of Trees (Ref: 422) Cllr Abernethy

The council recognised the vital role of trees in enhancing the health and wellbeing of people and communities, addressing climate change, and supporting biodiversity; committed to raising awareness among residents about these benefits and to actively support efforts to plant and protect the right trees in the right places and for the right reasons, ensuring that everyone can share in the benefits trees provide; and, will commit to exploring how we can educate and raise awareness of trees, the role they play in all our lives across Belfast.

In addition, the committee agreed that officers would submit a report which would provide the following: an update on the Tree Strategy including the 'One Million Trees' initiative; seek to identify possible sites within the Council's estate where additional trees and plant could be maintained; and an outline as to how communities and electoral areas could become involved further in the life of trees in our city."

A committee paper was submitted on the 13th of January 2026 regarding questions raised at the meeting on tree numbers planted and community orchards, DfI replacement planting to be returned directly to elected members. Tree Strategy updates will be reported into committee.

This Issue can now be closed.

Dilapidated/Dangerous Buildings in Belfast (Ref: 427) Cllr Brooks

An initial assessment had been undertaken by Council officers regarding the damage caused to properties in the city because of Storm Éowyn on 24th January. It was noted that a further report in this regard would be submitted for consideration in due course

A report was taken to committee in April 2025, detailing the work done to identify the derelict properties that currently exist on arterial routes and to outline a proposed approach to tackle these properties. The Committee noted the report and the approach to be taken. The Director of Planning and Building Control is continuing to work on this area, convening a further workshop with stakeholders to agree the way forward for these properties identified.

This Issue can now be closed.

Council Dog warden Service (Ref:443) Cllr Brooks

The Committee agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting which would outline the work of the dog warden service and would provide also information on its activity and volume of work. The report would include details on the current staffing levels and an overview of the fines currently levied (including previous decisions in this regard). In addition, information would also be provided on the Council's byelaws and their effectiveness, across the city and in parks and dog runs; together with an outline of the opportunities for a multi-agency approach being adopted to address the issue of dog fouling; and consideration of several options at a resourcing level.

The committee report was presented on 3rd June 2026. Members noted that new requests for information regarding enhancing services of the Dog Warden and OSS services have been forwarded for consideration by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee's as part

of the rate setting process. Any updates on these will be decided via the future rate setting and efficiency decisions by SP&R.

This Issue can now be closed.

One Million Trees' Initiative (Ref: 444) Cllr Maghie

The Committee noted that, in accordance with its decision a report would be submitted regarding the 'Vital Role of Trees'. It was noted further that the Community and Neighbourhood Services Department would consult with the Council's Climate Unit, in its role as the Council's lead on the 'One Million Trees Initiative', and the report in this regard would include an update on this initiative.

A committee paper was submitted on the 13th of January 2026, with Vital Role of Trees also included in the report.

This Issue can now be closed.

Lagan Gateway – Pedestrian Crossing (Ref:462) Cllr de Faoite

In relation to Lagan Gateway and the need for a pedestrian crossing on Annadale Embankment to access it, the Committee agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Active Travel Unit to formally support the call for a crossing under Phase 2 enabling works for safe access to the Lagan Gateway.

Committee wrote to DfI, and response received and reported to Council on the 4th Nov 25

Alley-gate Update (Ref 463) Cllr Doran

In response to Councillor Doran's concern in relation to the length of time it was taking to install alley gates in various entries in North Belfast, the Committee noted the update provided and further funding installation request to the Department of Finance and that a report be submitted to a future meeting to provide a further update

An update report was presented to the committee in October 2025.

This Issue can now be closed.

Management of Invasive Species in Council Parks and Open Spaces (Ref:470) Cllr Flynn

At the request of Councillor Flynn, the Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting that would outline the Council's policy for the management and removal of invasive plant species, in particular Himalayan Balsam, and how such work might be undertaken in partnership with local communities.

Increased volunteering for Himalayan Balsam hand pulling is at the planning phase for upcoming growing season. Operational teams will continue to identify and treat invasive species as per their regular work programme.

This Issue can now be closed.

Use of Cutts Recycling Centres by Belfast Residents (Ref: 473) Cllr McCann

Use of the Cutts Recycling Centre was addressed at the meeting, and it was suggested that the Council should consider entering into a short-term agreement with Lisburn and

	<p>Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) to enable the use of the Cutts Recycling Centre by Belfast residents whilst the Blackstaff Recycling Centre was closed for repair work.</p> <p>The Operational Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reported that, since the item had been added to the agenda, officers from LCCC had contacted him to advise that its Environment and Sustainability Committee, and, in turn, its full Council, would, given the timing of its committee meetings, be unable to consider any request within the timescale anticipated for the temporary closure of Blackstaff Recycling Centre.</p> <p>The Committee noted the information which had been provided and noted also the comments of several Members in relation to the matter, particularly the inability of Belfast residents living in the Twinbrook, Pogleglass and Lagmore areas to use the Cutts Recycling Centre. It was pointed out that the issue dated back to the Reform of Local Government in 2014, and that the Council should seek again to raise the matter formally with LCCC with a view to finding a mutually beneficial resolution.</p> <p>This was answered at committee on the 7th of October 2025. Further request will be considered under NoM 354.</p> <p>This Issue can now be closed.</p> <p>Levels of criminality and violence in the City Centre (479) Cllr Beattie</p> <p>Councillor Beattie outlined his concerns regarding the ongoing levels of criminality and violence in the City Centre. After discussion, the Committee agreed that a multi-agency meeting be convened to address the levels of criminality and violence in the City Centre and to consider the short-term actions and long-term strategy to alleviate the issues across the city.</p> <p>As requested, a multi-agency meeting was held on the 8th of Dec 2025.</p> <p>This Issue can now be closed.</p> <p>Environmental Health - Staffing and Capacity (Ref:480) Cllr Brooks</p> <p>The Committee agreed that a report be submitted for consideration which would outline the current staffing and capacity levels relating to Environmental Health Officers, particularly regarding roles associated with responding to planning consultations; and that the report would include reference also to the role of the Building Control Service in enforcement matters</p> <p>An update report was presented to committee on the 13th of January 2026, meeting.</p> <p>This Issue can now be closed.</p> <p>Provision of Sustainable Burial Options (Ref: 484) Cllr Abernethy</p> <p>This Council acknowledged the growing public interest in more sustainable, dignified, and low-carbon alternatives to conventional practices, such as natural (green) burials, tree pod interment, and other emerging end-of life methods. Natural burial, which involves the use of biodegradable materials, avoids embalming, and often takes place in woodland or meadow settings with minimal ongoing maintenance, has already been successfully implemented elsewhere as a simple and ecologically restorative option.</p> <p>Accordingly, this Council agrees to 1. Explore the feasibility of providing sustainable burial options within existing or new cemeteries, including the designation of natural burial grounds</p>
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	<p>or woodland burial areas within our district; and 2. Provide an update report on any identified legislative, planning, infrastructural, or regulatory barriers that may impact the delivery of these sustainable end-of-life options locally.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the motion, proposed by Councillor Abernethy and seconded by Councillor T. Brooks, would be referred, in the first instance, to the People and Communities Committee.</p> <p>An update report will be presented to committee on the 10th of February 2026.</p> <p>This Issue will be closed after the February 10th, meeting.</p> <p>International Day for Persons with Disabilities (Ref:487) Cllr Brooks</p> <p>The Committee noted information which had been provided regarding the Council's plans to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on the 3rd of December 2025.</p> <p>An update report was presented to the Special NIHE, People and Communities Committee on the 18th of November 2025.</p> <p>This Issue can now be closed.</p> <p>Archaeological Excavation at Woodvale Park (Ref: 488) Cllr Verner</p> <p>At the request of Councillor Verner, the Committee agreed to receive a presentation in respect of the recent community archaeological excavation at Woodvale Park, which had been carried out in conjunction with The Queen's University of Belfast.</p> <p>The presentation was received from Queens on the 2nd of December 2025.</p> <p>This Issue can now be closed.</p> <p>3.5 Category 2 Recommended Closures:</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>3.6 Financial and Resource Implications</p> <p>There are no additional financial implications required to implement these recommendations.</p> <p>3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.</p>
4.0 Appendices	
4.1 Appendix to Follow	

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Ref	Type	Meeting Date	Motion Title	Proposed by	Reporting	Reporting Officer	Lead Department	Status	Status Update
15	Notice of Motion	04/02/2019	Recycling in Collin Neighbourhood	Cllr Seanna Walsh	P&C	David Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Herbicide Reduction Protocol at draft phase, currently investigating and trialling alternative weed control products to be included in protocol. Demo of Foamstream took place January with information to be benchmarked against current control methods. NoM remains with CNS. No formal update from Shared Island on bid for additional funding to carry out economic appraisal. Future updates will include additional request from NoM 473.
22	Notice of Motion	01/07/2019	Glyphosate-Based Weed killer	Cllr Fiona Ferguson	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Internal protocol in the final stages of development which will adhere to legislative requirements. A further update will be provided when these are in place. Herbicide Reduction Protocol at draft phase, currently investigating and trialling alternative weed control products
30	Notice of Motion	02/09/2019	Rewilding our Wards	Cllr Matt Garrett	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	£150k funding (£50k Urban Meadows & £100k Biodiversity Measures) agreed by Member from C&NS departmental reserves to progress a number of urban meadow/biodiversity projects across all four quadrants of the city. Site selection methodology under development with detail of recommended sites to be presented at Area Working Groups and Committee after the Summer with a view to delivery later this financial year. 50K Urban Meadows. Site selection agreed at P&C in Oct 2025. Delivery to commence March 2026. 100k Biodiversity measures, options appraisal underway. 50K Urban Meadows. Site selection agreed at P&C in Oct 2025. Delivery to commence March 2026
76	Notice of Motion	01/07/2020	Littering	Cllr Aine Grogan	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	£150k funding (£50k Urban Meadows & £100k Biodiversity Measures) agreed by Member from C&NS departmental reserves to progress a number of urban meadow/biodiversity projects across all four quadrants of the city. Site selection methodology under development with detail of recommended sites to be presented at Area Working Groups and Committee after the Summer with a view to delivery later this financial year. 50K Urban Meadows. Site selection agreed at P&C in Oct 2025. Delivery to commence
146	Notice of Motion	07/01/2021	30 by 30 Biodiversity Campaign	Cllr Brian Smyth	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	LBAP - out for procurement by the end of July, with applications reviewed and a successful appointment of a consultant made by the end of August for a 6 month contract with a draft report to be presented to officers in late February of 2026. This will be reviewed, and an update report presented to committee. LBAP procurement complete and awarded. Initiation meeting scheduled for Jan 26th. Timescales revised due to delay in procurement. Report will be brought to committee within the next 3 months.
270	Notice of Motion	23/08/2022	Herbicide Reduction Policy	Cllr Anthony Flynn	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	A draft herbicide reduction protocol is currently being worked through with officers and our policy team. Once agreed it will be rolled out operationally with a monitoring process in place. Herbicide Reduction Protocol at draft phase, currently investigating and trialling alternative weed control products to be included in protocol. Demo of Foamstream took place January with information to be benchmarked against current control methods
288	Notice of Motion	24/11/2022	Imagination Library	Cllr Seamas De Faoite	P&C	Jim Girvan	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Officers met with proposer and are progressing with outlined approach. Further meetings required with delivery partners and following this an update report will be brought to committee. To remain open. Waiting list to be added to Council website, in the event additional funding is secured.
321	Notice of Motion	27/06/2023	Playful Belfast City Streets	Cllr Ross McMullan	P&C	David Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Alliance members are considering how best to progress this Motion and will update officers in due course.
328	Notice of Motion	29/08/2023	Urban Wildflower Meadows	Cllr Ronan McLaughlin	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Site visits have been undertaken and in conjunction with OSS managers discussions are ongoing with regards to site selection which have been circulated for comments. Once site selection agreed they will be presented to Area Working groups and if approved, work will commence in the Autumn. 50K Urban Meadows. Site selection agreed at P&C in Oct 2025. Delivery to commence March 2026.
352	Notice of Motion	28/11/2023	Tiny Urban Forests	Cllr Brian Smyth	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Trialling a small scale Miyawaki tree planting method cannot take place until the next tree planting season which begins in November 2025 through to March 2026 and by that time, we also hope to be in a position to establish the Tree Warden scheme, recruitment is currently underway and the post funded on a fixed term arrangement by our colleagues in the Climate/Resilience section. WRU still scoping potential locations. Tree volunteer network temporary post has been established to set this up
354	Issue Raised in Advance	05/12/2023	Engagement with LCCC re residents in the Collin area using the Cutts Recycling Centre	Cllr Michael Donnelly	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	presented later in the year. Council Officers have engaged with LCCC Officers but to date without success. Propose that the Council formally writes to the CEX of LCCC requesting that this issue be presented to LCCC elected members for consideration. Alternatively members may wish to request similar NoM with party colleagues at LCCC

363	Issue Raised in Advance	06/02/2024	Biodiversity in Council Parks and Open Spaces	Cllr Anthony Flynn	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Delivery of element of site specific actions identified within. The quotation is in the final stages of checks and will be advertised in August with the successful consultant being appointed in September/October. Rolling programme of ecological studies being established, sequencing of first tranche complete and studies underway. Initial quotation exercise complete. Rolling programme to be established, sequencing of sites to
368	Notice of Motion	28/03/2023	Graffiti - Development of Memorandums of Understanding	Cllr Gary McKeown	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	An update report will be tabled at September P&C Committee. Growth bids for additional resources to support powerwashing and graffiti removal teams has been submitted for consideration
371	Issue Raised in Advance	12/03/2024	Request to invite South Belfast Youth League representative to present at a future meeting	Cllr Ruth Brooks	P&C	Jim Girvan	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	As the proposer of this request, Cllr Brooks is to confirm a suitable time to invite the South Belfast Youth League to attend P&C Committee.
379	Issue Raised in Advance	09/04/2024	Dilapidated Buildings	Cllr Ruth Brooks	P&C	Kate Bentley	Place & Economy	Recommend Close	Committee report taken to P&C Committee in April 2025, detailing the work done to identify the derelict properties that currently exist on arterial routes and to outline a proposed
380	Issue Raised in Advance	09/04/2024	Communication Boards	Cllr Sarah Bunting	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	£170k was secured in September 2025 to deliver a citywide programme of installations at all remaining playgrounds (98no.) Purchase orders were placed in September 2025, all signs were delivered by January 2026, installations are due to commence in the coming weeks with a target date of October 2026 for overall completion.
387	Issue Raised in Advance	02/05/2024	Provision of toilet facilities at Falls Park	Cllr Michael Donnelly	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommend Close	Signage improved in a number of Parks including Falls Park and access to pavilion for toilet use. Councillors engaged in August 2025 and measures are currently in place in Falls Park
399	Issue Raised in Advance	06/08/2024	Knockbreda Road Crossing	Cllr Jenna Maghie	P&C	Nora Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommend Close	Council undertaking additional survey of residents as per Committee 02.2025
401	Issue Raised in Advance	10/09/2024	Update Report requested on Dog Litter Bins	Cllr Ruth Brooks	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	A Dog Fouling report was presented to P&C on 3rd June 25 which gave an update on some issues raised in the motion, however specific asks are still be investigated and an update on these will be presented to committee later in the year. Councillors engaged in August 2025. Measures in place currently in falls park. Recommend close
405	Issue Raised in Advance	08/10/2024	Pitch Bookings at Sally Gardens Playing Fields	Cllr Matt Garrett	P&C	Jim Girvan	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommend Close	List of users compiled and reasons for no-show/cancellations to be presented to committee in September. An update report was presented to People and Communities Committee in October 2025
414	Issue Raised in Advance	05/11/2024	Communication Boards within Parks	Cllr Sarah Bunting	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	£170k funding secured in September 2025. All communication boards ordered in September 2025 and delivered by January 2026 (98no.) Installations planned to commence, via our Measured Term Contract, in the coming weeks with an overall completion date of October 2026. Merge with 380.
422	Notice of Motion	07/01/2025	Vital Role of Trees	Cllr Hedley Abernethy	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommend Close	A committee paper was submitted on the 13th of January 2026 regarding questions raised at the meeting on tree numbers planted and community orchards, DfI replacement planting to be returned directly to elected members. Tree Strategy updates will be reported into committee.
424	Issue Raised in Advance	14/01/2025	Bin Collections over the Christmas Period	Cllr Micheal Donnelly	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Corporate Com & CNS to meet with Elected Member to discuss proposal in relation to this. Measures were put in place to improve bin presentation and collection rates for Christmas 25. Paper on christmas collections to be submitted to a future committee.

427	Issue Raised in Advance	04/02/2025	Dilapidated/Dangerous Buildings in Belfast	Cllr Ruth Brooks	P&C	Kate Bentley	Place & Economy	Recommend Close	Committee report taken to P&C Committee in April 2025, detailing the work done to identify the derelict properties that currently exist on arterial routes and to outline a proposed approach to tackle these properties. The Committee noted the report and the approach to be taken. The Director of Planning and Building Control
429	Issue Raised in Advance	04/02/2025	BCC Animal Welfare Services - Capacity and Emergency Access Arrangements	Cllr Nicola Verner	P&C	Siobhan Toland	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	The Committee noted information which had been provided by Councillor Verner and the Director of City Services agreed to appraise members of the outcome on the ongoing legal processes regarding animal welfare services in N.I. Still awaiting JR review final position and will link in with legal services
430	Issue Raised in Advance	04/02/2025	Family Parking at GLL Leisure Centres	Cllr Jenna Maghie	P&C	Jim Girvan	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	P&C Committee 5th August 2025 - Requested to remain open and pilot in 2 leisure centres. Update report on Family at Leisure Centres to be presented to P&C committee March 26
435	Issue Raised in Advance	04/03/2025	FIDO - Dog Fouling Removal Vehicle	Cllr Claire Canavan	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	An update was included as part of dog fouling and bin infrastructure which was present to P&C Committee on the 3rd June, however, further information is to be reported back on the Fido machines and this will be presented later in the year. Machinery options appraisal including trial of SCARABS as an addition/alternative to the FIDO service currently ongoing
443	Issue Raised in Advance	08/04/2025	Council Dog Warden Service	Cllr Ruth Brooks	P&C	Siobhan Toland	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommend Close	this NOM was complied with in the committee report presented on 3rd June 2026 and can be closed. Members will note that new requests for information regarding enhancing services of the Dog Warden and OSS services have been forwarded for consideration by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee's as part of the rate setting process. Any updates on these will be decided via the future rate setting and efficiency decisions by S P and R.
444	Issue Raised in Advance	08/04/2025	One Million Trees' Initiative	Cllr Jenna Maghie	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommend Close	A committee paper was submitted on the 13 th of January 2026, with Vital Role of Trees also included in the report.
445	Issue Raised in Advance	08/04/2025	Returning of Black Bins to Properties	Cllr Gary McKeown	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	P&C Committee 5th August 2025 - Requested to remain open with further updates on the legislation etc
452	Notice of Motion	22/05/2025	Motion to support Endometriosis Patients	Cllr Michael Collins	P&C	David Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Council officers have contacted BHSCT in relation to this issue, due to a change of staff in BHSCT there has been a delay in progressing. Officers will seek to action in the next quarter.
453	Notice of Motion	22/05/2025	Stranded Dreams report launched by Anaka Women's Collective	Cllr Micky Murray	P&C	David Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Matter to be discussed at meeting 08.2025
458	Issue Raised in Advance	03/06/2025	Antisocial Behaviour in Marrowbone Park	Cllr Claire Canavan	P&C	David Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Growth proposal submitted for additional Park Warden and MFA resources in Marrowbone
461	Notice of Motion	24/06/2025	Safeguarding Belfast's Playparks	Ald Dean McCullough	P&C	David Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	The Committee deferred consideration of the motion to allow further information to be provided to the Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum on the consultation and policy process. Matter considered at committee and full council and did not receive member support.
462	Issue Raised in Advance	05/08/2025	Lagan Gateway - Pedestrian Crossing	Cllr Seamas de Faoite	P&C	David Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommend Close	Committee wrote to DFI and response received and reported to Council on the 4th Nov 25
463	Issue Raised in Advance	05/08/2025	Alley-gate Update	Cllr Jordan Doran	P&C	David Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommend Close	An update report was presented to the People and Communities Committee in October 2025.

464	Issue Raised in Advance	05/08/2025	Targeted Upgrades to Enhance Park Accessibility	Cllr Ruth Brooks	P&C	David Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Recent engagement with Cllr Brooks and council's Disability Advisory Group (DAP) at the International Day for Persons with Disabilities event in Dec 2025. Further engagement planned with DAP re: accessible signage pilot. New tender for supply of play equipment to incorporate additional accessible items. Update report to be taken back to committee in the coming months.
466	Notice of Motion	21/08/2025	Review Funding Levels for the Summer Scheme Fund	Cllr Fiona McAteer	P&C	David Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	
468	Notice of Motion	21/08/2025	Support of Leisure Workers	Cllr Michael Collins	P&C	David Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	
469	Issue Raised in Advance	09/09/2025	Alleygate Key Provision	Cllr Claire Canavan	P&C	Jim Girvan	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	
470	Issue Raised in Advance	09/09/2025	Management of Invasive Species in Council Parks and Open Spaces	Cllr Anthony Flynn	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommend Close	Increased volunteering for Himalayan Balsam hand pulling is at the planning phase for upcoming growing season. Operational teams will continue to identify and treat invasive species as per their regular work programme.
471	Issue Raised in Advance	09/09/2025	Proposed Community Consultation on Renaming of Balfour Avenue playground	Cllr R-M Donnelly	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	
473	Issue Raised in Advance	07/10/2025	Use of Cutts Recycling Centres by Belfast Residents	Cllr Caoimhin McCan	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommend Close	This was answered at committee on the 7th of October 2025. Further request will be considered under NoM 354.
480	Issue Raised in Advance	04/11/2025	Environmental Health - Staffing and Capacity	Cllr Ruth Brooks	P&C	Siobhan Toland	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommend Close	An update report was presented to committee at the 13 th January 2026, meeting.
481	Issue Raised in Advance	04/11/2025	Leaf Clearance from Roads and Pavements	Cllr Gary McKeown	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Additional OSS Peripatetic pool employed to support seasonal requirements such as leaf fall. Team not yet at full capacity
482	Issue Raised in Advance	04/11/2025	Consultation Process for the Pedestrian Crossing at Knockbreda Road	Cllr Hedley Abernethy	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Knockbreda road crossing consultation complete. Results have been sent to DfI for consideration.
483	Issue Raised in Advance	04/11/2025	Request for Deputation - Donegall Pass Community Association	Cllr Tracy Kelly	P&C	Jim Girvan	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	
484	Notice of Motion	20/11/2025	Provision of Sustainable Burial Options	Cllr Hedley Abernethy	P&C	Siobhan Toland	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommend Close	Paper tabled for Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group on 14th January 2026 to update the working group on this notice of motion. Update report to be tabled at February P&C.
487	Issue Raised in Advance	18/11/2025	International Day for Persons with Disabilities	Cllr Ruth Brooks	P&C	Jim Girvan	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommend Close	An update report was presented to the Special NIHE, People and Communities Committee on the 18 th of November 2025.
488	Issue Raised in Advance	18/11/2025	Archaeological Excavation	Cllr Nicola Verner	P&C	Stephen Leonard	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommend Close	The presentation was received from Queens on the 2 nd of December 2025.



Subject:	Resources and Fleet Waste Update
Date:	10 February 2026
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director (Operational) CNS
Contact Officer:	Brendan Murray, Waste Manager (Waste Management) Peadar Doyle (Waste Collections)

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number	<input type="text"/>
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	
After Council Decision <input type="checkbox"/>	
Sometime in the future <input type="checkbox"/>	
Never <input type="checkbox"/>	

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To provide an update to members on waste collections, management and performance.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are requested to note the report.
3.0	Main Report
	<p><u>Waste Performance & Recycling Rates</u></p> <p>3.1 On 11 December 2025, DAERA published the annual Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Report for 2024/25.</p> <p>3.2 The overall picture for NI was one of; an increasing quantity of waste collected (1,010,410 tonnes, 1% up on previous year), a stagnant municipal reuse and recycling rate (50%) and a significant decrease in the landfill disposal rate, down from 18% to 14%. This landfill diversion is reflected in an uplift in the energy recovery rate from 30% to 34% for the year.</p> <p>3.3 An examination of the figures for Belfast City Council, indicates the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Waste Arisings - the total amount of waste collected by the Council was 161,320 tonnes, a marginal increase of approximately 200 tonnes (0.1%) on the same quarter the previous year. • Municipal Waste Recycling Rate – the percentage of all waste collected by the Council which was re-used, recycled or composted, increased by 0.6% points to 39.4% • Household Waste Recycling Rate – the percentage of household waste only collected by the Council which was re-used, recycled or composted, increased by 0.8% points to 42.4%. • Landfill Diversion – the percentage of Council waste sent to landfill was 0.9%. • Energy Recovery - the percentage of Council waste sent for energy recovery increased by 1.5% points to 59.5%. <p>In summary, 2024/25 delivered a positive set of results with incremental gains in recycling and continued maximum diversion of waste from landfill.</p> <p>3.4 Waste Framework Update</p> <p>At the People & Communities Committee meeting of June 2017, Members approved the Waste Framework document. It provides an overview of options on how waste could be managed within the city over the next decade. It was developed to align with the objectives of the Belfast Agenda and Resourceful Belfast (Circular Economy), designing out waste, improving the quantity and quality of recycling and supporting local jobs.</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>The Waste Framework focuses on four themes (i) Collection Arrangements, (ii) Infrastructure, (iii) Behaviour Change and (iv) Technology. The following sections provide an insight on the work and initiatives currently being undertaken under the four main workstreams.</p> <p>(i) Collection Arrangements</p>

	<p><i>Kerbside Glass</i></p> <p>3.6 Members will be aware that phase one of the kerbside glass expansion scheme was rolled out to 23,000 households in April 2025.</p> <p>3.7 In September 2025, members agreed to the phase two expansion plans which identified the next tranche of 23,000 households to be included on the scheme. Project planning is well under way and it is anticipated that the scheme will be delivered during February - March 2026 with collections commencing shortly thereafter March - April 2026.</p> <p>3.8 Upon completion of phase two of the kerbside glass scheme, the Service will conduct a targeted kerbside glass campaign aimed at driving increased tonnage through phase one households and the original purple box area (22,000 households).</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) Infrastructure</p> <p><i>Recycling Centres - Containers</i></p> <p>3.9 Following SP&R approval for capital funding, the Service completed a procurement exercise for a multi-year, container provision contract. Phase 1 of this contract was completed in 2024/25 with the arrival and installation of 40 skips and 6 new compactor units.</p> <p>3.10 Phase 2 which involved the delivery and installation of 30 skips and 11 compactor units has been completed with one additional compactor unit still to be fully commissioned as it requires adjustments to the electrical load at the site (Ormeau). This infrastructure will deliver an improved health and safety environment at the sites along with increased logistical efficiency from the new compactor units as well as improving the general appearance of the sites.</p> <p><i>Recycling Centres and Pedestrian Access</i></p> <p>3.11 Colleagues in Property & Projects (P&P) have now appointed a contractor to carry out design work and costings on pedestrian access for Palmerston Road and Blackstaff Way recycling centres. Once costings have been received, the Service will progress this work via the Council's capital works programme.</p> <p><i>Recycling Centres and Repair Works</i></p> <p>3.12 Members will be aware that over the course of the last two years, a programme of repairs in relation to the service bays at the recycling centres has been initiated. These are essential repairs aimed at maintaining health and safety on site and securing long-term service continuity for site users.</p> <p>3.13 On 3 November 2025, Blackstaff Way re-opened to the public following a four-week closure to conduct these repair works. This saw the completion of the two-year programme of works.</p> <p><i>Waste Transfer Station</i></p> <p>3.14 Following a review of traffic management arrangements at the Waste Transfer Station (WTS) a number of health and safety improvements have recently been completed. These improvements include the segregation of vehicular traffic from pedestrians with the installation of a new fence, refreshed road markings, installation of new signage and the inclusion of a small car park on site for staff and visitors. These improvements can be viewed in Appendix 1: WTS Site Improvements.</p>
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	<i>arc21 Residual Waste Project and Interim Residual Waste arrangements</i>
3.15	Members will be aware that there is a legal challenge in relation to the award of the arc21 contract pertaining to the treatment of the Council's residual waste by ReGen. The case has been ongoing for over two and a half years and the most recent information suggests that it may be set for hearing in September 2026.
3.16	The arc21 Residual Waste Treatment Project is still being considered by NI Planning Department. <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(iii) Behaviour Change</p>
	<i>Household Waste Recycling Centres – Policies & Intervention Strategies</i>
3.17	Members will be aware that the Service approached the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) requesting assistance in developing a suite of policies and procedures aimed at addressing the challenges encountered by the recycling centres, previously outlined at the members workshop in March 2025.
3.18	WRAP procured and commissioned external assistance through Circulogic, a waste management consultancy. Following a number of meetings with WRAP and Council Officers, Circulogic completed its report towards the tail end of December 2025. Officers are now reviewing the contents of the report and will report back to members in due course.
	Entries/Alleyways Strategy
3.19	The successful implementation of the bin safety campaign has highlighted areas of the city that historically have presented waste management challenges. Officers are working on a strategy the strategy seeks to address the issues that manifest in these areas for both residents and crews. An internal stakeholder workshop took place at the end of January 2026 to develop the strategy, and a draft will be presented to committee in due course. <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(i) Information Technology</p>
	In-Cab Technology
3.20	The in-cab technology contract was awarded to Whitespace in February 2025 and is now being managed through a multi-stage implementation. The core telematics functionality and enhancements have been transitioned successfully into 'Business as Usual.'
3.21	Work is ongoing to prepare for the implementation of the household waste module of the in-cab system itself. Software development work is progressing for the new system to integrate with the corporate CRM and webforms before installation of the in-cab equipment and the training of staff. Staff buy-in is critical to a successful implementation, and a number of mechanisms have been established to familiarise staff with the new system, keep them apprised of progress and invite their input, including a User Group which includes frontline staff, TU and management reps.
3.22	In parallel, some key decisions are being considered with regard to the large-scale redesign of the household waste routes.
	Policy & Legislation
3.23	There are a number of legislative, strategic and financial drivers aimed at delivering a more circular economy and contributing to the climate action plans. These measures will have a significant impact on the future shape of waste management arrangements over the course of the next five years and are outlined in the policy section below.

	<p><i>Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR)</i></p> <p>3.24 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging is a UK-wide reform of an existing Producer Responsibility scheme for packaging.</p> <p>3.25 The aim of EPR is to move the full cost of dealing with household packaging waste away from local ratepayers to the packaging producers (applying the ‘polluter pays principle’). The goal is to incentivise the use of packaging that uses less material and is easier to recycle.</p> <p>3.26 The scheme administrator for pEPR, PackUK, is responsible for setting EPR fee rates for household packaging materials, invoicing and collecting fees from obligated producers, and then issuing payments to local authorities to cover household packaging waste management costs.</p> <p>3.27 PackUK issued the first payments to local authorities in December 2025. The second and third payments are scheduled to be made to local authorities during January – March 2026. From April 2026, local authorities will receive four quarterly payments.</p> <p>3.28 The funding is aimed at assisting local authorities in delivering efficient and effective recycling services, returning packaging materials to the recycling sector and contributing to future environmental targets.</p>
	<p><i>Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)</i></p> <p>3.29 The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) aims to tackle littering and increase recycling of containers that are within the scope of the scheme. This will be achieved by introducing a redeemable deposit on single use drinks containers, which can then be claimed back when they are taken to a deposit return point for recycling. DRS is due to go live on 1 October 2027.</p> <p>3.30 UK Deposit Management Organisation (UK DMO) is the not-for-profit, business-led organisation appointed by government in April 2025, to develop and ultimately deliver the scheme. This body is currently finalising its leadership team before the focus shifts toward finalising scheme design, advancing key procurements and supporting industry readiness across the UK.</p>
	<p><i>Digital Waste Tracking</i></p> <p>3.31 Digital waste tracking is intended to enable the tracking of all household, commercial and industrial waste in order to reduce the potential for waste crime and ensure good practice in terms of waste management.</p> <p>3.32 The initial phase of the project is to go live by October 2026 and will involve “waste receiving” sites which will be able to use API to link their in-house software systems to a central, government database or alternatively input information to a spreadsheet and upload to the Digital Waste Tracking system.</p> <p>3.33 This is likely to have implications for the Waste Transfer Station, either in phase one (Oct’26) or phase two (Oct’27) and we will now work with the regulator (DAERA), our weighbridge software provider and Digital Services to map out the path to compliance.</p>

	NI Waste Strategy
3.34	The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has launched a public consultation to seek views on the draft <i>Rethinking Our Resources: Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy</i> .
3.35	The draft strategy outlines 10 targets and over 60 actions to help Northern Ireland achieve its vision of “ <i>a resource efficient country where we rethink how we deal with resources and waste, reducing and diverting overall waste, extracting the maximum value from recycling materials to deliver a low-carbon circular economy, with recovery and landfill as methods of last resort.</i> ”
3.36	Proposed actions include support programmes, statutory and best practice guidance, campaigns, data refinements, and cross-departmental collaboration. The strategy provides a long-term plan for significant environmental change, alongside short-term actions necessary to drive the required outcomes.
3.37	The draft Strategy aims to integrate policy reforms, modern technology, and partnerships to ensure long-term sustainability and adaptability. It focuses on controlled wastes from households, commercial and industrial premises, and category 3 animal by-products, contributing to recycling targets and Net Zero commitments.
3.38	The proposed new strategy aims to maximise the potential for better use of resources to prevent them becoming waste, or where generated, to ensure they are captured and processed into products that minimise environmental pollution. It builds on previous plans by broadening the range of sectors obligated, presenting actions to achieve the targets, and setting out the plans to meet net zero. The strategy provides a range of drivers and support, based on the recognition of the different levels of potential from all stakeholders in the value chain.
3.39	The actions within the strategy are designed to help Northern Ireland achieve both the Circular Economy Package targets and the recycling target set out in the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 that will require contributions from a wide range of sectors. The Circular Economy Package targets include a municipal waste recycling target of 65% and a 10% cap on the amount of municipal waste going to landfill by 2035. The Climate Change Act requires that at least 70% of waste must be recycled by 2030 in Northern Ireland. It is important to note that the 70% recycling target in this Act potentially relates to all waste generated in Northern Ireland, not specifically household waste. Therefore, the sectors in scope of the draft Strategy include <i>household waste, non-household municipal waste, commercial and industrial waste, construction and demolition waste, hazardous waste and agricultural waste</i> .
3.40	The Consultation opened on 15 th January 2026 and closes on 8 th April 2026. Responses are invited, from both individual members of the public and organisations, including Councils. The document can be found via the following link; https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/rethinking-our-resources-northern-ireland-resources-and-waste-management-strategy . The Service is in the process of compiling a response to the consultation which will be brought back to committee.
	<i>Rethinking Our Resources</i>
3.41	The government response and outcome of the DAERA <i>Rethinking Our Resources Measures for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in Northern Ireland</i> public consultation exercise is still awaited.

4.0	
4.1	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no financial implications associated with this report.
5.0	
5.1	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.
6.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1: Traffic Management Improvements at Waste Transfer Station

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Appendix 1 – Traffic Management Improvements at Waste Transfer Station

Fence & refreshed line markings



New car park for staff & visitors



New signage



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Subject:	Request for the use of Parks for 2026 Events
Date:	Tuesday 10 February 2026
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Director of Open Spaces and Streetscene, Resources, Fleet & Transport.

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number	<input type="text"/>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual. 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual. 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained. 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction. 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 	

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
<p>After Committee Decision</p> <p>After Council Decision</p> <p>Sometime in the future</p> <p>Never</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note that Council has received a number of requests to hold events across Belfast Parks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CardioSoc Colour Run – Ormeau Park • Belfast Photo Festival – Botanic Gardens • Belfast Marathon Half & Full – Victoria Park, Ormeau Park & Waterworks Park • Belfast Barrio Fiesta – Botanic Gardens • Bloomfield Gospel Hall Gospel Outreach – Dixon Playing Fields • Belfast 24 Hour Run – Victoria Park
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to grant authority to each of the applicants for the proposed events on the dates noted and to delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services to ensure the following:
2.2	Where appropriate negotiate a fee which recognises the costs to Council, minimises negative impact on the immediate area and takes account of the potential wider benefit to the city economy, in conjunction with the Councils Commercial Manager;
2.3	<p>Negotiate satisfactory terms and conditions of use via an appropriate legal agreement prepared by the City Solicitor, including managing final booking confirmation dates and flexibility around 'set up' & 'take down' periods, and booking amendments, ensuring the organisers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction; II. meets all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and III. shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.
2.4	Please note that the above recommendations are taken as a pre-policy position in advance of the Council agreeing a more structured framework and policy for 'Events', which is currently being taken forward in conjunction with the Councils Commercial team.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>If agreed, the event organiser will be required in advance of the event to submit an event management plan for approval by the Council and all relevant statutory bodies. This will include an assessment of how the event will impact upon the surrounding area and measures to mitigate these impacts.</p>
3.2	<p><u>CardioSoc Colour Run – Ormeau Park</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from Queens University Belfast's Cardiology Society to host a charity colour run event at Ormeau Park. The paint that is used is washable and will not damage any areas of the park. They have requested permission to collect money on site to raise funds for Heart Failure Warriors NI and Braveheart NI with a shared</p>

	<p>50% of all money raised being donated to them. The group successfully delivered the same event at Ormeau Park last year with no matters arising.</p> <p>3.3 The cost for participating is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £5 for Adults • £3 for Children • £15 for groups of 4 <p>3.4 The Key Dates for the request are:</p> <p>Set Up – 8.30am, Sunday 28th March 2026 Main Event – 10am to 1pm, Sunday 28th March 2026 De Rig – 2.30pm, Sunday 28th March 2026</p> <p>3.5 <u>Belfast Photo Festival – Botanic Gardens</u></p> <p>Belfast Photo Festival is a not-for-profit organisation that presents one of the leading international festivals of photography in the United Kingdom and the Visual Arts Festival of Northern Ireland. Launched in 2011, this now annual photographic event has been described as one of the “best photography festivals in the world” (Capture Magazine) and attracts upwards of 100 thousand visitors a year, celebrating some of the finest National and International contemporary photography across 30 museums, galleries and public spaces. Capturing wide appeal through popular culture, accessible themes and unexpected encounters with photography, the festival aims to instil and inspire public enjoyment and participation by utilising the most accessible artistic medium and bringing it to new audience in cool and unusual ways. The festival consists of exhibitions, talks, symposiums, workshops, screening, masterclasses, portfolio reviews and tours.</p> <p>3.6 The primary location of the Belfast Photo Festival over the past years has been Botanic Gardens, where large audiences engage with the outdoor photographic displays each year. This is a free event, accessible to the public. It runs over the month of June and consists of a series of exhibitions mounted throughout the park. There are no registrations to any of the exhibitions mounted throughout the park. There are no registrations to any of the exhibitions in the park and charity collections made.</p> <p>3.7 The Key Dates for the request are:</p> <p>Set Up – Week commencing 18 May to 4 June 2026 Event Run Time – 4 June to 30 June 2026 De Rig – Week commencing 6 July 2026</p> <p>3.8 <u>Belfast Marathon Half & Full 2026– Ormeau Park & Waterworks Park</u></p> <p>Council has received a request from Belfast City Marathon to use both Ormeau Park and the Waterworks to deliver the full marathon event in May and the use of both Ormeau Park and Victoria Park to support the delivery of the half Marathon event in September. The Belfast Marathon was awarded World Label status in 2024 making it the only full marathon on the Island of Ireland to be awarded this. The event organisers have recruited 1000 volunteers to help officiate the marathons and in 2025 the full marathon generated over £12 million for the city and the half marathon generated £8 Million with around 70,000 spectators attending the event annually.</p> <p>3.9 The event has been shown live on BBC which allows the city to be showcased to a worldwide audience as it covers North, South, East & West showing the diversity of the city.</p>
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3.10	<p>The full Marathon will take place on 04th May and will be celebrating its 44th year of running in Belfast and will incorporate a 26.2 mile course that will cover all areas of the city. The route for this year's full Marathon will take participants through the Waterworks and once again the organisers have requested permission to have the finish line at Ormeau Park. In previous years this has included an entertainment zone in Ormeau Park to allow food trucks, sponsors and other activities to be placed on site for the participants and spectators to partake in the celebration with friends & family completing the marathon.</p>
3.11	<p>The key dates for the full marathon are:</p> <p>Set Up – Saturday 2 May 2026 – 7am – 8pm Main Event – Sunday 3 May 2026 – 9am to 6pm De Rig – Sunday 3 May – 7pm</p>
3.12	<p>The Half Marathon will take place on 20th September 2026. The event organisers have requested permission for the race to begin in Ormeau Park with the route taking the race through Victoria park and finishing again in Ormeau. Like the full marathon there will be an entertainment zone set up at the finish line in Ormeau Park. This will include sponsors stalls along with food traders.</p>
3.13	<p>The key dates for the Half Marathon are:</p> <p>Set up – Saturday 19 September 2026 – 7am – 8pm – Overnight security provided by EO. Main Event – Sunday 20 September 2026 – 9am to 6pm De Rig – Sunday 20 September 2026 – 7pm</p>
3.14	<p><u>Belfast Barrio Fiesta 2026</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council has received a request from Filipino Communities NI to bring their one-day Barrio Fiesta event to Botanic Gardens in 2026. Barrio Fiesta event is designed to celebrate Filipino culture, and to boost the morale of Filipinos living away from home their familiar culture.</p>
3.15	<p>Once a ticket is purchased it will allow the attendee to enjoy and celebrate the Filipino culture through music, dance workshops and classes, there will be live music and traditional Filipino performers attending from all over N. Ireland. This cultural event will showcase 35 diverse vendors. Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy traditional dishes and explore a wide selection of Filipino products, highlighting the richness of the Philippines' culinary and cultural heritage.</p>
3.16	<p>This is the first time this organiser has applied to Council to deliver an event at a Belfast Park location; however, the organisation has run this event for a number of years and has experienced growth year on year. Last year's event at attracted 2,500 attendees and the group anticipate 3,000 attendees in 2026</p>
3.17	<p>There will be a charge for those who are attending the event with the price of tickets being set at the following:</p>
3.18	<p>VIP ticketing at £20.00 - Offers enhanced benefits & a photo opportunity with guest artists. Standard tickets at £5.00 Kids 12 and under – Free</p>
3.19	<p>The Key Dates for the request are:</p> <p>Set Up -Tuesday Friday 26th June 2026 from 8.00am -5.00pm Main Event – Saturday 27 June 2026, from 9.00am – 6.30pm De-Rig – Sunday 28 June 2026</p>

	<p><u>Bloomfield Gospel Hall Gospel Outreach - Dixon Playing fields</u></p> <p>3.20 The church has a small congregation with around 50 members who meet in Bloomfield Gospel Hall, Woodcot Avenue. As part of their community engagement initiatives, the church held a number of gospel outreach events in Dixon Park in recent years. This has involved the erection of a portable hall for a number of weeks. In 2024 the council granted permission for drive – in services on Sunday evenings throughout Spring and Summer months. Additionally, the church ran its outreach programme Monday to Friday throughout the month of June. The organiser has informed Council that this was very well received by the local community with a number of non-members attending the services.</p> <p>3.21 The organiser would like to repeat the success of the last 4 years in 2026. During the Sunday evening services a small curtain sided van will be used as a platform for the event speaker with a low volume battery portable loudspeaker being used to enable the persons speaking to be heard in the cars within the carpark. The group have also requested to carry out a Summer Bible Time outreach event that in previous years have included children from the local area and Polish, Slovakian and Romanian children.</p> <p>3.22 The organisers have a good working relationship with the Scirocco Football Club who use the playing fields. The football club help to advertise the services on their website and on the few occasions that football training occurs during the services, there is ample room for both groups to co-exist.</p> <p>3.23</p> <p>The Key Dates for the request are</p> <p>Sunday Evening Services Sunday 17 May 2026 to Sunday 27 September 2026, 7pm – 7.30pm.</p> <p>Gospel Outreach Saturday 18 April 2026 to Saturday 18 May 2026, Sunday 7pm – 8pm & Monday to Friday, 8pm - 9pm.</p> <p>Summer Bible Time Monday 10 August 2026 to Thursday 13 August 2026, 6.15pm – 7.15pm. Friday 14 August 2026, 5pm – 7pm.</p> <p>Set Up – 30 mins prior to main event. De Rig – 30 mins after main event.</p> <p><u>Belfast 24 Hour Run – Victoria Park</u></p> <p>3.24 Belfast City Council has received a request from Belfast Runs & We Run Wild to deliver their 24-hour running event in Victoria Park. The race is in its 15th year having moved to Victoria Park in 2017. It is estimated that around 200 – 500 runners will take part. The event will include a 24 hour-100-mile race, a team event and a 50k race all inside the 24 hour time period.</p> <p>3.25 This event takes place throughout the night. In previous years there have been a number of reports of noise disturbances so Council Officers will work closely with the event organiser again this year to ensure these disturbances are mitigated.</p>
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3.26	As Victoria Park has 24-hour access due to forming part of the Connswater Community Greenway there are no additional operational considerations that need addressed as part of this request.
3.27	<p>The Key Dates for the request are</p> <p>Set Up – Friday 24 July 2026, 10.00am</p> <p>Main Event – Saturday 25 July 2026 – Sunday 26 July, 12noon – 2pm.</p> <p>De Rig – Sunday 26 July 2026 – 2pm.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no known implications.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no known implications</p>
4.0	Appendices
	None



Subject:	Net Zero neighbourhood: A community Climate Action Plan for Improving Lives – Partnership Agreement
Date:	10 th February 2026
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Leonard , Operational Director City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Edel Gowdy, Lead Officer, Open Space & Streetscene

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? <input type="checkbox"/> After Committee Decision <input type="checkbox"/> After Council Decision <input type="checkbox"/> Some time in the future <input type="checkbox"/> Never	

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

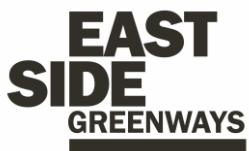
1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To inform members of the committee that Belfast City Council has been invited to enter a partnership agreement with Eastside Greenways and Queens University, to deliver the Lottery Funded 'Net Zero Neighbourhood: A Community Climate Action Plan for Improving Lives. As part of the project, Belfast City Council will be allocated £130k over five years for data collection.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to note the Lottery Funding and its deliverables, and to agree that officers sign the partnership agreement. (See draft at Appendix A).

3.1	<p>Background and Context</p> <p>3.2 Eastside Greenways, in partnership with Belfast City Council and Queens University, has been successful in an application to the National Lottery: Climate Action Fund, to be delivered over five years. The total project is going to cost £1,603,328.62, with total national lottery funding contribution £1,348,423.03. The £254,905.59 match funding will be provided through Eastside Greenways endowment funding agreement with Belfast City Council. The table one below summarises the delivery plan.</p> <p>3.3 Table One: Project Deliverables Summary:</p>														
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="282 615 949 682">Deliverables</th><th data-bbox="949 615 1475 682">Due date</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 682 949 916">Carry out a selection of ecological surveys of the Greenway which will help inform community conversations and new, more sustainable ways of maintaining public spaces</td><td data-bbox="949 682 1475 916">End of year 1</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 916 949 1051">Alongside other partners develop citizens science programme</td><td data-bbox="949 916 1475 1051">Throughout programme</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 1051 949 1215">Webinar series will be a method of sharing learning to a wider group e.g academics and NGO's across Ireland, NI and rest of UK</td><td data-bbox="949 1051 1475 1215">Throughout programme</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 1215 949 1282">Delivery of test initiatives</td><td data-bbox="949 1215 1475 1282">Throughout programme</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 1282 949 1349">Collation and completion of reports</td><td data-bbox="949 1282 1475 1349">Annually</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="282 1349 949 1491">Support Research Impact and Communications Officer, working closely with team.</td><td data-bbox="949 1349 1475 1491">Throughout programme</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Deliverables	Due date	Carry out a selection of ecological surveys of the Greenway which will help inform community conversations and new, more sustainable ways of maintaining public spaces	End of year 1	Alongside other partners develop citizens science programme	Throughout programme	Webinar series will be a method of sharing learning to a wider group e.g academics and NGO's across Ireland, NI and rest of UK	Throughout programme	Delivery of test initiatives	Throughout programme	Collation and completion of reports	Annually	Support Research Impact and Communications Officer, working closely with team.	Throughout programme
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Delivery of test initiatives	Throughout programme														
Collation and completion of reports	Annually														
Support Research Impact and Communications Officer, working closely with team.	Throughout programme														
3.4	<p>The main project objective is to develop a landscape scale Nature Recovery Network increasing habitat extent, condition and connectivity for nature and people. Conservation Management Plans will be developed for key sites and habitat, enhancement plans for a suite of sites across Belfast. The project aligns with the Councils wider Biodiversity and Climate Action Programmes, and will support our ongoing work to bolster and update the Councils site ecological data, as well as complementing the Councils externally funded projects (DAERA: Making Space for</p>														

	<p>Nature and the Heritage Lottery funded: Breaking through Barriers to connect people, in partnership with Ulster Wildlife).</p> <p>3.5 This funding will support EastSide Greenways to engage communities in climate action projects, using a 16km urban green and blue space cycle and walkway through the heart of East Belfast. The vision is that people living in areas of disadvantage are empowered to connect to the conversation about climate change at a local level, and shape how climate action could improve their community and the lives of the people in it.</p> <p>3.6 Community partners include East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA), The Larder, and East Belfast Anti-Poverty Alliance (EBAPA) made up of 21 organisations including Sure Start, East Belfast Mission, In This Together, The Trussell Trust and Barnardo's.</p> <p>Finance and Resource implications</p> <p>3.7 Belfast City Council will be awarded £130,000 revenue funding as part of the project. The signed partnership agreement is a pre-condition of the lottery funding.</p> <p>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>3.8 There are no equality or good relations / rural needs implications as part of this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices –</p> <p>Appendix A - Daft Partnership Agreement</p>

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Appendix A - Draft Partnership Agreement



Belfast
City Council



Net Zero Neighbourhood: A Community Climate Action Plan for Improving Lives

Partnership Agreement

Between

EastSide Greenways

And

Belfast City Council and Queen's University Belfast

By signing this Partnership Agreement, each Party acknowledges that it has read the attached pages, and all agree to be bound.

The Partner(s) must be aware of the terms and conditions that are associated with The National Community Lottery Fund Grant that the Grant Holder has signed and must ensure that they do not act in a way that will affect Grant Holder's ability to adhere to the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement (see Schedule 2).

Partnership Agreement Particulars

The Parties

Party	Party details
Lead Organisation/Grant Holder (“Lead”):	EastSide Greenways, Avalon House, 278/280 Newtownards Road, Belfast, Co Antrim, BT4 1HE; Charity registration number NIC 100544; Company registration number NI615294
Partner Organisation One (a “Partner”):	Queens University Belfast, University Road, BT7 1NN
Partner Organisation Two (a “Partner”):	Belfast City Council, Belfast City Hall, Belfast, BT1 5GS

Project Details

Project Name (“the Project”):	Net Zero Neighbourhood: A Community Climate Action Plan for Improving Lives
Project Purpose (“the Purpose”):	<p>This funding will support EastSide Greenways to engage their community in climate action projects, using a 16km urban green and blue space cycle and walkway through the heart of East Belfast, Northern Ireland. The vision is that people living in areas of disadvantage in East Belfast are empowered to connect to the conversation about climate change at a local level, and shape how climate action could improve their community and the lives of the people in it.</p> <p>EastSide Greenways will partner with Queens University Belfast and Belfast City Council requesting £1,348,423.03 over five years. Community partners include East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA), The Larder, and East Belfast Anti-Poverty Alliance (EBAPA) made up of 21 organisations including Sure Start, East Belfast Mission, In This Together, The Trussell Trust and Barnardo's.</p> <p>This project will provide opportunities every year for up to 5000 residents living in areas of poverty, discrimination and disadvantage to connect to the conversation about climate change at a local level and shape how climate action can improve their community and the lives of the</p>

	<p>people in it. It aims to make a difference by using the Greenway as a test lab for a variety of scalable local climate action projects. Impact will include building knowledge, skills and capacity in communities to understand climate change, take part in local climate action projects and create their own Climate Action Plan. As well as through connecting into city and nationwide networks to share learning and inspire others.</p> <p>Activities will take place outdoors and in community venues along the Greenway and work will be split between the formal partners. ESG will deliver climate action projects, volunteer engagement, marketing, digital and print project campaign. QUB will lead on evaluation and report writing. BCC will conduct data gathering developing shareable toolkit and resources and connecting the project into city and nationwide networks. Budget has also been allocated for local experts and community groups to be involved with the project, particularly on Citizen Assembly meetings, Citizen Science activities and Ambassador programme.</p>	
Project ID:	20292739	
The National Lottery Community Fund Grant (“the Grant”)	£1,348,423.03 over five years	
Project Plan Summary:		
Lead/Partner	Deliverables	Due date
BCC	Carry out a selection of ecological surveys of the Greenway which will help inform community conversations and new, more sustainable ways of maintaining public spaces	End of year 1
ESG / BCC / QUB	Alongside other partners develop citizens science programme	Throughout programme
ESG /BCC / QUB	Webinar series will be a method of sharing learning to a wider group e.g academics and NGO's across Ireland, NI and rest of UK	Throughout programme
ESG / BCC/ QUB	Delivery of test initiatives	Throughout programme

ESG / QUB	Collation and completion of reports	Annually
QUB	Support Research Impact and Communications Officer, working closely with team.	Throughout programme
Payment of Grant funding to Partners (“the Payments”)		
Queens University Belfast - Yearly report		Total over 5 years - £9,000
Belfast City Council - payment schedule		Data Collection /Ecological Survey Year 1 £100,000 Year 4 & 5 Toolkits and resources £15,000 Year 5 Final Evaluation £15,000

Partnership Agreement Duration

Commencement Date:	[insert date which the last Party signed this Partnership Agreement]
Date of Expiry:	The later of [insert date] or the date on which all obligations imposed on the Lead under the Grant Agreement have been fulfilled.

