



18 August 2026

Dear Applicant

Our Ref: FOI 1309

Your request for information received on 21 July 2026 has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Request

Please provide:

- 1) The average duration of stay for families with children under 18 placed in non-standard temporary accommodation to date in 2026;*
- 2) The same information, broken down by race / ethnicity of the main applicant;*
- 3) The same information, broken down by religious background of the main applicant.*

Given that the Homelessness Bulletin covering October 2025 to March 2026 has already been published, please provide the data for that period instead.

Our response

The table below outlines placements of families with children under 18 in non-standard temporary accommodation between 1st January 2026 to 31st March 2026, by mean and median average number of days in placement as of 1st April 2026, and including the recorded ethnicity and religion of the main applicant.

Ethnic Origin	Average No. of Days in NS (Mean)	Average No. of Days in NS (Median)
Black (African/ Caribbean/ Other)	26	11
Chinese	26	28
Irish Traveller	15	4
Mixed	8	3
None Recorded/ Unknown	22	6
Other	16	3
White	24	7

Religion	Average No. of Days in NS (Mean)	Average No. of Days in NS (Median)
Catholic	31	8
Mixed	12	12
Muslim	26	14
None	7	3
None Recorded/ Unknown/ Refused	20	5
Other	11	3
Protestant	19	7

Accompanying Notes:

- This information is based on the duration of placements in a given time period, and does not represent distinct households; one household may have several placements within the timeframe.
- Both mean and median averages are provided.

Reasons for this include:

The MEAN (arithmetic average) is useful for understanding overall trends but can be heavily skewed by outliers (unusually high or low values) – for example, families with specific accommodation needs who have been in non-standard accommodation for a longer duration, or applicants who have just been placed in non-standard accommodation within the timeframe.

The MEDIAN (middle value, a measure of central tendency) is less affected by outliers and represents a “typical” case better when the data is skewed. By presenting both, we ensure that the analysis captures both central tendency and the potential impact of unusually high or low values.

We also note that when the number of applicants is small, statistical indicators become less reliable and have a much lower predictive value regarding the “typical” experience. In such cases, the figures may be more indicative of the specific circumstances of the individual households rather than a broader trend. Caution must be exercised when interpreting the results.

This concludes our response.

Review procedure

You can ask us to review our response. If you want us to carry out a review, you should send an email to: foi@nihe.gov.uk or alternatively write to: Freedom of Information, Information Governance Team, Legal Services, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, The Housing Centre, 2 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8PB.

Your request for an internal review should be submitted to us within 40 working days of you having received this response.

If you are still dissatisfied after our internal review, you have a further right of appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). You should make complaints to the ICO within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review. A complaint can be made to the Information Commissioner, through the online portal at: [FOI and EIR complaints | ICO](#) or alternatively by post at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact: foi@nihe.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Brian O'Kane
Assistant Director, Housing Services

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