



# BELFAST

Profiling Health,  
Wellbeing & Prosperity



THE DATA BEHIND THE PEOPLE & THE CITY

PLACE

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# Introduction

The core themes in Phase VII (2019 – 2025) of the World Health Organization's European Healthy Cities Network are:

1. **investing in the people who make up our cities;**
2. **designing urban places that improve health and wellbeing;**
3. **fostering greater participation and partnerships for health and wellbeing;**
4. **improving community prosperity and access to common goods and services;**
5. **promoting peace and security through inclusive societies; and**
6. **protecting the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production.**

These six themes are interdependent and mutually supportive. WHO advocate cities will achieve more in these areas by linking up policies, investments and services, and by focusing on leaving no one behind. Combining governance approaches to make health and wellbeing possible for everyone will foster innovation and orient investments towards promoting health and preventing disease.

Belfast was successfully designated to the WHO Phase VII Network in 2021 and, whilst developing a city health profile is a requirement of being a designated member of the WHO Network, the profile is an invaluable resource for agencies and citizens in the city.

A summary of the City Health Profile, 'BELFAST Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity', for the city of Belfast, provides data and analysis from an expanded range of sources according to this '6P' framework and, although a large amount of the comprehensive range of data provided are publicly available, the added value of the City Profile is the presentation in an accessible, concise, and integrated format. In addition to the summary document, a full chapter is available on each of the six P themes. The People chapter focuses on Demography; Population health; Pregnancy and early years; Adult health and wellbeing; Mental health and wellbeing and Use of health care services. The Prosperity chapter focuses on the Labour Market; Income; Poverty & Deprivation and Education.

This chapter focuses on the theme of Place and provides data and analysis from an expanded range of sources on the following:

- **Transport**
- **Housing stock**
- **Housing conditions**
- **Household characteristics**
- **Housing demand**
- **Housing supply**
- **Private rented sector**
- **Social rented sector**
- **Housing-related benefits**
- **Homelessness**

Following publication of the summary of the City Health Profile, 'BELFAST Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity', there have been some changes due to:

- **Revision of some of the housing data**
- **Locating housing data that is useful and adds to the possible insights that can be drawn from the data presented**

Where possible, trends over time are assessed, with an evaluation on whether those trends are favourable or unfavourable. The health inequalities potential for population groups is outlined, where feasible; this information provides the basis for targeted action to improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities across the many determinants affecting the lives of people in the city. Data on some issues referenced by WHO within the Place theme are not routinely collected in Northern Ireland and are, therefore, not included in this chapter. Data on Green spaces is included in the Planet chapter.

## PLACE: DESIGNING URBAN PLACES THAT IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

A healthy city leads by example by aligning its social, physical and cultural environments to create a place that is actively inclusive and that facilitates the pursuit of health and well-being for all.

### Priority issues

Under this theme, the following issues are highly relevant to most cities and represent areas of promise for improving health and well-being.

### Healthy urban planning and design

City living affects health through the physical and built environment, the social environment, and access to services and support. Efforts to improve urban planning to, for example, increase physical activity and enhance the mobility of ageing populations and people with disabilities are vital.

### Healthy places and settings

Continually striving to improve living and working conditions is key to supporting health. At the city level, action in settings such as homes, schools, workplaces, leisure environments, care services and older people's homes can be very effective. Social and economic policies must create environments that ensure people of all ages are better able to reach their full health potential.

### Healthy transport

Good public transport in combination with cycling and walking can reduce air pollution, noise, greenhouse gas emissions, energy consumption and traffic congestion; improve road safety; protect landscapes and urban cohesion; provide more opportunities to be physically active and socially connected; and improve access to educational, recreational and job opportunities.

### Green spaces

Green spaces in urban areas positively affect health, and local measures to increase access to green spaces can produce major health benefits. These spaces also reduce the risk of injuries, the urban heat-island effect, stress levels and noise pollution while simultaneously increasing social life. Public green space can also contribute to flood management.

## Energy and health

Energy is essential to health, development and livelihoods whether used inside the home for cooking and heating or in our cities and towns for transport and productive activities. Yet energy use can also be harmful to health. Deriving energy from clean sources is paramount.



## SECTION 1

# Transport

## 1.1 Journeys per Person per Year by Main Mode

### IMPORTANCE

A good transport system is essential for a healthy society. The impact of air pollution on health is well known, but transport affects the health of people in many ways. Investing in transport is one way to address health inequalities. The quality of transport infrastructure and the adequacy of transport services directly affect health by enabling active modes of travel, such as walking and cycling, that have health benefits or reducing road accidents and harmful emissions. Wider, indirect impacts on health include enabling people to get to work, school, health and care services and fresh food shops, as well as to social events and leisure activities, which are all important for good physical and mental health.<sup>1</sup>

In a UK study, the provision of new sustainable transport infrastructure was effective in promoting an increase in active commuting.<sup>2</sup>

### DEFINITION

A journey is defined as a one-way course of travel having a single main purpose. Outward and return portions of a return journey are treated as two separate journeys. A journey cannot have two separate purposes. A brief call is a relatively incidental stop for a subsidiary purpose e.g., stopping for petrol. If only a brief call is made, the journey is not broken up into smaller journeys.

Mode is the form of transport used for a stage of a journey. The main mode is the form of transport used for the greatest length of the journey.

Information is from the Travel Survey for Northern Ireland (TSNI) in-depth report 2017-2019, and TSNI in-depth report 2014-2016.<sup>3</sup>

1. How transport offers a route to better health - The Health Foundation (Last accessed 9 July 2022)
2. Impact of New Transport Infrastructure on Walking, Cycling, and Physical Activity - PMC (nih.gov) (Last accessed 14 June 2022)
3. Travel Survey for Northern Ireland in-depth report 2017-2019 | Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk) and Travel Survey for Northern Ireland in-depth report 2014-2016 | Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 11 June 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2017-2019, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of journeys per person per year by main mode of travel were:

- 30% by walking
- 2% by cycling
- 52% by car<sup>4</sup>
- 12% by public transport<sup>5</sup>
- 4% by other<sup>6</sup> (see Place Figure 1)

Between 2014-2016 and 2017-2019, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of journeys per person per year by:

- Walking increased by 5 percentage points from 25% to 30%
- Cycling increased by 1 percentage point, from 1% to 2%
- Car decreased by 8 percentage points from 60% to 52%
- Public transport increased by 3 percentage points from 9% to 12%
- Other decreased by 1 percentage point, from 5% to 4% (see Place Figure 1)

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2017-2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of journeys per person per year by:

- Walking was 12 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 30% compared with 18%
- Cycling was 1 percentage point higher in Belfast LGD, 2% compared with 1%

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4 Car includes 'Car driver', 'Car passenger', and 'Car undefined'

5 Public transport includes 'Metro and Ulsterbus', 'Other bus', 'NI Railways' and 'Black Taxi'

6 Other includes 'Motorcycle', 'Other private', 'Taxi', 'Other public', and 'Undefined mode'

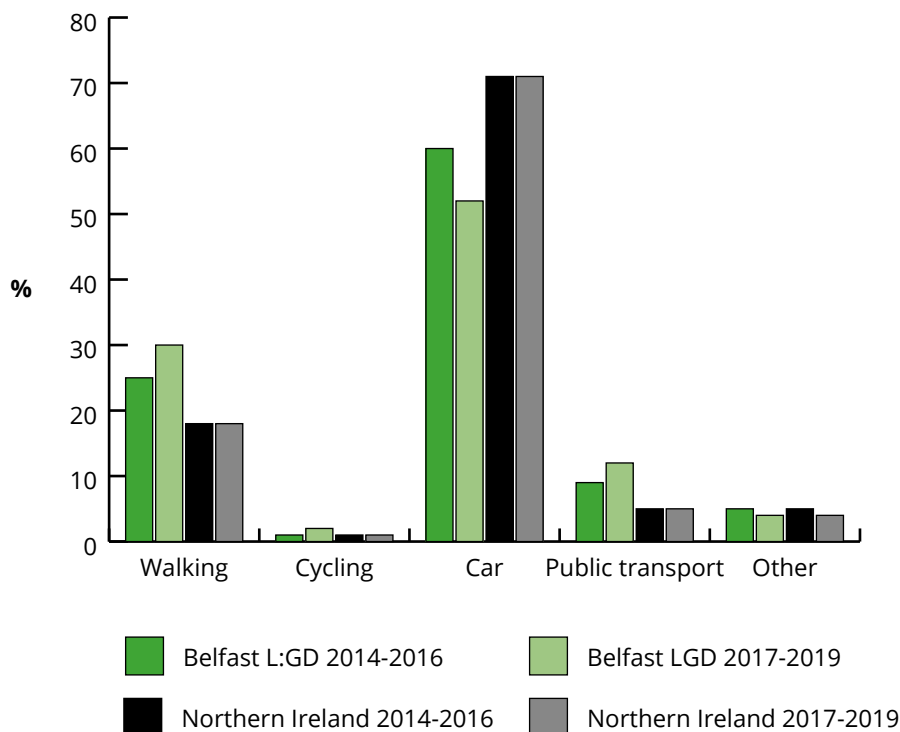
- Car was 19 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 52% compared with 71%
- Public transport was 7 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 12% compared with 5%
- Other was the same in Belfast LGD as in Northern Ireland, at 4% (see Place Figure 1)

Between 2014-2016 and 2017-2019, the percentage of journeys per person per year by:

- Walking increased by 5 percentage points in Belfast LGD, from 25% to 30% (a percentage increase of 20.00%), whereas it remained the same in Northern Ireland at 18%
- Cycling increased by 1 percentage point in Belfast LGD, from 1% to 2% (a percentage increase of 100%), whereas it remained the same in Northern Ireland at 1%
- Car decreased by 8 percentage points in Belfast LGD, from 60% to 52% (a percentage decrease of 13.33%), whereas it remained the same in Northern Ireland at 71%
- Public transport increased by 3 percentage points in Belfast LGD, from 9% to 12% (a percentage increase of 33.33%), whereas it remained the same in Northern Ireland at 5%
- Other decreased by 1 percentage point in Belfast LGD, from 5% to 4% (a percentage decrease of 20.00%), and by 1 percentage point in Northern Ireland, also from 5% to 4% (a percentage decrease of 20.00%; see Place Figure 1)

**PLACE FIGURE 1:**

**Percentage (%) of journeys per person per year in Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, 2014-2016 and 2017-2019**



Sources: Department of Infrastructure Travel Survey for Northern Ireland in-depth report 2017-2019 tables, Table 3.5, and Travel Survey for Northern Ireland in-depth report 2014-2016 tables, Table 3.5

### Comparison with other LGDs

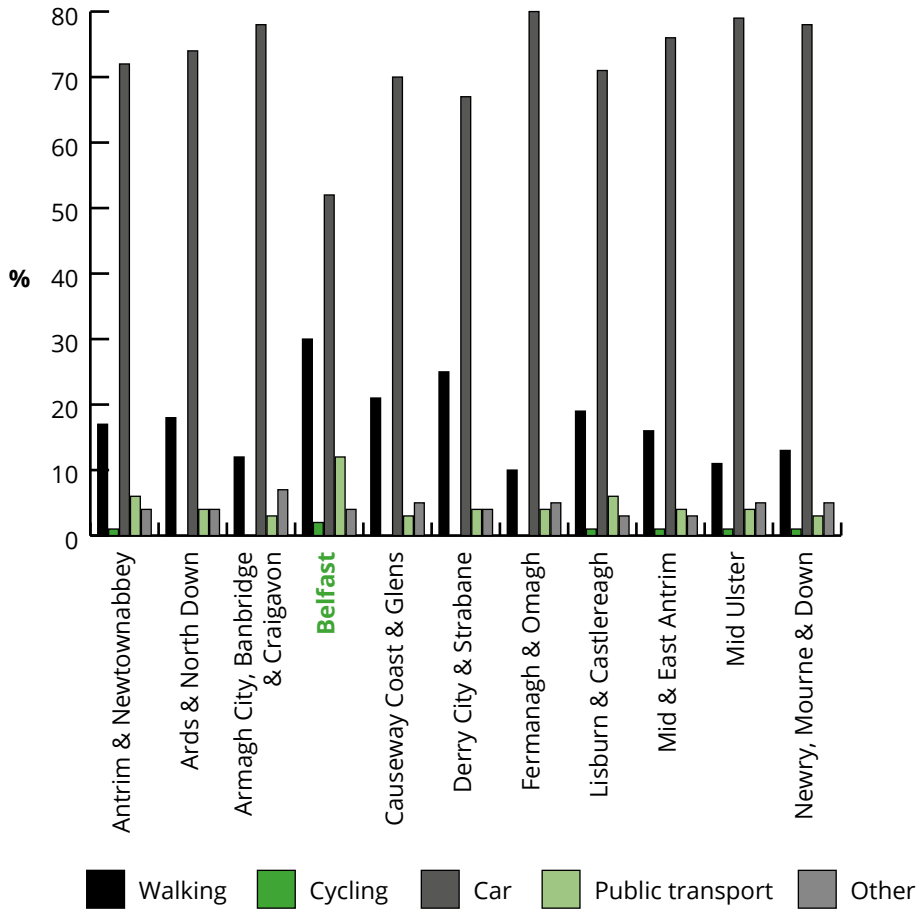
In 2017-2019, when compared with other LGDs, the percentage of journeys per person per year by:

- Walking was highest in Belfast LGD at 30%, and it was lowest in Fermanagh & Omagh LGD at 10%, with the median value in Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD at 17%
- Cycling was highest in Belfast LGD at 2%, and it was lowest in five LGDs at 0%, with the median value in five LGDs at 1%
- Car was lowest in Belfast LGD at 52%, and it was highest in Fermanagh & Omagh LGD at 80%, with the median value in Ards & North Down at 74%
- Public transport was highest in Belfast LGD at 12%, and it was lowest in three LGDs at 3%, with the median value in 5 LGDs at 4%

- Other was equal sixth highest in Belfast LGD with three other LGDs at 4% (which was also the median value), it was highest in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD at 7%, and lowest in two LGDs at 3%

**PLACE FIGURE 2:**

**Percentage (%) of journeys per person per year by LGD, 2017-2019**



Source: Department of Infrastructure Travel Survey for Northern Ireland in-depth report 2017-2019 tables, Table 3.5

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017-2019, in Belfast, for each person:

- 3 out of every 10 journeys a year were by walking
- Just over 1 out of every 10 journeys a year were by public transport
- Just over 5 out of every 10 journeys a year were by car

In 2017-2019, when compared with Northern Ireland:

- More journeys per person per year were made by walking, cycling and public transport
- Fewer journeys per person per year were made by car

Between 2014-2016 and 2017-2019, in Belfast, the percentage of journeys per person per year by:

- Walking, cycling, and public transport increased, whereas the percentages for these travel modes remained the same in Northern Ireland, increasing the gaps between Belfast and Northern Ireland with more beneficial outcomes in Belfast
- Car decreased, whereas the percentages for this travel mode remained the same in Northern Ireland, increasing the gap between Belfast and Northern Ireland with a more beneficial outcome in Belfast

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast had:

- The highest percentages of journeys per person per year by walking, cycling, and public transport
- The lowest percentage of journeys per person per year by car

Combined, this pattern of modes of travel confers beneficial outcomes on Belfast's population when compared with populations in other LGDs.

## 1.2 Car Ownership Access

### IMPORTANCE

The growth in car ownership has revolutionised people's lives providing comfort and increasing the geographical scope of employment and social interactions. These benefits, however, have not been shared equally across society, with access especially low among young adults and low-income families. Car-centric policies can lead to underinvestment in other forms of transport. While cars are likely to remain the best (or only) option for some people, particularly where health conditions can otherwise limit mobility, a lack of public transport alternatives can mean reduced options for people without a car.<sup>7</sup>

### DEFINITION

The percentage of households with access to a car/van.

Information is from NINIS.

### PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, car ownership access (access to one or more cars) was 65% of households.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, car ownership access remained the same at 65% of households.

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7. How transport offers a route to better health - The Health Foundation (Last accessed 13 June 2022)

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, car ownership access (access to one or more cars) was 18 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 65% compared with 83% of households.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, car ownership access:

- In Belfast LGD remained the same at 65% of households
- In Northern Ireland increased by 3 percentage points, from 80% to 83% of households (a percentage increase of 3.75%)

### Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the lowest car ownership access at 65% of households
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD and Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the highest car ownership access at 91% of households
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the median value at 87% of households (see Place Figure 3)

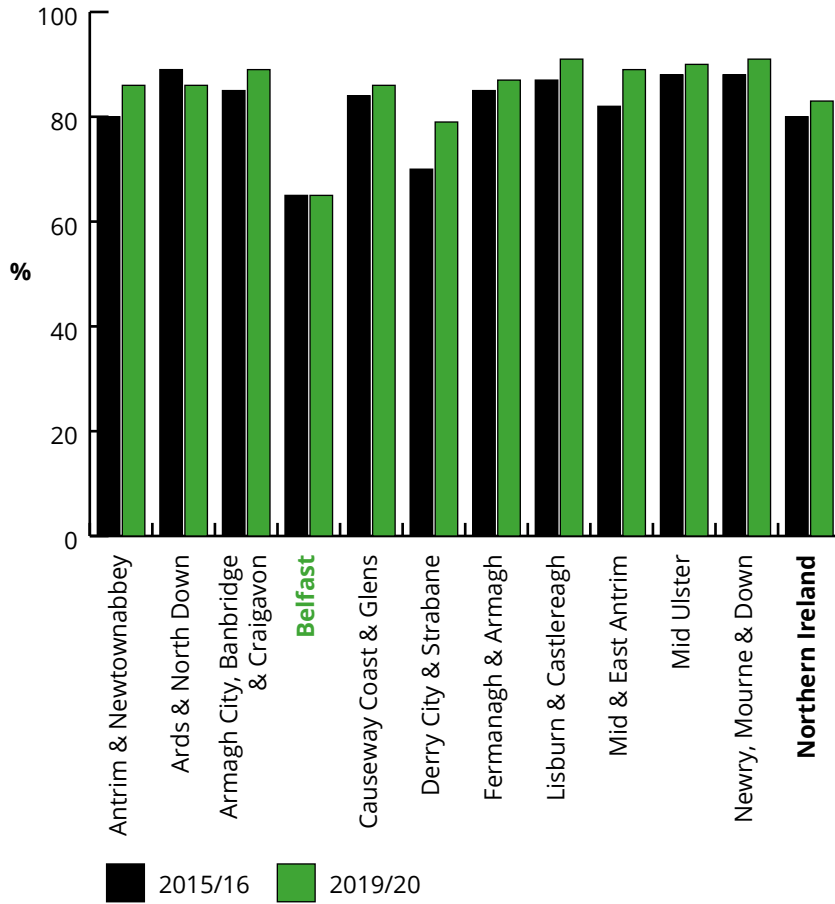
Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, car ownership access by household:

- Increased in 9 LGDs
- Decreased in one LGD
- Remained the same in Belfast LGD (see Place Figure 3)



**PLACE FIGURE 3:**

**Percentage (%) households with car ownership access (access to one or more cars) by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2015/16 and 2019/20**



Source: NINIS: Car Ownership Access (administrative geographies) Pivot Table

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019/20, in Belfast, between 6 and 7 out of every 10 households had access to one or more cars compared with over 8 out of every 10 households in Northern Ireland, and between 8 and 9 out of every 10 households in other LGDs.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, car ownership access remained the same in Belfast but increased in Northern Ireland, widening the gap between the two. Car ownership access also increased in nine other LGDs.

## 1.3 Bicycle Ownership Access

### IMPORTANCE

Several factors have been associated with bicycle ownership, including age, household income, traffic conditions, and bicycle theft.<sup>8</sup>

The Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland may use this information to monitor the effectiveness of its active travel initiatives.

### DEFINITION

There is a question in the Continuous Household Survey (CHS) about access to a bicycle: “Excluding exercise bikes, do you:

- Own a bicycle yourself?
- Have use of a bicycle owned by someone else in the household?
- Have use of a bicycle owned by someone outside the household?
- Have no use of a bike?”

Respondents to the CHS are aged 16 years and over.

Information is from the Department for Infrastructure Cycling in Northern Ireland 2019/20, and Cycling in Northern Ireland 2016/17<sup>9</sup>

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8. Factors associated with bicycle ownership and use: a study of six small U.S. cities | SpringerLink (Last accessed 14 June 2022)

9. Cycling in Northern Ireland 2019/20 | Department for Infrastructure ([infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](http://infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)) and Cycling in Northern Ireland 2016/17 | Department for Infrastructure ([infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](http://infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 14 June 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of people who:

- Owned a bicycle was 26%
- Had access to a bicycle owned by someone else in the household was 2%
- Had access to a bicycle owned by someone else outside the household was 1%
- Had no use of a bicycle was 71% (see Place Figure 4)

Between 2016/17 and 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of people who:

- Owned a bicycle increased by 4 percentage points, from 22% to 26%
- Had access to a bicycle owned by someone else in the household increased by 1 percentage point, from 1% to 2%
- Had access to a bicycle owned by someone else outside the household decreased by 1 percentage point, from 2% to 1%
- Had no use of a bicycle decreased by 4 percentage points from 75% to 71%

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

#### ***Bicycle ownership***

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who owned a bicycle was 2 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 26% compared with 28% (see Place Figure 4).

Between 2016/17 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who owned a bicycle increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 4 percentage points, from 22% to 26% (a percentage increase of 18.18%)
- In Northern Ireland by 1 percentage point from 27% to 28% (a percentage increase of 3.70%)

***Use of a bicycle in the same household***

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who had use of a bicycle owned by someone else in the same household was 1 percentage point lower in Belfast LGD, 2% compared with 3% (see Place Figure 4).

Between 2016/17 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who had use of a bicycle owned by someone else in the same household increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 1 percentage point, from 1% to 2% (a percentage increase of 100%)
- In Northern Ireland by 1 percentage point from 2% to 3% (a percentage increase of 50.00%)

***Use of a bicycle outside the household***

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who had use of a bicycle owned by someone else outside the household in Belfast LGD was the same at 1% (see Place Figure 4).

Between 2016/17 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who had use of a bicycle owned by someone else in the same household decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 1 percentage point, from 2% to 1% (a percentage decrease of 50.00%)
- In Northern Ireland by 1 percentage point from 2% to 1% (a percentage decrease of 50.00%)

***No use of a bicycle***

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who had no use of a bicycle was 3 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 71% compared with 68% (see Place Figure 4).

Between 2016/17 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who had no use of a bicycle:

- In Belfast LGD decreased by 4 percentage points, from 75% to 71% (a percentage increase of 5.33%)
- In Northern Ireland remained the same at 68%

## Comparison with other LGDs

### ***Bicycle ownership***

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the fourth lowest percentage of people who owned a bicycle at 26%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the highest percentage at 37%
- Derry City & Strabane had the lowest percentage at 19%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD and Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the median value at 27% (see Place Figure 4)

Between 2016/17 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who owned a bicycle increased in 6 LGDs, including Belfast LGD, and decreased in five LGDs.

### ***Use of a bicycle in the same household***

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the fourth lowest percentage of people with access to a bicycle owned by someone else in the same household at 2%
- Mid Ulster LGD had the highest percentage at 5%
- Three LGDs had the lowest percentage at 1%
- Four LGDs had the median value at 3% (see Place Figure 4)

Between 2016/17 and 2019/20, the percentage of people with access to a bicycle owned by someone else in the same household increased in only three LGDs, including Belfast LGD, remained the same in four LGDs, and decreased in four LGDs.

### ***Use of a bicycle outside the household***

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the median percentage of people with access to a bicycle owned by someone else outside the household at 1% together with four other LGDs
- Four LGDs had the highest percentage at 2%
- Two LGDs had the lowest percentage at 0% (see Place Figure 4)

Between 2016/17 and 2019/20, the percentage of people with access to a bicycle owned by someone else outside the household increased in three LGDs, remained the same in three LGDs, and decreased in five LGDs, including Belfast LGD.

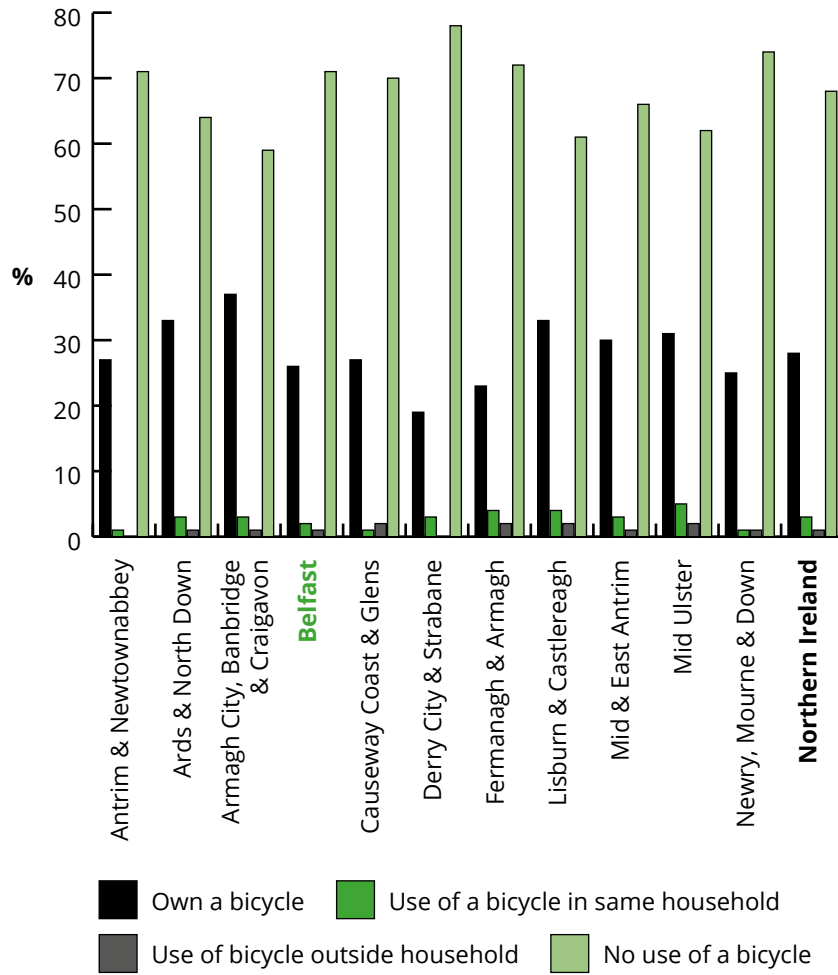
### ***No use of a bicycle***

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the equal fourth highest percentage of people with no access to a bicycle at 71%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest percentage at 78%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the lowest percentage at 59%
- Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the median percentage at 70% (see Place Figure 4)

**PLACE FIGURE 4:**

**Percentages (%) of people who owned a bicycle, with access to a bicycle owned by someone else in the same household, with access to a bicycle owned by someone else outside the household, and with no use of a bicycle by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: Department for Infrastructure: Cycling in Northern Ireland 2019/20 Tables, Table 2b

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019/20, in Belfast:

- Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 people owned a bicycle compared with almost 3 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland
- 7 out of every 10 people had no access to a bicycle compared with almost 7 out of 10 people in Northern Ireland

Between 2016/17 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who:

- Owned a bicycle increased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage increase was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two narrowed
- With no access to a bicycle decreased in Belfast and remained the same in Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two narrowed

In 2019/20, Belfast had one of the lower percentages of bicycle ownership among LGDs and one of the higher percentages of people with no access to a bicycle.

### Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In 2019/20, the population groups in Northern Ireland with lower levels of access to a bicycle than that in Northern Ireland were:

- People aged 25-34 years
- People aged 65 years and over
- Women
- People in the most-deprived areas (Quintile 1)
- People in the second most-deprived areas (Quintile 2)
- People in Quintile 3
- People in urban areas



## 1.4 Frequency of Travel on Public Transport Services

### IMPORTANCE

An accessible, reliable, and affordable transport system contributes to life satisfaction and wellbeing enabling access to work, friends, and family, as well as health-supporting facilities, such as schools, colleges, parks, libraries, and health services. The quality of a transport system covers a range of factors, including journey times and the availability of public transport, as well as the reliability and affordability of services. Although the barriers to people using public transport vary geographically, and across population groups, they can reduce or prevent access to essential aspects of day-to-day life, contributing to stress, fatigue, low mood, and social exclusion.<sup>10</sup>

In an analysis of employment at a local level and the quality of the public transport network, it was found that all else being equal, areas with shorter public transport times were associated with higher employment levels.<sup>11</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the Continuous Household Survey, there is a question on the frequency of travel on public transport services: "How often do you travel on public transport?".

The options for response are:

- **Everyday**
- **At least once a week**
- **At least every 2-3 weeks**
- **At least once a month**
- **Once every 2-3 months**
- **Once every 6 months**
- **Once a year**
- **Less frequently**
- **Never**

Information is from the Department for Infrastructure, Public Transport Journey Planning in Northern Ireland 2019/20.<sup>12</sup>

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10. How transport offers a route to better health - The Health Foundation (Last accessed 13 June 2022)  
11. "Econometric analysis of the link between public transport accessibility" by Daniel Johnson, Marco Ercolani et al. (worldtransitresearch.info) (Last accessed 13 June 2022)  
12. Public Transport Journey Planning in Northern Ireland 2019/20 | Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 13 June 2022)

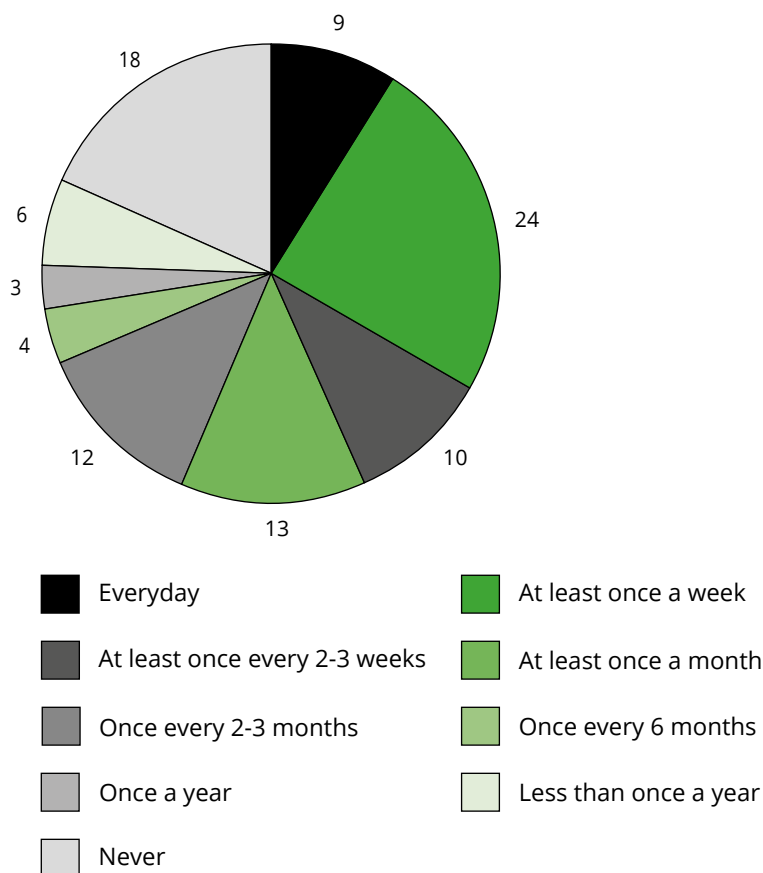
## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of people who travelled on public transport services:

- Everyday was 9%
- At least once a week was 24%
- At least every 2-3 weeks was 10%
- At least once a month was 13%
- Once every 2-3 months was 12%
- Never was 18% (see Place Figure 5, which also includes information on 'Once every 6 months', 'Once a year', and Less than once a year)

### PLACE FIGURE 5:

Percentage (%) of people using public transport services by frequency of use in Belfast LGD, 2019/20



Source: Department for Infrastructure: Public Transport Journey Planning in Northern Ireland 2019/20 tables, Table 1

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who used public transport services:

- Everyday was 3 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 9% compared with 6%
- At least once a week was 13 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 24% compared with 11%
- At least once every 2-3 weeks was 4 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 10% compared with 6%
- At least once a month was 2 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 13% compared with 11%
- Once every 2-3 months was the same at 12%
- Once every 6 months was 6 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 4% compared with 10%
- Once a year was 5 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 3% compared with 8%
- Less than once a year was 1 percentage point lower, 6% compared with 7%
- Never was 11 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 18% compared with 29% (see Place Figure 6 which also includes information on 'Once every 6 months', 'Once a year', and 'Less frequently')

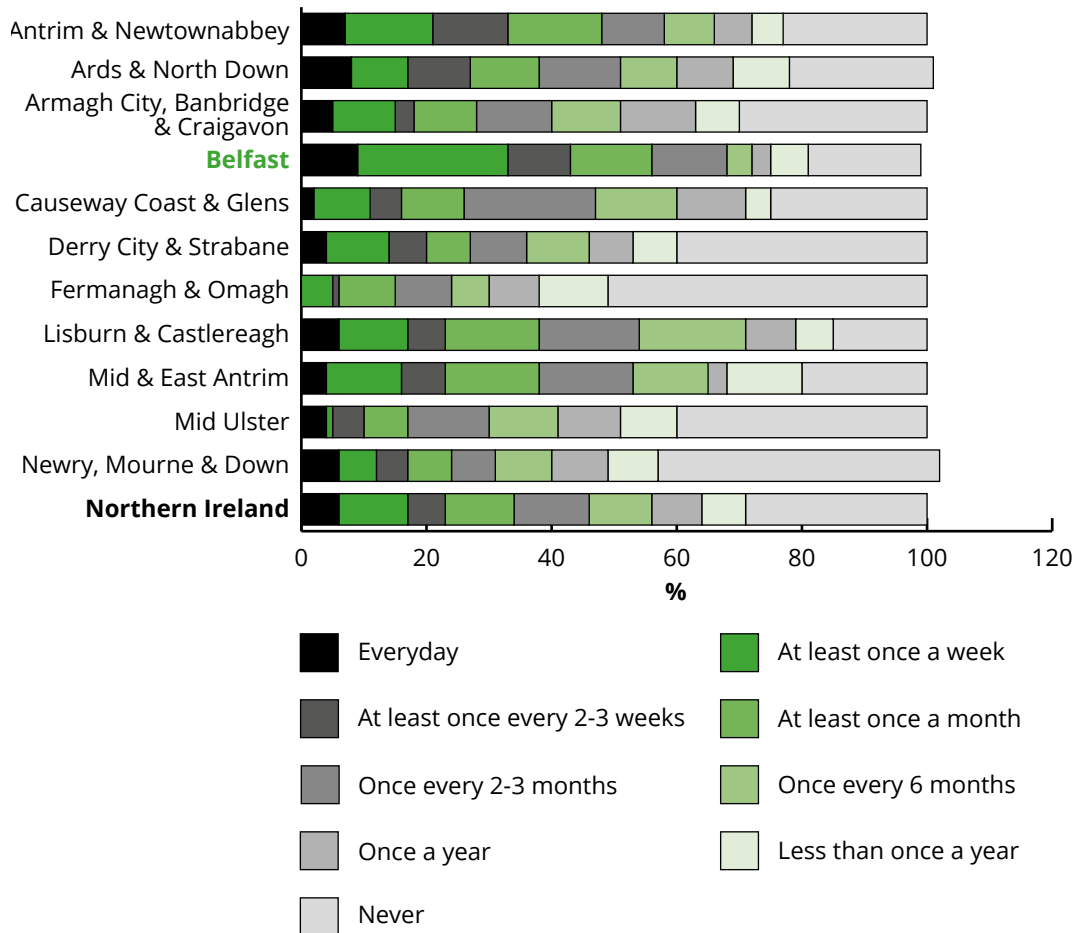
### Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs, the percentage of people who used public transport services:

- Everyday was highest in Belfast LGD at 9% and lowest in Fermanagh & Omagh LGD at 0%, with a median of 5% in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD
- At least once a week was highest in Belfast LGD at 24% and lowest in Mid Ulster LGD at 1%, with a median of 10% in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD and Derry City & Strabane LGD

- At least once every 2-3 weeks was equal second highest in Belfast LGD at 10%, highest in Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD at 12%, and lowest in Fermanagh & Omagh LGD at 1%, with a median of 6% in Derry City & Strabane LGD and Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD
- At least once a month was fourth highest in Belfast LGD at 13%, highest in three LGDs at 15%, and lowest in three LGDs at 7%, with a median of 10% in two LGDs
- Once every 2-3 months was the median value in Belfast LGD and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD at 12%, highest was in Causeway Coast & Glens LGD at 21%, and lowest in Newry, Mourne & Down LGD at 7%
- Once every 6 months was lowest in Belfast LGD at 4%, and highest in Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD at 17%, with a median of 10% in Derry City & Strabane LGD
- Once a year was equal lowest in Belfast LGD, together with Mid Ulster LGD, at 3%, and highest in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD at 12%, with a median of 8% in two LGDs
- Less than once a year was equal second lowest in Belfast LGD, together with Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD, at 6%, highest in Mid & East Antrim at 12%, and lowest in Antrim & Newtownabbey at 5%, with a median of 7% in two LGDs
- Never was second lowest in Belfast LGD at 18%, highest in Fermanagh & Omagh at 51%, and lowest in Lisburn & Castlereagh at 15%, with a median of 23% in Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD and Ards & North Down LGD (see Place Figure 6 which also includes information on 'Once every 6 months', 'Once a year', and 'Less frequently')

Belfast LGD was one of only two LGDs where 'Never' was not the highest percentage of all the categories of frequency of public transport use.

**PLACE FIGURE 6:****Percentage (%) of people using public transport services by frequency of use by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**

Source: Department for Infrastructure: Public Transport Journey Planning in Northern Ireland 2019/20 tables, Table 1

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019/20, in Belfast:

- Almost 1 out of every 10 people used public transport services everyday
- Between 2 and 3 people used them at least once a week
- 1 out of every 10 people used them at least every 2-3 weeks
- Over 1 out of every 10 people used them at least once a month
- Over 1 out of every 10 people used them once every 2-3 months

- Less than 1 out of every 10 people used them once every 6 months, once a year and less than once a year
- Almost 2 out of every 10 people never used public transport services

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, in Belfast:

- Higher percentages of people used public transport more frequently at frequency levels of everyday, at least once a week, at least once every 2-3 weeks, and at least once a month
- The same percentage of people used public transport services once every 2-3 months
- Lower percentages of people used public transport less frequently at frequency levels of once every 6 months, once a year, less than once a year, and never

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs, in Belfast:

- The highest percentages of people used public transport services most frequently at frequency levels of everyday, and at least once a week
- Relatively higher percentages of people used public transport services at frequency levels of at least every 2-3 weeks, and at least once a month
- The lowest percentages of people used public transport services less frequently at frequency levels of once every 6 months, and once a year
- Relatively lower percentages of people used public transport services at frequency levels of less than once a year and never

## 1.5 Type of Public Transport Services Used

### IMPORTANCE

The provision of high-quality public transport is important, especially for people on a low income and other population groups less likely to have access to a car, such as young adults, black and minority ethnic groups, and people with no qualifications. If adequate public transport is not provided, it could widen social and economic inequality by limiting people's opportunity to find employment and socialise, as well as people's capacity to access public services.<sup>13</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the Continuous Household Survey, there is a question on the type of public transport people use: "Which type of public transport services do you use?"