Communications

Communication Lead:	Gillian Hamilton, EastSide Greenways Manager, 07453033327, gillianh@eastsidepartnership.com
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Key Contacts

Lead Organisation/Grant Holder:	Gillian Hamilton, EastSide Greenways Manager, 07453033327, gillianh@eastsidepartnership.com
Partner Organisation One:	Professor Ruth Hunter, Professor of Public Health and Planetary Health, Queens University Belfast, ruth.hunter@qub.ac.uk

Partner Organisation Two:	Edel Gowdy, Lead Officer, Open Spaces and Streetscene, gowdye@belfastcity.gov.uk
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Background

- (A) The Lead has obtained funding from The National Lottery Community Fund for the Project.
- (B) The Lead will be solely responsible to The National Lottery Community Fund to deliver the Project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement that the Lead has entered into with The National Lottery Community Fund (“Grant Agreement”). The amount of funding and the duration of the Grant Agreement is stated in the Project Details. The Partner(s) must also comply with the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement.
- (C) The Parties have agreed to enter into this Partnership Agreement to set out how they will work together to complete the Project.

Partnership Agreement structure

The following schedules form part of this Partnership Agreement:

Schedule 1	General Terms and Conditions
Schedule 2	Grant Agreement
Schedule 3	Project Plan

Upon signing, the Parties agree to be legally bound by this Partnership Agreement from the Commencement Date set out above.

Signed by the authorised representative of EastSide Greenways

Name:	Gillian Hamilton	Signature:
Position:	EastSide Greenways Manager		

Signed by the authorised representative of Belfast City Council

Name:	Edel Gowdy	Signature
Position:	Lead Officer Open Spaces and Streetscene		

Signed by the authorised representative of Queens University Belfast

Name:	Professor Ruth Hunter	Signature
Position:	Professor Public Health and Planetary Health		

Schedule 1

General Terms and Conditions

1 Commencement and Duration

1.1 This Partnership Agreement shall commence on the Commencement Date and shall expire on the Date of Expiry as marked on the Partnership Agreement Particulars unless terminated earlier in accordance with these General Terms and Conditions.

2 Parties Obligations

2.1 The Parties agree to act lawfully in carrying out its obligations under this Partnership Agreement and ensure that it complies with:

- 2.1.1 the General Terms and Conditions of this Partnership Agreement;
- 2.1.2 the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement;
- 2.1.3 all applicable legislation; and
- 2.1.4 any policies and guidelines issued by The National Lottery Community Fund including but not limited to equal opportunities and safeguarding and protecting children and adults at risk.

2.2 The Parties acknowledge that the Lead is acting as the lead organisation on the Project and is responsible to The National Lottery Community Fund for the completion of the Grant Agreement. Each Partner agrees not to act in any way which would or could cause the Lead to be in breach of the Grant Agreement.

2.3 To the extent that there is any inconsistency between this Partnership Agreement and the Grant Agreement, the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement shall prevail.

2.4 Each Party shall have an adequate number of staff (including any new staff as required) with the necessary skills and experience to complete its Deliverable(s) stated in the Project Plan. The costs of employing such staff shall be met by the Party concerned (including any redundancy or other payments on termination of employment).

2.5 Each Party shall:

- 2.5.1 be responsible for its own staff who are allocated to work on the Project and shall comply with its own policies and procedures in respect of any such staff; and
- 2.5.2 have in place and comply with all policies and procedures required by law or relevant to the Project.

2.6 Each Party shall be responsible for managing its own finances in relation to the Project.

3 Lead Obligations

3.1 The Lead shall be responsible for the overall leadership and management of the Project and shall ensure full compliance by the Partner(s), with the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement.

3.2 The Lead shall not be obliged to make any Payment(s) to a Partner unless it has received the Grant funding from The National Lottery Community Fund.

3.3 The Partner(s) acknowledge that the Lead shall be under no obligation to indemnify any Partner for any expenditure incurred which is in excess of the relevant Partner's agreed Payment(s) stated in the Project Plan.

3.4 If the Lead, acting reasonably, is of the view that any Party to this Partnership Agreement is not sufficiently delivering its Deliverable(s), the Lead will use all reasonable endeavours to maintain compliance with the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement.

4 Payments and Contributions

4.1 The Lead shall distribute the Payment(s) to the Partner(s) on the dates set out in the Project Plan. Payment(s) made by the Lead to a Partner under this Clause 4 shall be paid to such Partner on the same terms and conditions as the Grant Agreement.

- 4.2 Each Party shall keep, in relation to the Project and the receipt and expenditure of all Payment(s) received under Clause 4:
 - 4.2.1 accurate records and accounts showing income and expenditure;
 - 4.2.2 receipts and invoices in relation to expenditure; and
 - 4.2.3 details of how the Deliverable(s), as set out Project Plan, were completed.
- 4.3 Each Party shall keep the information listed in Clause 4.2 for a period of seven (7) years after the Expiry Date (“**Retention Period**”) so as to enable compliance with the reporting requirements of the Lead and/or The National Lottery Community Fund. If requested, the Partners shall permit The National Lottery Community Fund, the Lead and the Comptroller and Auditor General to inspect such information during normal working hours upon reasonable notice throughout the term of this Partnership Agreement and during the Retention Period.
- 4.4 A Party shall not incur any financial liabilities in respect to the Project that are not agreed to as part of the Project Plan. In the event any Party does so, it shall not be entitled to any indemnity or reimbursement of such financial liability from any other Party unless agreed in accordance with Clause 12.1.
- 4.5 Each Partner acknowledges that any Payment(s) to them by the Lead under this Partnership Agreement are paid from the Grant Agreement and do not represent consideration for any taxable supply for VAT purposes. Any such Payment(s) are distributed are inclusive of VAT (if any).

5 Partner Obligations

- 5.1 Each Partner represents to the Lead that:
 - 5.1.1 it has the right, power and authority to enter into and fully perform its obligations under this Partnership Agreement;
 - 5.1.2 it will perform its obligations under this Partnership Agreement with reasonable skill and care;
 - 5.1.3 it shall comply with the Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement to the full extent that it is relevant to the Partner;
 - 5.1.4 there are no material agreements existing to which the Partner is a party which prevent the Partner from entering into or complying with this Partnership Agreement; and
 - 5.1.5 it has satisfied itself as to the nature and extent of the risks assumed by it under this Partnership Agreement and has gathered all information necessary to perform its obligations under the Partnership Agreement.
- 5.2 Without prejudice to any other remedies of the Lead under this Partnership Agreement, if a Partner fails to fulfil all or any of its Deliverable(s) as stated in the Project Plan, the Lead shall be entitled to withhold from such Partner all or any part of such Payment(s) which are associated with the relevant Deliverable(s). The Lead shall have sole discretion as to whether it subsequently releases all or part of the withheld Payment(s) if the affected Partner takes steps to comply with its unfulfilled Deliverable(s) under this Partnership Agreement.

6 Intellectual Property

- 6.1 For the purpose of this Clause 6, “**Intellectual Property Rights**” shall mean patents, rights to inventions, copyright and related rights, trade marks and service marks, business names and domain names, goodwill, rights in designs, rights in computer software, database rights, confidential information (including know-how) and all other intellectual property rights, in each case whether registered or unregistered and including all applications and rights to apply for and be granted, renewals or extensions of, such rights and all similar or equivalent rights or forms of protection which subsist or will subsist now or in the future in any part of the world.
- 6.2 The Parties intend that any Intellectual Property Rights created in the course of the Project shall vest in the Party whose employee created them (or in the case of any Intellectual Property Rights created jointly by employees of two or more Parties, in the Party who is noted in the Project Plan as having responsibility for the activity pursuant to which the Intellectual Property Rights were created).
- 6.3 Where any Intellectual Property Right is created and vests in the relevant Party in accordance with Clause 6.2, such Party shall:

- 6.3.1 not commercially exploit the Intellectual Property Right without The National Lottery Community Fund's prior written consent; and
- 6.3.2 grant an irrevocable, non-exclusive licence to the other Parties and The National Lottery Community Fund, as necessary, to use such Intellectual Property for the purposes of publicising the success of the Project or on the terms as otherwise agreed by the Parties in writing.

7 Publicity and Branding

- 7.1 The Parties shall comply with The National Lottery Community Fund's publicity guidelines as set out in the Grant Agreement and as published on its website: <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/welcome>
- 7.2 The Parties shall acknowledge The National Lottery Community Fund, using the common lottery branding in accordance with the brand guidelines referred to in Clause 7.1.
- 7.3 The Communication Lead shall be responsible for promoting the Project and all responses to media enquiries must be approved by the Communication Lead prior to issue.

8 Termination

- 8.1 The Lead may terminate this Partnership Agreement with immediate effect by written notice to the Partners if The National Lottery Community Fund suspends or terminates the Grant Agreement for any reason.
- 8.2 The Lead may, in its sole discretion, terminate this Partnership Agreement with immediate effect by written notice to a Partner in breach ("Breaching Party") on or at any time after the Breaching Party:
 - 8.2.1 is in material or persistent breach of any of its obligations under this Partnership Agreement (including the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement) which (if the breach is capable of remedy) the Breaching Party has failed to remedy within twenty (20) working days after receipt of notice in writing from the Lead requiring the Breaching Party to remedy such breach;
 - 8.2.2 suffers an insolvency event;
 - 8.2.3 grossly neglects the Purpose and general objectives of this Partnership Agreement;
 - 8.2.4 acts in any respect contrary to the provisions of this Partnership Agreement or to the requirement of good faith between the Parties.
- 8.3 If any Partner is unable for whatever reason to continue its participation in the Project, it shall notify the other Parties immediately on becoming aware of such circumstances and enter into good faith discussions with the other Parties as to how the departure of the affected Partners from the Project can be managed so as to cause the least possible disruption to the Project and whether it is possible for this Partnership Agreement to continue in force in respect of the remaining Parties.
- 8.4 On termination of this Partnership Agreement for any reason:
 - 8.4.1 termination shall not affect the rights of any Party accruing or accrued prior to the termination of this Partnership Agreement; and
 - 8.4.2 this Partnership Agreement shall continue in force to the extent necessary to give effect to those of its provisions which expressly or impliedly have effect after termination; and
 - 8.4.3 the Partners shall promptly repay to the Lead any unused Payment(s) to them under Clause 4.
- 8.5 On termination of this Partnership Agreement for whatever reason the Parties shall use all reasonable endeavours to work together in good faith to enable an orderly transition and to satisfy the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement taking into account the termination of this Partnership Agreement.
- 8.6 The Parties shall in the case of a minor or non-material breach utilise the dispute resolution procedure set out in Clause 11 prior to termination. Termination in respect of a Partner shall not terminate the Partnership Agreement in respect of the other Parties.

9 Confidentiality

9.1 Each Party shall take all necessary precautions, and apply the same confidentiality measures and degree of care to any confidential information disclosed to it by another Party as the receiving Party applies to its own confidential information to ensure that the information is treated as confidential and undertakes that it shall not at any time, save as permitted by Clause 9.2, disclose any other Party's confidential information.

9.2 Each Party may disclose another Party's confidential information to its employees, officers, representatives or advisers who need to know such information for the purposes of exercising the Party's rights or carrying out its Deliverable(s) stated in the Project Plan. If a Party discloses confidential information under this Clause 9.2, it shall ensure that its employees, officers, representatives or advisers to whom it discloses such confidential information are made aware of and comply with the provisions of this Clause 9.

9.3 The provisions of Clause 9.1 shall not apply to any confidential information which:

- 9.3.1 is or becomes public knowledge (otherwise than by breach of Clause 9.1);
- 9.3.2 was in the possession of the receiving Party, without restriction as to its disclosure, before receiving it from another Party; or
- 9.3.3 is required to be disclosed by any applicable law or regulation, or any court, or governmental or administrative or regulatory authority competent to require such disclosure.

10 Data Protection

10.1 The Parties shall comply with:

- 10.1.1 their obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 in relation to any personal data processed in relation to this Partnership Agreement; and
- 10.1.2 the provisions, if any, set out in the Project Plan.

11 Dispute Resolution

11.1 Any dispute or difference between the Parties arising out of or in connection with this Partnership Agreement (a "Dispute") shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of this Clause 11.

11.2 If a Dispute arises, the Parties in dispute shall first seek to resolve the Dispute by escalation to the Key Contacts in the Partnership Agreement Particulars. The Key Contacts shall have ten (10) working days during which they will use their reasonable endeavours to resolve the Dispute.

11.3 In the event that the matter is still in dispute after completion of the process set out in Clause 11.2, the Parties shall refer the Dispute to mediation or some other form of alternative dispute resolution, until agreement can be made on how to address the Dispute.

11.4 Each Party will pay its own costs of mediation or alternative dispute resolution under this Clause 11.

11.5 If there is a Dispute, each Party will continue to perform its obligations under this Partnership Agreement as far as practical given the nature of the Dispute.

11.6 Each Party agrees not to start any court action in relation to a Dispute until it has complied with the process described in Clause 11, unless court action is necessary to preserve a Party's rights.

12 Variation of the Partnership Agreement

12.1 Any change to this Partnership Agreement is called a Variation. A Variation must be agreed by all Parties and recorded:

- 12.1.1 in writing and signed by all Parties, or
- 12.1.2 through an exchange of emails where the authors have delegated authority to approve the Variation

13 General

13.1 Nothing in this Partnership Agreement, and no action taken by the Parties pursuant to this Partnership Agreement, shall constitute, or be deemed to constitute, the Parties as a partnership within the meaning of the Partnership Act 1890 or the Limited Liability Partnership Acts nor shall it

constitute a joint venture or denote the relationship of agent/principal between the Parties and no Party shall be entitled to bind or hold itself out as being capable of binding any other Party.

13.2 Any notices to be given under this Partnership Agreement shall be in writing and shall be:

- 13.2.1 delivered by hand or by pre-paid first class post or other next working day delivery service at its registered office (if a company) or its principal place of business (in any other case); or
- 13.2.2 sent by email,

addressed to the Key Contact indicated for each Party in the Partnership Agreement Particulars. Such notices shall be deemed to be served if delivered personally, at the time of delivery, if sent by post 48 hours after posting and if sent by email at 9.00 am on the next working day after transmission.

13.3 No Party shall assign its rights or transfer its obligations under this Partnership Agreement without the prior written consent of The National Lottery Community Fund.

13.4 A waiver of any right under this Partnership Agreement is only effective if it is in writing and it applies only to the Party to whom the waiver is addressed and the circumstances for which it is given.

13.5 This Partnership Agreement contains all the terms and conditions agreed between the Parties regarding its subject matter and supersedes any prior agreement, understanding or arrangement between the Parties, whether oral or in writing. However, nothing in this Clause 13.5 shall operate to limit or exclude any Party's liability for fraudulent misrepresentation.

13.6 If any provision (or any part of a provision) of this Partnership Agreement is found by any court or administrative body of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, unenforceable or illegal, the other provisions shall remain in force. If any invalid, unenforceable or illegal provision would be valid, enforceable or legal if some part of it were deleted, the provision shall apply with whatever modification is necessary to give effect to the intention of the Parties.

14 Governing Law and Jurisdiction

14.1 Subject to Clause 11, this Partnership Agreement and any dispute or claim (including any non-contractual dispute or claim) arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter (a "Claim"), shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of England and Wales and the Parties agree irrevocably that the courts of England and Wales shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any claim.

Schedule 2

Grant Agreement



Michele Bryans
EastSide Greenways
278-280 Newtownards Road
Belfast
Antrim
BT4 1HE

Project reference: 20292739

21/07/2025

Hello Michele

We're going to fund your project!

We're happy to tell you that we are going to fund your Climate Action Fund application for National Lottery funding. We want to give Net Zero Neighborhood: A Community Climate Action Plan for Improving Lives £1,348,423.03 over 5 years.

Please read over this before you sign and send us the things we need

Make sure you're happy with all the information included and the terms before you sign by reading over:

- the information about your project
- the difference your project aims to make

- how to share the good news about your funding
- our terms and conditions (so you know what you're agreeing to when you sign at the end)

We've made some changes around how you return your offer letter and bank statement

We want to be as flexible as we can. We know some people won't have access to a scanner or printer. So to make it easier to return information to us:

- we're saying it's fine to send us either a photo or scanned copy of your signed documents via email or a hard copy of your signed documents via post.

What happens after you've sent us everything we need

After we've got your signed agreement (with the terms and conditions attached) along with your bank statement copy - your funding officer will contact you.

You'll be able to talk through when you'd like to start your project, your funding payments and dates, and any next steps. Your funding officer will be happy to help you with any questions too.

What happens if you don't get back to us on time

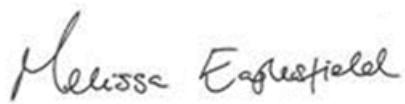
We may withdraw the funding we've offered your project if you don't send us back this signed agreement by **15/08/2025** and you haven't been in touch to let us know you aren't able to meet this date.

If you know you can't get it back to us by this date, let us know as soon as you can.

And last, but not least - well done

Congratulations again on your funding. Thank you for everything you do to support your community.

Best wishes,



Melissa Eaglesfield

Deputy

Director

Read your project summary and aims before signing the agreement

Information about your project

Your whole project is going to cost £1,603,328.62 We've said we'll give you £1,348,423.03 of this over 5 years.

The difference your project aims to make

This funding will support EastSide Greenways to engage their community in climate action projects, using a 16km urban green and blue space cycle and walkway through the heart of East Belfast, Northern Ireland. The vision is that people living in areas of disadvantage in East Belfast are empowered to connect to the conversation about climate change at a local level, and shape how climate action could improve their community and the lives of the people in it.

EastSide Greenways will partner with Queens University Belfast and Belfast City Council requesting £1,348,423.03 over five years. Community partners include East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA), The Larder, and East Belfast Anti-Poverty Alliance (EBAPA) made up of 21 organisations including Sure Start, East Belfast Mission, In This Together, The Trussell Trust and Barnardo's.

This project will provide opportunities every year for up to 5000 residents living in areas of poverty, discrimination and disadvantage to connect to the conversation about climate change at a local level and shape how climate action can improve their community and the lives of the people in it. It aims to make a difference by using the Greenway as a test lab for a variety of scalable local climate action projects. Impact will include building knowledge, skills and capacity in communities to understand climate change, take part in local climate action projects and create their own Climate Action Plan. As well as through connecting into city and nationwide networks to share learning and inspire others.

Activities will take place outdoors and in community venues along the Greenway and work will be split between the formal partners. ESG will deliver climate action projects,

volunteer engagement, marketing, digital and print project campaign. QUB will lead on evaluation and report writing. BCC will conduct data gathering developing shareable toolkit and resources and connecting the project into city and nationwide networks. Budget has also been allocated for local experts and community groups to be involved with the project, particularly on Citizen Assembly meetings, Citizen Science activities and Ambassador programme.

The grant is made up of the following amounts:

Cost type	Amount
Revenue	£1,348,423.03
Capital	£0
Onward grants	£0
TOTAL	£1,348,423.03

The grant is split across the project partners as follows:

Partner	Amount allocated	Cost items
EastSide Greenways	£811,262	Staffing: £592,901 1.0 FTE Climate Action Officer £232,489.49 1.0 FTE Volunteer Engagement Support role £189,233.09 0.4 FTE Project Lead Manager £130,873.76 - 0.5 FTE Citizen Science Champion - £40,306.50 Overheads £115,577.33 Including staff recruitment, rent, utilities, admin, insurance) Direct project delivery costs £102,782.15
Queens University Belfast	£232,540	Staffing: 1.0 FTE Impact and communications Officer - £223,540 Report development - £9,000
Belfast City Council	£130,000	Ecological data collection and mapping - £100,000 Developing toolkits and resources - £15,000 Final evaluation - £15,000
Climate experts (Associate partners)	£25,000	Allocated to pay workshop leaders
Grassroots community organisations (Associate Partners) including East Belfast	£149,620	To cover costs as requested by community groups but likely to include engagement support, room hire for community spaces and access needs.

Community Development Agency, the Larder and East Belfast Anti-Poverty Alliance		
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We expect you to monitor the impact your project is having on your community. We also want you to record your progress towards meeting your aims.

We know things can change and evolve as the project does. So your Portfolio Officer will talk to you about what to do if things change.

We've included our terms and conditions with this letter

When your senior contact signs this agreement (which is made up of this grant offer letter and our Terms and Conditions), your organisation is agreeing to our terms and conditions. If your organisation fails to meet them, and/or our reporting requirements, we might suspend payment of the grant and/or take legal action to recover all or part of the funding (which we also call your grant).

Read the terms and conditions over so you know what you're agreeing to. And hold on to a copy, so you can look back on them whenever you need to.

This Grant Offer Letter is also subject to the following **additional conditions** that must be satisfied before you use the budgeted amount of the grant:

- You will provide us with written confirmation that Belfast City Council grants will part fund two of the salaries in the project totalling £254,905.59 as match funding detailed in your application form is in place and ready for you to use for this project delivery, and you will promptly inform us in writing if there are any changes to the provision of this funding.
- Before we pay any grant funds to your organisation, you will enter into a signed project delivery agreement, with Queens University Belfast, Belfast City Council, and any further associate partners in receipt of grant funding for this project, within six months of this grant offer or before your project start date, whichever is sooner.

You are responsible for checking your partner/s are financially stable and have appropriate governance arrangements in place. You must ensure that your partner/s accept and complies with our Terms and Conditions and follow any guidelines issued by us. If they fail to do so, we may exercise our rights including to terminate the grant and/or require repayment. In the event additional partners are added during the lifetime of the project, clause 4.2 of the standard terms and conditions applies.

- As the grant is public funds, you will ensure that in delivering the project, you exclude all expressions of views and opinions on matters of political and/or current public policy (unless required to under legislation, regulation or a court of law in England) and you must not use the Grant to fund lobbying. Any failure to adhere to this clause will be deemed as bringing the Fund into disrepute and will be treated as a breach of the terms and conditions of your grant.

If these conditions are not satisfied, this offer of £1,348,423.03 may be withdrawn.

Who should sign the agreement

The person you named as your senior contact in your application should sign the agreement. They must be least 18 years old and hold one of these senior positions:

Types of organisation	Senior Contact's role in the organisation
Organisations incorporated under the Companies Act (including if your organisation is <u>also</u> a registered charity)	If you're a company we need two senior contacts to sign the agreement, they can be: A Director and the Company Secretary Or A Director and another Director
Charitable Trusts and	Trustee

Charitable Organisations	Incorporated
Local authorities and statutory health bodies	Chief Executive or Director
Schools	Headteacher
Town or parish councils	Clerk to the Council or Office Bearer
Community councils (Scotland only)	Chair
All other types of organisation	Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer or Trustee

How to share the good news about your funding

Celebrate with your community

You should share the good news with your community and your local MP:

- [Tell the world about your funding via social media](#)
- [Get in touch with your local press](#)
- [Download our logo to tell people about your National Lottery funding](#)
- [Order free plaques, stickers, bunting and more](#)

We encourage you to keep telling everyone about the difference your project is making throughout the life of your funding.

Sharing news about your project with your community can be a great way to keep them involved and engaged.

We'll share the news about your funding too

We'll publish the good news on our website and share it with the media.

We've set out more information about how you can use The National Lottery Community Fund logo in Annex 1 below.

Now you've read all the above, we need:

The senior contact(s) to send us a photograph or photocopy of the signed signature page and the first page of the agreement by email

If you're not able to send us photos or a photocopy, email us to say:

- in sending this email to us, it's the same as you returning your agreement to our grant terms - it's as though you've signed the offer letter; and
- you agree to send us the signed offer letter as soon as it's possible for you to do so.

This should be returned to us by .

An emailed copy of a photograph or photocopy of a recent bank statement for the account that you would like the funding paid into; this is the information we need to see

**Your agreement - please sign and email back to:
zoe.holness@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk**

Keep a copy of your agreement and terms and conditions (for your records). You can find more information on what happens next on our website.

Project details

Organisation name: EastSide Greenways

Project name: Net Zero Neighborhood: A Community Climate Action Plan for Improving Lives

Project Reference: 20292739

Agreement

I am/we are authorised on behalf of the organisation named above to accept this offer of grant on the terms and conditions stated.

Senior contact (named in your application process)

First name (in full)

Last name

Karen	Purdy
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Position in organisation

Chairperson

Signed

Date

	12/08/2025
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Second senior contact (for companies including if your organisation is also a registered charity)

This second senior contact must be a Director of the company, or the Company Secretary, as they are listed at Companies House. They also have to be a different person from the senior contact named above.

First name (in full)

Last name

Tony	Wilson
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Position in organisation

Company Secretary

Signed

Date

	12/08/2025
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Read the Terms and Conditions before signing, send a copy back with your agreement, and keep a copy of your agreement for yourself.

Annex 1

Information about using The National Lottery Community Fund logo (“Beneficiary Logo”)

Our Beneficiary Logo is made up of The National Lottery crossed fingers and the words “Community Fund.” The Gambling Commission owns the trademark for the crossed fingers part.

You are hereby granted a right to use our Beneficiary Logo, for the purposes of promoting your National Lottery funded project. This permission is personal to your project and you can't transfer any of your rights to another person or project.

We might share your details with Allwyn Entertainment Limited (“Allwyn”), and The Gambling Commission, in order to fulfil our obligations under our agreement with Allwyn. We have the right to end your permission straightaway to use the Beneficiary Logo, at any time and for any reason. This might be in the following circumstances:

- if Allwyn or the Gambling Commission ends our permission to use it
- if you don't comply with our guidelines
- if your grant from National Lottery funds is withdrawn, suspended or terminated.

When this permission ends, you must stop using the Beneficiary Logo immediately.

If you have any questions about publicising your grant email us at branding@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk

Climate Action Fund

Standard Terms and Conditions for Climate Action Fund Round 5 - Our Shared Future

In these terms and conditions, The National Lottery Community Fund is referred to as “us” or “we”, and the organisation that is awarded a grant is referred to as “you”. We refer to the project, event or activity described in your application, or as otherwise agreed with us, as “the project”.

1. By accepting this grant, you agree to:

- 1.1. hold the grant on trust for us and use it only for your project;
- 1.2. use the grant only for costs incurred after the date of your grant offer letter and only during the term of the project as agreed with us;
- 1.3. start your project and draw down the first instalment of the grant within six months of signing the grant offer letter, unless otherwise agreed with us;
- 1.4. provide us promptly with any information and reports including relevant monitoring information we require about the project and its impact on your community, both during and after the end of the project;
- 1.5. work with any third party we may contract with or appoint for the benefit of the project and/or this funding programme;
- 1.6. obtain our written consent before making any significant changes to your project or to the status, ownership or constitution of your organisation;
- 1.7. let us know promptly about any significant issues or delays with your project or about any fraud, other impropriety, mismanagement or misuse in relation to the grant or any legal claim and/or investigation made or threatened against you, any member of your governing body, or any organisation, employee or volunteer working on the project;
- 1.8. act lawfully in carrying out your project, in accordance with best practice and guidance from your regulators, and follow any guidelines issued by us in relation to the programme or use of the grant;
- 1.9. advance equality of opportunities in line with the law and any guidelines issued by us;
- 1.10. if the grant is for a salary of a new post, advertise the vacancy externally unless otherwise agreed with us, and carry out a fair and open recruitment process in line with the law and any guidelines issued by us;
- 1.11. acknowledge National Lottery funding using our logo in accordance with the relevant [guidelines for recognising your grant](#), which can be found on our website;
- 1.12. hold the grant in a UK based account or building society account, which is in the legal name of the organisation that is applying for funding from The National Lottery Community Fund;
- 1.13. adhere to [our guidance on financial controls and banking arrangements](#), ensuring that no single individual has sole responsibility for any single transaction from authorisation to review and completion, and that the account is managed by at least two unrelated and authorised individuals in your organisation;

- 1.14. treat the grant as restricted funds in your annual accounts using the reference “the National Lottery Community Fund” and the programme name “Climate Action Fund Round 5 - Our Shared Future”, and if required by us, open a separate designated bank or building society account for each grant from us for the sole purpose of receiving and administering that grant;
- 1.15. immediately return any part of the grant that is not used for your project or that has not been spent by the end of the project, as agreed with us;
- 1.16. comply with our [safeguarding expectations for grant holders](#), which is available on our website;
- 1.17. have an appropriate written whistleblowing policy and procedure/s in place, ensure the policy and/or procedures are publicised internally and ensure that staff are trained on its principles and operation, review and update your whistleblowing policy and procedures at least every two years;
- 1.18. comply with all applicable data protection legislation including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 and, where appropriate, you will obtain the consent of your beneficiaries to enable us to receive and process their Personal Data in connection with the project and for us to contact them;
- 1.19. keep accurate and comprehensive records about your project both during the project and for seven years afterwards and provide us on request with copies of those records and evidence of expenditure of the grant such as original paper or electronic receipts, invoices, and bank statements;
- 1.20. us commissioning research into and/or evaluation of your funding. You confirm that you will co-operate with any research or evaluation related activities which we carry out and further confirm that we may use any part of your application and/or project information for research or evaluation purposes;
- 1.21. allow us and/or the Comptroller and Auditor General reasonable access to relevant premises and systems to inspect the project and grant records. You agree that it may be necessary for you to share relevant Personal Data (as defined in the UK GDPR) with us in order to fulfil your obligations under this clause. You will be transparent about your obligations under this clause with your beneficiaries (Data Subjects (as defined in the UK GDPR)) and ensure you have a lawful basis to share any relevant Personal Data with us in order to comply with this clause;

- 1.22. us publicising and sharing information about you and your project including your name and images of project activities. You hereby grant us a royalty free licence to reproduce and publish in any format any project information you give us. You will let us know when you provide the information if you don't have permission for it to be used for these purposes; and
- 1.23. if your project is being delivered in Wales, enable people to engage in both Welsh and English, treating both languages equally. Welsh speakers must be able to access information and services in Welsh and all materials must be produced bilingually.

2. If any part of the grant is used to acquire goods or services, or to buy or develop intellectual property, costing more than £12,000 including VAT you will:

- 1.2. obtain and consider at least three quotes for contracts with a value between £12,000 and £30,000 including VAT;
- 1.3. carry out a competitive tender for contracts with a value over £30,000 and, if you are a contracting authority subject to the Procurement Act 2023, comply with the Procurement Act 2023 and any subordinate legislation;
- 1.4. use assets acquired or enhanced using the grant only for the project and keep them safely, in good repair and condition and adequately insured for the life of the project and any subsequent asset monitoring period specified in the relevant guidelines;
- 1.5. protect any intellectual property rights acquired or developed using the grant and not commercially exploit these rights without our prior written consent; and
- 1.6. obtain our prior written consent for any disposal of assets acquired, developed or enhanced using the grant and if required, pay us a share of proceeds from such disposal.

3. You acknowledge that we are entitled to suspend or terminate the grant and/or require you to repay all or any of the grant and/or impose additional conditions in the following situations. You must let us know if any of these situations have occurred or are likely to occur.

- 1.3. You use the grant in any way other than as approved by us or fail to comply with any of these terms and conditions, or any additional conditions set out in our grant offer to you.

- 1.4. You fail to make good progress with your project or are unlikely in our view to complete the project or achieve the impacts agreed with us.
- 1.5. You have match funding for the project withdrawn or receive or fail to declare any duplicate funding for the same project costs as funded by the grant.
- 1.6. You provide us with false or misleading information, either on application or after award of the grant, act dishonestly, or if you or anyone involved in the project or your organisation is under investigation by us, a regulatory body or the police.
- 1.7. You do or fail to do anything that brings us or the National Lottery into disrepute, or which we consider for any reason puts public funds at risk, or we terminate or suspend any other grant we have given you.
- 1.8. You enter into, or in our view are likely to enter into, administration, liquidation, receivership, dissolution or, in Scotland, have your organisation's estate sequestrated.
- 1.9. You receive any grant money incorrectly either as a result of an administrative error or otherwise. This includes where you are paid in error before you have complied with your obligations under these terms and conditions and Offer Letter. Any sum, which falls due under this paragraph 3.7, shall fall due immediately. If you fail to repay the due sum immediately, or as otherwise agreed with us, the sum will be recoverable summarily as a civil debt.

4. You acknowledge that:

- 4.1 by accepting this grant:
 - 4.1.1. you confirm that the information in your application has been authorised by the governing body of your organisation;
 - 4.1.2. your organisation is able to deliver the project described in your application; and
 - 4.1.3. the grant is not consideration for any taxable supply for VAT purposes;
- 1.4. the grant is for your use only and you may not share or transfer the grant (or any part of it) to anyone else unless approved by us. If we agree to you sharing or transferring the grant, you are responsible for ensuring that your partners and other recipients of the grant accept and comply with these terms and conditions and follow any guidance issued by us. If they fail to do so, we may exercise our rights in clause 3, including to terminate the grant and require repayment. You

must enter into a legally binding agreement, with anyone with whom you share the grant and provide us with a copy on request;

- 1.4. if any part of the grant is used to buy or build, refurbish, extend or alter buildings or land or to purchase or enhance vehicles or equipment you must comply with our additional capital grant conditions;
- 1.5. we will not increase the grant if you spend more than the agreed budget on your project and we can only guarantee the grant as long as the National Lottery continues to operate and we receive sufficient funds from it;
- 1.6. the grant comes from public funds and you will not use it in any way that does not comply with the Subsidy Control Act 2022 (or equivalent legal provisions covering Northern Ireland) and associated regulations as amended from time to time. If the grant is deemed to be unlawful subsidy, you will repay the entire sum immediately. If you are concerned about the subsidy control obligations, you will seek independent legal advice;
- 1.7. we have no liability for any costs or consequences incurred by you or third parties that arise either directly or indirectly from the project, nor from non-payment or withdrawal of the grant, save to the extent required by law; and
- 1.8. These terms and conditions will continue to apply for (i) one year after payment of the last grant instalment; or (ii) until the project has been completed; or (iii) for as long as grant monies remain unspent, whichever is the longer. Clauses 1.4, 1.11, 1.12, 1.13, 1.14, 1.15, 1.18, 1.19, 1.20, 1.21, 1.22, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7 shall survive termination or expiry of these terms and conditions.

Schedule 3

Project Plan

Attached to email

Agenda Item 5d



Subject:	Social Supermarket Fund 26/28
Date:	10 th February 2026
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan - Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane - Neighbourhood Services Manager Margaret Higgins - Lead Officer Community Provision

Is this report restricted?	
<p style="text-align: right;">Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input type="text"/></p> <p> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime </p>	
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <p> After Committee Decision <input type="checkbox"/> After Council Decision <input type="checkbox"/> Sometime in the future <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> </p>	

Is this report eligible for call in?	
<p style="text-align: right;">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To advise members that the assessment of applications received through the Social Supermarket Fund 26/28 has now concluded and that a full report on the outcome will be brought to February SP&R for consideration and agreement on allocation of funds.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	It is recommended that Committee note the contents of the report.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>In response to recommendations in the Welfare Reform Mitigations report, the Department for Communities (DfC) has operated a Social Supermarket Pilot programme since October 2017. Following positive evaluation of the Programme, funding has been made available through the CSP since 20/21 to all council areas.</p>
3.2	<p>The aim of a social supermarket is to offer a sustainable response to food insecurity by seeking to help address the root causes of poverty rather than simply provide food. This is achieved by providing, in addition to food support, a referral network for wraparound support.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that funding for Social Supermarkets is primarily drawn from the DfC Community Support Programme (CSP) Letter of Offer, through a 100% DfC resourced funding stream for this work. Council has not yet received a Letter of Offer for 26/27, and Council does not have any budget to support activity that is 100% funded through the CSP.</p> <p>In recent years, CSP Letters of Offer have not been received until July. Given that applications to the Social Supermarket Fund 26/28 will support activity from 01 April 2026 until 31st March 2028, the outcome of the assessments is being presented to SP&R so that they can consider funding options in the absence of a DfC LoO.</p>
4.1	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The budget received from DfC in 25/26 was £777,811 which has been used to support 19 projects. In November 2025, Council made an additional allocation of £100,000 to support social supermarkets.</p>
5.0	
5.1	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The 26/28 Social Supermarket Fund open call is being screened for Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Implications</p>
6.0	<u>Appendices - Documents Attached or None</u>
	None



Subject:	Department for Communities (DfC) Consultation on New Notice to Quit proposals for the private rented sector
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director City Services
Contact Officer:	Claire O'Neill Principal Environmental Health Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

No

1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1	The Department for Communities has issued a 12 week consultation in seeking to bring in longer notice to quit periods and introducing specific circumstances where shorter notice periods are still permitted under the new regulations namely. The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025.
1.2	The Department's consultation document, associated guidance and equality impact assessment may be accessed via the following weblink: Consultation on notice to quit periods Department for Communities
1.3	Finally, this report provides at Appendix 1, a proposed response to the Department for Communities consultation.
1.4	The Committee is advised that responses to the Department for Communities Notice to quit consultation are to be received by the Department by 29 th March 2026.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the contents of the report which provides an overview of the Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025 and associated guidance. • Agree that the proposed consultation response, provided at Appendix 1 to this report, be submitted to the Department for Communities by the consultation deadline of 29th March 2026. • Members may wish to consider writing to DFC regarding our concerns as to how they propose to support the resourcing of this new regulating function.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	This report serves to provide an overview of the proposals contained in the Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025 which allows significantly longer notice-to-quit periods that landlords must give tenants and sets out the specific circumstances where shorter notice periods are still permitted to ensure a fair balance between tenant protection and landlords' rights. It also clarifies how the rules interact with human-rights considerations, such as respect for property and family life, and supports the wider reform of the private rented sector in Northern Ireland.
3.2	<p><u>Proposed Notice to Quit periods:</u></p> <p>The Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022 introduced the <i>initial</i> longer notice-to-quit periods (4, 8 and 12 weeks) and gave the Department for Communities the power to extend them further in future.</p> <p>The 2025 Regulations use that power to implement significantly longer notice periods and define the circumstances where shorter notice remains appropriate, ensuring human-rights considerations (property rights, family life) are balanced.</p> <p>The increased notice to quit periods are as follows:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 weeks, if the tenancy has not been in existence for more than 12 months; • 4 months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 12 months but not for more than 3 years; • 6 months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 3 years but not for more than 8 years; and • 7 months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 8 years.
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Under The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025 - "the Regulations" - refer to these notice periods as "**standard case notice periods**." A landlord does not need to give a reason to issue a standard case notice to quit.

It is important to note that before these Regulations commenced a notice to quit given by a landlord did not have to be in a particular form, it simply had to be 'in writing'. Once the Regulations commence, all notices to quit given by a landlord must be in the prescribed form. The Council supports this approach to providing a prescribed form for all notices to quit as it provides a clear and consistent format for tenants which will assist both landlords and enforcement officers in assessing the validity of notices served and ensuring that due legal process has been followed.

New Special Case Notice Periods Proposals

There are four circumstances in which a landlord can give a shorter notice period than those set out in Article 14(1A). The Regulations refer to these shorter notice periods as "Special Case Notice Periods." These circumstances and associated notice periods are set out in the table below:

Notice to Quit Circumstances	Special Case Notice Period
Substantial arrears of rent	1 Month
Engaged in Serious Anti-social Behaviour	2 Weeks
Convicted of a Relevant Criminal Offence	2 Weeks
Possession for occupation by the landlord or landlords' immediate family	3 months

Guidance Notes to Explain the Responsibilities as a Tenant/Landlord, under the proposed Regulations

The Guidance notes provide practical advice for landlords and tenants on how to comply with the updated legal requirements. The council welcomes the guidance and agrees that the guidance for tenant/landlords is easy to follow, however some comments and recommendations about the content of the guidance notes have been provided as part of the consultation response.

Enforcement

The draft regulations do not indicate that failure to comply with the notice to quit periods is an offence. Therefore, in the event that the council receives a

	<p>complaint from a tenant about a notice to quit, it will be investigated in line with the council's procedures for dealing with harassment/illegal eviction in accordance with the Rent (Northern Order)1978.</p> <p>The response to the consultation questionnaire is contained in Appendix 1, however the draft response is summarised as follows;</p> <p>3.6 Notice to Quit process</p> <p>The introduction of prescribed notice-to-quit forms is welcomed, as this will assist both landlords and enforcement officers in assessing the validity of notices served and ensuring that due legal process has been followed.</p> <p>It is recommended that the guidance also clearly outlines the lawful notice to quit process, as this remains a frequent area of enquiry for enforcement officers and include examples of scenarios that may constitute offences under the Private Tenancies Order for which councils have enforcement powers. The guidance should further provide explicit clarification of the respective roles of councils and the civil courts, particularly in relation to the landlord statement of evidence and the resolution of disputes arising from notices issued by landlords.</p> <p>3.7 Landlord statement of evidence</p> <p>The council recommends the development of a prescribed landlord's statement-of-evidence form to further promote clarity and consistency.</p> <p>3.8 Substantial rent arrears</p> <p>In cases involving substantial rent arrears, the landlord should be statutorily obliged to provide evidence of engagement with the tenant to resolve the issue and the solutions explored eg repayment options offered to the tenant and whether these were either declined or were unsuccessful.</p> <p>It could be debated whether a period of two months' unpaid rent should constitute 'substantial' rent arrears. A longer minimum period would, in principle, be more appropriate for the purposes of this ground. In determining if arrears are substantial, regard should also be had to whether the tenant has refused a reasonable repayment arrangement offered by the landlord and also if this is the first instance of arrears or a recurring pattern? Whilst a longer qualifying period may be preferable, it is acknowledged that the additional one-month notice-to-quit requirement will, in effect, result in a total period of approximately three months' unpaid rent prior to the landlord being able to commence possession proceedings. The provision allowing the tenant to pay their arrears and invalidate the NTQ would be welcomed, which supports tenancy sustainment.</p> <p>3.9 Anti-social behaviour</p> <p>There are concerns about the evidential requirements for proving serious antisocial behaviour. Obtaining police reports can be difficult due to resource pressures. In practice, evidence may also be limited by delays in police responses, neighbours being unwilling to provide statements, incidents not meeting the police threshold for formal actions etc.</p>
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	<p>Additionally, property damage may be caused by a vulnerable tenant, and it is our view that repair costs would need to exceed the deposit before this could reasonably be relied upon as evidence.</p> <p>A list of scenarios that do not constitute antisocial behaviour should be included within the guidance to prevent misuse of this shorter notice-to-quit provision. We also recommend that the term 'nuisance' be replaced with 'disturbance' to avoid confusion with a statutory nuisance as defined under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011. In this context, the council would welcome clarification from DfC that there is no requirement to demonstrate a 'statutory nuisance' in order to evidence antisocial behaviour, and if repeated annoyance or disturbance would be sufficient to meet the evidential threshold of validity of the shorter notice to quit period.</p> <p>The council would not routinely share noise or ASB reports with landlords, as such information constitutes the tenant's personal data. Any information sharing must be undertaken in accordance with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, and only where the appropriate protocols and a lawful basis is established. The Council would encourage the Department to introduce an additional legal mechanism to allow for the exchange of information with landlords for this purpose.</p> <p>3.10 Convicted of relevant Criminal Offence</p> <p>In relation to the criminal-offence ground for issuing a notice to quit, the guidance should clearly state that the offence must relate specifically to conduct occurring at the rented property or during the current tenancy of the individual to whom the Notice to quit is issued. This clarification is necessary to prevent misuse of this provision, such as issuing a shorter Notice to quit on the basis of historic convictions or offences unconnected to the property or the present tenancy.</p> <p>Guidance should clarify what constitutes acceptable evidence of a relevant conviction determined in the Crown Court. For example, it should be made explicit whether informal sources such as newspaper reports or social-media posts would not be sufficient, and that formal documentation such as an official court extract, conviction certificate, or other verified records would be required.</p> <p>The Council would encourage the Department to introduce additional legislative proposals in respect of grounds for eviction which other jurisdictions have in place in order to reduce the amount of retaliatory evictions.</p> <p>3.11 Evidence required to validate a shorter notice to quit</p> <p>In the case of "Substantial arrears of rent" landlords should be required to demonstrate that reasonable attempts were made to address the arrears collaboratively before progressing to notice to quit such as evidence of repayment plans offered to tenant. This will encourage early engagement and reduce avoidable homelessness. For cases of "Relevant Criminal Offence" Official court extract/judgements are suggested as relevant evidence to support a shorter notice to quit period. In relation to the Anti-social behaviour evidence, evidence required would include PSNI reports, witness statements and correspondence from statutory bodies eg NI HMO Unit. For landlord seeking possession for the occupation of the landlord or</p>
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	<p>their immediate family, a Detailed affidavit as per the guidance has been suggested due to the limited evidence likely to be available in such circumstances.</p> <p>3.12 Possession for occupation by the landlord or landlords' immediate family</p> <p>Whilst we agree that a shorter notice-to-quit period is reasonable where possession is sought for occupation by the landlord or the landlord's immediate family, it is acknowledged that the proposed three-month notice period will have the greatest impact on medium to long-term tenancies (i.e. those residing in a property for over three years).</p> <p>Under the standard arrangements, such tenants would otherwise have been afforded at least six or seven months' notice to secure alternative accommodation. Long-term tenants are more likely to have established significant ties to the property and surrounding area, including eg childcare arrangements, school placements, and access to local health services. It is not clear from the equality impact assessment whether any particular groups are disproportionately represented among long-term tenancies and therefore more likely to experience adverse impacts arising from this shorter notice period. We recommend this is explored further in the EQIA.</p> <p>The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025 will require Councils to undertake additional detailed work to investigate cases that are raised by tenants who believe that their landlord has not complied with the requirements of the proposed notice to quit regulations. To date, the Department for Communities has not offered any financial support for the enforcement of these new provisions nor for any of the other recent Private Tenancy Order legislative requirements that has been introduced incrementally since 2022.</p> <p>It is recommended members raise our concerns on this with DFC.</p> <p>3.13 Financial and Resource Implications</p> <p>The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025 will require Councils to undertake additional detailed work to investigate cases that are raised by tenants who believe that their landlord has not complied with the requirements of the proposed notice to quit regulations. The Department for Communities (DfC) have not offered any financial support to assist Councils with these additional powers.</p> <p>3-14 Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices
4.1	<p>Appendix 1 - Consultation Questionnaire with responses:</p> <p>Appendix 2 - DfC notice to quit consultation the private tenancies regulations ni 2025</p> <p>Appendix 3 - DfC notice to quit consultation guidance on private tenancies regulations ni 2025</p> <p>Appendix 4 - Exception to longer notice to quit periods in NI</p>

Appendix 5 - DfI notice to quit consultation EqIA

Appendix 6 - DfC notice to quit consultation exceptions longer period EqIA appendices

Appendix 7 - DfC notice to quit consultation privacy notice

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Appendix 1 Draft Consultation Response on Notice to Quit periods

Introduction

Please confirm whether you are replying as an individual or submitting an official response on behalf of an organisation:

(Required)

I am responding as an individual

I am submitting an official response on behalf of an organisation

Responding as an individual

If you are responding as an individual, which of the following best describes your interest in the consultation? (please tick one)

Private sector tenant

Private sector landlord

Other (please specify below)

Responding on behalf of an organisation

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, which of the following best describes your organisation? (please tick one option)

Please select only one item.

Private Landlord

Social Landlord

Letting agent

Local Government/Council

A housing sector representative body

Charity dealing with housing issues

Other (please specify in space below)

Consultation Questions

Please answer the following questions regarding the regulations:

The first 3 circumstances (substantial arrears of rent, serious ASB and relevant criminal offence) were already legislated for within the Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022. The research report recommends a fourth circumstance of possession for occupation by a landlord or landlord's immediate family, with a minimum notice period of three months. The Department considers that this proposal balances the right of the landlord to retake possession, as provided by Article 1 Protocol 1 of the ECHR, with the rights of the tenant including under Article 8 of the ECHR and Schedule 1, Part 1, of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Q1. Do you understand why these circumstances and shorter notice periods are being introduced?

Yes

No

Q2. Do you agree with the four circumstances where longer notice to quit periods would not apply? Please select yes/no for each of the circumstances below.

Circumstance	Do you Agree?	If no, provide your reasons
Substantial arrears of rent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Serious Anti-social Behaviour	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Relevant Criminal Offence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Possession for occupation by the landlord or landlords' immediate family	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

The CIH report proposed the definition for 'substantial arrears of rent' should be where two months' rent is unpaid. The report did not consider any other frequency of rental payment, and so the Department has added to the definition to cover alternative frequencies of rental payments. The notice period for this circumstance is one month.

To help safeguard tenants, the regulations will include the stipulation that if a tenant pays the outstanding arrears in full before the end of the notice period contained in the notice to quit, the notice will become invalid, and the tenancy sustained.

Two week notice periods are confined to serious anti-social behaviour (ASB) and relevant criminal offences. The Department believes that these notice periods are warranted in these circumstances because they will help ensure that the landlord can promptly take action to minimise the impact of such behaviours and activities on neighbours and the wider community and protect their property from potential damage or disruption.

The CIH report also proposes a 3 month notice period for possession for occupation by the landlord or landlords' immediate family. The Department agrees that this notice period balances the right of landlords and tenants.

Q3. Do you agree with each of the four shorter notice periods as set out in the Regulations?

Notice Period	Circumstance	Yes/No	If no, please give a reason
1 month	Substantial arrears of rent	X <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2 weeks	Serious Anti-social Behaviour	X <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2 weeks	Relevant Criminal Offence	X <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3 months	Possession for occupation by the landlord or landlords' immediate family	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

If no, please provide reasons for your answer.

We are aware some landlords face challenges when seeking to promptly regain possession of their properties due to their own personal financial difficulties.

Whilst we agree that a shorter notice-to-quit period is reasonable where possession is sought for occupation by the landlord or the landlord's immediate family, it is acknowledged that the proposed three-month notice period will have the greatest impact on medium to long-term tenancies (i.e. those residing in a property for over three years).

Under the standard arrangements, such tenants would otherwise have been afforded at least six or seven months' notice to secure alternative accommodation.

Long-term tenants are more likely to have established significant ties to the property and surrounding area, including eg childcare arrangements, school placements, and access to

local health services. It is not clear from the equality impact assessment whether any particular groups are disproportionately represented among long-term tenancies and therefore more likely to experience adverse impacts arising from this shorter notice period. We recommend this is explored further in the EQIA.

Q4. Did you find the guidance notes which explain your responsibilities as a tenant/landlord, under the Regulations easy to follow?

Yes

No

If no, please provide reasons for your answer.

Whilst agree the guidance for tenant/landlords is easy to follow, we also provide following commentary and recommendations:

The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025 will require councils to undertake additional, detailed investigative work in cases where tenants believe their landlord has not complied with the proposed notice to quit requirements.

Without additional financial support from DfC, this new workload would need to be absorbed within existing resources. In practice, this would require significant prioritisation and would limit our ability to deliver this function alongside our other statutory duties relating to the Private Rented Sector.

We therefore wish to highlight this as a key concern and seek clarification on how DfC proposes that this additional work will be adequately resourced.

