

Date: August 10

HOUSING NEEDS: Short survey

I. Housing needs in your country

1. How is 'housing need' **defined** in your country (i.e. policy / statistical definition?)

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) undertakes an annual review of the housing market in Northern Ireland. The review examines links such as the economy and its relationship to the housing market, affordability, population and demographic changes. These are some of the factors that must be taken into consideration when evaluating housing need.

2. Is there any **official data** collected on this at country and/or regional level? (Please provide any documents or website where we can find these data).

NIHE is the strategic Regional Housing Authority for Northern Ireland and is responsible for the identification and analysis of housing need. Housing need statistics are found on NIHE website by examining District Housing Plans, Annual Reports and Corporate plans. These may be viewed on:
www.nihe.gov.uk

NIHE prepare an unmet social housing need prospectus that enable Registered Housing Associations to proactively seek out appropriate development sites in those areas in Northern Ireland where social housing need has been identified. This is also included on the NIHE website.

II. Housing needs in your organization

3. How do you **define**, within your organisation, 'housing need'? (E.g. what **indicators** do you use?)

The Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations does not define housing need within our organisation as this is done by Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

4. Please provide any **data** you might collect on housing needs in your organisation.

Our organisation uses the data collected by NIHE to inform how Housing Associations in Northern Ireland should be responding to alleviating housing need. Registered Housing Associations in Northern Ireland normally do this through the building of new homes and the acquisition of dwellings for rent. Data is available on: www.nihe.gov.uk.

5. In your opinion, what are the **trends** in terms of housing needs in your organisation? (E.g. it is increasing, diminishing, changing / how...)

The trend shows that housing need in Northern Ireland is increasing. Although there has been a slight decrease in the number of people on the waiting list for a home. A significant number of people on the waiting list are in “housing stress” and many are classified as homeless. It may therefore be assumed that there aren’t enough dwellings in the social rented sector to meet housing need.

6. What **responses** are you considering to address these needs (E.g. are you planning to build/refurbish more, how many dwellings, etc.)

Registered Housing Associations in Northern Ireland work with NIHE and DSD to fulfil the targets set in the Programme for Government strategy document developed by the Northern Ireland Executive. Through this strategy the Minister for Social Development in Northern Ireland has set targets for building new homes in the social rented sector. The target set by the Minister for this financial year is 2000 new dwelling starts with a view to ensuring the provision of 10,000 social and affordable homes during the period 2008 – 2013.

Submitted on behalf of NIFHA by:

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