The response options are:

- Ulsterbus
- NI Railways
- Metro
- Glider
- Other

Information is from the Department for Infrastructure, Public Transport Journey Planning in Northern Ireland 2019/20.<sup>14</sup>

13 How transport offers a route to better health - The Health Foundation (Last accessed 13 June 2022)

14 Public Transport Journey Planning in Northern Ireland 2019/20 | Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 13 June 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD:

- Ulsterbus was used by 17% of people
- NI Railways by 21%
- Metro by 75%
- Glider by 29%
- Other<sup>15</sup> by 5%

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people using:

- Ulsterbus was 36 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 17% compared with 53%
- NI Railways was 26 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 21% compared with 47%
- Metro was 53 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 75% compared with 22%
- Glider was 19 percentage points higher, in Belfast LGD 29% compared with 10%
- Other was 2 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 5% compared with 3% (see Place Figure 7)

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15 'Other' includes, for example, commercial operators



## Comparison with other LGDs<sup>16</sup>

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs, the percentage of people using:

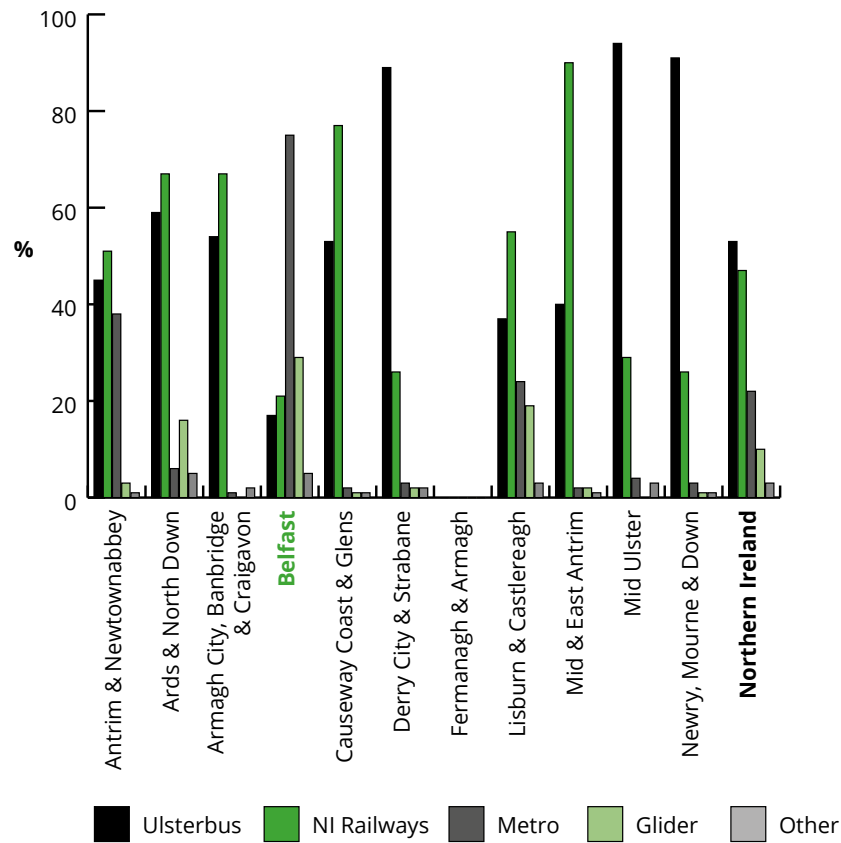
- Ulsterbus was highest in Mid Ulster LGD at 94% and lowest in Belfast LGD at 17%, with a median of 53.5%
- NI Railways was highest in Mid & East Antrim LGD at 90% and lowest in Belfast LGD at 21%, with a median of 53%
- Metro was highest in Belfast LGD at 75% and lowest in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD at 1%, with a median of 3.5%
- Glider was highest in Belfast LGD at 29% and lowest in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD and Mid Ulster LGD at 0%, with a median of 2% in Derry City & Strabane LGD and Mid & East Antrim LGD
- Other was equal highest in Belfast LGD at 5% with Ards & North Down LGD and lowest in four LGDs at 1%, with a median of 2% in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD and Derry City & Strabane LGD (see Place Figure 7)

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16. For this comparison, it is important to bear in mind that various public transport services may not be available in or distributed throughout LGDs

**PLACE FIGURE 7:**

Percentage (%) of people using public transport by type of service by LGD<sup>17</sup> and Northern Ireland, 2019/20



Source: Department for Infrastructure: Public Transport Journey Planning in Northern Ireland 2019/20 tables, Table 1

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019/20, in Belfast:

- Between 7 and 8 used Metro public transport services
- Almost 3 out of every 10 used Glider services
- Just over 2 out of every 10 used NI Railways
- Almost 2 out of every 10 used Ulsterbus
- Less than 1 out of every 10 used Other public transport services

17. There are no data for Fermanagh & Omagh LGD due to a small sample size

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland:

- **Higher percentages of people in Belfast used Metro, Glider, and Other services**
- **Lower percentages of people in Belfast used Ulsterbus and NI Railways**

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs, Belfast had:

- **The highest percentages of people who used Metro, Glider, and Other services**
- **The lowest percentages of people who used Ulsterbus and NI Railways**

Care needs to be used when interpreting these data because not all public transport services are available or readily accessible to all populations in Belfast or other LGDs throughout Northern Ireland.

## 1.6 Likelihood of Walking When Making a Short Journey (up to 2 miles/3 km)

### IMPORTANCE

Active travel, such as walking and cycling, is a source of moderate-intensity physical activity, with benefits for physical and mental health including reducing all-cause mortality, cardiovascular mortality, hypertension, type 2 diabetes, metabolic syndrome, cancers, hip fractures, and feelings of anxiety and depression. Walking and cycling can substitute for other forms of exercise. In addition, active travel can translate into higher overall levels of physical activity. Furthermore, walking and cycling can replace, at least partly, passive forms of transport.<sup>18</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the Continuous Household Survey, there is a question about the likelihood of walking when making a short journey: "Would you be likely to walk any journeys you have to make that are up to 2 miles/3 kms?". The response options are "Yes" or "No".

Information is from the Department for Infrastructure Attitudes to Walking, Cycling and Public Transport in Northern Ireland 2019/20 and 2017/18.<sup>19</sup>

### PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of people who said they would be likely to walk any journeys up to 2 miles/3 kms was 62%.

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of people who said they would be likely to walk any journeys up to 2 miles/3 kms increased by 3 percentage points from 59% to 62%.

18. Walking and cycling: latest evidence to support policy-making and practice (who.int) (Last accessed 13 June 2022)

19. Attitudes to Walking, Cycling and Public Transport in Northern Ireland 2019/20 | Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk) and Walking, Cycling and Public Transport in Northern Ireland 2017/18 | Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 13 June 2022)

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people who said they would be likely to walk any journeys up to 2 miles/3 km was 5 percentage points higher, 62% compared with 57%.

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who said they would be likely to walk any journeys up to 2 miles/3 km increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 3 percentage points, from 59% to 62% (a percentage increase of 5.08%)
- In Northern Ireland by 3 percentage points from 54% to 57% (a percentage increase of 5.56%)

### Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

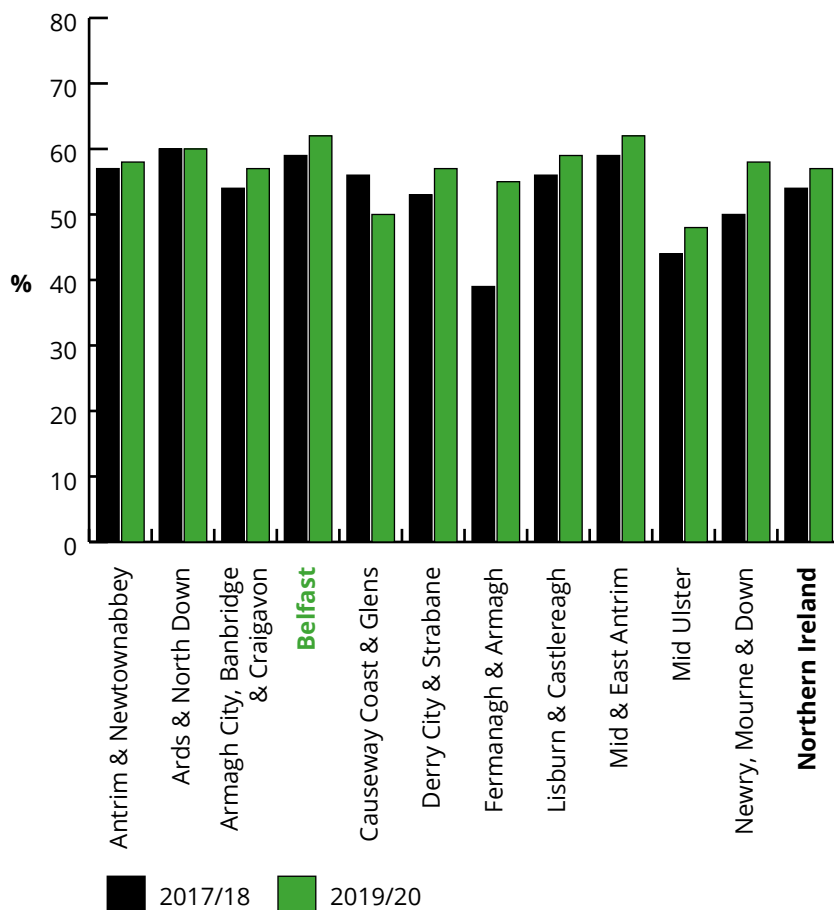
- Belfast had the equal highest the percentage of people who said they would be likely to walk any journeys up to 2 miles/3 km at 62% together with Mid & East Antrim LGD
- Mid Ulster LGD had the lowest percentage at 48%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD and Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the median percentage at 58% (see Place Figure 8)

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who said they would be likely to walk any journeys up to 2 miles/3 km increased in nine LGDs, including Belfast, whereas it decreased in one LGD and stayed the same in another. Among the LGDs in which the percentage of people who said they would be likely to walk any journeys up to 2 miles/3 km increased:

- Belfast LGD had the equal second lowest percentage increase at 5.08% with Mid & East Antrim LGD
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the highest at 41.03%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD the lowest at 1.75% (see Place Figure 8)

**PLACE FIGURE 8:**

**Percentage (%) of people who said they would be likely to walk any journeys up to 2 miles/3 km by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2017/18 and 2019/20**



Source: Department for Infrastructure: Attitudes to walking, cycling and public transport in Northern Ireland 2019/20 tables, Table 2.3, and Walking, cycling and public transport in Northern Ireland 2017-18 tables, Table 1.3

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019/20, in Belfast, more than 6 out of every 10 people said they would be likely to walk any journey up to 2 miles/3 km, compared with almost 6 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland.

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20, the percentage of people who said they would be likely to walk any journeys up to 2 miles/3 km increased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland. Although the difference in rates between the two remained the same, the percentage increase was slightly greater for Northern Ireland and the gap narrowed very slightly between the two as Belfast had a higher percentage than Northern Ireland.

In 2019/20, Belfast had the highest percentage of people who said they would be likely to walk any journeys up to 2 miles/3 km, together with Mid & East Antrim LGD.

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20, although the percentage of people who said they would be likely to walk any journeys up to 2 miles/3 km increased in Belfast, it had one of the lowest percentage increases among nine LGDs (in one LGD the percentage decreased, and in another LGD the percentage remained the same).

## 1.7 Satisfaction with Current Provision for Walking and Walkers in Local Areas

### IMPORTANCE

There is a direct correlation between the built environment and walkability. Five dimensions of the built environment have been identified for walking and walkability:

- Density
- Diversity (land-use mix)
- Design (including street connectivity)
- Distance to transit
- Destination accessibility<sup>20</sup>

The built environment influences a person's level of physical activity. For example, inaccessible or non-existent pavements and bicycle or walking paths contribute to sedentary habits. These habits lead to poor health outcomes such as obesity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and some types of cancer.<sup>21</sup> In an evaluation of the Sustrans Connect2 programme in the UK, it was found that building walking and cycling infrastructure could improve population health and reduce inequalities.<sup>22</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the Continuous Household Survey, there is a question on whether people are satisfied with the provision for walking in their local area: "Are you satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in your local areas at present?". The response options are "Yes" or "No".

Information is from the Department for Infrastructure Attitudes to Walking, Cycling and Public Transport in Northern Ireland 2019/20 and 2017/18.<sup>23</sup>

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20. Elsevier Enhanced Reader (Last accessed 14 June 2022)

21. [impactofthebuiltenvironmentonhealth.pdf \(cdc.gov\)](#) (Last accessed 14 June 2022)

22. A natural experimental study of new walking and cycling infrastructure across the United Kingdom: The Connect2 programme - ScienceDirect (Last accessed 14 June 2022)

23. Attitudes to Walking, Cycling and Public Transport in Northern Ireland 2019/20 | Department for Infrastructure ([infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](#)) and Walking, Cycling and Public Transport in Northern Ireland 2017/18 | Department for Infrastructure ([infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](#)) and Attitudes to walking, cycling and public transport in Northern Ireland 2019/20 datafiles | Department for Infrastructure ([infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](#)) (Last accessed 13 June 2022)



## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of people satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local areas was 65%.

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of people satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local areas decreased by 7 percentage points, from 72% to 65%.

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local areas was 6 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 65% compared 59%.

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20, the percentage of people satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local areas decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 7 percentage points, from 72% to 65% (a percentage decrease of 9.72%)
- In Northern Ireland by 5 percentage points from 64% to 59% (a percentage decrease of 7.81%; see Place Figure 9)

### Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

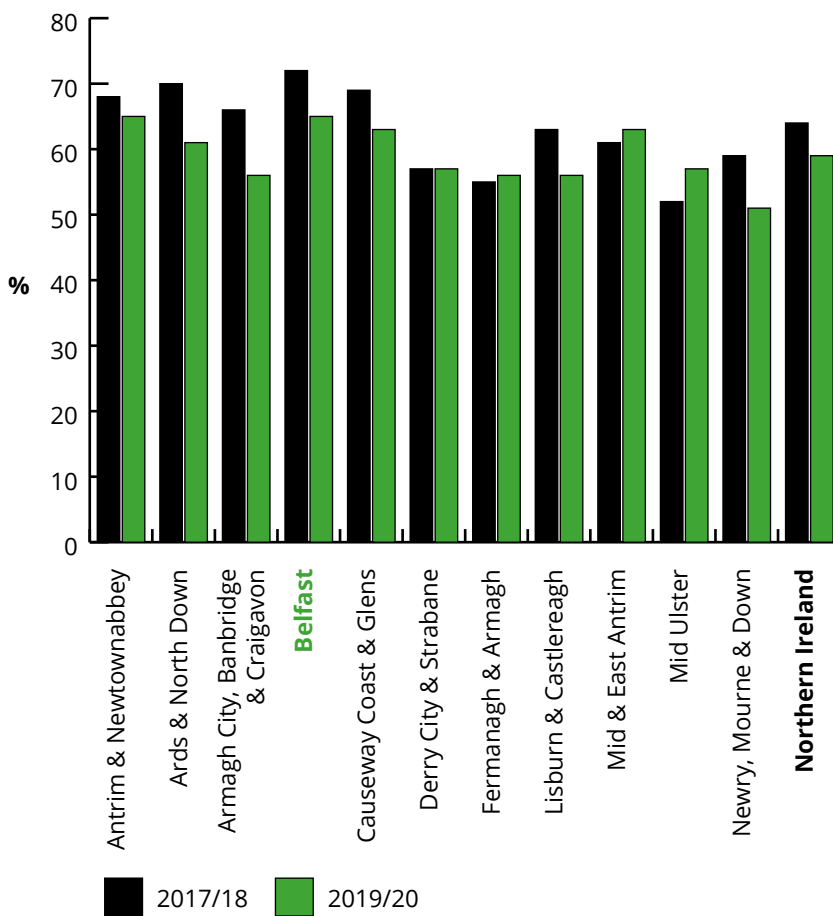
- Belfast LGD had the equal highest percentage of people satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local areas at 65%, together with Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD
- Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the lowest percentage at 51%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD and Mid Ulster LGD had the median percentage at 57% (see Place Figure 9)

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20, the percentage of people satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local areas decreased in seven LGDs, including Belfast LGD, increased in three LGDs, and remained the same in one. Of the LGDs in which there was a decrease:

- Belfast LGD had the third smallest percentage decrease at 9.72%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the largest percentage decrease at 15.15%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD had the smallest percentage decrease at 4.41%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the median value at 11.11% (see Place Figure 9)

#### PLACE FIGURE 9:

Percentage (%) of people satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local areas by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2017/18 and 2019/20



Source: Department for Infrastructure: Attitudes to walking, cycling and public transport in Northern Ireland 2019/20 tables, Table 2.1, and Walking, cycling and public transport in Northern Ireland 2017-18 tables, Table 1.1

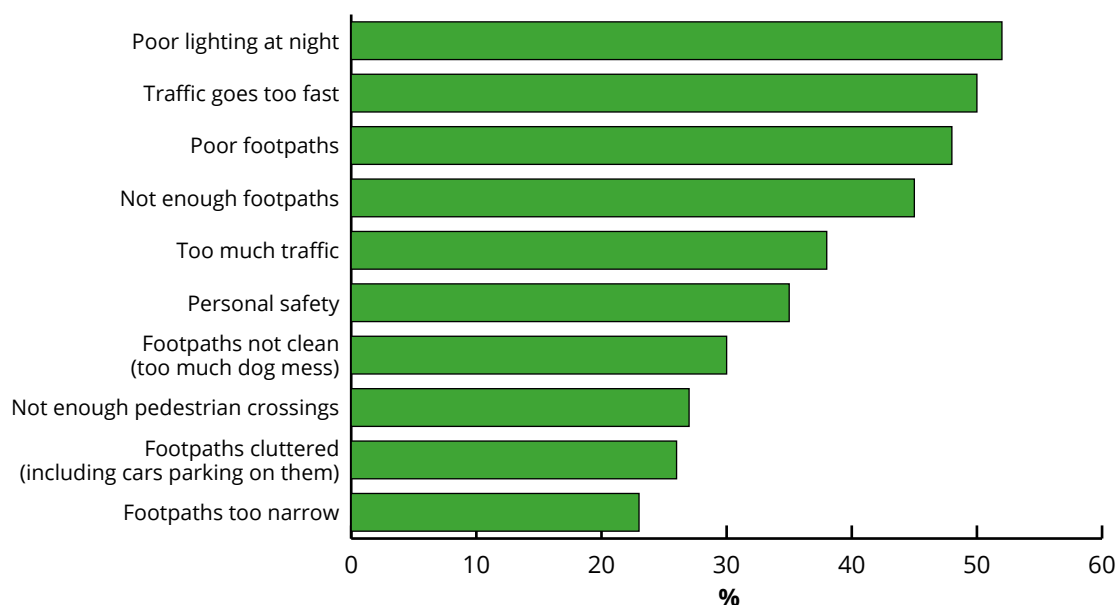
### ***Reasons why people in Northern Ireland are not satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers***

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the main reasons why people were not satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local areas were:

- Poor lighting at night (52%)
- Traffic goes too fast (50%)
- Poor footpaths (48%)
- Not enough footpaths (45%)
- Too much traffic (38%; see Place Figure 10, which also features five other reasons)

#### **PLACE FIGURE 10:**

#### **Reasons why people are not satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in local areas, Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: Department for Infrastructure: Attitudes to walking, cycling and public transport in Northern Ireland 2019/20 datafiles, Table 3 Reasons respondents are not satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers (2019/20)

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019/20, in Belfast:

- **Between 6 and 7 out of every 10 people were satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local areas, compared with almost 6 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland**
- **Conversely, between 3 and 4 out of every 10 people were not satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local areas**

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20:

- **The percentage of people satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local areas decreased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two narrowed, as Belfast had a higher percentage than Northern Ireland**
- **Conversely, the percentage of people not satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local areas increased in Belfast**

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs, Belfast had the equal highest percentage of people satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local areas, and of seven LGDs had one of the lowest percentage decreases in the percentage of people satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local areas.

In Northern Ireland, the main reasons why people were not satisfied with the current provision for walking and walkers in their local areas were poor lighting at night, the traffic goes too fast and there is too much traffic, and footpaths are poor and there are not enough of them.

## 1.8 Weekly Household Expenditure on Transport/ Vulnerability to Transport Poverty

### IMPORTANCE

Transport is an important facilitator of social inclusion and wellbeing, which can affect economic and social outcomes, and therefore inequality. If transport is, or perceived to be, too expensive, people are not able to make the journeys they need to get into work or move into education/training. The way transport and inequality are experienced varies by group and location. Different socio-economic groups have differing levels of access to transport options. People who depend more on the bus network for work tend to be lower paid, live in more deprived areas, and are more likely to turn down jobs due to transport issues, than those on higher incomes, who tend to use cars and trains more often. Some groups can be at higher risk of poverty and transport poverty.<sup>24</sup>

There are several definitions of transport poverty in the literature, and a variety of ways to attempt to measure it have been suggested. The RAC Foundation suggested that households spending more than 10% of their income on transport could be considered to be in transport poverty, a measure that has been criticised because the average expenditure on transport in the UK is 14% of income, and people in the highest income quintile spend more on transport than people in the lowest income quintile. Sustrans produced an area-based, rather than a household-based, measure of transport poverty covering:

1. Time taken to access essential services
2. Distance to the nearest bus stop or train station
3. Family income

Some authors have suggested a minimum standards approach, either for access to activities or for the household budget required to meet a family's transport needs for a minimum acceptable standard of living. Other authors have highlighted that the amount of time taken to travel using certain types of transport or transport services can also contribute to transport poverty.<sup>25</sup>

24. Transport and inequality ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 15 July 2022)

25. Transport and Poverty: a review ([ucl.ac.uk](https://ucl.ac.uk)) (Last accessed 15 July 2022)

The main effect of transport poverty is the inaccessibility to many people not only to services and facilities, such as schools, hospitals, and shops, but also to job opportunities.

- **In rural areas, some of the concerns are widely dispersed services and activities, high public transport costs, and infrequent or impractical transport services**
- **In cities, some of the concerns are public transport networks that serve peripheral housing and employment locations badly, and travel times and costs that restrict opportunities, particularly for lower income households<sup>26</sup>**

## DEFINITION

In the absence of an official transport poverty indicator or readily available data that would allow a minimum standards approach, either for access to activities or for the household budget required to meet a family's transport needs for a minimum acceptable standard of living, to be presented, data for weekly household expenditure on transport has been used as a proxy, and the RAC Foundation/Energy Cities' definition of transport poverty used as indicative of the potential extent of the problem:

"A household that spends 10% of its expenditures on how its members move from A to B is considered 'transport poor'."<sup>27</sup>

Information is from ONS, Family spending in the UK: April 2019 to March 2020, Family spending data, Family spending workbook 3: Expenditure by region, and ONS Dataset, Household expenditure by countries and regions: Table A33, Financial year ending 2015 to financial year ending 2017 edition of this dataset.<sup>28</sup>

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26. [transport-poverty-england-2012.pdf](#) ([sustrans.org.uk](#)) (Last accessed 15 July 2022)

27. What is transport poverty and how can cities address it? - Energy Cities ([energy-cities.eu](#)) (Last accessed 15 July 2022)

28. Family spending in the UK - Office for National Statistics ([ons.gov.uk](#)) and Household expenditure by countries and regions: Table A33 - Office for National Statistics (Last accessed 15 July 2022)

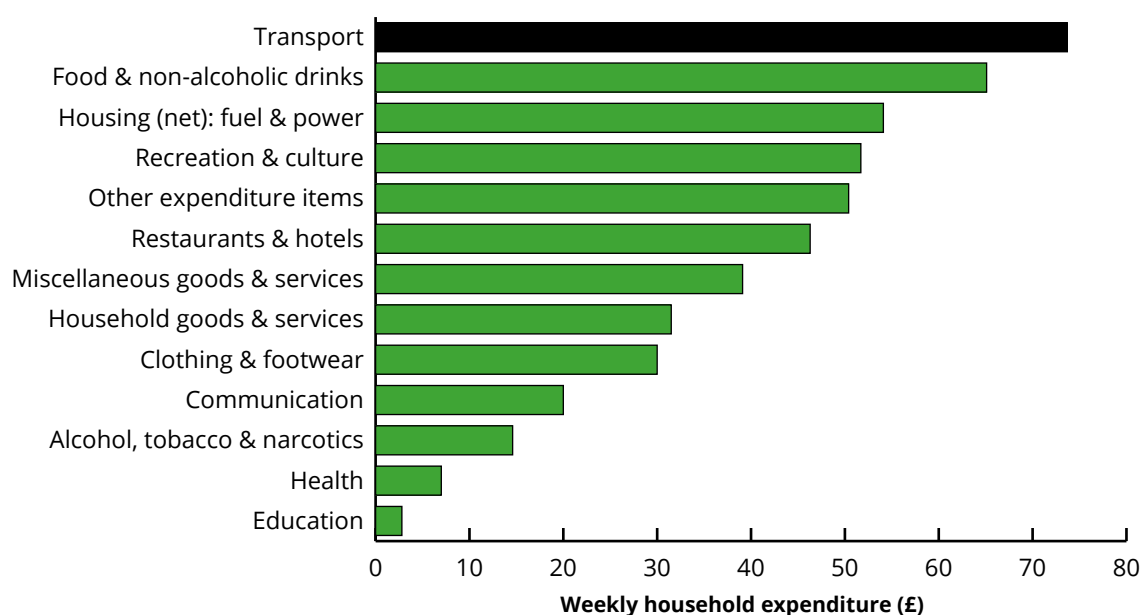
## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2017/18-2019/20, in Northern Ireland, weekly household expenditure on transport was £73.70, representing 15.15% of the total weekly household expenditure of £486.40.

In 2017/18-2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the largest component of total weekly household expenditure was transport (see Place Figure 11).

### PLACE FIGURE 11:

#### Weekly household expenditure (£) on commodities and services in Northern Ireland, 2017/18-2019/20



Source: Data extracted from ONS: Family spending data, Family spending workbook 3: Expenditure by region, Table A33

Between 2014/15-2016/17 and 2017/18-2019/20, in Northern Ireland:

- Weekly household expenditure on transport increased by £7.10, from £66.60 to £73.70 (a percentage increase of 10.67%)
- The percentage of total weekly household expenditure on transport increased by 1.75 percentage points, from 13.40% to 15.15% (a percentage increase of 13.06%)

## KEY COMPARISONS

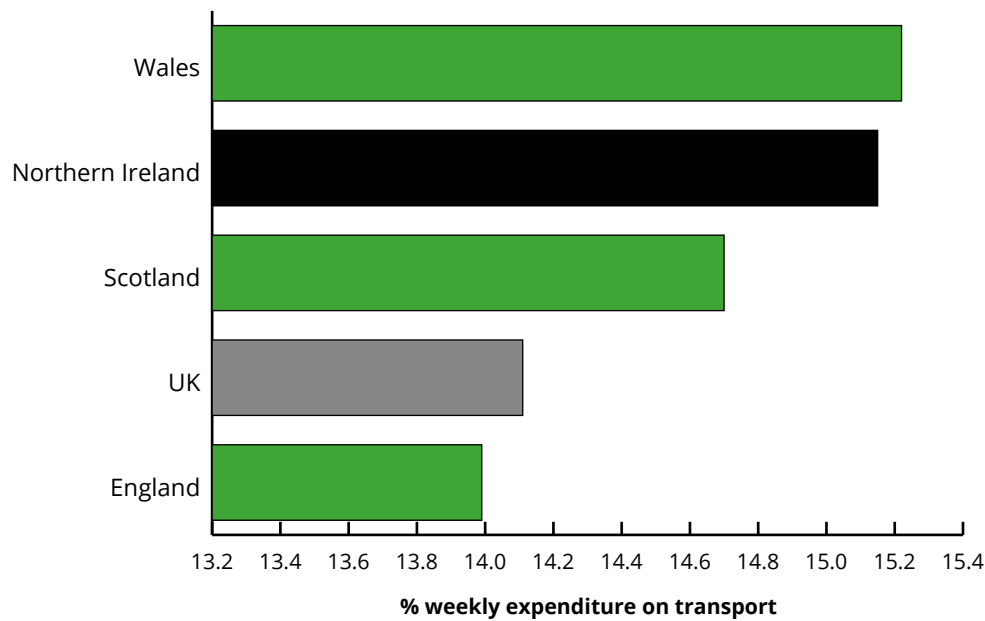
### Comparison with other parts of the UK

In 2019/20, when compared with other parts of the UK:

- Northern Ireland had the second highest percentage weekly expenditure on transport at 15.15%
- Wales had the highest at 15.22%
- England had the lowest at 13.99% (see Place Figure 12)

#### PLACE FIGURE 12:

Percentage (%) of total weekly household expenditure on transport, by parts of the UK and UK, 2019/20



Source: Data extracted from ONS: Family spending data, Family spending workbook 3: Expenditure by region, Table A33



## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2017/18-2019/20, given the average weekly household expenditure on transport, it is likely that various population groups in Northern Ireland were either transport poor or vulnerable to/at risk of transport poverty according to the RAC Foundation/ Energy Cities' definition and according to the average percentage spend on transport in the UK. This criterion, however, takes account only of the financial aspects of transport poverty, and does not include other important aspects such as availability, affordability, quality, and frequency of various transport services.

## 1.9 - Rate of Collisions

- Rate of Casualties
- Casualties in Recorded Road Traffic Collisions by Severity of Injury

### IMPORTANCE

Road traffic deaths and injuries are a major but neglected public health challenge. Road traffic injuries cause considerable economic losses to victims, their families, and society. These losses arise from the cost of treatment, including rehabilitation and incident investigation, as well as reduced/lost productivity (e.g., in wages) for people killed or disabled by their injuries, as well as for family members who need to take time off work (or school) to care for the injured person.<sup>29</sup>

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, of the groups of road users killed or seriously injured:

- 41.4% were drivers
- 21.2% were pedestrians
- 18.3% were passengers
- 10.5% were motorcyclists
- 7.1% were pedal cyclists<sup>30</sup>

In a study of the immediate and later physical, social, and psychological consequences of a road traffic accident for vehicle occupants, motorcyclists, cyclists, and pedestrians among consecutive hospital attenders at an Accident and Emergency Department (n=1148 respondents from 1441 consecutive attenders over a 1-year period), there were marked differences in injury pattern and immediate reaction between road-user groups. Pedestrians and motorcyclists suffered the most severe injuries and reported more continuing medical problems and greater resource use, especially in the first 3 months. There were few differences in psychological or social outcomes at any stage of follow-up. Despite differences between the road-user groups in their injuries, immediate reactions and treatment, there were few longer-term differences. A third of all groups described long-term adverse consequences that were principally psychological, social, and legal.<sup>31</sup>

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29. Effects of interventions for preventing road traffic crashes: an overview of systematic reviews | BMC Public Health | Full Text (biomedcentral.com) (Last accessed 14 June 2022)
30. Police Recorded Injury Road Traffic Casualties in Northern Ireland. (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 14 June 2022)
31. Consequences of road traffic accidents for different types of road user - PubMed (nih.gov) (Last accessed 17 July 2022)

In Northern Ireland's Road Safety Strategy to 2020, there were four targets, two of which were:

- To reduce the number of people killed in road collisions by at least 60% by 2020
- To reduce the number of people seriously injured in road collisions by at least 45% by 2020<sup>32</sup>

## DEFINITION

The information reflects the number of injury collisions and associated casualties that were reported to and recorded by the police.

- A collision is defined as any collision involving personal injury occurring on the public highway (including footpaths) in which a vehicle is involved. Collisions are categorised as either 'Fatal', 'Serious' or 'Slight' according to the most severely injured casualty.
- A casualty is defined as a person who sustains a slight, serious, or fatal injury:
  - 'Killed' is defined as a person who died within 30 days from injuries received in a collision
  - 'Seriously injured' is defined as an injury for which a person is detained in hospital as an 'in-patient', or any of the following injuries whether or not the person is detained in hospital: fractures, concussion, internal injuries, crushing's, burns, severe cuts and lacerations or severe general shock requiring medical treatment
  - 'Slightly injured' is defined as an injury of a minor character such as a sprain, bruise or cut not judged to be severe, or slight shock requiring roadside attention

It is possible that some collisions or casualties are not reported to the PSNI for various reasons. Research in England and Wales identified discrepancies between casualty data recorded by police and that from hospitals; the same may apply in Northern Ireland.<sup>33</sup>

32 Northern Ireland's Road Safety Strategy to 2020 (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 12 July 2022)

33 PSNI User Guide to Police Recorded Road Traffic Collision Statistics Northern Ireland Updated February 2013 End of Year (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 14 June 2022)

Information is from NINIS, Road Traffic Collision Casualties by Severity of Injury (administrative geographies), and the Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI) Road Traffic Collision Statistics Archive, Road Traffic Related Statistics – Calendar Year 2019 and 2015<sup>34</sup>.

## PROFILE FINDINGS

### ***Rate of collisions***

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the rate of collisions was 41.36 per 10,000 population.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the rate of collisions decreased by 4.73 per 10,000 population, from 46.09 to 41.36 per 10,000 population.

### ***Rate of casualties***

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the rate of casualties was 62.50 per 10,000 population.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the rate of casualties decreased by 9.85 per 10,000 population, from 72.35 to 62.50 per 10,000 population.

### ***Number of casualties***

In 2019, in Belfast City Policing District, the number of casualties in recorded road traffic collisions was 2,147, representing 24.20% of Northern Ireland's total casualties (n=8,872).

Between 2015 and 2019, the number of casualties in recorded road traffic collisions decreased by 305, from 2,452 to 2,147.

### ***Number of casualties: people killed***

In 2019, in Belfast City Policing District, the number of people killed in recorded road traffic collisions was 4, 7.14% of the number of people killed in Northern Ireland (n=56).

Between 2015 and 2019, the number of people killed in recorded road traffic collisions decreased by 2, from 6 to 4.

34. Road Traffic Collision Statistics Archive ([psni.police.uk](https://psni.police.uk)) (Last accessed 14 June 2022)

**Number of casualties: people seriously injured**

In 2019, in Belfast City Policing District, 130 people were seriously injured in recorded road traffic collisions, 16.80% of the number seriously injured in Northern Ireland (n=774).

Between 2015 and 2019, the number of people seriously injured in recorded road traffic collisions increased by 15, from 115 to 130.

**Number of casualties: people slightly injured**

In Belfast City Policing District, 2,013 people were slightly injured in recorded road traffic collisions, 25.03% of the number slightly injured in Northern Ireland (n=8,042).

Between 2015 and 2019, the number of people slightly injured in recorded road traffic collisions decreased by 318, from 2,331 to 2,013.

**Differences by assembly area****Rate of collisions**

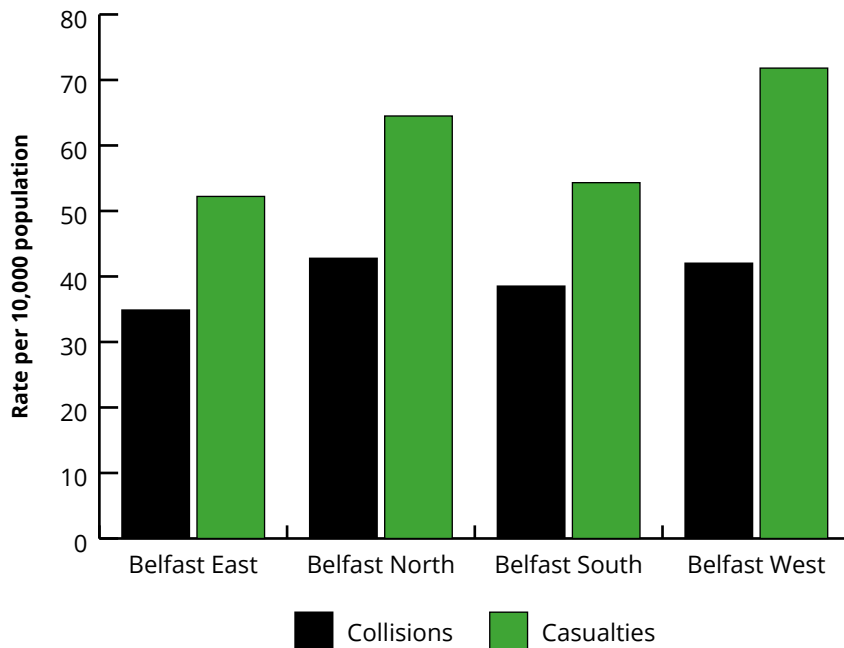
In 2019/20, there was variation in the rate of collisions across Belfast's assembly areas:

- Belfast North had the highest rate at 42.78 per 10,000 population, closely followed by Belfast West at 42.03 per 10,000 population
- Belfast East had the lowest rate at 34.88 per 10,000 population (see Place Figure 13)

**Rate of casualties**

In 2019/20, there was variation in the rate of collisions across Belfast's assembly areas:

- Belfast North had the highest rate at 71.81 per 10,000 population
- Belfast East had the lowest rate at 52.22 per 10,000 population (see Place Figure 13)

**PLACE FIGURE 13:****Rate of collisions and casualties per 10,000 population by Belfast's assembly areas, 2019/20**

Source: NINIS: Road Traffic Collision Casualties by Severity of Injury (administrative geographies) Pivot Table

**KEY COMPARISONS****Comparison with Northern Ireland****Rate of collisions**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of collisions was 11.39 per 10,000 population higher in Belfast LGD, 41.36 compared with 29.97 per 10,000 population (see Place Figure 14).

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, the rate of collisions decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 4.73 per 10,000 population, from 46.09 to 41.36 per 10,000 population (a percentage decrease of 10.26%)
- In Northern Ireland by 3.23 per 10,000 population, from 33.20 to 29.97 per 10,000 population (a percentage decrease of 9.73%)

**Rate of casualties**

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of casualties was 15.65 per 10,000 population higher in Belfast LGD, 62.50 compared with 46.85 per 10,000 population (see Place Figure 14).

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, the rate of collisions decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 9.85 per 10,000 population, from 72.35 to 62.50 per 10,000 population. (a percentage decrease of 13.61%)
- In Northern Ireland by 5.74 per 10,000 population, from 52.59 to 46.85 per 10,000 population (a percentage decrease of 10.91%)

**Number of casualties**

Between 2015 and 2019, the number of casualties in recorded road traffic collisions decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 305, from 2,452 to 2,147 (a percentage decrease of 12.44%)
- In Northern Ireland by 865, from 9,737 to 8,872 (a percentage decrease of 8.88%)

**Number of casualties: people killed**

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage share of all casualties who were killed in recorded road traffic collisions was 0.44 percentage points lower in Belfast City Policing District, 0.19% compared with 0.63%.

Between 2015 and 2019, the number of casualties killed in recorded road traffic collisions decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 2, from 6 to 4 (a percentage decrease of 33.33%)
- In Northern Ireland by 18, from 74 to 56 (a percentage decrease of 24.32%)

**Number of casualties: people seriously injured**

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage share of casualties seriously injured in recorded road traffic collisions was 2.67 percentage points lower in Belfast City Policing District, 6.05% compared with 8.72%.