Notice to Quit process

The introduction of prescribed notice-to-quit forms is welcomed, as this will assist both landlords and enforcement officers in assessing the validity of notices served and ensuring that due legal process has been followed.

We recommend the guidance also clearly outlines the lawful notice to quit process, as this remains a frequent area of enquiry for enforcement officers, and include examples of scenarios that may constitute offences under the Private Tenancies Order for which councils have enforcement powers. The guidance should further provide explicit clarification of the respective roles of councils and the civil courts, particularly in relation to the landlord

statement of evidence and the resolution of disputes arising from notices issued by landlords.

Landlord statement of evidence

We recommend the development of a prescribed landlord's statement-of-evidence form to further promote clarity and consistency.

Substantial rent arrears

In cases involving substantial rent arrears, the landlord should be statutorily obliged to provide evidence of engagement with the tenant to resolve the issue and the solutions explored eg repayment options offered to the tenant, and whether these were either declined or unsuccessful.

It is questionable whether a period of two months' unpaid rent should constitute 'substantial' rent arrears. A longer minimum period would, in principle, may be more appropriate for the purposes of this ground. In determining whether arrears are substantial, regard should also be had to whether the tenant has refused a reasonable repayment arrangement offered by the landlord and whether is a first instance of arrears or a recurring pattern. Whilst a longer qualifying period may be preferable, it is acknowledged that the additional one-month notice-to-quit requirement will, in effect, result in a total period of approximately three months' unpaid rent prior to the landlord being able to commence possession proceedings.

We welcome the provision allowing the tenant to pay their arrears and invalidate the NTQ, which supports tenancy sustainment

Anti-social behaviour

We have concerns about the evidential requirements for proving serious antisocial behaviour. Obtaining police reports can be difficult due to resource pressures. In practice, evidence may also be limited by delays in police responses, neighbours being unwilling to provide statements, incidents not meeting the police threshold for formal actions etc

Additionally, property damage may be caused by a vulnerable tenant, and it is our view repair costs would need to exceed the deposit before this could reasonably be relied upon as evidence

A list of scenarios that do not constitute antisocial behaviour should be included within the guidance to prevent misuse of this shorter notice-to-quit provision.

We also recommend that the term 'nuisance' be replaced with 'disturbance' to avoid confusion between statutory environmental health nuisance. In this context, the Council would welcome clarification from DfC that there is no requirement to demonstrate a 'statutory nuisance' in order to evidence antisocial behaviour, and if repeated annoyance or

disturbance would be sufficient to meet the evidential threshold of validity of the shorter notice to quit period

Councils would not routinely share noise or ASB reports with landlords, as such information constitutes the tenant's personal data. Any information sharing must be undertaken in accordance with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, and only where the appropriate protocols and lawful basis is established. The Council would encourage the Department to introduce additional legal mechanism to allow for the exchange of information with landlords.

Convicted of relevant Criminal Offence

In relation to the criminal-offence ground for issuing a notice to quit, the guidance should clearly state that the offence must relate specifically to conduct occurring at the rented property or during the current tenancy of the individual to whom the NTQ is issued. This clarification is necessary to prevent misuse of this provision, such as issuing a shorter NTQ on the basis of historic convictions or offences unconnected to the property or the present tenancy

Guidance should clarify what constitutes acceptable evidence of a relevant conviction determined in the Crown Court. For example, it should be made explicit whether informal sources such as newspaper reports or social-media posts would not be sufficient, and that formal documentation—such as an official court extract, conviction certificate, or other verified record—would be required

Council encourage the Department to introduce additional proposals in respect of grounds for eviction which other jurisdictions have in place in order to reduce the amount of retaliatory evictions

The Department agrees with the commonsense types of evidence listed in the CIH report for the first 3 circumstances (substantial arrears of rent, serious ASB and relevant criminal offence) and decided not to list this in legislation as it is more practical for the courts to follow standard practise. The Department has provided examples of types of evidence in guidance.

With regards to the fourth circumstance of the landlord seeking possession of the property for themselves or family members, providing evidence for this is much more limited and the CIH report proposed it should be accompanied with a legal assurance. Given the evidence that this circumstance is more open to abuse in eviction cases and as a safeguard for vulnerable tenants, we have decided to include the requirement for a detailed affidavit in our legislation.

Q5. In each circumstance, what types of evidence do you suggest could be required in order to validate a shorter notice to quit?

Circumstance	Examples of evidence
Substantial arrears of rent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence of repayment plans offered to tenant. <p>We believe that landlords should be required to demonstrate that reasonable attempts were made to address the arrears collaboratively before progressing to notice to quit. This will encourage early engagement and reduce avoidable homelessness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tenancy Information Notice/Variation Notice• Cash receipts
Serious Anti-social Behaviour	Witness statement, PSNI reports and reports from Statutory eg NI HMO Unit
Relevant Criminal Offence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Newspaper or social media report• Official court extract/judgement
Possession for occupation by the landlord or landlords' immediate family	Detailed affidavit as per the guidance

Please answer the following questions regarding the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA):

Q6. We have presented a draft EQIA consultation report on the circumstances where longer notices to quit will not be issued.

Do you agree with how we have carried out the EQIA?

Yes

No

Is there any other information that you feel should be included within the EQIA?

Whilst agree that the circumstance of possession for occupation by the landlord or landlords immediate family should be a shorter NTQ period, it is acknowledged that the shorter period of 3 months will have greatest impact on long term tenants, ie tenancy over 3 years, as they would otherwise would have been afforded at least 6 or 7 months standard notice to find alternative accommodation.

Tenants renting over 3 years will possibly have developed strong 'ties' to property/area eg childcare, schools, health services. It is not clear from the equality impact research if any particular group/s are more likely to be in a long term tenancy and therefore likely to be adversely impacted and if so, mitigation measures. we recommend this is explored further in the EQIA.

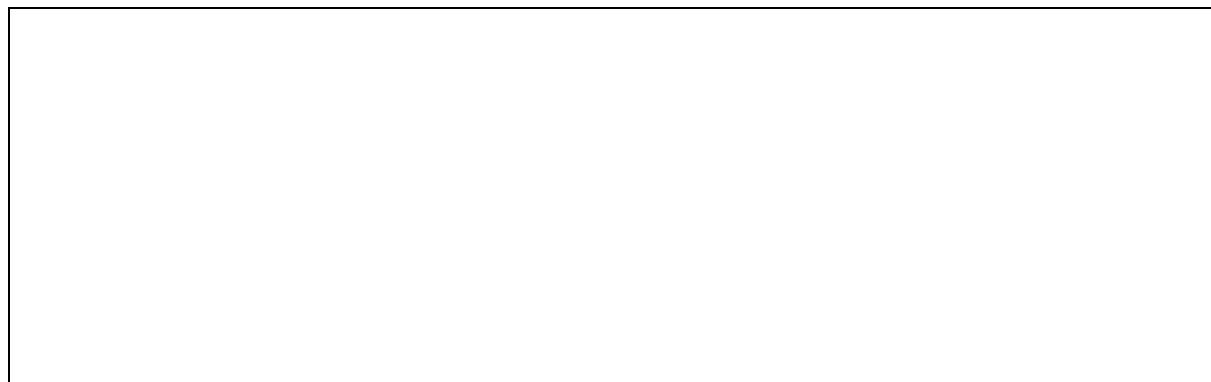
Q7. Within the EQIA we have outlined some adverse impacts that the circumstances where longer notices to quit will not be issued could have.

Do you agree with the adverse impacts that we have identified?

Yes

No

Are there any other adverse impacts that you feel we should include?



Q8. We have outlined some possible mitigation measures to address these potential adverse impacts.

Do you agree with the mitigating actions we have outlined?

Yes

No

Do you have any other suggestions for mitigating measures or alternative policies that could be put in place?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the respondent to write their answer to the question above.

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Draft Regulations laid before the Assembly under Article 72(3) of the Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, for approval by resolution of the Assembly

DRAFT STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN
IRELAND

2025 No. 0000

LANDLORD AND TENANT

**THE PRIVATE TENANCIES (NOTICE TO QUIT) REGULATIONS
(NORTHERN IRELAND) 2025**

Made - - - - - *XXxx XXXX 2025*

Laid before the Assembly *xx XXXX 2025*

Coming into operation *XX XXX 2025*

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SCHEDULE 1 — NOTICE TO QUIT: STANDARD CASE

SCHEDULE 2 — NOTICE TO QUIT: SPECIAL CASE

The Department for Communities **(a)** in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 14(5) and (9) of the Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 **(b)** makes the following Regulations.

Introductory

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025.

(2) These Regulations come into operation on XX XXXX 2025.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

“2006 Order” means the Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006;

“special case” means a case within one of the circumstances set out in Article 14(6) of the 2006 Order;

“standard case” means a case where the relevant period for a notice to quit is set out in Article 14(1A) of the 2006 Order.

Notice to quit: standard case

Form of notice to quit

3. A notice to quit in a standard case must be in the form set out in Schedule 1.

Notice to quit: special cases

Form of notice to quit

4. A notice to quit in a special case must be in the form set out in Schedule 2.

Length of notice to quit

5.—(1) The relevant period for the purposes of Article 14(1) of the 2006 Order (length of notice to quit) is—

- (a) 1 month, in a case falling within Article 14(6)(a) (substantial arrears of rent),
- (b) 2 weeks, in a case falling within Article 14(6)(b) (serious anti-social behaviour),
- (c) 2 weeks, in a case falling within Article 14(6)(c) (conviction for a relevant criminal offence),
- (d) 3 months, in a case falling within Article 14(6)(d) (occupation by landlord or landlord’s family).

(2) In accordance with Article 14(1A) of the 2006 Order, where a case falls within paragraph (1) of this regulation, then the relevant period is that set out in paragraph (1), and not that set out in Article 14(1A).

Special case: substantial arrears of rent

6.—(1) In Article 14(6)(a) of the 2006 Order “substantial arrears of rent” means—

(a) See section 1(7) of the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (c. 5 (N.I.)) and S.R. 2016 No. 76

(b) S.I. 2006 No. 1459 (N.I. 10) as amended by the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 20)

- (a) where rent is payable weekly, fortnightly, or every 4 weeks, 8 weeks' worth of rent is in arrears,
- (b) where rent is payable monthly, 2 months' worth of rent is in arrears,
- (c) where rent is payable quarterly or annually, the rent has not been paid within 2 months of the date it was due.

(2) Where a notice to quit has been issued in the case of a tenant being in substantial arrears of rent, but the tenant pays all outstanding arrears by the date that notice is to take effect, that notice does not take effect.

Special case: serious anti-social behaviour

7. In Article 14(6)(b) of the 2006 Order “engaged in serious anti-social behaviour in, or in the locality of, the dwelling-house” means—

- (a) used the dwelling-house, or allowed it to be used, for illegal purposes,
- (b) harassed or caused alarm or distress to a person, in, or in the locality of, the dwelling-house,
- (c) caused serious annoyance or nuisance to a person, or repeatedly caused annoyance or nuisance to a person, in, or in the locality of, the dwelling-house,
- (d) deliberately caused substantial damage to the dwelling-house, or to the landlord’s property within the dwelling-house.

Special case: relevant criminal offence

8. In Article 14(6)(c) of the 2006 Order “relevant criminal offence” means—

- (a) an indictable offence—
 - (i) committed wholly or partly in, or in the locality of, the dwelling-house,
 - (ii) committed elsewhere against a person with a right to reside in, or occupy housing accommodation in the locality of the dwelling-house, or
 - (iii) committed elsewhere against—
 - (aa) the landlord, or
 - (bb) a person employed (whether or not by the landlord) in connection with the exercise of the landlord’s housing functions, and directly or indirectly related to or affecting those functions,
- (b) an offence involving using the dwelling-house, or allowing it to be used, for illegal purposes.

Special case: occupation by landlord or landlord’s family

9.—(1) After Article 14(6)(c) of the 2006 Order insert—

“(d) the landlord seeks possession of the dwelling-house for occupation, by the landlord or by the landlord’s immediate family, as a dwelling-house.”

(2) In Article 14(6)(d) of the 2006 Order “immediate family” means—

- (a) where the landlord is a member of a couple, the other member of the couple,
- (b) the landlord’s parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother or sister.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (2)(a) “couple” means—

- (a) two people who are married to, or civil partners of, each other and are members of the same household;
- (b) two people who are not married to, or civil partners of, each other but are living together as if spouses or civil partners of each other.

(4) For the purposes of paragraph (2)(b)—

- (a) a relationship by marriage or civil partnership is to be treated as a relationship by blood,

- (b) a relationship of the half-blood is to be treated as a relationship of the whole blood,
- (c) the stepchild of a person is to be treated as the child of the person.

Statement of evidence to be included in the notice to quit

10.—(1) A notice to quit in a special case must include a statement of evidence.

(2) A statement of evidence must set out evidence showing that the notice to quit falls within one of the cases set out in Article 14(6) of the 2006 Order.

(3) In a case falling within Article 14(6)(a) (substantial arrears of rent), the statement of evidence must—

- (a) state the total arrears due on the date of the notice to quit,
- (b) state, in respect of each period for which rent was payable but not paid in full—
 - (i) the date the rent was due,
 - (ii) the amount of rent that was due,
 - (iii) the amount of rent that was not paid,
- (c) state the manner in which the rent was meant to be paid, including, for example, the bank details of the account into which the rent was to be paid.

(4) In a case falling within Article 14(6)(b) (serious anti-social behaviour), the statement of evidence must set out the nature of the serious anti-social behaviour and the date or dates upon which it occurred.

(5) In a case falling within Article 14(6)(c) (relevant criminal offence) the statement of evidence must set out, to the best knowledge of the landlord, details of the conviction.

(6) But a statement of evidence is not required in a case falling within Article 14(6)(d) of the 2006 Order (occupation by landlord or landlord's immediate family).

Affidavit to be included in notice to quit: occupation by landlord or landlord's immediate family

11.—(1) A notice to quit in a case falling within Article 14(6)(d) (occupation by landlord or landlord's immediate family) must be accompanied by an affidavit.

(2) The affidavit must state that the landlord seeks possession of the dwelling-house for occupation, by the landlord or by the landlord's immediate family, as a dwelling-house, and specify—

- (a) the intended occupant's identity,
- (b) if the intended occupant is not the landlord, their relationship to the landlord,
- (c) the expected duration of the occupancy.

Statement of evidence and affidavit: general

12.—(1) Evidence may be adduced in court proceedings relating to the notice to quit despite not being included in the statement of evidence or affidavit.

(2) A notice to quit is not invalidated by a defect in the statement of evidence or affidavit unless—

- (a) the defect is so serious that it unfairly prejudices the tenant, or
- (b) if the defect were rectified, the notice to quit would not fall within one of the cases set out in Article 14(6) of the 2006 Order.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Communities on XXxx XXX 2025.



Name of officer
A senior officer of the Department for Communities

SCHEDULE 1

NOTICE TO QUIT: STANDARD CASE

Regulation 3

NOTICE BY A LANDLORD TO QUIT A DWELLING-HOUSE LET UNDER A PRIVATE TENANCY (STANDARD CASE)

This notice must be given to the tenant not less than the relevant period before the date on which the notice period ends.

This Notice applies in a standard case falling under Article 14(1A) of the Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

TO: NAME OF TENANT(S).....

Address of the dwelling-house:.....

Name and contact details of landlord(s):

Name and contact details of agent (where applicable):

Notice to quit period:

Date notice to quit period ends:

Signed (Landlord/Agent of landlord) *delete as applicable

Signature:

Date:

Additional information

1. If the tenant does not leave the dwelling-house, the landlord must get an order for possession from the Court before the tenant can be lawfully evicted. The landlord cannot apply for this order until the notice to quit period ends.
2. A tenant who does not know if they have any right to remain in possession after a notice to quit period ends, or is otherwise unsure of their legal rights, can obtain advice from a solicitor. Help with

all or part of the cost of legal advice and assistance may be available under the Legal Aid scheme. They should also be able to obtain information from Housing Rights, or the Law Centre (NI).

3. In accordance with Article 14(1A) of the Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, the minimum relevant period for a notice to quit in this standard case is

- (a) 8 weeks, if the tenancy has not been in existence for more than 12 months;
- (b) 4 months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 12 months but not for more than 3 years;
- (c) 6 months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 3 years but not for more than 8 years; and
- (d) 7 months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 8 years.

SCHEDULE 2

NOTICE TO QUIT: SPECIAL CASE

Regulation 4

NOTICE BY A LANDLORD TO QUIT A DWELLING-HOUSE LET UNDER A PRIVATE TENANCY (SPECIAL CASE)

This notice must be given to the tenant not less than the relevant period before the date on which the notice period ends.

This Notice applies in a special case falling under Article 14(6) of the Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

TO: NAME OF TENANT(S).....

Address of the dwelling-house:.....

Name and contact details of landlord(s):

Name and contact details of agent (where applicable):

Notice to quit period and reason for notice to quit (select as applicable)

- (a) 1 month, due to substantial arrears of rent.
- (b) 2 weeks, due to serious anti-social behaviour in, or in the locality of, the dwelling-house.
- (c) 2 weeks, due to a relevant criminal conviction.
- (d) 3 months, due to occupation by landlord or landlord's immediate family.

(If reason is substantial arrears of rent, the tenant has the option to prevent termination by settling all outstanding rent, including any additional amount that has become due before the notice to quit period ends)

Date notice to quit period ends:

Statement of evidence – evidence showing that the notice to quit falls within the reason outlined above (Continue on additional sheets if required)

If the reason is occupation by landlord or landlord's immediate family, then instead of a statement of evidence, there needs to be an affidavit attached to this notice

Signed (Landlord/Agent of landlord) *delete as applicable

Signature:

Date:

Additional information

1. If the tenant does not leave the dwelling-house, the landlord must get an order for possession from the Court before the tenant can be lawfully evicted. The landlord cannot apply for this order until the notice to quit period ends.

2. A tenant who does not know if they have any right to remain in possession after a notice to quit period ends, or is otherwise unsure of their legal rights, can obtain advice from a solicitor. Help with all or part of the cost of legal advice and assistance may be available under the Legal Aid scheme. They should also be able to obtain information from Housing Rights, or the Law Centre (NI).

3. The minimum relevant period for a notice to quit is—

- (a) 1 month, in a case falling within Article 14(6)(a) of the Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (substantial arrears of rent),
- (b) 2 weeks, in a case falling within Article 14(6)(b) (serious anti-social behaviour),
- (c) 2 weeks, in a case falling within Article 14(6)(c) (conviction for a relevant criminal offence),
- (d) 3 months, in a case falling within Article 14(6)(d) (occupation by landlord or landlord's family). If the tenancy has not been in existence for more than 12 months, then the landlord may decide to use the standard case notice to quit, where the relevant period is 8 weeks.

4. The statement of evidence must set out evidence showing that the notice to quit falls within one of the cases set out in Article 14(6) of the 2006 Order.

5. In a case falling within Article 14(6)(a) (substantial arrears of rent), the statement of evidence must—

- (a) state the total arrears due on the date of the notice to quit,
- (b) state, in respect of each period for which rent was payable but not paid in full—
 - (i) the date the rent was due,
 - (ii) the amount of rent that was due,

(iii) the amount of rent that was not paid,

(c) state the manner in which the rent was meant to be paid, including, for example, the bank details of the account into which the rent was to be paid.

6. In a case falling within Article 14(6)(b) (serious anti-social behaviour), the statement of evidence must set out the nature of the serious anti-social behaviour and the date or dates upon which it occurred.

7. In a case falling within Article 14(6)(c) (relevant criminal offence) the statement of evidence must set out, to the best knowledge of the landlord, details of the conviction.

8. A notice to quit in a case falling within Article 14(6)(d) (occupation by landlord or landlord's immediate family) must be accompanied by an affidavit.

9. The affidavit must state that the landlord seeks possession of the dwelling-house for occupation, by the landlord or by the landlord's immediate family, as a dwelling-house, and specify—

- the intended occupant's identity,
- if the intended occupant is not the landlord, their relationship to the landlord,
- the expected duration of the occupancy.

10. Evidence may be adduced in court proceedings relating to the notice to quit despite not being included in the statement of evidence or affidavit.

11. A notice to quit is not invalidated by a defect in the statement of evidence or affidavit unless—

- the defect is so serious that it unfairly prejudices the tenant, or
- if the defect were rectified, the notice to quit would not fall within one of the cases set out in Article 14(6) of the 2006 Order.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations make additional rules on notices to quit for private tenancies.

A notice to quit is a notice from the landlord requiring a tenant to leave their dwelling-house.

Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 set out the form a notice to quit must take in a standard case. Article 14(1A) of the Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 sets out the length of notice to quit required in a standard case.

Regulations 4 to 12 deal with special cases. The four special cases are:

- Substantial arrears of rent (defined in regulation 6)
- Serious anti-social behaviour (defined in regulation 7)
- Relevant criminal offence (defined in regulation 8)
- Landlord requires the dwelling-house for occupation for the landlord or the landlord's family (defined in regulation 9)

Regulation 4 and Schedule 2 set out the form a notice to quit must take in a special case.

Regulation 5 sets out the length of notice to quit in these special cases.

Under regulation 10, for the first three of these special cases, the notice to quit must include a statement of evidence. This statement sets out the details on which the landlord relies to show that the conditions for a special case have been met. Under regulation 11, in the fourth special case, instead of a statement of evidence, the landlord must provide an affidavit (a sworn statement).

Regulation 12 allows evidence to be brought in a court case even if it wasn't included in the statement of evidence or affidavit. It also sets out circumstances where a notice to quit is valid even if there is an error in the statement of evidence or affidavit.

An impact assessment has been produced for this Statutory Rule.

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Guidance on The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Introduction

This guidance is for tenants, landlords and agents in the private rented sector to help understand the new changes to notice to quit periods in Northern Ireland.

Standard case notices to quit

Article 14 of the Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (as amended by Section 11 of the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022) sets out longer notice to quit periods that a landlord must give to a tenant. The increased notice to quit periods are as follows:

- 8 weeks, if the tenancy has not been in existence for more than 12 months;
- 4 months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 12 months but not for more than 3 years;
- 6 months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 3 years but not for more than 8 years; and
- 7 months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 8 years.

The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025 - “the Regulations” - refer to these notice periods as standard case notice periods. A landlord does not need to give a reason to issue a standard case notice to quit.

How does a landlord give this notice?

Landlords issuing a standard case notice to quit must use the standard case form that is set out (or ‘prescribed’) in the Regulations. This form can be found in Schedule 1 to the Regulations.

Further information on the prescribed forms for these Regulations can be found on page 9.

It is important to note that before these Regulations commenced a notice to quit given by a landlord did not have to be in a particular form, it simply had to be ‘in writing’. Once the Regulations commence, **all** notices to quit given by a landlord must be in **the prescribed form**.

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

It should be noted that there is no change to the length of the notice to quit periods that tenants must give landlords.

Special case notice to quit

There are four circumstances in which a landlord can give a shorter notice period than those set out in Article 14(1A). The Regulations refer to these shorter notice periods as special case notice periods. These circumstances and associated notice periods are set out in the table below:

Notice to Quit Circumstance	Special Case Notice Period
Substantial arrears of rent	1 month
Engaged in Serious Anti-social Behaviour	2 weeks
Convicted of a Relevant Criminal Offence	2 weeks
Possession for occupation by the landlord or landlords' immediate family	3 months

This guidance provides information on:

- the definitions for each of the circumstances where a special case notice to quit would apply;
- the length of the shorter notice period for each special case circumstance;
- examples of evidence that a landlord would need to prove the validity of the shorter notice; and
- some sources of further help and advice that may be useful to tenants and/or landlords.

Tenants who receive a special case notice to quit, but do not agree that the special case circumstance is correct, can challenge the notice in court should the landlord commence possession proceedings. It will then be up to the landlord to prove the validity of the particular circumstance which is being relied upon.

The Department has included examples of types of evidence for the first 3 circumstances in this guidance. The requirement for an affidavit in the event that a landlord requires the property for occupation or for occupation by their immediate family is however set out in in the Regulations.

Annex A of this guidance signposts tenants, landlords and their representatives to sources of help and advice.

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Substantial arrears of rent

What is the definition of substantial arrears of rent?

Tenants may use alternative frequencies of rental payments e.g. they might pay their rent weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly. The definition of substantial arrears of rent in the Regulations is as follows:

- For those tenants who pay their rent weekly, fortnightly or 4 weekly, substantial arrears of rent are where 8 weeks' worth of rent is unpaid;
- For those tenants who pay their rent monthly, substantial arrears of rent are where 2 months' worth of rent is unpaid; or
- For those tenants who pay their rent quarterly or annually, substantial arrears of rent are where the rent has not been paid within 2 months of the date the rent was due.

What notice period does a landlord have to give?

A landlord can issue a tenant with a 1-month notice to quit if they fall into substantial arrears of rent. Landlords issuing a notice to quit under this circumstance must use the special case form.

What if the tenant pays the rent arrears?

If a tenant receives a special case notice to quit for substantial arrears but pays all outstanding arrears in full before the end of the 1-month notice period, then the notice will become invalid, and the tenancy will continue.

Further information

There may be a number of reasons why tenants have not paid their rent. For example, if facing financial difficulty, due to illness, banking problems, benefit or salary payment delays.

Early and ongoing communication is essential when rent arrears arise. Tenants should inform their landlord as soon as possible if they are experiencing any difficulties in paying rent. Landlords, in turn, should take time to understand the tenant's circumstances and work with them to explore potential solutions. This creates the best chance of a mutually acceptable arrangement, such as, a repayment plan to enable the debt to be paid off in affordable instalments. Any agreement should be clearly set out in writing.

If a solution cannot be agreed upon, the landlord can issue a 1-month notice to quit due to the tenant being in substantial rent arrears.

More information on how to deal with rent arrears can be found in **Annex A**.

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Evidence required

When a landlord issues a special case notice to quit because of substantial rent arrears, they are obliged to provide a statement of evidence. In this instance, this statement will include a written statement of facts so that the tenant understands why they are receiving the shorter notice to quit. This must

- State the total arrears due on the date of the notice to quit,
- State, in respect of each period for which rent was payable but not paid in full,
 - the date the rent was due,
 - the amount of rent that was due,
 - the amount of rent that was not paid,
- State the manner in which the rent was meant to be paid, including, for example, the bank details of the account into which the rent was to be paid.

If the tenant disputes that they have fallen into substantial arrears of rent, it will be up to the landlord to prove this. Further evidence that a landlord might use to prove that the tenant is in arrears could include:

- the tenancy agreement;
- supporting documentation such as bank statements.

This list is not exhaustive or prescriptive.

If a tenant refuses to leave the property within the notice period given, then the landlord may apply to the court for a possession order.

It is a legal requirement for a landlord to provide a tenant with a written receipt for any payments made in cash in relation to a tenancy which would include rent, as this could be considered as evidence. This legislative requirement is contained in [Section 3, The Private Tenancies Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022](#).

Serious anti-social behaviour (ASB)

What is the definition of serious ASB?

In order for this circumstance to be relied upon, the serious ASB must have occurred in or in the locality of the rented property when the tenant or a member of the tenant's household has:

- used the property, or allowed it to be used, for illegal purposes
- harassed or caused alarm or distress to a person,
- caused serious annoyance or nuisance to a person or repeatedly caused annoyance or nuisance to a person, or
- deliberately caused substantial damage to the dwelling-house, or to the landlord's property within the dwelling-house.

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

This covers a broad spectrum of behaviour and ranges from incidents that cause repeated nuisance/annoyance through to incidents which have a serious adverse impact on people's quality of life. It can affect individuals or the community at large.

Serious anti-social behaviour might include, amongst other things:

- Using or threatening to use violence.
- Creating a risk of significant harm to other lawful residents of the neighbours or the landlord/agent including their contractors/ employees, including through serious threats, intimidation, harassment and hate behaviour targeting people because of differences.
- Repeated noise nuisance (rowdy parties, loud music/TVs etc.).
- Deliberately causing substantial damage to the rented property, any contents belonging to the landlord (including safety equipment), or other properties in the locality.
- Using the rented property or any common area for criminal purposes, including production or trafficking of illegal drugs.

This list is not exhaustive or prescriptive.

What notice period does a landlord have to give?

A landlord can issue a tenant a 2-week notice to quit if the tenant, or a member of the tenant's household has engaged in serious anti-social behaviour in or in the locality of the rented property. Landlords issuing a notice to quit under this circumstance must use the special case form.

The tenant can dispute the notice to quit in court if they, or a member of their household have not engaged in serious anti-social behaviour in the locality of the rented property

Evidence required

When a landlord issues a special case notice to quit, they are obliged to provide a statement of evidence. In this instance, this statement will include a written statement of facts so that the tenant understands why they are receiving the shorter notice to quit. This must include written detail of any such incidents the tenant, or a member of a tenant's household have been accused of and the times and dates of any such incidents.

The landlord will need to provide further evidence to the court of such behaviour and a judge will decide if the notice is valid.

There are various forms of evidence that a landlord may provide; some examples of evidence are:

- Correspondence including text messages or emails e.g. with the tenant, solicitor, environmental health officer etc;
- Police reports/incident numbers;

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

- Insurance claim paperwork;
- CCTV footage or photographs showing damage, disturbances, or illegal activity; and
- Eyewitness reports.

This list is not exhaustive or prescriptive.

If a tenant refuses to leave the property within the notice period given, then the landlord may apply to the court for a possession order.

Convicted of a relevant criminal offence

What is the definition of relevant criminal offence?

For the purposes of these Regulations, a relevant criminal offence means

(a) an indictable offence

- Committed wholly or partly in, or in the locality of, the property,
- Committed elsewhere against a person with a right to reside in, or occupy housing accommodation in the locality of the property, or
- Committed elsewhere against the landlord, or a person employed (whether or not by the landlord) in connection with the exercise of the landlords housing functions, and directly or indirectly related to affecting those functions.

(b) An offence involving using the property or allowing it to be used for illegal purposes.

An indictable offence is a serious crime that is tried before a judge and jury in the Crown Court.

Below are some examples of the types of criminal behaviours that are likely to be relevant criminal offences:

- Using or letting someone else use the property for illegal reasons;
- Criminal damage to the property;
- Violence or threat of violence;
- Hate behaviour targeting people because of difference;
- Criminal harassment;
- Production or trafficking of illegal drugs.

This list is not exhaustive or prescriptive.

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

What notice period does a landlord have to give?

The landlord can issue a 2-week notice to quit if a tenant, or a member of a tenant's household has been convicted of a relevant criminal offence. Landlords issuing a notice to quit under this circumstance must use the special case form.

Evidence

When a landlord issues a special case notice to quit, they are obliged to provide a statement of evidence. In this instance, this statement will include a written statement of facts so that the tenant understands why they are receiving the shorter notice to quit. This must set out to the best of the landlord's knowledge, detail of any such conviction the tenant, or a member of a tenant's household have been prosecuted for. Tenants can dispute the notice to quit if they, or a member of their household have not been convicted of a relevant criminal offence.

An indictable offence will be tried in the Crown Court and there will be evidence of a conviction. The landlord will need to provide evidence to the court of the relevant criminal offence and a judge will decide if the notice is valid.

If a tenant refuses to leave the property within the notice period given, then the landlord may apply to the court for a possession order.

Overlap between serious ASB and relevant criminal offence

It is worth noting that there can be an overlap between the serious ASB and the relevant criminal offence circumstances. A landlord may have two options when considering which special case notice period to issue. For example, in a case where a person is using the property for illegal purposes, a landlord may issue a notice under the serious ASB circumstance and be prepared to prove in court that the tenant has used the property for illegal purposes or the landlord could wait until there is a conviction and rely upon proof of the conviction to issue a notice to quit under the criminal offence circumstance.

Occupation by landlord or landlord's immediate family

The definition of a landlord's immediate family includes:

- The landlord's spouse, civil partner, or where the landlord is living in a couple,
- Parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother or sister of the landlord,
- Relationships by marriage, for example half-brothers or half-sisters,
- A stepchild of a landlord who will be treated as a child.

What notice period does a landlord have to give?

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

The landlord can issue the tenant a 3-month notice to quit. Landlords issuing a notice to quit under this circumstance must use the special case form.

However, if the tenancy has not been in existence for more than 12 months, then the landlord may decide to use the standard case notice to quit, where the standard case notice period is 8 weeks.

Further information for tenants/landlords

The Department recommends that the landlord engages with the tenant and informs them if this is a potential prospect at the earliest opportunity.

Evidence

When a landlord issues a special case notice to quit for this circumstance, a statement of evidence is not required.

Instead, the landlord must provide an affidavit signed before a Commissioner for Oaths, Practising Solicitor, or a Notary Public. Please note that the landlord must sign the affidavit him or herself. It cannot be signed on the landlord's behalf by an authorised agent. The affidavit must state the name of the person who will reside in the property (if not the landlord), their relationship to the landlord and the expected duration of occupation.

The requirement for an affidavit is set out in regulations and is the only form of evidence that will be accepted in this circumstance. A copy of the affidavit must be attached to the special case form.

If a tenant refuses to leave the property within the notice period given, then the landlord may apply to the court for a possession order. Tenants can dispute the notice to quit if they have reason to believe that the landlord or family member does not intend to live in the property.

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Prescribed forms for these Regulations

Prior to these Regulations, a landlord did not have to use a specific notice to quit form, it simply had to be 'in writing'. Once the Regulations commence **all** notices to quit given by a landlord must be in **the prescribed form** – in other words, using a form set out in the Regulations. There are 2 prescribed forms that a landlord can issue to a tenant, which are explained below.

A notice to quit is not valid unless:

- it is in the prescribed form,
- contains the prescribed information, and
- it is given not less than the relevant period before the date on which the notice period ends.

Schedule 1 – Notice to Quit: Standard Case

This form must be used by landlords when issuing a standard case notice to quit regarding the notice periods under Article 14(1A) of the Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006. This form will require information such as;

- Tenant name and address of the rented property,
- Name and contact details of the landlord/agent,
- The notice to quit period, and
- Date the notice to quit period ends.

Schedule 2 – Notice to Quit: Special Case

This form must be used by a landlord when issuing a special case notice to quit under the Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (NI) 2025. This form requires the same information as the standard prescribed form but will also include;

- The notice to quit period and reason for the notice,
- A statement of evidence that shows that the notice falls within the circumstance selected and helps the tenant to understand why they are receiving a shorter notice, or
- Where the reason is occupation by the landlord or their immediate family, an affidavit is required.

The notice period contained in the prescribed forms will take effect from the day the notice is delivered. For example, if the notice is e-mailed to the tenant, then the notice begins from that day. However, if the notice is sent via post, then the course of postage should be taken into consideration when working out the date the notice to quit period ends. If the notice to quit is sent by post, then it would be good practice for a landlord to send this by recorded delivery as proof of issue.

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Annex A - Sources of help and advice

General

If tenants/landlords need housing advice, they can contact Housing Rights on 02890245640 or via their website www.housingrights.org.uk.

[For landlords | Housing Rights](#) – Specific advice for landlords

[Private tenants' rights | Housing Rights](#) – Specific advice for tenants

[Housing Mediation Service | Housing Rights](#) Housing Rights' Housing Mediation is a service for landlord/tenants to help solve disputes in private rented tenancies.

Tenants can contact the Make the Call service to check if they are getting all the benefits, services and support they are entitled to. Tel: 0800 232 1271 or e-mail at makethecall@dfcni.gov.uk

Homelessness – Tenants can speak to The Housing Executive if they are worried about having somewhere to live Tel: [0344 8920 900](tel:03448920900) (or after hours at [0344 8920 908](tel:03448920908)).

For Debt Advice through Housing Rights

Information and advice for landlords on how to deal with rent arrears can be found at [Dealing with rent arrears](#) and for tenants can be found at [Rent arrears](#).

Tenants can also visit Housing Rights site [help pay housing costs](#) which provides a range of information on applying for Universal Credit, Housing Benefit and Discretionary Housing Payment.

Further information on debt can be found at [Debt repayment options | nidirect](#)

Other Support Services

Tenants should always feel safe in their home. If a tenant feels unsafe or threatened, they should call the police. In an emergency, always call 999.

Tenants should be safe from any kind of abusive behaviour. This includes physical violence, controlling behaviour, financial and sexual abuse.

Tenants who are victims of, or need advice on domestic violence, support is available. Below are some of the organisations that they can contact:

Further information and advice for support services for victims can be found at [Support services for victims | nidirect](#).

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Support service website link	Contact details
Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland	Tel: 02890249041 E-mail: info@womensaidni.org
Men's Advisory Project (MAPNI)	Tel: 02890241929 (Belfast) 02871160001 (Foyle) E-mail: info@mapni.co.uk
Home - Nexus NI	Tel: 02890326803 E-mail: info@nexusni.org
LGBTQIA+ Domestic Abuse Project	Tel: 0808 8000 390 Email: admin@cara-friend.org.uk
DSA Helpline	Tel: 0808 802 1414 E-mail: help@dsahelpline.org
The Rainbow Project	Tel: 028 9031 9030 (Belfast) 028 7128 3030 (Derry/Londonderry) E-mail: info@rainbow-project.org
Age NI	Tel: 0808 808 7575 E-mail: advice@ageni.org
Commissioner for Older People for NI	Tel: 029 9089 0892 E-mail: info@copni.org
Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities	Tel no: 028 9023 8645 E-mail: info@nicem.org.uk

[Family Support Hubs](#) provide early intervention services and work with families who need support. There are currently 29 Family Support Hubs in operation covering all of Northern Ireland. You can search your local Family Support Hub at [Search Results in Family Support Hub Category](#).

The District Councils Good Relations Programme aims to promote good relations by promoting cultural diversity and respect for all cultural identities. For information in your area, you should contact the Good Relations Officer in your local council. Contacts can be found at [Local councils in Northern Ireland | nidirect](#)

PCSPs (Policing and Community Safety Partnerships) are local bodies made up of councillors and independent people from each council area who work to make your community safer. They do this by focusing on the policing and community safety issues that matter most in your area. They are overseen by both the Policing Board and the Department of Justice (DOJ). Contact details for each organisation are as follows:

- Northern Ireland Policing Board Tel: 028 9040 8500 or e-mail: pcsp@nipolicingboard.org.uk
- DOJ Community Safety Unit Tel: 028 9082 8555 or e-mail: csupdb@justice-ni.gov.uk

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Registered landlords can also access the landlord registration scheme portal at [Landlord Registration Scheme](#). This portal includes information and advice that will signpost landlords to various relevant support service organisations.

Welfare

It may be the case that incidents of anti-social behaviour are brought on/exacerbated by mental health issues. If a tenant, or a member of the tenant's household has been affected by mental health issues that may impact on their tenancy, support is available. Below are some organisations you can contact.

Support service website link	Contact details
Childline	Tel: 0800 1111
Home - NICCY	Tel: 028 9031 1616 E-mail: info@niccy.org
Young Minds-Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People	Tel: 0808 802 5544 (Parent Helpline)
Home Action Mental Health	Tel: 028 9182 8494 Contact Details for each location in NI
Alzheimer's Society in Northern Ireland	Tel: 028 9066 4100 or 0333 150 3456 E-mail: nir@alzheimers.org.uk
Autism Connect Minding Your Head	Tel: 028 3083 5764 E-mail: info@bolstercommunity.org
Disability Action Northern Ireland	Head Office Belfast, Tel: 028 9029 7880 E-mail: hq@disabilityaction.org Derry ~ Londonderry, Tel: 028 7136 0811 E-mail: derry@disabilityaction.org Dungannon, Tel: 028 8775 2372 E-mail: dungannon@disabilityaction.org
Autism NI	Tel: 028 9040 1729 E-mail: info@autismni.org

Further information and advice on support for mental health can be found at the following link [Mental health support | nidirect](#). This includes GP's and specialised healthcare professionals.

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Student support

Advice for students on issues such as housing, finance and health and wellbeing can be found at the following links:

- [SU Advice | QSU](#)
- [Key Contacts | Students | Queen's University Belfast](#)
- [Ulster University SU Advice](#)
- [Advice for young people | Housing Rights](#) – Housing Rights also provide a dedicated advocacy and mediation service for people aged 18-25 at risk of homelessness at [Get advice | Housing Rights](#)

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Guidance on The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Introduction

This guidance is for tenants, landlords and agents in the private rented sector to help understand the new changes to notice to quit periods in Northern Ireland.

Standard case notices to quit

Article 14 of the Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (as amended by Section 11 of the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022) sets out longer notice to quit periods that a landlord must give to a tenant. The increased notice to quit periods are as follows:

- 8 weeks, if the tenancy has not been in existence for more than 12 months;
- 4 months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 12 months but not for more than 3 years;
- 6 months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 3 years but not for more than 8 years; and
- 7 months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 8 years.

The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025 - “the Regulations” - refer to these notice periods as standard case notice periods. A landlord does not need to give a reason to issue a standard case notice to quit.

How does a landlord give this notice?

Landlords issuing a standard case notice to quit must use the standard case form that is set out (or ‘prescribed’) in the Regulations. This form can be found in Schedule 1 to the Regulations.

Further information on the prescribed forms for these Regulations can be found on page 9.

It is important to note that before these Regulations commenced a notice to quit given by a landlord did not have to be in a particular form, it simply had to be ‘in writing’. Once the Regulations commence, **all** notices to quit given by a landlord must be in **the prescribed form**.

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

It should be noted that there is no change to the length of the notice to quit periods that tenants must give landlords.

Special case notice to quit

There are four circumstances in which a landlord can give a shorter notice period than those set out in Article 14(1A). The Regulations refer to these shorter notice periods as special case notice periods. These circumstances and associated notice periods are set out in the table below:

Notice to Quit Circumstance	Special Case Notice Period
Substantial arrears of rent	1 month
Engaged in Serious Anti-social Behaviour	2 weeks
Convicted of a Relevant Criminal Offence	2 weeks
Possession for occupation by the landlord or landlords' immediate family	3 months

This guidance provides information on:

- the definitions for each of the circumstances where a special case notice to quit would apply;
- the length of the shorter notice period for each special case circumstance;
- examples of evidence that a landlord would need to prove the validity of the shorter notice; and
- some sources of further help and advice that may be useful to tenants and/or landlords.

Tenants who receive a special case notice to quit, but do not agree that the special case circumstance is correct, can challenge the notice in court should the landlord commence possession proceedings. It will then be up to the landlord to prove the validity of the particular circumstance which is being relied upon.

The Department has included examples of types of evidence for the first 3 circumstances in this guidance. The requirement for an affidavit in the event that a landlord requires the property for occupation or for occupation by their immediate family is however set out in in the Regulations.

Annex A of this guidance signposts tenants, landlords and their representatives to sources of help and advice.

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Substantial arrears of rent

What is the definition of substantial arrears of rent?

Tenants may use alternative frequencies of rental payments e.g. they might pay their rent weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly. The definition of substantial arrears of rent in the Regulations is as follows:

- For those tenants who pay their rent weekly, fortnightly or 4 weekly, substantial arrears of rent are where 8 weeks' worth of rent is unpaid;
- For those tenants who pay their rent monthly, substantial arrears of rent are where 2 months' worth of rent is unpaid; or
- For those tenants who pay their rent quarterly or annually, substantial arrears of rent are where the rent has not been paid within 2 months of the date the rent was due.

What notice period does a landlord have to give?

A landlord can issue a tenant with a 1-month notice to quit if they fall into substantial arrears of rent. Landlords issuing a notice to quit under this circumstance must use the special case form.

What if the tenant pays the rent arrears?

If a tenant receives a special case notice to quit for substantial arrears but pays all outstanding arrears in full before the end of the 1-month notice period, then the notice will become invalid, and the tenancy will continue.

Further information

There may be a number of reasons why tenants have not paid their rent. For example, if facing financial difficulty, due to illness, banking problems, benefit or salary payment delays.

Early and ongoing communication is essential when rent arrears arise. Tenants should inform their landlord as soon as possible if they are experiencing any difficulties in paying rent. Landlords, in turn, should take time to understand the tenant's circumstances and work with them to explore potential solutions. This creates the best chance of a mutually acceptable arrangement, such as, a repayment plan to enable the debt to be paid off in affordable instalments. Any agreement should be clearly set out in writing.

If a solution cannot be agreed upon, the landlord can issue a 1-month notice to quit due to the tenant being in substantial rent arrears.

More information on how to deal with rent arrears can be found in **Annex A**.

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Evidence required

When a landlord issues a special case notice to quit because of substantial rent arrears, they are obliged to provide a statement of evidence. In this instance, this statement will include a written statement of facts so that the tenant understands why they are receiving the shorter notice to quit. This must

- State the total arrears due on the date of the notice to quit,
- State, in respect of each period for which rent was payable but not paid in full,
 - the date the rent was due,
 - the amount of rent that was due,
 - the amount of rent that was not paid,
- State the manner in which the rent was meant to be paid, including, for example, the bank details of the account into which the rent was to be paid.

If the tenant disputes that they have fallen into substantial arrears of rent, it will be up to the landlord to prove this. Further evidence that a landlord might use to prove that the tenant is in arrears could include:

- the tenancy agreement;
- supporting documentation such as bank statements.

This list is not exhaustive or prescriptive.

If a tenant refuses to leave the property within the notice period given, then the landlord may apply to the court for a possession order.

It is a legal requirement for a landlord to provide a tenant with a written receipt for any payments made in cash in relation to a tenancy which would include rent, as this could be considered as evidence. This legislative requirement is contained in [Section 3, The Private Tenancies Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022](#).

Serious anti-social behaviour (ASB)

What is the definition of serious ASB?

In order for this circumstance to be relied upon, the serious ASB must have occurred in or in the locality of the rented property when the tenant or a member of the tenant's household has:

- used the property, or allowed it to be used, for illegal purposes
- harassed or caused alarm or distress to a person,
- caused serious annoyance or nuisance to a person or repeatedly caused annoyance or nuisance to a person, or
- deliberately caused substantial damage to the dwelling-house, or to the landlord's property within the dwelling-house.

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

This covers a broad spectrum of behaviour and ranges from incidents that cause repeated nuisance/annoyance through to incidents which have a serious adverse impact on people's quality of life. It can affect individuals or the community at large.

Serious anti-social behaviour might include, amongst other things:

- Using or threatening to use violence.
- Creating a risk of significant harm to other lawful residents of the neighbours or the landlord/agent including their contractors/ employees, including through serious threats, intimidation, harassment and hate behaviour targeting people because of differences.
- Repeated noise nuisance (rowdy parties, loud music/TVs etc.).
- Deliberately causing substantial damage to the rented property, any contents belonging to the landlord (including safety equipment), or other properties in the locality.
- Using the rented property or any common area for criminal purposes, including production or trafficking of illegal drugs.

This list is not exhaustive or prescriptive.

What notice period does a landlord have to give?

A landlord can issue a tenant a 2-week notice to quit if the tenant, or a member of the tenant's household has engaged in serious anti-social behaviour in or in the locality of the rented property. Landlords issuing a notice to quit under this circumstance must use the special case form.

The tenant can dispute the notice to quit in court if they, or a member of their household have not engaged in serious anti-social behaviour in the locality of the rented property

Evidence required

When a landlord issues a special case notice to quit, they are obliged to provide a statement of evidence. In this instance, this statement will include a written statement of facts so that the tenant understands why they are receiving the shorter notice to quit. This must include written detail of any such incidents the tenant, or a member of a tenant's household have been accused of and the times and dates of any such incidents.

The landlord will need to provide further evidence to the court of such behaviour and a judge will decide if the notice is valid.

There are various forms of evidence that a landlord may provide; some examples of evidence are:

- Correspondence including text messages or emails e.g. with the tenant, solicitor, environmental health officer etc;
- Police reports/incident numbers;

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

- Insurance claim paperwork;
- CCTV footage or photographs showing damage, disturbances, or illegal activity; and
- Eyewitness reports.

This list is not exhaustive or prescriptive.

If a tenant refuses to leave the property within the notice period given, then the landlord may apply to the court for a possession order.

Convicted of a relevant criminal offence

What is the definition of relevant criminal offence?

For the purposes of these Regulations, a relevant criminal offence means

(a) an indictable offence

- Committed wholly or partly in, or in the locality of, the property,
- Committed elsewhere against a person with a right to reside in, or occupy housing accommodation in the locality of the property, or
- Committed elsewhere against the landlord, or a person employed (whether or not by the landlord) in connection with the exercise of the landlords housing functions, and directly or indirectly related to affecting those functions.

(b) An offence involving using the property or allowing it to be used for illegal purposes.

An indictable offence is a serious crime that is tried before a judge and jury in the Crown Court.

Below are some examples of the types of criminal behaviours that are likely to be relevant criminal offences:

- Using or letting someone else use the property for illegal reasons;
- Criminal damage to the property;
- Violence or threat of violence;
- Hate behaviour targeting people because of difference;
- Criminal harassment;
- Production or trafficking of illegal drugs.

This list is not exhaustive or prescriptive.

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

What notice period does a landlord have to give?

The landlord can issue a 2-week notice to quit if a tenant, or a member of a tenant's household has been convicted of a relevant criminal offence. Landlords issuing a notice to quit under this circumstance must use the special case form.

Evidence

When a landlord issues a special case notice to quit, they are obliged to provide a statement of evidence. In this instance, this statement will include a written statement of facts so that the tenant understands why they are receiving the shorter notice to quit. This must set out to the best of the landlord's knowledge, detail of any such conviction the tenant, or a member of a tenant's household have been prosecuted for. Tenants can dispute the notice to quit if they, or a member of their household have not been convicted of a relevant criminal offence.

An indictable offence will be tried in the Crown Court and there will be evidence of a conviction. The landlord will need to provide evidence to the court of the relevant criminal offence and a judge will decide if the notice is valid.

If a tenant refuses to leave the property within the notice period given, then the landlord may apply to the court for a possession order.

Overlap between serious ASB and relevant criminal offence

It is worth noting that there can be an overlap between the serious ASB and the relevant criminal offence circumstances. A landlord may have two options when considering which special case notice period to issue. For example, in a case where a person is using the property for illegal purposes, a landlord may issue a notice under the serious ASB circumstance and be prepared to prove in court that the tenant has used the property for illegal purposes or the landlord could wait until there is a conviction and rely upon proof of the conviction to issue a notice to quit under the criminal offence circumstance.

Occupation by landlord or landlord's immediate family

The definition of a landlord's immediate family includes:

- The landlord's spouse, civil partner, or where the landlord is living in a couple,
- Parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother or sister of the landlord,
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However, if the tenancy has not been in existence for more than 12 months, then the landlord may decide to use the standard case notice to quit, where the standard case notice period is 8 weeks.

Further information for tenants/landlords

The Department recommends that the landlord engages with the tenant and informs them if this is a potential prospect at the earliest opportunity.

Evidence

When a landlord issues a special case notice to quit for this circumstance, a statement of evidence is not required.

Instead, the landlord must provide an affidavit signed before a Commissioner for Oaths, Practising Solicitor, or a Notary Public. Please note that the landlord must sign the affidavit him or herself. It cannot be signed on the landlord's behalf by an authorised agent. The affidavit must state the name of the person who will reside in the property (if not the landlord), their relationship to the landlord and the expected duration of occupation.

The requirement for an affidavit is set out in regulations and is the only form of evidence that will be accepted in this circumstance. A copy of the affidavit must be attached to the special case form.

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Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Prescribed forms for these Regulations

Prior to these Regulations, a landlord did not have to use a specific notice to quit form, it simply had to be 'in writing'. Once the Regulations commence **all** notices to quit given by a landlord must be in **the prescribed form** – in other words, using a form set out in the Regulations. There are 2 prescribed forms that a landlord can issue to a tenant, which are explained below.

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- Name and contact details of the landlord/agent,
- The notice to quit period, and
- Date the notice to quit period ends.

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- The notice to quit period and reason for the notice,
- A statement of evidence that shows that the notice falls within the circumstance selected and helps the tenant to understand why they are receiving a shorter notice, or
- Where the reason is occupation by the landlord or their immediate family, an affidavit is required.

The notice period contained in the prescribed forms will take effect from the day the notice is delivered. For example, if the notice is e-mailed to the tenant, then the notice begins from that day. However, if the notice is sent via post, then the course of postage should be taken into consideration when working out the date the notice to quit period ends. If the notice to quit is sent by post, then it would be good practice for a landlord to send this by recorded delivery as proof of issue.

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Annex A - Sources of help and advice

General

If tenants/landlords need housing advice, they can contact Housing Rights on 02890245640 or via their website www.housingrights.org.uk.

[For landlords | Housing Rights](#) – Specific advice for landlords

[Private tenants' rights | Housing Rights](#) – Specific advice for tenants

[Housing Mediation Service | Housing Rights](#) Housing Rights' Housing Mediation is a service for landlord/tenants to help solve disputes in private rented tenancies.