Between 2015 and 2019, the number of casualties seriously injured in recorded road traffic collisions increased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 15, from 115 to 130 (a percentage increase of 13.04%)
- In Northern Ireland by 63, from 711 to 774 (a percentage increase of 8.86%)

#### ***Number of casualties: people slightly injured***

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage share of casualties slightly injured in recorded road traffic collisions was 3.12 percentage points higher in Belfast City Policing District, 93.76% compared with 90.64%.

Between 2015 and 2019, the number of casualties slightly injured in recorded road traffic collisions decreased:

- In Belfast City Policing District by 318, from 2,331 to 2,013 (a percentage decrease of 13.64%)
- In Northern Ireland by 910, from 8,952 to 8,042 (a percentage decrease of 10.17%)

### Comparison with other LGDs

#### ***Rate of collisions***

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest rate of collisions at 41.36 per 10,000 population
- Ards & North Down LGD had the lowest rate at 23.19 per 10,000 population
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the median rate at 27.47 per 10,000 population (see Place Figure 14)

#### ***Rate of casualties***

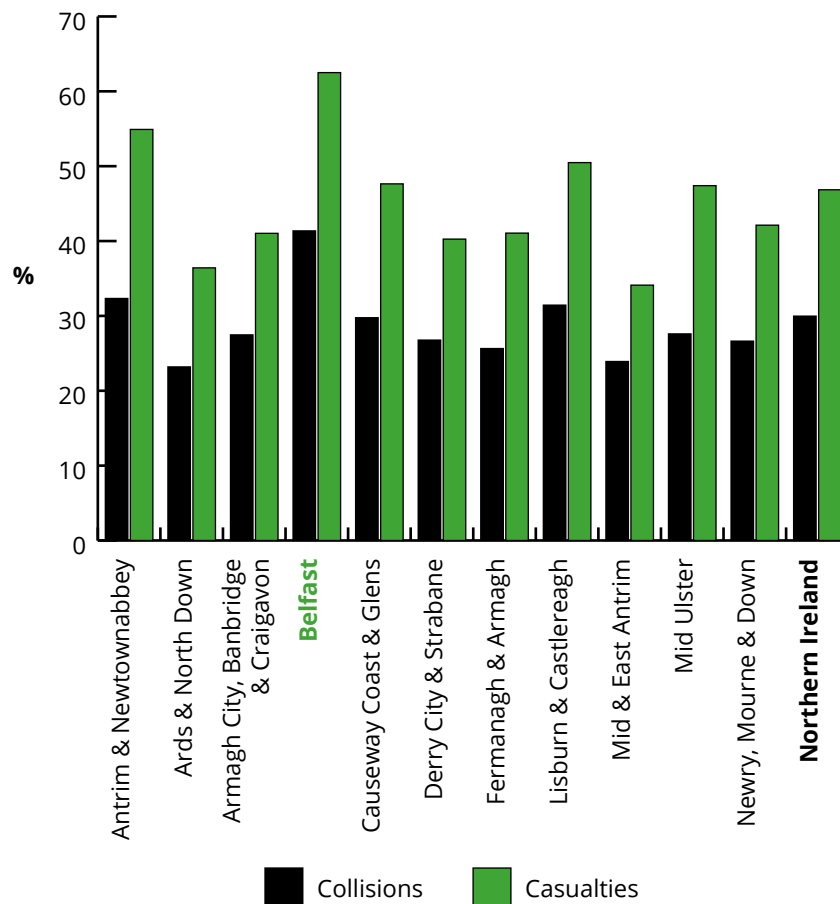
In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest rate of casualties at 62.50 per 10,000 population
- Mid & East Antrim LGD had the lowest rate at 34.11 per 10,000 population
- Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the median rate at 27.47 per 10,000 population (see Place Figure 14)



**PLACE FIGURE 14:**

**Rate of collisions and rate of casualties per 10,000 population by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**



Source: NINIS: Road Traffic Collision Casualties by Severity of Injury (administrative geographies) Pivot Table

### Comparison with other policing districts

#### **Number of casualties**

In 2019, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest percentage of casualties in recorded road traffic collisions at 24.20%
- Mid & East Antrim Policing District had the lowest percentage at 5.35%
- Mid Ulster Policing District had the median percentage at 7.94% (see Place Figure 11)

***Number of casualties: people killed***

In 2019, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the median percentage of casualties killed in recorded road traffic collisions at 7.14%
- Causeway Coast & Glens Policing District had the highest percentage at 16.07%
- Derry City & Strabane Policing District had the lowest percentage at 1.79% (see Place Figure 11)

***Number of casualties: people seriously injured***

In 2019, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest percentage of casualties seriously injured in recorded road traffic collisions at 16.80%
- Mid & East Antrim Policing District had the lowest percentage at 5.94%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey Policing District had the median value at 8.14% (see Place Figure 15)

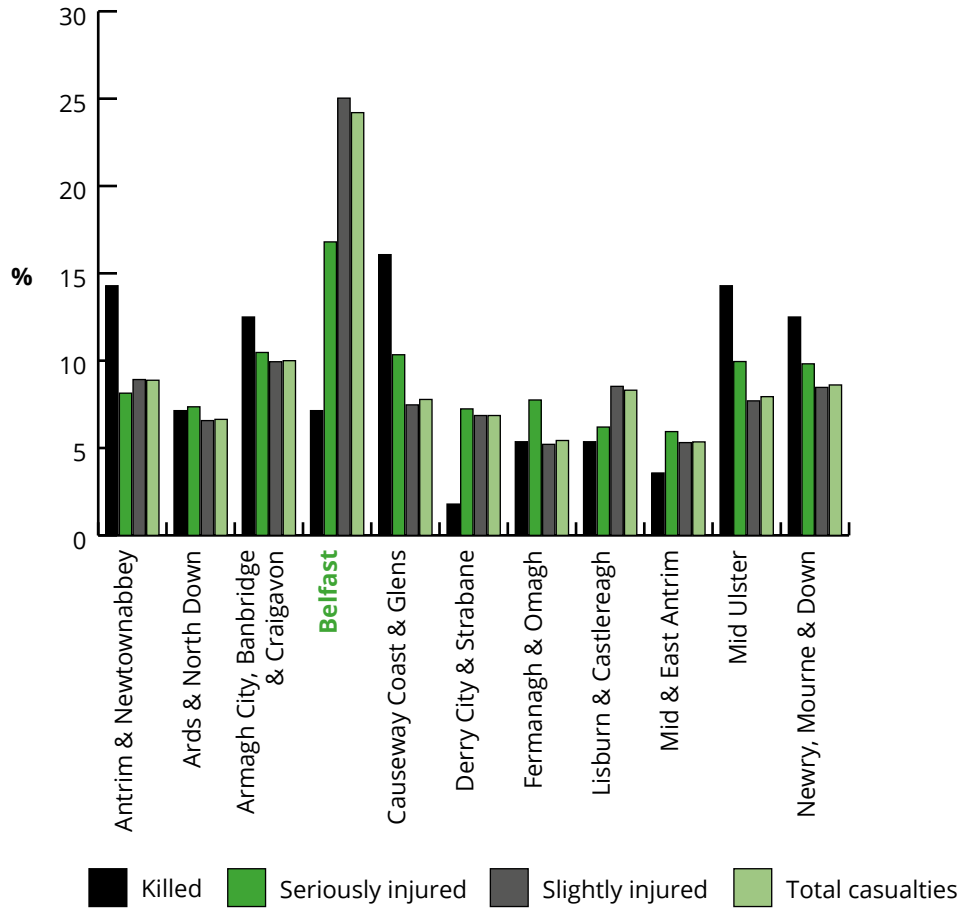
***Number of casualties: people slightly injured***

In 2019, when compared with other policing districts:

- Belfast City Policing District had the highest percentage of casualties seriously injured in recorded road traffic collisions at 25.03%
- Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the lowest percentage at 5.21%
- Mid Ulster Policing District had the median value at 7.70% (see Place Figure 15)

**PLACE FIGURE 15:**

**Percentage share (%) of Northern Ireland’s casualties – people killed, seriously injured and slightly injured, and combined casualties – in recorded road traffic collisions by policing district, 2019**



Source: PSNI: Road Traffic Related Statistics – Calendar Year, 2019 statistics spreadsheet of tables (Excel), Table 5 Area and District

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the rate of collisions and the rate of casualties was higher than those in Northern Ireland, and highest among LGDs.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, the rate of collisions and the rate of casualties decreased in Belfast LGD and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage decreases were greater in Belfast and the gaps between the two narrowed.

In 2019, Belfast City Policing District had:

- **Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 casualties in recorded road traffic collisions in Northern Ireland**
- **Less than 1 out of every 10 deaths in recorded road traffic collisions in Northern Ireland**
- **Just under 2 out of every 10 people seriously injured in recorded road traffic collisions in Northern Ireland**
- **Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 people slightly injured in recorded road traffic collisions in Northern Ireland**

Between 2015 and 2019, in recorded road traffic collisions:

- **The number of casualties decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two narrowed**
- **The number of deaths decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast (although the numbers were small) and the gap between the two narrowed**
- **The number of seriously injured people increased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage increase was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two widened**
- **The number of slightly injured people decreased in Belfast City Policing District and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two narrowed**

In 2019, when compared with other policing districts, in recorded road traffic collisions, Belfast City Policing District had:

- **The highest number and percentage of casualties**
- **The median number and percentage of deaths**

- The highest number and percentage of people who were seriously injured
- The highest number and percentage of people who were slightly injured

### Inequalities with the potential for inequity

In 2019/20, Belfast North and Belfast West had the highest rates of collisions and of casualties.

## PRINCIPAL CAUSATION FACTORS OF COLLISIONS IN WHICH CASUALTIES WERE KILLED OR SERIOUSLY INJURED IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Using data from PSNI Road Traffic Related Statistics 2019 to identify the principal causation factor in collisions in which casualties were killed or seriously injured (KSI), a ratio was developed of the number of casualties killed or seriously injured that were associated with each principal causation factor in relation to the number of collisions that were associated with each principal causation factor (see Place Table 1). Although the number of casualties killed or seriously injured associated with the principal causation factor of 'Inattention or attention diverted' appears to be large, and as such this factor could be seen as one of the top causes of collisions in which people are killed or seriously injured, when seen in relation to the number of collisions in which 'Inattention or attention diverted' is the cause, the ratio is relatively small. Using this ratio, in 2019, in Northern Ireland, the top three principal causation factors in which people were killed or seriously injured were found to be:

- 'Wrong course/position'
- 'Excessive speed having regard to conditions'
- Impairment by drugs or alcohol – driver/rider' (see Place Figure 16)

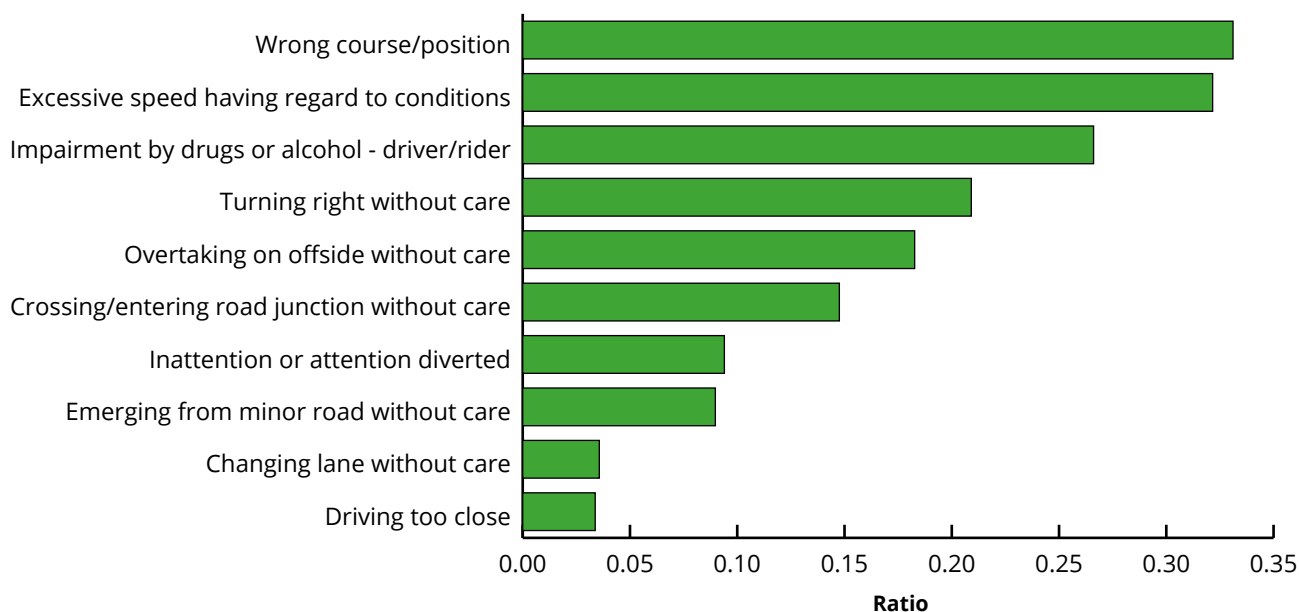
**PLACE TABLE 1:****Principal causation factors of collisions in which casualties were killed or seriously injured in Northern Ireland, 2019**

Principal causation factor	Collisions with principal causation factor (number)	Casualties KSI in collisions with principal causation factor (number)	Ratio of casualties KSI to collisions with principal causation factor
Inattention or attention diverted	1,031	97	0.0940
Driving too close	680	23	0.0338
Emerging from minor road without care	412	37	0.0898
Crossing or entering road junction without care	325	48	0.1476
Wrong course/position	305	101	0.3311
Turning right without care	263	55	0.2091
Impairment by drugs or alcohol - driver/rider	263	70	0.2661
Excessive speed having regard to conditions	221	71	0.3216
Overtaking on offside without care	186	34	0.1827
Changing lane without care	168	6	0.0357

Source: Data extracted from PSNI: Road Traffic Related Statistics – Calendar Year 2019

**PLACE FIGURE 16:**

**Principal causation factors of collisions in which casualties were killed or seriously injured in Northern Ireland, 2019**



Source: Data extracted from PSNI: Road Traffic Related Statistics – Calendar Year 2019

Following publication of the summary of the City Health Profile, 'BELFAST Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity', there have been some changes due to:

- Revision of some of the housing data
- Locating housing data that is useful and adds to the possible insights that can be drawn from the data presented

## SECTION 2

# Housing Stock

## 2.1 Total Number of Dwellings

### IMPORTANCE

Total housing stock represents the overall housing supply for the population.

Housing supply needs to keep pace with demand, including that created by factors such as increasing life expectancy, immigration, and the increasing number of one-person households.<sup>35</sup>

### DEFINITION

In line with the Rates Order (NI) 1977, Housing Stock is defined as a count of properties valued as domestic or mixed for the purposes of rating.

Information is from the Department for Communities Housing Statistics, Northern Ireland Housing Statistics report 2019-20 and 2017-18.<sup>36</sup>

### PROFILE FINDINGS

At April 2020, in Belfast LGD, the total housing stock was 159,105 dwellings, 19.70% of Northern Ireland's total.

Between April 2018 and April 2020, in Belfast LGD, the total number of dwellings increased by 1,536, from 157,569 to 159,105.

35. Adapted from Housing supply – where will we live? - UK Parliament (Last accessed 22 June 2022)

36. Housing statistics | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) and Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) and Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2017-18 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 19 June 2022)



## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

At April 2020, in Northern Ireland, the total housing stock was 807,812 dwellings.

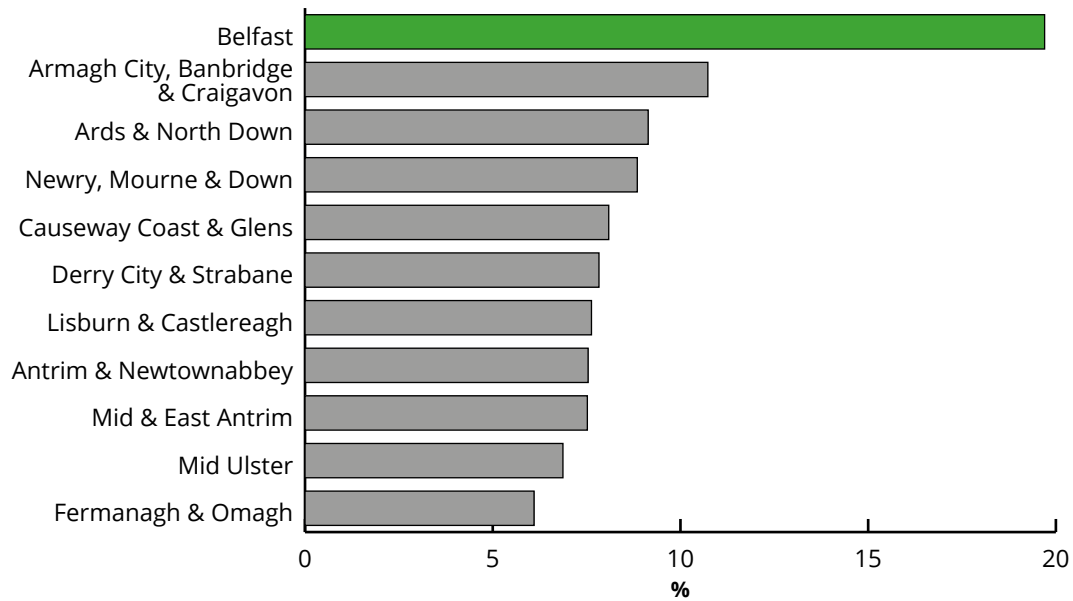
Between April 2018 and April 2020, the total number of dwellings increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 1,536, from 157,569 to 159,105 (a percentage increase of 0.97%)
- In Northern Ireland by 17,484, from 790,328 to 807,812 (a percentage increase of 2.21%)

### Comparison with other LGDs

At April 2020, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage of Northern Ireland's housing stock at 19.70%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 6.10%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the median percentage at 7.83% (see Place Figure 17)

**PLACE FIGURE 17:****Percentage (%) of Northern Ireland's housing stock by LGD, April 2020**

Source: Department for Communities: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20  
Section 1 Tables Supply – Table 1.4

**HIGHLIGHTS**

At April 2020, Belfast had 2 out of every 10 dwellings in Northern Ireland, which is double that of any other LGD in Northern Ireland apart from Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon.

## 2.2 Dwelling Type

### IMPORTANCE

In the UK Household Longitudinal Study, C-reactive protein, a biomarker associated with stress and infection (and at high levels with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease), was found to be higher in people who lived in semi-detached dwellings, terraced dwellings or flats when compared with people who lived in detached dwellings.<sup>37</sup>

In Scotland's Housing and Regeneration Project (SHARP), it was found that dwelling type can influence key psychosocial processes, such as control, with consequent impacts on wellbeing. Key aspects of moving from an apartment to a house that seemed to engender improvements in outcomes, such as mental wellbeing, quality of life, and mood, were having:

- A private main door entrance
- A private garden
- Changes in the layout of streets inherent in the transition from flats to houses<sup>38</sup>

Dwelling type can also have an impact on the energy efficiency of a property. Overall, flats and maisonettes were the most energy efficient dwelling type in England and Wales, which may be because of external-wall exposure being higher in detached properties, compared with flats and maisonettes.<sup>39</sup>

Another consideration around dwelling type is that climate change projections predict an increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events including heatwaves. Overheating exposure depends on a range of factors including dwelling type: occupants of top-floor, 1960s flats and modern detached houses experience significantly greater overheating exposure than those in solid-wall terraced houses, ground-floor flats and 1930s semi-detached houses.<sup>40</sup>

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37. Housing and health: new evidence using biomarker data | Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health (bmj.com) and How renting could affect your health | World Economic Forum (weforum.org) (Last accessed 24 June 2022)
  38. Gibson M, Thomson H, Kearns A & Petticrew M (2011) Understanding the Psychosocial Impacts of Housing Type: Qualitative Evidence from a Housing and Regeneration Intervention. *Housing Studies* 26: 555-573. Doi 10.1080/02673037.2011.559724. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233098001\\_Understanding\\_the\\_Psychosocial\\_Impacts\\_of\\_Housing\\_Type\\_Qualitative\\_Evidence\\_from\\_a\\_Housing\\_and\\_Regeneration\\_Intervention](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233098001_Understanding_the_Psychosocial_Impacts_of_Housing_Type_Qualitative_Evidence_from_a_Housing_and_Regeneration_Intervention) (Last accessed 20 June 2022)
  39. Energy efficiency of housing in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (Last accessed 20 June 2022)
  40. Dwelling type the most significant factor in overheating homes – ARCC (arcc-network.org.uk) (Last accessed 20 June 2022)

## DEFINITION

In the Northern Ireland House Condition Survey, dwelling types are classified as follows:

- **Terraced house** - a house forming part of a block where at least one house is attached to two or more other houses
- **Semi-detached house** - a house that is attached to one other house
- **Detached house** - a house where none of the habitable structure is joined to another building (other than garages, outhouses, etc.)
- **Purpose-built flat** - a flat in a purpose-built block, includes cases where there is only one flat with independent access in a building which is also used for non-domestic purposes
- **Converted flat** - a flat resulting from the conversion of a house or former non-residential building, includes buildings converted into a flat plus commercial premises (typically corner shops)

Information is from the Department for Communities Housing Statistics, Northern Ireland Housing Statistics report 2019-20 and 2017-18.<sup>41</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

At April 2020, in Belfast LGD, the total housing stock was 159,105 dwellings, of which there were:

- **33,772 apartments (21.23%)**
- **15,129 detached dwellings (9.51%)**
- **42,279 semi-detached dwellings (26.57%)**
- **67,925 terraced dwellings (42.69%; see Place Figure 18)**

41. Housing statistics | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) and Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) and Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2017-18 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 19 June 2022)

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

At April 2020, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of:

- Apartments was higher by 10.45 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 21.23% compared with 10.78%
- Detached dwellings was lower by 26.13 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 9.51% compared with 35.64%
- Semi-detached dwellings was higher by 1.19 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 26.57% compared with 25.38%
- Terraced dwellings was higher by 14.49 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 42.69% compared with 28.20% (see Place Figure 18)

Between April 2018 and April 2020:

- The number of apartments increased by 648 in Belfast LGD, from 33,124 to 33,772 (a percentage increase of 1.96%), and in Northern Ireland by 2,631, from 84,490 to 87,121 (a percentage increase of 3.11%)
- The number of detached dwellings increased by 189 in Belfast LGD, from 14,940 to 15,129 (a percentage increase of 1.27%), and in Northern Ireland by 6,372, from 281,526 to 287,898 (a percentage increase of 2.26%)
- The number of semi-detached dwellings increased by 489 in Belfast LGD, from 41,790 to 42,279 (a percentage increase of 1.17%), and in Northern Ireland by 7,029, from 197,972 to 205,001 (a percentage increase of 3.55%)
- The number of terraced dwellings increased by 210 in Belfast LGD, from 67,715 to 67,925 (a percentage increase of 0.31%), and in Northern Ireland by 1,452, from 226,340 to 227,792 (a percentage increase of 0.64%)

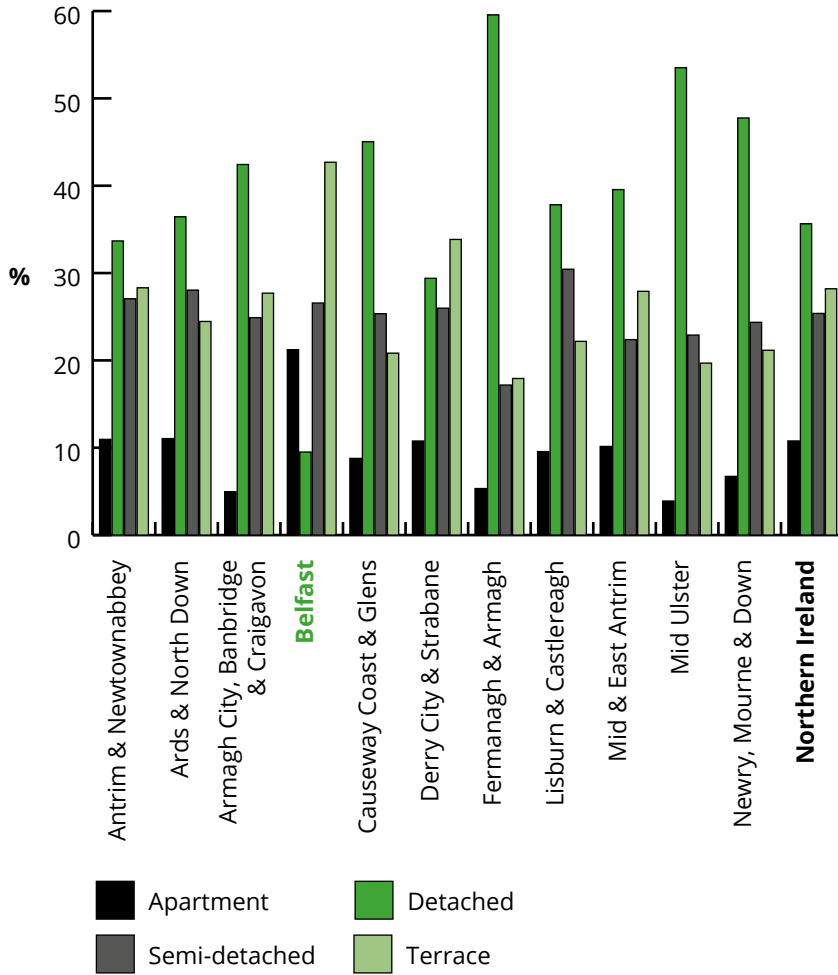
## Comparison with other LGDs

At April 2020, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage of apartments at 21.23%, Mid Ulster LGD had the lowest percentage at 3.90%, and Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the median percentage at 9.56%
- Belfast LGD had the lowest percentage of detached dwellings at 9.51%, Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the highest percentage at 59.56%, and Mid & East Antrim LGD had the median percentage at 39.56%
- Belfast LGD had the fourth highest percentage of semi-detached dwellings at 26.57%, Lisburn & Castlereagh had the highest percentage at 30.44%, Fermanagh & Omagh had the lowest percentage at 17.18%, and Causeway Coast & Glens had the median percentage at 25.35%
- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage of terraced dwellings at 42.69%, Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 17.93%, and Ards & North Down LGD had the median percentage at 24.46% (see Place Figure 18)

**PLACE FIGURE 18:**

**Percentage (%) of dwellings by dwelling type and by LGD, and in Northern Ireland, April 2020**



Source: Source: Department for Communities: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20 Section 1 Tables Supply - Table 1.4

## HIGHLIGHTS

At April 2020, in Belfast:

- More than 4 out of every 10 dwellings were terraced, compared with almost 3 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 dwellings were semi-detached, similar to Northern Ireland
- Just over 2 out of every 10 dwellings were apartments, compared with 1 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- Almost 1 in every 10 dwellings was detached, compared with between 3 and 4 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland

At April 2020, when compared with other LGDs, Belfast had:

- The highest percentage of terraced dwellings
- A similar percentage of semi-detached houses as many of the other LGDs
- The highest percentage of apartments, which was more than double that in seven other LGDs
- The lowest percentage of detached houses, 3-6 times lower than that in other LGDs



## 2.3 Dwelling Age

### IMPORTANCE

The age of a property is the most significant factor associated with energy efficiency, ahead of fuel type and property type.<sup>42</sup> The age of a dwelling affects its energy efficiency because building techniques and regulations have changed over time, together with the occurrence of wear and tear. In England and Wales, dwellings that were constructed more recently had higher median energy efficiency scores than older dwellings.<sup>43</sup> There is evidence that greater energy efficiency reduces fuel poverty.<sup>44</sup> ( see Prosperity Chapter, page 119)

### DEFINITION

The age of the dwelling refers to the date of construction of the oldest part of the building.

Information is from the Northern Ireland House Condition Survey (HCS) 2016.<sup>45</sup>

### PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2016, in Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (MUA) <sup>46</sup>, the percentage of dwellings built:

- Pre-1919 was 12.3%
- Between 1919 and 1944 was 20.4%
- Between 1945 and 1964 was 25.4%
- Between 1965 and 1980 was 11.4%
- After 1980 was 30.5% (see Place Figure 19)

- 
42. Age of the property is the biggest single factor in energy efficiency of homes - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (Last accessed 11 July 2022)
43. Energy efficiency of housing in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (Last accessed 20 June 2022)
44. National Conversation on Health Inequalities: Healthy Homes Programme - Case study - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Last accessed 20 June 2022)
45. The Housing Executive - House Condition Survey (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 20 June 2022)
46. The Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA) is one of the categories of "Dwelling Location" used in the Northern Ireland HCS 2016

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2016, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of dwellings built:

- Pre-1919 was 1.8 percentage points higher in Belfast MUA, 12.3% compared with 10.5%
- Between 1919 and 1944 was 11.7 percentage points higher in Belfast MUA, 20.4% compared with 8.7%
- Between 1945 and 1964 was 9.2 percentage points higher in Belfast MUA, 25.4% compared with 16.2%
- Between 1965 and 1980 was 12.9 percentage points lower in Belfast MUA, 11.4% compared with 24.3%
- After 1980 was 9.9 percentage points lower in Belfast MUA, 30.5% compared with 40.4% (see Place Figure 19)

### Comparison with other dwelling locations<sup>47</sup>

In 2016, when compared with other dwelling locations:

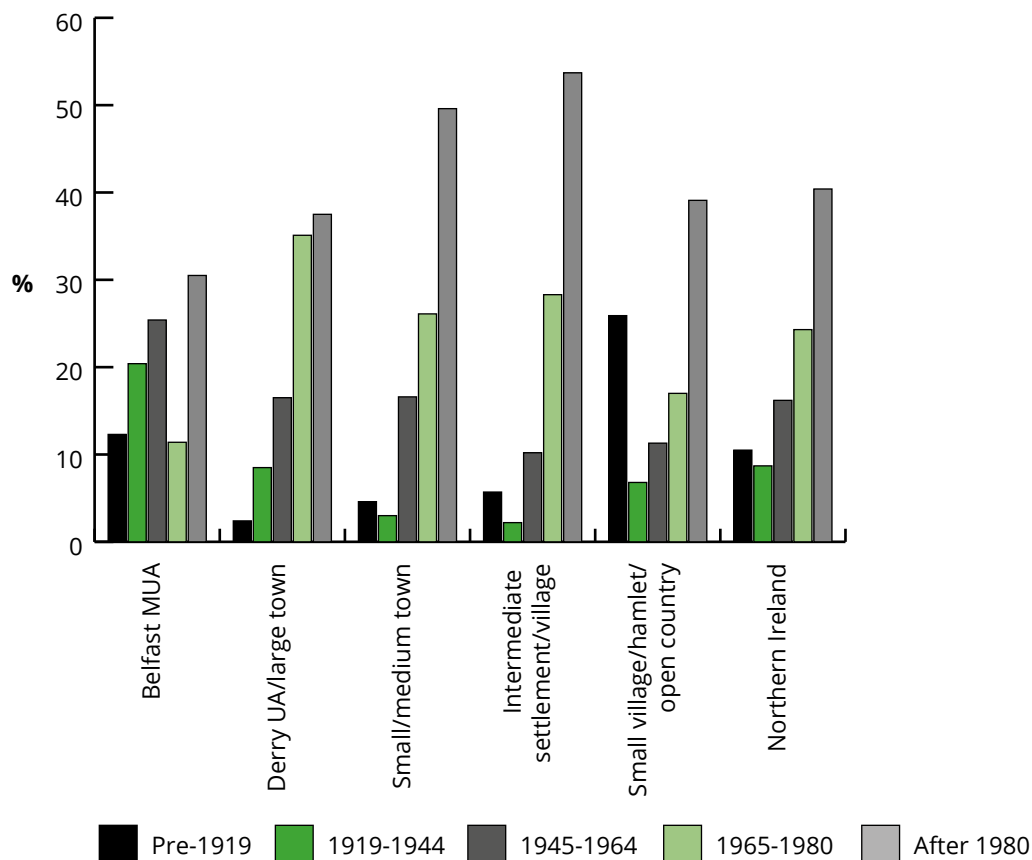
- Belfast MUA had the second highest percentage of dwellings built pre-1919 at 12.3%, the Small village/Hamlet/Open country dwelling location had the highest percentage at 25.9%, the Derry UA/Large town dwelling location had the lowest percentage at 2.4%, and the Intermediate settlement/Village dwelling location had the median percentage at 5.7%
- Belfast MUA had the highest percentage of dwellings built between 1919 and 1944 at 20.4%, the Intermediate settlement/Village dwelling location had the lowest percentage at 2.2%, and the Small village/Hamlet/Open country dwelling location had the median percentage at 6.8%
- Belfast MUA had the highest percentage of dwellings built between 1945 and 1964 at 25.4%, the Intermediate settlement/Village dwelling location had the lowest percentage at 10.2%, and the Derry UA/Large town dwelling location had the median percentage at 16.5%

47. In 2016, the HCS moved to a new urban-rural classification. The new eight-band classification was the result of the 'Review of the Statistical Classification and Delineation of Settlements' published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) in 2015. Owing to small numbers in some of the eight bands, they have been re-grouped into five bands to provide a meaningful analysis: Belfast MUA, Derry Urban Area (UA)/Large town, Small/medium town, Intermediate settlement/village, and Small village/hamlet/open country

- Belfast MUA had the lowest percentage of dwellings built between 1965 and 1980 at 11.4%, the Derry UA/Large town dwelling location had the highest percentage at 35.1%, the Small/Medium town dwelling location had the median percentage at 26.1%
- Belfast MUA had the lowest percentage of dwellings built after 1980 at 30.5%, the Intermediate settlement/Village dwelling location had the highest percentage at 53.7% and the Small village/Hamlet/Open country dwelling location had the median percentage at 39.1% (see Place Figure 19)

### PLACE FIGURE 19:

Percentage (%) of dwellings by dwelling age and by dwelling location, and in Northern Ireland, 2016



Source: HCIS 2016: Main Data Tables, Table 3.4

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2016, Belfast MUA had just over 4 out of every 10 dwellings built after 1965, compared with between 6 and 7 out of every 10 dwellings in Northern Ireland. Thus, the dwelling stock in Belfast MUA is older than that in Northern Ireland, and it is the oldest among all other dwelling locations.

In 2016, in Belfast MUA:

- Over 1 out of every 10 dwellings was built before 1919
- 2 out of every 10 dwellings were built between 1919 and 1944
- Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 dwellings were built between 1945 and 1964
- Just over 1 out of every 10 dwellings were built between 1965 and 1980
- 3 out of every 10 dwellings were built after 1980

## 2.4 Dwelling Tenure

### IMPORTANCE

Housing tenure may expose people to different levels of health hazards.<sup>48</sup>

In a repeat cross-sectional study in the West of Scotland, housing tenure was associated with health. After accounting for age, sex, social class, and income, it was found that social renters were more likely to report ill health than owner occupiers.<sup>49</sup>

In the UK Household Longitudinal Study, C-reactive protein, a biomarker associated with stress and infection (and at high levels with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease), was found to be higher in private renters and social renters when compared with owner occupiers.<sup>50</sup>

Children who live in the social rented sector are likely to have poorer health, but this is likely to be attributable to factors such as low income and parental poor health rather than the quality of housing, whereas children in the private rented sector in bad-quality housing are likely to have poorer health when compared with children in the private rented sector in good-quality housing.<sup>51</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the Northern Ireland House Condition Survey (HCS), there are the following categories of dwelling tenure:

- **Owner occupied: includes outright owners, people buying with a mortgage and shared owners (people who are part renting and part buying their homes from the Northern Ireland Co-Ownership Housing Association), includes anyone who is buying their home from a housing association or from the Housing Executive**

- 
48. Does housing tenure predict health in the UK because it exposes people to different levels of housing related hazards in the home or its surroundings? - PubMed (nih.gov) (Last accessed 20 June 2022)
  49. Are housing tenure and car access still associated with health? A repeat cross-sectional study of UK adults over a 13-year period - PMC (nih.gov) (Last accessed 20 June 2022)
  50. Housing and health: new evidence using biomarker data | Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health (bmj.com) and How renting could affect your health | World Economic Forum (weforum.org) (Last accessed 24 June 2022)
  51. NatCen. People living in bad housing – numbers and health impacts. August 2013. [https://assets.ctfassets.net/6sxvmndnnp0s/6pmYen0M6fWEJCcKqEq5sY/95d09421aeeec22dcc37c6cd202fc5bc/People\\_living\\_in\\_bad\\_housing.pdf](https://assets.ctfassets.net/6sxvmndnnp0s/6pmYen0M6fWEJCcKqEq5sY/95d09421aeeec22dcc37c6cd202fc5bc/People_living_in_bad_housing.pdf) (Last accessed 16 June 2022)

- **Private rented (and others):** rented from a private landlord, private company, other organisation, relative or friend, includes tied accommodation and any 'other' type of accommodation not covered by the standard tenure types
- **Social housing:** all occupied dwellings owned and managed by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and all occupied dwellings owned and managed by housing associations (registered and unregistered) with the exception of the Northern Ireland Co-Ownership Housing Association

Information is from the Northern Ireland HCS 2016.<sup>52</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2016, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of dwellings that were:

- Owner occupied was 55%
- Private rented (and others) was 19%
- Social housing was 27% (see Place Figure 20)

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2016, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of dwellings that were:

- Owner occupied was lower by 11 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 55% compared with 66%
- Private rented (and others) was the same in Belfast LGD at 19%
- Social housing was higher by 11 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 27% compared with 16% (see Place Figure 20)

52. The Housing Executive - House Condition Survey (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 20 June 2022)

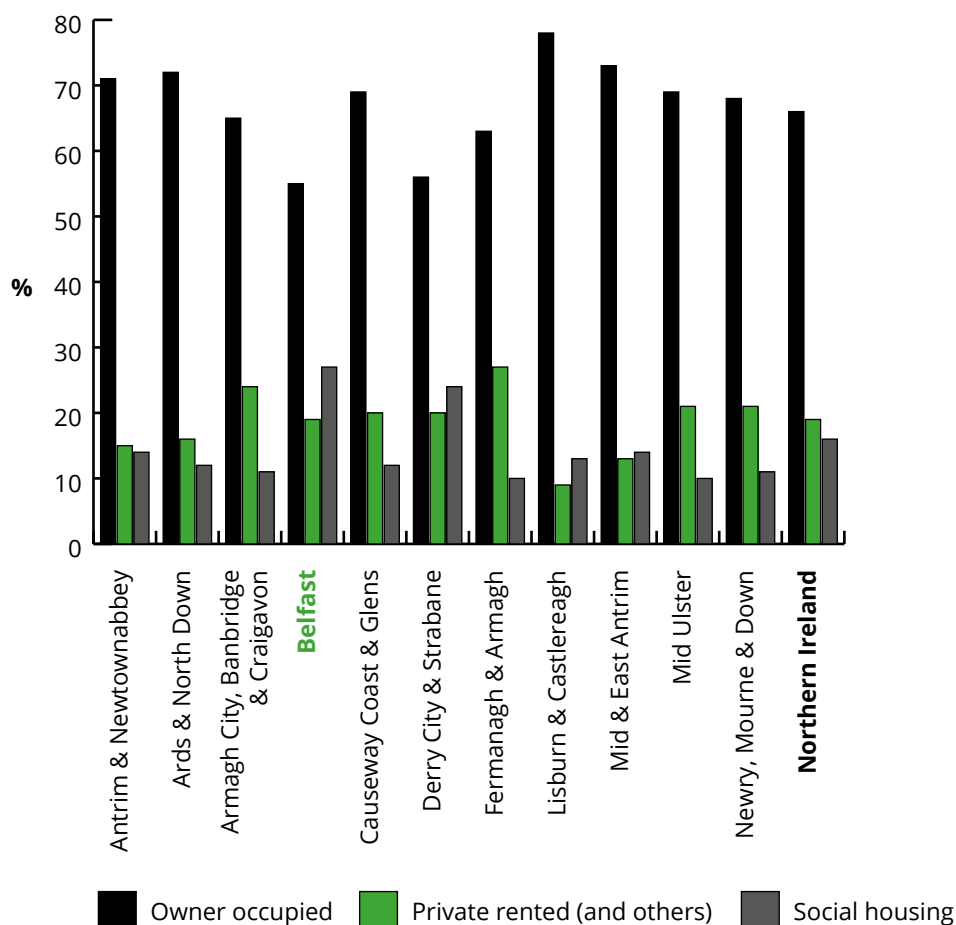
## Comparison with other LGDs

In 2016, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the lowest percentage of dwellings that were owner occupied at 55%, Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the highest percentage at 78%, and Causeway Coast & Glens LGD and Mid Ulster LGD had the median percentage at 69%
- Belfast LGD had the fifth lowest percentage of dwellings that were private rented (and others) at 19%, Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the highest percentage at 27%, Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 9%, and Causeway Coast & Glens LGD and Derry City & Strabane LGD had the median percentage at 20%
- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage of dwellings that were social housing at 27%, Fermanagh & Omagh LGD and Mid Ulster LGD had the lowest; percentage at 10%, and Ards & North Down LGD and Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the median percentage at 12% (see Place Figure 20)

**PLACE FIGURE 20:**

**Percentage (%) of dwellings by tenure and by LGD, and in Northern Ireland, 2016<sup>53</sup>**



Source: HCS 2016: Main Report, Table 3.4, page 23

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2016, in Belfast, between 5 and 6 out of every 10 households were owner-occupier compared with between 6 and 7 out of every 10 households in Northern Ireland.

In 2016, among LGDs, Belfast had:

- The lowest percentage of owner occupiers
- One of the lower percentages of households in the private rented sector
- The highest percentage of households in the social rented sector

53. Includes 'vacant' dwellings with tenure ascribed to the dwelling's tenure when it was last occupied



## SECTION 3

# Housing Conditions

### 3.1 - Disrepair

- Decent Homes Standard
- Fitness Standard
- Housing Health and Safety Rating System - Category 1 Hazards

#### IMPORTANCE

The condition and nature of housing can have an impact on people's health and wellbeing. Housing conditions relate to the physical state of a property and how suitable it is for the residents, encompassing potential flaws, such as:

- Lacking sufficient insulation
- Being damp or mouldy
- Containing risks such as trip hazards

Damp in the home can affect respiratory health, often caused by poor ventilation that can lead to the spread of mould and fungi. This can result in asthma and the proliferation of allergens and toxins. The prevalence of coughing and wheezing is also higher in damp homes. Hazards in a dwelling reflect potential sources of injury or harm to households, such as trips or falls, electrical problems, or fire risk. Around a third of accidents to adults happen in the home, and falls are an important cause of morbidity and mortality in older adults.<sup>54</sup>

In the Health Survey for England:

- Children in bad housing were disproportionately more likely to suffer from poorer general health, poorer respiratory health, and asthma
- Working-age adults in bad housing were disproportionately at greater risk of poorer general health, low mental wellbeing, and respiratory problems including asthma and breathlessness

54. Housing | The Health Foundation (Last accessed 16 June 2022)

- The association between living in bad housing and health problems was particularly acute among people above retirement age<sup>55</sup>

In 2016, in Northern Ireland, the three most common reasons for a dwelling being classified as unfit were:

- Dampness
- Serious disrepair
- Unsatisfactory facilities for the preparation and cooking of food

In 2016, in Northern Ireland, the most common risks were:

- Falls on stairs (3%)
- Falls on level surfaces (2%)
- Excess cold (2%)<sup>56</sup>

## DEFINITION

The NIHE House Condition Survey (HCS) provides an overview of the characteristics and condition of Northern Ireland's housing stock, usually at five-year intervals.

### **Disrepair**

Dwellings with at least one fault (any fabric disrepair) to the interior or exterior of the dwelling. A fault is any problem which is not of a purely cosmetic nature and which either represents a health or safety hazard or threatens further deterioration to the specific element or any other part of the building.

### **Decent Homes Standard**

A decent home is one that is wind and weather tight, warm and has modern facilities. A decent home meets the following four criteria:

- **Criterion a: It meets the current statutory minimum standards for housing**
- **Criterion b: It is in a reasonable state of repair**

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55. [https://assets.ctfassets.net/6sxvmndnnpn0s/6pmYen0M6fWEJCcKqEq5sY/95d09421aeeec22dcc37c6cd202fc5bc/People\\_living\\_in\\_bad\\_housing.pdf](https://assets.ctfassets.net/6sxvmndnnpn0s/6pmYen0M6fWEJCcKqEq5sY/95d09421aeeec22dcc37c6cd202fc5bc/People_living_in_bad_housing.pdf) (Last accessed 16 June 2022)

56. House Condition Survey Main Report 2016 (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 16 June 2022)

- **Criterion c: It has reasonably modern facilities and services**
- **Criterion d: It provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort**

### ***Fitness Standard***

The current Fitness Standard is set out in Schedule 5 of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1992. This schedule states that a dwelling is unfit for human habitation if it fails to meet one or more of the following requirements:

1. It is structurally stable
2. It is free from serious disrepair
3. It is free from dampness prejudicial to the health of the occupants (if any)
4. It has adequate provision for heating, lighting, and ventilation
5. It has an adequate supply of wholesome water
6. There are satisfactory facilities in the house for the preparation and cooking of food, including a sink with a satisfactory supply of hot and cold water
7. It has a suitably located water closet for the exclusive use of the occupants (if any)
8. It has, for the exclusive use of the occupants (if any), a suitably located fixed bath or shower and wash-hand basin, each of which is provided with a satisfactory supply of hot and cold water
9. It has an effective system for the draining of foul, waste, and surface water<sup>57</sup>

Surveyors are given the following guidance in assessing fitness:

- **'Satisfactory' means that there are no or very, very insignificant faults in relation to each heading**
- **'Acceptable' means that there are some faults of a minor nature that do not significantly impact on the overall condition or fitness judgements**
- **'Defective' indicates quite serious faults that are bringing the property close to a judgement of unfitness but not quite enough to make that final jump to a decision that the property fails the standard**
- **'Unfit' means the property fails the fitness standard, is unsuitable for occupation in that condition, and that statutory action by the Housing Executive is required**

The only true legal decision that the surveyors must make is whether the property is: "so far defective in one or more of the 9 points [or headings or criterion] contained in the fitness standard as to be unreasonable for occupation in that condition". This

57. Flats may be classified as unfit if the building or part of the building outside of the flat fails to meet any of the following requirements and by reason of that failure is not suitable for occupation: the building or part is structurally stable; it is free from serious disrepair; it is free from dampness; it has adequate provision for ventilation; it has an effective system for the draining of foul, surface and waste water

definition must guide the surveyor's decision in deciding if the property is legally 'Fit' or 'Unfit'. The three terms 'Satisfactory', 'Acceptable', and 'Defective' are degrees of fitness.

### ***Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS): Category 1 hazards***

The Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) is a risk-based system that identifies defects in dwellings and evaluates the potential effect of any defects or deficiencies on the health and safety of occupants, visitors, neighbours, or passers-by. The system generates a score that represents the seriousness of any hazard. Any hazards that have a score of over 1,000 are described as 'Category 1' and are deemed to fail the statutory minimum standard. There are 29 categories of hazards, each of which is separately rated. The Northern Ireland HCS does not replicate the HHSRS assessment in full as part of a large-scale survey. Its assessment employs a mix of hazards that are directly assessed by surveyors in the field and others that are indirectly assessed through modelling and flags in the survey form, and a small number are assessed using external sources.

Information is from the 2016 Northern Ireland House Condition Survey (HCS); HCS 2016: Main Report, HCS 2016: Main Data Tables,<sup>58</sup> and NINIS.

## PROFILE FINDINGS

### ***Disrepair***

In 2016, in Belfast MUA, the percentage of dwellings with 'any disrepair' (one or more faults) was 49.3%.

### Differences by assembly area

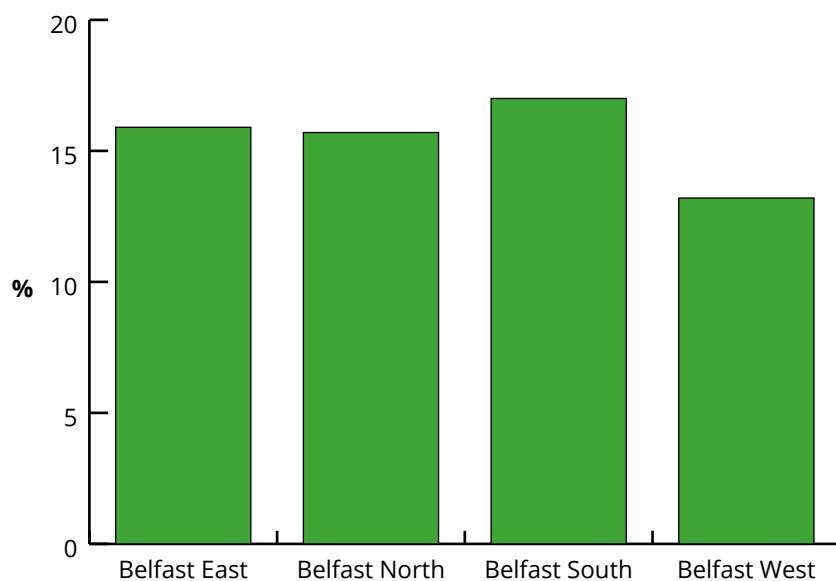
In the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2017, there was variation across Belfast' assembly areas in the percentage of dwellings 'in a state of disrepair':

- **Belfast South had the highest percentage at 17.00%**
- **Belfast West had the lowest percentage at 13.20% (see Place Figure 21)**

58. The Housing Executive - House Condition Survey (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 15 June 2022)

**PLACE FIGURE 21:**

**Percentage (%) of dwellings in 'a state of disrepair' by Belfast's assembly areas, NIMDM 2017**



Source: NINIS: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 - Indicators (administrative geographies) Pivot Table

***Decent Homes Standard***

In 2016, in Belfast MUA, the percentage of dwellings that did not meet the Decent Homes Standard was 8.6%.

***Fitness Standard***

In 2016, in Belfast MUA, the percentage of dwellings deemed:

'Unfit' was 1.2%

'Defective' was 2.3%

'Acceptable' was 27.1%

'Satisfactory' was 69.4%

**Differences by assembly area**

In the NIMDM 2017, there was variation across Belfast' assembly areas in the percentage of dwellings deemed 'unfit':

- Belfast South had the highest percentage at 1.80%
- Belfast West had the lowest percentage at 0.80% (see Place Figure 22)

**PLACE FIGURE 22:****Percentage (%) of dwellings deemed 'unfit' by Belfast's assembly areas, NIMDM 2017**

Source: NINIS: Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 - Indicators (administrative geographies) Pivot Table

**HHSRS: Category 1 hazards**

In 2016, in Belfast MUA, the percentage of dwellings with Category 1 hazards was 4.3%.

**KEY COMPARISONS****Comparison with Northern Ireland****Disrepair**

In 2016, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of dwellings with 'any disrepair' was 5.5 percentage points higher in Belfast MUA, 49.3% compared with 43.8% (see Place Figure 23).

**Decent Homes Standard**

In 2016, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of dwellings not meeting the Decent Homes Standard was higher by 0.8 percentage points in Belfast MUA, 8.6% compared with 7.8% (see Place Figure 24).

### ***Fitness Standard***

In 2016, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of dwellings deemed:

- 'Unfit' was 0.9 percentage points lower in Belfast MUA, 1.2% compared with 2.1%
- 'Defective' was 1.9 percentage points lower in Belfast MUA, 2.3% compared with 4.2%
- 'Acceptable' was 9.3 percentage points higher in Belfast MUA, 27.1% compared with 17.8%
- 'Satisfactory' was 6.6 percentage points lower in Belfast MUA, 69.4% compared with 76.0% (see Place Figure 25)

### ***HHSRS: Category 1 hazards***

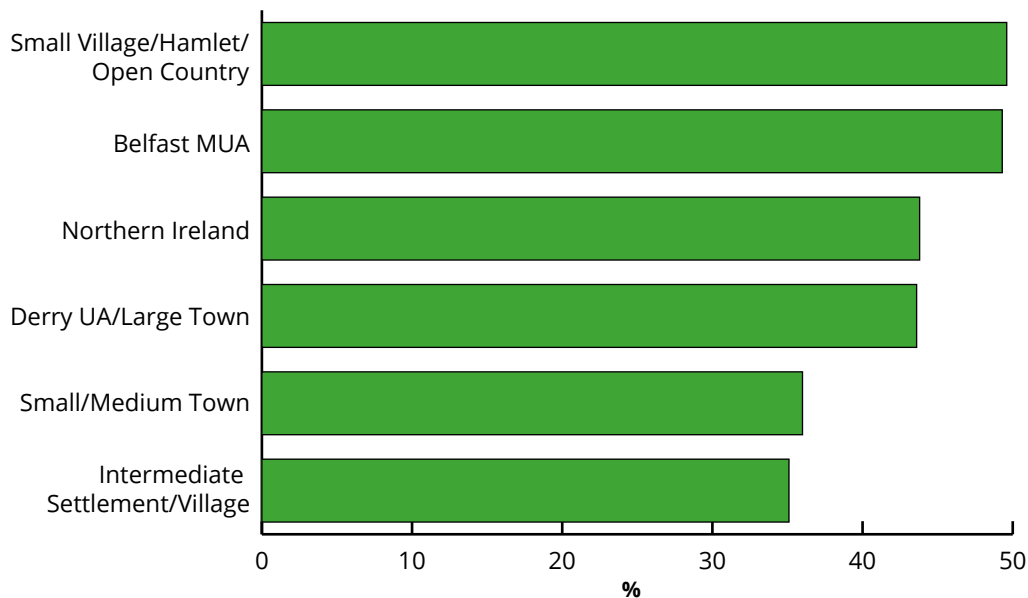
In 2016, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of dwellings with Category 1 hazards was 4.7 percentage points lower in Belfast MUA, 4.3% compared with 9.0% (see Place Figure 26).

## Comparison with other dwelling locations

### ***Disrepair***

In 2016, when compared with other dwelling locations:

- Belfast MUA had the second highest percentage of dwellings with any disrepair at 49.3%
- Small Village/Hamlet/Open Country had the highest percentage at 49.6%
- Intermediate Settlement/Village had the lowest percentage at 35.1%
- Derry UA/Large Town had the median percentage at 43.6% (see Place Figure 23)

**PLACE FIGURE 23:****Percentage (%) of dwellings with any disrepair by dwelling location and Northern Ireland, 2016**

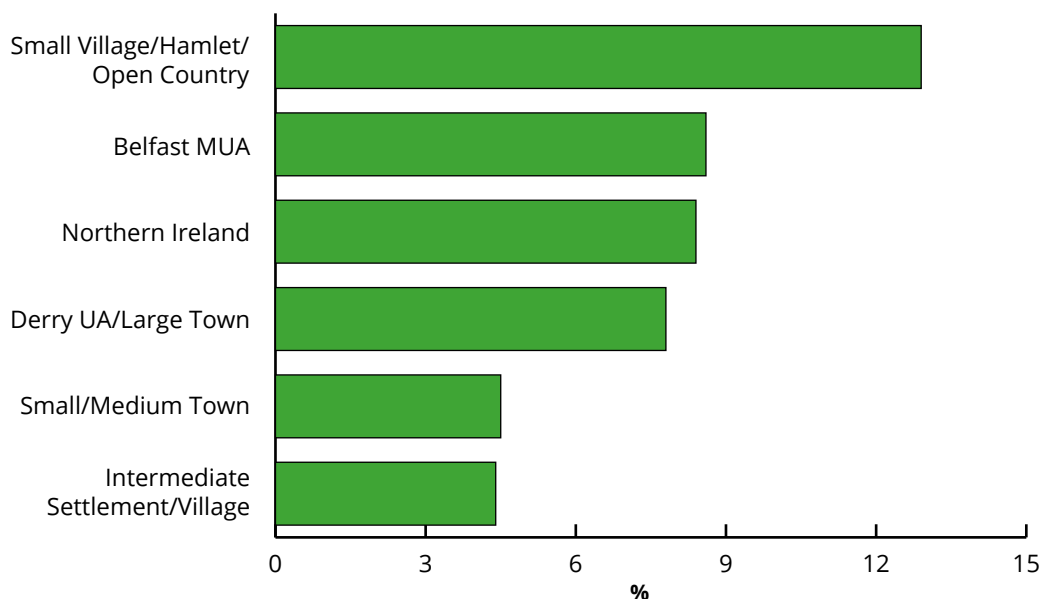
Source: HCS 2016 Table 5.14

***Decent Homes Standard***

In 2016, when compared with other dwelling locations:

- Belfast MUA had the second highest percentage of dwellings not meeting the Decent Homes Standard at 8.6%
- Small Village/Hamlet/Open Country had the highest percentage at 12.9%
- Derry UA/Large Town had the lowest percentage at 4.4%
- Small/Medium Town had the median percentage at 8.4% (see Place Figure 24)



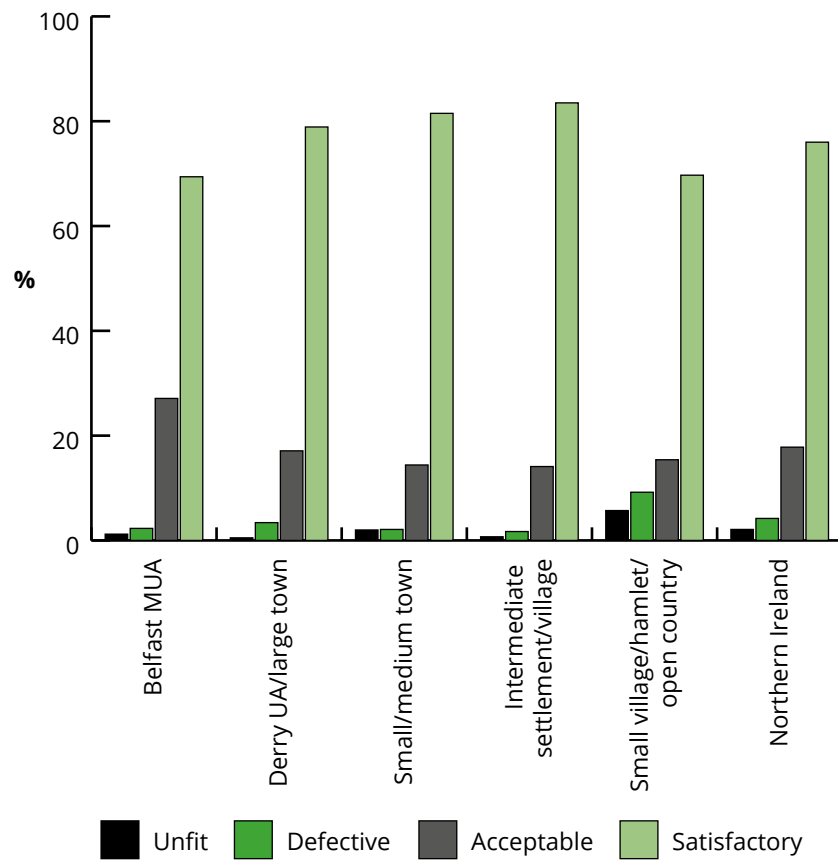
**PLACE FIGURE 24:****Percentage (%) of dwellings not meeting the Decent Homes Standard by dwelling location and Northern Ireland, 2016**

Source: HCS 2016, Table 6.15

***Fitness Standard***

In 2016, when compared with other dwelling locations:

- Belfast MUA had the median percentage of dwellings deemed 'unfit' at 1.2%, Small Village/Hamlet/Open Country had the highest percentage at 5.7%, and Derry UA/Large Town had the lowest percentage at 0.5%
- Belfast MUA had the median percentage of dwellings deemed 'defective' at 2.3%, Small Village/Hamlet/Open Country had the highest percentage at 9.2%, and Intermediate Settlement/Village had the lowest percentage at 1.7%
- Belfast MUA had the highest percentage of dwellings deemed 'acceptable' at 27.1%, Intermediate Settlement/Village had the lowest percentage at 14.1%, and Small/Medium Town had the median percentage at 15.4%
- Belfast MUA had the lowest percentage of dwellings deemed 'satisfactory' at 69.4%, Intermediate Settlement/Village had the highest percentage at 83.5%, and Derry UA/Large Town had the median percentage at 78.9% (see Place Figure 25)

**PLACE FIGURE 25:****Percentage (%) of dwellings by Fitness Standard and by dwelling location and Northern Ireland, 2016**

Source: HCS 2016, Table 5.1

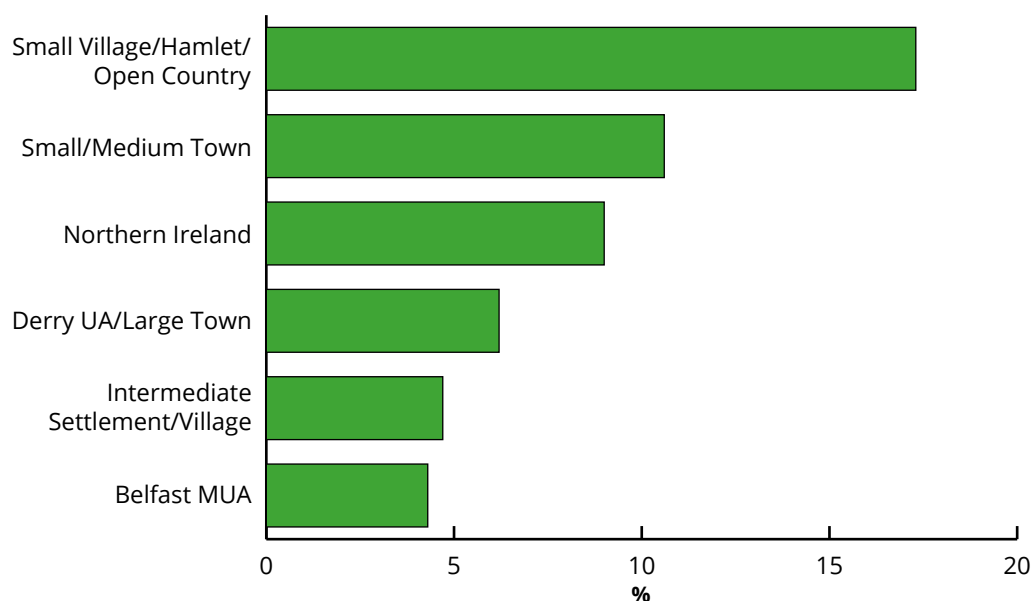
**HHSRS: Category 1 hazards**

In 2016, when compared with other dwelling locations:

- Belfast MUA had the lowest percentage of dwellings with Category 1 hazards at 4.3%
- Small Village/Hamlet/Open Country had the highest percentage at 17.3%
- Derry UA/Large Town had the median percentage at 6.2% (see Place Figure 26)

### PLACE FIGURE 26:

#### Percentage (%) of dwellings with Category 1 hazards by dwelling location and Northern Ireland, 2016



Source: HCS 2016, Main Data Tables, Table 6.20

### HIGHLIGHTS

In 2016, in Belfast MUA:

- 
- 5 out of every 10 dwellings had 'any disrepair', compared with over 4 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- Almost 1 out of every 10 dwellings did not meet the Decent Homes Standard, very similar to Northern Ireland (less than 1 percentage-point difference)
- Less than 1 out of every 10 dwellings had Category 1 hazards, compared with 1 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- Very small percentages of dwellings were deemed 'unfit' and 'defective', and these percentages were lower than those in Northern Ireland; however, 7 out of every 10 dwellings were deemed 'satisfactory', compared with between 7 and 8 out of every 10 dwellings in Northern Ireland mainly because Belfast MUA had a higher percentage of dwellings deemed 'acceptable' than Northern Ireland

In 2016, among dwelling locations, Belfast MUA had:

- One of the highest percentages of dwellings with any disrepair, and of dwellings not meeting the Decent Homes Standard
- The median percentage of dwellings that were deemed 'unfit' and that were deemed 'defective', but the lowest percentage of dwellings that were deemed 'satisfactory' because it had the highest percentage of dwellings deemed 'acceptable'
- The lowest percentage of dwellings with Category 1 hazards

## Inequalities and the potential for inequity

### ***By assembly area in Belfast***

In the NIMDM 2017, Belfast South had the highest percentages of dwellings:

- Deemed 'unfit'
- In 'a state of disrepair'

### ***By dwelling and household characteristics in Northern Ireland***

In 2016, in Northern Ireland, apart from vacant properties, the types of dwellings most likely:

- Not to meet the Decent Homes Standard were owner-occupied, built before 1919, and were occupied by households with an older household reference person, and low-income households
- To have HHSRS Category 1 hazards were built pre-1919 and between 1919 and 1944, and were occupied by households with an older household reference person

## 3.2 Domestic Energy Efficiency:

### - Energy Efficiency Rating

### - Mean Standard Assessment Procedure rating

#### IMPORTANCE

Energy efficiency measures can support good physical and mental health primarily by creating healthy indoor living environments with healthy air temperatures, humidity levels, noise levels, and improved air quality. Energy efficiency measures targeting indoor and outdoor air quality can have major impacts on population health. Long-term thermal discomfort and fuel poverty have negative impacts on mental health, such as anxiety, stress, and depression. Energy efficiency interventions targeting fuel poverty can improve mental wellbeing, and the improvement may be enhanced if the energy efficiency interventions are combined with financial support mechanisms and strong community engagement.<sup>59</sup>

In a Cochrane Systematic Review, it was found that housing which is an appropriate size for the householders and is affordable to heat is linked to improved health and may promote improved social relationships within and beyond the household. In addition, there is some suggestion that provision of adequate, affordable warmth may reduce absences from school or work.<sup>60</sup>

The energy efficiency of a dwelling is determined primarily by the fuel source and heating type; other factors such as wall insulation, loft insulation and double glazing are also important.

Monitoring the energy efficiency rating bands of dwellings is an essential component of monitoring levels of fuel poverty<sup>61</sup> (see Prosperity Chapter, page 119).

The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) is the methodology used by the UK Government to assess and compare the energy and environmental performance of dwellings. Its purpose is to provide accurate and reliable assessments of dwelling energy performances that are needed to underpin energy and environmental policy initiatives.<sup>62</sup>

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59. Health and wellbeing – Multiple Benefits of Energy Efficiency – Analysis - IEA (Last accessed 15 June 2022)

60. Housing improvements for health and associated socio-economic outcomes - PubMed (nih.gov) (Last accessed 20 June 2020)

61. The Housing Executive - House Condition Survey (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 15 June 2022)

62. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/standard-assessment-procedure> (Last accessed 28 September 2021)

In Northern Ireland, the Department of Finance is responsible for measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, including:

- requiring energy performance certificates (EPCs) for properties which provide A-G efficiency ratings and recommendations for improvement
- requiring public buildings to display energy certificates
- requiring inspections for air conditioning systems
- From 30 December 2008 all properties - homes and commercial - when constructed or being marketed for sale or rent require an EPC.<sup>63</sup>

Increasing the energy efficiency of dwellings can also help to reduce carbon emissions (see Planet Chapter, page 000). Policies to incentivise energy efficiency improvements in homes are largely targeted at low-income households through programmes such as the Affordable Warmth and Warm Homes schemes. The Climate Change Commission for Northern Ireland, however, recommends home efficiency schemes are broadened to the general population to help meet carbon emissions reduction targets.<sup>64</sup>

## DEFINITION

### ***Energy Efficiency Rating***

The Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) uses an A-G banding system, where A represents low energy costs, the most efficient band, and G represents high energy costs, the least efficient band.

### ***Mean Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP 2012) rating***

The SAP quantifies a dwelling's performance in terms of energy use per unit floor area, a fuel-cost-based energy efficiency rating (the SAP Rating) and emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> (the Environmental Impact Rating). The threshold for energy efficiency under the SAP rating is 62.47 points.

Information is from the 2016 Northern Ireland House Condition Survey (HCS); HCS 2016: Main Report, Table 7.2, page 86, and Main Data Tables (Excel format).<sup>65</sup>

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63. Energy performance of buildings in Northern Ireland | Department of Finance ([finance-ni.gov.uk](http://finance-ni.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 9 July 2022)

64. Reducing emissions in Northern Ireland - Climate Change Committee ([theccc.org.uk](http://theccc.org.uk)) (Last accessed 9 July 2022)

65. The Housing Executive - House Condition Survey ([nihe.gov.uk](http://nihe.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 15 June 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

### **Energy Efficiency Rating**

In 2016, of the dwellings in Belfast LGD:

- 65.2% had a Band A-C Energy Efficiency Rating
- 29.1% had a Band D rating
- 4.6% had a Band E rating
- 1.1% had a Band F-G rating (see later, Place Figure 28)

### **Mean Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP 2012) rating**

In 2016, in Belfast LGD, the mean SAP rating for dwellings was 70.31 (see later, Place Figure 29).

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

#### **Energy Efficiency Rating**

In 2016, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of dwellings:

- In Band A-C was 25.8 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 65.2% compared with 49.4%
- In Band D was 7.3 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 29.1% compared with 36.4%
- In Band E was 6.6 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 4.6% compared with 11.2%
- In Band F-G was 1.9 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 1.1% compared with 3.0% (see later, Place Figure 28)

#### **Mean Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP 2012) rating**

In 2016, when compared with Northern Ireland, the mean SAP rating for dwellings was 4.48 points higher in Belfast LGD, 70.31 points compared with 65.83 points (see later, Place Figure 29).

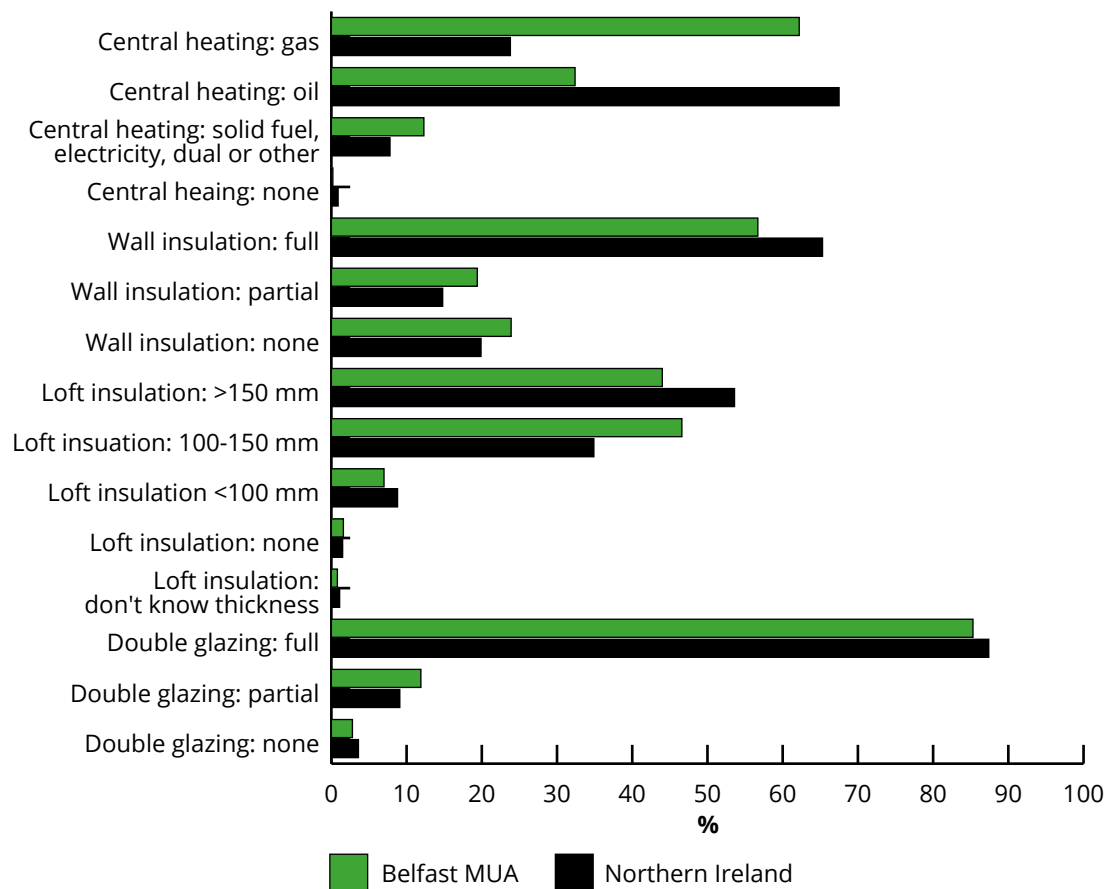
### Factors contributing to energy efficiency

In 2016, when compared with Northern Ireland, there was:

- A much higher percentage of dwellings with gas central heating and a much lower percentage with oil central heating in the Belfast MUA
- A lower percentage of dwellings with full wall insulation and a higher percentage with partial wall or no wall insulation in the Belfast MUA
- A higher percentage of dwellings with loft insulation at a thickness of 100-150 mm, and a lower percentage with loft insulation of >150-mm thickness (the most energy-efficient thickness) in the Belfast MUA
- A lower percentage of dwellings with full double glazing and a higher percentage with partial double glazing (see Place Figure 27)

#### PLACE FIGURE 27:

Percentage (%) of dwellings with various energy efficiency factors in the Belfast MUA and Northern Ireland, 2016



Source: HCS 2016: Main Data Tables 7.4, 7.9, 7.14, and 7.19



## Comparison with other LGDs

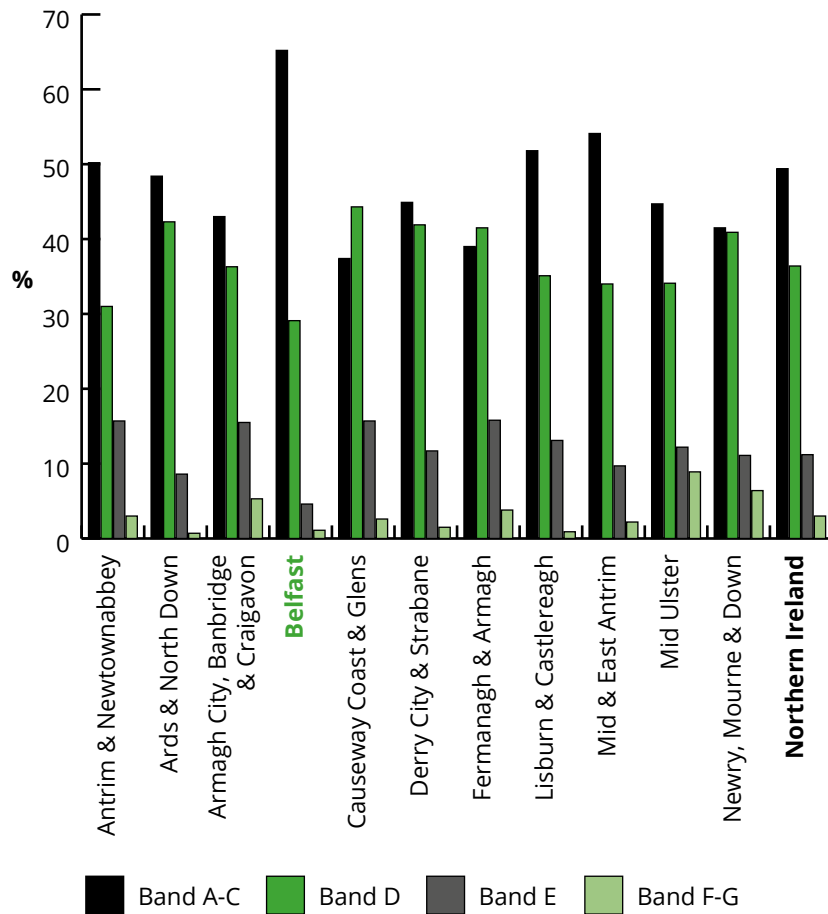
### ***Energy Efficiency Rating***

In 2016, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage of dwellings in Band A-C at 65.2%, Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the lowest percentage at 37.4%, and Derry City & Strabane LGD had the median percentage at 44.9%
- Belfast LGD had the lowest percentage of dwellings in Band D at 29.1%, Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the highest percentage at 44.3%, and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the median percentage at 36.3%
- Belfast LGD had the lowest percentage of dwellings in Band E at 4.6%, Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the highest percentage at 15.8%, and Mid Ulster LGD had the median percentage at 12.2%
- Belfast LGD had the third lowest percentage of dwellings in Band F-G at 1.1%, Mid Ulster LGD had the highest percentage at 8.9%, two LGDs had a percentage that was less than 1%, and Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the median percentage at 2.6% (see Place Figure 28)

**PLACE FIGURE 28:**

Percentage (%) of dwellings by energy efficiency rating by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2016



Source: HCS 2016: Main Report, Table 7.2, page 86

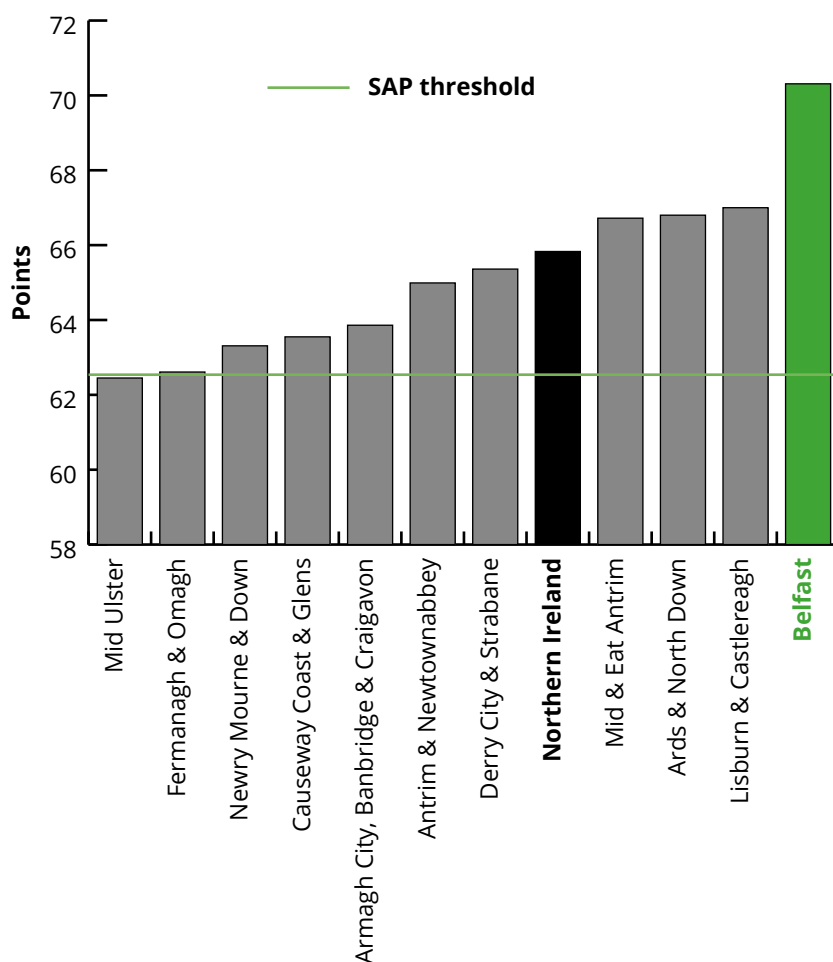
### **Mean Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP 2012) rating**

In 2016, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest mean SAP rating for dwellings at 70.31 points
- Mid Ulster LGD had the lowest mean rating at 62.45 points (very slightly lower than the SAP threshold for energy efficiency at 62.47)
- Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD had the median value at 64.99 points (see Place Figure 29)

### PLACE FIGURE 29:

#### Mean Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP 2012) rating for dwellings by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2016



Source: HCS 2016: Main Report, Table 7.2, page 86

### HIGHLIGHTS

In 2016, in Belfast LGD, between 6 and 7 out of every 10 dwellings had an energy efficiency rating in Band A-C, the most energy-efficient bands, compared with 5 out of every 10 dwelling in Northern Ireland. Belfast LGD also had the highest percentage of dwelling in Band A-C among LGDs

In 2016, dwellings in Belfast LGD also had a higher mean SAP rating than those in Northern Ireland, and the highest mean SAP rating among LGDs.