Tenants can contact the Make the Call service to check if they are getting all the benefits, services and support they are entitled to. Tel: 0800 232 1271 or e-mail at makethecall@dfcni.gov.uk

Homelessness – Tenants can speak to The Housing Executive if they are worried about having somewhere to live Tel: [0344 8920 900](tel:03448920900) (or after hours at [0344 8920 908](tel:03448920908)).

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Information and advice for landlords on how to deal with rent arrears can be found at [Dealing with rent arrears](#) and for tenants can be found at [Rent arrears](#).

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Other Support Services

Tenants should always feel safe in their home. If a tenant feels unsafe or threatened, they should call the police. In an emergency, always call 999.

Tenants should be safe from any kind of abusive behaviour. This includes physical violence, controlling behaviour, financial and sexual abuse.

Tenants who are victims of, or need advice on domestic violence, support is available. Below are some of the organisations that they can contact:

Further information and advice for support services for victims can be found at [Support services for victims | nidirect](#).

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Support service website link	Contact details
Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland	Tel: 02890249041 E-mail: info@womensaidni.org
Men's Advisory Project (MAPNI)	Tel: 02890241929 (Belfast) 02871160001 (Foyle) E-mail: info@mapni.co.uk
Home - Nexus NI	Tel: 02890326803 E-mail: info@nexusni.org
LGBTQIA+ Domestic Abuse Project	Tel: 0808 8000 390 Email: admin@cara-friend.org.uk
DSA Helpline	Tel: 0808 802 1414 E-mail: help@dsahelpline.org
The Rainbow Project	Tel: 028 9031 9030 (Belfast) 028 7128 3030 (Derry/Londonderry) E-mail: info@rainbow-project.org
Age NI	Tel: 0808 808 7575 E-mail: advice@ageni.org
Commissioner for Older People for NI	Tel: 029 9089 0892 E-mail: info@copni.org
Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities	Tel no: 028 9023 8645 E-mail: info@nicem.org.uk

[Family Support Hubs](#) provide early intervention services and work with families who need support. There are currently 29 Family Support Hubs in operation covering all of Northern Ireland. You can search your local Family Support Hub at [Search Results in Family Support Hub Category](#).

The District Councils Good Relations Programme aims to promote good relations by promoting cultural diversity and respect for all cultural identities. For information in your area, you should contact the Good Relations Officer in your local council. Contacts can be found at [Local councils in Northern Ireland | nidirect](#)

PCSPs (Policing and Community Safety Partnerships) are local bodies made up of councillors and independent people from each council area who work to make your community safer. They do this by focusing on the policing and community safety issues that matter most in your area. They are overseen by both the Policing Board and the Department of Justice (DOJ). Contact details for each organisation are as follows:

- Northern Ireland Policing Board Tel: 028 9040 8500 or e-mail: pcsp@nipolicingboard.org.uk
- DOJ Community Safety Unit Tel: 028 9082 8555 or e-mail: csupdb@justice-ni.gov.uk

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Registered landlords can also access the landlord registration scheme portal at [Landlord Registration Scheme](#). This portal includes information and advice that will signpost landlords to various relevant support service organisations.

Welfare

It may be the case that incidents of anti-social behaviour are brought on/exacerbated by mental health issues. If a tenant, or a member of the tenant's household has been affected by mental health issues that may impact on their tenancy, support is available. Below are some organisations you can contact.

Support service website link	Contact details
Childline	Tel: 0800 1111
Home - NICCY	Tel: 028 9031 1616 E-mail: info@niccy.org
Young Minds-Mental Health Charity For Children And Young People	Tel: 0808 802 5544 (Parent Helpline)
Home Action Mental Health	Tel: 028 9182 8494 Contact Details for each location in NI
Alzheimer's Society in Northern Ireland	Tel: 028 9066 4100 or 0333 150 3456 E-mail: nir@alzheimers.org.uk
Autism Connect Minding Your Head	Tel: 028 3083 5764 E-mail: info@bolstercommunity.org
Disability Action Northern Ireland	Head Office Belfast, Tel: 028 9029 7880 E-mail: hq@disabilityaction.org Derry ~ Londonderry, Tel: 028 7136 0811 E-mail: derry@disabilityaction.org Dungannon, Tel: 028 8775 2372 E-mail: dungannon@disabilityaction.org
Autism NI	Tel: 028 9040 1729 E-mail: info@autismni.org

Further information and advice on support for mental health can be found at the following link [Mental health support | nidirect](#). This includes GP's and specialised healthcare professionals.

Guidance Notes for The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Student support

Advice for students on issues such as housing, finance and health and wellbeing can be found at the following links:

- [SU Advice | QSU](#)
- [Key Contacts | Students | Queen's University Belfast](#)
- [Ulster University SU Advice](#)
- [Advice for young people | Housing Rights](#) – Housing Rights also provide a dedicated advocacy and mediation service for people aged 18-25 at risk of homelessness at [Get advice | Housing Rights](#)

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Draft Equality Impact Assessment Consultation Report

Exceptions to longer 'notice to quit'
periods in Northern Ireland

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INTRODUCTION

Section 75 Legislation

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires public authorities, in carrying out their functions relating to Northern Ireland (NI), to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between specific identified individuals and groups, namely:

- between persons of different religious belief.
- between persons of different political opinion.
- between persons of different racial groups.
- between persons of different age.
- between persons of different marital status.
- between persons of different sexual orientation.
- between men and women generally.
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

In addition, and without prejudice to these obligations, the Department for Communities (DfC) is also committed to having due regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

The legislation requires public authorities to conduct an equality impact assessment (EQIA) where proposed legislation or policy is likely to have a significant impact on equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

An EQIA is a thorough and systematic analysis of a policy to determine the extent of differential impacts upon the relevant groups and in turn whether that impact is adverse.

Purpose

The notice period required by landlords and tenants to legally terminate a private tenancy was initially outlined in Article 14 of the Private Tenancies (NI) Order 2006 (PTO). Originally set at four weeks, the notice period was amended for tenancies that had been in existence for longer than five years. Further to this amendment, under the Housing (Amendment) Act (NI) 2011, written notice periods were set out as follows:

- Four weeks' notices for tenancies up to five years in duration;
- Eight weeks' notice for tenancies longer than five years and up to ten years in duration; and
- 12 weeks' notice for tenancies longer than ten years in duration.

During the passage of the Private Tenancies Bill, (now the Private Tenancies Act [NI] 2022), a late amendment to Section 11 increased the notice to quit (NTQ) periods that a landlord must give a tenant quite considerably, as follows:

- Eight weeks, if the tenancy has not been in existence for more than 12 months;
- Four months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 12 months but not for more than three years;

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- Six months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than three years but not for more than eight years; and
- Seven months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than eight years.

The Department was aware from COVID-19 regulations to increase the NTQ period to 12 weeks, that the amendment to Section 11 was susceptible to legal challenges under Article 1 Protocol 1 of the Human Rights Act 1998 (such challenges would argue that the measures interfere with control of use of the property).

As the Department had only consulted on increasing the NTQ period from four weeks to two months for tenancies lasting longer than 12 months, this amendment, without any prior policy development or consultation, would have caused the Bill to fall. To ensure the Bill remained within competence, it was modified to include a power for the Department to draft regulations on circumstances where longer NTQs will not be issued. The Bill detailed three possible circumstances, namely:

- the tenant is in substantial arrears of rent;
- the tenant, or a member of the tenant's household, has engaged in serious anti-social behaviour in, or in the locality of, the dwelling-house; and
- the tenant, or member of the tenant's household, is convicted of a relevant criminal offence.

Recognising the positive changes attached to general increases in NTQ periods, the legislation also specifies that before these longer periods can come into operation, regulations must be in place to set out circumstances where the longer notices will not apply (also commonly referred to as exceptions). These exceptions are necessary to ensure the legislation is compliant with Article 1 Protocol 1 of the Human Rights Act 1998 which protects the right to property.

Research

A tender exercise was undertaken to commission a research report to be completed in relation to circumstances where longer NTQs will not be issued (including what the circumstances should be, how they should be defined and evidenced, and what the notice periods should be). The Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) won the tender and subsequently produced a comprehensive report (**Chartered Institute of Housing NI – Exceptions to longer “notice to quit” periods in Northern Ireland, July 2023**). The report detailed several concerns in relation to how shorter notice periods may impact on vulnerable people e.g., people with disabilities and with caring responsibilities, low-income households, victims of domestic abuse and other Section 75 groups e.g., younger and older people.

During subsequent discussions with stakeholders, including a workshop session on the report findings, Section 75 issues continued to be a focus of concern. Many of these concerns build on the findings of the research report, including those relating to:

- Domestic violence (often considered a gender related crime), and how shorter notice periods might impact on both the victims and perpetrators of domestic violence;
- People with serious health conditions or disabilities as it is often more difficult for people with disabilities to find suitable alternative private rented properties that adequately meet their needs; and
- Younger and older people and people with dependants who might struggle with shorter NTQ periods.

The complexity of these issues is further complicated by the fact that individuals are characterised by membership of various Section 75 categories that, in combination, may exacerbate differential impacts experienced.

The development of a robust EQIA on proposals for circumstances where longer NTQs will not be issued is then essential to ensure that the Department's draft regulations are proportionate and fair for both landlords and tenants (and including Section 75 groups) and that can withstand scrutiny and challenge in respect of equality and wider legal issues.

Approach

The EQIA Development Process

In order to establish whether there may be adverse differential impacts, the Department is required to consider the individuals impacted by the proposed regulations relating to the Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022 regarding circumstances where longer NTQs will not be issued, their needs and experiences and the Section 75 categories within which they belong.

The EQIA Process Flow Chart from the Equality Commission's Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessment, replicated in the diagram overleaf, will be the reference point for the implementation of this EQIA development process.

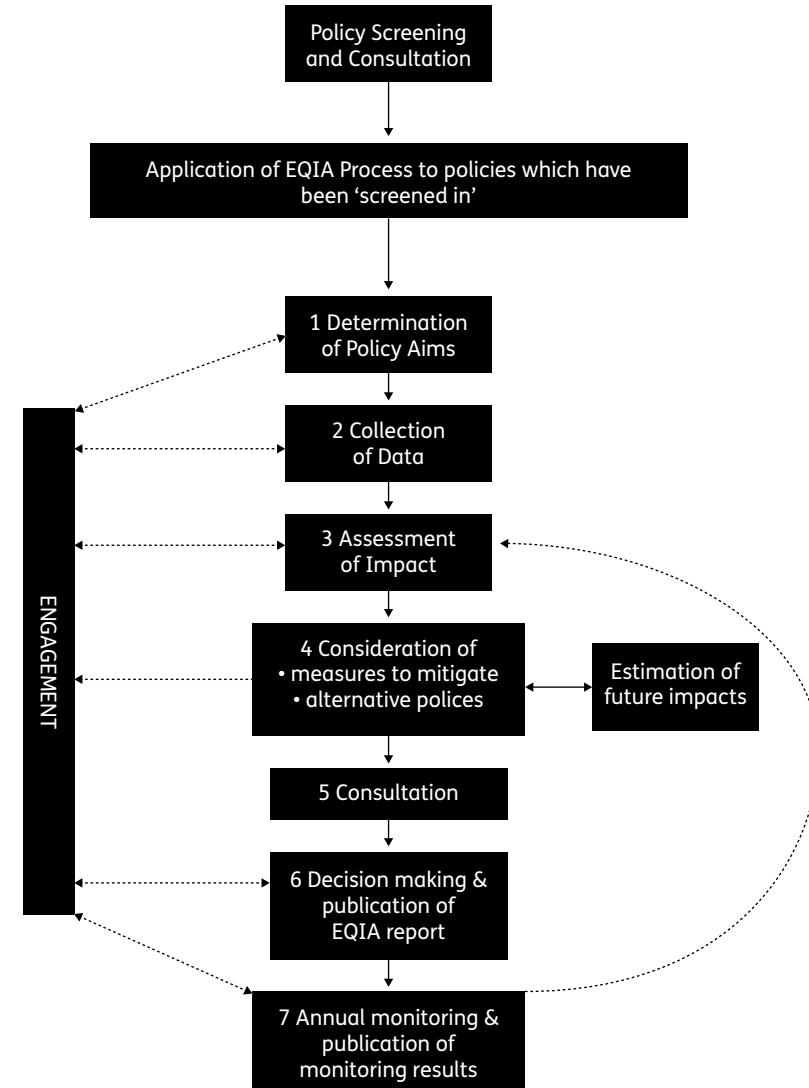
In effect there are seven steps to the process from start to finish. The findings from the first four steps will be integrated into a Draft EQIA Consultation Report which will be used within the formal consultation phase in Step 5. The Department will report on the results of the consultation in the Final EQIA Decision Report, which will include any suggested amendments and/or recommendations arising as a result of the consultation process.

Draft EQIA Consultation Report (Steps 1-4)

The Draft EQIA Consultation Report will outline the potential impacts that the proposed regulations may have on individuals in the nine Section 75 categories. Strategic Investment Board (SIB) has supported the Department to develop the EQIA and has worked throughout in conjunction with the Private Rented Branch Team (the Team) and their involvement and input at key decision-making points has been important.

The first step of this (determining the policy aims of the proposed regulations) is the foundation for the remaining steps. SIB took time with the Team in DfC to fully understand the aims. The EQIA focuses on regulations pertaining to circumstances in which longer notice periods, as set out in Article 14 of the PTO, will not apply.

Thereafter, the report is informed by bringing together data, information, and research from relevant sources (Step 2). This includes the population-level sources cited in the Section 75 Using Evidence in Policy Making – A Sign-Posting Guide, as well as organisational-level sources, across Government relevant to the areas of focus within the proposed regulations. SIB liaised with the Department's Statistician team on this. The working assumption is that this EQIA sits within the context of **DfC's Equality Scheme**.



The draft EQIA also draws on published data, information, and research on key inequalities in NI, relating to those living in privately rented accommodation. Finally, it draws on the findings of the consultations carried out in the development of the Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022 and the research undertaken by CIH on shorter NTQs to complete this second step of the EQIA process.

The draft EQIA also draws on qualitative data gathered from or through engagement with key stakeholders across the sector as well as information from the CIH research report in relation to exceptions as outlined above.

The data analysis and research entailed in all of the above helped the team to move to Step 3 - that is identifying the potential impacts of the proposed regulations. At this time, it is anticipated that adverse impacts may be experienced in relation to at least the following:

- **Domestic violence** (often considered a gender related crime), and how shorter notice periods might impact on both the victims and perpetrators of domestic violence;
- **People with serious health conditions or disabilities** as it is often more difficult for people with disabilities to find suitable alternative private rented properties that adequately meet their needs;
- **Younger and older people and people with dependants** who might struggle with shorter NTQ periods; and
- Other, if identified through our EQIA work.

The draft EQIA then progresses to consider a range of potential mitigating measures/alternative policy approaches (Step 4) which might better achieve the promotion of equality of opportunity. This step is at the heart of the EQIA process. Different options have been developed which reflect different ways of delivering the policy aims of the regulations that have the potential to reduce the adverse effect(s) on the relevant equality category/categories. This entails consideration of whether separate implementation strategies / collaborations with others are necessary for the policy to be effective for the relevant group. As noted in the **Equality Commission guidance**, consideration of mitigating measures will be intertwined with the consideration of alternative policies, in that mitigation can take the form of lessening the severity of the adverse impact.

An EQIA also takes into account the second statutory duty (the promotion of good relations) but on this occasion it is seen as unlikely to be relevant to this EQIA.

Consultation (Step 5)

The EQIA process requires consultation which must be carried out with relevant interested groups as well as the Equality Commission. This includes other public bodies, voluntary, community, trade unions and other groups with a legitimate interest in circumstances where longer NTQs will not be given. Consultation will also include those directly affected by the policy being assessed, in this case those who fall within the scope of the shorter NTQs. The Equality Commission has published

guidance for public authorities on consulting and it is assumed that the good practice within this will have informed the development of the NTQ exceptions thus far. A 12-week consultation period is typically required in order to assess the views of those who will be affected. This timeline also helps to raise awareness of issues and problems that the policy may pose for various groups which may not otherwise be discovered.

The team, alongside SIB, will design a consultation process that is open and inclusive. Part of this will include dissemination of the work from Steps 1-4 to relevant interested parties and publishing the same on the DfC website, along with a set of consultation questions. However, it is deemed good practice to also host consultation events that provide an opportunity for meaningful engagement with consultees.

Final EQIA Decision Report (Step 6)

At the end of the consultation process, SIB will provide a Final EQIA Decision Report to the Department. This will include a summary of the consultation responses along with suggestions as to how some of the issues/recommendations made by consultees might be addressed. We acknowledge in this context that some issues could be raised that may be outside the expertise of the core team and may for instance require legal input. In this regard, the Team will seek the advice of the DfC Departmental Solicitor's Office (DSO), if needed.

The above process will inform the final decision by the Team in relation to next steps in the development of the regulations, fully taking account of the findings of the EQIA process (and consultation therein). This final decision must provide clear evidence of the consideration of mitigation of impacts, or alternative policies, and details of mitigation and plans for its implementation must be included in the final recommendations presented during decision making. If alternatives suggested have not been accepted, justification must be given.

The law requires that public authorities publish a report on the results of EQIA. The equality scheme of a lead department typically details both how and where the report on EQIA results will be published. As above, this EQIA will sit within the context of DfC's Equality Scheme and follow the requisite arrangements in this regard.

Ongoing Monitoring (Step 7)

The EQIA process requires a system to be established to monitor the impact of the policy in order to find out its actual effect on relevant groups. The process stipulates that the results of this ongoing monitoring must be reviewed on an annual basis. If monitoring arrangements have not yet been established, SIB will provide general advice on how this should operate and report, to include things such as key indicators to determine whether the exceptions in the regulations are having an impact. This will be relevant to the consideration of the monitoring process in relation to EQIA findings. These would be documented as part of the final EQIA report in Step 6.

SECTION 1: DEFINING THE AIMS OF THE POLICY

During the passage of the Private Tenancies Bill (now the Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022)(the Act) a late amendment to Section 11 quite considerably increased the NTQs, as laid out in Article 14 of the Private Tenancies (NI) Order 2006, that a landlord must give a tenant as follows:

- Eight weeks, if the tenancy has not been in existence for more than 12 months.
- Four months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 12 months but not for more than 3 years.
- Six months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 3 years but not for more than 8 years; and
- Seven months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 8 years.

The Department was aware from COVID-19 regulations to increase the NTQ to 12 weeks, that the amendment to Section 11 was susceptible to legal challenges under Article 1 Protocol 1 of the Human Rights Act 1998 (such challenges would argue that the measures interfere with control of use of the property).

As the Department had only consulted on increasing the NTQ period from four weeks to two months for tenancies lasting longer than 12 months, this amendment, without any prior policy development or consultation, would have caused the Bill to fall. To ensure the Bill remained within competence, it was modified to include a power for the Department to draft regulations on circumstances where longer NTQs will not be given. The Bill detailed three circumstances, as follows:

- the tenant is in substantial arrears of rent.
- the tenant, or a member of the tenant's household, has engaged in serious anti-social behaviour in, or in the locality of, the dwelling-house; and
- the tenant, or member of the tenant's household, is convicted of a relevant criminal offence.

The Act dictates that the longer notice periods cannot be implemented until regulations regarding exceptions have been made. The Act also details that the regulations should come into operation before the end of the period of two years, beginning with the date on which the Act received Royal Assent (so by 27 April 2024). It should be noted however that the 27 April is not a sunset clause (such as that detailed in Section 7), and advice from DSO is that even if the regulations are not introduced by this date, there will be an obligation to introduce them as soon as possible thereafter.

A comprehensive research report was completed by CIH in relation to exceptions (including what the circumstances should be, how they should be defined and evidenced and what the notice periods should be). The report also suggested an additional circumstance of repossession for occupation by the landlord or his/her immediate family.

The report goes on to detail a number of concerns in relation to how shorter notice periods may impact on vulnerable people e.g., people with disabilities and with caring responsibilities, low-income households, victims of domestic abuse and other Section 75 groups e.g., younger, and older people.

During subsequent discussions with stakeholders, including a workshop session on the report findings, Section 75 issues continued to be a focus of concern. Many of these concerns build on the findings of the research report, including those relating to:

- Domestic violence (often considered a gender related crime), and how shorter notice periods might impact on both the victims and perpetrators of domestic violence;
- People with serious health conditions or disabilities as it is often more difficult for people with disabilities to find suitable alternative private rented properties that adequately meet their needs;

- Younger and older people and people with dependants who might struggle with shorter NTQ periods; and
- Other areas of concern that include those who may be in significant poverty or hardship, particularly in relation to S75 groups.

The complexity of these issues is further complicated by the fact that individuals are characterised by membership of various Section 75 categories e.g. women, older people, young people, those with a disability, LGBTQIA+ and ethnic minority communities which, in combination, may exacerbate any differential impacts experienced.

The development of a robust EQIA on proposals for identifying circumstances where longer NTQs will not be given is essential to enable the Department to draft regulations which are proportionate and fair for both landlords and tenants and including membership of Section 75 groups.

The proposed mitigations to the draft regulations are best characterised as targeted positive action measures designed to protect Section 75 vulnerable groups that are especially 'at risk' from the consequences of circumstances where longer NTQs are not issued.

SECTION 2: COLLECTION OF AVAILABLE DATA AND RESEARCH

Section 2 considers available data and research that have been used to inform the assessment of impacts and subsequent mitigations attached to the roll-out of the proposed legislation.

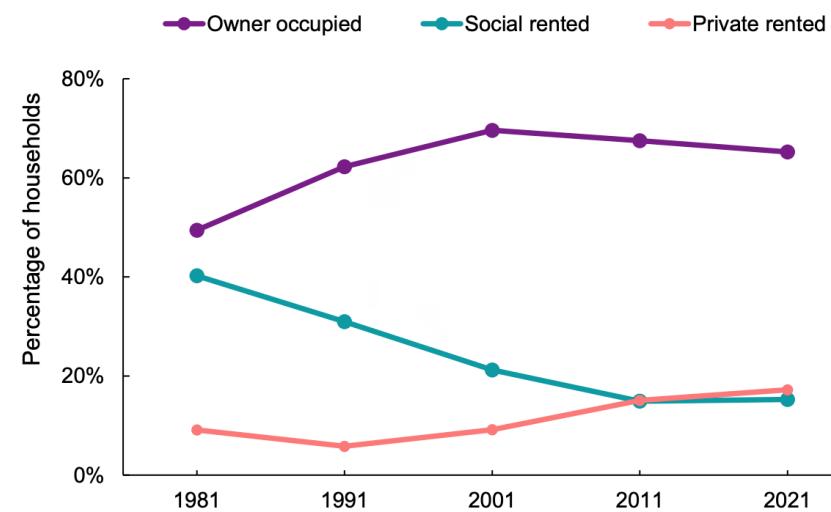
Building on the data already reviewed and included in Appendix 1, this consideration will span across other Section 75 grounds and will include qualitative evidence from the CIH expert report and analysis of other intersectional data, where available. (The relative scarcity of intersectional or cross tabulated data has already been noted and hence most analyses are restricted to one or two Section 75 grounds). Data relates, as far as possible, to information available in relation to private sector tenure data.

Household Tenure – Change over time

Percentage of households by tenure (1981- 2021 Censuses)

Tenure of households	1981	1991	2001	2011	2021
Owner occupied	49.4%	62.3%	69.6%	67.5%	65.2%
Social rented	40.2%	31.0%	21.2%	14.9%	15.3%
Private rented	9.1%	5.8%	9.2%	15.1%	17.2%
Lives rent free [note 1]	-	-	-	2.5%	2.3%
Other and not stated	1.2%	1.0%	-	-	-

Note 1: In 1981 to 2001, 'social rented' and 'private rented' included 'living rent free'.



Looking at tenure of households since the 1981 Census shows a rise in the percentage of owner-occupied households from 49.4% in 1981, to a peak in 2001 of 69.6%, then a marginal fall to 65.2% in 2021.

In contrast, there has been a marked change in the rented sector over the last forty years. Overall, there has been a steady decline in the percentage of households that were social rented (40.2% in 1981, down to 15.3% in 2021), while in contrast there has been an overall increase in the percentage of households renting their accommodation privately (9.1% in 1981, up to 17.2% in 2021).

This equated to 132,436 households in 2021 living in privately rented accommodation. This included 307,273 people or 16.4% of the population of NI living in privately rented accommodation.

The following tables demonstrate households and residents across all tenures including those in private rented accommodation and across all local authority areas in NI.

This demonstrates that the majority of those in the private rented sector (PRS) rent from a private landlord, with the second most popular method being through a letting agent, followed by letting from a relative or friend of a household member. Some also rent through other means or through an employer of a household member.

The data demonstrates that the four local authority areas where the private renting tenure through a private landlord is most common are Fermanagh and Omagh (15.39%), Mid Ulster (15.02%), Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (14.5%), followed by Newry, Mourne and Down (14.23%). Private renting tenure through a letting agent is highest in Belfast reflecting the student population in the city.

Household tenure where the Household Reference Person (HRP) is aged 66 and over shows less reliance on the PRS with the highest percentages in Causeway Coast and Glens (7.68%), Derry City and Strabane (7.47%), Fermanagh and Omagh (7.32%) and Newry, Mourne and Down (7.49%) local authority areas.

Tenure – Tenure - All Households

Geography	All usual households	Owner occupied: Owns outright	Owner occupied: Owns with a mortgage or loan	Shared ownership: Part-owns and part-rents	Social rented: Northern Ireland Housing Executive	Social rented: Housing association or charitable trust	Private rented: Private landlord	Private rented: Letting agency	Private rented: Employer of a household member	Private rented: Relative or friend of a household member	Private rented: Other	Lives rent free
Antrim and Newtownabbey	59,457	34.35%	35.83%	1.32%	9.86%	2.94%	9.15%	3.61%	0.15%	0.73%	0.24%	1.81%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	84,642	35.59%	32.10%	0.96%	8.34%	2.16%	14.50%	2.95%	0.04%	0.83%	0.23%	2.29%
Belfast	149,210	24.83%	25.31%	0.83%	16.93%	9.36%	11.90%	7.52%	0.04%	0.77%	0.31%	2.20%
Causeway Coast and Glens	57,578	39.25%	26.24%	0.69%	10.86%	2.54%	13.40%	3.31%	0.02%	0.99%	0.16%	2.55%
Derry City and Strabane	60,935	30.25%	26.28%	0.52%	15.54%	7.16%	13.45%	3.33%	0.02%	0.83%	0.32%	2.31%
Fermanagh and Omagh	45,714	43.18%	25.54%	0.32%	7.56%	1.86%	15.39%	1.95%	0.03%	0.99%	0.17%	3.00%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	60,145	36.62%	36.85%	1.26%	8.45%	3.85%	7.01%	3.25%	0.19%	0.55%	0.24%	1.73%
Mid and East Antrim	58,283	38.79%	29.65%	0.88%	9.18%	3.11%	11.86%	3.23%	0.02%	0.84%	0.15%	2.28%
Mid Ulster	54,007	38.37%	29.81%	0.61%	7.22%	2.21%	15.02%	2.67%	0.04%	0.91%	0.24%	2.88%
Newry, Mourne and Down	68,398	38.20%	29.88%	0.58%	7.63%	3.12%	14.23%	2.47%	0.06%	1.09%	0.18%	2.55%
Ards and North Down	70,445	38.64%	32.41%	1.24%	8.56%	4.04%	8.95%	3.42%	0.10%	0.74%	0.20%	1.70%
Total Households NI	768,814	267,069	227,856	6,569	82,948	34,517	93,703	30,076	476	6,387	1,794	17,419
%	768,814	34.74%	29.64%	0.85%	10.79%	4.49%	12.19%	3.91%	0.06%	0.83%	0.23%	2.27%

MS-E15 a&b: Tenure - Households – Census 2021 main statistics housing and accommodation tables | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Tenure – All Usual Residents living in households

Geography	All usual households	Owner occupied: Owns outright	Owner occupied: Owns with a mortgage or loan	Shared ownership: Part-owns and part-rents	Social rented: Northern Ireland Housing Executive	Social rented: Housing association or charitable trust	Private rented: Private landlord	Private rented: Letting agency	Private rented: Employer of a household member	Private rented: Relative or friend of a household member	Private rented: Other	Lives rent free
Antrim and Newtownabbey	143,480	29.69%	43.81%	1.38%	8.11%	2.54%	8.69%	3.38%	0.18%	0.65%	0.22%	1.35%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	217,018	31.17%	40.17%	0.98%	6.56%	1.60%	14.06%	2.81%	0.04%	0.77%	0.23%	1.61%
Belfast	336,022	21.76%	30.66%	0.90%	16.02%	8.80%	11.52%	7.32%	0.04%	0.79%	0.29%	1.89%
Causeway Coast and Glens	139,799	35.17%	33.78%	0.67%	9.15%	1.99%	13.13%	3.25%	0.02%	0.90%	0.13%	1.81%
Derry City and Strabane	149,290	28.00%	33.61%	0.53%	13.52%	6.57%	12.10%	2.86%	0.02%	0.72%	0.29%	1.77%
Fermanagh and Omagh	115,555	38.92%	34.38%	0.31%	5.75%	1.39%	14.21%	1.83%	0.03%	0.91%	0.16%	2.12%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	146,597	31.51%	44.58%	1.29%	6.95%	3.57%	6.77%	3.06%	0.26%	0.50%	0.25%	1.26%
Mid and East Antrim	137,782	34.63%	37.10%	0.97%	7.70%	2.23%	11.59%	3.12%	0.02%	0.77%	0.13%	1.73%
Mid Ulster	149,120	33.91%	38.05%	0.67%	5.47%	1.85%	14.42%	2.54%	0.04%	0.78%	0.23%	2.04%
Newry, Mourne and Down	180,254	33.78%	38.56%	0.56%	6.06%	2.76%	12.98%	2.30%	0.06%	0.94%	0.16%	1.83%
Ards and North Down	161,909	33.21%	40.51%	1.33%	7.59%	3.39%	8.37%	3.26%	0.15%	0.69%	0.21%	1.29%
Total Households NI	1,876,826	578,426	698,542	16,597	171,507	72,404	218,845	68,494	1,428	14,421	4,085	32,077
%	100%	30.82%	37.22%	0.88%	9.14%	3.86%	11.66%	3.65%	0.08%	0.77%	0.22%	1.71%

MS-E14 a &b: Tenure - usual residents - Census 2021 main statistics housing and accommodation tables / Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Tenure – where Household Reference Person (HRP) is aged 66 and over

Geography	All households where the Household Reference Person is aged 66 and over	Owner occupied	Shared ownership	Rented from Northern Ireland Housing Executive	Rented from housing association or charitable trust	Private rented	Living rent free
Antrim and Newtownabbey	15,285	78.23%	0.43%	8.92%	3.83%	5.33%	3.26%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	21,359	76.41%	0.36%	9.21%	2.68%	6.84%	4.50%
Belfast	32,889	65.88%	0.31%	15.94%	10.31%	4.46%	3.10%
Causeway Coast and Glens	16,859	74.23%	0.43%	9.99%	3.27%	7.68%	4.40%
Derry City and Strabane	14,907	68.91%	0.34%	14.09%	5.38%	7.47%	3.82%
Fermanagh and Omagh	13,300	78.80%	0.30%	6.77%	2.14%	7.32%	4.68%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	15,771	80.76%	0.38%	8.24%	3.88%	3.65%	3.09%
Mid and East Antrim	16,706	76.59%	0.34%	8.24%	4.60%	6.14%	4.09%
Mid Ulster	13,645	78.88%	0.26%	7.23%	1.88%	6.87%	4.89%
Newry, Mourne and Down	18,312	78.27%	0.35%	7.17%	2.44%	7.49%	4.28%
Ards and North Down	22,130	79.50%	0.42%	6.95%	4.47%	5.96%	2.69%
Total Households in NI where Household Reference Person (HRP) is aged 66 and over	201,163	151,433	718	19,774	9,260	12,349	7,629
%	100%	75.28%	0.36%	9.83%	4.60%	6.14%	3.79%

Religion

Household: Tenure - 5 Tenure Categories by Religion - 4 Categories

All data relating to the general population is contained in the Appendix 1 published with this consultation.

The following tables outline tenure by a number of Section 75 grounds.

Count Religion – 4 Categories

Household: Tenure - 5 Categories ¹	Catholic		Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)		Other Religions		No Religion/Religion not stated		%	Total
Owner occupied	545,691	42.2%	520,403	40.2%	10,927	0.8%	216,543	16.7%	100%	1,293,564
Social rented	108,742	44.6%	83,904	34.4%	4,701	1.9%	46,564	19.1%	100%	243,911
Private rented	130,889	42.6%	83,318	27.1%	8,295	2.7%	84,772	27.6%	100%	307,274
Lives rent free	12,342	38.5%	13,861	43.2%	849	2.6%	5,025	15.7%	100%	32,077
No code required	7,487	28.4%	9,506	36.1%	747	2.8%	8,608	32.7%	100%	26,348
All	805,151	42.3%	710,992	37.4%	25,519	1.3%	361,512	19.0%	100%	1,903,174

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

1.This variable applies to all people living in households. As such, this variable reports 'No code required' for the subset of the population living in communal establishments.

(To note: No Code Required: In the Census 2021 Communal establishments are classed as establishments providing supervision of residential accommodation. This includes student halls of residence, hospitals, care homes, prisons, homelessness shelters/hostels and hotels/B&BS etc. HMOs would be counted as part of the usual resident population as households, and any sheltered accommodation that has self-contained units would also be counted as part of the usual population as households. This is the same for all tables in this series).

In regard of Religion, the data demonstrates that of the 307,274 people living in the PRS, the highest category is for those of a Catholic Religion - 42.6% are Catholic or brought up Catholic, 27.1% are Protestant and Other Christian or brought up Protestant, while 27.6% have No Religion or No Religion stated and 2.7% are from Other Religions. In comparison to the general population, this demonstrates that of those living in the PRS, a slightly higher percentage of Catholics live in the PRS in comparison to the general population (42.31%); a significantly higher percentage of those with No Religion live in the PRS compared to the general population figure (19%); a significantly higher percentage of those from Other Religions live in the PRS compared to the general population figure (1.34%); and a significantly lower percentage of those within the Protestant Religion live in the PRS compared to the general population figure (37.36%).

Household: Tenure - Religion 4 Categories by 5 Tenure Categories

Household: Tenure - 5 Categories ¹	Catholic		Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)		Other Religions		No Religion/Religion not stated		Total
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	
Owner occupied	545,691	67.8%	520,403	73.2%	10,927	42.8%	216,543	59.9%	1,293,564
Social rented	108,742	13.5%	83,904	11.8%	4,701	18.4%	46,564	12.9%	243,911
Private rented	130,889	16.3%	83,318	11.7%	8,295	32.5%	84,772	23.4%	307,274
Lives rent free	12,342	1.5%	13,861	1.9%	849	3.3%	5,025	1.4%	32,077
No code required	7,487	0.9%	9,506	1.3%	747	2.9%	8,608	2.4%	26,348
All	805,151	100%	710,992	100%	25,519	100%	361,512	100%	1,903,174

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

1. This variable applies to all people living in households. As such, this variable reports 'No code required' for the subset of the population living in communal establishments.

In regard of Religion, the data demonstrates that of the 805,151 people from a Catholic background in NI, 16.3% live in the PRS. Of the 710,992 people from a Protestant or Other Christian background in NI, some 11.7% live in the PRS. Of the 25,519 people from Other Religions the data demonstrates that a much higher percentage live in private rented accommodation – some 32.5% and for the 361,512 who stated No Religion or Religion not stated, some 23.4% live in private rented accommodation. Interestingly there was a higher percentage among those from Other Religions living in social rented accommodation in comparison to that accommodation type for the Other Religions (Catholic 13.5%; Protestant 11.8% and No Religion 12.9%).

Ethnic Group

Household: Tenure - 5 Tenure Categories by Ethnic Group - 5 Categories

Count Ethnic Group – 5 Categories

Household: Tenure - 5 Categories ¹	White		Asian		Black		Mixed		Other		%	Total
Owner occupied	1,267,816	98.0%	15,010	1.2%	1,829	0.1%	6,944	0.5%	1,966	0.2%	100%	1,293,565
Social rented	233,363	95.7%	3,039	1.2%	2,791	1.1%	2,499	1.0%	2,219	0.9%	100%	243,911
Private rented	283,255	92.2%	11,030	3.6%	5,460	1.8%	4,461	1.5%	3,069	1.0%	100%	307,275
Lives rent free	30,267	94.4%	707	2.2%	569	1.8%	271	0.8%	262	0.8%	100%	32,076
No code required	22,874	86.8%	2,694	10.2%	382	1.4%	207	0.8%	191	0.7%	100%	26,348
All	1,837,575	96.6%	32,480	1.7%	11,031	0.6%	14,382	0.8%	7,707	0.4%	100%	1,903,175

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

1. This variable applies to all people living in households. As such, this variable reports 'No code required' for the subset of the population living in communal establishments.

In regard of Ethnic Groups, the data demonstrates that of the 307,275 people living in the PRS, the highest category is for the White ethnic group at 92.2%, 3.6% are Asian, 1.8% are Black, 1.5% are Mixed Race while 1.0% are from other ethnic groups.

In comparison to the general population, this demonstrates a slightly lower percentage of those who classify as white living in the PRS (92.2%) in comparison to the general population (96.6%); a significantly higher percentage of those with an Asian ethnicity living in the PRS (3.6%) in comparison to the general population (1.71%); a significantly higher percentage of those with Black ethnicity living in the PRS (1.8%) in comparison to the general population (0.58%); a higher percentage of those with a Mixed race ethnicity living in the PRS (1.5%) in comparison to the general population (0.76%) and a higher percentage of those from Other ethnicities living in the PRS (1.0%) in comparison to the general population (0.4%).

Household: Tenure - Ethnic Group 5 Categories by 5 Tenure Categories

Count	Ethnic Group – 5 Categories										
	Household: Tenure - 5 Categories ¹	White		Asian		Black		Mixed		Other	
Owner occupied	1,267,816	69%	15,010	46%	1,829	16.6%	6,944	48.3%	1,966	25.5%	1,293,565
Social rented	233,363	13%	3,039	9%	2,791	25.3%	2,499	17.4%	2,219	28.8%	243,911
Private rented	283,255	15%	11,030	34%	5,460	49.5%	4,461	31.0%	3,069	39.8%	307,275
Lives rent free	30,267	2%	707	2%	569	5.2%	271	1.9%	262	3.4%	32,076
No code required	22,874	1%	2,694	8%	382	3.5%	207	1.4%	191	2.5%	26,348
All	1,837,575	100%	32,480	100%	11,031	100%	14,382	100%	7,707	100%	1,903,175

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

1. This variable applies to all people living in households. As such, this variable reports 'No code required' for the subset of the population living in communal establishments.

In regard of Ethnic Groups, the data demonstrates that of the 1,837,575 people from a White Ethnic Group in NI, 15% live in the PRS. Of the 32,480 people from an Asian Ethnic Group in NI, some 34% live in the PRS. Of the 11,031 people from a Black Ethnic Group in NI, some 49.5% live in the PRS. Of the 14,382 people from a Mixed Ethnic Group in NI, some 31% live in the PRS. Of the 7,707 people from an Other Ethnic Group in NI, some 39.8% live in the PRS.

This data demonstrates a much higher reliance on the PRS in all other Ethnic groups (31% to 49.5%) in comparison to the White Ethnic Group (15%).

Age

Household: Tenure - 5 Categories by Age - 4 Categories

Count	Age 4 Categories by Age – 4 Categories								
	Household: Tenure - 5 Categories ¹	0-14 years		15-39 years		40-64 years		65+ years	
Owner occupied	226,457	17.5%	361,242	27.9%	456,652	35.3%	249,214	19.3%	1,293,565
Social rented	56,273	23.1%	76,077	31.2%	73,987	30.3%	37,575	15.4%	243,912
Private rented	76,392	24.9%	137,823	44.9%	75,430	24.5%	17,627	5.7%	307,272
Lives rent free	5,591	17.4%	8,904	2.9%	7,780	2.5%	9,796	3.2%	32,071
No code required	499	1.9%	10,316	3.4%	3,274	1.1%	12,261	4.0%	26,350
All	365,212	19.2%	594,362	31.2%	617,123	32.4%	326,473	17.2%	1,903,170

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

1. This variable applies to all people living in households. As such, this variable reports 'No code required' for the subset of the population living in communal establishments.

In regard of Age, the data demonstrates that of the 307,272 people living in the PRS, 44.9% are in the 15-39 age group, 24.9% are in the 0-14 age group, 24.5% are in the 40-64 age group and 5.7% are in the 65+ age group.

In comparison to the general population, this demonstrates that of those living within the PRS there is a slightly higher percentage of young people in the 0-14 age group (24.9%) living in the PRS in comparison to the general population (19.2%); a higher percentage of those in the 15-39 age group (44.9%) living in the PRS in comparison to the general population (31.2%); a lower percentage of those in the 40-64 age group (24.5%) living in the PRS in comparison to the general population (32.4%); and a lower percentage of those in the 65+ age group (5.7%) living in the PRS in comparison to the general population (17.2%).

Household: Tenure - Age 4 Categories by 5 Tenure Categories

Household: Tenure - 5 Categories ^{s1}	0-14 years		15-39 years		40-64 years		65+ years		Total
	Count	Age - Categories	Count	Age - Categories	Count	Age - Categories	Count	Age - Categories	
Owner occupied	226,457	62.0	361,242	60.8	456,652	74.0	249,214	76.3	1,293,565
Social rented	56,273	15.4	76,077	12.8	73,987	12.0	37,575	11.5	243,912
Private rented	76,392	20.9	137,823	23.2	75,430	12.2	17,627	5.4	307,272
Lives rent free	5,591	1.5	8,904	1.5	7,780	1.3	9,796	3.0	32,071
No code required	499	0.1	10,316	1.7	3,274	0.5	12,261	3.8	26,350
All	365,212	100.0	594,362	100.0	617,123	100.0	326,473	100	1,903,170

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

1. This variable applies to all people living in households. As such, this variable reports 'No code required' for the subset of the population living in communal establishments.

In regard of each Age category, the data demonstrates that of the 365,212 people in the 0-14 age group in NI, 20.9% live in the PRS. Of the 594,362 people in the 15-39 age group in NI, some 23.2% live in the PRS. Of the 617,123 people in the 40-64 age group in NI, some 12.2% live in the PRS. Of the 326,473 people in the 65+ age group in NI, some 5.4% live in the PRS. This demonstrates that those in the older age groups are less likely to live in the PRS.

Marital and Civil Partnership Status

Household: Tenure by Marital and Civil Partnership Status

Count Marital and Civil Partnership Status

Household: Tenure	Single (never Married or never registered a Civil Partnership)	Married or in a Civil Partnership	Other Marital or Civil Partnership status	%	Total			
Owner occupied	327,741	31.2%	585,868	55.7%	137,901	13.1%	100%	1,051,510
Social rented	96,649	52.5%	36,581	19.9%	50,771	27.6%	100%	184,001
Private rented	127,916	56.3%	58,630	25.8%	40,715	17.9%	100%	227,261
Lives rent free	9,901	37.8%	8,777	33.5%	7,541	28.8%	100%	26,219
All	562,207	37.8%	689,856	46.3%	236,928	15.9%	100%	1,488,991

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

In regard of Marital and Civil Partnership status (for those over 16), the data demonstrates that of the 227,261 people living in the PRS, 56.3% are Single (never Married or never registered a Civil Partnership), 25.8% are Married or in a Civil Partnership, while 17.9% have Other Marital or Civil Partnership status. This demonstrates that within the PRS tenure category, Single people are by far the highest Marital and Civil Partnership category to live in private rented accommodation.

In comparison to the general population, this demonstrates that of those living in the PRS, there is a higher percentage of Single people living in the PRS (56.3%) in comparison to the general population (37.8%); there is a lower percentage of those Married or in a Civil Partnership (25.8%) living in the PRS in comparison to the general population (46.3%); and there is a slightly higher percentage of those in the Other Marital or Civil Partnership status living in the PRS (17.9%) in comparison to the general population (15.9%).

Household: Tenure - Marital and Civil Partnership Status by 5 Tenure Categories

Count	Marital and Civil Partnership Status						
	Household: Tenure	Single (Married or never registered a Civil Partnership)		Married or in a Civil Partnership		Other Marital or Civil Partnership status	
Owner occupied	327,741	58.3%	585,868	84.9%	137,901	58.2%	1,051,510
Social rented	96,649	17.2%	36,581	5.3%	50,771	21.4%	184,001
Private rented	127,916	22.8%	58,630	8.5%	40,715	17.2%	227,261
Lives rent free	9,901	1.8%	8,777	1.3%	7,541	3.2%	26,219
All	562,207	100%	689,856	100%	236,928	100%	1,488,991

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

In regard of each Marital and Civil Partnership status category, the data demonstrates that of the 562,207 people in the Single category in NI, 22.8% live in the PRS. Of the 689,856 people in the Married or in a Civil Partnership category in NI, some 8.5% live in the PRS. Of the 236,928 people in the Other Marital or Civil Partnership status, some 17.2% live in the PRS. The data demonstrates that within the Single marital status category, private rented tenure is higher than that for those who are married or within the Other Marital/Civil Partnership status. The data also shows that for those Married or in a Civil Partnership, owner occupation is a higher tenure choice at 84.9% of all tenures in comparison to this tenure for Single people and other Martial or Civil Partnership status where owner occupation was 58.3% and 58.2% respectively of all tenure choices for these two marital status groups.

Sexual Orientation

Household: Tenure - 5 Categories by Sexual Orientation

Count Sexual Orientation¹

Household: Tenure ²	Straight or Heterosexual	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Other Sexual orientation	Prefer not to say/not stated	%	Total			
Owner occupied	970,710	92.3%	15,842	1.5%	64,958	6.2%	100%	1,051,510
Social rented	159,766	86.8%	4,676	2.5%	19,559	10.6%	100%	184,001
Private rented	195,278	85.9%	9,939	4.4%	22,044	9.7%	100%	227,261
Lives rent free	22,643	86.4%	455	1.7%	3,123	11.9%	100%	26,221
No code required	15,461	60.0%	706	2.7%	9,584	37.2%	100%	25,751
All	1,363,858	90.0%	31,618	2.1%	119,268	7.9%	100%	1,514,744

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

1. Sexual Orientation is applicable to respondents aged 16 and over.

2. This variable applies to all people living in households. As such, this variable reports 'No code required' for the subset of the population living in communal establishments.

In regard of Sexual Orientation (for those over 16), the data demonstrates that of the 227,261 people living in the PRS, 85.9% are Straight or Heterosexual; 4.4% are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Other Sexual Orientation, while 9.7% Prefer not to say. This demonstrates that within the PRS tenure category, Straight people are the highest category to live in private rented accommodation.

In comparison to the general population, this demonstrates that of those living in the PRS, there is a lower percentage (85.9%) of Straight or Heterosexual people living in the PRS in comparison to the general population (90.04%); a significantly higher percentage of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual people (4.4%) living in the PRS in comparison to the general population (2.09%); and a higher percentage of those who Prefer not to say (9.7%) living in the PRS in comparison to the general population (7.9%).

Household: Tenure - Sexual Orientation by 5 Tenure Categories

Count	Sexual Orientation1						
Household: Tenure ²	Straight or Heterosexual		Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Other Sexual orientation		Prefer not to say/not stated		Total
Owner occupied	970,710	71.2%	15,842	50.1%	64,958	54.5%	1,051,510
Social rented	159,766	11.7%	4,676	14.8%	19,559	16.4%	184,001
Private rented	195,278	14.3%	9,939	31.4%	22,044	18.5%	227,261
Lives rent free	22,643	1.7%	455	1.4%	3,123	2.6%	26,221
No code required	15,461	1.1%	706	2.2%	9,584	8.0%	25,751
All	1,363,858	100%	31,618	100%	119,268	100%	1,514,744

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

1. Sexual Orientation is applicable to respondents aged 16 and over.

2. This variable applies to all people living in households. As such, this variable reports 'No code required' for the subset of the population living in communal establishments.

In regard of each Sexual Orientation category, the data demonstrates that of the 1,363,858 people in the Straight or Heterosexual category in NI, 14.3% live in the PRS. Of the 31,618 people in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Other Sexual Orientation category in NI, a much higher percentage, some 31.4% live in the PRS. Of the 119,268 people who Prefer not to say status, some 18.5% live in the PRS. The data demonstrates that those who are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Other Sexual Orientation are much more likely to live in the PRS in comparison to the other two categories. The data also shows that for those in the Straight/Heterosexual category, owner occupation is a higher tenure choice at 71.2% of all tenures in comparison to those in the Gay Lesbian, Bisexual, Other Sexual Orientation category where 50.1% owned their own home and for those who Prefer not to say, 54.5% chose owner occupation as their tenure choice.

Sex/Gender

Household: Tenure - 5 Categories by Sex

Count	Sex						
Household: Tenure		Female		Male		%	Total
Owner occupied		649,703	50.2%	643,865	49.8%	100%	1,293,568
Social rented		130,110	53.3%	113,801	46.7%	100%	243,911
Private rented		155,624	50.6%	151,650	49.4%	100%	307,274
Lives rent free		17,061	53.2%	15,016	46.8%	100%	32,077
No code required		14,548	55.2%	11,800	44.8%	100%	26,348
All		967,046	50.8%	936,132	49.2%	100%	1,903,178

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

1. This variable applies to all people living in households. As such, this variable reports 'No code required' for the subset of the population living in communal establishments.

In regard of Gender, the data demonstrates that of the 307,274 people living in the PRS, 50.6% are Female and 49.4% are Males. This demonstrates that within the PRS tenure category, slightly more Females live in private rented accommodation than Males.

In comparison to the general population, this demonstrates that of those living in the PRS, there is a slightly lower percentage of Females living in the PRS (50.6%) in comparison to the general NI Female population (50.81%). There is a slightly higher percentage of Males living in the PRS (49.4%) in comparison to the general NI Male population (49.19%).

Household: Tenure - Sex by 5 Tenure Categories

Count	Sex					
Household: Tenure		Female		Male		Total
Owner occupied	649,703	67.2%	643,865	68.8%	1,293,568	
Social rented	130,110	13.5%	113,801	12.2%	243,911	
Private rented	155,624	16.1%	151,650	16.2%	307,274	
Lives rent free	17,061	1.8%	15,016	1.6%	32,077	
No code required	14,548	1.5%	11,800	1.3%	26,348	
All	967,046	100%	936,132	100%	1,903,178	

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

1. This variable applies to all people living in households. As such, this variable reports 'No code required' for the subset of the population living in communal establishments.

In regard of each gender category, the data demonstrates that of the 967,046 Females in NI, 16.1% live in the PRS. Of the 936,132 Males in NI 16.2% live in private rented accommodation.

Health Condition (Mobility - Limits Physical Activity)

Household: Tenure - 5 Categories by Health Condition (Mobility - Limits Physical Activity)

Count

Health Condition (Mobility – Limits Physical Activity)

Household: Tenure	Has a mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities	Does not have a mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities	%	Total
Owner occupied	117,349	9.1%	1,176,216	90.9%
Social rented	50,939	20.9%	192,972	79.1%
Private rented	24,331	7.9%	282,943	92.1%
Lives rent free	5,833	18.2%	26,244	81.8%
No code required	9,136	34.7%	17,212	65.3%
All	207,588	10.9%	1,695,587	89.1%
			100%	1,903,175

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

1. This variable applies to all people living in households. As such, this variable reports 'No code required' for the subset of the population living in communal establishments.

In regard of health conditions where a mobility limits physical activity, the data demonstrates that of the 307,274 people living in the PRS, 92.1% do not have a mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities while 7.9% have a mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities. This demonstrates that within the PRS tenure category, most people living in the PRS do not have a mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities.

In comparison to the general population, this demonstrates that of those living in the PRS, there is a higher percentage of those who do not have a mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities living in the PRS (92.1%) in comparison to the general NI population for this group (89.1%). It also demonstrates that there is a significantly lower percentage of those who do have a mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities living in the PRS (7.9%) in comparison to the general NI population for this group (10.9%).

Household: Tenure - Health Condition (Mobility - Limits Physical Activity) by 5 Tenure Categories

Household: Tenure	Health Condition (Mobility – Limits Physical Activity)					Total
	Has a mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities		Does not have a mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities			
Owner occupied	117,349	56.5%	1,176,216	69.4%		1,293,565
Social rented	50,939	24.5%	192,972	11.4%		243,911
Private rented	24,331	11.7%	282,943	16.7%		307,274
Lives rent free	5,833	2.8%	26,244	1.5%		32,077
No code required	9,136	4.4%	17,212	1.0%		26,348
All	207,588	100%	1,695,587	100%		1,903,175

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

1. This variable applies to all people living in households. As such, this variable reports 'No code required' for the subset of the population living in communal establishments.

In regard of the 207,588 people in NI who have a mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities, the data shows that 11.7% live in the private rented tenure with the majority (56.5%) living in the owner-occupied tenure and 24.5% in the socially rented tenure. 2.8% live rent free while 4.4% live in communal establishments (no code required).

Health Condition (Intellectual or Learning Disability)

Household: Tenure - 5 Categories by Health Condition (Intellectual or Learning Disability)

Count

Health Condition (Intellectual or Learning Disability)

Household: Tenure	Has an intellectual or learning disability	Does not have an intellectual or learning disability	%	Total
Owner occupied	7,629	0.6%	99.4%	100%
Social rented	4,826	2.0%	98.0%	100%
Private rented	2,541	0.8%	99.2%	100%
Lives rent free	396	1.2%	98.8%	100%
No code required	1,529	5.8%	94.2%	100%
All	16,921	0.9%	99.1%	100%
				1,903,175

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

1. This variable applies to all people living in households. As such, this variable reports 'No code required' for the subset of the population living in communal establishments.

In regard of Health Conditions (Intellectual or Learning Disability), the data demonstrates that of the 307,274 people living in the PRS, 99.2% do not have an intellectual or learning disability while 0.8% have an intellectual or learning disability. This demonstrates that within the PRS tenure category, most people living in the PRS do not have an intellectual or learning disability.

In comparison to the general population, this demonstrates that of those living in the PRS, there is a slightly lower percentage of those who have a learning disability living in the PRS (0.8%) in comparison to the general NI population for this group (0.89%).

Household: Tenure - Health Condition (Intellectual or Learning Disability) by 5 Tenure Categories

Count	Health Condition (Intellectual or Learning Disability)					Total
	Household: Tenure	Has an intellectual or learning disability		Does not have an intellectual or learning disability		
Owner occupied	7,629	45.1%	1,285,936	68.2%	1,293,565	
Social rented	4,826	28.5%	239,085	12.7%	243,911	
Private rented	2,541	15.0%	304,733	16.2%	307,274	
Lives rent free	396	2.3%	31,681	1.7%	32,077	
No code required	1,529	9.0%	24,819	1.3%	26,348	
All	16,921	100%	1,886,254	100%	1,903,175	

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

1. This variable applies to all people living in households. As such, this variable reports 'No code required' for the subset of the population living in communal establishments.

In regard of the 16,921 people in NI who have an intellectual or learning disability, the data shows that 15% live in the PRS with the majority (45.1%) living in the owner-occupied tenure and 28.5% in the socially rented tenure. 2.3% live rent free while 9% live in communal establishments (no code required).

Dependant Child

Household: Tenure - 5 Categories by Dependant Child

Count

Dependant Child

Household: Tenure	Not a dependant child	Dependant child	%	Total
Owner occupied	1,010,034	283,531	21.9%	1,293,565
Social rented	175,372	68,539	28.1%	243,911
Private rented	219,088	88,186	28.7%	307,274
Lives rent free	25,636	6,441	20.1%	32,077
All	1,430,130	446,697	23.8%	1,876,827

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

These variables apply to individuals living in private households.

In regard of Dependant Children, the data demonstrates that of the 307,274 people living in the PRS, 71.3% are not dependant children while 28.7% are dependant children. When examining each tenure, the data in this table also demonstrates a slightly higher percentage of dependant children within the PRS tenure category in comparison to the other tenures. Within the socially rented sector, 28.1% are dependant children, while 21.9% of the owner-occupied tenure are dependant children and within the live rent free tenure 20.1% are dependant children.

In comparison to the general population, 53.15% of households in NI have no children in the household while a further 16.17% of households have no dependant children in household/all children in household are non-dependant. 30.67% of households have either one, two or three or more dependant children across three different age groups 0-4, 5-11 and 12-18. While this data is by household, it does imply that there is slightly less people living in the PRS with dependant children.

Household: Tenure - Dependant Child by 5 Tenure Categories

Household: Tenure	Dependant Child					Total
	Not a dependant child		Dependent child			
Owner occupied	1,010,034	70.6%	283,531	63.5%	1,293,565	
Social rented	175,372	12.3%	68,539	15.3%	243,911	
Private rented	219,088	15.3%	88,186	19.7%	307,274	
Lives rent free	25,636	1.8%	6,441	1.4%	32,077	
All	1,430,130	100%	446,697	100%	1,876,827	

SOURCE: Northern Ireland Census 2021

These variables apply to individuals living in private households.

In regard of the dependant child and not a dependant child table, the data demonstrates that of the 446,697 people that are dependant children, 19.7% live in the PRS. Of the 1,430,130 that are not a dependant child, 15.3% live in private rented accommodation.

Other Research

Outside of the published statistics, the Department commissioned CIH NI to undertake research (**Chartered Institute of Housing NI – Exceptions to longer “notice to quit” periods in NI, July 2023**). This has now been published to inform consideration of this EQIA. It explored the following:

- What existing evidence from outside NI tells us about exceptions to the notice periods that private landlords must provide to tenants to terminate a tenancy;
- Views from landlords and tenants in NI, their representative groups and the district councils on exceptions, and views from the general public on termination for anti-social behaviour (ASB) specifically; and
- CIH’s proposals on exceptions for private landlords in NI, considering human rights and equality laws and the implications for both tenants and landlords including more vulnerable groups.

A summary of the impact of shorter notice periods on vulnerable people such as older and younger tenants, tenants with families and tenants with disabilities is outlined below.

Victims of domestic violence

Due consideration should be given to the potential impact of a shorter NTQ for serious ASB and criminal offences on the victims of domestic violence. Domestic violence is a gendered crime – the actions of a perpetrator, most of whom are men, could result in a shorter NTQ

under the proposed exceptions, affecting the female victim and any dependants and putting them at risk of homelessness.

One way of addressing this is through a legislative condition deeming the NTQ to be invalid if it arose from an act caused by a perpetrator of domestic violence, which is an approach taken in Victoria, Australia. However, a more holistic approach could be a provision enabling a tenancy in the perpetrator’s name to be transferred to the victim should she/he wish to remain in the home, or alternatively removing the perpetrator as a party of a joint tenancy, while evicting him/her in line with exceptions. Provision of specialist advice and support in facilitating positive outcomes is crucial.

People with disabilities and caring responsibilities

Disabled people and people with caring responsibilities are inclined to consider notice periods as too short. Private rented accommodation may offer fewer adaptations for disabilities than the norm, making it harder for disabled people to secure suitable alternative accommodation. Therefore, people with disabilities who are given shorter notice periods may be disproportionately affected in the time taken to find another home. That said, our research shows that people with significant health problems or disabilities were more likely to experience ASB. Providing a mechanism to remove perpetrators of serious ASB in more appropriate timescales may proportionally benefit disabled people.

Low-income households – younger and older people

People who are unemployed are more inclined to perceive notice periods as insufficient. This likely stems from limited alternative housing options due to the repercussions of recent welfare system changes and reduced help with housing costs. The local housing allowance's "shared accommodation rate" specifically restricts choices for younger, single individuals with low incomes. Additionally, some people face challenges securing private rented accommodation due to their receipt of benefits.

A significant barrier is the requirement of providing a deposit (rent in advance) to secure a new property, the cost of which has risen alongside increasing rents in recent years. Shorter notice periods imposed by landlords can hinder people's ability to gather the necessary funds, especially when financial resources are limited, increasing the risk of homelessness. Older people reliant on the state pension may not have the ability to quickly generate such resources. It will be important that people receiving shorter NTQs are referred to housing and welfare advice/support.

(To note: While social need and poverty are not Section 75 grounds per se, the ECNI Practical Guidance on EQIAs does recommend that social need can be taken on board when relevant.)

SECTION 3: ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

The quantitative data and qualitative information referenced throughout Step 2 has shaped an improved understanding of the data behind the circumstances where longer NTQs will not be given and reveals different needs, experiences and priorities across many of the Section 75 categories. While the draft regulations on exceptions will address many of these issues directly, it is important to identify those occasions where obstacles and barriers may need to be considered.

Gender

The 2021 NI Census shows the difference between males and females living in the PRS. There were slightly more females (50.6%) (155,624) than males (49.4% males) (151,650) living in private rented accommodation in 2021, reference table on p.26. In comparison to the NI population figure of females at 50.81% and males at 49.19%, the proportion of females in private rented accommodation is slightly lower than the NI female population percentage and the proportion of males in private rented accommodation is slightly higher than the NI male population percentage in 2021.

Renter's Voice in its submission to the CIH '**Notice to Quit**' (NTQ) periods for Private Rental Sector in NI Survey stated that it is important to consider the gendered element of domestic violence. It also stated that

it is crucial to protect victims of domestic violence. A majority of victims of domestic violence are women. The report noted that a policy that permits exceptions to NTQ periods in cases of domestic violence, with the same penalty applied to both perpetrator and victim, is potentially discriminatory.

Renter's Voice noted that there can be barriers to accessing private tenancies that can be faced by victims of domestic violence. Some evidence from Renters Voice suggests that once a landlord learns that a person has been a victim of domestic violence, they will often discriminate covertly against offering a tenancy.

“There is still a stigma in this country surrounding victims of domestic violence. If a landlord sees an address is a refuge or hostel, they start to ask questions as to why you are homeless and demand to know if the abuser will cause trouble at their door, fearing their property will be damaged or PSNI will be constantly at the door.”

Women's Aid facts and figures, in NI 33,186 domestic abuse incidents were reported in 2021-22 representing a 6.4% increase on the previous 12 months. In the 12 months from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 there were 33,071 domestic abuse incidents in NI. Since 2017 thirty-nine women in NI have been killed by men.

TEO's Ending Violence Against Women and Girls – Strategic Framework – Summer 2023 states that violence against women and girls can include:

- Physical, sexual, psychological and emotional violence occurring in the family (including children and young people), in the general community, or in institutions, including coercive control and stalking;
- Harmful sexual behaviour which is sexual behaviours expressed by children and young people that are developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self, or abusive to others;
- Sexual harassment, bullying, and intimidation in any public or private space; and
- Commercial and non-commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls, trafficking, child sexual abuse, so-called honour based violence, including female genital mutilation, forced and child marriages, and so-called honour crimes.

Figures from PSNI state that in the 12 months from April 2023 to March 2024, there were 32,763 domestic abuse incidents recorded by the police in NI, a slight decrease from the same period Apr 22 to March 23 of 113. In the 12 months from April 2023 to March 2024, there were 19,954 domestic abuse crimes recorded by the police in NI, a decrease from the same period Apr 22 to March 23 of 2,358.

Further PSNI evidence outlines, since 2004/05 there has been a general increase in levels of domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded by the police, with incident levels in 2023/24 one and a half times higher than those at the start of the series. While the number of domestic abuse crimes fell by 10.6% in 2023/24, crime levels remain twice as high as those at the start of the data series.

See additional data in Appendix 1 on domestic abuse and sexual violence statistics.

In 2022/23 of all 21,450 domestic abuse crimes in NI, 14,833 of victims **were female (69.2%) and 6,551 (30.5%) were male**. From an **ethnicity perspective**, of these, 18,634 were white, 159, Asian, 174 were black, and 2334 were of unknown ethnicity.

Part 3 of the report carried out by CIH regarding Exceptions to longer 'notice to quit' periods in Northern Ireland included consultation with landlords and tenants. Respondents were asked to review and rank some reasons for shorter notice periods applying in various countries around the world-ranking them from one to 11, where one is the most serious/urgent issue for which they thought the shortest notice period may apply.

Basic Statistics	Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
Serious anti-social behaviour affecting other tenants and neighbours	1.00	11.00	2.00	244	1.81
Serious rent arrears	1.00	11.00	2.00	3.07	2.05
Illegal use of property	1.00	10.00	4.00	3.89	1.71
Serious damage to the property	1.00	10.00	4.00	4.32	1.86
Domestic violence	1.00	11.00	4.00	4.76	2.80
Other relevant criminal conduct	1.00	11.00	5.00	5.42	1.92
Subletting	1.00	11.00	7.00	6.84	1.85
Landlord repossession to occupy the property	1.00	11.00	8.00	7.73	2.06
Landlord repossession to sell the property	1.00	11.00	9.00	8.32	2.13
Landlord repossession to carry out major repairs or redevelop the property	2.00	11.00	10.00	9.13	1.63
Repossession by the mortgage lender	1.00	11.00	11.00	10.07	1.99

The table shows the collective results from the 597 respondents (which included tenants, landlords, councils, Non-Governmental Organisations).

The top three reasons selected by the 215 tenant respondents were:

- Serious ASB
- Serious rent arrears
- Domestic violence

The top three reasons selected by the 333 landlords for issuing shorter notice periods to tenants were:

- Serious ASB
- Serious rent arrears
- Illegal use of the property

- Domestic violence was the fifth highest reason given by landlords

Some tenants and landlords shared similar views on domestic violence:

- Domestic violence I feel is a police matter, the crime for which a person may receive a prison sentence must be judged on its own merits,
- I have concerns about domestic violence as whilst I would evict a perpetrator without hesitation, I would not wish to leave the victim homeless,
- Domestic violence is a serious matter and should be dealt with by the police not the landlord/property owner,
- Where domestic violence applies, only the person responsible for the violence should be given the notice.

Other research suggests that women experiencing domestic abuse are more likely to experience mental health problems.

Domestic violence: statistics | Mental Health Foundation In contrast, women with mental health problems are more likely to be domestically abused, with 30-60% of women with mental health problems having experienced domestic violence. Exposure to domestic violence has a significant impact on children's mental health. Many studies have found strong links between poorer educational outcomes and higher levels of mental health problems.

Domestic violence is associated with depression, anxiety, PTSD and substance abuse in the general population. (Trevillion, K., Oram, S., Feder, G., & Howard, L.M. (2012). Experiences of domestic violence and mental disorders: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *PLOS One*, 7, e51740)

The Equality Commission's Key Inequalities in Housing and Communities 2017 report noted some key findings as noted below.

- There is a difference between male and female reference person households, whereby female reference person households are more likely to live in rented accommodation, including social housing, than male reference person households. However, as there is a lack of data regarding the housing preferences of household reference persons, it is not possible from this information alone to conclude if these differences represent an inequality.
- Households with a younger household reference person (those aged under 35 years old) who are in receipt of the Local Housing Allowance, may find it more difficult to obtain private rented homes than households with a reference person aged 35 years old and older.
- Households with dependent children, particularly lone parent reference person households, who live in the PRS are more likely to experience relative poverty after housing costs have been deducted.
- In the PRS, households represented by a female reference person are at greater risk of relative poverty after housing costs have been deducted than those households with a male reference person.
- Single male reference person households are more likely than single female reference person households to present as homeless to the NI Housing Executive (NIHE).
- Statistics show that the homes of minority ethnic people and migrant groups may be vulnerable to racial attacks.
- Similarly, available evidence suggests that Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual (LGB) people can feel harassed and unsafe in their own homes and neighbourhoods.
- It was also found that Trans people are at high risk of being the victim of hate crimes, including crimes against the person and property related crimes.
- Migrant workers are vulnerable to becoming subject to tied accommodation with poor conditions and overcrowding.
- In considering the size of homes and the number of people living in them, it is found that, minority ethnic people, especially Roma, Irish Travellers, Asian, Black and Other ethnic groups, experience overcrowding more often than the general population and White people.
- Many people with disabilities live in homes that are not adequate to meet their disability related needs.
- Households with an older reference person, those aged 60 years old or older, are more likely to live in non-decent homes and homes that require adaptations than households with a reference person aged under 60 years old.
- Household reference persons without dependant children, living in the PRS, are more likely to live in non-decent homes.

According to the Census 2021, lone parent families with dependant children accounted for 49% of those who lived in the PRS with dependant children.

According to the Census 2021, lone parent families with dependant children accounted for 17.75% of those who lived in the PRS with or without dependant children.

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland Russell (2013) notes that both the 2001 and 2011 censuses show that, in NI, lone parents are overwhelmingly female. According to Census 2021, 89% of lone parents are female. This still remains the case in the 2021 census which demonstrates that 93.5% of lone parents with at least one dependant child aged under 20 years old and other (non-parent) adults in household are female and 6.5% are male. Likewise, 86.98% of Lone parents with at least one dependent child aged under 20 years old and no other adults in household are female and 13.01% are male. Therefore, this inequality must also be considered under multiple equality categories: dependency status; marital status; and gender.

Wallace's (2015) analysis of the Family Resources Survey (2011/12) found that over half of household reference persons with dependent children who lived in the PRS in 2011/12 experienced relative poverty after housing costs (AHC) were considered compared to a third before housing costs (BHC) were considered.

In 2022/23, 43% of household reference persons with dependant children who lived in the PRS experienced relative poverty after housing costs compared to 31% before housing costs were considered.

In 2022/23 18% of individuals in NI (approximately 349,000), were considered to be in relative poverty (BHC), an increase from 16% in 2021/22.

In 2022/23 14% of individuals in NI (approximately 271,000), were considered to be in absolute poverty (BHC), an increase from 13% in 2021/22.

Northern Ireland Poverty And Income- Inequality Report, 2022/23

Over the last ten years, the proportion of individuals in relative poverty (BHC) has fluctuated between a high of 22% in 2014/15 and lows of 16% in 2017/18 and 2021/22, while absolute poverty (BHC) generally decreased slowly from a high of 21% in 2013/14 to a low of 12% in 2020/21 before increasing slightly to the current position of 14% in 2022/23. The AHC measures followed a similar pattern.

Of all family types, 'couples without children' and 'pensioner couples' had the lowest risk of being in relative poverty (BHC), at 13%. The family type at the highest risk was 'single with children', at 38%.

Wallace (2015) also found that the increase in relative poverty for those in the PRS was three times that experienced by household reference persons with dependant children in the social housing sector.

Due to sample sizes the most recent social rental sector figures that can be provided are from 2019/20. They are 32% BHC & 36% AHC. The 2019/20 PRS figures for comparison purposes were 31% BHC and 38% AHC.

The table 4.6 below shows data from the Family Resource survey in 2019/20 which illustrates the percentage of children in low-income groups by various family and household characteristics. It clearly demonstrates the higher percentage of children in low-income groups living in both the PRS and the NIHE/Housing association tenure in comparison to those in the owner occupation tenure particularly after housing costs.

See supporting data tables file on DfC website.

In respect of the adequacy of housing the limited data available indicated that Trans people are at high risk of being the victim of hate crimes, including crimes against the person and property related crimes. This is an inequality which can lead to them becoming homeless.

McBride's (2013) research reported that Trans people are at 'high risk of experiencing discrimination and harassment in their own homes'. Additionally, this research showed that Trans people have been made homeless after coming out as Trans due to threats made towards them or fears for their safety.

Table 4.6: Percentage of children in low-income groups by various family and household characteristics

Tenure	Income Thresholds - Below Median						Source: FRS 2019-20 All children (thousands)	
	Before Housing Costs			After Housing Costs				
	50%	60%	70%	50%	60%	70%		
Owners	9	15	23	7	13	20	268.1	
Owned outright	18	27	33	16	21	27	63.1	
Buying with a mortgage	6	11	19	5	10	19	205.0	
NIHE/Housing Association	20	29	47	24	32	54	73.6	
All rented privately	17	36	50	27	41	60	107.5	

NIHE’s “Through our Eyes Research” in 2015 noted, negative perceptions regarding the location and condition of NIHE housing stock were a recurring theme across data. The consensus was that NIHE stock was generally in areas perceived to be unsafe. For those seeking relocation from current housing/or homeless as a result of discrimination, there was a reluctance to be placed somewhere where they would be exposed to similar problems.

The report noted that housing remains a significant concern for LGB&T people into adulthood. Many cite experiencing negative attitudes and discriminatory behaviours from housing providers, landlords, and related agencies. Homophobia from other tenants or residents in rented accommodation and supported housing has been shown to contribute to housing difficulties, episodes of homelessness and rough sleeping. The risk of homelessness may be particularly acute for Trans people since many may be in insecure accommodation. Whittle and colleagues (UK, 2007) reported that Trans people were the most vulnerable within LGB&T communities with regards to housing provision. They found that one in four Trans people live in private rented accommodation, which is double the figure for the UK general population, and that private sector housing provision is often of poorer quality with less security of tenure.

UK studies have reported that many respondents felt that the consequences of coming out to landlords and housing agents was too high a price to pay and that they would rather put up with bad housing situations. Continuing discrimination and exclusion from mainstream life mean LGB&T people often associate higher levels of personal safety with not being ‘out’ about their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The most dominant tenure of households (based on 2021 Census data) is owner-occupied with 68% represented in this tenure, with 13% of the population renting social homes and 15.6% in the PRS.

2021 Census Men and Women Generally

Women are more likely to reside in a socially rented property with 6.84% of the population in a social home compared with 5.98% of men.

Women are also more likely to reside in the PRS with 8.18% of the population renting privately in one form or another compared to 7.97% of men.

In terms of owner occupiers, 34.14% of the population are women who own either outright or with a mortgage, compared to 33.83% of men. These percentages are calculated using total population 1,903,178 in 2021. (Source Northern Ireland Census 21 table page 26)

Disability and Mental Health

Census

In 2021/22, 21% of working age adults were disabled compared to 48% of adults over State Pension age. The estimated percentage of all individuals who had a disability has gradually increased over time from 17% in 2011/12 to 22% in 2021/22.

CIH Report – Exceptions to longer “notice to quit” periods in Northern Ireland

Research shows that people with significant health problems or disabilities were more likely to experience ASB. Providing a mechanism to remove perpetrators of serious ASB in more appropriate timescales may proportionally benefit disabled people.

One of the recommendations in the CIH report under the definition of ASB was hate behaviour, targeting people because of differences. 81% of those in CIH survey agreed it should be included as a definition of ASB. Just over 85% of those surveyed agreed that it should be defined under types of criminal conduct for shorter notice periods.

People with caring responsibilities were more likely to say they had taken time off work/studies as a result of the ASB. Disabled people and people with caring responsibilities are inclined to consider notice periods as too short. Private rented accommodation may offer fewer adaptations for disabilities than the norm, making it harder for disabled people to secure

suitable alternative accommodation. Therefore, people with disabilities who are given shorter notice periods may be disproportionately affected in the time taken to find another home. (CIH report).

People who reported having no health problems or disabilities were more likely to say the ASB had no impact on them. (CIH report).

“Private renting is a minefield for people with disabilities, finding a suitable house with accessibility is incredibly difficult when faced with covert discrimination and outright refusals, for example, the need for a guide or assistance dog is often met with an outright refusal despite them not being pets. Most landlords will refuse to allow any adaptions recommended by occupational therapy such as additional handrails, a stair lift, wet room etc even when the cost is covered. Moving brings its own physical challenges and needs precise planning whether your disability is hidden or visible. It’s not a case of pack and go within a few weeks”. (**Renters’ Voice Response**)

Dept of Health

An **NUS-USI survey in 2024** noted that 37% of students say that the cost of living is having a moderate to major impact on their mental health. A quarter have been unable to pay rent or bills while 68% have seen an increase in housing costs. Over three fifths of students and learners live with their parents or guardians and one in five live in private rentals while 56% were able to source accommodation close to their campus by the start of term; 8% are not happy with their

accommodation claiming that it's too noisy and expensive for their needs as a student; 6% of students and learners have experienced homelessness. The total outstanding student loan debt for people living in NI has topped £5 billion for the first time in 2024.

Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031 Depression affects around 22% of men and 28% of women aged 65 years and over.

Mental Health in Northern Ireland: Fundamental Fact 2016, outlines research from NILS 2016 (NI Longitudinal Survey) has found that deprivation (encompassing educational, employment and area-level income deprivation, as well as housing tenure and property value) is associated with worse self-reported mental health in over 65s, especially men.

Mental Health in Northern Ireland Fundamental Facts 2023 report shows that people in the most deprived areas (30%) are more likely to have a probable mental illness compared to those in least deprived areas (20%); and poverty, particularly child poverty is key contributor, with one in four (24%) children in NI living in poverty. Stable housing is also a key driver of wellbeing with almost 70% of people experiencing homelessness having a diagnosed mental health condition.

The NILS has also highlighted access to a car as a key protective factor, which mediates the effect of rural-urban differences, for this age group.

- The disability employment gap in 2011 was 52.3 percentage

points (pps) – the difference in employment rate between those with (31.4%) and without a long-term health problem or disability (83.7%) of the household population aged 30 to 59 years.

- The disability employment gap is lowest within groups that volunteer (30.7pps), provide unpaid care (30.2 to 30.8pps) and with degree-level qualifications (33.8pps).
- A statistical modelling exercise found that general health explains around a quarter (25.7%) of the disability employment gap (13.4 out of 52.3pps). Other large contributors are educational qualifications (6.4pps) and providing unpaid care (5.6pps). The unexplained part (15.4pps) accounts for 29.5% of the disability employment gap.
- This analysis was repeated for several disabilities or health conditions. The employment gap ranges from 14.5pps for deafness or partial hearing loss, to 61.8pps for those with frequent periods of confusion or memory loss.

The combination of general health, other health conditions and highest educational qualifications explained more than half of the employment gap for each condition except for those with an emotional, psychological or mental health condition (42.4%), which also has the largest proportion of the employment gap (31.7%) that could not be explained.

The 2023 NILS (Northern Ireland Longitudinal Survey) found that NI still has one of the highest levels of multiple deprivation in the UK and although housing costs have been lower than other nations, they are rising. Where we live can significantly impact our mental health, and housing is often overlooked when we talk about mental health.

Homelessness, housing insecurity and the home environment can impact our mental health.

A **2023 study** of people experiencing homelessness in NI, undertaken by Depaul and the Simon Community, found that almost 70% of providers stated that their clients had a diagnosed mental health condition and high support needs in relation to their mental health. The overwhelming majority, 84%, had received this diagnosis before becoming homeless. Mental health is a causal factor in the pathway into homelessness. Depression and anxiety are the most diagnosed mental disorders among this population, reflected by both participants and providers, with other diagnoses including suicidal ideation, dual diagnosis, and PTSD, also highly featured. These factors seldomly exist in isolation, and for some are also compounded by issues of addiction, highlighting the complexity of needs.

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The **Northern Ireland Children's Commissioner's (NICCY) published a report** with Queen's University Belfast in 2023 on the lived experience of children and families facing homelessness or housing insecurity highlighted the following:

- Placements in temporary accommodation for families and young people aged 16-17 had increased. There was also a steady increase in the number of children in temporary accommodation across all age categories, with the highest numbers among children aged 1-4 years.

The most recent edition of the **NI Homelessness bulletin** reports: 5,106 children living in temporary accommodation in April 2024. 1,353 aged 1-4.

- Most common placements - private single lets and voluntary sector hostels.

Housing and mental health are often linked. Poor mental health can make it harder to cope with housing problems. And being homeless or having problems where you live can make your mental health worse. **(Mind research)**

Disability motivated incidents and crimes (**PSNI statistics**) were showing decreasing levels between 2009/10 and 2011/12, after which levels started to increase considerably. Levels of incidents fell between 2014/15 and 2020/21 and have increased in 2021/22 and 2022/23. The number of disability motivated crimes has been rising since 2017/18, with the exception of 2020/21. In 2022/23, both incidents and crimes with a disability motivation rose to their highest level recorded in the data series. It rose again in 2022/23 with 102 crimes compared to 93 in 2021/22. Disability motivated incidents also rose in 2021/22 (123 incidents) and again in 2022/23 (139 incidents) to the highest level recorded in the data series. This demonstrates increased disability incidents and crimes over the last two years despite a reducing trend in the five years before this.

CIH report on **How to Tackle Disability Related Harassment** is an issue for housing because:

- The social rented sector provides homes to a higher percentage of people living with different disabilities. In Dec 2022, a further **CIH article** states that no other group is as reliant on the social housing sector as Disabled people. A quarter (24.9 per cent) of Disabled people rent social housing, compared to 7.9 per cent of non-disabled people.
- Housing providers can support tenants and residents who have disabilities and liaise with a range of different service providers on their behalf to ensure their safety in communities.
- Housing providers are community anchors. They have an influential and longer-term stake in the local communities which they serve and can foster good relations between different groups.

Autism Strategy 2023-2028 – Consultation document - This strategy consultation document has a section on housing. It states that it understands that access to housing choices can be challenging for autistic people and that we need a range of housing and independent living accommodation which is appropriate to specific needs.

Autism NI outlines that autism is lifelong and affects the social and communication centre of the brain. Autism affects the way a person relates to people, social situations, and the immediate environment. Many autistic people have difficulty processing everyday sensory information like sight, smells, touch, tastes and sounds.

Autistic people may also describe themselves as neurodivergent, this includes lots of different conditions such as OCD, Bi-polar, Schizophrenia, ADHD and Down Syndrome. It is important to recognise that brain functioning and processing is different from what is considered 'typical'. The medical model of disability reflects that there are two main areas of difficulty which all autistic people share, are:

- Social Communication and reciprocal Social Interactions; and
- Restricted, Repetitive and Inflexible Patterns of Behaviour (including sensory processing differences).

The social model of disability enables society to explore how neurodivergent people experience their differences and what they view as disabling in society. Different not less is key when exploring the dimensions of neurodiversity.

As autism is a spectrum condition, it will affect people in different ways depending on the individual. It is important to understand how each person is impacted in these areas, to enable you to support them in an individualised way that is tailored for them.

Autistic people process information in different ways, and this can also result in great strengths. For example, many autistic people have a very deep focus and attention to detail and can problem solve in a different way leading to new, innovative ways of working. It is important to get to know everyone's strengths and differences, so that we can be person-centred, inclusive, and supportive.

In addition, some autistic people will have PDA 'Pathological Demand Avoidance', this is now understood to be a profile within the autism spectrum. It involves the avoidance of everyday demands and the use of social strategies as part of this. The autistic community often refer to PDA as 'Pervasive Drive for Autonomy'; this neurodivergent affirming phrase was first coined by Wilder. It is recognised that PDAers share many autistic characteristics but in addition will have the key features of a PDA profile.

There are over 35,000 autistic people in NI; 70% of autistic people have mental health difficulties. Only 22% of autistic adults are in employment.

Age

There are 76,392 (20.9%) children between the ages of 0-14 living in the PRS. If shorter notice periods are brought in this could have impacts on younger children e.g. changing schools, mental health (moving away from friends/family). There are 88,186 (28.7%) dependant children living within the PRS. (Source Census 2021 table pages 21 & 32).

Renters' Voice Policy Consultation Response Shorter notice periods would have an adverse impact on tenants with families and dependants. Tenants being issued with a shorter notice will make it harder to plan for their children, meaning both tenants and their children would be at risk of homelessness. Children can become traumatised whenever there is a huge change to their routine or life, this is particularly true with children who have ASD or other behavioural disorders. Allowing more time for

these tenants to find alternative accommodation elsewhere will allow the children and their parents more time to prepare for change.

A longer notice period by landlords would also protect tenants who are in the middle of moving into a new private rental property.

Older tenants' main source of income is likely to be some sort of state benefit or pension, as a result, a reduced notice for arrears for example would leave this demographic particularly vulnerable to homelessness.

Young renters', particularly in student accommodation, are often unfairly stereotyped as troublemakers. Additionally, these tenants often live in HMO properties where they are jointly liable for the behaviour of other tenants in the household. Students and young renters in general often have low disposable income to save up for another private rental. Exceptions to these notice periods may lead to young tenants in HMOs or shared accommodation being unfairly hit with a shorter notice without enough time to find accommodation elsewhere or to plan ahead between jobs, and education and may suffer academically as a result.

Northern Ireland Poverty And Income Inequality Report. 2022/23

Children in poverty

- 24% of Children in Relative Poverty (BHC)
- 19% of Children in Absolute Poverty (BHC)

The proportion of children in relative poverty (BHC) is estimated to be 24% (approximately 109,000) in 2022/23, which is higher than the estimate of 18% in 2021/22. This is a statistically significant increase.

In 2022/23 the proportion of children in absolute poverty (BHC) increased to 19% (approximately 86,000), from 15% in 2021/22.

Over the last ten years, the proportion of children in relative poverty (BHC) has fluctuated between a high of 25% in 2014/15 and a low of 18% in 2021/22. The proportion of children in absolute poverty (BHC) generally showed a decreasing trend between 2012/13 and 2017/18 before beginning to fluctuate in more recent years.

The long-term trend shows that children are at a higher risk of living in poverty than the overall NI population in both relative and absolute measures. (Figure 6: Percentage of Children in Relative Poverty (BHC). Figure 7: Percentage of Children in Absolute Poverty (BHC))

Pensioners in poverty

- 12% of Pensioners in Relative Poverty (AHC)
- 7% of Pensioners in Absolute Poverty (AHC)

The estimated proportion of pensioners in relative poverty (AHC) was 12% (approximately 36,000) in 2022/23, a decrease from the last estimate of 16% in 2021/22.

The estimated percentage of pensioners in absolute poverty (AHC) was 7% (approximately 22,000) in 2022/23, a decrease from 12% in 2021/22. This is a statistically significant change.

Over the last ten years, the proportion of pensioners in relative poverty (AHC) has fluctuated between highs of 16% in 2013/14 and 2021/22 and a low of 10% in 2018/19. The proportion of pensioners in absolute poverty (AHC) fell from a high of 17% in 2013/14 to 9% in 2015/16, then remained relatively steady until 2019/20; in 2021/22 it increased to 12% but has subsequently decreased to the lowest point (7%) over the 10-year period in 2022/23.

Over the last ten years pensioners have generally been at a lower risk of being in poverty (AHC) than the population as a whole. (Figure 13: Percentage of Pensioners in Relative Poverty (AHC). Figure 14: Percentage of Pensioners in Absolute Poverty (AHC)).

Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin October 2023–March 2024

The Department for Communities released the latest edition of its homelessness bulletin. The statistics show that in March 2024, 5,106 children were living in temporary accommodation in NI. 82.5% of these were in private single lets. This included 3,289 children aged nine and under. This is an increase of 110% since 2019 when 2,433 children were living in temporary accommodation.

Religious Belief

The data from the NI Census 2021 shows a significantly higher percentage of Catholics 42.6% compared to 27.1% of Protestants hold tenure within the PRS. There was little difference in the proportions in the Owner-occupied category between Catholics and Protestants, however,

more Protestant households owned their house outright. 2.7% of people within the PRS are various other Religions and 27.6% were either no Religion or Religion not stated. (Ref table page 16).

Racial Group

Per the population indicators at the time of the 2021 Census around 97% of the NI population were from White Ethnic Groups, while 3.5% were from other Ethnic Groups (1.7 Asian, 0.6 Black, 0.8 Mixed and 0.4 Other Ethnic Groups). The NI Census 2021 shows that minority ethnic and migrant communities are less likely to be owner occupiers or live in social housing and more likely to be in the PRS. (Ref table page 18).

Marital Status

There is a significant difference between household tenure by marital and civil partnership status within the PRS. 56.3% are showing as single (never married or never registered a civil partnership). This may be due to the fact that NI has typically relied on university-owned accommodation and the PRS to provide homes for students. It may also include single parent families or people who live on their own. So, considering affordability issues and the fact that the average rent for new rental properties in NI was £871 per month (**Q2 2024- Property Pal**), rising to £1,006 per month in Belfast, (Q2 2024- Property Pal), bringing in shorter NTQ periods for serious rent arrears could have a negative impact on this Section 75 group.

Note average rent in NI in 2023 was £833 in NI and in 2022 it was £762. In Belfast it was £936 in 2023 and £865 in 2022.

Dependants

The NI 2021 census (table on page 32) provides information on dependency status in the PRS. There are:

- 88,186 dependant children living in PRS which equates to 28.7% out of 307,274 living in this tenure,
- 68,539 dependant children living in social rented tenure which equates to 28.1% out of 243,911 people living in social rented tenure,
- 283, 531 dependant children living in owner occupation tenure which equates to 21.90% out of 1,293,565 in the owner-occupied tenure, and
- 6,441 dependant children living in a rent-free tenure which equates to 20.1% out of 32,077 in the rent-free tenure. (Source NI Census 2021 table page 29)

Lone Parent Households and Dependant Children

In the 2021 census, **105,791** dependant children live with a lone parent and no other adults. **2021 Census CT0042: Dependant child aged 20 or under living with lone parent (no other adults).**

In the 2021 census, **44,397** dependant children live with a lone parent and other adults who aren't their parent. **2021 Census CT0043:**

Dependant child aged 20 or under living with lone parent (other adults).

This dataset demonstrates the number of lone parents with at least one dependent child aged under 20 years old and no other adults in household in NI by age, sex, long-term health problem or disability, highest level of qualifications, economic activity. The 2021 census identified that there were **58,794 2021 Census CT0044: Lone parents with dependant child aged under 20 (no other adults)**

Lone parents with at least one dependant child aged under 20 years old and no other adults in household. (Of these lone parents 54,971 were female and 3,823 were male and 41.43% were economically inactive).

This dataset demonstrates the number of lone parents with at least one dependant child aged under 20 years old and other (non-parent) adults in household in NI by age, sex, long-term health problem or disability, highest level of qualifications, economic activity. The 2021 census identified that there were **31,547 2021 Census CT0045: Lone parents with dependant child aged under 20 (other adults)**

Lone parents with at least one dependant child aged under 20 years old and other (non-parent) adults in household. (Of these lone parents 27,442 were female and 4,105 were male).

The datasets confirm the number of lone parents at 90,341 and that the majority of lone parents are females (82,413) – 91.22%.

Other Research

Short notice moves disrupt social connections and make it challenging to hold down stable employment. Families worry about moves that don't align to school terms – with children in insecure housing experiencing worse educational outcomes, reduced levels of teacher commitment and more disrupted friendship groups, than other children. **Moving, Always Moving Report.**

A survey conducted in Norway found that children with more residential moves are more likely to drop out of secondary school, to have a lower adult income and to experience early parenthood. The study also found that age at moving matters: the outcomes are similar for children who move or remain in place prior to elementary school, whereas those who move in adolescence are worse off than those who do not. **Childhood residential mobility and adult outcomes**

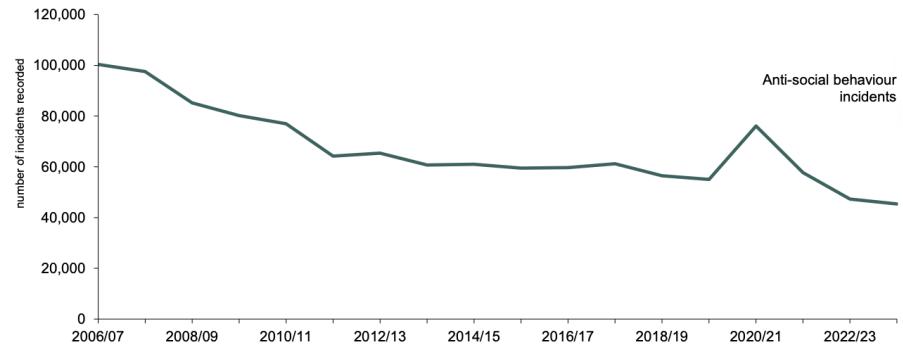
As the Centre for Social Justice has also found: "facing the possibility of needing to relocate regularly is likely to act as a barrier to putting down roots in the community over a longer period of time" – undermining neighbourhood safety, wellbeing and productivity. **Centre for Social Justice.**

Anti-social Behaviour

PSNI statistics outline that since 2006/07 there has been a general decline in the number of ASB incidents recorded. Lockdown measures in relation to Covid-19 were introduced on 23rd March 2020 and had a substantial impact on levels. The number of ASB incidents recorded in 2020/21 rose by 38 per cent when compared with 2019/20 and was the highest level recorded in the ten years to 2020/21. As restrictions were eased and removed throughout 2021/22 there was a substantial fall in the number of ASB incidents, and the level recorded in 2021/22 was 24 per cent lower than in the previous year. This reduction has continued in the following years, with the number of ASB incidents in 2023/24 falling to less than half of the level seen at the start of the series.

During the July 2023/June 24 period, there were 44,099 ASB incidents in NI, a decrease of 3,940 (-8.2 per cent) on the previous 12 months. This is the lowest 12-month figure since the data series began in 2006/07.

The following graph shows a reduction in ASB over time but a peak in 2020/21 and a fall again after that.



PSNI statistics in the 12 months from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024:

- The number of incidents recorded fell across four of the six hate motivations (sexual orientation, sectarian, disability, and transgender identity) when compared with the previous 12 months.
- The number of crimes recorded decreased across four of the six motivations (race, sexual orientation, sectarian, and disability) when compared with the previous 12 months.
- Incidents with a race motivation and crimes with a faith/Religion motivation showed the largest increases (132 more race incidents and 15 more faith/Religion crimes).
- Incidents and crimes with a sectarian motivation showed the largest decrease, with 147 fewer incidents and 191 fewer crimes.

Table 1 Overall summary of hate motivated incidents and crimes

	Incidents Apr'22-Mar'23	Incidents Apr'23-Mar'24	Incidents Change	Crimes Apr'22-Mar'23	Crimes Apr'23-Mar'24	Crimes Change
Race	1,221	1,353	132	880	839	-41
Sexual Orientation	435	384	-51	289	241	-48
Sectarian	1,238	1,091	-147	921	730	-191
Disability	139	97	-42	102	58	-44
Faith/Religion	46	77	31	33	48	15
Transgender Identity	72	68	-4	39	41	2

Table location

Following a decline in levels of race incidents and crimes between 2009/10 and 2011/12, increases were seen each year between 2011/12 and 2014/15. While levels subsequently trended downwards between 2014/15 and 2019/20, there was a sharp rise in the number of race incidents and crimes between 2020/21 and 2021/22. The number of race incidents fell back in 2022/23 but rose again in 2023/24 to reach the highest level in the data series. The number of race crimes, which fell in 2022/23, continued to decline in 2023/24 and fell to the sixth highest level in the data series.

Sexual orientation incidents and crimes

In the 12 months from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024:

- There were 384 sexual orientation incidents recorded by the police in NI, 51 fewer than the previous 12 months.
- The number of sexual orientation crimes recorded by the police was 241, a decrease of 48 on the previous 12 months.

Table 4 Sexual orientation incidents and crimes recorded by the police

	Apr'22-Mar'23	Apr'23-Mar'24
Incidents	435	384
Violence Against the Person Offences	233	201
Theft (including burglary) & criminal damage	45	32
All other offences	11	8
Total crimes (sexual orientation motivation)	289	241

Sectarian incidents and crimes

In the 12 months from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024:

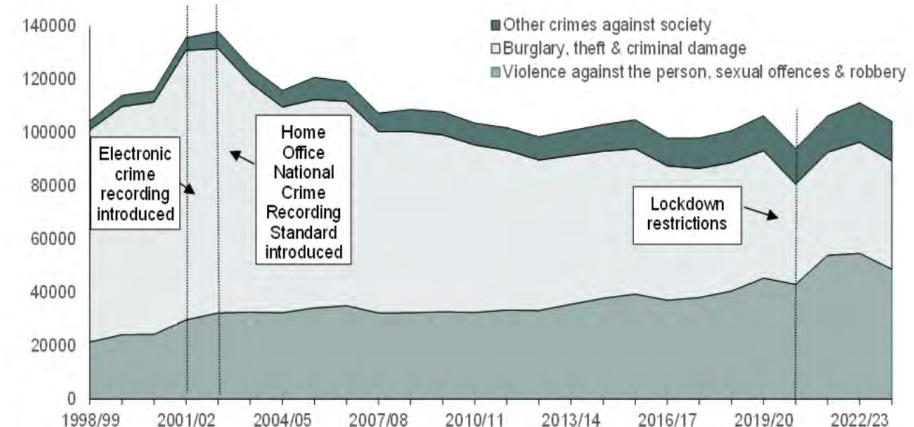
- There were 1,091 sectarian incidents recorded by the police in NI, a decrease of 147 on the previous 12 months. [See Table 6]
- The number of sectarian crimes recorded by the police fell to 730, a decrease of 191 on the previous 12 months. [Table 6]

Table 6 Sectarian incidents and crimes recorded by the police

	Apr'22-Mar'23	Apr'23-Mar'24
Incidents	1,238	1,091
Violence Against the Person Offences	487	358
Theft (including burglary) & criminal damage	403	348
All other offences	31	24
Total crimes (sectarian motivation)	921	730

However, other crimes against society have moved in an upwards direction, with drug offences contributing to the majority of this rise. The following graph shows an upwards trend in all crimes since 2021.

Figure 1 Trends in police recorded crime 1998/99 to 2023/24



In CIH Report - Exceptions to longer 'notice to quit' periods in Northern Ireland July 2023, private renters were a more likely group to witness ASB, with 47 per cent reporting this compared with 31 per cent of people overall. Furthermore 19 per cent of private renters reported a member of their household as being a victim of/witnessing ASB compared with nine per cent of people generally. The groups most likely to report no experience with ASB were people aged 55 and over/retirees/people who owned their home outright.

The 2023 Young Life and Times Study found that 38% of respondents who lived in cities or towns agreed or strongly agreed that there was a lot of crime, drugs, and ASB among young people in their areas, compared to just 15% of those living in rural communities.

Good Practice Guide for reducing anti-social behaviour.

ASB continues to have an impact on public reassurance and quality of life. The Anti-social Behaviour (NI) Order 2004 defines ASB as “acting in a manner that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as himself”.

- ASB is one of the key factors in people’s perception of crime. Although recorded crime has fallen in NI, many people’s perceptions are that crime has actually increased. Tackling the range of ASB that undermine people’s quality of life communities and helps reduce fear of crime.
- Poor health is highly correlated with fear of crime, which may be related to increased feelings of vulnerability. Women are much more likely to report high levels of fear of crime than men.
- People in poorer health and people who think they live in an area of high disorder and lower social cohesion are more likely to report higher levels of fear, regardless of age. People who are already isolated or lonely are more likely to be afraid.
- Fear of crime is an issue for older people in NI and has a severe impact, particularly on the mental wellbeing of those it affects. Fear and stress contribute to poor mental health by creating anxiety.
- The ASB types most likely to be perceived as problems in their local communities were ‘rubbish or litter lying around’ (28%) and ‘teenagers hanging around on streets’ (26%), people using or dealing drugs (23%), people being drunk or rowdy in public places (22%) and vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property (22%).
- Social incivilities, such as vandalism, neglected buildings, littering

and substance abuse – which are often more common in deprived areas – create a perception of decline and an image of insecurity as it appears no one cares, which in turn feeds the fear of crime, regardless of actual levels of crime.

- There is increasing recognition of the links between neighbourhood deprivation and individual health. Children who live in ‘unsafe’ neighbourhoods may be exposed to greater risks of developing problem behaviours such as hyperactivity, aggression or withdrawal.

NIHE statement of policy and procedures on anti-social behaviour, provides some extra guidance regarding ASB in the social housing sector, in particular around evidence/mediation etc. The statutory definition (Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 2003) of anti-social behaviour is:

- Engaging in or threatening to engage in conduct causing or likely to cause - a nuisance or annoyance to a person residing in, visiting or otherwise engaging in lawful activity in the locality of a dwelling house.

In addition, an individual may be deemed to have acted in an anti-social manner if he/she has:

- Been convicted of using the dwelling-house or allowing it to be used for illegal or immoral purposes
- Been convicted of an indictable offence committed in, or in the locality of the dwelling house directly or indirectly affected the Housing Executive’s housing management functions or matters relating to those functions.

ASB might include, amongst other things:

- Violence or the threat of violence
- Hate behaviour that targets members of identified groups because of their perceived differences (e.g. race, Religion, political affiliation, disabilities or sexual orientation)
- Noise nuisance (rowdy parties, loud music/TVs, dog barking etc.)
- Arguing and door slamming
- Environmental quality issues (e.g. litter, dog fouling, graffiti, fly tipping, nuisance vehicles)
- Offensive drunkenness
- Using housing accommodation for selling drugs or drug abuse or other unlawful purposes
- Intimidation and harassment

The above list includes typical types of behaviour which trigger consideration for action by the Housing Executive. The list is not exhaustive and the policy statement is not an undertaking to act in every instance. Judgement will be exercised by NI Housing Executive officers when considering and responding to a particular report of ASB. The statement of policies and procedures is illustrative rather than prescriptive.

Homelessness

Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin from July to December 2023, 8,193 households presented as homeless. (This increased to 8,452 in the **Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin** October 2023 to March 2024 in the latest release). The July to December 2023 figure was an increase on the equivalent period in 2022 of 695 presentations or 9.26%. The three most common reasons for presentation were: accommodation not reasonable (2,064 households, up 16.5% on 2022); sharing breakdown/family dispute (1,832, up 12.7% on 2022); and loss of rented accommodation (1,250, down 4.9% on 2022). 92 were due to intimidation but this is often underreported. 605 were due to neighbourhood harassment while 572 were due to domestic violence. (Note we have used the July to Dec 23 bulletin for comparison purposes. In order to implement a revisions policy and improve the timeliness of the bulletin, reporting periods have been reverted to financial year reporting from the October-March 2023/24 edition onwards. We have included both data timelines.)

In the loss of rented accommodation category, just over half of the presentations were caused by the sale of the rented property by the landlord. 661 households presented for this reason in July to December 2023 compared to 703 the previous year and 691 in the same period in 2021 and 329 in 2020.

When examining homeless presenters by household type, the data shows males as the highest group at 2,833, families at 2,448, and then single females at 1,394 followed by pensioners at 1,142. The number of households accepted as homeless during July to December 2023 fell to 4,611 (slightly down from 4,751 in the previous six months – a fall of 2.95%). During the same period in 2022, 3,902 households were accepted as homeless (a rise of 18.7%).

In the period July to December 2023, there were 5,662 placements in temporary accommodation. Of these 3,120 were for males; 863 were for females, 174 were for couples, 1,282 were for families, and 203 for pensioners plus 20 unidentified. In terms of the type of accommodation, of the 5,662 placements, the top three types of temporary accommodation used for placements between July and December 2023 were hotels/B&Bs (2,451); Crash: DIME 1202; private single lets (817) and voluntary sector hostels 750.

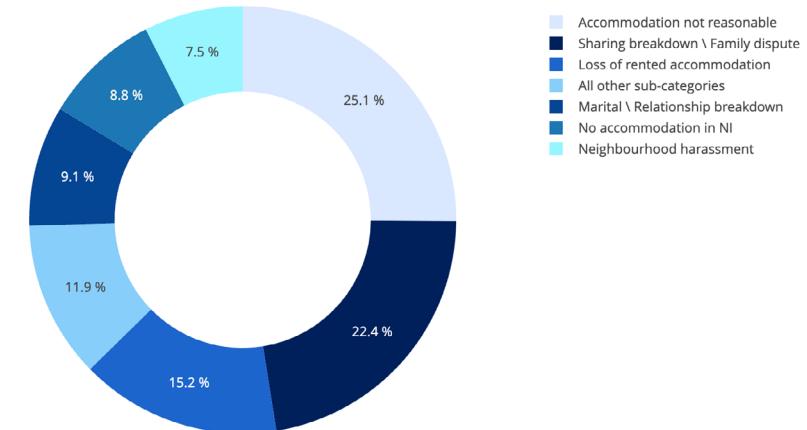
Homeless Presenters by LGD - July to December 2023

In July - December 2023, 8,183 households presented as homeless in NI. The map in the **bulletin** shows how many households presented as homeless per 1,000 population in each Local Government District (LGD). Note: Population statistics are taken from the most recent NISRA mid-year estimates.

The LGD with the largest number of presenters per 1,000 population was Belfast (7.0), followed by Derry City and Strabane (6.4). Between October

2023 and March 2024, 8,452 households presented as homeless in NI. The map in the **bulletin** shows how many households presented as homeless per 1,000 population in each Local Government District (LGD). The LGD with the largest number of presenters per 1,000 population was Belfast (7.5), followed by Derry City and Strabane (6.6).