Although 10 out of 11 LGDs, including Belfast, and Northern Ireland had a mean SAP rating higher than the SAP energy efficiency threshold of 62.47 points, Belfast's mean SAP rating was 7.84 points higher than the SAP threshold.

Thus, Belfast LGD had the most energy-efficient housing stock in Northern Ireland; however, between 3 and 4 out of every 10 dwellings in Belfast LGD had an energy-efficient rating in Bands D, E, and F-G.

### Inequalities, and the potential for inequity

In 2016, in Northern Ireland, the types of dwellings most likely to:

- Be in Bands D, E, and F-G were older (built pre-1980) but especially built pre-1919, owner-occupied and in the private rented sector, and occupied by households with a household reference person who was aged 40 years and above, retired, or not working
- Have a lower mean SAP rating were older especially built pre-1919, owner-occupied and in the private rented sector, and occupied by households with a household reference person who was aged 75 years and above

## INDICATIVE TIME TRENDS

Owing to changes in the SAP methodology (SAP 2009 and SAP 2012) between successive Northern Ireland House Condition Surveys (2011 and 2016, respectively), it is not possible to make a direct comparison over time for the mean SAP rating. In addition, the NIHE changed its categorisation of dwelling locations:

- In 2011, Belfast was categorised as the Belfast Metropolitan Area (BMA)
- In 2016, Belfast was categorised as the Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA)
- It is possible, however, to provide indicative time trends, bearing in mind the differences outlined above. Information from 2011 is from the HCS 2011.<sup>66</sup>

66. Table 7.24 2011 House Condition Survey Annex Tables (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 26 June 2022)

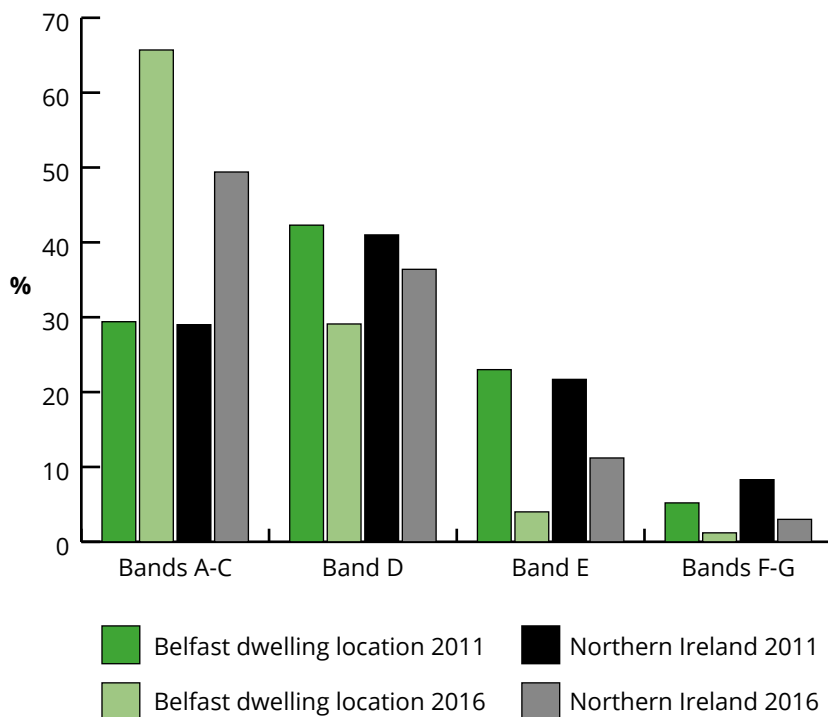
### Energy Efficiency Rating

Between 2011 and 2016, the percentage of dwellings:

- In Band A-C increased by 36.3 percentage points in the Belfast dwelling location, from 29.4% to 65.7% (a percentage increase of 123.47%), and in Northern Ireland increased by 20.4 percentage points, from 29.0% to 49.4% (a percentage increase of 70.34%)
- In Band D decreased by 13.2 percentage points in the Belfast dwelling location, from 42.3% to 29.1% (a percentage decrease of 31.21%), and in Northern Ireland decreased by 4.6 percentage points, from 41.0% to 36.4% (a percentage decrease of 11.22%)
- In Band E decreased by 19.0 percentage points in the Belfast dwelling location, from 23.0% to 4.0% (a percentage decrease of 82.61%), and in Northern Ireland decreased by 10.5 percentage points, from 21.7% to 11.2% (a percentage decrease of 48.39%)
- Bands F-G decreased by 4.0 percentage points in the Belfast dwelling location, from 5.2% to 1.2% (a percentage decrease of 76.92%), and in Northern Ireland decreased by 5.3 percentage points, from 8.3% to 3.0% (a percentage decrease of 63.86%; see Place Figure 30)

#### PLACE FIGURE 30:

**Percentage (%) of dwellings by Energy Efficiency Rating in the Belfast dwelling location and Northern Ireland, 2011 and 2016**



Source: HCS 2016, Table 7.24, and HCS 2011, Table 7.24

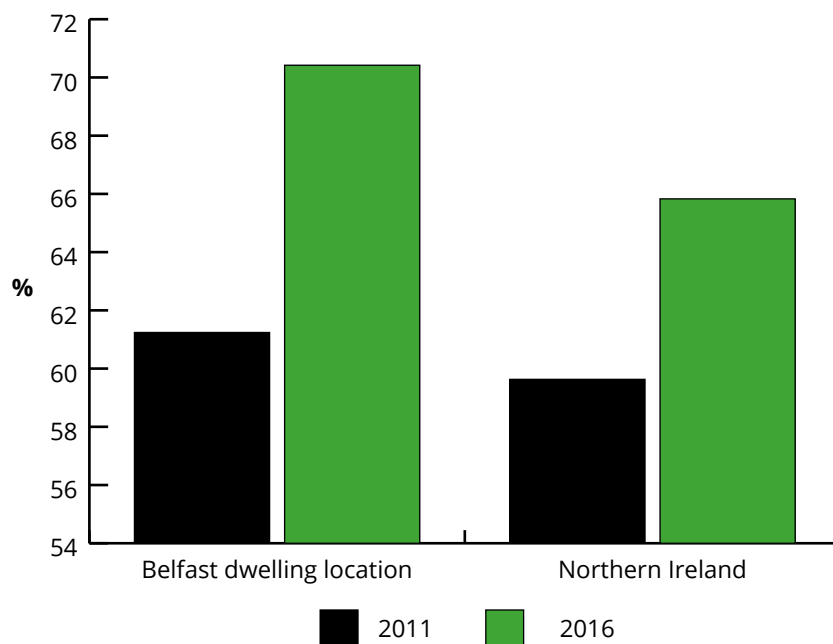
### Mean Standard Assessment Procedure

Between 2011 and 2016, the mean SAP rating increased:

- In the Belfast dwelling location by 9.18, from 61.24 to 70.42 (a percentage increase of 14.99%)
- In Northern Ireland by 6.20, from 59.63 to 65.83 (a percentage increase of 10.40%; see Place Figure 31)

### PLACE FIGURE 31:

Mean SAP rating for the Belfast dwelling location and Northern Ireland, 2011 and 2016



Source: Source: HCS 2016, Table 7.24, and HCS 2011, Table 7.24

### INDICATIVE TIME TREND HIGHLIGHTS

These indicative time trends highlight the considerable increase in the energy efficiency of dwellings in the Belfast dwelling location and in Northern Ireland, with an increase in the percentage of dwellings in Bands A-C, the most energy efficient, and a decrease in the percentage of dwelling in Bands D-G, the least energy efficient.

In 2011, although the percentage of dwellings in Bands A-C was similar in the Belfast dwelling location and Northern Ireland, the percentage increase in Belfast was considerably higher than that in Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two widened, with more beneficial outcomes for Belfast.

Moreover, the decreases in the percentage of dwellings in Band D and Band E were greater than those in Northern Ireland, and the gaps between the two widened, with more beneficial outcomes for Belfast.

For Bands F-G, Belfast had a greater percentage decrease than that in Northern Ireland, and the gap in percentages between the two narrowed, however, Belfast had a relatively low percentage in 2011 and the amount of decrease it is possible to achieve becomes smaller at low numbers.

## SECTION 4

# Household Characteristics

- 4.1 - Household Population**
  - Household Type
  - Household Size
  - Average Household Size

### IMPORTANCE

Household characteristics are useful when developing and monitoring housing policies.<sup>67</sup>

### DEFINITION

In the Northern Ireland HCS, a household is either one person living alone, or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or a sitting room or a dining room. A household may consist of one or more family units.

Information is from NISRA Northern Ireland Household Projections (2016 based).<sup>68</sup>

### PROFILE FINDINGS

#### ***Household population***

In 2016, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of the household population:

- 0-75 years was 93.43%
- 75 years or over was 6.57%

67. Household characteristics - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 17 June 2022)

68. Northern Ireland Household Projections (2016 based) | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency ([nisra.gov.uk](http://nisra.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 16 June 2022)



### Household type

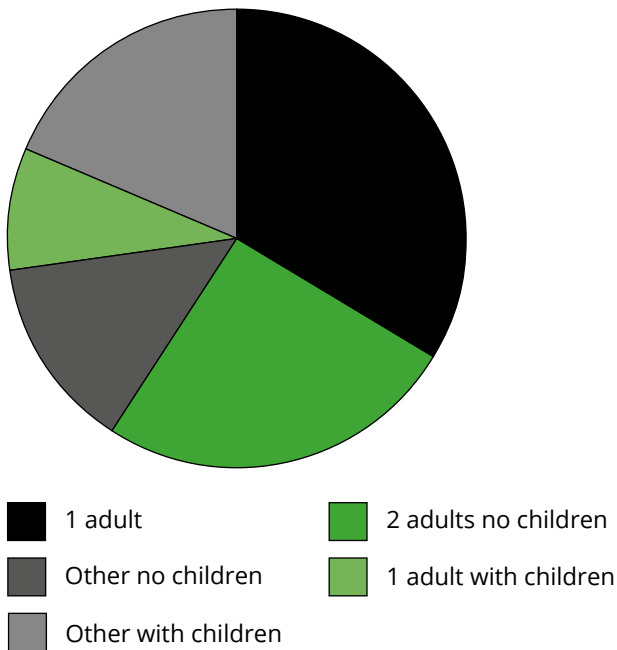
In 2016, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of:

- 1-adult households was 33.84%
- 2-adult households with no children was 25.53%
- Other households with no children was 13.51%
- 1-adult households with children was 8.64%
- Other households with children was 18.47% (see Place Figure 32)

Thus, in Belfast LGD, the combined percentage of households without children was 72.88%.

### PLACE FIGURE 32:

Percentage (%) of households by household type in Belfast LGD, 2016



Source: NISRA: Northern Ireland Household Projections HHP16\_LGD2014

### **Household size**

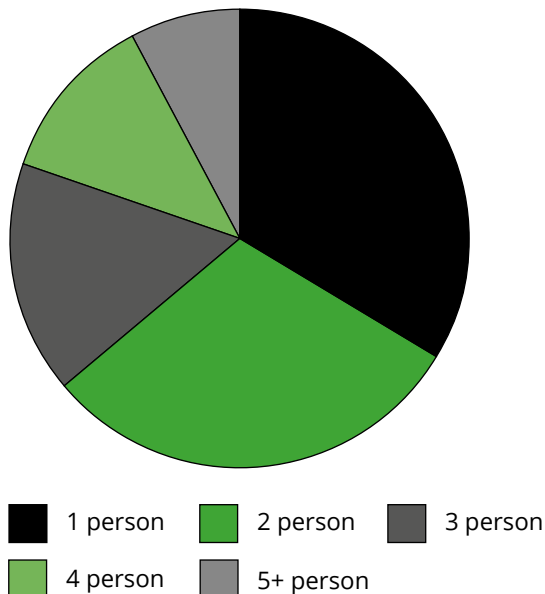
In 2016, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of:

- 1-person households was 33.84%
- 2-person households was 30.13%
- 3-person households was 16.33%
- 4-person households was 12.06%
- 5+-person households was 7.63% (see Place Figure 33)

Thus, in Belfast LGD, the combined percentage of 1-person and 2-person households was 63.97%.

### **PLACE FIGURE 33:**

**Percentage of households by household size in Belfast LGD, 2016**



Source: NISRA: Northern Ireland Household Projections HHP16\_LGD2014

### **Average household size**

In 2016, in Belfast LGD, the average household size was 2.33 people.

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

#### **Household population**

In 2016, when compared with Northern Ireland, the population:

- Aged 0-75 years was higher by 0.01 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 93.43% compared with 93.42%
- Aged 75 years and above was lower by 0.01 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 6.57% compared with 6.58%

#### **Household type**

In 2016, for household type, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage share of:

- 1-adult households was higher by 6.02 percentage points In Belfast LGD, 33.84% compared with 27.82%
- 2-adult households with no children was lower by 1.74 percentage points In Belfast LGD, 25.53% compared with 27.27%
- Other households with no children was lower by 1.64 percentage points In Belfast LGD, 13.51% compared with 15.15%
- 1-adult households with children was higher by 2.29 percentage points In Belfast LGD, 8.64% compared with 6.35%
- Other households with children was lower by 4.94 percentage points In Belfast LGD, 18.47% compared with 23.41% (see Place Figure 34)

#### **Household size**

In 2016, for household size, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage share of:

- 1-person households was higher by 6.02 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 33.84% compared with 27.82%
- 2-person households was slightly lower by 0.61 percentage points In Belfast LGD, 30.13% compared with 30.74%
- 3-person households was slightly lower by 0.19 percentage points In Belfast LGD, 16.33% compared with 16.52%

- 4-person households was lower 2.48 percentage points In Belfast LGD, 12.06% compared with 14.54%
- 5+-person households was lower by 2.75 percentage points In Belfast LGD, 7.63% compared with 10.38%

### **Average household size**

In 2016, when compared with Northern Ireland, the average household size was lower by 0.21 people in Belfast LGD, 2.33 compared with 2.54.

## Comparison with other LGDs

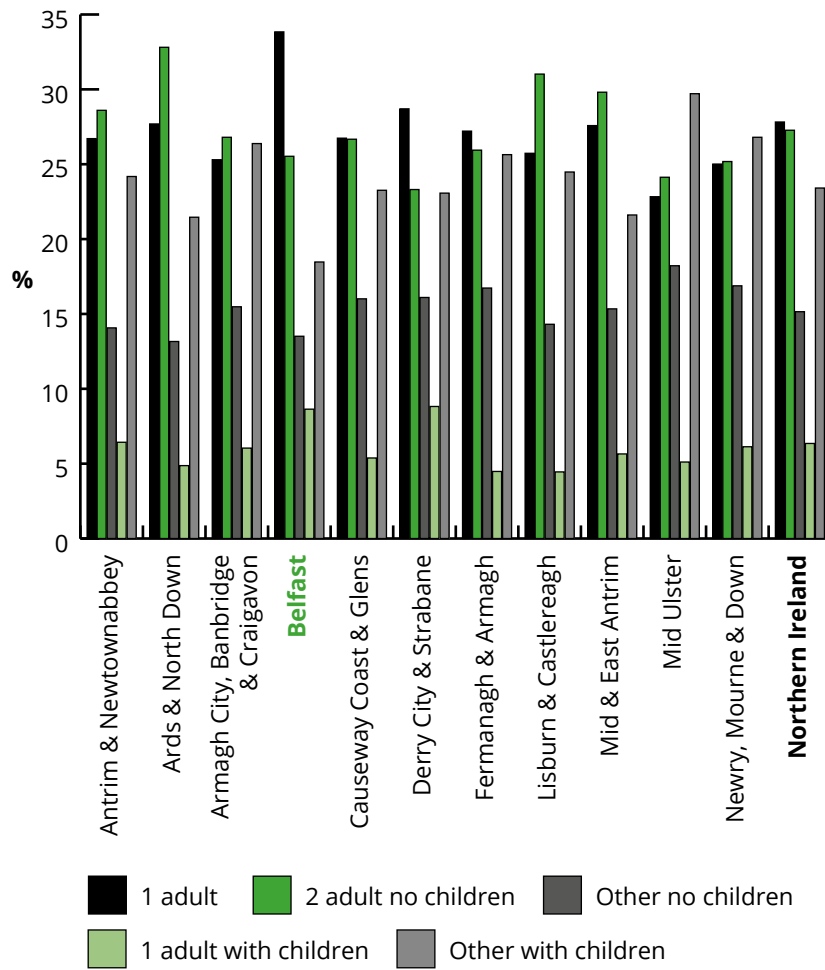
### **Household type**

In 2016, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage of 1-adult households at 33.384%, Mid Ulster LGD had the lowest percentage at 22.83%, and Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the median percentage at 26.74%
- Belfast LGD had the fourth lowest percentage of 2-adult households with no children at 25.53%, Ards & North Down LGD had the highest percentage at 32.81%, Derry City & Strabane LGD had the lowest at 23.31%, and Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the median percentage at 26.67%
- Belfast LGD had the second lowest percentage of other households with no children at 13.51%, Mid Ulster LGD had the highest percentage at 18.22%, Ards & North Down LGD had the lowest percentage at 13.16%, and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the median percentage at 15.48%
- Belfast LGD had the second highest percentage of 1-adult households with children at 8.64%, Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest percentage at 8.82%, Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 4.45%, and Mid & East Antrim LGD had the median percentage at 5.65%
- Belfast LGD had the lowest percentage of other households with children at 18.47%, Mid Ulster LGD had the highest percentage at 29.71%, and Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD had the median percentage at 24.18% (see Place Figure 34)

**PLACE FIGURE 34:**

**Percentage (%) of households by household type by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2016**

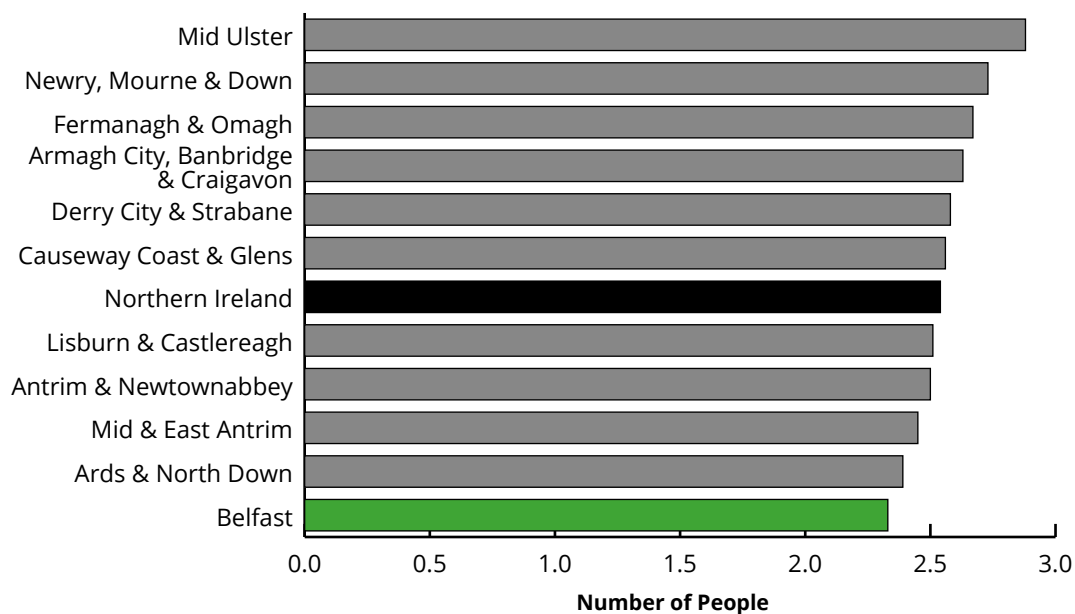


Source: NISRA: Northern Ireland Household Projections HHP16\_LGD2014 and HHP16\_NI

**Average household size**

In 2016, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the lowest average household size at 2.33
- Mid Ulster LGD had the highest average household size at 2.88
- Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the median value at 2.56 (see Place Figure 35)

**PLACE FIGURE 35:****Average household size (number of people) by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2016**

Source: NISRA: Northern Ireland Household Projections HHP16\_LGD2014 and HHP16\_NI

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2016, in Belfast, more than 9 out of 10 of the household population were aged 0-75 years, and less than 1 out of every 10 was 75 years or over, similar to Northern Ireland.

In 2016, in Belfast:

- More than 3 out of every 10 households were 1-adult households, compared with almost 3 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 households were 2-adult households with no children, compared with almost 3 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- Over 1 out of every 10 households were other households with no children, compared with between 1 and 2 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- Almost 1 out of every 10 households were 1-adult households with children, compared with less than 1 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- Almost 2 out of every 10 households were other households with children, compared with over 2 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland

In 2016, among LGDs, Belfast had:

- The highest percentage of 1-adult households, and the second highest percentage of 1-adult households with children
- The lowest percentage of other households with children, the second lowest percentage of other households without children and the fourth lowest percentage of 2-adult households with no children

In 2016, in Belfast:

- More than 3 out of every 10 households were 1-person households, compared with almost 3 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- 3 out of every 10 households were 2-person households, similar to Northern Ireland
- Between 1 and 2 out of every 10 households were 3-person households, similar to Northern Ireland
- Over 1 out of every 10 households were 4-person households, compared with between 1 and 2 out of every 10 households in Northern Ireland
- Less than 1 out of every 10 households were 5+-person households, compared with 1 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland

In 2016, the average household size in Belfast was lower than that in Northern Ireland and the lowest among LGDs.

## SECTION 5

# Housing Demand

### 5.1 Household Projections 2016-2030:

- Household Population
- Household Type
- Household Size
- Average Household Size

#### IMPORTANCE

Household projections are trend-based and indicate the number of additional households that would form if recent demographic trends continued. The projections are a demographic projection informed by projected population data. Household projections are based on assumptions of future levels of fertility, mortality, and net migration, and household formation behaviour, that is, how a specific population groups into household units.<sup>69</sup>

Household projections in Northern Ireland are used in policy development and planning for service provision (such as waste collection and community care) and future housing need (see Housing Growth Indicators, page 132).<sup>70</sup>

As household projections are based on previous trends, decisions about how much housing should be built need to take account of broader considerations, such as how well new supply can tackle affordability issues, how best to help households in unsuitable and overcrowded conditions and expected additional demand for second homes and more space.<sup>71</sup>

There is debate about whether households can be projected from purely demographic projections and time-trends in propensities to form separate households, or whether economic conditions, such as the unemployment rate, interest rates, and the rate of growth of GDP, are also important in the longer term as well as in the shorter-term variation around longer-term trends.<sup>72</sup>

69. Household projections - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 17 June 2022)

70. Household projections across the UK: user guide - Office for National Statistics (Last accessed 17 June 2022)

71. Housing targets: Can we predict future need? ([parliament.uk](http://parliament.uk)) (Last accessed 17 June 2022)

72. Household-Projections-History.pdf ([cam.ac.uk](http://cam.ac.uk)) (Last accessed 17 June 2022)



## DEFINITION

Projections of numbers of households by LGD are based on 2016 population projections and use trends in household formation between the 2001 and 2011 Census.

Household types can be described as a combination of the number of adults and the number of children. There is a close link between household types and household sizes. As the number of children falls, so does the number of larger sized households, and the average household size.

Information is from NISRA Northern Ireland Household Projections (2016 based).<sup>73</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

### ***Household population***

Between 2016 and 2030, for Belfast LGD, it is projected the number of people aged:

- 0-75 years will increase by 4,438, from 312,543 to 316,981
- 75 years and over will increase by 4,136, from 21,987 to 26,123 (see Place Table 2)

Between 2016 and 2030, in Belfast LGD, the total household population is projected to increase by 8,574 people, from 334,530 to 343,104 (Place Table 2).

By 2030, in Belfast LGD, it is projected the percentage of the household population aged:

- 0-75 years will be 92.39%
- 75 years and over will be 7.61%

### ***Household type***

Between 2016 and 2030, for Belfast LGD, it is projected the number of:

- 1-adult households will increase by 1,322, from 48,562 to 49,884
- 2-adult households with no children will increase by 2,885, from 36,638 to 39,523
- Other households with no children will increase by 893, from 19,386 to 20,279

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73. Northern Ireland Household Projections (2016 based) | Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (nusra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 17 June 2022)

- 1-adult households with children will decrease by 134, from 12,403 to 12,269
- Other households with children will decrease by 305, from 26,507 to 26,202
- All types of household will increase by 4,661, from 143,496 to 148,157 (see Place Table 3)

By 2030, in Belfast LGD, it is projected the percentage share of:

- 1-adult households will be 33.67
- 2-adult households with no children will be 26.68%
- Other households with no children will be 13.69%
- 1-adult households with children will be 8.28%
- Other households with children will be 17.69% (see Place Figure 36)

#### ***Household size***

Between 2016 and 2030, for Belfast LGD, it is projected that the number of:

- 1-person households will increase by 1,322, from 48,562 to 49,884
- 2-person households will increase by 2,793, from 43,239 to 46,032
- 3-person households will increase by 530, from 23,433 to 23,963
- 4-person households will increase by 116 from 17,311 to 17,427
- 5+-person households will decrease by 100, from 10,951 to 10,851
- All sizes of household will increase by 4,661, from 143,496 to 148,157 (see Place Table 4)

By 2030, in Belfast LGD, it is projected the percentage share of:

- 1-person households will be 33.67%
- 2-person households will be 31.07%
- 3-person households will be 16.17%
- 4-person households will be 11.76%
- 5+-person households will be 7.32% (see Place Figure 37)

**Average household size**

Between 2016 and 2030, for Belfast LGD, it is projected that the average household size will decrease by 0.02 people, from 2.33 to 2.31.

By 2030, in Belfast LGD, it is projected the average household size will be 2.31 people (see Place Figure 38).

**KEY COMPARISONS****Comparison with Northern Ireland****Household population**

Between 2016 and 2030, it is projected the household populations aged 0-75 years and 75 years and over will increase in Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, although the percentage increases for both age groups and the total household population is expected to be greater for Northern Ireland (see Place Table 2).

**PLACE TABLE 2:****Projected number of household population by age group in Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, 2030 (2016 based)**

	Population group	Number in 2016	Number in 2030	Change in number	Percentage change
Belfast LGD	0-75 years	312,543	316,981	+4,438	1.42% increase
	75 years and over	21,987	26,123	+4,136	18.81% increase
	All	334,530	343,104	+8,574	2.56% increase
Northern Ireland	0-75 years	1,717,901	1,753,420	+35,519	2.07% increase
	75 years and over	121,084	181,282	60,198	49.72% Increase
	All	1,838,985	1,934,702	95,717	5.20% increase

Source: NISRA: Northern Ireland Household Projections HHP16\_LGD2014 and HHP16\_NI

By 2030, when compared with Northern Ireland it is projected the percentage of the household population aged:

- 0-75 years will be 1.76 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 92.39% compared with 90.63%
- 75 years and over will be 1.76 percentage points lower, 7.61% compared with 9.37%

### ***Household type***

Between 2016 and 2030, it is projected there will be:

- An increase in the number of 1-adult households, 2-adult households with no children, and Other households with no children in Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, although the percentage increases for Northern Ireland are expected to be greater than those for Belfast LGD
- A decrease in the number of 1-adult households with children and Other households with children in Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, although the percentage decreases are expected to be greater in Northern Ireland
- An increase in the total number of households in Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, although the percentage increase is expected to be greater in Northern Ireland see Place Table 3)

**PLACE TABLE 3:**

**Projected number of households by household type in Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, 2030 (2016 based)**

	Household type	Number in 2016	Number in 2030	Change in number	Percentage change
<b>Belfast LGD</b>	1 adult	48,562	49,884	+1,322	2.72% increase
	2 adult with no children	36,638	39,528	+2,885	7.87% increase
	Other with no children	19,386	20,279	+893	4.61% increase
	1 adult with children	12,403	12,269	-134	1.08% decrease
	Other with children	26,507	26,202	-305	1.15% decrease
	Total households	143,496	148,157	+4,661	3.25% increase
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	1 adult	201,724	225,795	+24,071	11.93% increase
	2 adult with no children	197,748	232,289	+34,541	17.47% increase
	Other with no children	109,865	117,472	+7,607	6.92% increase
	1 adult with children	46,045	44,560	-1,485	3.23% decrease
	Other with children	169,745	164,464	-5,281	3.11% decrease
	Total households	725,127	784,580	+59,453	8.20% increase

Source: NISRA: Northern Ireland Household Projections HHP16\_LGD2014 and HHP16\_NI

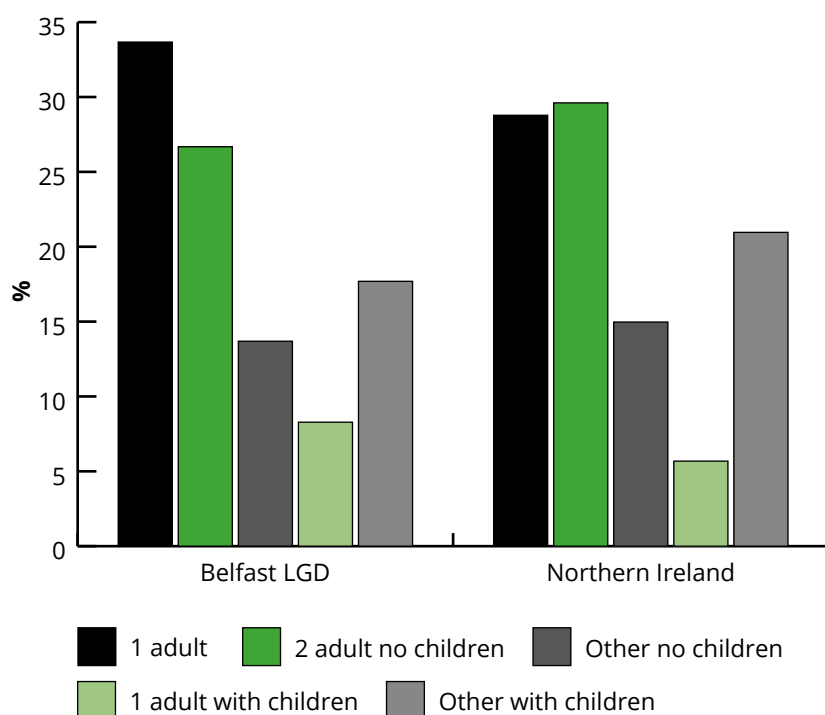
By 2030, when compared with Northern Ireland, it is projected the percentage share of:

- 1-adult households will be 4.89 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 33.67% compared with 28.78%
- 2-adult households with no children will be 2.93 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 26.68% compared with 29.61%
- Other households with no children will be 1.28 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 13.69% compared with 14.97%

- 1-adult households with children will be 2.60 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 8.28% compared with 5.68%
- Other households with children will be 3.27 percentage points lower, 17.69% compared with 20.96% (see Place Figure 36)

**PLACE FIGURE 36:**

**Projected percentage share (%) of household type in Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, 2030 (2016 based)**



Source: NISRA: Northern Ireland Household Projections HHP16\_LGD2014 and HHP16\_NI

**Household size**

Between 2016 and 2030, it is projected there will be:

- An increase in the number of 1-person, 2-person, 3-person and 4-person households in Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland; the percentage increases for 1-person and 2-person households are expected to be greater in Northern Ireland, whereas the percentage increases in 3-person and 4-person households are expected to be greater in Belfast LGD
- A decrease in the number of 5+-person households in Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, although the percentage decrease is expected to be greater in Belfast LGD
- An increase in the total number of households in Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, although the percentage increase is expected to be greater in Northern Ireland see Place Table 4)

**PLACE TABLE 4:****Projected number of households by household size in Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, 2030 (2016 based)**

	Household size	Number in 2016	Number in 2030	Change in number	Percentage change
<b>Belfast LGD</b>	1 person	48,562	49,884	+1,322	2.72% increase
	2 person	43,239	46,032	+2,793	6.46% increase
	3 person	23,433	23,963	+530	2.26% increase
	4 person	17,311	17,427	+116	0.67% increase
	5+ person	10,951	10,851	-100	0.91% decrease
	Total households	143,496	148,157	+4,661	3.25% increase
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	1 person	201,724	225,795	+24,071	11.93% increase
	2 person	222,913	256,548	+33,635	15.09% increase
	3 person	119,810	121,440	+1,630	1.36% increase
	4 person	105,410	105,961	+551	0.52% Increase
	5+ person	75,270	74,836	-434	0.58% decrease
	Total households	725,127	784,580	+59,453	8.20% increase

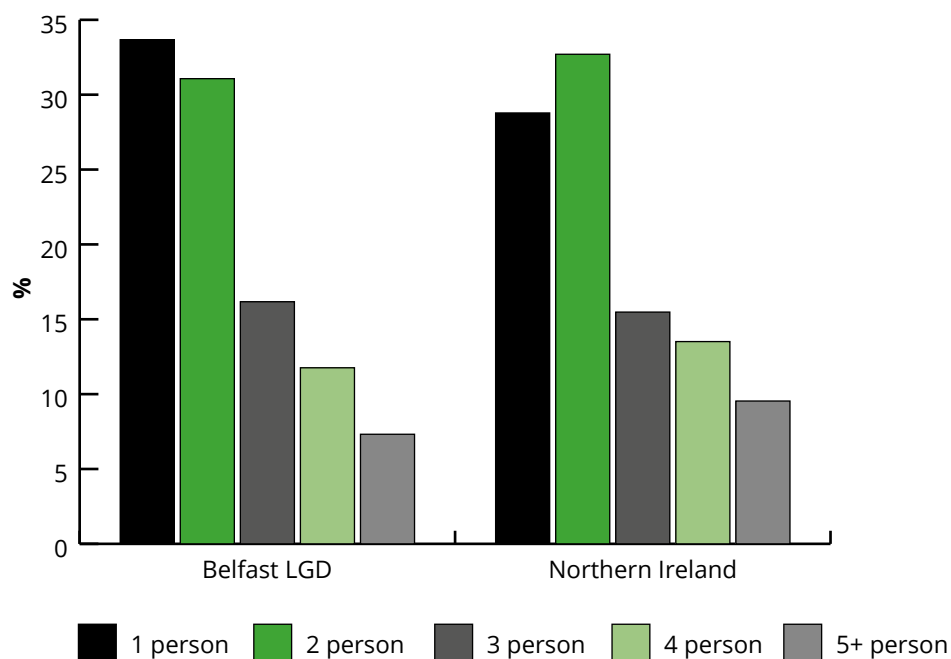
Source: NISRA: Northern Ireland Household Projections HHP16\_LGD2014 and HHP16\_NI

By 2030, when compared with Northern Ireland, it is projected the percentage share of:

- 1-person households will be higher by 4.89 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 33.67% compared with 28.78%
- 2-person households will be lower by 1.63 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 31.07% compared with 32.70%
- 3-person households will be higher 0.69 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 16.17% compared with 15.48%
- 4-person households will be lower by 1.75 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 11.76% compared with 13.51%
- 5+-person households will be lower by 2.22 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 7.32% compared with 9.54% (see Place Figure 37)

**PLACE FIGURE 37:**

**Projected percentage share (%) of households by household size in Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, 2030 (2016 based)**



Source: NISRA: Northern Ireland Household Projections HHP16\_LGD2014 and HHP16\_NI

**Average household size**

Between 2016 and 2030, it is projected that the average household size will decrease:

- In Belfast LGD by 0.02 people from 2.33 to 2.31 (a percentage decrease of 0.86%)
- In Northern Ireland by 0.07 people, from 2.54 to 2.47 (a percentage decrease of 2.76%)

By 2030, when compared with Northern Ireland, it is projected the average household size will be 0.16 people lower in Belfast LGD, 2.31 compared with 2.47 (see Place Figure 35).



## Comparison with other LGDs

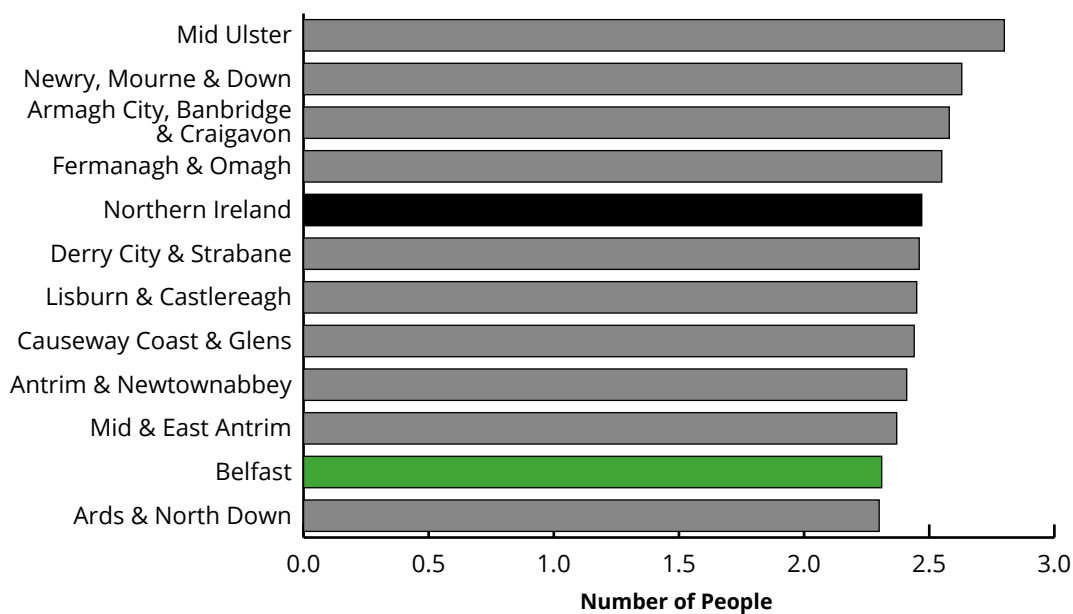
### **Average household size**

By 2030, when compared with other LGDs, it is projected that:

- Belfast LGD will have the second lowest average household size at 2.31 people
- Mid Ulster LGD will have the highest at 2.80
- Ards & North Down LGD will have the lowest at 2.30
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD will have the median value at 2.45 (see Place Figure 38)

### **PLACE FIGURE 38:**

**Average household size by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2030 (2016 based)**



Source: NISRA: Northern Ireland Household Projections HHP16\_LGD2014 and HHP16\_NI

## HIGHLIGHTS

By 2030, the household population is projected to increase in Belfast and Northern Ireland, but the percentage increase is expected to be greater for Northern Ireland, with the gap between the two expected to widen. There is a projected increase for the number of people aged 0-75 years and of people aged 75 years and over in Belfast and Northern Ireland, although the projected percentage increases for Northern Ireland are expected to be greater for both age groups, with the gaps between these age groups expected to widen.

By 2030, Belfast is expected to have a higher percentage of the household population in the 0-75 years age group and a lower percentage in the 75 years and over age group when compared with Northern Ireland.

By 2030, the number of households is projected to increase in Belfast and Northern Ireland, although the percentage increase is expected to be greater in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two is expected to widen.

By 2030, for the different household types, there is a projected:

- **Increase in the numbers of 1-adult households, and 2-adult households with no children in Belfast and Northern Ireland, although the projected percentage increases for Northern Ireland are expected to be greater than those for Belfast LGD**
- **Increase in the number of Other households with no children in Belfast LGD, but a decrease in the number for Northern Ireland**
- **Decrease in the number of 1-adult households with children and Other households with children in Belfast and Northern Ireland, although the projected percentage decreases are expected to be greater in Northern Ireland**

Thus, the gaps between Belfast and Northern Ireland are expected to:

- **Narrow for 1-adult households, but with Belfast maintaining a higher percentage share despite Northern Ireland having a greater percentage increase**
- **Widen for 2-adult households with no children, with Northern Ireland maintaining a higher percentage share through a greater percentage increase**
- **Narrow for Other households with no children, with Northern Ireland maintaining a higher percentage share despite a percentage decrease**
- **Widen for 1-adult households with children, with Belfast maintaining a higher percentage share due to a greater percentage decrease in Northern Ireland**
- **Narrow for Other households with children, with Northern Ireland maintaining a higher percentage share but with a greater percentage decrease**

By 2030, for the different household types, it is expected that Belfast will have a higher percentage share of 1-adult households and 1-adult households with children when compared with Northern Ireland, but lower percentages of 2-adult households with no children, Other households with no children, and Other households with children.

By 2030, for the different household sizes, there is a projected:

- Increase in the numbers of 1-person, 2-person, 3-person and 4-person households in Belfast and in Northern Ireland; the projected percentage increases for 1-person and 2-person households are expected to be greater in Northern Ireland, whereas the projected percentage increases in 3-person and 4-person households are expected to be greater in Belfast LGD
- Decrease in the number of 5+-person households in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, although the projected percentage decrease is expected to be greater in Belfast, with the gap between the two expected to widen

Thus, the gaps between Belfast and Northern Ireland are expected to:

- Narrow for 1-person households, with Belfast maintaining a higher percentage share while Northern Ireland had a greater percentage increase
- Widen for 2-person households, with Northern Ireland maintaining a higher percentage share, with a greater percentage increase
- Widen for 3-person households, with Belfast's percentage share becoming higher than Northern Ireland's with a greater percentage increase
- Narrow for 4-person households, with Northern Ireland maintaining a higher percentage share, despite a greater percentage increase in Belfast
- Widen for 5+-person households, with Northern Ireland maintaining a higher percentage share with a lower percentage decrease

By 2030, it is expected that Belfast will have higher percentage shares of 1-person and 3-person households when compared with Northern Ireland, but lower percentage shares of 2-person, 4-person, and 5+-person households.

By 2030, there is a projected decrease in average household size for all LGDs, including Belfast, and Northern Ireland. Indeed, among LGDs, Belfast is expected to have the smallest projected percentage decrease in average household size. Moreover, the projected percentage decrease for Northern Ireland is more than three times that for Belfast, with the gap between the two expected to narrow.

By 2030, the average household size in Belfast is expected to be lower than that for Northern Ireland and the second lowest among LGDs.

## 5.2 Housing Growth Indicators (2016-2030): New Dwelling Requirement (all tenures)

### IMPORTANCE

Housing Growth Indicators (HGIs) provide an indication of future housing need in Northern Ireland. They are produced primarily to provide guidance for the preparation of development plans. They are intended to support the development process by giving an indication of where development is most likely to be needed given current understanding of the population, current data on the housing infrastructure, and expected population growth.

### DEFINITION

Household projections produced by NISRA form the basis of the estimates for HGIs, based on current population/household formation trends with the assumption that these trends will continue. In addition to the household projections, which are considered the main component of the HGIs, data on vacant housing stock, second homes and net conversions/closures/demolitions (net stock loss) are also used to produce the final estimates.

Information is from the Department for Infrastructure 2016 based Housing Growth Indicators (HGIs).<sup>74</sup>

### PROFILE FINDINGS

By 2030, for Belfast LGD, the estimated new dwelling requirement is expected to be 7,400 dwellings.

74 2016 based Housing Growth Indicators (HGIs) | Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 17 June 2022)

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

By 2030, for Northern Ireland, the estimated new dwelling requirement is expected to be 84,800. Belfast LGD's estimated new dwelling requirement will be 8.73% of Northern Ireland's total.

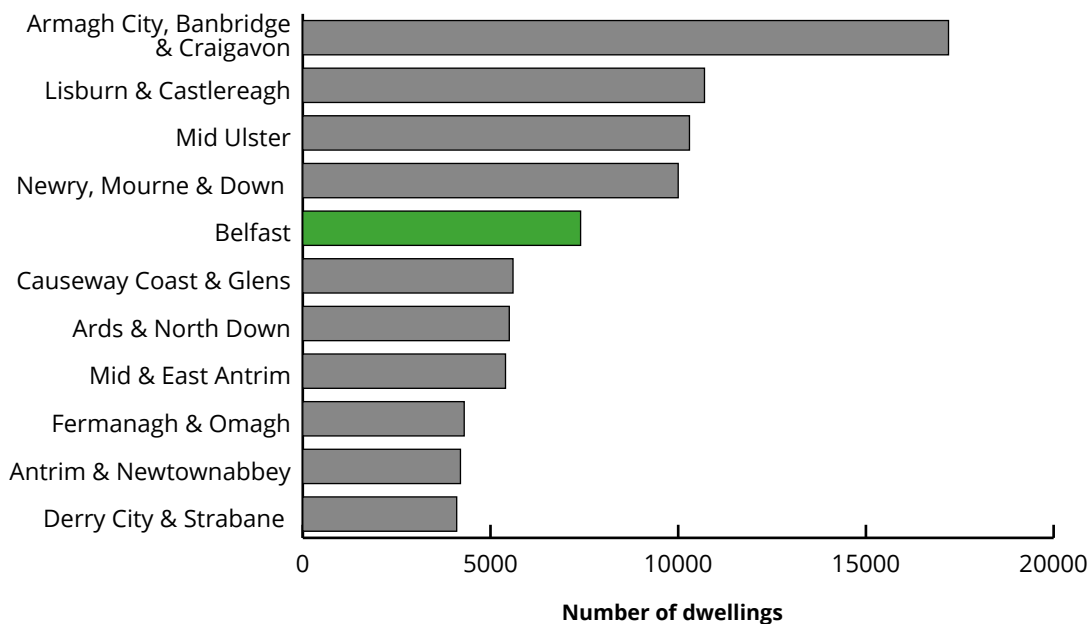
### Comparison with other LGDs

By 2030, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD has the fifth highest estimated new dwelling requirement at 7,400 dwellings
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD has the highest estimated requirement at 17,200 dwellings
- Derry City & Strabane LGD has the lowest estimated requirement at 4,100 dwellings
- Causeway Coast & Glens LGD has the median estimated requirement at 5,600 dwellings (see Place Figure 39)

#### PLACE FIGURE 39:

##### Estimated new dwelling requirement by LGD, 2030 (2016 based)



Source: DfI: Housing Growth Indicators (2016 based) Table 1, page 7

## HIGHLIGHTS

By 2030, it has been estimated that Belfast will need 7,400 new dwellings, almost 1 out of every 10 of the new dwellings required in Northern Ireland.

Belfast has the fifth highest estimate of new dwelling need among LGDs, less than half of that required by Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD.

## SECTION 6

# Housing Supply

- 6.1 - Total New Dwelling Completions**
  - Private/Speculative New Dwelling Completions**
  - Social Housing New Dwelling Completions**
  - Ratio of Social Housing to Private/Speculative New Dwelling Completions**

### IMPORTANCE

New dwelling completions provide a timely indicator of housing supply.<sup>75</sup>

Need for new housing arises when population growth leads to new households forming, but other factors also have an effect:

- **A backlog of need among people currently living in unsuitable accommodation**
- **Affordability pressures which can prevent people accessing the housing they need**

When people are unable to access suitable housing, it can result in:

- **Overcrowding**
- **More young people living with their parents for longer**
- **Impaired labour mobility, which makes it harder for businesses to recruit staff**
- **Increased levels of homelessness.**<sup>76</sup>

75. House building data, UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (Last accessed 21 June 2022)

76. Wilson W, Barton C (2022) Tackling the under-supply of housing. Research Briefing. House of Commons Library. CBP-7671.pdf (parliament.uk) (Last accessed 21 June 2022)

## DEFINITION

The date of a new dwelling completion is the date on which the building control completion inspection takes place.

The completions reported are for new house building in Northern Ireland and exclude new dwellings created through conversions and the change of use of existing buildings.

Information is from the Department of Finance New dwelling statistics.<sup>77</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

### ***Total new dwelling completions***

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, there were 645 new dwelling completions, representing 8.82% of Northern Ireland's total.

### ***Private/speculative new dwelling completions***

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, there were 469 private/speculative new dwelling completions, representing 7.10% of Northern Ireland's total.

### ***Social housing new dwelling completions***

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, there were 176 social housing new dwelling completions, representing 24.79% of Northern Ireland's total.

### ***Ratio of social housing to private/speculative new dwelling completions***

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the ratio of social housing to private/speculative new dwelling completions was 0.38, showing that for every 10 private/speculative new dwelling completions, there are almost 4 social housing completions.

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

#### ***Total new dwelling completions***

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, there were 7,313 new dwelling completions.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, the number of new dwelling completions increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 59, from 586 to 645 (a percentage increase of 10.07%)
- In Northern Ireland by 1,505, from 5,808 to 7,313 (a percentage increase of 25.9%)

77. New dwelling statistics | Department of Finance (finance-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 20 June 2022)



***Private/speculative new dwelling completions***

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, there were 6,603 private/speculative new dwelling completions.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, the number of private/speculative new dwelling completions increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 148, from 321 to 469 (a percentage increase of 46.11%)
- In Northern Ireland by 1,568, from 5,035 to 6,603 (a percentage increase of 31.14%)

***Social housing new dwelling completions***

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, there were 710 social housing new dwelling completions.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, the number of social housing new dwelling completions decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 89, from 265 to 176 (a percentage decrease of 33.58%)
- In Northern Ireland by 45, from 755 to 710 (a percentage decrease of 5.96%)

***Ratio of social housing to private/speculative new dwelling completions***

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the ratio of social housing to private/speculative new dwelling completions was 0.27 higher in Belfast LGD, 0.38 compared with 0.11.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, the ratio of social housing to private/speculative new dwelling completions decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 0.45, from 0.83 to 0.38 (a percentage decrease of 54.22%)
- In Northern Ireland by 0.04, from 0.15 to 0.11 (a percentage decrease of 26.67%)

## Comparison with other LGDs

### **Total new dwelling completions**

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the median percentage of Northern Ireland's new dwelling completions at 8.82%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the highest percentage at 14.62%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 5.33% (see Place Figure 40)

### **Private/speculative new dwelling completions**

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the fourth lowest percentage of private/speculative new dwelling completions at 7.10%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the highest percentage at 16.16%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the lowest percentage at 5.44%
- Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the median percentage at 8.53% (see Place Figure 40)

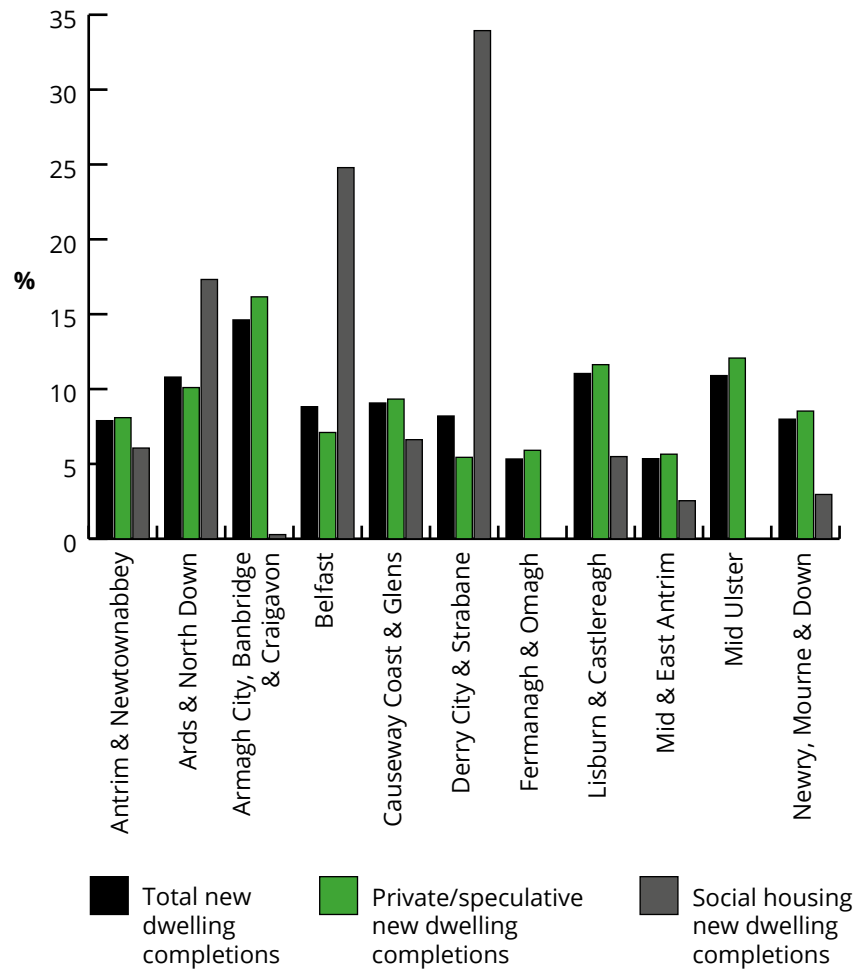
### **Social housing new dwelling completions**

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the second highest percentage of social housing new dwelling completions at 24.79%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest percentage at 33.94%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD and Mid Ulster LGD had the lowest equal percentage at 0%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the median percentage at 5.49% (see Place Figure 40)

**PLACE FIGURE 40:**

**Percentage (%) of Northern Ireland's new dwelling completions, private/speculative new dwelling completions, and social housing new dwelling completions by LGD, 2019/20**

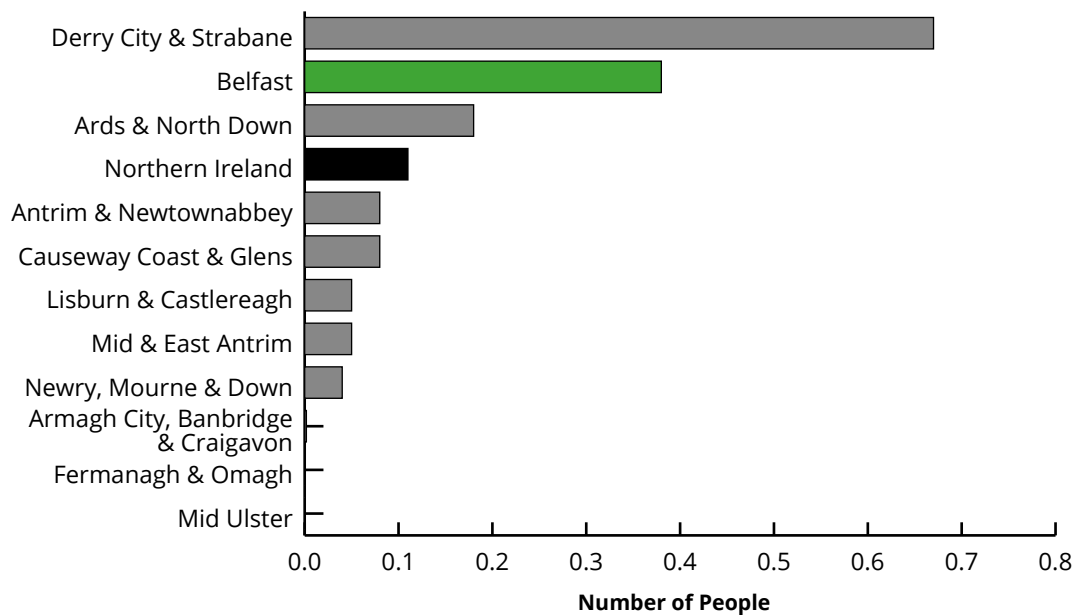


Source: DF: New dwelling statistics Q4 2021, Tables 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5

***Ratio of social housing to private/speculative new dwelling completions***

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the second highest ratio of social housing to private/speculative new dwelling completions at 0.38
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest ratio at 0.67
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD and Mid Ulster LGD had the equal lowest ratio at 0
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD and Mid & East Antrim had the median ratio at 0.05 (see Place Figure 41)

**PLACE FIGURE 41:****Ratio of social housing to private/speculative new dwelling completions by LGD and in Northern Ireland, 2019/20**

Source: DF: New dwelling statistics Q4 2021, Tables 2.4 and 2.5

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019/20, in Belfast, there were:

- Almost 1 out of every 10 of Northern Ireland's new dwelling completions
- Under 1 out of every 10 of Northern Ireland's private/speculative new dwelling completions
- Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 of Northern Ireland's social housing new dwelling completions

Although Belfast has a relatively high percentage of Northern Ireland's social housing new dwelling completions, the total number of social housing new dwelling completions in Northern Ireland is small when compared with private/speculative new dwelling completions, as evidenced by Northern Ireland's relatively low ratio of social housing to private/speculative new dwelling completions.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20:

- The total number of new dwelling completions increased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage increase was greater in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two widened
- The number of private/speculative new dwelling completions increased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage increase was greater in Belfast, and the gap between the two narrowed
- The number of social housing new dwelling completions decreased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast, and the gap between the two widened

In 2019/20, among LGDs, Belfast had:

- The median percentage of new dwelling completions
- One of the lower percentages of private/speculative new dwelling completions
- The second highest percentage of social housing new dwelling completions
- The second highest ratio of social housing to private/speculative new dwelling completions

Considering the level of housing need in Belfast (see pages 000 and 000), new dwelling completions were relatively low, especially for social housing; if social dwelling completions remain at the same level as that in 2019/20, the 2019-2024 estimated need for new social housing units of 4,778 will not be met (more than 1,500 dwellings short).

## SECTION 7

# Private Rented Sector

## 7.1 Number of Lettings/Rental Transactions

### IMPORTANCE

Over the last two decades in Northern Ireland, there have been rising levels of housing stress and a relatively static social housing stock, and as such the private rented sector has increasingly met the needs of households who might traditionally have become NIHE or housing association tenants. In the NIHE Private Landlords Survey 2019, the factors that might prompt landlords to leave the rental market were:

- Personal circumstances (e.g., retirement)
- Financial issues (e.g., poor return from rent, tax changes, and mortgage interest rates rising)
- Changes in the wider housing market (in particular, house prices rising)
- Tenant and tenancy-related matters (anti-social behaviour, increased regulation, and rent arrears)<sup>78</sup>

### DEFINITION

The number of lettings/rental transactions is based on a sample of rental transactions recorded on PropertyNews.com and the Housing Executive's 'Local Housing Allowance (LHA) dataset for Housing Benefit' database.

Information is from Ulster University/NIHE/PropertyNews.com Performance of the private rental market in Northern Ireland, H2 2019, Issue Number 14, and H2 2018, Issue Number 12.<sup>79</sup>

78. Insight Briefing March 2021 (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 24 June 2022)

79. Private\_Rental\_Report\_H2\_2019.pdf (ulster.ac.uk) (Last accessed 23 June 2022)

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, the number of lettings in the private rented sector was 6,730, representing 40.88% of Northern Ireland's total.

Between 2014 and 2019, in Belfast LGD, the number of lettings in the private rented sector decreased by 2,855, from 9,585 to 6,730.

### Differences by housing sub-market

In July-December 2019, there was variation in the percentage of the total number of lettings in the private rented sector in Belfast LGD across the city's housing submarkets:

- **South Belfast housing sub-market had the highest percentage at 35%**
- **Belfast City Centre housing sub-market had the lowest percentage at 3%**
- **North Belfast housing sub-market had the median percentage at 17% (see Place Figure 42)**

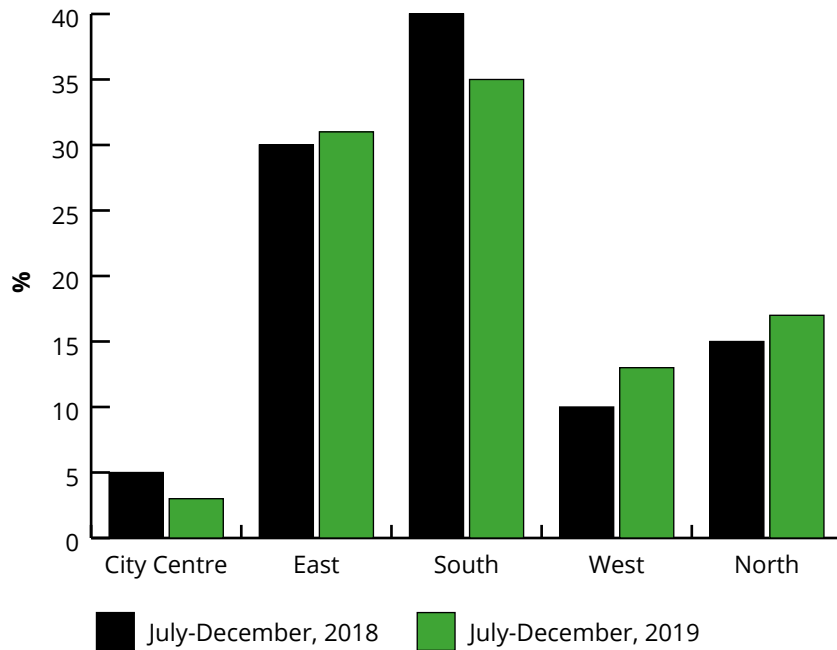
In July-December 2019, the housing sub-markets in South Belfast and East Belfast comprised 66% of the lettings in the private rented sector in Belfast LGD (35% and 31%, respectively).

Between July-December 2018 and July-December 2019, the percentage of the total number of lettings in the private rented sector in Belfast LGD changed across the city's housing submarkets:

- **It increased in the East Belfast, West Belfast, and North Belfast housing sub-markets with the largest percentage increase in the West Belfast housing sub-market at 30% (from 10% to 13%)**
- **It decreased in the Belfast City Centre and South Belfast housing sub-markets, with the largest percentage decrease in the Belfast City Centre housing sub-market at 40% (from 5% to 3%; see Place Figure 42)**

**PLACE FIGURE 42:**

**Percentage (%) of the total number of lettings in the private rented sector in Belfast LGD by housing sub-market, July-December 2018 and July-December 2019**



Source: Performance of the private rental market in Northern Ireland, H2 2019, Issue Number 14, Figure 2, page 3, and H2 2018, Issue Number 12, Figure 2, page 3

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the number of lettings in the private rented sector was 16,464.

Between 2014 and 2019, the number of lettings in the private rented sector decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 2,855, from 9,585 to 6,730 (a percentage decrease of 29.79%)
- In Northern Ireland, 6,931, from 23,395 to 16,464 (a percentage decrease of 29.63%)



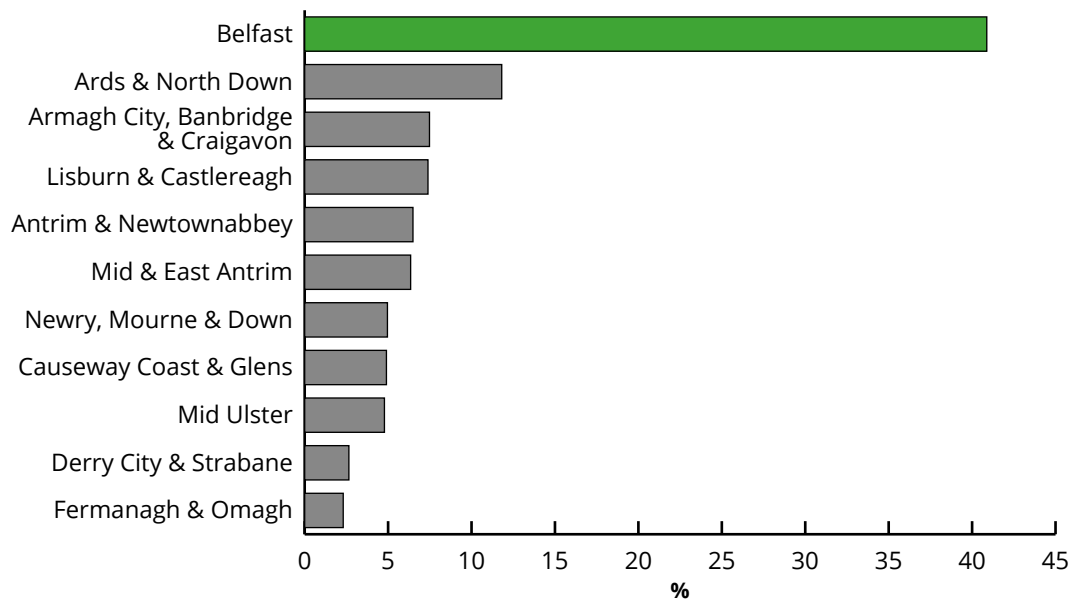
## Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total number of lettings in the private rented sector at 40.88%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 2.31%
- Mid & East Antrim LGD had the median percentage at 6.35% (see Place Figure 43)

### PLACE FIGURE 43:

**Percentage (%) of Northern Ireland's total number of lettings in the private rented sector by LGD, 2019**



Source: Performance of the private rental market in Northern Ireland, H2 2019, Issue Number 14, Data Appendix Figures 1 & 3, page 20

## HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019, Belfast had 4 out of every 10 lettings in Northern Ireland's private rented sector, by far the highest number and percentage among LGDs, making Belfast Northern Ireland's largest private rental market.

Between 2014 and 2019, the number of lettings in the private rented sector decreased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland by a similar amount, and, therefore, the gap between the two remained the same.

### Inequalities with the potential for inequity

In 2019, South Belfast and East Belfast housing sub-markets had the highest percentages of the number of lettings in the private rented sector in Belfast, accounting for between 6 and 7 out of every 10 lettings, although the West Belfast housing sub-market had the largest percentage increase in the number of lettings between July-December 2018 and July-December 2019.

## 7.2 Average Monthly Rent

### IMPORTANCE

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) recommends that policymakers who want to use housing policy to reduce poverty should aim to reduce housing costs, particularly for renters, or at least to limit further increases. The JRF suggests this could be achieved by maintaining and developing traditional social housing. Rent levels in the private rented sector are an increasingly important part of the picture but are largely uncontrolled.<sup>80</sup>

### DEFINITION

Average monthly rent is based on a sample of rental transactions recorded on PropertyNews.com and the Housing Executive's 'LHA dataset for Housing Benefit' database.

Information was extracted from Ulster University (UU)/NIHE/PropertyNews.com Performance of the private rental market in Northern Ireland, H2 2019, Issue Number 14, and Performance of the Private Rental Market in Northern Ireland, Summary Research Report, July-December 2015.<sup>81</sup>

### PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, the average monthly rent in the private rented sector was £708.

#### Differences by housing sub-market<sup>82</sup>

In July-December 2019, there was variation in the average monthly rent in the private rented sector across Belfast LGD's housing sub-markets:

- **South Belfast housing sub-market had the highest average monthly rent at £864**
- **North Belfast housing sub-market had the lowest average monthly rent at £537**

80. The links between housing and poverty | JRF (Last accessed 23 June 2022)

81. Rental Index Archive - Ulster University and Private\_Rental\_Report\_H2\_2019.pdf (ulster.ac.uk) and Rental-Report-.pdf (ulster.ac.uk) (Last accessed 23 June 2022)

82. In the context of real estate, a market is typically a city, and a sub-market is a smaller area within a city such as a neighbourhood or suburb. A sub-market is a defined area geographically next to but not overlapping with other sub-markets

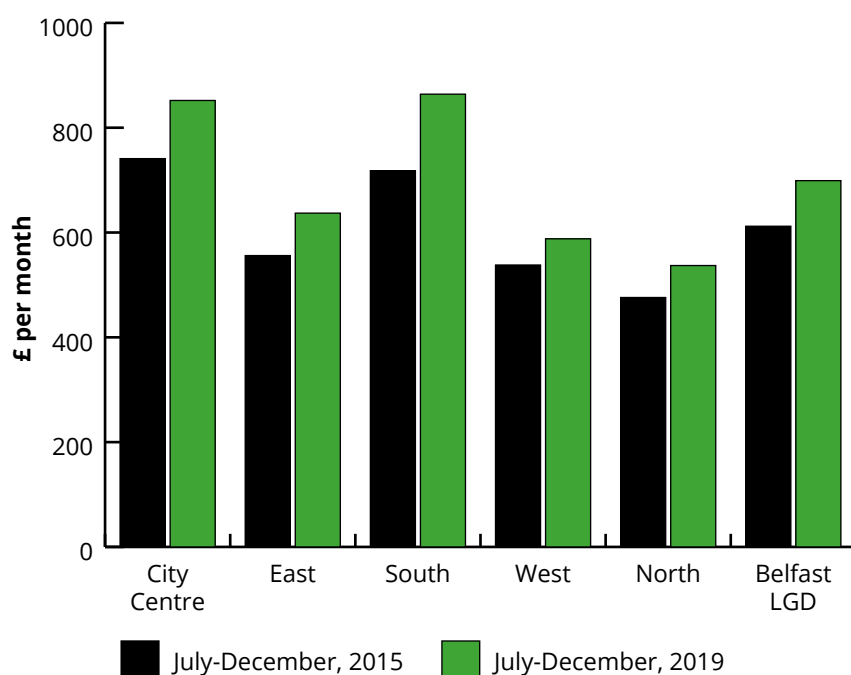
- East Belfast housing sub-market had the median average monthly rent at £637 (see Place Figure 44)

Between July-December 2015 and July-December 2019, the average monthly rent in the private rented sector increased across Belfast LGD's housing sub-markets:

- South Belfast housing sub-market had the greatest increase by £146, from £718 and £864 (a percentage increase of 20.33%)
- West Belfast housing sub-market had the smallest increase by £50, from £538 and £588 (a percentage increase of 9.29%)
- East Belfast housing sub-market had the median increase by £81, from £556 to £637 (a percentage increase of 14.57%; see Place Figure 44)

#### PLACE FIGURE 44:

**Average monthly rent (£) in the private rented sector by housing sub-market in Belfast LGD and Belfast LGD, July-December 2015 and July-December 2019**



Source: Performance of the private rental market in Northern Ireland, H2 2019, Issue Number 14, Figure 6, page 11, and Performance of the Private Rental Market in Northern Ireland, Summary Research Report, July-December 2015, Table 8, page 13

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the average monthly rent in the private rented sector was £81 higher in Belfast LGD, £708 compared with £627 (see Place Figure 42).

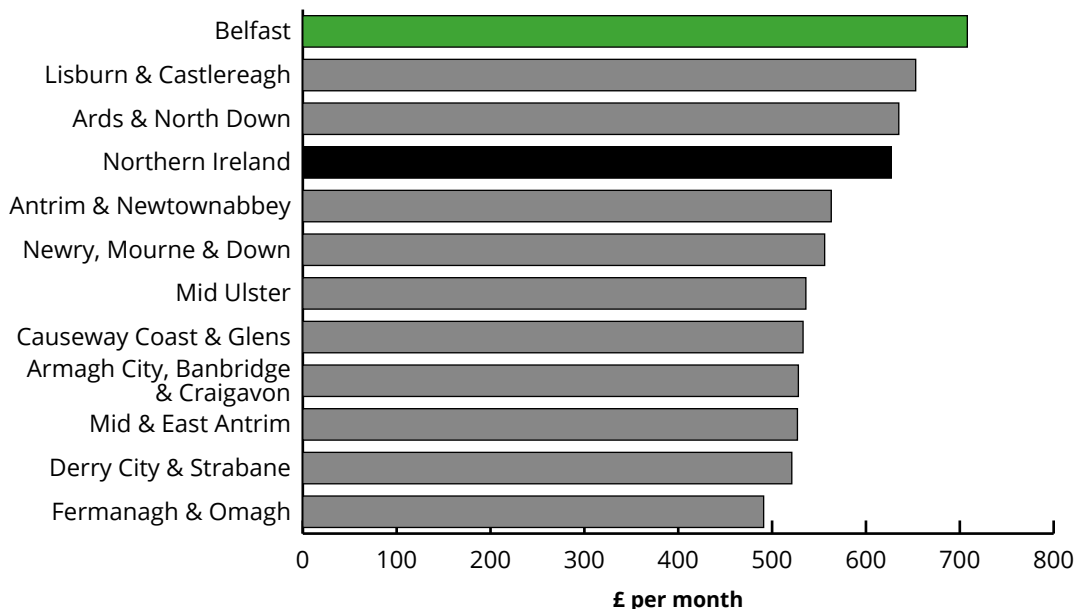
Between 2015 and 2019, the average monthly rent in the private rented sector increased:

- In Belfast LGD by £106, from £602 to £708 (a percentage increase of 17.61%)
- In Northern Ireland by £67, from £560 to £627 (a percentage increase of 11.96%)

### Comparison with other LGDs

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest average monthly rent in the private rented sector at £708
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest average monthly rent at £491
- Mid Ulster LGD had the median average monthly rent at £536 (see Place Figure 45)

**PLACE FIGURE 45:****Average monthly rent (£) in the private rented sector by LGD and in Northern Ireland, 2019**

Source: UU/NIHE/Property News.com, Performance of the private rental market in Northern Ireland, H2 Issue Number 14, Figure 9, page 16

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019, in Belfast, the average monthly rent in the private rented sector was higher than that in Northern Ireland, and the highest among LGDs.

Between 2015 and 2019, the average monthly rent in the private rented sector increased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage increase was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two widened, with an increasingly higher average monthly rent for Belfast.

**Inequalities with the potential for inequity**

In 2019, in Belfast's housing sub-markets, South Belfast and Belfast City Centre had by far the highest average monthly rents in the private rented sector, and between July-December 2015 and July-December 2019 the largest percentage increases in average monthly rent were in the South Belfast, Belfast City Centre, and East Belfast housing sub-markets.

## 7.3 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

### IMPORTANCE

As household groups reduce in size, Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) will continue to play a greater role in the housing market, particularly for single households aged under 35 years.<sup>83</sup>

Since 1 April 2019, Belfast City Council has assumed responsibility for the licensing of HMOs.

### DEFINITION

A house in multiple occupation (HMO) is a property rented out by at least 3 people who share facilities such as the bathroom and kitchen. It is sometimes called a 'house share'. The tenants must be from more than one 'household' for it to be an HMO – a couple or a family count as a single household in an HMO.<sup>84</sup>

Information is from the NIHE Housing Investment Plans (HIPs) for each Council area, Annual Update 2020,<sup>85</sup> and DfC Housing Statistics 2019

### PROFILE FINDINGS

At February 2020, in Belfast LGD:

- The number of dwellings registered as HMOs was 22,617
- The percentage of dwellings registered as HMOs was 14.30%

In Belfast LGD, the highest concentration of HMOs was in the Holylands in South Belfast, to the rear of Queen's University, and home to a large population of Belfast's full-time students.

83. Housing Investment Plan Annual Update 2020 (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 26 June 2022)

84. House in multiple occupation licence (Northern Ireland) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (Last accessed 26 June 2022)

85. The Housing Executive - Housing Investment Plans (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 26 June 2022)

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with other LGDs<sup>86</sup>

At February 2020, when compared with other LGDs:

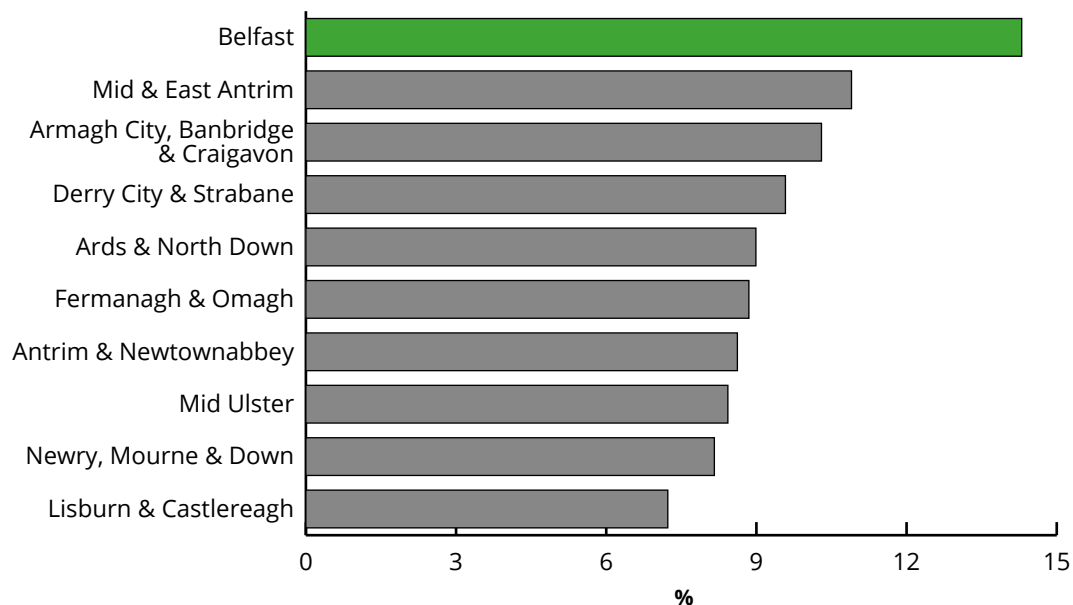
- Belfast had the largest number of dwellings registered as HMOs at 22,617
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest number at 4,321

At February 2020, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage of dwellings registered as HMOs at 14.30%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 7.23%
- The median percentage (in the absence of data for Causeway Coast & Glens LGD) was 8.92% (see Place Figure 46)

### PLACE FIGURE 46:

#### Percentage (%) of dwellings registered HMOs by LGD, February 2020



Source: NIHE: HIPs for each Council area, Annual Update 2020, page 21, & DfC: Housing Statistics 2019

86. Data for 2019 for Causeway Coast & Glens LGD was not available at Source website



## HIGHLIGHTS

At February 2020, in Belfast between 1 and 2 out of every 10 dwellings were registered as an HMO, compared with 1 out of every 10 or less than 1 out of every 10 dwellings in other LGDs (apart from Causeway Coast & Glens for which data were not available).