Homeless presenters by reason

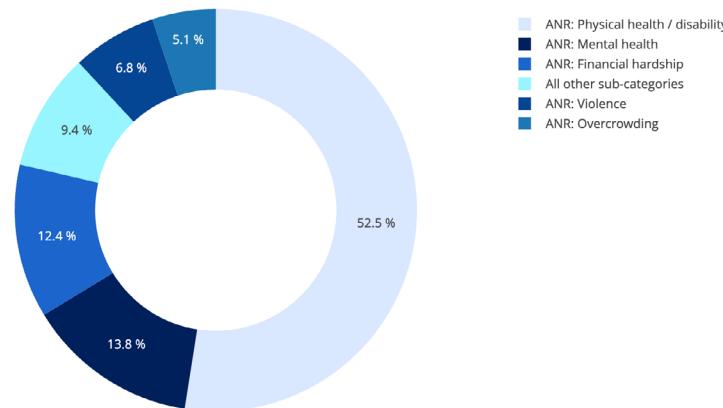


Homeless Presenters by Reason July to December 2023 and Oct 2023 to March 2024

Of the 8,183 households who presented as homeless in July - December 2023, the most commonly quoted cause was accommodation not reasonable with 2,056 (25.1%). This was followed by 'sharing breakdown/family dispute' with 1,829 (22.4%), 'loss of rented accommodation' with 1,244 (15.2%), 'marital/relationship breakdown' with 746 (9.1%), 'no accommodation in NI' with 722 (8.8%) and 'neighbourhood harassment' with 614 (7.5%).

Of the 8,452 households who presented as homeless between **October 2023 and March 2024**, the most commonly quoted cause was accommodation not reasonable with 2,241 (26.5%). This was followed by 'sharing breakdown/family dispute' with 1,812 (21.4%), 'loss of rented accommodation' with 1,308 (15.5%), 'no accommodation in NI' with 789 (9.3%), 'marital/relationship breakdown' with 703 (8.3%) and 'domestic violence' with 607 (7.2%).

Accommodation not reasonable breakdown



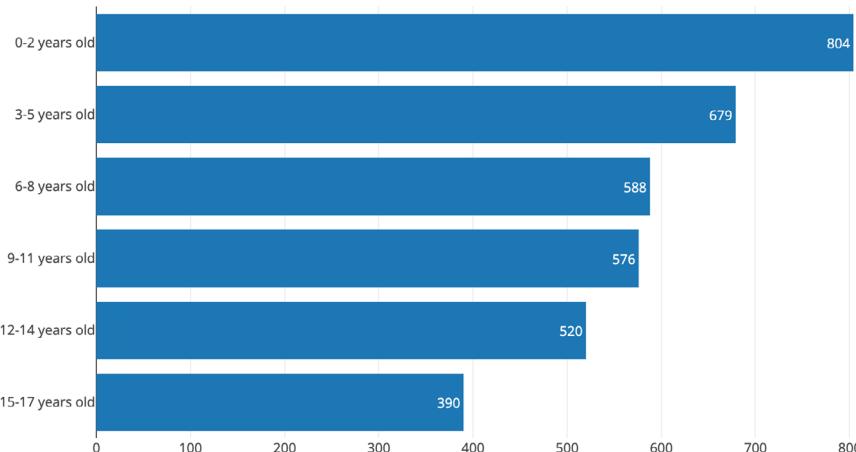
Accommodation not reasonable Breakdown July to December 2023

The category 'accommodation not reasonable' (ANR) does not have a single definition. It is an umbrella category in which there are 7 sub-categories. These are: financial hardship; mental health; overcrowding; physical health/disability; property unfitness; violence; and other. In the

July to Dec 2023 period of the accommodation not reasonable cases, 'physical health/disability' had the largest proportion of presenters with 52.5%. This increased to 54.7% in the October to March 2024 period.

Households accepted as homeless by household type

Families do not necessarily include children under the age of 18. Families may, for example, include parents and children who are over the age of 18 or adult siblings/other relatives living together. In the July to Dec 2023 period, of the 5,316 households who were accepted as statutorily homeless, over a third were families (1,877). This was followed by single males (1,438), single females (931), pensioner households (863), and couples (206). Of all single males and females who were accepted as statutorily homeless, those who fell into the 26-59 age group made up the largest proportion (1,137 and 597 respectively). In the Oct to March 2024 period, of the 5,698 households who were accepted as statutorily homeless, over a third were families (1,935). This was followed by single males (1,585), pensioner households (986), single females (956), and couples (235). Of all single males and females who were accepted as statutorily homeless, those who fell into the 26-59 age group made up the largest proportion (1,262 and 616 respectively).

Children from households accepted as statutorily homeless by age**Children from homeless households**

The households accepted as statutorily homeless between July to December 2023 included a total of 3,557 children. Please note, however, this does not mean that there were 3,557 households with children, as one household can have multiple children.

As can be seen from the chart, the largest proportion of these children were aged 0-2 (22.6%), followed by 3-5 (19.1%), 6-8 (16.5%), 9-11 (16.2%), 12-14 (14.6%), and finally 15-17 (11.0%).

In the **Oct to March 2024 period**, the households accepted as statutorily homeless between October 2023 and March 2024 included a total of 3,544 children. Please note, however, this does not mean that there were 3,544 households with children, as one household can have multiple children. The largest proportion of these children were aged 0-2 (20.3%), followed by 3-5 (19.8%), 6-8 (16.8%), 9-11 (16.6%), 12-14 (14.5%), and finally 15-17 (12.0%).

Placements in temporary accommodation by accommodation type

Between **July to December 2023**, there were 5,595 placements to temporary accommodation. Of these, 43.6% were to hotels or B&Bs (2,441), 23.8% were to leased property (1,330), and 14.8% were to private single lets (828).

Between **October 2023 and March 2024**, there were 5,713 placements to temporary accommodation. Of these, 41.5% were to hotels or B&Bs (2,369), 22.6% were to DIME (1,290), and 15.4% were to private single lets (882).

Joseph Rowntree Foundation Poverty in Northern Ireland 2022 report notes that the PRS lacks the security provided by the longer-term tenancies, stronger protections against eviction, tighter regulation and social ethos of the social rented sector. Private renting households in NI can be evicted 'without fault' by private landlords, which results in greater insecurity of tenure for the higher proportion of households in poverty now living in the sector.

The disproportionately low incomes many social and private renters are on are key drivers of the relatively high rates of poverty among renters. Almost three quarters of social sector renters and just over half of private sector renters are in the bottom 40% of incomes before housing costs. This means that over a third (37%) of social renters and three in ten (29%) private renters are in poverty compared to around one in ten of those who own their home.

Around one in ten (9%) people in both the social and private rented sectors are pulled into poverty by the costs of their housing which, although substantial, is much lower than the percentages of private and social renters across other UK nations pulled into poverty because of housing costs which range from 14% to 18%. As described above, this reflects the role the lower housing costs in NI play in preventing more people from being pulled into poverty. The comparatively high rate of poverty in the social rented sector reflects the allocation of social housing on the basis of need.

Poverty rates are much lower for those buying with a mortgage (9%) and who own outright (13%); the vast majority are in poverty both before and after housing costs, highlighting the role of low incomes, rather than being pulled into poverty by their housing costs alone.

Over the last fifteen years the proportion of people in poverty who are private renters has increased substantially while the proportion buying with a mortgage has almost halved. One of its four main recommendations includes two that relate to housing.

Investment in the housing market:

- Building more energy efficient social housing to shorten waiting lists and provide affordable, good quality, warm and secure homes for more people.
- Continuing the drive to regulate the PRS more effectively, with a particular focus on security of tenure.

The **Northern Ireland Housing Statistic 2022/23** gives further insight into housing here.

- On 31 March 2023, there were 45,105 applicants on the social housing waiting list. Of these applicants, 32,633 were in housing stress (where the cost of housing is high relative to household income).
- In 2022-23, 10,349 households were accepted as statutorily homeless.
- In the PRS the average weekly rent was £109, while in the social rented sector the average weekly rent was £82.
- Families (37.1%) and single males (24.7%) were the household types with the highest proportion of homelessness acceptances in 2022/23
- Within the single males category, those aged between 26 and 59 were the highest acceptances of homelessness with 2,078 cases.

Low Income Households/Poverty and Disadvantage

Family Resources Survey Northern Ireland 2022/23

In 2022/23:

- 42% of households were owned outright.
- 28% of households were bought with a mortgage.
- 13% of households were in the social rental sector, while 18% were in the PRS. (Figure 1: Households by Tenure, 2022/23)

In 2022/23:

- 13% of households had no savings/investments.
- 39% of households had less than £3,000 of savings/investments.
- 15% of households had £20,000 or more of savings/investments. (Figure 2: Households by Amount of Savings and Investments, 2022/23)

In 2022/23:

- 24% of households were in receipt of an income related benefit.
- 64% of households were in receipt of a non-income related benefit. (Figure 3: Households by State Support Receipt, 2022/23)

In 2012/13, there was a similar proportion of households in the social rental sector (16%) and in the PRS (19%). From 2012/13 to 2016/17, a gap between these sectors developed; with the proportion of households in the PRS increasing while the proportion in the social sector decreased. This gap subsequently narrowed and in 2020/21 the percentage of households in the PRS (13%) was lower than the percentage of

households in social rental sector (14%). In 2022/23, the PRS accounted for 18% of households and the social rental sector accounted for 13% of households. (Figure 10: Households by Tenure, 2012/13 to 2022/23)

The proportion of households owned outright increased from 36% in 2012/13 to 42% in 2022/23. In contrast, the proportion buying with a mortgage declined by 1 percentage point over the ten-year period (29% to 28%).

During 2022/23

- 45% of families received no state support.
- 27% of families received less than £10,000 a year in state support.
- 11% of families received between £10,000 and £15,000 a year.
- 10% of families received between £15,000 and £20,000 a year; and
- 7% of families received £20,000 or more a year in state support.

Over one quarter of families received £10,000 or more a year in state support. (Figure 9: Families (Benefit Units) by Income Received from State Support, 2022/23)

The reported median weekly household rent was higher for private renters than for social renters. Social sector rent levels and increases are controlled through government-set formulae set out in the Housing Regulator's rent standard and Government guidance. Differences may also, in part, reflect the difference in the type of properties in the sectors, with the PRS having a much wider and more varied range of stock.

Private rent was 1.4 times higher on average than social rent in NI. (Figure 11: Median Household Weekly Rent/Mortgage by UK Region, 2022/23. The legend follows the order of the bars within the chart.

Property Pal (Rising rents is a trend)

The two figures below show sales and rental price for Q4 2023. This shows the rising rents by house and apartments and the slower rises within the sales of houses and apartments. **PropertyPal Northern Ireland Housing Market Update: Q4 2023**. The report notes that rental market pressures remain at highly elevated levels. On average, there have been 75 enquiries per advertised rental on PropertyPal over the last three months, compared to a more typical 20 per property seen between the 2017-2019 period.

There is some evidence of supply beginning to rise and demand gradually cooling as rent levels increase. By Q4 2023, average rents are now £830 per month, approximately 10% higher than 2022 levels. This year may see more activity from the first-time buyers' segment as mortgage rates improve and stable labour market conditions with real income growth. Should this materialise, rental demand is expected to moderate and overall rent levels should gradually cool later in the year. (Housing market overview; Q4 2023). The graph below shows rent by number of bedrooms. (House prices by number of bedrooms)

The two figures below show sales and rental price for Q2 2024. This shows the continuing rising rents by house and apartments and the

slower rises within the sales of houses and apartments. **PropertyPal Northern Ireland Housing Market Update: Q2 2024**. (Housing market overview: Q2 2024)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Poverty in Northern Ireland 2022 Much of the poor-quality housing is in the PRS, with 11% non-decent, compared to 6% of owner-occupied dwellings being non-decent and only 3% of social rented homes being non-decent. The social rented sector also provides the most energy efficient housing in NI, while the PRS and owner-occupied housing perform much more poorly on energy efficiency, with 18% of private rented households and 6% of owner-occupied households in fuel poverty.

The graph contained on page 24 of the JRF Poverty in NI 2022 report also highlights the percentage of those in poverty after housing costs which demonstrates that those in private rented and social rented accommodation are more likely to be in poverty after housing costs than those who own their own home or own their home outright.

Office for National Statistics

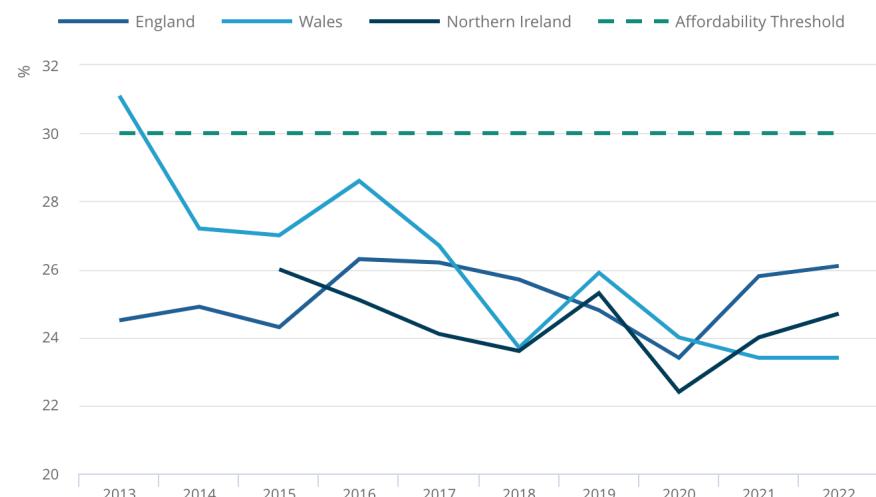
The figures in the 2022 bulletin, provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), suggest the average monthly income for private renters in NI is £2,635. The median rent, the figures suggest, cost £650.

In NI, the figures suggest that a typical high-income household paying a high rent spent less than 22% of its gross income on rent but a typical low-income household paying a low rent spent 32% of its gross income. Lower-priced rents were above the “30% of income” threshold for lower-income households in all three countries. However, for median- and higher-income households, affording a private rent is less challenging. These households could spend a lower percentage of income for a median- or higher-priced rent respectively.

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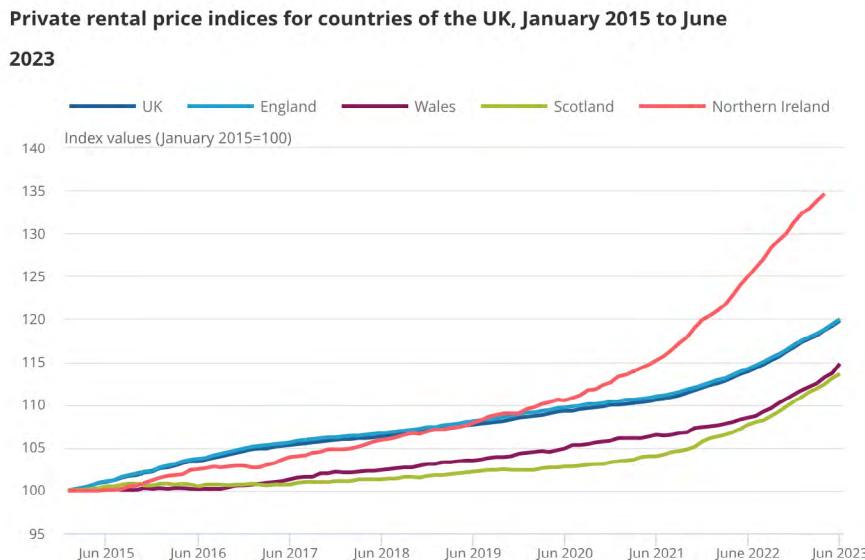
Private rental affordability, England, Wales and Northern Ireland: 2022. The following graph shows that affordability has varied year-to-year between 22% and 31% of private-renting household median incomes. ONS deems a property “affordable” if a household would spend the equivalent of 30% or less of their income on rent (for new or existing tenancies).

Percentage of median private renting household income equivalent to median rent, England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, financial years 2013 to 2022



Index of Private Rental Prices, UK: June 2023. Private rental prices in NI increased by 9.6% in the 12 months to April 2023, higher than other countries of the UK.

Private rental price indices for countries of the UK, January 2015 to June 2023

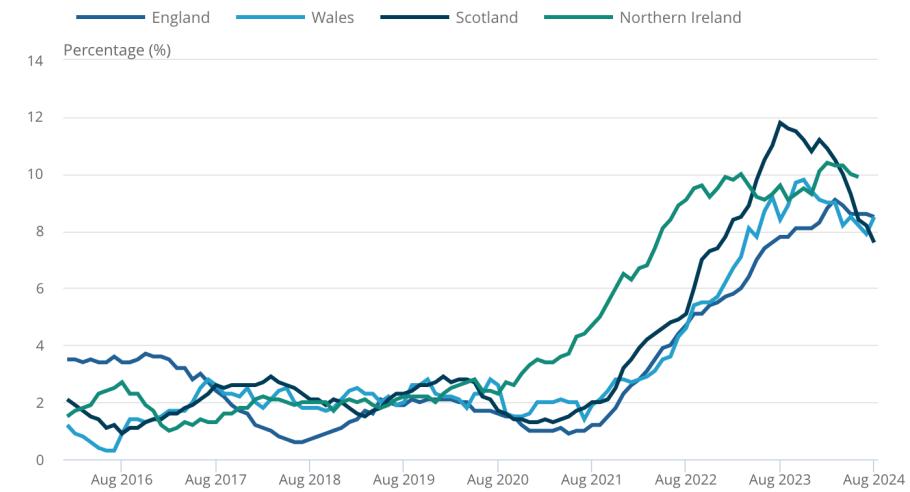


Rentals

Office for National Statistics

The **Private Rent and House Prices, UK: September 2024** shows that average private rent in NI increased by 9.9% in the 12 months to June 2024, down from 10.0% in May 2024 and below the record-high annual rise of 10.4% in February 2024.

Private rents annual inflation, UK countries, January 2016 to August 2024



Private Rental Market Performance 2023

- The number of rental transactions increased to 11,209; marginally up by 1.4% on the previous year.
- Rental performance in 2023 depicts a market of strong rental growth across most locations and sectors, with average rents in NI accelerating at an overall rate of 9.3% in 2023 compared with the previous year; the average rent over the full year stands at £833 per month.
- Rents in Belfast showed an annual increase of 9.6% in 2023 with an average monthly rent of £936.
- Outside of Belfast, the average monthly rent was £764, up 11.5% on the previous year.
- The Rental Performance Index stands at 158.8 at Q4 2023, up by almost sixteen percentage points from the same period last year.

Average NI Rent by Property Type

For 2023, the average monthly rent for NI was £833, up 9.3% from the average rent in 2022 (£762). In terms of property type, strong annual rates of growth in average rents were recorded across all sectors, most notably the semidetached sector which increased by 10.5% to £844 per month. Average rents accelerated in the apartment sector at a rate of 9.5%, followed by terrace/townhouse and detached sectors which grew by 7.8% and 6.8% respectively (Table 1).

TABLE 1 Annual Average Rent by Property Type, Northern Ireland, 2019-2023

Property Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Δ 2022-2023
Apartment	£610	£648	£695	£724	£793	9.5%
Terrace/Townhouse	£608	£641	£688	£753	£812	7.8%
Semi-detached	£626	£649	£710	£764	£844	10.5%
Detached	£751	£785	£884	£928	£991	6.8%
All	£627	£658	£709	£762	£833	9.3%

Δ denotes percentage change

Average NI Rent by Number of Bedrooms

When analysed by number of bedrooms, the figures reveal that average rents in 2023 were appreciably up on the previous year (Table 2). The average rent for one-bedroom properties grew at a rate of 8% to £633 per month, and a higher rate of growth was observed for those properties with two-bedrooms which increased by 11.7% to £775 per month. Three-bedroom properties also recorded a similar rate of growth, up 11% to stand at £823 per month. Four or more bedrooms also recorded gains, up by 4.5% to £1,197 per month.

TABLE 2 Annual Average Rent by Property Size, Northern Ireland, 2019-2022

No. of Bedrooms	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Δ 2022-2023
1 bedroom	£480	£513	£557	£586	£633	8.0%
2 bedrooms	£570	£605	£653	£694	£775	11.7%
3 bedrooms	£613	£635	£697	£741	£823	11.0%
4+ bedrooms	£908	£971	£1,046	£1,145	£1,197	4.5%
All	£627	£658	£709	£762	£833	9.3%

Δ denotes percentage change

Summary

Within the sector, there remains stark demand and supply imbalance which has propelled strong rates of growth in average rents across the market segments. The headline findings from this survey therefore remain that of a supply crunch and a peak in average rents across many rental areas and ongoing challenges related to rental inventory, affordability and tenure and alternative accommodation options.

That said, there is evidence of some improvements to stock flow in the sector, most likely due to landlord retention and the re-listings of rental properties due to tenant arrears or where landlords need to command a higher rental income to cover costs. In such circumstances, this will continue to drive rents upward and provides evidence of an equilibrium price adjustment based on micro and macro-economic drivers in the sector. Looking forward, reducing inflation and a hold on mortgage interest rates is a welcome sign for rental inventory and pricing structure as gradually improving inflation levels will create competitiveness in the sales market and keep landlords in the sector, which may impact rental demand and a cooling of the market later into 2024.

Landlords

Article 8 of the ECHR and Schedule 1, Part 1, of the Human Rights Act 1998 – “Balance of right to family life”.

The Landlord Registration Scheme collects and maintains accurate information on landlords and their properties. By law, all private landlords in NI must register with the Landlord Registration Scheme. There is one register of private landlords and registered rented properties. A central register of private landlords:

- allows tenants, neighbours and local councils to identify if landlords are registered;
- provides information on the number of landlords in NI and allows landlords who have ‘opted in’ to receive regular updates on the duties and responsibilities of landlords and tenants; and
- provides education and support to landlords.

It improves tenants’ confidence in their landlords and increase landlords’ accountability by:

- promoting good practice; and
- ensuring the right advice and help is available.

SECTION 4: MITIGATIONS AND ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Before considering measures to mitigate the adverse impact of circumstances where longer NTQs are not given, it is important to acknowledge the positive changes attached to general increases in NTQ periods, as included in the Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022 (the Act). Under the earlier Housing (Amendment) Act (NI) 2011 (which amended the Private Tenancies (NI) Order 2006) (PTO), the following applied:

- Four weeks' notices for tenancies up to five years in duration;
- Eight weeks' notice for tenancies longer than five years and up to ten years in duration; and
- 12 weeks' notice for tenancies longer than ten years in duration.

Under the Act, the NTQ as included in the PTO is set out as:

- Eight weeks, if the tenancy has not been in existence for more than 12 months;
- Four months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than 12 months but not for more than three years;
- Six months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than three years but not for more than eight years; and
- Seven months, if the tenancy has been in existence for more than eight years.

These longer notice periods can however only come into operation when the Department has set out in regulations those circumstances in which shorter notices are appropriate.

Furthermore, a NTQ cannot be issued during the initial term of the tenancy contract unless the tenant has breached the agreement.

Across the UK, and internationally, there is wide variation in a landlord's right to resumption of possession, and in turn a tenant's security of tenure. For example, in Scotland:

- To evict a tenant, a landlord must issue a '**Notice to Leave**' and at least one of **18 grounds** for eviction must apply. A tenant cannot be asked to leave without a legally valid reason.
- If the tenant has not breached the tenancy agreement, s/he must be given:
 - At least 28 days' notice (four weeks) if they have lived in the property for six months or less
 - At least 84 days' notice (12 weeks) if they have lived in the property for more than six months.
- If the tenant has breached his/her tenancy agreement, s/he must be given 28 days' notice.

In Wales, from 15 July 2022:

- The existing two-month notice period for a ‘no fault’ eviction was replaced by a six-month notice, and landlords are now not able to give notice within the first six months of the contract. Effectively, that means an initial minimum 12-month contract commitment for landlords.
- If the contract-holder breaches his/her contract, landlords are required to give a month’s notice.
- If the breach involves ASB or serious rent arrears, the notice period is shorter.

While currently in England

- If a landlord wishes to evict a tenant who is not in breach of their agreement (AST), then s/he can issue a ‘Section 21’.
- The landlord must give at least two months’ NTQ but does not have to state a reason.
- A tenant cannot be evicted within a fixed term unless s/he has breached his/her agreement, but the landlord can give notice within that term. So, if it is a 12-month tenancy with a six-month break clause, a landlord can serve a Section 21 at any time up to the end of month four, requiring the tenant to leave at the end of month six.
- If the tenant has breached his/her agreement, a landlord can issue a Section 8 notice, specifying the ground(s) on which s/he is being evicted. The notice period varies depending on the ground, but it is generally between two weeks and two months.
- If there has been illegal activity, no NTQ is required.

Internationally, notices to regain possession vary widely (see below) with France and Italy both setting a notice period of six months: **(Comparing the rights of private sector tenants in England with those in other jurisdictions)**

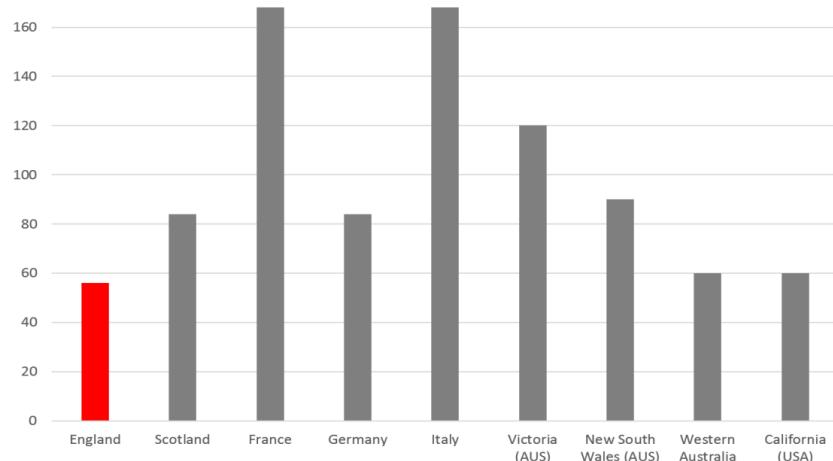


Table 1 shows the difference in the notice required by landlords to regain possession (days)

NI therefore lies ‘mid-table’ with regard to international comparators but within the UK is surpassed by Scotland and Wales in terms of average length of NTQ.

To reiterate, the EQIA is not focused on the Act in its entirety, but the regulations contained therein that describe circumstances where longer NTQs will not be issued. In summary, the Bill details three circumstances, namely if:

- the tenant is in substantial arrears of rent;
- the tenant, or a member of the tenant's household, has engaged in serious anti-social behaviour in, or in the locality of, the dwelling-house; and
- the tenant, or member of the tenant's household, is convicted of a relevant criminal offence.

Furthermore, the CIH report also suggests an additional circumstance where a longer NTQ will not be given - when repossession is for occupation by the landlord or his/her immediate family.

The CIH report has pre-empted the EQIA by detailing a number of concerns in relation to how circumstances where longer NTQs will not be given may impact on vulnerable people e.g., people with disabilities and with caring responsibilities, low-income households, victims of domestic abuse and other Section 75 groups e.g., younger, and older people.

During subsequent discussions with stakeholders, including a workshop session on the report findings, Section 75 issues continued to be a focus of concern. Many of these concerns build on the findings of the CIH research report, including those relating to:

- Domestic violence (often considered a gender related crime), and how shorter notice periods might impact on both the victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.
- People with serious health conditions or disabilities as it is often more difficult for people with disabilities to find suitable alternative private rented properties that adequately meet their needs;

- Younger and older people and people with dependants who might struggle with shorter NTQ periods; and
- Other areas of concern include those who may be in significant poverty or hardship.

While many of these concerns relate directly to Section 75 grounds, the issues of poverty and deprivation also feature largely in discussions around NTQ periods and cannot be ignored. With this in mind, it may be useful to reference Para 4.2 of the Equality Commission's Practical Guidance on Equality Impact Assessments: "When considering options, it would be appropriate to consider the relationship with other service improvement initiatives such as Best Value and Charter Mark. The emphasis on establishing customer input to service design or challenging accepted practice and comparing policy with other authorities should be conducive to lateral thinking and allow public bodies to be creative in seeking better policy decisions. It would also be appropriate to consider and link with policy initiatives such as New Targeting Social Need (New TSN) and Promoting Social Inclusion (PSI). For example, one policy option may be shown to adversely impact on various groups within the nine equality categories; a different option may also have an adverse impact on some of the groups but may disadvantage those in greatest 'need'. In these circumstances the option chosen should be that which accords with actions under New TSN and/or PSI. Monitoring arrangements should be developed to report on progress in reducing the disadvantage of those in greatest need".

In other words, it is within the scope of an EQIA to include concerns around hardship, poverty and deprivation in the decision-making process, particularly given a) that housing costs represent such a large proportion of household expenditure; and b) that hardship, poverty and deprivation are often strongly associated with specific Section 75 groups. The proposed mitigations to the draft regulations on circumstances where longer NTQs will not apply are best characterised as targeted positive action measures designed to protect specific Section 75 groups, or vulnerable groups more generally, that are likely to be especially 'at risk' in these circumstances.

Preventative Measures

While the focus of the EQIA falls squarely on the circumstances where longer NTQs will not apply, ideally earlier preventative measures should provide an opportunity to make it less likely that these circumstances will ever arise. Although, strictly speaking, it could be argued that such early interventions may lie outside the scope of the EQIA, with the rapid and often unregulated growth in the PRS over recent years, reference to possible preventative measures would seem appropriate at this time. A number of possible initiatives that may reduce the risk of a shorter NTQ arising are therefore set out below.

- Registration of Private Landlords: An enhanced scheme, operating through local government, to ensure that a much higher proportion of private sector landlords are registered, with penalties for failure to register. An enhanced scheme should encompass a wider range of functions and offer a signposting service to other relevant support

services, with access to significant data relating to potential at risk tenants. This can help address challenges some private tenants face from "rogue landlords". Consider how data sharing from this scheme with other Departments could be improved.

- NTQ Guidance: Illustrated guide to the NTQ regulations, including referral routes for tenants and private landlords, setting out procedures to be followed if a NTQ is likely to be issued. To be published on Department's website and distributed through a number of channels including the landlords' toolkit and newsletter.
- Develop departmental guidance to help vulnerable PRS tenants' access relevant support across all Section 75 groups.
- Consider the development of a comprehensive support programme inclusive of the following potential elements:
 - Housing Rights Tenant and Landlord helplines are available for both private landlords and tenants who are experiencing difficulties, and which can advise and signpost both parties to other services such as 'Make the Call' and/or debt services. "Make the Call" could support benefit entitlement checks.
 - Expansion of Mediation Service (previously piloted through Housing Rights by DfC). The tender for a post pilot service is currently being considered. Where a NTQ has been issued, or is likely to be issued, and both parties are in agreement, then a mediation service could be made available in order to reach a mutually agreeable solution. Such services may be useful when complications arise regarding the impact of the NTQ on household members who may not be the contractual tenant or head of household, or if a difficult financial situation arises.

- Carry out further research to consider if there are more economic, efficient and effective rent deposit/bond schemes available for those on lower incomes in order to secure good quality rental properties, taking into account the challenges identified in existing research from other jurisdictions on the subject.
- Information/guidance for landlords and letting agents on the types of challenges different S75 group tenants can experience, including the fact that many people don't have a familial support network behind them and that some challenges are sometimes invisible or not immediately obvious e.g. for neurodivergent people. This could also extend to more guidance to the types of activities by landlords or agents that could be considered harassment – e.g. entering property without tenants' knowledge.
- Continue to advocate for tethering LHA to rental prices, for vulnerable Section 75 groups including those with a disability, neurodivergent people, or those with a mobility impairment.
- Recognise that a growth in the PRS is likely to result in challenges in finding suitable accommodation units for those with a disability or a mobility impairment.
- Increase awareness among tenants of the supports available under the Community Action Tenants Union (CATU), Renter's Voice and other tenant support services.

Irrespective of these early interventions, when shorter NTQ periods are invoked then it is suggested that the following mitigations could apply to either/or landlords and tenants. (These mitigations would only apply after a shorter NTQ has been issued.)

Potential Mitigations for Landlords

As already cited, it is proposed that, when the NTQ is to facilitate occupation by the landlord or his/her immediate family, then the shorter notice period may be applied. However, the shorter notice period won't be very much shorter than the normal notice period, as tenants will be given 3 months' notice (the majority of PRS tenancies last between 18 months to 2 years which have similar notice period - 4 months).

More generally, it should be acknowledged that the introduction of shorter NTQs within the Act represents a positive action measure for landlords as a whole and including those with dependants. Hence no further mitigations specific to Section 75 grounds are suggested for private landlords at this time.

Potential Mitigations for Tenants

Reinforcing the work already undertaken by CIH, it is acknowledged that particular groups are more likely to be adversely impacted by these measures than others. The table below illustrates mitigations that may be considered for identified vulnerable or 'at risk' tenants, while recognising that the potential for action may be constrained by existing legislation.

Suggested mitigations against each of the three tenant-based exceptions, as they relate to key Section 75 groups, are included in the following table.

Possible Mitigations

Exceptions	Mitigations by Section 75 Group
The tenant is in substantial arrears of rent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new landlord registration scheme portal will include information and advice that will signpost landlords to various relevant support service organisations. Increase awareness among landlords of the unique support needs of vulnerable tenants including women or men who have experienced a gender related crime; those with a disability; younger people and older people. This could extend to identifying where those in substantial arrears could be sent for support. <p>Those who have experienced a gender related crime</p> <p>This exception may increase the vulnerability of those who have experienced a gender-based crime. This is further exacerbated if the person who has experienced a gender related crime also has dependants. The proposed mitigations to this exception should therefore be seen as safeguarding measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the shorter NTQ arise from an act caused by a perpetrator of domestic violence then this should not disadvantage the victim of this act or others in the household and including dependants. In these circumstances the existing tenancy agreement could be renegotiated in order to support the victim to remain in the property, should s/he so choose and if affordable. For example, this could include a provision enabling a tenancy in the perpetrator's name to be transferred to the victim, (should contract law allow), and should s/he (if a male victim) wish to remain in the home or, alternatively, removing the perpetrator as a party of a joint tenancy (or subtenancy), while evicting him/her in line with exceptions. Tenant support services such as Housing Rights could help signpost to specialist advice and support for the victim of a gender-based crime (e.g. Women's Aid/MAPNI/Nexus Helpline/other relevant services). Departmental guidance could also link and signpost to these services. This would be more favourable than simply ending the tenancy early and potentially making victims homeless. Tenant support services such as Housing Rights could help signpost to other services for the victim of a gender-based crime to maintain the tenancy (if they wish to remain e.g. for the purposes of maintaining some normality for their children in schools), including security related additions to the property, where available plus housing benefits support. Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost victims of a gender-based crime receiving a shorter NTQ to specialist gender-based crime support services e.g. Women's Aid/MAPNI/Nexus Helpline or other local agencies. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible – including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as the possibility of accessing a Discretionary Housing Payment.

Exceptions	Mitigations by Section 75 Group
The tenant is in substantial arrears of rent	<p>People with serious health conditions or disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider if the Department could improve information around PRS accommodation suitable for those with a disability. That said it is recognised that a one size fits all approach is not appropriate for properties that need to be adapted and these properties may not be available when required. Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those with a disability receiving a shorter NTQ to specialist disability support services e.g. Disability Action, Autism NI or other local agencies. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible – including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as the possibility of accessing a Discretionary Housing Payment. <p>Older people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those older people receiving a shorter NTQ to specialist older age-related support services e.g. COPNI/ AgeNI or other local agencies. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible – including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as the possibility of accessing a Discretionary Housing Payment. <p>Younger People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those young people receiving a shorter NTQ to specialist younger age-related support services e.g. NICCY/ Youth Action or other local agencies. Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those young people who receive a shorter NTQ to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible – including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as Discretionary Housing Payment. Also, refer to student advice services if at university or further education (FE) Student. This could proportionally benefit those in Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) or shared accommodation who may be unfairly disadvantaged by a shorter notice because of the behaviour of others in their house, without enough time to find accommodation elsewhere or to plan ahead between jobs, and whose education may suffer as a result. <p>Those with Dependents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those with dependants receiving a shorter NTQ to specialist family related support services e.g. Family Support Hubs/ Relate or other local agencies. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as Discretionary Housing Payment.

Exceptions	Mitigations by Section 75 Group
The tenant is in substantial arrears of rent	<p>Ethnicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost ethnic minority community members receiving a shorter NTQ to specialist ethnic minority support services e.g. NICEM/ICM or other local agencies. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible – including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as Discretionary Housing Payment. <p>Sexual Orientation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those from the LGBTQIA+ community receiving a shorter NTQ to specialist LGBTQIA+ support services including services for transgender people e.g. Rainbow or other local agencies. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible – including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as Discretionary Housing Payment. <p>Different Religions/Political views</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those from different religious backgrounds receiving a shorter NTQ to Good Relations Unit of Councils (GR Unit)/ specialist support services or other local agencies. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible - including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as Discretionary Housing Payment. <p>Marital Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those of different marital status receiving a shorter NTQ, (single, married, divorced, separated, particularly those who may be single, retired with less disposable income or those who are recently widowed or divorced/ separated and which may be the cause of a rent arrears issue), to specialist support services e.g. Family Support Hubs /Relate or other local agencies. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as Discretionary Housing Payment

Exceptions	Mitigations by Section 75 Group
The tenant, or a member of the tenant's household, has engaged in serious anti-social behaviour (ASB) in, or in the locality of, the dwelling-house	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Across all these S75 Groups where one party within a joint contract has been involved in ASB and the other contract holder has not, then the offending joint contract holder could be removed from the contract if they have been engaged in ASB, without it affecting the remaining contract holder(s) rights. Interventions could be put in place through, for instance working with specialised support organisations funded through Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs), that encourage potential perpetrators to engage in more positive behaviours rather than losing their tenancy Recognise that there are different types of ASB, the responsibility of which rests with different public bodies but not landlords. (As such, mitigations to address this social malaise could be organised through relevant PCSPs working in partnership with relevant bodies depending on the nature of the ASB and its impact on the community). Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those receiving a shorter NTQ to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible.
	<p>Those who have experienced a gender related crime</p> <p>This exception may increase the vulnerability of those who have experienced a gender-based crime. This is further exacerbated if the person who has experienced a gender related crime also has dependants. The proposed mitigations to this exception should therefore be seen as safeguarding measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase awareness among landlords of the different support services that could be offered to tenants, who happen to be innocent members of the household of a perpetrator who has engaged in serious ASB, in, or in the locality of, the dwelling-house – encourage early engagement and NTQ as last resort option. Should the shorter NTQ arise from a serious ASB act caused by a perpetrator of domestic violence then this should not disadvantage the victim of this act or others in the household and including dependants. In these circumstances the existing tenancy agreement could be renegotiated in order to support other household members who remain in the property, should s/he so choose and if affordable. For example, this could include a provision enabling a tenancy in the perpetrator's name to be transferred to another member of the household, if contract law allows, removing the perpetrator as a party of a joint tenancy, (or subtenancy), while evicting him/her in line with exceptions. Tenant support services such as Housing Rights could help signpost to other services for the victim of a gender-based crime and other household members to maintain the tenancy (if contract law allows, and if they wish to remain e.g. for the purposes of maintaining some normality for their children in schools), including security related additions to the property, where available. Tenant support services such as Housing Rights could help signpost to relevant specialist advice and support services for the victim of a gender-based crime and any other associated serious ASB. Departmental guidance could also link and signpost to these services. This would be more favourable than simply ending the tenancy early and potentially making the innocent person(s) homeless. Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost victims of a gender-based crime receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has engaged in serious ASB, to specialist gender-based crime support services e.g. Women's Aid/MAPNI/Nexus Helpline, other local agencies, and to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible.

Exceptions	Mitigations by Section 75 Group
<p>The tenant, or a member of the tenant's household, has engaged in serious anti-social behaviour (ASB) in, or in the locality of, the dwelling-house</p>	<p>People with serious health conditions or disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to ensure that the shorter NTQ imposed on the perpetrator of serious ASB does not adversely impact on other household members with a disability, including those with autism or who are neurodiverse. • Consider if the Department could improve information around PRS accommodation suitable for those with a disability. That said it is recognised that a one size fits all approach is not appropriate for properties that need to be adapted and these properties may not be available when required • Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those with a disability receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has engaged in serious ASB, to specialist disability support services e.g. Disability Action, Autism NI or other local agencies. Specialised agencies could work with landlords to increase awareness, through for instance Smart Move, of their already adapted properties for use by people with a disability, including those with autism or are neurodiverse. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible. <p>Older people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those older people receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has engaged in serious ASB, to specialist older age-related support services e.g. COPNI, AgeNI or other local agencies including the council. (Specialised agencies e.g. LANI or AgeNI could be supported to work with landlords to increase awareness, through for instance Smart Move, of their already adapted properties for use by older people). Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible. <p>Younger People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those young people receiving a shorter NTQ who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has engaged in serious ASB, to NICCY/Youth Action or student advice services (if a university or FE Student). This could proportionally benefit those in HMOs or shared accommodation who may unfairly receive a shorter notice because of the behaviour of others in their house, without enough time to find accommodation elsewhere or to plan ahead between study/exams or jobs, and whose education may suffer as a result. <p>Those with Dependents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those with dependants receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has engaged in serious ASB, to specialist partnership agents such as Family Support Hubs/ Relate. This could proportionally benefit those with dependants who may unfairly receive a shorter notice because of the behaviour of others in their household thus helping them to address issues associated with a shorter NTQ imposed on the perpetrator of the ASB and the adverse impact this may have on other household members including dependants.

Exceptions	Mitigations by Section 75 Group
<p>The tenant, or a member of the tenant's household, has engaged in serious anti-social behaviour (ASB) in, or in the locality of, the dwelling-house</p>	<p>Ethnicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those from ethnic minority communities receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has engaged in serious ASB to specialist partnership agents such as NICEM, ITM or other local agencies. This could proportionally benefit those from ethnic minority communities who may unfairly receive a shorter notice because of the behaviour of others in their household thus helping them to address issues associated with a shorter NTQ imposed on the perpetrator of the ASB and the adverse impact this may have on other household members. Interventions could be put in place through, for instance working with specialised support organisations funded through the PCSP/GR Unit of Councils where the ASB is related to racism, which could help to ensure that the shorter NTQ does not have repercussions on those in or in the vicinity of the dwelling house. <p>Sexual Orientation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those from the LGBTQIA+ receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has engaged in serious ASB, to specialist partnership agents such as Rainbow or other local agencies. This could proportionally benefit those from LGBTQIA+ communities who may unfairly receive a shorter notice because of the behaviour of others in their household thus helping them to address issues associated with a shorter NTQ imposed on the perpetrator of the ASB and the adverse impact this may have on other household members. Interventions could be put in place through, for instance working with specialised support organisations funded through the PCSP/GR Unit of Councils where the ASB is related to homophobia, which could help to ensure that the shorter NTQ does not have repercussions on those in or in the vicinity of the dwelling house. <p>Different Religions/Political views</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those from different Religions/political views receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has engaged in serious ASB, to specialist partnership agents. This could proportionally benefit those from different Religions/political views who may unfairly receive a shorter notice because of the behaviour of others in their household thus helping them to address issues associated with a shorter NTQ imposed on the perpetrator of the ASB and the adverse impact this may have on other household members. Interventions could be put in place through, for instance working with specialised support organisations funded through the PCSP/GR Unit of Councils where the ASB is related to sectarianism, which could help to ensure that the shorter NTQ does not have repercussions on those in or in the vicinity of the dwelling house.

Exceptions	Mitigations by Section 75 Group
<p>The tenant, or a member of the tenant's household, has engaged in serious anti-social behaviour (ASB) in, or in the locality of, the dwelling-house</p>	<p>Marital Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those of different marital status receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has engaged in serious ASB, to specialist partnership agents such as Family Support Hubs/Relate or other local agencies. This could proportionally benefit those of different marital status who may unfairly receive a shorter notice because of the behaviour of others in their household thus helping them to address issues associated with a shorter NTQ imposed on the perpetrator of the ASB and the adverse impact this may have on other household members. Interventions could be put in place through, for instance working with specialised support organisations funded through the PCSP/GR Unit of Councils, which could help to ensure that the shorter NTQ does not have repercussions on those in or in the vicinity of the dwelling house.
<p>The tenant, or member of the tenant's household, is convicted of a relevant criminal offence.</p>	<p>Shorter notice periods for cases involving criminal offences works towards maintaining the safety and well-being of other tenants and the surrounding community by allowing swift action to address any criminal behaviour that may pose a risk of harm. Shorter notice periods enable landlords to take prompt measures to protect their property and minimise potential damage or disruptions caused by criminal activities.</p> <p>However, the exception may increase the vulnerability of those who are a co-tenant or neighbour of the person who has been convicted of a relevant criminal offence but who themselves, have not committed a criminal offence. The proposed mitigations to this exception should therefore be seen as safeguarding measures for these more vulnerable tenants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Across all these S75 Groups where one party within a joint contract is convicted of a relevant criminal offence and the other contract holder has not, then the offending joint contract holder could be removed from the contract if they have been convicted of a relevant criminal offence, without it affecting the remaining contract holder(s) rights, where contract law allows. In these circumstances the existing tenancy agreement could be renegotiated in order to support other household members who remain in the property, should s/he so choose and if affordable. For example, this could include a provision enabling a tenancy in the perpetrator's name to be transferred to another member of the household, where contract law allows, removing the perpetrator as a party of a joint tenancy (or subtenancy), while evicting him/her in line with exceptions. Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights and website signpost those receiving a shorter NTQ to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible – including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as Discretionary Housing Payment.

Exceptions	Mitigations by Section 75 Group
<p>The tenant, or member of the tenant's household, is convicted of a relevant criminal offence.</p>	<p>Those who have experienced a gender related crime</p> <p>This exception may increase the vulnerability of those who have experienced a gender-based crime. This is further exacerbated if the person who has experienced a gender related crime also has dependants. The proposed mitigations to this exception should therefore be seen as safeguarding measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness among landlords of the different support services for those non-convicted tenants (where a member of the tenant's household has been convicted of a relevant criminal offence), and encourage early engagement, with a NTQ as a last resort option. • In these circumstances the existing tenancy agreement could be renegotiated in order to support other household members who remain in the property, should they so choose and if affordable and where contract law allows. For example, this could include a provision enabling a tenancy in the perpetrator's name to be transferred to another member of the household, where contract law allows, removing the perpetrator as a party of a joint tenancy (or subtenancy), while evicting him/her in line with exceptions. • Tenant support services such as Housing Rights could help signpost to support from other services for the victim of a gender-based crime and other household members to maintain the tenancy (if they wish to remain e.g. for the purposes of maintaining some normality for their children in schools), including security related additions to the property, where available. • Tenant support services such as Housing Rights could help signpost to relevant specialist advice and support services for the victim of a gender-based crime (e.g. Women's Aid/MAPNI/Nexus Helpline/other relevant services). Department guidance could also link and signpost to these services. This would be more favourable than simply ending the tenancy early and potentially making the innocent person(s) homeless. • Through enhanced departmental guidance and website including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost victims of a gender-based crime receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has been convicted of a criminal offence, to specialist gender-based crime support services e.g. Women's Aid/MAPNI/Nexus Helpline or other local agencies. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible – including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as the possibility of accessing a Discretionary Housing Payment.

Exceptions	Mitigations by Section 75 Group
<p>The tenant, or member of the tenant's household, is convicted of a relevant criminal offence.</p>	<p>People with serious health conditions or disabilities The shorter NTQ imposed on the perpetrator of a relevant criminal offence should not adversely impact on other household members including those with serious health conditions or disabilities including those with autism or who are neurodiverse. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those with a disability receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has been convicted of a relevant criminal offence, to specialist disability support services e.g. Disability Action, Autism NI or other local agencies. Specialised agencies could work with landlords to increase awareness, through for instance Smart Move, of their already adapted properties for use by people with a disability, including those with autism or are neurodiverse. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible – including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as Discretionary Housing Payment and disabled facilities grant (NIHE). <p>Older people The shorter NTQ imposed on the perpetrator of a relevant criminal offence should not adversely impact on other household members including older people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost older people receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has been convicted of a relevant criminal offence, to specialist support services e.g. COPNI/AgeNI or other local agencies. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible – including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as Discretionary Housing Payment and disabled facilities grant (NIHE). <p>Younger People The shorter NTQ imposed on the perpetrator of a relevant criminal offence should not adversely impact on other household members including younger people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost younger people receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has been convicted of a relevant criminal offence, to specialist support services e.g. NICCY/Youth Action or other local agencies. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible – including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as Discretionary Housing Payment and disabled facilities grant (NIHE). Sign-post those receiving a shorter NTQ to student advice services if a university or FE Student. This could proportionally benefit those in HMOs or shared accommodation who may be unfairly hit with a shorter notice because of the behaviour of others in their house, without enough time to find accommodation elsewhere or to plan ahead between jobs, and whose education may suffer as a result. </p>

Exceptions	Mitigations by Section 75 Group
<p>The tenant, or member of the tenant's household, is convicted of a relevant criminal offence.</p>	<p>Those with Dependents</p> <p>The shorter NTQ imposed on the perpetrator of a relevant criminal offence should not adversely impact on other household members including those with dependants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those with dependants receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has been convicted of a relevant criminal offence, to specialist support services e.g. Family Support Hubs or other local agencies. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible – including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as Discretionary Housing Payment and disabled facilities grant (NIHE). <p>Ethnicity</p> <p>The shorter NTQ imposed on the perpetrator of a relevant criminal offence should not adversely impact on other household members including those from ethnic minority communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost ethnic minority community members receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has been convicted of a relevant criminal offence, to specialist support services e.g. NICEM/ITM or other local agencies. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible – including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as Discretionary Housing Payment and disabled facilities grant (NIHE). Interventions could be put in place through, for instance working with specialised support organisations funded through the PCSP/GR Unit of Councils where the relevant criminal offence is related to racism, which could help to ensure that the shorter NTQ does not have repercussions on those in or in the vicinity of the dwelling house. <p>Sexual Orientation</p> <p>The shorter NTQ imposed on the perpetrator of a relevant criminal offence should not adversely impact on other household members including those from LGBTQIA+ communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost LGBTQIA+ community members receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has been convicted of a relevant criminal offence, to specialist support services e.g. Rainbow or other local agencies. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible – including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as Discretionary Housing Payment and disabled facilities grant (NIHE). Interventions could be put in place through, for instance working with specialised support organisations funded through the PCSP/GR Unit of Councils where the relevant criminal offence is related to homophobia, which could help to ensure that the shorter NTQ does not have repercussions on those in or in the vicinity of the dwelling house

Exceptions	Mitigations by Section 75 Group
<p>The tenant, or member of the tenant's household, is convicted of a relevant criminal offence.</p>	<p>Different Religions/ Political views The shorter NTQ imposed on the perpetrator of a relevant criminal offence should not adversely impact on other household members including those with different religious beliefs or political opinions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those with different religious beliefs and/or political opinions receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has been convicted of a relevant criminal offence, to specialist support services e.g. Interfaith Forum/Equality Commission or other local agencies. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible – including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as Discretionary Housing Payment and disabled facilities grant (NIHE). Interventions could be put in place through, for instance working with specialised support organisations funded through the PCSP/GR Unit of Councils where the relevant criminal offence is related to sectarianism, which could help to ensure that the shorter NTQ does not have repercussions on those in or in the vicinity of the dwelling house. <p>Marital Status The shorter NTQ imposed on the perpetrator of a relevant criminal offence should not adversely impact on other household members including those with different marital status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through enhanced departmental guidance and website, including services offered through Housing Rights helpline and website, signpost those of different marital status receiving a shorter NTQ, who happen to be a member of a tenant's household who has been convicted of a relevant criminal offence, to specialist support services e.g. Family Support Hubs/ Relate or other local agencies. Also, refer to housing and welfare advice/support as early as possible – including to NIHE and Make the Call to access support such as Discretionary Housing Payment and disabled facilities grant (NIHE) Interventions could be put in place through, for instance working with specialised support organisations funded through the PCSP/GR Unit of Councils where the relevant criminal offence relates to family status/ Honour Crimes, which could help to ensure that the shorter NTQ does not have repercussions on those in or in the vicinity of the dwelling house.

SECTION 5: CONSULTATION

The draft regulations on circumstances where longer NTQs will not be issued has been informed by a substantial body of international and local research, using the triple foundation of international best practice, lived experience, and local data and research as outlined within the CIH research document.

There is a suite of positive actions that help to address some of the potential issues.

Therefore, the circumstances where longer NTQs will not be issued have to be cast against the positive elements of longer NTQ periods generally and include a number of proposed safeguarding measures to protect those who may be at risk or vulnerable in circumstances where a shorter NTQ is put in place.

Consultation Questions

Q1: We have presented a draft EQIA consultation report on the circumstances where longer Notices to Quit (NTQs) will not be issued.

- Do you agree with how we have carried out the EQIA?
- Is there any other information that you feel should be included within the EQIA

Q2: Within the EQIA we have outlined some adverse impacts that the circumstances where longer NTQs will not be issued could have.

- Do you agree with the adverse impacts that we have identified?
- Are there any other adverse impacts that you feel we should include?

Q3: We have outlined some possible mitigation measures to address these potential adverse impacts.

- Do you agree with the mitigating actions we have outlined?
- Do you have any other suggestions for mitigating measures or alternative policies that could be put in place?

SECTION 6: DECISION MAKING AND PUBLICATION OF EQIA REPORT

At the end of the consultation period, the EQIA report will be revised to take account of all comments received from consultees. An EQIA final decision report will then be prepared in respect of the policy and including consideration of the impact of alternative policies and mitigating actions. This will complete Step 6 of the EQIA process (see p.6).

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The EQIA final decision report will be made available on the Department's website. In addition, Equality Scheme consultees and those who responded to the consultation will be notified of the availability of the report.

SECTION 7: ANNUAL MONITORING AND PUBLICATION OF MONITORING RESULTS

A system will be established to monitor the impact of the decision in order to find out the effect on the relevant Section 75 groups. Full details of the monitoring system will be included in the EQIA final decision report.

The results of ongoing monitoring will be reviewed on an annual basis and included in the annual review on progress to the Equality Commission. This review will be published on the Department's website. This will complete Step 7 of the EQIA process (see pg.6).

Available in alternative formats.

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Exceptions to Proposed Longer ‘Notice to Quit’ Periods in Northern Ireland

Draft Equality Impact Assessment

Appendices

Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms Used

ASB – Anti-Social Behaviour

ASBOs - Anti- Social Behaviour Orders

B&Bs – Bed and Breakfasts

CATU – Community Action Tenant's Union

CIH – Chartered Institute of Housing

COPNI - Commissioner for Older People NI

DfC – Department for Communities

DoJ- Department of Justice

DSO – Department Solicitors Office

NTQ – Notice to Quit

PCSP – Police and Community Safety Partnership

PRS – Private Rented Sector

PSNI – Police Service of Northern Ireland

SIB - Strategic Investment Board

EQIA – Equality Impact Assessment

FE – Further Education

HMOs – Houses in Multiple Occupation

ITM - Irish Traveller Movement

LANI - Landlord's Association of Northern Ireland

NI- Northern Ireland

NICCY – Northern Ireland Commission for Children and Young People

NICEM – Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities

NIHE – Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Appendix 2: Baseline Data Used

Population

The total population of Northern Ireland as per the 2021 Census was 1,903,175. This can be broken down by Local Government District as per the table below. As can be seen the largest population clusters are in Belfast (18.1% of NI's population) followed by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (11.5%). The smallest is Fermanagh and Omagh with a population representing 6.1% of NI's total population.

Geography	All usual residents	%
Antrim and Newtownabbey	145,661	7.7
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	218,656	11.5
Belfast	345,418	18.1
Causeway Coast and Glens	141,746	7.4
Derry City and Strabane	150,756	7.9
Fermanagh and Omagh	116,812	6.1
Lisburn and Castlereagh	149,106	7.8
Mid and East Antrim	138,994	7.3
Mid Ulster	150,293	7.9
Newry, Mourne and Down	182,074	9.6
Ards and North Down	163,659	8.6
Total	1,903,175	100%

MS-AO1- Usual resident Population -<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-demography-tables-age-and-sex>

Gender

The 2021 Census data shows that 49.19% of all usual residents in Northern Ireland are male, with 50.81% of the population female.

Gender	Number	%
Male	936,132	49.19%
Female	967,043	50.81%
Total	1,903,175	100%

MS-A07: Sex -<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-demography-tables-age-and-sex>

These data demonstrate a similar picture across most Council areas as outlined below.

Geography	Female	%	Male	%
Antrim and Newtownabbey	74,158	50.91%	71,503	49.09%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	110,388	50.48%	108,268	49.52%
Belfast	177,338	51.34%	168,080	48.66%
Causeway Coast and Glens	71,898	50.72%	69,848	49.28%
Derry City and Strabane	77,097	51.14%	73,659	48.86%
Fermanagh and Omagh	58,482	50.07%	58,330	49.93%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	75,774	50.82%	73,335	49.18%
Mid and East Antrim	70,944	51.04%	68,050	48.96%
Mid Ulster	75,002	49.90%	75,291	50.10%
Newry, Mourne and Down	92,011	50.53%	90,063	49.47%
Ards and North Down	83,951	51.30%	79,705	48.70%
Total	967,043	100%	936,132	100%
	1,903,175			

MS-A07: Sex -<https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-demography-tables-age-and-sex>

Ethnicity

The 2021 Census data shows that 96.55% of all usual residents in Northern Ireland are white, with 1.71% of the population classified as Asian, 0.58% as Black, 0.76 as Mixed and 0.4% as Other.

The Table below illustrates this pattern across most council areas and illustrates where higher or lower percentages across all ethnic groups occur across different council areas.

Geography/ Ethnicity	All Res Pop	White	Irish Traveller	Roma	Indian	Chinese	Filipino	Pakistani	Arab	Other Asian	Black African	Black Other	Mixed	Other ethnicities
Antrim and Newtownabbey	145,664	96.72%	0.04%	0.01%	0.92%	0.43%	0.26%	0.11%	0.07%	0.19%	0.30%	0.08%	0.72%	0.15%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	218,658	96.69%	0.24%	0.09%	0.28%	0.31%	0.19%	0.13%	0.05%	0.27%	0.52%	0.24%	0.76%	0.23%
Belfast	345,419	92.95%	0.09%	0.09%	1.26%	1.37%	0.47%	0.14%	0.29%	0.49%	1.19%	0.15%	1.20%	0.30%
Causeway Coast and Glens	141,746	98.55%	0.03%	0.01%	0.15%	0.22%	0.10%	0.03%	0.03%	0.10%	0.12%	0.04%	0.51%	0.11%
Derry City and Strabane	150,757	97.74%	0.14%	0.01%	0.54%	0.23%	0.15%	0.07%	0.06%	0.12%	0.14%	0.06%	0.62%	0.13%
Fermanagh and Omagh	116,811	98.29%	0.25%	0.02%	0.18%	0.21%	0.12%	0.04%	0.06%	0.10%	0.12%	0.06%	0.42%	0.12%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	149,106	96.07%	0.07%	0.01%	0.85%	0.65%	0.49%	0.13%	0.10%	0.24%	0.27%	0.10%	0.87%	0.15%
Mid and East Antrim	138,992	97.78%	0.10%	0.54%	0.13%	0.29%	0.15%	0.07%	0.01%	0.11%	0.16%	0.04%	0.50%	0.14%
Mid Ulster	150,292	96.01%	0.37%	0.05%	0.14%	0.22%	0.07%	0.02%	0.07%	0.75%	0.47%	0.77%	0.84%	0.22%
Newry, Mourne and Down	182,074	98.33%	0.19%	0.05%	0.16%	0.19%	0.09%	0.03%	0.05%	0.09%	0.11%	0.06%	0.49%	0.17%
Ards and North Down	163,660	97.70%	0.01%	0.01%	0.24%	0.31%	0.19%	0.05%	0.02%	0.29%	0.19%	0.08%	0.76%	0.16%
NI	1,903,179	96.55%	0.14%	0.08%	0.52%	0.50%	0.23%	0.08%	0.10%	0.28%	0.42%	0.16%	0.76%	0.19%

MS-B01 - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-ethnicity-tables>

Religion

The 2021 Census data shows that 42.31% of the population were Catholic, while 37.36% were protestant, 17.39% stated they had no religion, 1.60% did not state their religion and 1.34% were other religions.

	Northern Ireland Population	Catholic	Presbyterian Church in Ireland	Church of Ireland	Methodist Church in Ireland	Other Christian (incl. Christian related)	Other religions	No religion	Religion not stated
All Usual Residents NI	1,903,178	805,151	316,103	219,788	44,728	130,377	25,519	330,983	30,529
%	100%	42.31%	16.61%	11.55%	2.35%	6.85%	1.34%	17.39%	1.60%

MS- B19 - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-religion-tables>

Broken down by Local authority area, the data shows varying percentages of religions in each local authority area.

The Local authorities with the highest percentage their population classifying as catholic are Derry City and Strabane (68.35%), Fermanagh and Omagh (68.36%), Newry, Mourne and Down (68.19%), and Mid Ulster (62.35%),

The Local authorities with the highest percentage of their population classifying as protestant are Mid and East Antrim, 57.85%, Ards and North Down, 55.48%, Lisburn and Castlereagh, 49.17%, and Causeway Coast and Glens, 45.32%.

The local authority areas with the highest percentage of their population classifying as having no religion are, Ards and North Down at 30.63%, Lisburn and Castlereagh, 23.89%, Antrim and Newtownabbey, 22.62%, Belfast at 21.67% and Mid and East Antrim at 21.49%. This is much higher than in other census.

	Catholic	Presbyterian Church in Ireland	Church of Ireland	Methodist Church in Ireland	Other Christian (incl. Christian related)	Other religions	No religion	Religion not stated
Antrim and Newtownabbey	28.37%	23.76%	10.49%	3.76%	8.24%	1.37%	22.62%	1.39%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	41.04%	14.26%	15.92%	2.52%	9.03%	1.12%	14.70%	1.41%
Belfast	43.46%	12.44%	8.49%	2.86%	5.95%	2.96%	21.67%	2.17%
Causeway Coast and Glens	37.60%	23.22%	14.95%	0.73%	6.42%	0.58%	14.99%	1.41%
Derry City and Strabane	68.36%	9.85%	8.27%	0.79%	2.18%	0.87%	8.23%	1.45%
Fermanagh and Omagh	61.15%	5.67%	15.57%	2.72%	3.97%	0.82%	8.21%	1.89%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	23.95%	19.43%	16.33%	3.73%	9.68%	1.55%	23.89%	1.43%
Mid and East Antrim	17.40%	32.19%	11.07%	3.45%	11.15%	0.86%	21.94%	1.94%
Mid Ulster	62.35%	10.22%	11.38%	0.84%	5.38%	0.61%	7.92%	1.30%
Newry, Mourne and Down	68.19%	9.42%	5.15%	0.48%	3.98%	0.66%	10.79%	1.32%
Ards and North Down	11.26%	28.54%	13.63%	3.65%	9.65%	1.21%	30.63%	1.43%
NI	42.31%	16.61%	11.55%	2.35%	6.85%	1.34%	17.39%	1.60%

MS- B19 - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-religion-tables>

Age

This dataset provides Census 2021 data that classifies the population by four broad age categories. The most notable difference is the lower percentage of males in the 65+ age group in comparison to females.

	All usual residents: All ages	All usual residents: 0-14 years	All usual residents: 15-39 years	All usual residents: 40-64 years	All usual residents: 65+ years
All Usual Residents NI	1,903,180	365,217	594,361	617,125	326,477
%	100%	19.19%	31.23%	32.43%	17.15%
Females all ages NI	967,048	178,131	298,015	314,703	176,199
%	50.81%	9.36%	15.66%	16.54%	9.26%
Males all ages - NI	936,132	187,086	296,346	302,422	150,278
%	49.19%	9.83%	15.57%	15.89%	7.90%

MS-A10- <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-demography-tables-age-and-sex>

This dataset shows age groups by gender across all 11 local authority areas. Of note is the higher percentage in the younger age group (0-14) in Mid Ulster (10.62%, females & 11.09% males) and Newry, Mourne and Down (10.13%, females & males 10.65%) and the higher percentage in the older age group (65+) in Ards and North Down (females 11.92%, males, 10.22%), Mid Ulster (females 10.67%) and Causeway Coast and Glens (females 10.25%).

LA Area/ Age Groups by Gender	Females					Males				
	All usual residents: All ages	All usual residents: 0-14 years	All usual residents: 15-39 years	All usual residents: 40-64 years	All usual residents: 65+ years	All usual residents: All ages	All usual residents: 0-14 years	All usual residents: 15-39 years	All usual residents: 40-64 years	All usual residents: 65+ years
Antrim and Newtownabbey	50.91%	9.23%	15.31%	17.00%	9.38%	49.09%	9.63%	15.39%	16.21%	7.85%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	50.48%	10.16%	15.46%	16.21%	8.66%	49.52%	10.62%	15.51%	16.05%	7.34%
Belfast	51.34%	8.79%	18.87%	15.50%	8.18%	48.66%	9.26%	18.27%	14.60%	6.54%
Causeway Coast and Glens	50.72%	8.93%	14.43%	17.11%	10.25%	49.28%	9.39%	14.42%	16.45%	9.02%
Derry City and Strabane	51.14%	9.75%	15.82%	17.06%	8.51%	48.86%	10.14%	15.24%	15.97%	7.51%
Fermanagh and Omagh	50.06%	9.75%	14.20%	16.54%	9.57%	49.94%	10.14%	14.84%	16.17%	8.78%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	50.82%	9.19%	15.01%	17.02%	9.59%	49.18%	9.86%	15.07%	16.27%	7.99%
Mid and East Antrim	51.04%	8.49%	14.43%	17.45%	10.67%	48.96%	8.92%	14.22%	16.82%	9.00%
Mid Ulster	49.90%	10.62%	15.84%	15.48%	7.97%	50.10%	11.09%	16.33%	15.65%	7.02%
Newry, Mourne and Down	50.53%	10.13%	15.08%	16.44%	8.89%	49.47%	10.65%	15.01%	16.04%	7.77%
Ards and North Down	51.30%	8.23%	13.54%	17.61%	11.92%	48.70%	8.73%	13.47%	16.28%	10.22%

MS-A10 - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-demography-tables-age-and-sex>

Sexual Orientation

This dataset provides Census 2021 data that classify usual residents aged 16 years and over in Northern Ireland by sexual orientation. This demonstrates that 90.04% classify themselves as straight or heterosexual while 4.58% (69,307 people) prefer not to say. 3.3% did not state (49,961 people) while 1.17% stated gay or lesbian and 0.75% stated bisexual. In total 17,713 people stated their sexual orientation as Gay or Lesbian while 11,306 stated bisexual and a further 2,597 as other sexual orientation.

	Northern Ireland Population	Straight or heterosexual	Gay or lesbian	Bisexual	Other sexual orientation	Prefer not to say	Not stated
All Usual Residents NI	1,514,743	1,363,859	17,713	11,306	2,597	69,307	49,961
%	100%	90.04%	1.17%	0.75%	0.17%	4.58%	3.30%

MS – C01- <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-sexual-orientation-tables>

Broken down by Local authority area, the data shows varying percentages of sexual orientation in each local authority area. Those with the highest percentage gay or lesbian population include Belfast 2.27%, Lisburn and Castlereagh 1.21%, Derry City and Strabane 1.19%, and Ards and North Down at 1.09%. Those with the highest percentage bisexual population include Belfast 1.48%, Lisburn and Castlereagh 0.69%, Derry City and Strabane 0.74%, and Ards and North Down at 0.72%.

	Straight or heterosexual	Gay or lesbian	Bisexual	Other sexual orientation	Prefer not to say	Not stated
Antrim and Newtownabbey	91.25%	1.20%	0.67%	0.14%	3.96%	2.78%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	90.52%	0.81%	0.53%	0.13%	4.86%	3.15%
Belfast	87.10%	2.27%	1.48%	0.32%	5.20%	3.64%
Causeway Coast and Glens	91.28%	0.79%	0.52%	0.12%	3.94%	3.34%
Derry City and Strabane	90.30%	1.19%	0.74%	0.16%	4.39%	3.22%
Fermanagh and Omagh	89.52%	0.57%	0.43%	0.16%	4.35%	4.98%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	91.36%	1.21%	0.69%	0.15%	3.72%	2.87%
Mid and East Antrim	91.04%	0.86%	0.56%	0.13%	4.21%	3.19%
Mid Ulster	90.03%	0.58%	0.41%	0.14%	5.79%	3.05%
Newry, Mourne and Down	90.41%	0.84%	0.52%	0.12%	4.98%	3.13%
Ards and North Down	91.16%	1.09%	0.72%	0.14%	3.90%	2.98%

	Straight or heterosexual	Gay or lesbian	Bisexual	Other sexual orientation	Prefer not to say	Not stated
NI	90.04%	1.17%	0.75%	0.17%	4.58%	3.30%

MS – C01- <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-sexual-orientation-tables>

Mobility

The 2021 Census dataset classifies the usual resident population by their day-to-day activities limited by a health problem or disability and by broad age bands. The data shows that the percentage of people whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot is highest for those people in the 65+ age (27.73%) in comparison to those in the 0–14-year age bracket (2.98%) or the 15–39-year age bracket (5.10%) or the 40–64-year age bracket (13.97%). Conversely, the data shows that the percentage of people whose day-to-day activities are not limited is highest for those people in the 0–14-year age bracket (92.05%) in comparison to those in the 15–39-year age bracket (87.26%) or the 40–64-year age bracket (71.97%) or the 65+ year age bracket (43.25%).

The data illustrates that age has an impact on day today activities and as people get older their day-to-day activities seem to get more limited.

Age/ Long term Health problem or disability by age band	All usual residents	All usual residents: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	All usual residents: Day-to-day activities limited a little	All usual residents: Day-to-day activities not limited
All Ages	1,903,179	217,964	245,057	1,440,158
%	1,903,179	11.45%	12.88%	75.67%
0-14 years	365,214	10,885	18,148	336,181
%	100%	2.98%	4.97%	92.05%
15-39	594,365	30,335	45,398	518,632
%	100%	5.10%	7.64%	87.26%
40-64	617,125	86,228	86,745	444,152
%	100%	13.97%	14.06%	71.97%
65+	326,475	90,516	94,766	141,193
%	100%	27.73%	29.03%	43.25%

MS- D02 - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-health-disability-and-unpaid-care-tables>

National Identity

The 2021 Census data shows that 31.86% define themselves as British only while 29.13% define themselves as Irish Only and a further 19.78% as Northern Irish Only.

	Northern Ireland Population	British only	Irish only	Northern Irish only	British and Irish only	British and Northern Irish only	Irish and Northern Irish only	British, Irish and Northern Irish only	Other
All Usual Residents NI	1,903,175	606,263	554,415	376,444	11,768	151,327	33,581	28,050	141,327
%	100%	31.86%	29.13%	19.78%	0.62%	7.95%	1.76%	1.47%	7.43%

MS – B15 – National Identity - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-identity-tables>

The table below shows usual residents across each local authority area by their national identity.

The data shows varying percentages across Northern Ireland highlighted in the table below with the highest percentage for those stating their national identity as British being in Mid and East Antrim (49.08%) followed closely by Ards and North Down (47.99%).

The local authority area with the highest percentage for those stating their national identity as Irish was Derry City and Strabane (53.81%) followed by Newry, Mourne and Down (47.20%).

The local authority area with the highest percentage for those stating their national identity as Northern Irish only was Causeway Coast and Glens (23.06%) followed by Fermanagh and Omagh (22.31%).

	British only	Irish only	Northern Irish only	British and Irish only	British and Northern Irish only	Irish and Northern Irish only	British, Irish and Northern Irish only	Other
Antrim and Newtownabbey	41.06%	16.64%	21.14%	0.62%	11.10%	1.47%	1.80%	6.18%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	33.45%	26.34%	18.97%	0.48%	8.21%	1.47%	1.20%	9.87%
Belfast	26.82%	35.24%	16.63%	0.73%	6.57%	2.14%	1.69%	10.19%
Causeway Coast and Glens	38.36%	21.51%	23.06%	0.62%	8.68%	1.52%	1.49%	4.76%
Derry City and Strabane	17.46%	53.81%	18.35%	0.51%	3.35%	2.23%	0.67%	3.62%
Fermanagh and Omagh	22.75%	40.99%	22.31%	0.47%	4.27%	2.06%	0.82%	6.34%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	41.37%	15.59%	20.71%	0.75%	11.44%	1.64%	2.26%	6.24%
Mid and East Antrim	49.08%	8.03%	19.87%	0.55%	12.99%	0.87%	1.63%	6.98%
Mid Ulster	22.13%	40.86%	18.73%	0.38%	4.53%	2.02%	0.64%	10.71%
Newry, Mourne and Down	17.41%	47.20%	21.02%	0.67%	3.69%	2.55%	1.06%	6.38%
Ards and North Down	47.99%	5.87%	21.63%	0.87%	14.37%	0.97%	2.66%	5.64%

MS – B15 – National Identity - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-identity-tables>

Unpaid Carers

This data set classifies usual residents aged five and over in Northern Ireland by provision of unpaid care, and by broad age bands. In total 222,213 carers across NI provide unpaid care each week. The data demonstrates that for the 40–64-year-old age bracket some 20.19% provide unpaid care across a range of hours with 9.98% of this age group providing between 1-19 hours of unpaid care per week. Of those in the 65+ age group, 11.9% provide some unpaid care per week with 6.41% of this age group (20,923 carers) providing over 50+ hours of unpaid care per week.

Provision of unpaid care by age Bands	All usual residents aged 5 and over	All usual residents aged 5 and over: Provides no unpaid care	All usual residents aged 5 and over: Provides 1-19 hours unpaid care per week	All usual residents aged 5 and over: Provides 20-34 hours unpaid care per week	All usual residents aged 5 and over: Provides 35-49 hours unpaid care per week	All usual residents aged 5 and over: Provides 50+ hours unpaid care per week
All Ages NI	1,789,348	1,567,135	100,777	24,636	28,109	68,691
%	1,789,348	87.58%	5.63%	1.38%	1.57%	3.84%
5-14 years	251,394	248,806	1,932	228	112	316
%	100%	98.97%	0.77%	0.09%	0.04%	0.13%
15-39	594,357	538,184	25,983	6,909	10,462	12,819
%	100%	90.55%	4.37%	1.16%	1.76%	2.16%
40-64	617,125	492,536	61,618	13,797	14,541	34,633
%	100%	79.81%	9.98%	2.24%	2.36%	5.61%
65+	326,472	287,609	11,244	3,702	2,994	20,923
%	100%	88.10%	3.44%	1.13%	0.92%	6.41%

MS- D17 – Provision of unpaid care - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-health-disability-and-unpaid-care-tables>

This data set classifies usual residents aged five and over across each local authority area by provision of unpaid care. The data demonstrates similarities across most of the 11 local authority areas with a few exceptions. The three highest percentages for those providing 1-19 hour of unpaid care was in Ards and North Down (6.77%) followed by Lisburn and Castlereagh at 6.57%. Derry City and Strabane District Council had the highest number of unpaid carers in the 20-34 hours unpaid category at 1.54%, the 35-49 hours unpaid category (1.84%) and the 50+ hours unpaid category (4.28%). Ards and North Down however has the highest percentage unpaid carers overall with 13.67% of those 5 and over providing unpaid care (21,279). The highest total number of unpaid carers are in Belfast (40,155), followed by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (24,741), Newry, Mourne and Down (21,380) and Ards and North Down with 21,279 unpaid carers).

	All usual residents aged 5 and over	All usual residents aged 5 and over: Provides no unpaid care	All usual residents aged 5 and over: Provides 1-19 hours unpaid care per week	All usual residents aged 5 and over: Provides 20-34 hours unpaid care per week	All usual residents aged 5 and over: Provides 35-49 hours unpaid care per week	All usual residents aged 5 and over: Provides 50+ hours unpaid care per week	Total All usual residents aged 5 and over: Providing unpaid care
Antrim and Newtownabbey	137,340	87.04%	6.10%	1.37%	1.50%	3.99%	17,797
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	204,480	87.90%	5.56%	1.33%	1.60%	3.60%	24,741
Belfast	325,629	87.67%	5.26%	1.42%	1.66%	3.98%	40,155
Causeway Coast and Glens	133,773	88.05%	5.29%	1.27%	1.54%	3.86%	15,987
Derry City and Strabane	141,465	87.29%	5.04%	1.54%	1.84%	4.28%	17,978
Fermanagh and Omagh	109,482	88.45%	5.24%	1.31%	1.49%	3.50%	12,640
Lisburn and Castlereagh	140,064	87.24%	6.57%	1.33%	1.30%	3.55%	17,867
Mid and East Antrim	131,458	87.33%	6.02%	1.32%	1.52%	3.82%	16,660
Mid Ulster	139,692	88.74%	4.94%	1.28%	1.65%	3.39%	15,729
Newry, Mourne and Down	170,352	87.45%	5.52%	1.49%	1.58%	3.97%	21,380
Ards and North Down	155,613	86.33%	6.77%	1.40%	1.44%	4.06%	21,279

General Health by LGD and broad age bands

The table below shows the general health among usual residents in Northern Ireland by age band. This demonstrates that 78.67% of people are either in very good or good health. A further 13.66% state that their health is fair with 7.68% stating their health as either bad or very bad. The data shows that as people get older for many their health deteriorates. In the 65+ age group, some 11.02% of those in the 40-64 age group state their health as either bad or very bad while 17.42% of those in the 65+ age group state their health as either bad or very bad.

General Health by age Bands	All usual residents	All usual residents: Very good health	All usual residents: Good health	All usual residents: Fair health	All usual residents: Bad health	All usual residents: Very bad health
All Ages NI	1,903,171	951,127	546,028	259,982	108,962	37,072
%	1,903,171	49.98%	28.69%	13.66%	5.73%	1.95%
0-14 years	365,213	304,944	47,881	9,666	2,088	634
%	365,213	83.50%	13.11%	2.65%	0.57%	0.17%
15-39	594,355	365,675	165,075	45,170	14,368	4,067
%	594,355	61.52%	27.77%	7.60%	2.42%	0.68%
40-64	617,127	228,889	220,967	99,248	50,499	17,524
%	617,127	37.09%	35.81%	16.08%	8.18%	2.84%
65+	326,476	51,619	112,105	105,898	42,007	14,847
%	326,476	15.81%	34.34%	32.44%	12.87%	4.55%

MS-D01 – General Health by broad age bands - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-health-disability-and-unpaid-care-tables>

The table below shows the general health of usual residents across each local authority area. This demonstrates that overall, 7.68% of those across NI define their health as either bad or very bad. Local authorities above this average include Belfast at 10.02% and Derry City and Strabane at 9.51%. All others are below the average with the lowest being Mid Ulster at 6.12%.

Geography	All usual residents	All usual residents: Very good health	All usual residents: Good health	All usual residents: Fair health	All usual residents: Bad health	All usual residents: Very bad health
Antrim and Newtownabbey	145,662	49.67%	29.56%	13.50%	5.48%	1.78%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	218,657	51.96%	28.39%	12.75%	5.25%	1.66%
Belfast	345,420	47.84%	27.97%	14.17%	7.32%	2.70%
Causeway Coast and Glens	141,745	48.28%	29.49%	14.80%	5.63%	1.81%
Derry City and Strabane	150,756	49.33%	26.65%	14.51%	7.04%	2.46%
Fermanagh and Omagh	116,812	51.22%	28.17%	13.95%	4.93%	1.73%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	149,105	52.07%	29.21%	12.54%	4.66%	1.53%
Mid and East Antrim	138,992	47.82%	30.50%	14.39%	5.54%	1.74%
Mid Ulster	150,289	53.67%	28.01%	12.21%	4.54%	1.58%
Newry, Mourne and Down	182,074	52.73%	27.53%	12.80%	5.15%	1.79%
Ards and North Down	163,659	46.75%	31.30%	14.67%	5.51%	1.77%
Northern Ireland	1,903,171	951,127	546,028	259,982	108,962	37,072
Northern Ireland %	100%	49.98%	28.69%	13.66%	5.73%	1.95%

MS-D01 – General Health by LGD - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-health-disability-and-unpaid-care-tables>

Long term Health Problem or disability by age bands and day to day activities

The table below shows usual residents across each Northern Ireland by long term health problems or disability by age bands. This demonstrates that across Northern Ireland 11.45% of all usual residents are limited a lot in their day-to-day activities due to long term health problems while 12.88% are limited a little. 75.67% are not limited at all. The data shows that as people get older for many their day-to-day activities get more limited. For those in the 40–64-year age bracket, the day-to-day activities for 28.03% are either limited a lot or a little. For those in the 65+ age category, the day-to-day activities for 56.76% are either limited a lot or a little.

Long term Health Problems by age Bands	All usual residents	All usual residents: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	All usual residents: Day-to-day activities limited a little	All usual residents: Day-to-day activities not limited
All Ages NI	1,903,179	217,964	245,057	1,440,158
%	100%	11.45%	12.88%	75.67%
0-14 years	365,214	10,885	18,148	336,181
%	365,214	2.98%	4.97%	92.05%
15-39	594,365	30,335	45,398	518,632
%	594,365	5.10%	7.64%	87.26%
40-64	617,125	86,228	86,745	444,152
%	617,125	13.97%	14.06%	71.97%
65+	326,475	90,516	94,766	141,193
%	326,475	27.73%	29.03%	43.25%

Census 2021- MS-D02 – Long term health problems by age - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-health-disability-and-unpaid-care-tables>

The table overleaf shows usual residents across each local authority area by long term health problems or disabilities and day to day activities. This demonstrates that while there are similarities across all local authorities there are differences. When comparing the local authorities to the NI average for those whose day-to-day activities are limited a lot (11.45%), three local authorities have a higher percentage, namely Derry City and Strabane (13.89%); Belfast (13.55%) and Causeway Coast and Glens (11.73%). For those whose day-to-day activities are limited a little (12.88%), six local authorities have a higher percentage, namely Ards and North Down (14.21%); Causeway Coast and Glens (13.88%), Derry City and Strabane (13.18%), Belfast (13.16%), Antrim and Newtownabbey (13.02%), and Fermangh and Omagh (12.95%).

Long term Health Problems by age Bands	All usual residents	All usual residents: Day-to-day activities limited a lot	All usual residents: Day-to-day activities limited a little	All usual residents: Day-to-day activities not limited
Antrim and Newtownabbey	145,661	10.89%	13.02%	76.09%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	218,657	10.40%	11.89%	77.72%
Belfast	345,422	13.55%	13.16%	73.29%
Causeway Coast and Glens	141,746	11.73%	13.88%	74.39%
Derry City and Strabane	150,756	13.89%	13.18%	72.93%
Fermanagh and Omagh	116,812	10.99%	12.95%	76.06%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	149,106	9.33%	12.38%	78.29%
Mid and East Antrim	138,994	11.31%	13.75%	74.94%
Mid Ulster	150,292	9.74%	11.50%	78.75%
Newry, Mourne and Down	182,074	10.87%	12.01%	77.12%
Ards and North Down	163,659	11.05%	14.21%	74.74%
Total Population	1,903,179	11.45%	12.88%	75.67%

Number households where residents have a long-term health problem or disability

The table below shows the number of households where no residents, 1 resident or 2 or more residents have a long-term health problem or disability. This demonstrates that across Northern Ireland, 55.14% of households across NI have no-one with a limiting long-term health problem or disability, while 33.63% of households have one resident who has a limiting long-term health problem or disability and 11.23% households have two or more residents with a limiting long-term health problem or disability. It also demonstrates that Derry City and Strabane (37.79%), Belfast (35.36%), Causeway Coast and Glens (34.72%), and Fermanagh and Omagh (34.44%), have more than the NI average of households where one resident has a limiting long-term health problem or disability (33.63%). It further demonstrates that Derry City and Strabane (12.62%), Causeway Coast and Glens (12.04%), Mid Ulster (11.72%), Newry, Mourne and Down (11.65%), and Fermanagh and Omagh (11.27%), have more than the NI average of households (11.23%) where two or more residents have a limiting long-term health problem or disability.

Number of residents in household with a long-term health problem or disability	All usual Households	No residents have a limiting long-term health problem or disability	1 resident has a limiting long-term health problem or disability	2 or more residents have a limiting long-term health problem or disability
Antrim and Newtownabbey	59,457	56.81%	32.20%	10.99%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	84,642	56.89%	32.25%	10.86%
Belfast	149,208	53.59%	35.36%	11.05%
Causeway Coast and Glens	57,576	53.24%	34.72%	12.04%
Derry City and Strabane	60,935	49.59%	37.79%	12.62%
Fermanagh and Omagh	45,715	54.29%	34.44%	11.27%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	60,147	60.41%	29.72%	9.88%
Mid and East Antrim	58,283	55.33%	33.62%	11.05%
Mid Ulster	54,005	56.71%	31.57%	11.72%
Newry, Mourne and Down	68,397	55.08%	33.27%	11.65%
Ards and North Down	70,445	56.03%	33.07%	10.89%
Total Households	768,810	423,945	258,537	86,328
%	768,810	55.14%	33.63%	11.23%

MS- D03: Number of residents in household with a limiting long-term health problem or disability - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-health-disability-and-unpaid-care-tables>

Type of Long-term condition

The table below shows the percentage of usual residents with long term conditions across 12 categories for Northern Ireland and for the 11 local government districts areas across NI. (Long-term' refers to a condition which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months). The data demonstrates that Belfast and Ards and North Down have higher than average percentage across 11 of the 12 categories, followed by Derry and Strabane with higher percentages across 8 of the categories. Five of the 11 local authority areas have a percentage higher than the NI average for those who do not have a long-term health condition. However, overall, the figures are all very similar. For a couple of the conditions Belfast and Derry City and Strabane are almost two percentage points above the average in Mobility and the emotional and psychological categories.

Geography	All usual residents	Has long-term pain or discomfort	Has a mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities [note 2]	Has shortness of breath or difficulty breathing [note 3]	Has an emotional, psychological or mental health condition [note 4]	Has deafness or partial hearing loss	Has a learning difficulty [note 5]	Has frequent periods of confusion or memory loss [note 6]	Has Autism or Asperger syndrome	Has blindness or partial sight loss	Has a mobility or dexterity difficulty that requires the use of a wheelchair	Has an intellectual or learning disability [note 7]	Has an other condition [note 8]	Has a long-term health condition	Does not have a long-term health condition
Antrim and Newtownabbey	145,661	11.59%	10.65%	10.02%	8.52%	5.98%	3.06%	1.97%	2.34%	1.67%	1.51%	0.91%	9.15%	35.18%	64.82%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	218,656	10.76%	10.03%	9.37%	7.26%	5.17%	2.52%	1.74%	1.29%	1.62%	1.34%	0.82%	8.17%	31.57%	68.43%
Belfast	345,418	12.70%	12.16%	11.98%	11.71%	5.65%	3.69%	2.38%	2.60%	1.99%	1.64%	0.91%	8.82%	37.44%	62.56%
Causeway Coast and Glens	141,746	12.27%	11.25%	10.25%	8.32%	6.29%	3.06%	1.89%	1.61%	1.81%	1.51%	0.95%	9.32%	35.95%	64.05%
Derry City and Strabane	150,756	12.76%	12.92%	11.64%	10.89%	5.48%	3.66%	2.23%	1.58%	1.88%	1.46%	1.00%	8.66%	36.59%	63.41%
Fermanagh and Omagh	116,812	11.14%	10.24%	9.52%	7.86%	5.71%	3.46%	2.01%	1.50%	1.97%	1.48%	0.99%	8.90%	33.76%	66.24%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	149,107	10.48%	9.41%	9.34%	7.27%	5.86%	2.92%	1.82%	1.82%	1.56%	1.47%	0.69%	8.78%	33.16%	66.84%
Mid and East Antrim	138,994	12.21%	10.92%	10.27%	8.16%	6.54%	2.81%	1.99%	2.09%	1.87%	1.48%	0.87%	9.75%	36.06%	63.94%
Mid Ulster	150,293	9.75%	9.39%	8.67%	6.52%	4.69%	2.63%	1.57%	1.65%	1.50%	1.21%	0.79%	7.48%	29.59%	70.41%
Newry, Mourne and Down	182,074	10.46%	10.40%	9.78%	7.55%	5.17%	3.19%	1.77%	1.62%	1.66%	1.41%	0.97%	8.18%	32.51%	67.49%
Ards and North Down	163,659	12.30%	11.30%	10.43%	8.11%	7.21%	3.21%	2.10%	1.64%	1.96%	1.61%	0.90%	10.17%	37.53%	62.47%

Geography	All usual residents	Has long-term pain or discomfort	Has a mobility or dexterity difficulty that limits basic physical activities [note 2]	Has shortness of breath or difficulty breathing [note 3]	Has an emotional, psychological or mental health condition [note 4]	Has deafness or partial hearing loss	Has a learning difficulty [note 5]	Has frequent periods of confusion or memory loss [note 6]	Has Autism or Asperger syndrome	Has blindness or partial sight loss	Has a mobility or dexterity difficulty that requires the use of a wheelchair	Has an intellectual or learning disability [note 7]	Has an other condition [note 8]	Has a long-term health condition	Does not have a long-term health condition
NI	1,903,175	220,331	207,588	195,755	165,130	109,459	59,889	37,789	35,367	33,957	28,136	16,921	167,751	659,805	1,243,370
% NI	100%	11.58%	10.91%	10.29%	8.68%	5.75%	3.15%	1.99%	1.86%	1.78%	1.48%	0.89%	8.81%	34.67%	65.33%

MS- D18 – Type of Long-term Condition - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-health-disability-and-unpaid-care-tables>

Dependant Children

This dataset classifies households in Northern Ireland, with or without dependant children. This demonstrates that 53.15% of households in NI have no children in the household while a further 16.17% of households have no dependent children in household/ All children in household are non-dependent. This means that 30.67% of households have either one, two or three or more dependant children across three different age groups 0-4, 5-11 and 12-18. The smallest percentage is for those households with three or more dependant children youngest aged 12-18 at 0.47% and the largest percentage is for households with one dependant child aged 12-18 at 5.32%.

Page 272	No children in household	No dependant children in household/All children in household non-dependent	One dependent child aged 0-4	One dependent child aged 5-11	One dependent child aged 12-18	Two dependent children, youngest aged 0-4	Two dependent children, youngest aged 5-11	Two dependent children, youngest aged 12-18	Three or more dependent children, youngest aged 0-4	Three or more dependent children, youngest aged 5-11	Three or more dependent children, youngest aged 12-18	
All households in NI	768,802	408,656	124,319	29,639	22,759	40,916	34,422	37,941	19,068	25,103	22,373	3,606
	768,802	53.15%	16.17%	3.86%	2.96%	5.32%	4.48%	4.94%	2.48%	3.27%	2.91%	0.47%

MS-A24- Number of dependant children - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-demography-tables-household-relationships>

When examining this by local authority area, the data shows some regional differences. These are highlighted through shading in the table below. Four areas have above the NI average in 8 to 9 of the categories for dependant children and these are Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, Derr City and Strabane, Mid Ulster and Newry, Mourne and Down.

Local Authority Area	All households	No children in household	No dependent children in household/All children in household non-dependent	One dependent child aged 0-4	One dependent child aged 5-11	One dependent child aged 12-18	Two dependent children, youngest aged 0-4	Two dependent children, youngest aged 5-11	Two dependent children, youngest aged 12-18	Three or more dependent children, youngest aged 0-4	Three or more dependent children, youngest aged 5-11	Three or more dependent children, youngest aged 12-18
Antrim and Newtownabbey	59,454	53.88%	14.91%	4.13%	3.21%	5.69%	4.42%	5.46%	2.66%	2.70%	2.52%	0.44%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	84,641	49.82%	16.42%	4.18%	3.04%	5.49%	5.04%	5.46%	2.80%	3.81%	3.42%	0.52%
Belfast	149,207	57.82%	14.92%	3.74%	3.10%	4.71%	4.09%	4.35%	1.79%	2.82%	2.33%	0.32%
Causeway Coast and Glens	57,575	53.82%	16.98%	3.39%	2.73%	5.29%	4.18%	4.72%	2.50%	3.16%	2.78%	0.45%
Derry City and Strabane	60,935	48.94%	18.47%	4.16%	3.41%	5.91%	4.65%	5.16%	2.54%	3.41%	2.96%	0.40%
Fermanagh and Omagh	45,717	51.58%	17.67%	3.42%	2.28%	5.06%	4.39%	4.24%	2.65%	4.07%	3.93%	0.73%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	60,143	54.35%	14.40%	4.23%	2.90%	5.27%	4.92%	5.56%	2.63%	2.74%	2.53%	0.46%
Mid and East Antrim	58,283	55.89%	15.67%	3.60%	2.99%	5.45%	4.15%	4.76%	2.45%	2.52%	2.10%	0.42%
Mid Ulster	54,006	44.76%	19.14%	4.31%	2.86%	5.51%	5.41%	5.18%	2.84%	5.01%	4.33%	0.66%
Newry, Mourne and Down	68,396	47.69%	18.37%	3.92%	2.82%	5.67%	4.76%	4.95%	2.77%	4.37%	4.00%	0.67%
Ards and North Down	70,445	59.25%	13.47%	3.36%	2.85%	5.25%	3.72%	4.94%	2.57%	2.12%	2.11%	0.37%
NI	768,802	408,656	124,319	29,639	22,759	40,916	34,422	37,941	19,068	25,103	22,373	3,606
% NI	768,802	53.15%	16.17%	3.86%	2.96%	5.32%	4.48%	4.94%	2.48%	3.27%	2.91%	0.47%

MS-A24- Number of dependent children - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-demography-tables-household-relationships>

Households

This dataset classifies the number of usual residents by household composition in Northern Ireland in 2021. This demonstrates a range of different household types including lone parent households headed by either females or males. The data demonstrates that 15.96% of usual residents in households reside in single family household headed by lone parents (299,329 people). These households are more likely to be headed by female lone parents (14.13%) than male lone parents (1.83%). The data shows that 3.37% of usual residents in households reside in single family households lone parent family (female) with one dependant child (lone parents male 0.35%); 6.58% in single family households lone parent family (female) with two or more dependant children (lone parent male 0.28%), while 4.18% of usual residents in households reside in single family households lone parent family (female) with all children non-dependant (lone parents male 1.20%).

The percentage of usual residents in households who reside in one person households aged 66 and over equates to 4.88% and a further 6.49% reside in households where all are aged 66 and over. 7.62% of usual residents in households reside in one person households. The majority of usual residents reside in single family households within a married or civil partnership 48.25% (21.30% with two or more dependant children; 7.87% with one dependant child; 7.59% with no children and 11.49% with all children non-dependant). 8.33% of usual residents in households reside in single family households – cohabiting couple family (3.22% with no children; 2.70% with two or more dependant children; 1.83% with one dependant child and 0.58% with all children are non-dependant. The data demonstrates that 8.47% of usual residents in households reside in other household compositions.

Household Composition - Usual Residents 2021																									
All usual residents in households	One person household: Aged 66 and over	One person household: Other	Single family household: All aged 66 and over	Single family household: Married or civil partnership couple: No children	Single family household: Married or civil partnership couple: One dependant child	Single family household: Married or civil partnership couple: Two or more dependant children	Single family household: No children	Single family household: Married or civil partnership couple: All children non-dependant	Single family household: Cohabiting couple family: No children	Single family household: Cohabiting couple family: One dependant child	Single family household: Cohabiting couple family: Two or more dependant children	Single family household: Cohabiting couple family: All children non-dependant	Single family household: Lone parent family (female): One dependant child	Single family household: Lone parent family (female): Two or more dependant children	Single family household: Lone parent family (female): All children non-dependant	Single family household: Lone parent family (male): One dependant child	Single family household: Lone parent family (male): Two or more dependant children	Single family household: Lone parent family (male): All children non-dependant	Single family household: Other family composition	Other household type: One dependant child	Other household type: Two or more dependant children	Other household type: All aged 66 and over	Other household type: All in full-time education	Other household type: All aged 66 and over	Other household type: Other family composition
1,876,834	91,673	142,975	121,804	142,433	147,785	369,714	215,682	60,486	34,334	50,630	10,865	63,180	123,464	78,409	6,530	5,106	22,560	21,405	33,259	46,613	7,367	1,732	48,988		
1,876,834	4.88%	7.62%	6.49%	7.59%	7.87%	21.30%	11.49%	3.22%	1.83%	2.70%	0.58%	3.37%	0.58%	4.18%	0.35%	0.28%	1.20%	1.34%	1.77%	2.48%	0.38%	0.09%	2.01%		

Census-2021-ms-a25a

*Above table is available on document MS-A25 on the [NISRA website](http://www.nisra.gov.uk)

Marriage and civil partnerships

This dataset classifies usual residents aged 16 and over in Northern Ireland by their marital and civil partnership status. It demonstrates that 45.59% of residents over the age of 16 are married while 38.07% are single. 6.36% are widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership while 6.02% are divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved. 3.78% are separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership) while 0.18% are in a civil partnership.

Marital and civil partnership status	All usual residents aged 16 and over	Single (never married or never registered a civil partnership)	Married	In a civil partnership	Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership)	Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership
All Usual Residents NI aged 16 and over	1,514,743	576,708	690,509	2,742	57,272	91,128	96,384
%	100%	38.07%	45.59%	0.18%	3.78%	6.02%	6.36%

MS-A30 – Marital and civil partnership status - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-demography-tables-household-relationships>

The table below classifies usual residents aged 16 and over in Northern Ireland by their marital and civil partnership status by local authority area. This shows some variations across different areas. Some highlights include the significantly lower rate of married in Belfast at 32.93% in comparison on NI at 45.59%, and those divorced in Fermanagh and Omagh at 4.92% in comparison to the NI average of 6.02%.

Marital and civil partnership status	All usual residents aged 16 and over	Single (never married or never registered a civil partnership)	Married	In a civil partnership	Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership)	Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership
Antrim and Newtownabbey	116,396	35.54%	47.70%	0.20%	3.88%	6.26%	6.42%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	170,411	35.25%	49.01%	0.18%	3.42%	6.02%	6.11%

Marital and civil partnership status	All usual residents aged 16 and over	Single (never married or never registered a civil partnership)	Married	In a civil partnership	Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a civil partnership)	Divorced or formerly in a civil partnership which is now legally dissolved	Widowed or surviving partner from a civil partnership
Belfast	279,306	49.82%	32.94%	0.26%	4.73%	6.15%	6.10%
Causeway Coast and Glens	114,159	35.67%	47.81%	0.14%	3.32%	6.36%	6.71%
Derry City and Strabane	118,819	41.87%	41.09%	0.15%	4.92%	5.89%	6.08%
Fermanagh and Omagh	92,013	35.81%	49.14%	0.14%	3.44%	4.92%	6.55%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	118,922	33.07%	51.44%	0.19%	3.14%	5.95%	6.20%
Mid and East Antrim	113,073	33.43%	49.15%	0.16%	3.53%	6.83%	6.91%
Mid Ulster	115,659	36.33%	49.82%	0.16%	3.24%	4.55%	5.90%
Newry, Mourne and Down	141,996	36.71%	47.94%	0.14%	3.50%	5.43%	6.28%
Ards and North Down	133,989	30.92%	51.04%	0.17%	3.33%	7.36%	7.17%
NI	1,514,743	38.07%	45.59%	0.18%	3.78%	6.02%	6.36%

MS-A30 – Marital and civil partnership status - <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/publications/census-2021-main-statistics-demography-tables-household-relationships>

Data on Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

Table 1 below is a sample of some headline statistics.