Belfast LGD had the highest number of dwellings registered as HMOs, more than double that in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD, and 3-4 times that of all other LGDs.

### Inequalities with the potential for inequity

The Holylands area of South Belfast had the highest concentration of dwellings registered as HMOs.

## SECTION 8

# Social Rented Sector

### 8.1 - Applications for Social Housing (waiting list) - Households in Housing Stress - Allocations to Social Housing

#### IMPORTANCE

A lack of housing, poor housing conditions or otherwise inappropriate housing can contribute to:

- A higher incidence of physical and mental health problems
- Under-achievement in education
- Poor access to employment opportunities
- Increased levels of crime and disorder
- Failure to achieve target reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide
- Communities becoming stigmatised<sup>87</sup>

The providers of social housing:

- Support the delivery of affordable and good-quality homes which can improve health and wellbeing, contribute to successful placemaking, and strengthen community resilience
- Are important community anchors, well placed to support anti-poverty strategies and lead economic and social cohesion at a community level<sup>88</sup>

87. Housing & health - towards a shared agenda 2000 (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 19 June 2022)

88. The Impact of Social Housing: Economic, Social, Health and Wellbeing. Executive Summary. UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) and Housing Associations' Charitable Trust (HACT) August 2020 66628.pdf (sfha.co.uk) (Last Accessed 19 June 2022)

In Belfast LGD the social housing need for 2019-2024 was estimated to be an additional 4,778 social units across:

- **The Greater West/Shankill Settlement – Inner West, Middle West, Outer West, and Mid Shankill**
- **The North Belfast Settlement – North Belfast 1 and 2**
- **The South and East Belfast Settlement – Upper Ormeau, Donegall Road, Finaghy, Lisburn Road, Lower Ormeau and Markets, Middle East Belfast, Short Strand, and Outer East Belfast<sup>89</sup>**

## DEFINITION

### Applications for social housing

The waiting list figures cover new applicants only, i.e., households with no existing NIHE/HA tenancy. Applications data are as at 31 March each year.

### Households in housing stress

Households whose application has 30 or more points under the Housing Executive's Housing Selection Scheme.

### Allocations to social housing

Total allocations to social housing includes three categories:

- **Number of allocations to applicants**
- **Number of allocations to NIHE transfers**
- **Number of allocations to housing association transfers**
- **Allocations data are based on offers accepted 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020.**

89. Appendix 2 Housing Investment Plan Annual Update 2020 (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 24 June 2022)

Information about Applications and Allocations is from the Department for Communities Housing Statistics, Northern Ireland Housing Statistics report 2019-20 and 2017-18.<sup>90</sup> Information about Households in housing stress is from The Executive Office Housing stress.<sup>91</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

### Applications for social housing (waiting list)

At 31 March 2020, in Belfast LGD, the number of applications for social housing was 10,819 households, representing 27.92% of the total applications for Northern Ireland (see later, Place Figure 48).

Between 20 March 2018 and 31 March 2020, in Belfast LGD, the number of applications for social housing increased by 683, from 10,136 to 10,819.

### Households in housing stress

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the number of households in housing stress was 8,143, representing:

- **29.35% of Northern Ireland's total households in housing stress** (see later, Place Figure 49)
- **75.27% of applications for social housing in Belfast LGD** (see later, Place Figure 50)

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the number of households in housing stress increased by 807, from 7,336 to 8,143.

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90. Housing statistics | Department for Communities ([communities-ni.gov.uk](http://communities-ni.gov.uk)) and Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20 | Department for Communities ([communities-ni.gov.uk](http://communities-ni.gov.uk)) and Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2017-18 | Department for Communities ([communities-ni.gov.uk](http://communities-ni.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 19 June 2022)

91. Housing stress | The Executive Office ([executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](http://executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)) and Number of households in housing stress - Local Government District | The Executive Office ([executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](http://executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)) and Number of households in housing stress - Parliamentary constituency | The Executive Office ([executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](http://executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 21 June 2022)

## Allocations to social housing

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the total number of allocations to social housing was 2,917, representing 31.36% of Northern Ireland's total allocations (see later, Place Figure 48).

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the number of allocations to social housing decreased by 263, from 3,180 to 2,917.

## Ratio of allocations to applications for social housing

At 31 March 2020, in Belfast LGD, the ratio of allocations to applications for social housing was 0.27, meaning that 27% of applications for social housing were allocated social housing (see later, Place Figure 49).

Between 20 March 2018 and 31 March 2020, in Belfast LGD, the ratio of allocations to applications for social housing decreased by 0.04, from 0.31 to 0.27 (31% to 27%).

## Differences by assembly area: households in housing stress

In 2019/20, there was variation in the number of households in housing stress across Belfast's assembly areas:

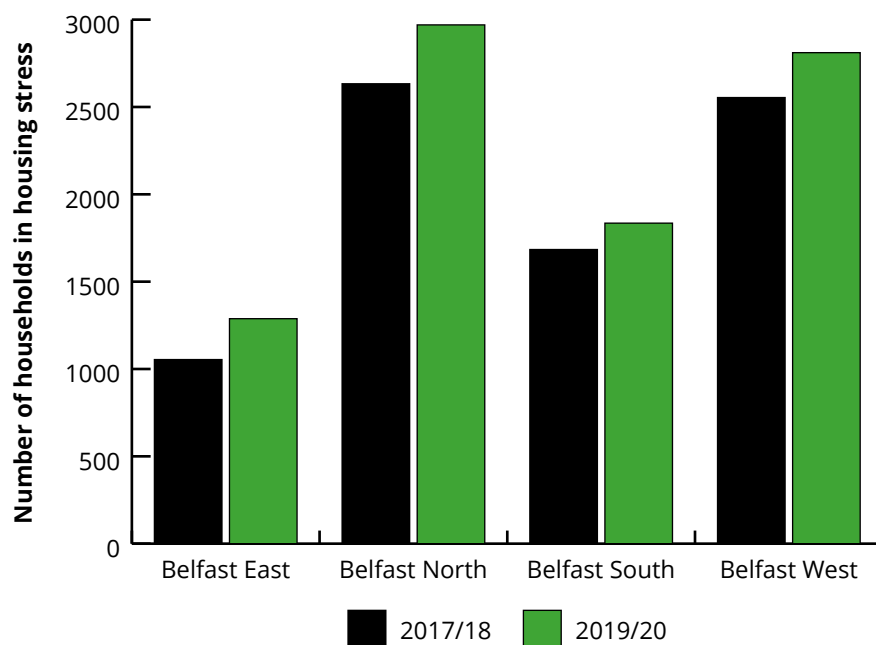
- **Belfast North had the highest number, followed by Belfast West**
- **Belfast East had the lowest number (see Place Figure 44)**

Between 2017/18 and 2019/0, the number of households in housing stress increased in all Belfast's assembly areas:

- **In Belfast East by 234 households, from 1,054 to 1,288 (a percentage increase of 22.20%)**
- **In Belfast North by 337 households, from 2,633 to 2,970 (a percentage increase of 12.80%)**
- **In Belfast South by 151 households, from 1,684 to 1,835 (a percentage increase of 8.97%)**
- **In Belfast West by 257 households, from 2,554 to 2,811 (a percentage increase of 10.06%; see Place Figure 47)**

### PLACE FIGURE 47:

#### Number of households applying for social housing in housing stress by Belfast's assembly areas, 2017/18 and 2019/20



Source: The Executive Office: Housing stress, Number of households in housing stress - Parliamentary constituency

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

#### **Applications for social housing**

At 31 March 2020, in Northern Ireland, the number of applications for social housing was 38,745 households.

Between 20 March 2018 and 31 March 2020, the number of applications for social housing increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 683 households, from 10,136 to 10,819 (a percentage increase of 6.74%)
- In Northern Ireland by 2,547 households, from 36,198 to 38,745 (a percentage increase of 7.04%)

### ***Households in housing stress***

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the number of households in housing stress was 27,745 households.

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20, the number of households in housing stress increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 807 households, from 7,336 to 8,143 (a percentage increase of 11.00%)
- In Northern Ireland, by 3,597, from 24,148 to 27,745 (a percentage increase of 14.90%)

### ***Allocations to social housing***

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the number of total allocations to social housing was 9,301 households.

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20, the number of allocations to social housing decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 263 households, from 3,180 to 2,917 (a percentage decrease of 8.27%)
- In Northern Ireland by 697 households, from 9,998 to 9,301 (a percentage decrease of 6.97%)

### ***Ratio of allocations to applications for social housing***

At 31 March 2020, when compared with Northern Ireland, the ratio of allocations to applications was 0.03 higher (3 percentage points higher), 0.27 compared with 0.24 (27% compared with 24%).

Between 20 March 2018 and 31 March 2020, the ratio of allocations to applications for social housing decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 0.04 (4 percentage points), from 0.31 to 0.27 (31% to 27%, a percentage decrease of 12.90%)
- In Northern Ireland by 0.04 (4 percentage points), from 0.28 to 0.24 (28% to 24%, a percentage decrease of 14.29%)

## Comparison with other LGDs

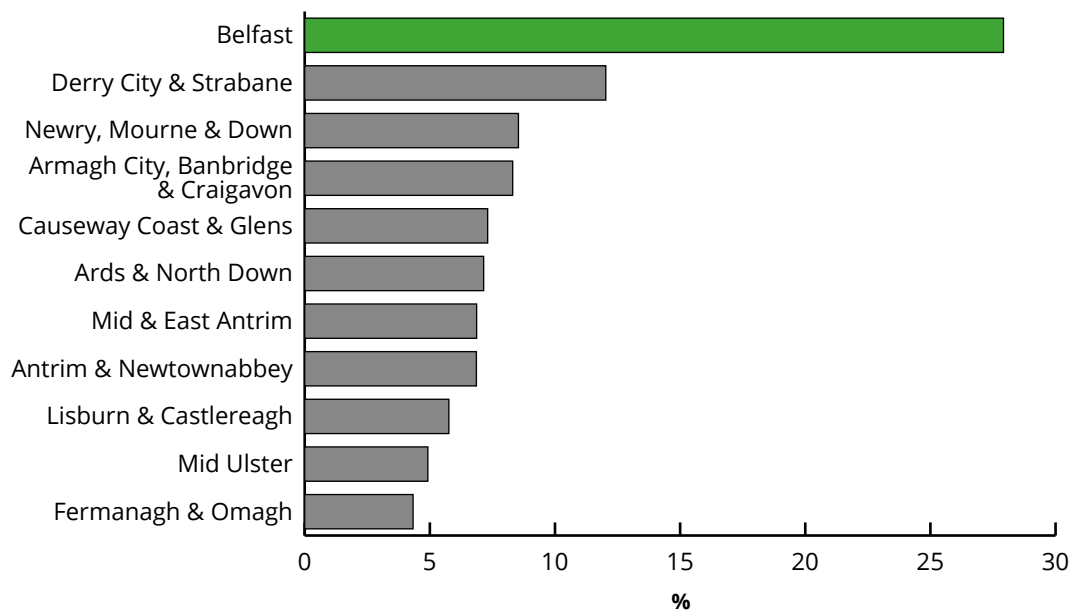
### **Applications for social housing**

At 31 March 2020, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's applications for social housing at 27.92%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest percentage share at 4.33%
- Ards & North Down LGD had the median percentage share at 7.15% (see Place Figure 48)

### **PLACE FIGURE 48:**

**Percentage share (%) of Northern Ireland's applications for social housing by LGD, at 31 March 2020**



Source: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20 Section 3 Tables – Social Renting Sector Table 3.6

### **Households in housing stress**

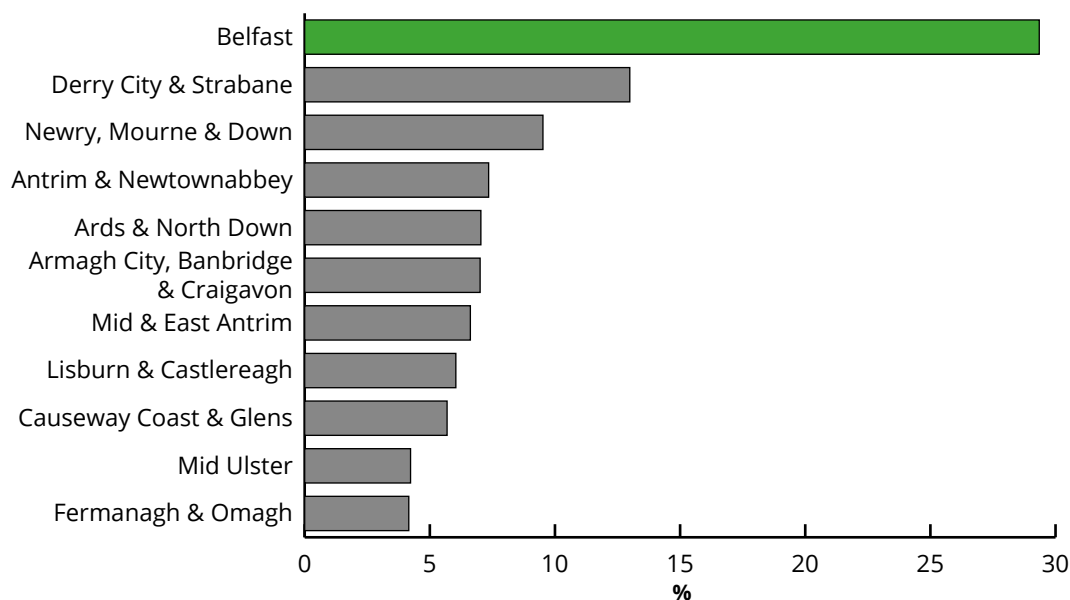
In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's households applying for social housing in housing stress at 29.35%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest percentage share at 4.16%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the median percentage share at 7.01% (see Place Figure 49)



**PLACE FIGURE 49:**

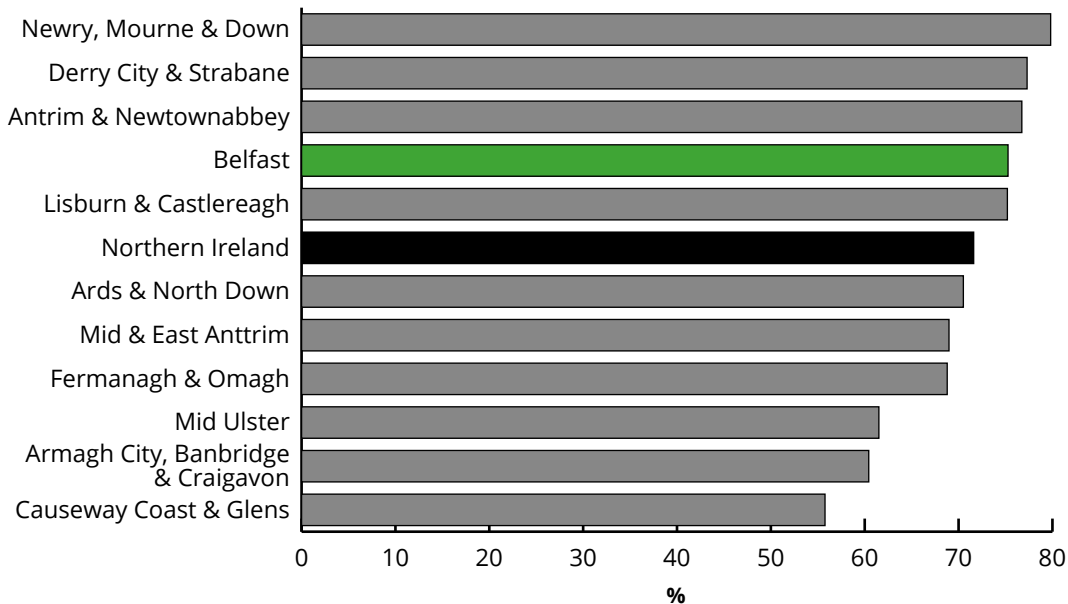
**Percentage share (%) of Northern Ireland's households applying for social housing in housing stress by LGD, 2019/20**



Source: The Executive Office: Housing stress, Number of households in housing stress – Local Government District

**In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:**

- Belfast LGD had the fourth highest percentage of households applying for social housing in housing stress at 75.27%
- Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the highest percentage at 79.81%
- Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the lowest percentage at 55.77%
- Ards & North Down LGD had the median percentage at 70.51% (see Place Figure 50)

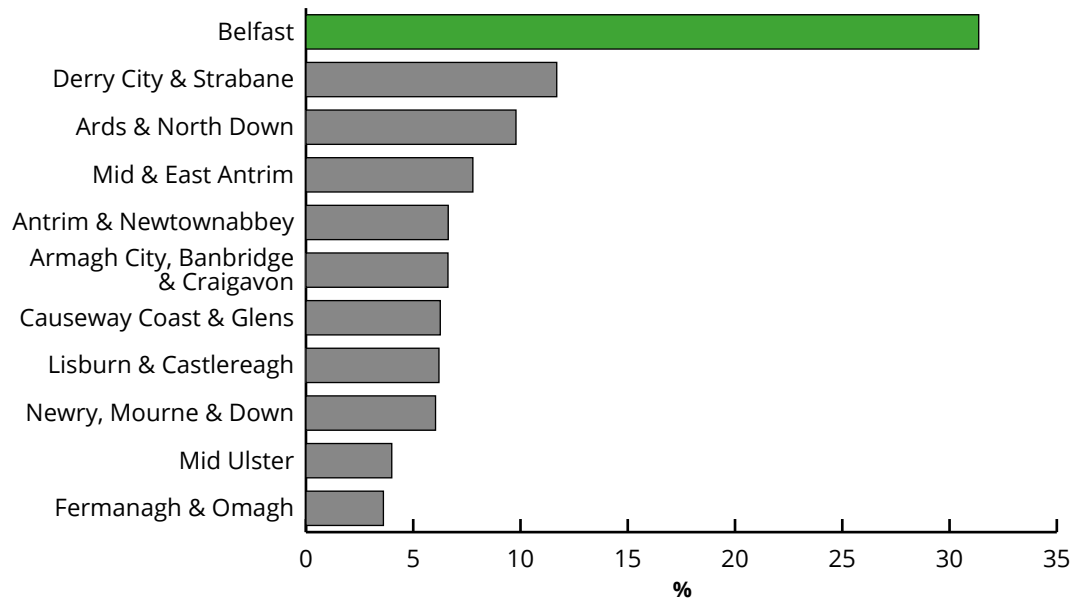
**PLACE FIGURE 50:****Percentage (%) of households applying for social housing in housing stress by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**

Source: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20 Section 3 Tables – Social Renting Sector Tables 3.6, and The Executive Office: Housing stress, Number of households in housing stress – Local Government District

***Allocations to social housing***

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's allocations to social housing at 31.36%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest percentage share at 3.61%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the median percentage share at 6.62% (see Place Figure 51)

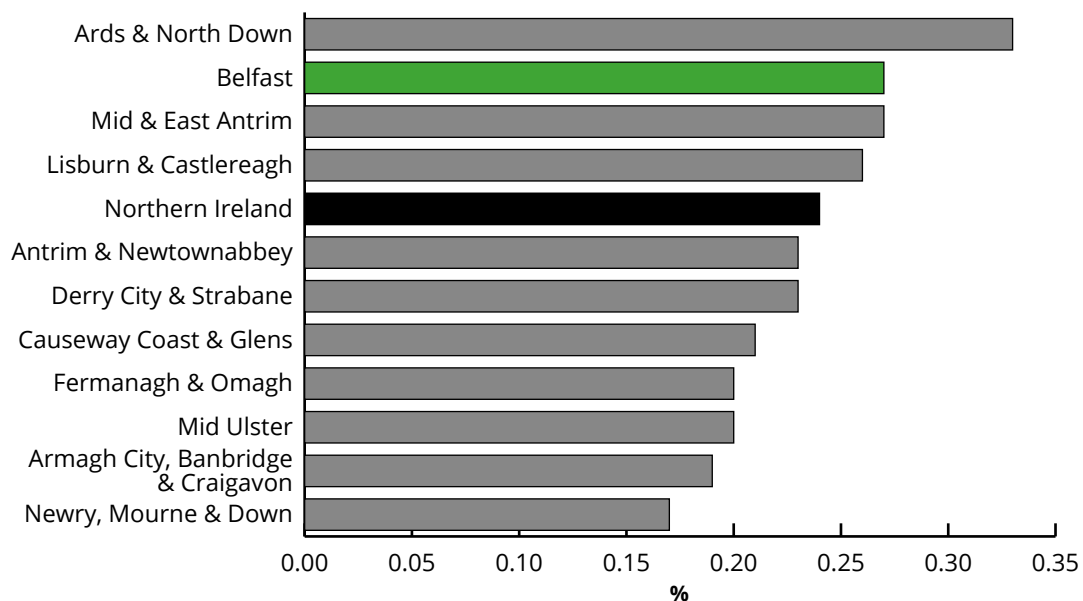
**PLACE FIGURE 51:****Percentage share (%) of Northern Ireland's allocations to social housing by LGD, 2019/20**

Source: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20 Section 3 Tables – Social Renting Sector Table 3.7

***Ratio of allocations to applications for social housing***

At 31 March 2020, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the equal second highest ratio of allocations to applications for social housing at 0.27, thus, 27% of households applying for social housing were allocated to social housing
- Ards & North Down LGD had the highest ratio at 0.33
- Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the lowest ratio at 0.17
- Derry City & Strabane LGD and Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD had the median ratio at 0.23 (see Place Figure 52)

**PLACE FIGURE 52:****Ratio of allocations to applications for social housing by LGD and Northern Ireland, at 31 March 2020**

Source: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20 Section 3 Tables – Social Renting Sector Tables 3.6 & 3.7

**HIGHLIGHTS**

At 31 March 2020, Belfast had:

- Almost 3 out of every 10 applications for social housing in Northern Ireland
- 3 out of every 10 households in housing stress in Northern Ireland
- Just over 3 out of every 10 allocations to social housing in Northern Ireland
- Between 7 and 8 out of every 10 households applying for social housing in housing stress, compared with just over 7 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland

Between 20 March 2018 and 31 March 2020:

- The number of applications for social housing increased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage increase was slightly greater in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two narrowed slightly
- The number of households in housing stress increased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage increase was greater in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two narrowed

- The number of allocations to social housing decreased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two widened
- The ratio of allocations to applications for social housing decreased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, and although the percentage decrease was greater in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two widened with a more favourable outcome for Belfast the difference between the two sets of ratios remained the same

At 31 March 2020, among LGDs, Belfast had:

- The highest number and highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's applications for social housing, households in housing stress, and allocations to social housing
- One of the highest percentages of households applying for social housing that were in housing stress
- One of the highest ratios of allocations to applications for social housing within an LGD – almost 3 out of every 10 applications were allocated to social housing; however, this means that more than 7 out of every 10 applications for social housing were not allocated social housing

### Inequalities and the potential for inequity

In 2019/20, Belfast North and Belfast West had the highest number of households in housing stress.

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20, Belfast East had the greatest percentage increase in households in housing stress.

## SECTION 9

# Housing-related Benefits

### 9.1 - Households in Receipt of Housing Benefit - Households in Receipt of the Housing Cost Element of Universal Credit

#### IMPORTANCE

Evidence that poverty affects housing circumstances is generally stronger than evidence that housing circumstances affect poverty. Low incomes prevent access to many potential housing options or make them hard to sustain. The housing system, with social housing, housing benefit and support for homeless people can act as a buffer against the effects of poverty, so that although people living in poverty have a higher risk of bad housing conditions, they generally avoid them. Housing benefits for tenants make a major contribution to reducing 'housing cost induced poverty' and are second in importance only to housing costs themselves. While housing benefit has a positive impact on poverty and material living conditions, it can create a poverty trap (by reducing work incentives and creating an unemployment trap). For any given set of low-paid job opportunities, housing stock and rents, there will be a trade-off between using housing benefits to prevent poverty, material deprivation and housing deprivation on the one hand, and avoiding a 'poverty trap' on the other.<sup>92</sup>

#### DEFINITION

Housing Benefit is for people on a low income who pay housing costs for the property they live in. It is a means tested benefit and the amount received depends on household income and other circumstances:

- If people live in the rented sector, housing costs for a rented property include rent, rates, and service charges
- If people own their property, it is possible to apply for Housing Benefit for help towards rates only; Housing Benefit cannot be used towards mortgage repayments<sup>93</sup>

92 The links between housing and poverty | JRF (Last accessed 23 June 2022)

93 The Housing Executive - About Housing Benefit (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 24 June 2022)

Universal Credit is a payment for people over 18 years but under State Pension age who are on a low income or out of work. It includes support for the cost of housing, children and childcare, and financial support for people with disabilities, carers, and people too ill to work.<sup>94</sup>

The rollout of Universal Credit for new claimants commenced in September 2017 and was completed in December 2018. Since the introduction of Universal Credit in Northern Ireland, the number of Housing Benefit claimants has reduced across NIHE, housing association and private rented sector stock. Working-age benefit claimants move to Universal Credit when they have a relevant change of circumstances.<sup>95</sup>

Information about Housing Benefit is from NIHE Housing Investment Plans (HIPs) Annual Update 2020 for each Council area<sup>96</sup>; information about Universal Credit with a Housing Element is from a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to the Operational Control Centre – Universal Credit, Department for Communities.<sup>97</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

### Households in receipt of Housing Benefit

In 2019, in Belfast LGD:

- The number of households in receipt of Housing Benefit was 39,277
- The percentage of households in receipt of Housing Benefit was 24.83%
- The percentage share of Northern Ireland's total households in receipt of Housing Benefit was 27.49% (see Place Figure 53)

Between 2016 and 2019, in Belfast LGD:

- The number of households in receipt of Housing Benefit decreased by 1,644, from 40,921 to 39,277
- The percentage share of Northern Ireland's households in receipt of Housing Benefit increased by 0.28 percentage points, from 27.21% to 27.49%

94. Universal Credit | nidirect (Last accessed 24 June 2022)

95. Belfast Housing Investment Plan Annual Update 2021 (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 10 July 2022)

96. The Housing Executive - Housing Investment Plans (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 24 June 2022)

97. Data for Universal Credit have been rounded to the nearest 10, whereas Housing Benefit data are not

## Households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit

### **December 2019 data**

At December 2019, in Belfast LGD:

- The number of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit was 6,380
- The percentage of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit was 4.03%
- The percentage share of Northern Ireland's households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit was 22.37% (see Place Figure 51)

Between December 2018 and December 2019, the number of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit increased by 4550, from 1,830 to 6,380.

### **Financial year data**

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD:

- The number of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit was 10,940
- The percentage of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit was 6.92%
- The percentage share of Northern Ireland's households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit was 24.10%

Between 2018/19 and 2019/20, the number of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit increased by 7,300, from 3,640 to 10,940

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

#### **Households in receipt of Housing Benefit**

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the number of households in receipt of Housing Benefit was 142,869.

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of households in receipt of Housing Benefit was higher by 6.95 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 24.83% compared with 17.88%



Between 2016 and 2019, the number of households in receipt of Housing Benefit decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 1,644, from 40,921 to 39,277 (a percentage decrease of 4.02%)
- In Northern Ireland by 22,445 (a percentage decrease of 13.58%)

### ***Households in receipt of Universal Credit with a housing element***

At December 2019, Northern Ireland, the number of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit was 28,520.<sup>98</sup>

At December 2019, When compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit was higher by 0.46 percentage points in Belfast LGD, 4.03% compared with 3.57%.

Between December 2018 and December 2019, the number of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 4550, from 1,830 to 6,380 (a percentage increase of 248.63%)
- In Northern Ireland by 17,040, from 11,480 to 28,520 (a percentage increase of 148.43%)

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, 45,390 households were in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit.

In 2019/20, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit was higher by 1.24 percentage points, in Belfast LGD 6.92% compared with 5.68%.

Between 2018/19 and 2019/20, the number of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 7,300, from 3,640 to 10,940 (a percentage increase of 200.55%)
- In Northern Ireland by 25,810, from 19,580 to 45,390 (a percentage increase of 131.82%)

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98. There were 480 households that were unallocated.

## Comparison with other LGDs

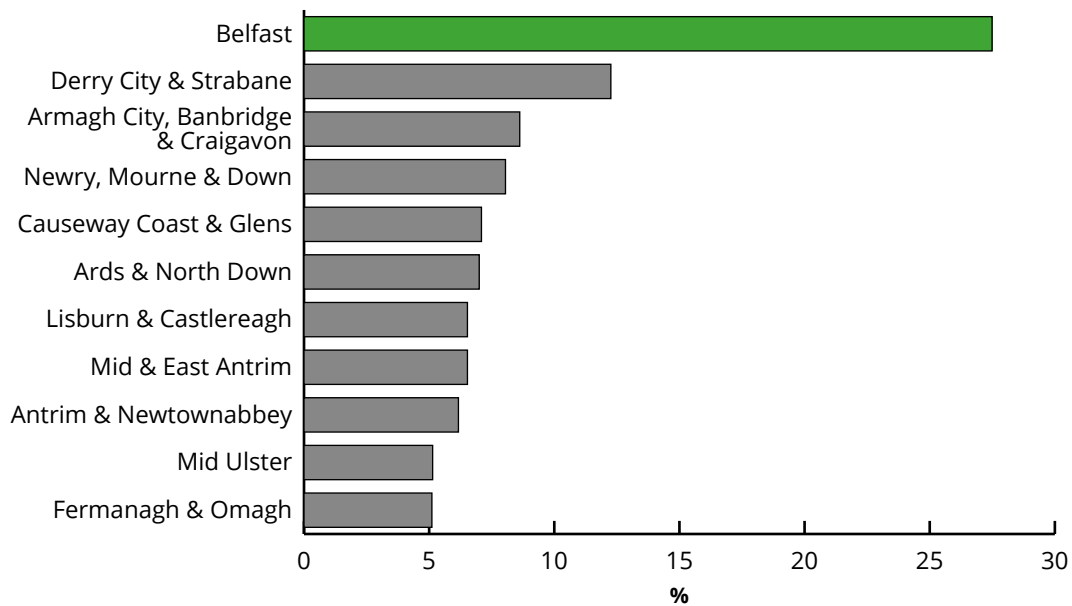
### **Households in receipt of Housing Benefit**

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest number of households in receipt of Housing Benefit, and the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total at 39,277, and 27.49%, respectively
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest number and percentage share at 7,304 and 5.11%, respectively
- Ards & North Down LGD had the median number and percentage share at 9,999 and 7.00%, respectively (see Place Figure 53)

### **PLACE FIGURE 53:**

**Percentage share (%) of Northern Ireland's households in receipt of Housing Benefit by LGD, 2019**



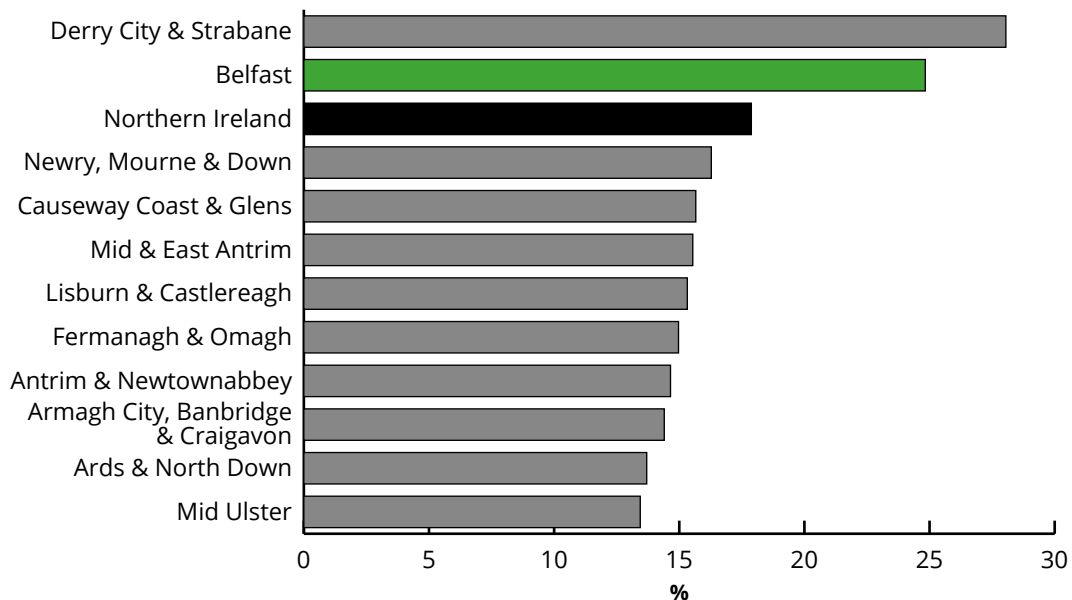
Source: NIHE: HIP for each Council area, Local Context section, Housing Benefit graph

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the second highest percentage of households in receipt of Housing Benefit at 24.83%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest at 28.05%
- Mid Ulster LGD had the lowest at 13.44%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the median percentage at 15.32% (see Place Figure 54)

**PLACE FIGURE 54:**

**Percentage (%) households in receipt of Housing Benefit by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019**



Source: DfC: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20 Section 1 Tables – Supply, Table 1.2, and HIPs for each LGD

***Households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit***

At December 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest number of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit and the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland’s households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit at 6,380 and 22.37%, respectively
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest number and percentage share at 1,190 and 4.17%, respectively

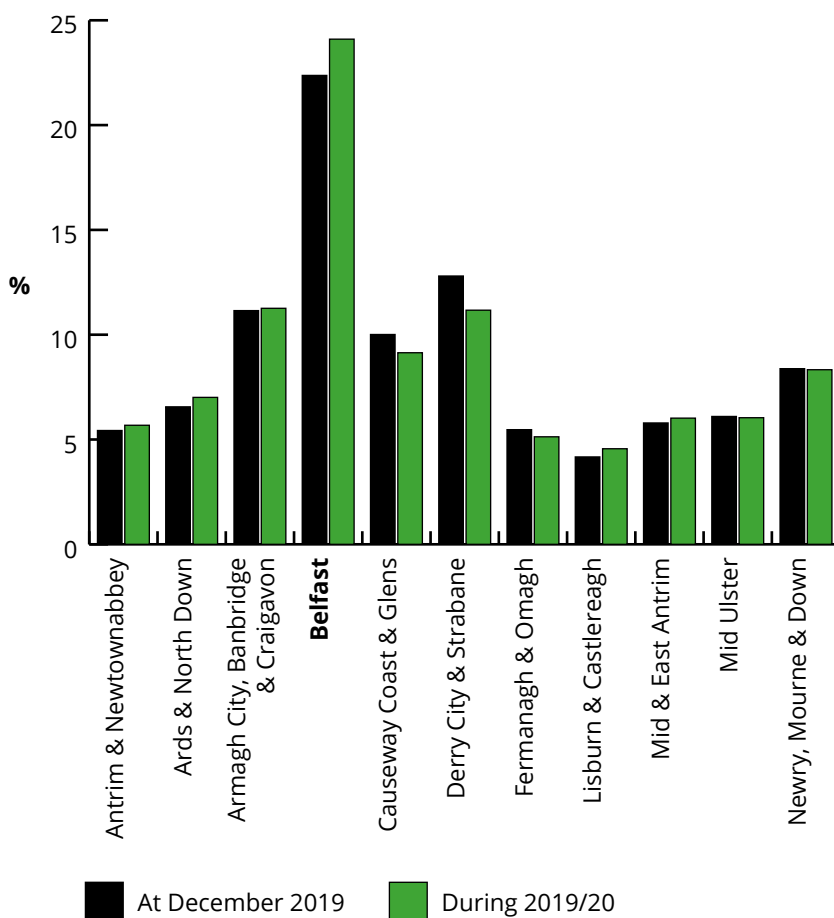
- Ards & North Down LGD had the median number and percentage at 1,870 and 6.56%, respectively (see Place Figure 55)

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest number of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit and the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland’s households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit at 10,940 and 24.10%, respectively
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest number and percentage share at 2,070 and 4.56%, respectively
- Ards & North Down LGD had the median number and percentage at 3,180 and 7.01%, respectively (see Place Figure 55)

**PLACE FIGURE 55:**

**Percentage share (%) of Northern Ireland’s households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit by LGD, at December 2019 and during 2019/20**



Source: DfC: FOI request to the Operational Control Centre – Universal Credit

At December 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

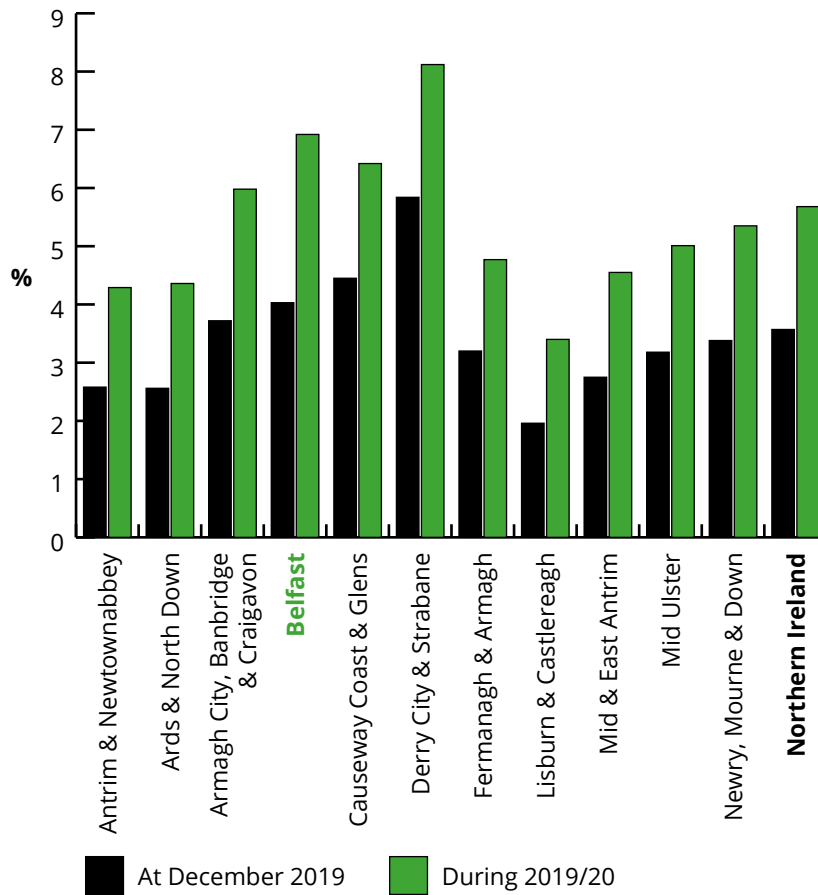
- Belfast LGD had the third highest percentage of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit at 4.03%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest percentage at 5.84%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 1.96%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the median percentage at 3.20% (see Place Figure 56)

During 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had second highest percentage of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit at 6.92%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest percentage at 8.12%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 3.40%
- Mid Ulster LGD had the median percentage at 5.01% (see Place Figure 56)

**PLACE FIGURE 56:**

**Percentage (%) of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit by LGD and Northern Ireland, at December 2019 and during 2019/20**



Source: DfC: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20 Section 1 Tables – Supply, Table 1.2, and DfC: FOI request

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019:

- Belfast had the highest number of households in receipt of Housing Benefit, and the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's households in receipt of Housing Benefit, among LGDs
- Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 households in Belfast were in receipt of Housing Benefit compared with almost 2 out of every 10 households in Northern Ireland

At December 2019 and during 2019/20:

Belfast had the highest number of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit, and the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit, among LGDs:

- At December 2019, less than 1 in every 10 households in Belfast (almost 1 in every 20) were in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit, similar to Northern Ireland
- During 2019/20, approaching 1 out of every 10 households in Belfast (slightly more than between 1 and 2 out of every 20) were in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit

Over the calendar year and financial year in question, Belfast had:

- The highest numbers of households in receipt of housing-related benefits, and the highest percentage shares of Northern Ireland's households in receipt of housing-related benefits; Belfast's percentage share of Northern Ireland's households in receipt of housing-related benefits was at least around double that of any other LGD
- The second highest percentage of households in receipt of Housing Benefit in 2019, and in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit in 2019/20, among LGDs. Apart from Derry City & Strabane LGD, Belfast had a percentage of households in receipt of Housing Benefit that was at least 8 percentage points higher than those in other LGDs

### INFORMATION INDICATIVE OF THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS IN RECEIPT OF A HOUSING-RELATED BENEFIT DURING 2019

At the time of writing, the data were not publicly available to be able to present information for the total number of households in receipt of a housing-related benefit in 2019 due to the accessibility of data for the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit for households other than those that were NIHE tenants. The way in which Universal Credit is awarded means that different ways of using the data from the FOI request could lead to:

- Double-counting of some recipients of a housing-related benefit
- Under-counting of some recipients of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit who are not in receipt of the benefit for the full year of 2019

For the calculations that follow, the publicly available data for households in receipt of Housing Benefit for the calendar year 2019 have been summed with the number of households in receipt of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit in December 2019 (FOI data) to give the number of households in receipt of a housing-related benefit at December 2019. It is likely that this information under-counts the number of households that might have received a housing-related benefit during part of 2019 but not for the full calendar year.