Table 1: Headline Statistics/ Published Data

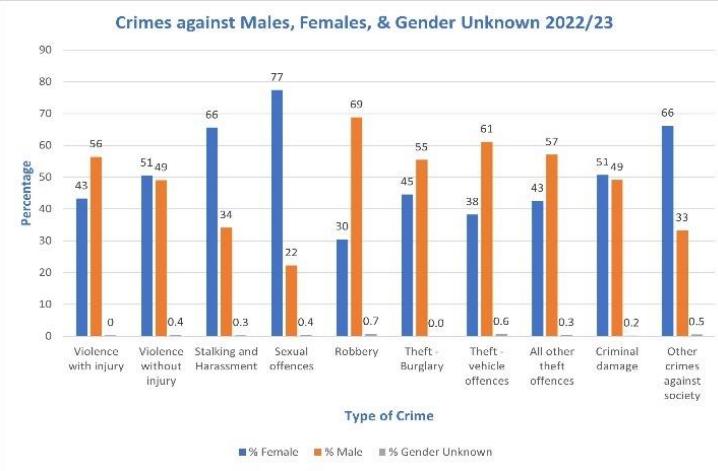
Table 1: Headline Statistics/ Published Data																																													
Official Statistics/ Published Data Sources	Commentary																																												
Victims of Domestic abuse																																													
PSNI Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2022/23 https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics Pivot Table 3 Police recorded crime, sanction outcomes and population rates by victim gender, victim age and crime type 2022/23.	<p>This indicates that, in the 2022/23 dataset, females are over-represented as victims in the following categories of crime: stalking and harassment - 65.6%, sexual offences -77.4%, Violence without injury- 50.5%, criminal damage- 50.7% and other crimes against society – 66.2% – where females are victims in these categories of crime. (In the 2021 census 49.19% of the NI population were female.)</p>  <table border="1"><caption>Estimated data from 'Crimes against Males, Females, & Gender Unknown 2022/23' chart</caption><thead><tr><th>Type of Crime</th><th>% Female</th><th>% Male</th><th>% Gender Unknown</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Violence with injury</td><td>43</td><td>56</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Violence without injury</td><td>51</td><td>49</td><td>0.4</td></tr><tr><td>Stalking and Harassment</td><td>66</td><td>34</td><td>0.3</td></tr><tr><td>Sexual offences</td><td>77</td><td>22</td><td>0.4</td></tr><tr><td>Robbery</td><td>30</td><td>69</td><td>0.7</td></tr><tr><td>Theft - Burglary</td><td>45</td><td>55</td><td>0.0</td></tr><tr><td>Theft vehicle offences</td><td>38</td><td>61</td><td>0.6</td></tr><tr><td>All other theft offences</td><td>43</td><td>57</td><td>0.3</td></tr><tr><td>Criminal damage</td><td>51</td><td>49</td><td>0.2</td></tr><tr><td>Other crimes against society</td><td>66</td><td>33</td><td>0.5</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>By contrast males are over-represented as victims in the following categories of crime: violence with injury – 56.4%, robbery – 68.8% and theft Burglary – 55.4%, and Theft vehicle offences – 61.1%, and all other theft offences – 57.1%. (In the 2021 census, 50.81% of the population were male.)</p> <p>Beyond gender the only other S75 category captured in this dataset is age. (See Table 3).</p>	Type of Crime	% Female	% Male	% Gender Unknown	Violence with injury	43	56	0	Violence without injury	51	49	0.4	Stalking and Harassment	66	34	0.3	Sexual offences	77	22	0.4	Robbery	30	69	0.7	Theft - Burglary	45	55	0.0	Theft vehicle offences	38	61	0.6	All other theft offences	43	57	0.3	Criminal damage	51	49	0.2	Other crimes against society	66	33	0.5
Type of Crime	% Female	% Male	% Gender Unknown																																										
Violence with injury	43	56	0																																										
Violence without injury	51	49	0.4																																										
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Other crimes against society	66	33	0.5																																										

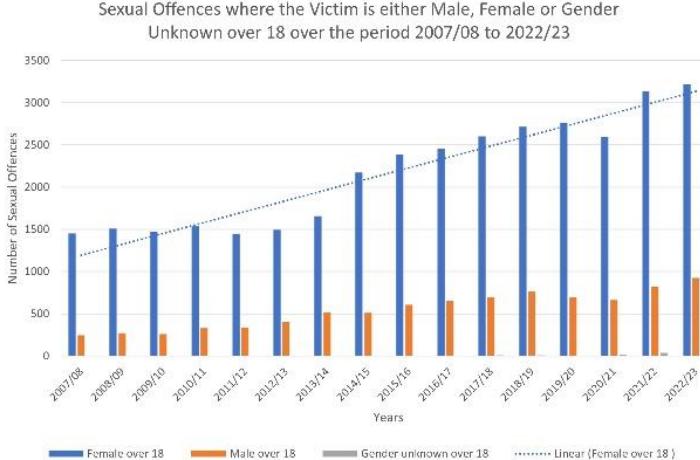
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	<p>Sexual Offences where the Victim is either Male, Female or Gender Unknown over 18 over the period 2007/08 to 2022/23</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Data for Sexual Offences (Female over 18)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Offences</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2007/08</td><td>~1450</td></tr> <tr><td>2008/09</td><td>~1500</td></tr> <tr><td>2009/10</td><td>~1450</td></tr> <tr><td>2010/11</td><td>~1500</td></tr> <tr><td>2011/12</td><td>~1450</td></tr> <tr><td>2012/13</td><td>~1500</td></tr> <tr><td>2013/14</td><td>~1650</td></tr> <tr><td>2014/15</td><td>~2150</td></tr> <tr><td>2015/16</td><td>~2400</td></tr> <tr><td>2016/17</td><td>~2500</td></tr> <tr><td>2017/18</td><td>~2600</td></tr> <tr><td>2018/19</td><td>~2700</td></tr> <tr><td>2019/20</td><td>~2800</td></tr> <tr><td>2020/21</td><td>~2700</td></tr> <tr><td>2021/22</td><td>~3100</td></tr> <tr><td>2022/23</td><td>~3200</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>When examining sexual offences in particular, the following chart shows a steady increase in sexual offences against women since 2007/08 with a slight dip in 2020/21 which could be linked to the pandemic but rising steeply again in 2021/22 and 2022/23.</p>	Year	Offences	2007/08	~1450	2008/09	~1500	2009/10	~1450	2010/11	~1500	2011/12	~1450	2012/13	~1500	2013/14	~1650	2014/15	~2150	2015/16	~2400	2016/17	~2500	2017/18	~2600	2018/19	~2700	2019/20	~2800	2020/21	~2700	2021/22	~3100	2022/23	~3200
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PSNI Domestic Abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2022/23 https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics Table 3.3 – Domestic abuse crimes recorded by gender of victim 2022/23	<p>These indicate that in relation to domestic abuse crimes generally, of which there were 21,450 in 2022/23 up from 20,784 in 2021/22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 69.2% of victims were female; ▪ 30.5% of victims were male. ▪ 0.3% of victims were gender missing/unknown. <p>The number of domestic abuse crimes increased by 3.2% between 2021/22 and 2022/23.</p>																																		
PSNI Domestic Abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2022/23 https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics	<p>This data demonstrates that recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation per 1,000 population by policing district in 2022/23 was highest in Belfast City and Derry City and Strabane with rates per 1,000 population of 17 and 15 respectively, followed by Antrim and Newtownabbey with a rate of 13 per 1,000; and then Newry, Mourne and Down and Mid and East Antrim each with 11 crimes per 1,000. The lowest was Fermanagh and Omagh and Lisburn and Castlereagh City at 8 per 1,000 population.</p>																																		

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Table 6.5 – Recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation per 1,000 population by policing district, 2022/23																															
PSNI Domestic Abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2022/23 https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics Table 6.2 Recorded Crime with a Domestic Abuse Motivation by Policing District in NI 2022/23	<p>This dataset demonstrates that recorded crime with a domestic abuse motivation are most prevalent in Derry City and Strabane Policing District at 10.5% followed by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Policing District at 10.0%, followed by North Belfast Policing District at 9.7% and then Newry, Mourne and Down at 9.3%. Fermanagh and Omagh Policing District is the lowest with 4.1% of all recorded crimes with a domestic abuse motivation by policing district.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Policing District in NI</th> <th>No of Recorded Crimes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>East Belfast</td><td>1,106</td></tr> <tr><td>North Belfast</td><td>2,159</td></tr> <tr><td>South Belfast</td><td>1,050</td></tr> <tr><td>West Belfast</td><td>1,476</td></tr> <tr><td>Lisburn & Castlereagh</td><td>1,195</td></tr> <tr><td>Ards & North Down</td><td>1,456</td></tr> <tr><td>Newry, Mourne &...</td><td>2,080</td></tr> <tr><td>Armagh City, ...</td><td>2,241</td></tr> <tr><td>Mid Ulster</td><td>1,445</td></tr> <tr><td>Fermanagh & Omagh</td><td>908</td></tr> <tr><td>Derry City & Strabane</td><td>2,336</td></tr> <tr><td>Causeway Coast &...</td><td>1,464</td></tr> <tr><td>Mid & East Antrim</td><td>1,555</td></tr> <tr><td>Antrim &...</td><td>1,872</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Policing District in NI	No of Recorded Crimes	East Belfast	1,106	North Belfast	2,159	South Belfast	1,050	West Belfast	1,476	Lisburn & Castlereagh	1,195	Ards & North Down	1,456	Newry, Mourne &...	2,080	Armagh City, ...	2,241	Mid Ulster	1,445	Fermanagh & Omagh	908	Derry City & Strabane	2,336	Causeway Coast &...	1,464	Mid & East Antrim	1,555	Antrim &...	1,872
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PSNI Domestic Abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2022/23 https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics Table 4.2 Gender of Offender of domestic abuse <u>detected</u> crimes 2022/23	<p>This dataset indicates that the <u>gender of offenders</u> of domestic abuse <u>detected</u> crimes in 2022/23 (of which there were 6,837) were as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 82.9% were males • 13.8% were females • 3.3% were gender unknown/ missing <p>This demonstrates an over-representation of males as the perpetrator of domestic abuse <u>detected</u> crimes and an under-representation of females as the perpetrators of domestic abuse <u>detected</u> crimes in 2022/23.</p>
PSNI Domestic Abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2022/23 https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics Table 4.5 Victim / offender relationship (domestic abuse detected crimes), 2022/23	<p>This dataset indicates that the victim/ offender relationship of domestic abuse detected crimes in 2022/23 (of which there were 6,837) were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current spouse, partner, girlfriend, boyfriend etc 24.1% • Ex spouse, partner, girlfriend, boyfriend etc – 37.5% • Parent and child – 23.9% • Grandparent and grandchild – 1.2% • Sibling – 8.0% • Other family relationship – 1.7% • Unknown/ Missing – 3.5% <p>See graph below</p>

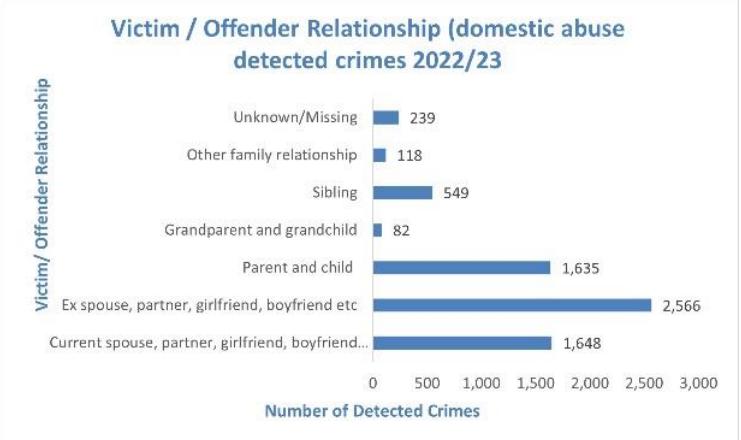
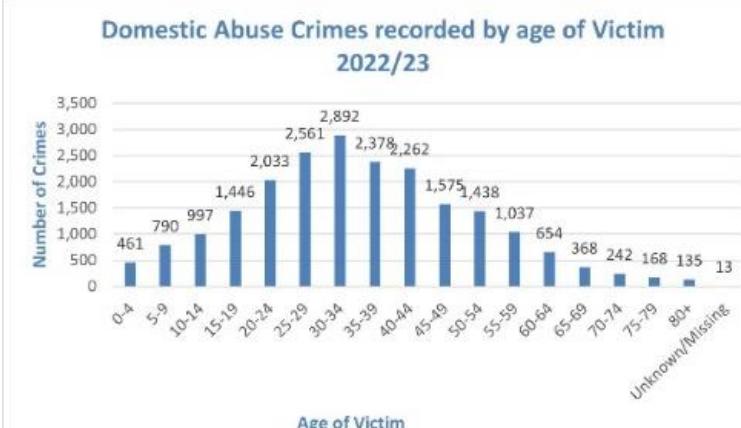
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<p>PSNI Domestic Abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2022/23</p> <p>https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics</p> <p>Table 3.2 Domestic abuse crimes recorded by age of victim 2022/23</p>	<p>This dataset illustrates domestic abuse crimes by the age of the victim in 2022/23 (of which there were 21,450) and shows a bell like curve but also that such crimes are prevalent across all ages. The highest percentage is age 30-34 with 13.5% of all crimes against thus age group, followed by 25-29 years at 11.9%, 35-39 years at 11.1% and 40-44 years at 10.5%. See graph below</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age of Victim</th> <th>Number of Crimes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4</td> <td>461</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-9</td> <td>790</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10-14</td> <td>997</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15-19</td> <td>1,446</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20-24</td> <td>2,033</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25-29</td> <td>2,561</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30-34</td> <td>2,892</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35-39</td> <td>2,378</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40-44</td> <td>2,262</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45-49</td> <td>1,575</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50-54</td> <td>1,438</td> </tr> <tr> <td>55-59</td> <td>1,037</td> </tr> <tr> <td>60-64</td> <td>654</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65-69</td> <td>368</td> </tr> <tr> <td>70-74</td> <td>242</td> </tr> <tr> <td>75-79</td> <td>168</td> </tr> <tr> <td>80+</td> <td>135</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unknown/Missing</td> <td>13</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Age of Victim	Number of Crimes	0-4	461	5-9	790	10-14	997	15-19	1,446	20-24	2,033	25-29	2,561	30-34	2,892	35-39	2,378	40-44	2,262	45-49	1,575	50-54	1,438	55-59	1,037	60-64	654	65-69	368	70-74	242	75-79	168	80+	135	Unknown/Missing	13
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PSNI Domestic Abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2022/23 https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics Table 3.9 Domestic abuse homicides recorded by victim gender and relationship to offender 2022/23	<p>This data demonstrates that in 2022/23 there were 8 homicides with a domestic abuse motivation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the 5 female homicides with a domestic abuse motivation, all 5 were over-18. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>There were 3 female victims of homicide involving partner/ex-partner</i> <i>There were 2 female victims of homicide involving other family relationship</i> Of the 3 male homicides with a domestic abuse motivation, 1 was under-18 and 2 were over-18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>There were 2 male victims of homicide involving partner/ex-partner</i> <i>There was 1 male victim of homicide involving other family relationship</i> <p>In a slight contrast, in 2021/22 there were 9 homicides with a domestic abuse motivation. Of these, 4 were females and 5 were male.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the 4 female homicides with a domestic abuse motivation, 1 was a female under-18 while 3 were over-18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>There were 3 female victims of homicide involving partner/ex-partner</i> <i>There was 1 female victim of homicide involving other family relationship</i> Of the 5 male homicides with a domestic abuse motivation, 1 was under-18 and 4 were over-18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>There was 1 male victim of homicide involving partner/ex-partner</i> <i>There were 4 male victims of homicide involving other family relationship</i> <p>No other S75 profiling of victims is available in the dataset beyond the categories above</p>
PSNI Domestic Abuse Annual Trends 2004/05 to 2022/23 https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/domestic-abuse-statistics Table 3.8 Domestic abuse crimes recorded by ethnicity and nationality of victim 2022/23	<p>This data demonstrates that in 2022/23 that of the 21,450 domestic abuse crimes 86.9% were victims of a white background while 10.9% were victims where the ethnicity was unknown. 0.7% of victims were Asian, 0.8% were black and 0.7% were mixed ethnicity. This shows a slightly under-representation of the white ethnic group in comparison to the 2021 census, where this ethnic group represents some 96.6% of the population. There is a slightly over representation of victims from a black ethnic group at 0.8% in comparison to the 2021 census, where this ethnic group represents 0.6% of the population. While 0.7% of victims of domestic abuse were mixed ethnicity, this is slightly lower to the 2021 census, where this ethnic group represents 0.8% of the population. While 0.7% of victims of domestic abuse were Asian, this is slightly lower to the 2021 census, where this ethnic group represents 1.7% of the population.</p>

Table 1: Headline Statistics/ Published Data

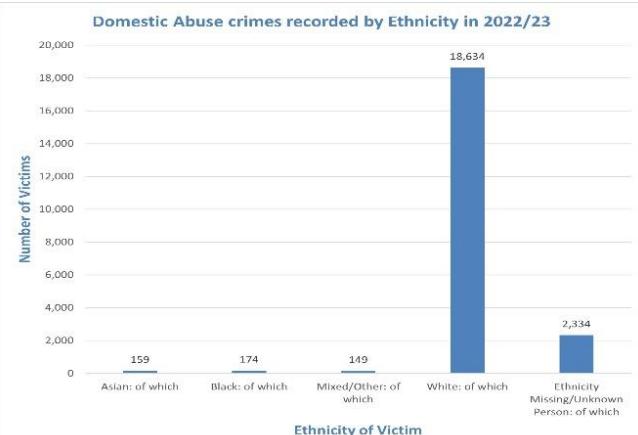
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	 <table border="1"> <caption>Domestic Abuse crimes recorded by Ethnicity in 2022/23</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Ethnicity of Victim</th> <th>Number of Victims</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Asian: of which</td> <td>159</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black: of which</td> <td>174</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed/Other: of which</td> <td>149</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White: of which</td> <td>18,634</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ethnicity Missing/Unknown Person: of which</td> <td>2,334</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ethnicity of Victim	Number of Victims	Asian: of which	159	Black: of which	174	Mixed/Other: of which	149	White: of which	18,634	Ethnicity Missing/Unknown Person: of which	2,334
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PSNI Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2022/23 <p><i>Sexual offences where the victim was under 18 at the time the offence was committed, by type of offence. (Table 7.3)</i></p> <p><i>Sexual offences where the victim was under 181 at the time the offence was committed, by gender of victim (Table 7.6)</i></p> <p>https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics</p>	<p><i>Sexual offences where the victim was under 18 at the time the offence was committed, by type of offence. (Table 7.3)</i></p> <p>This indicates that in the 2022/23 dataset there were 2,324 sexual offences where the victim was under-18, an increase of 2.5% from 2021/22.</p> <p>The data indicate that in the following categories female children under the age of 18 are over-represented as victims in comparison to male child victims under the age of 18 in terms of the number of sexual offences.</p> <p>It shows an increase in these crimes for both male and female children under the age of 18 since 2021/22 with the highest increase for sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over with a 33% increase.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Year 2022-23</th> <th>% change 2021/22 to 2022/23</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Type of Offence</th> <th>Male - # of offences</th> <th>Female - # of offences</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>17A Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over</td> <td>121</td> <td></td> <td>33%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year 2022-23			% change 2021/22 to 2022/23	Type of Offence	Male - # of offences	Female - # of offences		17A Sexual assault on a male aged 13 and over	121		33%
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	17B Sexual assault on a male child under 13	204		5.2%
	20A Sexual assault on a female aged 13 and over		368	11.2%
	20B Sexual assault on a female child under 13		394	8.2%
<p>Table 7.6 in the dataset demonstrates that of the 2,315 sexual offences where the victim was under-18, in 2022/3, 1,643 (71%) were female and 663 (28.6%) were male and 9 (0.4%) were gender unknown, once again demonstrating an over-representation of female victims.</p>				
PSNI Recorded Crime Statistics in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2022/23 <i>Online crime by gender of victim (Table 4.3)</i> https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics	<p>According to PSNI data, there were 5,139 online crime offences in 2022/23 in comparison to 5,287 in 2021/22 – a slight overall decrease the total number of online crimes of 2.8%.</p> <p>Of these online crimes, 328 were online sexual offences (6.4%).</p> <p>Of these, 328 online sexual offences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 213 were female victims (64.9%) • 82 were male victims (25%) • 33 were victims where the gender was unknown (10.1%) <p>Once again this demonstrates an over-representation of female victims.</p>			

Table 1: Headline Statistics/ Published Data

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<p>PSNI Outcomes of crime with a domestic abuse motivation recorded by PSNI</p> <p>Outcomes of Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2015/16 to 2022/23 (published 24 November 2023)</p> <p>Table 4.1 Outcomes that have since been assigned to crimes with a domestic abuse motivation recorded 2015/16 to 2021/22</p> <p>https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics</p>	<p>These data shows that in 2022/23 the top four outcomes assigned to crimes with a domestic abuse motivation (of which there were 22,343 in 2022/23, up from 21,664 in 2001/22) were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action) – 17.1% • Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action) – 40.3% • Charge / summons - 25.5% • Offences not yet assigned an outcome – 10.5% <p>The fact that the majority of victims of domestic violence are female, demonstrates an over-representation of female victims facing these outcome challenges.</p> <p><i>Evidential difficulties (suspect identified; victim supports action)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Evidential difficulties named suspect identified – the crime is confirmed and the victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevents further action</i> <p><i>Evidential difficulties (victim does not support action)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect not identified – the crime is confirmed but the victim declines or is unable to support further police action to identify the offender</i> <p><i>Evidential difficulties victim based – named suspect identified – the victim does not support (or withdraws support from) police action</i></p> <p>Figure 4.1 Outcomes that have been assigned to domestic abuse crimes recorded between 2015/16 and 2022/23</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Financial Year</th> <th>n</th> <th>Charge/summons</th> <th>Out-of-court disposal</th> <th>Evidential difficulties (victim supports)</th> <th>Evidential difficulties (victim does not support)</th> <th>Other</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>(n=22,343)</td> <td>~17.1%</td> <td>~25.5%</td> <td>~40.3%</td> <td>~10.5%</td> <td>~0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>(n=21,664)</td> <td>~17.1%</td> <td>~25.5%</td> <td>~40.3%</td> <td>~10.5%</td> <td>~0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>(n=19,024)</td> <td>~17.1%</td> <td>~25.5%</td> <td>~40.3%</td> <td>~10.5%</td> <td>~0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>(n=18,626)</td> <td>~17.1%</td> <td>~25.5%</td> <td>~40.3%</td> <td>~10.5%</td> <td>~0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>(n=16,166)</td> <td>~17.1%</td> <td>~25.5%</td> <td>~40.3%</td> <td>~10.5%</td> <td>~0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>(n=14,534)</td> <td>~17.1%</td> <td>~25.5%</td> <td>~40.3%</td> <td>~10.5%</td> <td>~0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>(n=13,930)</td> <td>~17.1%</td> <td>~25.5%</td> <td>~40.3%</td> <td>~10.5%</td> <td>~0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>(n=14,061)</td> <td>~17.1%</td> <td>~25.5%</td> <td>~40.3%</td> <td>~10.5%</td> <td>~0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Financial Year	n	Charge/summons	Out-of-court disposal	Evidential difficulties (victim supports)	Evidential difficulties (victim does not support)	Other	2022/23	(n=22,343)	~17.1%	~25.5%	~40.3%	~10.5%	~0%	2021/22	(n=21,664)	~17.1%	~25.5%	~40.3%	~10.5%	~0%	2020/21	(n=19,024)	~17.1%	~25.5%	~40.3%	~10.5%	~0%	2019/20	(n=18,626)	~17.1%	~25.5%	~40.3%	~10.5%	~0%	2018/19	(n=16,166)	~17.1%	~25.5%	~40.3%	~10.5%	~0%	2017/18	(n=14,534)	~17.1%	~25.5%	~40.3%	~10.5%	~0%	2016/17	(n=13,930)	~17.1%	~25.5%	~40.3%	~10.5%	~0%	2015/16	(n=14,061)	~17.1%	~25.5%	~40.3%	~10.5%	~0%
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Case processing time for criminals dealt with in court 2022-23 – Department of Justice https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/publications/case-processing-time-criminal-cases-dealt-courts-ni-20223	<p>This data shows the time taken for cases to be dealt at all courts from date incident reported to disposal at court, by offence category in 2022/23 and the equivalent in 2021/22.</p> <p>This demonstrates that the median number of days taken to complete cases where the main offence was a sexual offence was 757 days (up from 2021/22 at 742 days), the longest for any of the offence categories. The average as can be seen from the table below is 206 days.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Offence category</th> <th>Median Days taken in 2021-22</th> <th>Median Days taken in 2022-23</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Violence Against the Person</td> <td>244</td> <td>234</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sexual</td> <td>742</td> <td>757</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Robbery</td> <td>498</td> <td>491</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Theft</td> <td>295</td> <td>231</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Burglary</td> <td>315</td> <td>327</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Criminal Damage</td> <td>205</td> <td>194</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drugs</td> <td>263</td> <td>272</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Possession of Weapons</td> <td>211</td> <td>228</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public Order</td> <td>218</td> <td>209</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Motoring</td> <td>192</td> <td>164</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Offence category	Median Days taken in 2021-22	Median Days taken in 2022-23	Violence Against the Person	244	234	Sexual	742	757	Robbery	498	491	Theft	295	231	Burglary	315	327	Criminal Damage	205	194	Drugs	263	272	Possession of Weapons	211	228	Public Order	218	209	Motoring	192	164																																													
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	Fraud	578	539	
	Miscellaneous	294	418	
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Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) <i>[A MARAC is a meeting where information is shared on victims at the highest risk of serious harm as a result of domestic abuse. Data used is from MARAC Trends and Statistics October 2022 Management Report]</i>	Of the 18,558 high risk cases discussed to date by MARACs, 17,611 were female victims (95%) and 931 male victims (5%). The victim gender profile for the most recent year, 2021/22, shows that of the cases heard 1,207 (92.9%) of victims were female and 92 (7.1%) were male. Of the 18,558 high risk cases discussed to date at MARACs, 978 (5%) involved a person from a Minority Ethnic Community. For the most recent year, 2021/22, the figure was 6.6%. Again, with reference to the 2021 census data (discussed in the row above) there is an overrepresentation of victims of domestic abuse victims from minority ethnic communities evident in this dataset.			
Regional 24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline	In 2021/22 86.1% of those contacting the helpline were female, 13.5% male and 0.5% transgender.			
ASSIST NI <i>[ASSIST NI is an advocacy service supporting victims of domestic and sexual abuse crime who primarily are engaging with the criminal justice system]</i>	During the first reporting period (Sep 2021 to Aug 2022) ASSIST NI contacted and engaged into service 2253 individual referrals for victims of domestic and sexual abuse. Of those that provided the information (2100) 86% were female, 11% were male and 0.2% non-binary. This once more demonstrates an over-representation of female victims.			
NEXUS	85% of calls from January to December 2022 received to the DSA helpline were from women (Nexus, DSA Helpline Operational Data)			
Homelessness Data	These data demonstrate that of the homeless presenters by reason in 2023 (January to December), of which there were 16,755 (up from 15,643 in the same period 2022),			

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<p>Northern Ireland Housing Executive Homelessness Data</p> <p>https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-homelessness-bulletin-july-december-2023</p> <p>https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-homelessness-bulletin-october-2023-march-2024</p> <p>Tables 1.1 – Homeless presenters by reason and 2.1 – Households accepted as homeless by reason</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.1% (1,194) were homeless because of domestic abuse. Of these 93.5% (1,117) were accepted cases. <p>Given that the majority of those suffering domestic abuse are women, the assumption could be made that the majority of those within this category will also be female. Some may also have children.</p> <p>However, while other data are available within this dataset on gender and age and household type, these are not broken down by those who find themselves homeless as a result of domestic abuse.</p> <p>These data demonstrate that of the homeless presenters by reason in 2024 (Oct to March 2024), of which there were 8,452</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.2% (607) were homeless because of domestic abuse. Of these 96.5% (586) were accepted cases
<p>Public Prosecution Service – PPS</p> <p>https://www.ppsni.gov.uk/publications/statistical-publication-cases-involving-sexual-offences-2022-23</p> <p><i>Cases involving sexual offences 2022-23 (Table 1a)</i></p>	<p>This data demonstrates the gender of suspects on files received including a sexual offence by the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) and shows that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 94% were male (1,827) 5% were females (105) Less than 1% were transgender (Less than 1) <p>This demonstrates an over-representation of male suspects and an under-representation of female suspects.</p>
<p>Young Person's Behaviour and Attitudes Survey (YPBAS) Attitudes</p>	<p>In 2022, This survey asked Year 11 and Year 12 students if their schools or college included awareness sessions on the subject of domestic violence/abuse. 29.5% said yes and 70.5% said no.</p>

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towards Domestic Violence (Year 11 & 12) 2022 Note – different questions are asked in both 2019 and the 2022 YPBAS surveys	<p>Students were then asked if they wanted to discuss concerns regarding domestic violence/abuse, who would they contact. The results are outlined in the table below. These are not disaggregated by gender.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="664 319 1394 743"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Count</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Family member</td> <td>919</td> <td>66.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friend</td> <td>662</td> <td>47.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Police</td> <td>654</td> <td>47.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24 hour Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline</td> <td>518</td> <td>37.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Childline</td> <td>514</td> <td>37.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>School teacher/other member of school support staff</td> <td>476</td> <td>34.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Health professional e.g. GP, Social Worker</td> <td>333</td> <td>24.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Youth leader</td> <td>157</td> <td>11.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Faith/religious leader</td> <td>121</td> <td>8.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>8</td> <td>0.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Unweighted Base</td> <td>1322</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Count	%	Family member	919	66.1	Friend	662	47.6	Police	654	47.0	24 hour Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline	518	37.3	Childline	514	37.0	School teacher/other member of school support staff	476	34.3	Health professional e.g. GP, Social Worker	333	24.0	Youth leader	157	11.3	Faith/religious leader	121	8.7	Other	8	0.6	Total Unweighted Base	1322	
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Young Person's Behaviour and Attitudes Survey (YPBAS) – Attitudes towards Domestic Violence (Year 11 & 12) 2019 Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey 2019	<p>In 2019, this survey demonstrates slightly different attitudes towards what young people of different genders would consider an example of domestic violence / abuse. The biggest difference between the attitudes of females and those of males are noted in the tables to follow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96% of females and 92% of males considered 'physical violence against a partner' an example of domestic violence/ abuse. (4% difference) • 86% of females and 79% of males felt a parent 'abusing their children' was an example of domestic violence / abuse (7% difference) • 60% females and 51% males felt 'damaging a partners self-confidence' was an example of domestic violence / abuse (9% difference) • 48% females and 41% of males felt 'virtual or on-line abuse of a partner' was an example of domestic violence / abuse (7% difference) • 42% of females and 34% of males felt 'withholding contraception' was an example of domestic violence / abuse (8% difference) 																																				

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Young Life and Times Survey 2022 – Gender Based Violence Northern Ireland Young Life and Times Survey: 2022 (ark.ac.uk) summary2022.pdf (ark.ac.uk)	<p>This report presents the findings for the overall sample and by the Section 75 categories of gender and religion. A random sample of 5,000 young people living in NI who celebrated their 16th birthday between December 2021 and February 2022 were invited to take part. Of these 2,073 responded.</p> <p>These data show the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34% of females and 15% of males had ‘sometimes’ or ‘often’ been shown sexually explicit photos/ videos in person. • 38% of females and 14% of males had ‘sometimes’ or ‘often’ been sent sexually explicit photos/ videos on line. • 24% of females and 4% of males had ‘sometimes’ or ‘often’ been requested / pressurised to share intimate photos/ videos. • 23% of females and 8% of males had ‘sometimes’ or ‘often’ had personally experienced unwanted touching, kissing or hugging. • 54% of females and 10% of males had ‘sometimes’ or ‘often’ personally experienced street harassment e.g., Cat calling, wolf whistling or shouting. • 44% of females and 14% of males had ‘sometimes’ or ‘often’ personally experienced inappropriate staring. • 59% of females and 35% of males had ‘sometimes’ or ‘often’ personally experienced unwanted comments about their physical appearance. • Over 90% of respondents, irrespective of gender, agreed that it was never acceptable ‘to share intimate photos/videos without agreement’; ‘pressure someone into sharing an intimate photo or ‘touch, hug or kiss someone if not wanted’. • 85% felt that it was never acceptable to ‘post ‘jokes’ or make nasty comments of a sexual nature on social media’ – 73% males and 94% females. 																																					

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91% of females and 73% of males felt that cat calling, wolf whistling or shouting at someone in the street was unacceptable. <p>No further breakdown by other s75 categories is available.</p>
Young Life and Times Survey 2023 – Gender Based Violence https://www.ark.ac.uk/ylt/2023/	<p>This report presents the findings for the overall sample and by the Section 75 categories of gender and religion. Everybody living in Northern Ireland who celebrated their 16th birthday between January and March 2023 were invited to take part in the survey. Of these 2,065 16-year-olds responded.</p> <p>These data show the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23% of females and 6% of males had experienced sexual violence (e.g. upskirting, unwanted touching, being coerced into sexual acts) 39% of females and 21% of males had experienced Online Violence (e.g. receiving threats online or via social media, online trolling, or being sent or asked for intimate images against your will) 67% of females and 27% of males either strongly agree or agree that violence against women and girls is common in Northern Ireland 31% of females and 37% of males either strongly agree or agree that violence against men and boys is common in Northern Ireland 1% of females and 21% of males either strongly agree or agree that if people do not take care where they go and how they dress they only have themselves to blame if they become victims of violence 87% of females and 56% of males either strongly disagree or disagree that if someone is sexually assaulted when they are drunk or on drugs, they are partially responsible for what happens. 5% of females and 21% of males either strongly agree or agree with this statement 31% of females and 15% of males that compared to two years ago, women and girls in Northern Ireland are more likely to become victims of gender-based violence

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UK Sexual Harassment Survey 2020 (which includes data on NI) ¹	<p>The Government Equalities Office (GEO) commissioned a nationally representative online survey on the UK population, which also included the collection of data from Northern Ireland. The data in this report demonstrates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly three-quarters (72%) of the UK population have experienced at least one form of <u>sexual harassment</u> in their lifetime. • Two-in-five (43%) of the UK population have experienced at least one sexual harassment behaviour in the last 12 months. • The top three reported sexual harassment behaviours experienced were: sexual jokes, staring or looks, and sexual comments. These were most common over both individuals' lifetimes and within the last 12 months. <p>The following groups were significantly more likely to say they had experienced at least one form of sexual harassment in the last 12 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women: 51% of women compared with 34% of men.

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1002873/2021-07-12_Sexual_Harassment_Report_FINAL.pdf

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This pattern was reflected when looking at experience of sexual harassment throughout individuals' lifetimes; 84% of women have experienced at least one form of sexual harassment in their lifetime compared to 60% of men <p>Figure 3.2 Prevalence of sexual harassment in the UK by Gender</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Experience Period</th><th>Category</th><th>Total</th><th>Women</th><th>Men</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td rowspan="3">Experienced any sexual harassment in the last 12 months</td><td>Total</td><td>43%</td><td>51%</td><td>34%</td></tr><tr><td>Women</td><td>51%</td><td>51%</td><td>34%</td></tr><tr><td>Men</td><td>34%</td><td>51%</td><td>34%</td></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">Experienced any sexual harassment in their lifetime</td><td>Total</td><td>72%</td><td>84%</td><td>60%</td></tr><tr><td>Women</td><td>84%</td><td>84%</td><td>60%</td></tr><tr><td>Men</td><td>60%</td><td>84%</td><td>60%</td></tr></tbody></table> <p><small>B3: Thinking about what you have personally experienced in your life, please indicate if you have ever experienced each of the behaviours below in the UK. B4: Of the behaviours you have experienced in your lifetime, which of these have you experienced in the last 12 months? Base: All (12131) Women (6749) Men (5141). * Indicates a statistically significant difference between women and men.</small></p>	Experience Period	Category	Total	Women	Men	Experienced any sexual harassment in the last 12 months	Total	43%	51%	34%	Women	51%	51%	34%	Men	34%	51%	34%	Experienced any sexual harassment in their lifetime	Total	72%	84%	60%	Women	84%	84%	60%	Men	60%	84%	60%
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	<p>Women were also significantly more likely than men to have experienced most behaviours in the last 12 months as outlined in the figure below.</p> <p>Figure 3.5 Experience of sexual harassment behaviours in the last 12 months by gender</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Behaviour</th> <th>Women (%)</th> <th>Men (%)</th> <th>Women vs. Men likelihood to experience (times more likely)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Offensive materials</td><td>10%</td><td>14%</td><td>1.4</td></tr> <tr><td>Sexual jokes</td><td>*26%</td><td>16%</td><td>1.6</td></tr> <tr><td>Sexual comments</td><td>*20%</td><td>9%</td><td>2.2</td></tr> <tr><td>Provocative sounds</td><td>*20%</td><td>4%</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Unwelcome staring or looks</td><td>*30%</td><td>11%</td><td>2.7</td></tr> <tr><td>Unwanted messages</td><td>*17%</td><td>10%</td><td>1.7</td></tr> <tr><td>Sexually pressured exchange</td><td>*6%</td><td>4%</td><td>1.5</td></tr> <tr><td>Unwanted relationship attempts</td><td>*9%</td><td>6%</td><td>1.5</td></tr> <tr><td>Pictures or videos shared without permission</td><td>3%</td><td>4%</td><td>1.3</td></tr> <tr><td>Flashing</td><td>4%</td><td>4%</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>Being followed or threatened</td><td>*6%</td><td>4%</td><td>1.5</td></tr> <tr><td>Personal invasion of space</td><td>*13%</td><td>7%</td><td>1.9</td></tr> <tr><td>Unwanted non-sexual touching</td><td>*14%</td><td>8%</td><td>1.8</td></tr> <tr><td>Sexual assault (touching etc)</td><td>*7%</td><td>5%</td><td>1.4</td></tr> <tr><td>Actual or attempted rape</td><td>3%</td><td>3%</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>B4: Of the behaviours experienced in your lifetime, which of these have you experienced in the last 12 months? Base: All (12131) Women (6749) Men (5141). * Indicates a statistically significant difference between women and men.</p> <p>Of those who experienced sexual harassment in the last 12 months (41% of the population), one fifth (18%) experienced at least one type on a daily basis while one third (21%) experienced it weekly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outside of the workplace, sexual harassment was reported to happen most frequently on the street or walking around, in a club, pub or bar or on public transportation. However, the location where the incident occurred varied by the type of sexual harassment behaviour. More than a quarter people in the UK who had experienced sexual harassment in the last 12 months experienced it on public transport (28%). Of these, 62% reported to have experienced an incident on the bus. More than half of all people were very or fairly worried about sexual harassment on public transport (56%) or in an outdoor public place (57%). The proportion was slightly lower for indoor public places or places of work/study. The groups of people who were more likely to experience sexual harassment were also more likely to be concerned about sexual harassment and change their behaviour to avoid sexual harassment (i.e., <u>women</u>, younger age groups, those who identify as LGB, those who are an ethnic minority and those with a highly limiting disability). <p>Not all who experienced sexual harassment stated that it had affected their quality of life significantly. 54% said at least one of their experiences had 'very' or 'fairly' affected their quality of life, but with significant differences by sexual harassment behaviour.</p>	Behaviour	Women (%)	Men (%)	Women vs. Men likelihood to experience (times more likely)	Offensive materials	10%	14%	1.4	Sexual jokes	*26%	16%	1.6	Sexual comments	*20%	9%	2.2	Provocative sounds	*20%	4%	5	Unwelcome staring or looks	*30%	11%	2.7	Unwanted messages	*17%	10%	1.7	Sexually pressured exchange	*6%	4%	1.5	Unwanted relationship attempts	*9%	6%	1.5	Pictures or videos shared without permission	3%	4%	1.3	Flashing	4%	4%	1	Being followed or threatened	*6%	4%	1.5	Personal invasion of space	*13%	7%	1.9	Unwanted non-sexual touching	*14%	8%	1.8	Sexual assault (touching etc)	*7%	5%	1.4	Actual or attempted rape	3%	3%	1
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Table 1.1 Recorded crime: numbers and rates per 1,000 population for violence against the person, theft (including burglary) and criminal damage, vehicle offences and fraud, 1970 to 2022/23

Year	Numbers and rates per 1,000 population											
	Total recorded violence against the person ^{7,11}	Violence against the person offences per 1,000 population ^{1,11}	Total recorded theft (including burglary) and criminal damage	Theft (including burglary) and criminal damage per 1,000 population ¹	Total recorded vehicle offences ²	Vehicle offences per 1,000 population ¹	Total recorded crime (excluding fraud) ³	Total crime per 1,000 population (excluding fraud) ¹	Total recorded fraud offences ^{8,9}	Fraud offences per 1,000 population ¹	Total recorded crime (including fraud) ⁹	Total crime per 1,000 population (including fraud) ¹
2002/03 ⁶	28,425	17	99,335	59	20,850	12	138,132	81	4,364	3	142,496	84
2003/04	28,953	17	86,157	51	15,962	9	124,966	73	2,987	2	127,953	75
2004/05	29,311	17	77,262	45	12,333	7	115,965	68	2,159	1	118,124	69
2005/06	30,882	18	78,257	45	10,135	6	120,919	70	2,275	1	123,194	71
2006/07	31,802	18	76,838	44	9,256	5	119,314	68	1,830	1	121,144	69
2007/08	29,509	17	68,120	39	8,301	5	107,490	61	978	1	108,468	62
2008/09	29,365	17	68,102	38	7,906	4	108,870	61	1,224	1	110,094	64
2009/10	29,755	17	66,451	37	8,221	5	107,951	60	1,188	1	109,139	61
2010/11	29,328	16	62,955	35	6,933	4	103,676	57	1,364	1	105,040	58
2011/12	30,458	17	60,028	33	6,017	3	102,009	56	1,380	1	103,389	57
2012/13	30,304	17	56,570	31	5,339	3	98,558	54	1,831	1	100,389	58
2013/14	32,404	18	55,912	31	5,609	3	100,917	55	1,829	1	102,746	58
2014/15	34,252	19	55,275	30	5,089	3	103,178	56	1,896	1	105,074	57
2015/16	35,685	19	54,642	29	4,925	3	104,932	57	2,230	1	107,162	58
2016/17	33,356	18	50,497	27	4,418	2	98,038	53	3,163	2	101,201	54
2017/18	34,131	18	48,502	26	3,880	2	98,122	52	3,592	2	101,714	54
2018/19	36,427	19	48,314	26	3,660	2	100,849	53	3,608	2	104,457	58
2019/20	41,299	22	47,845	25	3,271	2	106,482	56	4,253	2	110,735	58
2020/21 ¹²	39,253	21	37,731	20	2,497	1	94,228	50	5,856	3	100,084	51
2021/22 ¹³	49,509	26	38,814	20	2,578	1	106,390	56	5,464	3	111,854	59
2022/23	50,035	26	41,920	22	2,646	1	111,571	58	4,671	2	116,242	61

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1. Population figures available from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency Internet site: <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/>

2. Offences against vehicles includes theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle, theft from a vehicle, interfering with a vehicle (from 1998/99 onwards under the revised counting rules), and aggravated vehicle taking (offence was introduced in Northern Ireland in 2004).

3. Change from calendar year to financial year.

4. The number of crimes recorded in that financial year using the coverage and rules in use until 31 March 1998.

5. The number of crimes recorded in that financial year using the expanded offence coverage and revised Counting Rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998.

6. The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002, although some forces adopted NCRS practices before the standard was formally introduced. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable. The introduction of NCRS led to a rise in recording in 2002/03 and, particularly for violent crime, in the following years as forces continued to improve compliance with the new standard. Much of the impact of introducing NCRS was experienced by PSNI in 2001/02, through the introduction of an integrated crime information system (ICIS) within PSNI which improved the capture of low level crimes.

7. A number of offences that were classified in 5E Endangering Life have been reclassified following detailed checks which identified they were incorrectly classified. Following the reclassification the majority of the offences have remained within Violence against the person and some have moved to the Sexual Offences classification.

8. For offences of Fraud by false representation, counting changed from a per fraudulent transaction to a per account basis from January 2007. From 1 April 2007 these offences were reported to a single point of contact within each police force by financial institutions.

9. From 1 April 2015 Action Fraud has became responsible for the central recording of fraud and cyber crime previously recorded by PSNI; Action Fraud became responsible for all such reports in England & Wales by 1 April 2014. Action Fraud is the UK's National Reporting Centre for fraud and cyber crime reported directly to them from the public and other organisations. As a result, figures are presented on a comparable basis that exclude 'other fraud' (unless clearly noted otherwise).

10. These figures are taken from the annual Report of the Chief Constable. Scanned images of the relevant crime tables from these reports, dating from 1968 until 2001/02 are available on the Police Recorded Crime Statistics Archive page on the PSNI website:

<https://www.psni.police.uk/about-us/our-publications-and-reports/official-statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/police>

11. Violence against the person includes both harassment and malicious communications offences. The recording of malicious communications offences started for the first time in Northern Ireland from 1st April 2017. A Home Office change introduced in April 2018 requires harassment to be recorded in addition to the most serious additional victim based offence. Both of these changes in recording practice should be considered in relation to changes in levels recorded in the overall violence against the person classification.

12. Covid-19 lockdown measures were first introduced on 23rd March 2020 and have had an impact on the lower crime levels seen in 2020/21.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Table 1 Latest 12 months, Anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by police by policing district

Policing district	Numbers and percentages			
	Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents		change	% change
	Mar'22-Feb'23	Mar'23-Feb'24		
Belfast City	14,294	13,296	-998	-7.0
<i>East</i> ¹	2,572	2,510	-62	-2.4
<i>North</i> ¹	3,976	3,974	-2	-0.1
<i>South</i> ¹	5,127	4,404	-723	-14.1
<i>West</i> ¹	2,619	2,408	-211	-8.1
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	2,900	3,080	180	6.2
Ards & North Down	3,410	3,444	34	1.0
Newry, Mourne & Down	4,124	3,925	-199	-4.8
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	5,278	4,846	-432	-8.2
Mid Ulster	2,415	2,187	-228	-9.4
Fermanagh & Omagh	2,084	1,955	-129	-6.2
Derry City & Strabane	3,838	3,745	-93	-2.4
Causeway Coast & Glens	3,064	2,971	-93	-3.0
Mid & East Antrim	3,410	3,148	-262	-7.7
Antrim & Newtownabbey	3,013	2,755	-258	-8.6
No district assigned	0	3	3	-
Northern Ireland	47,830	45,355	-2,475	-5.2

¹ Belfast City district has four local policing teams based in Lisburn Road (South), Tennent Street (North), Strandtown (East) and Woodbourne (West).

'-' indicates that a percentage change is not reported because the base number of incidents is less than 50

Please note: Policing district totals will not add to the Northern Ireland total as there will be some incidents not allocated to a policing district (eg incidents occurring on a motorway or those with an unrecognised address).

Figure 6 Latest 12 months, Anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by police in the 12 months to 29 February 2024 compared with the previous 12 months; percentage change by policing district

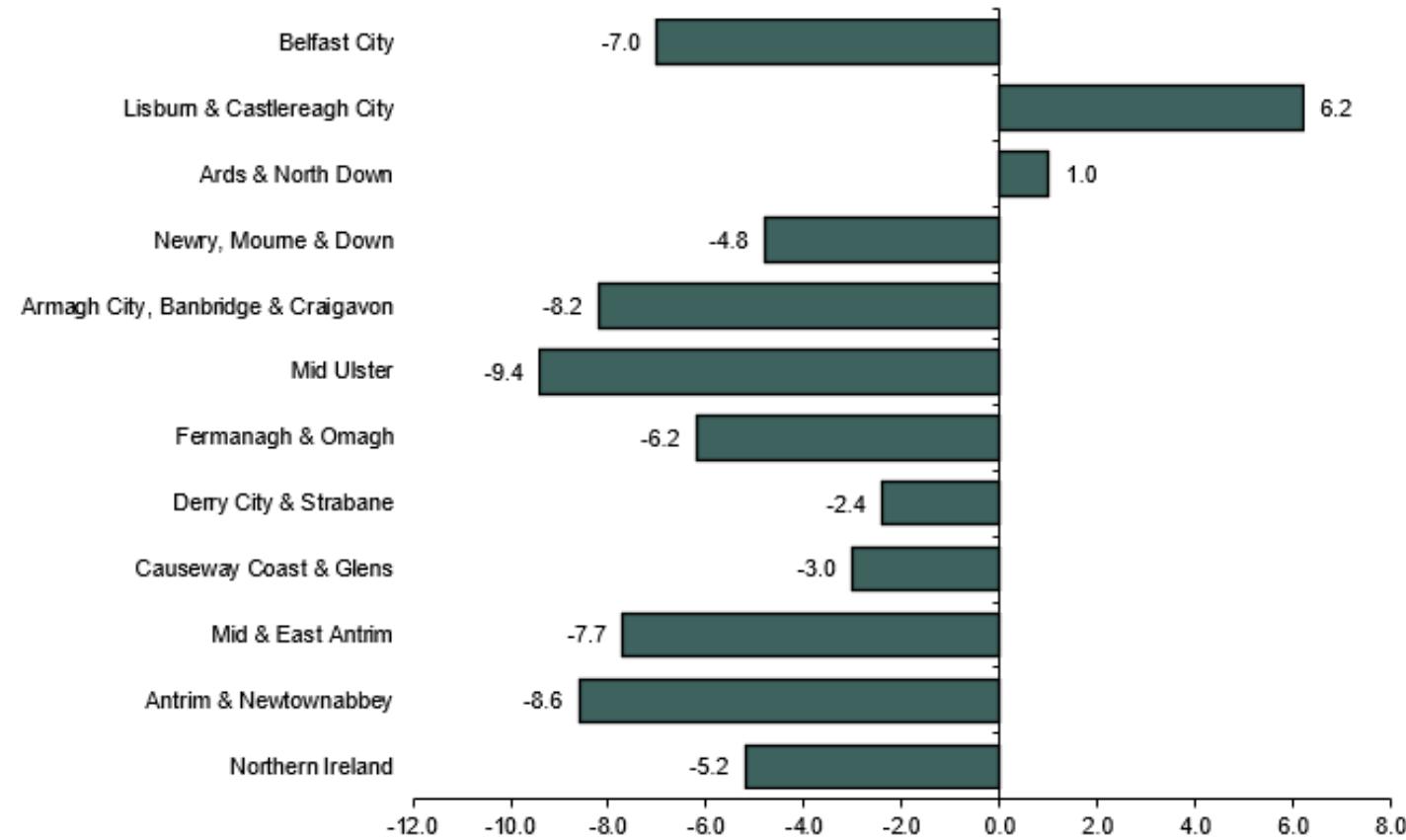


Figure 4 Total number of anti-social behaviour incidents each month April 2018 to February 2024, showing highest and lowest levels in each financial year



Privacy Notice for the Consultation on Notice to Quit periods

For this consultation, the Department has specifically asked respondents not to submit any sensitive personal data or information. There is no obligation to provide any personal details in responding to this consultation questionnaire. Any information you provide will be controlled and processed in line with Data Protection Legislation by the Department.

A summary of the questionnaire responses will be published. Individual statements will not be published, and the published material will reflect the opinions of respondents in general terms.

For more information about what we do with personal data please see our consultation privacy notice.

Your response, and all other responses to this consultation, may also be disclosed on request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR); however, all disclosures will be in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential, so that this may be considered if the Department should receive a request for the information under the FOIA or EIR.

Privacy Notice – Consultations (DfC)

Data Controller Name: Department for Communities (DfC)

Address: Causeway Exchange, 1-7 Bedford Street, BELFAST, BT2 7EG

Email: prs@communities-ni.gov.uk

Telephone:

02890829129

Data Protection Officer Name: Karen McMullan

Telephone: 02890829200

Email: DPO@Communities-ni.gov.uk

Being transparent and providing accessible information to individuals about how we may use personal data is a key element of the [Data Protection Act \(DPA\)](#) and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR). The Department for Communities (DfC) is committed to building trust and confidence in our ability to process your personal information and protect your privacy.

Purpose for processing

The Department is publishing draft Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (NI) 2025, associated guidance and an Equality Impact Assessment for consultation. The aim of the consultation is to seek evidence to inform the final drafting of Regulations on circumstances where longer notice to quit periods would not apply.

We will process personal data provided in response to consultations for the purpose of informing the development of our policy, guidance, or other regulatory work in the subject area of the request for views. We will publish a summary of the consultation responses and, in some cases, the responses themselves but these will not contain any personal data. We will not publish the names or contact details of respondents but will include the names of organisations responding.

Lawful basis for processing

The lawful basis we are relying on to process your personal data is Article 6(1)(e) of the UK GDPR, which allows us to process personal data when this is necessary for the performance of our public tasks in our capacity as a Government Department.

We will only process any special category personal data you provide, which reveals racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious belief, health or sexual life/orientation when it is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest under Article 9(2)(g) of the UK GDPR, in the exercise of the function of the department, and to monitor equality.

How will your information be used and shared

We process the information internally for the above stated purpose. We don't intend to share your personal data with any third party. Any specific requests from a third party for us to share your personal data with them will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the data protection laws.

How long will we keep your information

We will retain consultation response information until our work on the subject matter of the consultation is complete, and in line with the Department's approved Retention and Disposal Schedule (which can be accessed through: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/dfc-disposal-records-schedule>

What are your rights?

- You have the right to obtain confirmation that your data is being processed, and access to your personal data
- You are entitled to have personal data rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete
- You have a right to have personal data erased and to prevent processing, in specific circumstances
- You have the right to 'block' or suppress processing of personal data, in specific circumstances
- You have the right to data portability, in specific circumstances
- You have the right to object to the processing, in specific circumstances
- You have rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling.

How to complain if you are not happy with how we process your personal information

If you wish to request access, object or raise a complaint about how we have handled your data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer using the details above.

If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are not processing your personal data in accordance with the law, you can complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF
[casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:caserwork@ico.org.uk)

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Subject:	Proposals for dual language street signs
Date:	10 th February 2026
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley - Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper - Building Control Manager, ext. 2430 Heather Wylie - Property and Legal Coordinator, ext. 2464

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number	<input type="text"/>
1. Information relating to any individual	
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual	
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)	
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter	
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained	
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction	
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	<input type="text"/>
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for seven existing streets within the city.																																
2.0	Recommendation																																
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at Mill Valley Gardens, Alexandra Gardens, Appleton Park, Lagmore View Crescent, Clifftondene Gardens, Brannagh Drive and Woodland Avenue.																																
3.0	Main Report																																
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Council may erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English pursuant to Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.</p>																																
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect dual language street nameplates showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.																																
3.3	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>English Name</th> <th>Non- English Name</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Persons surveyed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mill Valley Gardens</td> <td>Gairdíní Ghleann an Mhuilinn</td> <td>Off Mill Valley Road, BT14</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alexandra Gardens</td> <td>Gairdíní Alexandra</td> <td>Off Somerton Road, BT15</td> <td>47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Appleton Park</td> <td>Páirc Bhaile na nÚll</td> <td>Off Finaghy Road North, BT11</td> <td>130</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lagmore View Crescent</td> <td>Corrán Radharc an Laig Mhóir</td> <td>Off Lagmore View Way, BT17</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clifftondene Gardens</td> <td>Gairdíní Clifftondene</td> <td>Off Deerpark Road, BT14</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bearnagh Drive</td> <td>Céide Shliabh Bearnach</td> <td>Off Glen Road, BT11</td> <td>187</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Woodland Avenue</td> <td>Ascaill Fhearrann na Coille</td> <td>Off Brookhill Avenue, BT14</td> <td>35</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed	Mill Valley Gardens	Gairdíní Ghleann an Mhuilinn	Off Mill Valley Road, BT14	22	Alexandra Gardens	Gairdíní Alexandra	Off Somerton Road, BT15	47	Appleton Park	Páirc Bhaile na nÚll	Off Finaghy Road North, BT11	130	Lagmore View Crescent	Corrán Radharc an Laig Mhóir	Off Lagmore View Way, BT17	45	Clifftondene Gardens	Gairdíní Clifftondene	Off Deerpark Road, BT14	93	Bearnagh Drive	Céide Shliabh Bearnach	Off Glen Road, BT11	187	Woodland Avenue	Ascaill Fhearrann na Coille	Off Brookhill Avenue, BT14	35
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3.4	The translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.																																
3.5	In accordance with the Council's policy for the erection of dual language street signs, surveys of all persons appearing on the electoral register plus owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises for the above streets were carried out and the following responses were received.																																
3.6	Mill Valley Gardens, BT14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 occupiers (27.27%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. 																																
3.7	Alexandra Gardens, BT15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 occupiers (31.92%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (2.13%) was not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate • 1 occupier (2.13%) had no preference either way. 																																

3.8	<p>Appleton Park, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 61 occupiers (46.92%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 4 occupiers (3.08%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. <p>One resident commented that dual language signs would be offensive to new people to the country and non-Irish speakers.</p>
3.9	<p>Lagmore View Crescent, BT17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 occupiers (42.22%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.10	<p>Clifftondene Gardens, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 occupiers (38.70%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 6 occupiers (6.45%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street name plate. • 1 occupier (1.08%) had no preference either way.
3.11	<p>Bearnagh Drive, BT11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47 occupiers (25.13%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.12	<p>Woodland Avenue, BT14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 occupiers (37.14%) were in favour of the erection of a second street name plate.
3.13	<p><u>Assessment against policy</u></p>
3.14	<p>The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, to progress to Committee for consideration.</p>
3.15	<p>All the surveys listed above demonstrate compliance with the threshold contained within the Policy.</p>
3.16	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.17	<p>There is a cost of approximately £3030 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.</p>
3.18	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.19	<p>Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations, and rural needs.</p>

	The initial assessments and elected member notification carried out for the applications being considered did not identify any potential adverse impacts to prevent the surveys being carried out.
4.0	Appendices
4.1	None