## PROFILE FINDINGS

At December 2019, in Belfast LGD, the number of households in receipt of a housing-related benefit (Housing Benefit and the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit) was 45,657, representing 26.64% of Northern Ireland's total.

Between 2016 and at December 2019, in Belfast LGD, the number of households in receipt of a housing-related benefit (Housing Benefit and the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit) increased by 4,736, from 40,921 to 45,657.

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

At December 2019, in Northern Ireland, the number of households in receipt of a housing-related benefit (Housing Benefit and the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit) was 171,389.

Between 2016 and at December 2019, the number of households in receipt of a housing-related benefit (Housing Benefit and the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit) increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 4,736, from 40,921 to 45,657 (a percentage increase of 11.57%)
- In Northern Ireland by 6,075, from 165,314 to 171,389 (a percentage increase of 3.67%)

### Comparison with other LGDs

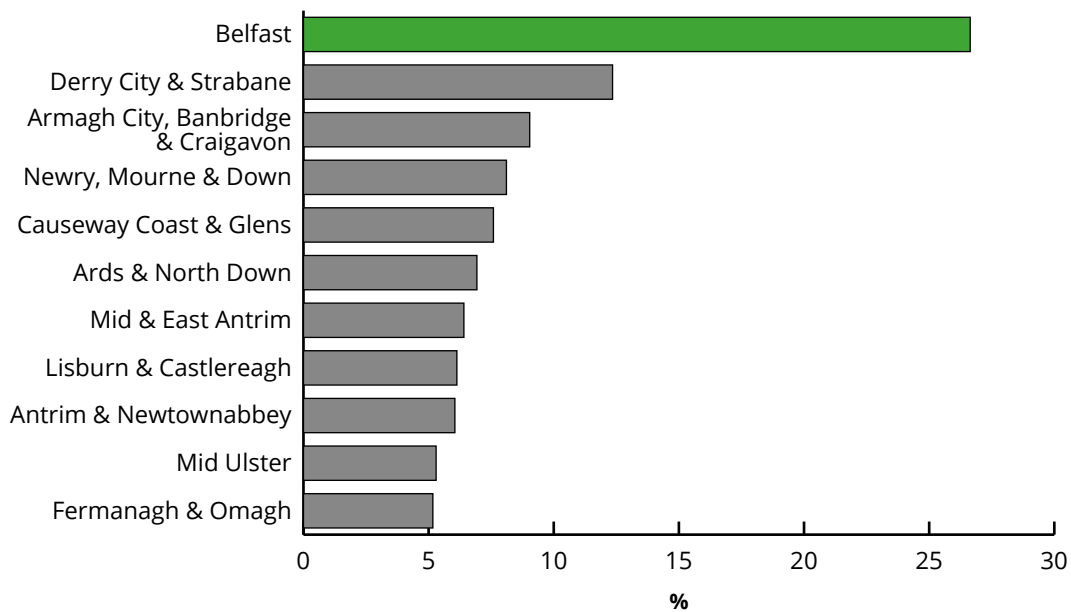
At December 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage of Northern Ireland's total number of households in receipt of a housing-related benefit (Housing Benefit and the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit) at 26.64%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 5.17%
- Ards & North Down LGD had the median percentage at 6.93% (see Place Figure 57)



**PLACE FIGURE 57:**

**Percentage (%) of Northern Ireland's households in receipt of a housing-related benefit (Housing Benefit and the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit) by LGD, 2019<sup>99</sup>**



Source: NIHE: HIP for each Council area, Local Context section, Housing Benefit graph, and DfC: FOI request to the Operational Control Centre – Universal Credit

**HIGHLIGHTS**

At December 2019, Belfast had between 2 and 3 out of every 10 of Northern Ireland's households receiving a housing-related benefit.

Between 2016 and at December 2019, the number of households in receipt of a housing-related benefit increased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage increase was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two widened.

At December 2019, Belfast had the highest number and highest percentage of Northern Ireland's households in receipt of a housing-related benefit among LGDs.

99. For the geographical analysis of Universal Credit data, records were attributed to an LGD based on postcode: 480 records either could not be correctly allocated using this method or could not be allocated at all

## 9.2 Households in Receipt of Housing Benefit by Type of Tenancy

### IMPORTANCE

Evidence that poverty affects housing circumstances is generally stronger than evidence that housing circumstances affect poverty. Low incomes prevent access to many potential housing options or make them hard to sustain. The housing system, with social housing, housing benefit and support for homeless people can act as a buffer against the effects of poverty, so that although people living in poverty have a higher risk of bad housing conditions, they generally avoid them. Housing benefits for tenants make a major contribution to reducing 'housing cost induced poverty' and are second in importance only to housing costs themselves. While housing benefit has a positive impact on poverty and material living conditions, it can create a poverty trap (by reducing work incentives and creating an unemployment trap). For any given set of low-paid job opportunities, housing stock and rents, there will be a trade-off between using housing benefits to prevent poverty, material deprivation and housing deprivation on the one hand, and avoiding a 'poverty trap' on the other.<sup>100</sup>

### DEFINITION

Housing Benefit is for people on a low income who pay housing costs for the property they live in. It is a means tested benefit and the amount received depends on household income and other circumstances:

- **If people live in the rented sector, housing costs for a rented property include rent, rates, and service charges**
- **If people own their property, it is possible to apply for Housing Benefit for help towards rates only; Housing Benefit cannot be used towards mortgage repayments<sup>101</sup>**

The rollout of Universal Credit for new claimants commenced in September 2017 and was completed in December 2018. Since the introduction of Universal Credit in Northern Ireland, the number of Housing Benefit claimants has reduced across NIHE, housing association and private rented sector stock. Working-age benefit claimants move to Universal Credit when they have a relevant change of circumstances.<sup>102</sup>

100. The links between housing and poverty | JRF (Last accessed 23 June 2022)

101. The Housing Executive - About Housing Benefit (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 24 June 2022)

102. Belfast Housing Investment Plan Annual Update 2021 (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 10 July 2022)

Information about Housing Benefit is from NIHE Housing Investment Plans (HIPs) Annual Update 2020 for each Council area.<sup>103</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, the number of households in receipt of Housing Benefit was 39,277, representing 27.49% of Northern Ireland's total.

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, of the households in receipt of Housing Benefit:

- **42.65% were NIHE tenants**
- **26.41% were private tenants**
- **30.94% were housing association tenants (see Place Figure 58)**

In 2019, in Belfast LGD, of the households in receipt of Housing Benefit, 73.59% were tenants in the social rented sector.

Between 2016 and 2019, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of households in receipt of Housing Benefit that were:

- **NIHE tenants increased by 0.82 percentage points, from 41.83% to 42.65%**
- **Private tenants decreased by 4.54 percentage points, from 30.95% to 26.41%**
- **Housing association tenants increased by 3.73 percentage points, from 27.21% to 30.94% (see Place Figure 58)**

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103 The Housing Executive - Housing Investment Plans (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 24 June 2022)

## KEY COMPARISONS

### Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019, in Northern Ireland, the number of households in receipt of Housing Benefit was 142,869.

In 2019, when compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of households in receipt of Housing benefit that were:

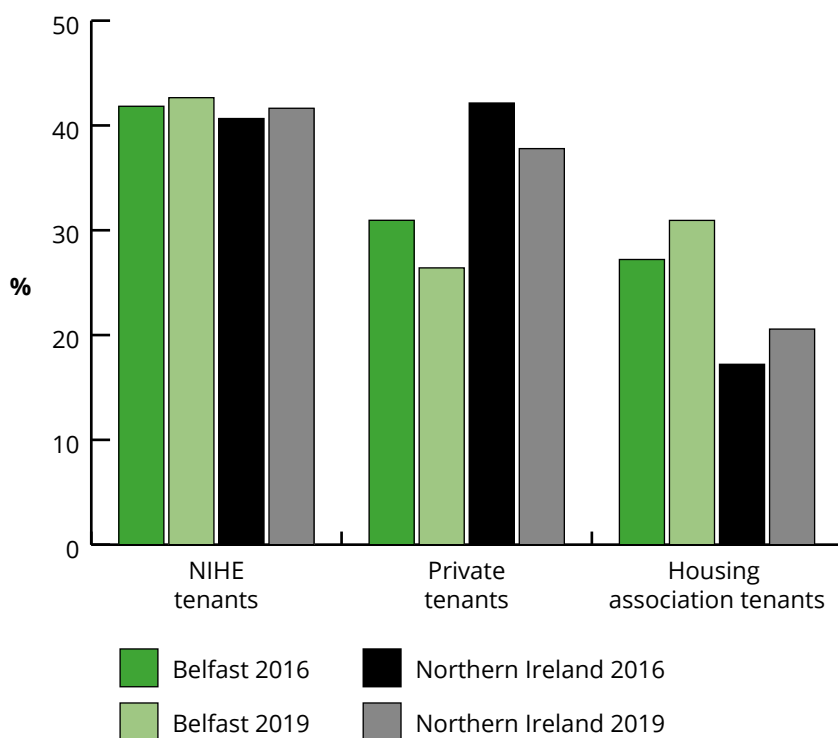
- NIHE tenants was 1.01 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 42.65% compared with 41.64%
- Private tenants was 11.38 percentage points lower in Belfast LGD, 26.41% compared with 37.79%
- Housing association tenants was 10.37 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 30.94% compared with 20.57% (see Place Figure 58)

Between 2016 and 2019, the percentage of households in receipt of Housing benefit that were:

- NIHE tenants increased by 0.82 percentage points in Belfast LGD, from 41.83% to 42.65% (a percentage increase of 1.96%) compared with an increase of 0.98 percentage points in Northern Ireland from 40.66% to 41.64% (a percentage increase of 2.41%)
- Private tenants decreased by 4.54 percentage points in Belfast LGD, from 30.95% to 26.41% (a percentage decrease of 14.67%), compared with a decrease of 4.35 percentage points in Northern Ireland, from 42.14% to 37.79% (a percentage decrease of 10.32%)
- Housing association tenants increased by 3.73 percentage points in Belfast LGD, from 27.21% to 30.94% (a percentage increase of 13.71%), compared with an increase of 3.36 percentage points in Northern Ireland, from 17.21% to 20.57% (a percentage increase of 19.52%; see Place Figure 58)

**PLACE FIGURE 58:**

**Percentage (%) of households in receipt of Housing Benefit by type of tenancy in Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, 2016 and 2019**

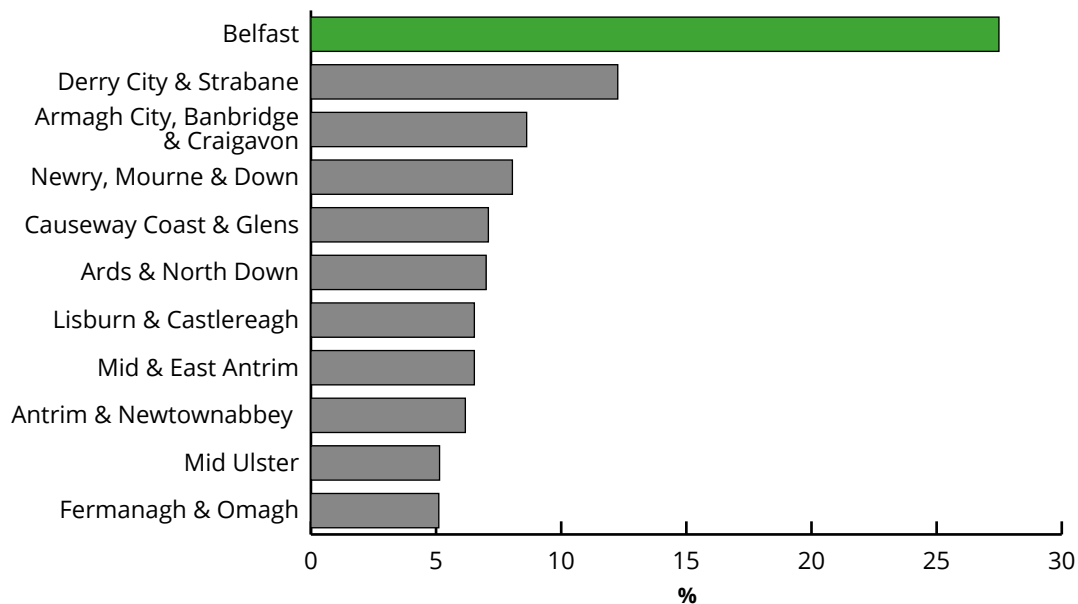


Source: NIHE: HIPs for all Council areas, Local Context section, Housing Benefit graph

### Comparison with other LGDs

Households in receipt of Housing Benefit and by type of tenancy in 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's households in receipt of Housing Benefit at 27.49%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest percentage share at 5.11%
- Ards & North Down LGD had the median percentage share at 7.00% (see Place Figure 59)

**PLACE FIGURE 59:****Percentage share (%) of Northern Ireland's households receiving Housing Benefit by LGD, 2019**

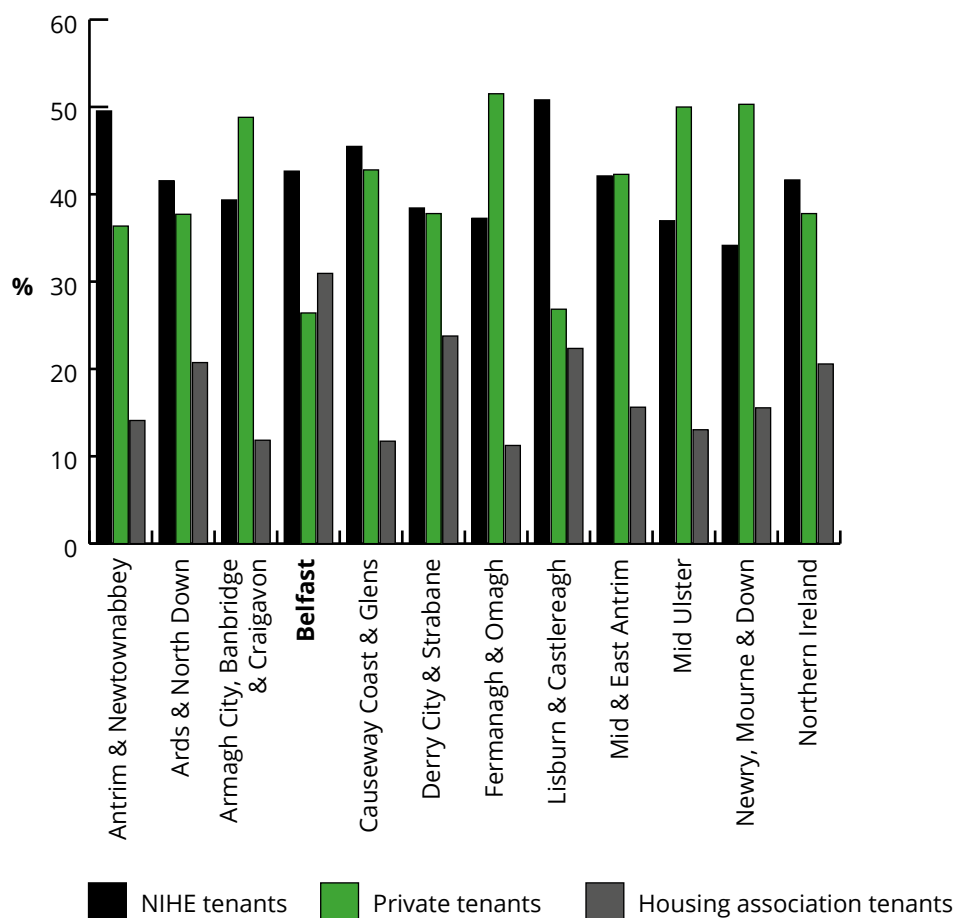
Source: NIHE: HIP for each Council area, Local Context section, Housing Benefit graph

In 2019, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the fourth highest percentage of NIHE tenants receiving Housing Benefit at 42.65%, Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the highest percentage at 50.81%, Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the lowest percentage at 34.15%, and Ards & North Down LGD had the median percentage at 41.55%
- Belfast LGD had the lowest percentage of private tenants receiving Housing Benefit at 26.41%, Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the highest percentage at 51.51%, and Mid & East Antrim LGD had the median percentage at 42.28%
- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage of housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit at 30.94%, Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the lowest percentage at 11.24%, and Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the median percentage at 15.55% (see Place Figure 60)

**PLACE FIGURE 60:**

**Percentage (%) of households in receipt of Housing Benefit by type of tenancy and by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019**



Source: NIHE: HIP for each Council area, Local Context section, Housing Benefit graph

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019, in Belfast, of the households receiving Housing Benefit:

- Over 4 out of every 10 were NIHE tenants, similar to Northern Ireland
- Between 2 and 3 out of every 10 were private tenants, compared with almost 4 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland
- Just over 3 out of every 10 were housing association tenants, compared with 2 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland

Between 2016 and 2019 of the households receiving Housing Benefit, the percentage of:

- **NIHE tenants increased slightly in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, the gap between the two was only slightly widened**
- **Private tenants decreased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast and the gap between the two widened**
- **Housing association tenants increased in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage increase in Northern Ireland was greater, and the gap between the two widened**

In 2019, among LGDs, Belfast had the highest numbers and highest percentages of Northern Ireland's households receiving Housing Benefit in total and by each of the three types of tenancy.

In 2019, however, of the households receiving Housing Benefit within an LGD, although Belfast had the highest percentage of housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit, it had the fourth highest percentage of NIHE tenants and the lowest percentage of private tenants receiving Housing Benefit.



## SECTION 10

# Homelessness

### 10.1 - Presentations to NIHE

- Statutory Acceptances of Homelessness
- Households Placed in Temporary Accommodation

#### IMPORTANCE

In Northern Ireland, the Housing (NI) Order 1988 (as amended) identifies the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) as the agency tasked with responding to homelessness. The Order places a statutory duty on the NIHE to provide interim and/or permanent accommodation for certain homeless households, dependent upon investigations and assessment of their circumstances.

The Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland<sup>104</sup> aims to prevent homelessness and ensure that suitable support and accommodation are put in place for people who are homeless as soon as possible.

Homelessness is often the consequence of a combination and culmination of structural and individual factors; ill health can be a contributory factor. Homelessness, and the fear of becoming homeless, can also result in ill health or exacerbate existing health conditions. People who are homeless report much poorer health than the general population. Homelessness in early life can impact on life chances and the longer a person experiences homelessness the more likely their health and wellbeing will be at risk. Homelessness is more likely among population groups who also experience wider inequalities. Co-morbidity amongst the longer-term homeless population is not unusual; the average age of death of a homeless person is 47 years for men and 43 years for women compared with 77 years among the general population. People who experience homelessness can struggle to access quality health care and social care.<sup>105</sup>

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the overall length of stay in temporary accommodation was 275 days (around 9 months). During 2019/20, there was an increased number of B&B/hotel placements, which are used in the absence of alternative options [i.e., single lets, dispersed intensively managed emergency accommodation (DIME), voluntary sector hostels, and NIHE hostels] being available, and are short term in nature.<sup>106</sup>

104. Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland 2012-2017 (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 9 July 2022)

105. 22.7 HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS\_v08\_WEB\_0.PDF (local.gov.uk) (Last accessed 9 July 2022)

106. Homelessness Strategy 2017-22 Annual Progress Report 2019-20 (nihe.gov.uk) (last accessed 11 July 2022)

## DEFINITION

### **Presentations**

The number of households presenting as homeless to the NIHE.

### **Statutory acceptances of homelessness**

To be “accepted” as statutorily homeless, a household must meet the four tests of:

1. Eligibility
2. Homelessness
3. Priority Need
4. Intentionality

Any household that meets these four tests will be accepted as a “Full Duty Applicant” and will be owed a full housing duty. The full housing duty includes ensuring that accommodation is made available for the household as well as the provision of temporary accommodation where necessary and assistance with the protection of the household’s belongings.

Information is from the NIHE Homelessness Strategy 2017-22 Annual Progress Report 2019/20, and NIHE Housing Investment Plans (HIPs) Update 2020 for each Council area.<sup>107</sup>

## PROFILE FINDINGS

### **Presentations**

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the number of presentations for homelessness to NIHE was 5,270 households, representing 31.37% of Northern Ireland’s total (see Place Figure 61).

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the number of presentations for homelessness to NIHE decreased by 394 households, from 5,664 to 5,270.

### **Number of statutory acceptances of homelessness**

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the number of statutory acceptances of homelessness was 3,325 households, representing 29.37% of Northern Ireland’s total (see Place Figure 562).

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the number of statutory acceptances of homelessness increased by 9 households, from 3,316 to 3,325.

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107. Homelessness Strategy 2017-22 Annual Progress Report 2019-20 ([nihe.gov.uk](http://nihe.gov.uk)) and The Housing Executive - Housing Investment Plans ([nihe.gov.uk](http://nihe.gov.uk)) (Last accessed 18 June 2022)

**Percentage of presentations statutorily accepted as homeless**

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of household presentations for homelessness statutorily accepted as homeless was 63% (see Place Figure 63)

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of household presentations for homelessness statutorily accepted as homeless increased by 4.54 percentage points, from 58.55% to 63.09%.

**Households placed in temporary accommodation**

In 2019/20, in Belfast LGD, the number of households placed in temporary accommodation was 1,664, representing:

- 36.76% of Northern Ireland's total (see Place Figure 64)
- 50.05% of the households accepted as homeless in Belfast LGD (see Place Figure 65)

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, the number of households placed in temporary accommodation increased by 459, from 1,205 to 1,664.

**KEY COMPARISONS****Comparison with Northern Ireland****Presentations**

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the number of presentations for homelessness to NIHE was 16,802 households.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, the number of presentations for homelessness decreased:

- In Belfast LGD by 394 households, from 5,664 to 5,270 (a percentage decrease of 6.96%)
- In Northern Ireland by 1,826 households, from 18,628 to 16,802 (a percentage decrease of 9.80%)

***Number of statutory acceptances of homelessness***

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the number of statutory acceptances of homelessness was 11,323 households.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, the number of statutory acceptances for homelessness increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 9 households, from 3,316 to 3,325 (a percentage increase of 0.27%)
- In Northern Ireland by 121 households, from 11,202 to 11,323 (a percentage increase of 1.08%)

***Percentage of presentations statutorily accepted as homeless***

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the percentage of presentations statutorily accepted as homeless was 67%.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, the percentage of presentations statutorily accepted as homeless increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 4.54 percentage points from 58.55% to 63.09% (a percentage increase of 7.75%)
- In Northern Ireland by 7.25 percentage points, from 60.14% to 67.39% (a percentage increase of 12.06%)

***Households placed in temporary accommodation***

In 2019/20, in Northern Ireland, the number of households placed in temporary accommodation was 4,527.

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20, the number of households placed in temporary accommodation increased:

- In Belfast LGD by 459 households, from 1,205 to 1,664 (a percentage increase of 38.09%)
- In Northern Ireland by 1,490 households, from 3,037 to 4,527 (a percentage increase of 49.06%)

## Comparison with other LGDs

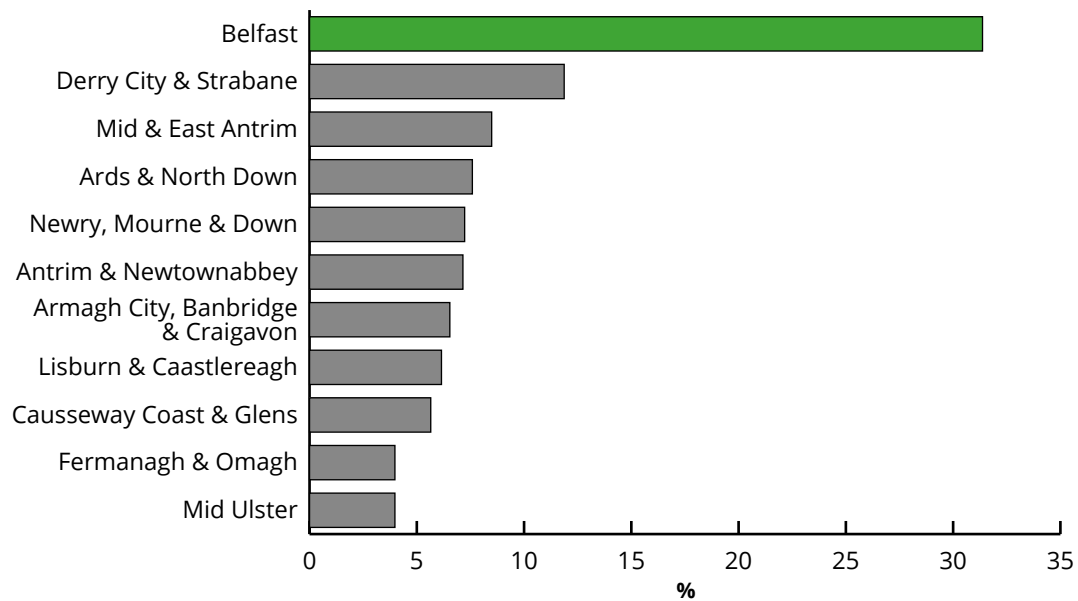
### **Presentations**

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage share of presentations to NIHE for homelessness at 31.37%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD and Mid Ulster LGD had the lowest percentage share at 3.98%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD had the median percentage share at 7.15% (see Place Figure 61)

### **PLACE FIGURE 61:**

**Percentage share (%) of presentations to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for homelessness by LGD, 2019/20**



Source: NIHE: Homelessness Strategy 2017-22 Annual Progress Report 2019/20, Appendix 1, Table 7, page 57

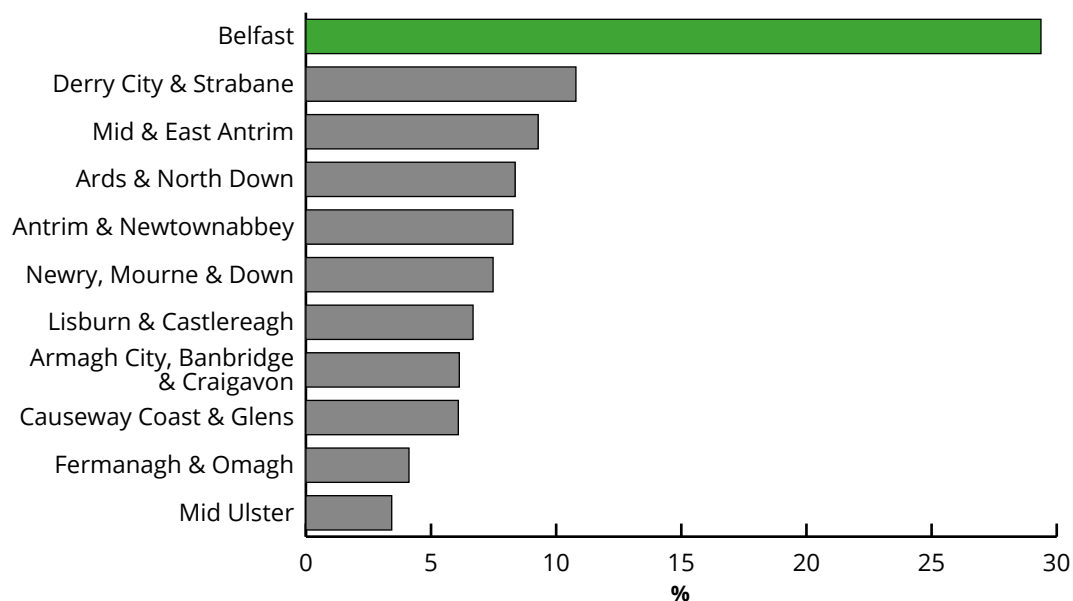
### **Number of statutory acceptances for homelessness**

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's statutory acceptances for homelessness at 29.37%
- Mid Ulster LGD had the lowest percentage share at 3.43%
- Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the median percentage share at 7.48% (see Place Figure 62)

#### **PLACE FIGURE 62:**

**Percentage share (%) of Northern Ireland's statutory acceptances for homelessness by LGD, 2019/20**

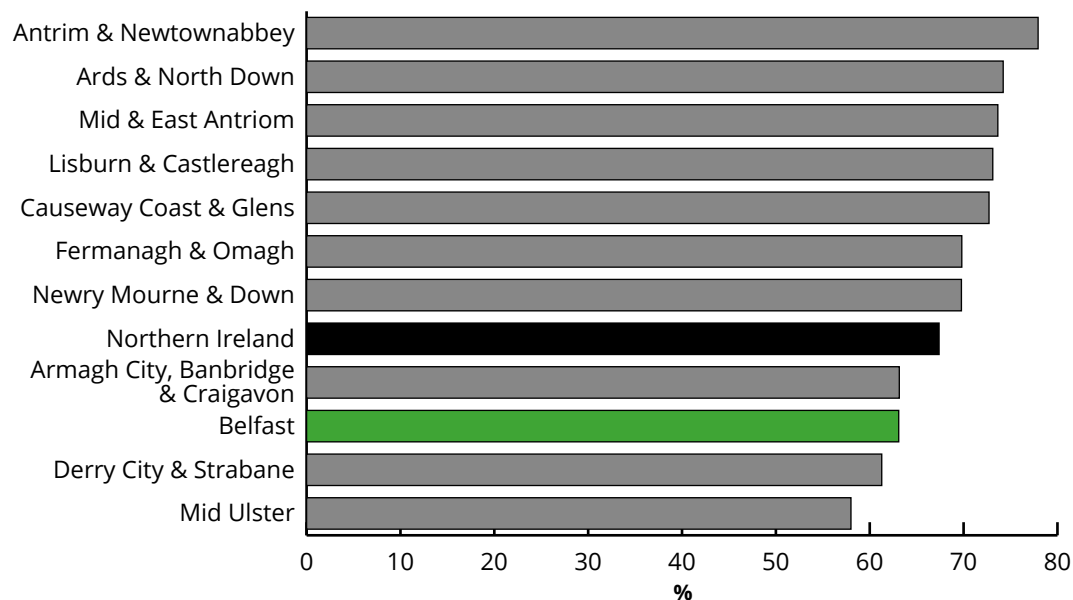


Source: NIHE: Homelessness Strategy 2017-22 Annual Progress Report 2019/20, Appendix 1, Table 8, page 57

### **Percentage of presentations statutorily accepted as homeless**

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the third lowest percentage of presentations statutorily accepted as homeless at 63.09%
- Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD had the highest percentage at 77.94%
- Mid Ulster LGD had the lowest percentage at 58.00%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the median percentage at 69.81% (see Place Figure 63)

**PLACE FIGURE 63:****Percentage (%) of presentations statutorily accepted as homeless by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**

Source: NIHE: Homelessness Strategy 2017-22 Annual Progress Report 2019/20, Appendix 1, Tables 7 & 8, page 57

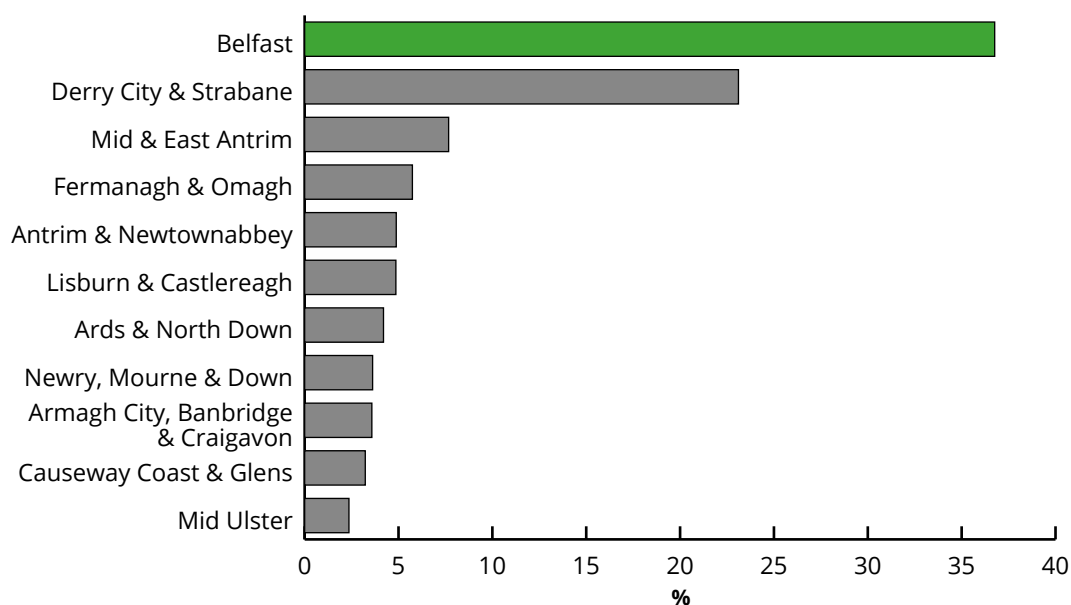
***Households placed in temporary accommodation***

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs:

- Belfast LGD had the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's households statutorily accepted as homeless placed in temporary accommodation at 36.76%
- Mid Ulster LGD had the lowest percentage share at 2.36%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the median percentage share at 4.86% (see Place Figure 64)

**PLACE FIGURE 64:**

**Percentage share (%) of Northern Ireland's households statutorily accepted as homeless placed in temporary accommodation by LGD, 2019/20**

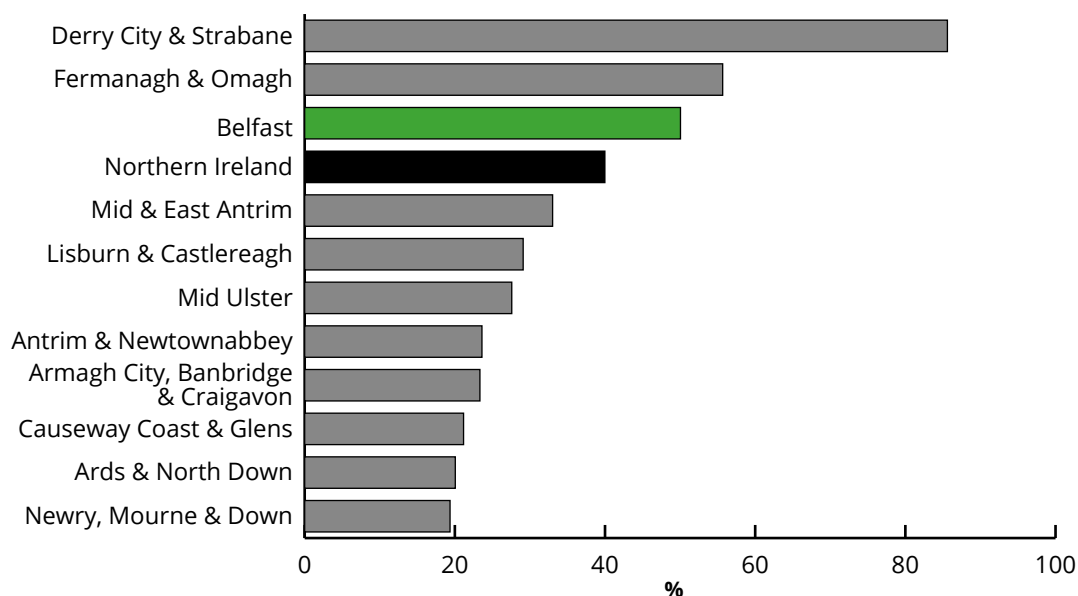


Source: NIHE: HIPs for each Council area, Update 2020, Appendix 5

In 2019/20, when compared with other LGDs, of households accepted as homeless within an LGD:

- Belfast LGD had the third highest percentage at 50.05%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the highest percentage at 85.60%
- Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the lowest percentage at 19.36%
- Mid Ulster LGD had the median percentage at 27.58% (see Place Figure 65)



**PLACE FIGURE 65:****Percentage (%) of households statutorily accepted as homeless placed in temporary accommodation by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019/20**

Source: NIHE: HIPs for each Council area, Update 2020, Appendix 5

**TABLE HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2019/20, Belfast had:

- **Just over 3 out of every 10 of Northern Ireland's households presenting as homeless to NIHE**
- **3 out of every 10 of Northern Ireland's households statutorily accepted as homeless**
- **Approaching 4 out of every 10 of Northern Ireland's households statutorily accepted as homeless being placed in temporary accommodation**

In 2019/20, among LGDs, Belfast had the highest numbers and percentages of Northern Ireland's households, presenting as homeless, being statutorily accepted as homeless, and being placed in temporary accommodation.

In 2019/20, the percentage of presentations statutorily accepted as homeless, however, was lower in Belfast than that in Northern Ireland, and it was one of the lowest among LGDs, thus, over 6 out of every 10 households presenting as homeless in Belfast LGD were statutorily accepted as homeless compared with:

- **Almost 7 out of every 10 households presenting as homeless statutorily accepted as homeless in Northern Ireland**
- **Almost 8 out of every 10 households presenting as homeless statutorily accepted as homeless in Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD**

In addition, in 2019/20, Belfast had one of the highest percentages of households statutorily accepted as homeless that were placed in temporary accommodation, with 5 out of every 10 households statutorily accepted as homeless being placed in temporary accommodation compared with:

- **4 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland**
- **2-3 out of every 10 in seven other LGDs**

Between 2015/16 and 2019/20:

- **There was a decrease in the number of household presentations for homelessness to NIHE in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, although the percentage decrease was greater in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two widened**
- **There was an increase in the number of households statutorily accepted as homeless in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage increase was greater in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two widened**
- **There was an increase in the number of households placed in temporary accommodation in Belfast and in Northern Ireland, but the percentage increase was greater in Northern Ireland and the gap between the two widened, with more beneficial outcomes for Belfast**



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