



BELFAST

Has COVID-19 changed our city?



Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity

PLACE

Acknowledgements

Belfast Healthy Cities would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Erica Ison, for her commitment and diligence as author of the six chapters in this publication, *BELFAST: Profiling, Health, Well-being and Prosperity: Has Covid -19 changed our city?*

We would also like to wholeheartedly thank Dr Karen Casson, Vice Chair of Belfast Healthy Cities Board of Directors for her meticulous review of the data and her valuable comments on the Chapters.

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Publications

There are six publications, referred to as chapters, in *BELFAST Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity: Has Covid-19 changed our city?*

They are based on the 6P framework of Belfast being a member of Phase VII (2019 – 2025) of the World Health Organization European Healthy Cities Network:



Previous Publications

There are six publications, referred to as chapters, in *BELFAST Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity*, and a summary document.

They are based on the 6P framework of Belfast being a member of Phase VII (2019 – 2025) of the World Health Organization European Healthy Cities Network:



Foreword

The Belfast Healthy Cities City Health Profile is an important document that will help set out the challenges and opportunities for us all to improve the Health and Wellbeing of the city into the future going forward.

As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we continue to see pressures on the cost of living, the city is clearly in a very different place now and we must take the opportunity to reflect both on the impact of the pandemic and refocus our thoughts as we move forward. This profile, and the key learning within, will help us do that.

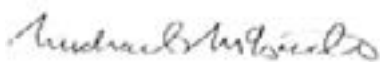
Has COVID-19 changed our city? Undoubtedly the answer is yes. The wider health and social care system had to adapt to meet the challenge of COVID-19. Prior to the pandemic, our health and social care system was already facing huge strategic challenges in the form of an ageing population, increasing demand, long and growing waiting lists, workforce pressures and the emergence of new and more expensive treatments. All of these pressures were exacerbated by the pandemic. The Department of Health and the wider service also need to plan for potential further outbreaks of the virus and use the learning from the pandemic to assist this planning.

To support the overall work on recovery, we need to understand what has, and has not, worked in terms in addressing the impact of the pandemic around the world. While no one nation or region will map precisely to our situation, there will be a strong evidence base to draw from.

It is apparent across many areas that there are opportunities to use the new ways of working and opportunities from the current crisis and not simply to return to the way things were done previously. This continues to be a feature of the future thinking on recovery.

I see continued collaboration as key going forward, we can all learn so much from each other, as is evidenced in the Chapters. I whole-heartedly support cross-departmental and cross-agency liaison. This is at the heart of Making Life Better, the Executive's framework for improving health and addressing health inequalities. We all have so much to contribute towards the health of our population and we can do this better together.

I am delighted to be working closely with Belfast Healthy Cities and I commend the organisation on this very important piece of work.



Prof Sir Michael McBride

Chief Medical Officer

Preface

This chapter, PLACE, in 'BELFAST, Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity: has COVID-19 changed our city?' is a follow up to the initial chapter on PLACE, produced as part of, 'BELFAST Profiling Health, Wellbeing & Prosperity: The data behind the people and the city', produced in 2022. Based on the availability of data, key indicators were selected from the initial PLACE chapter to outline the changes that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, across the city, March 2020 – May 2022. The benefit of this chapter is that whilst a wide range of data are available from various sources, they are presented here in an accessible, concise and integrated format.

Global and local research over several decades confirms the relationship between housing conditions and health outcomes. As the strategic housing authority for Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive has a responsibility for assessing house conditions, and for improving health through the provision of housing. As an organisation of housing professionals, we are committed to the progressive delivery of housing outcomes, particularly during times of acute housing stress, as we see today.

Housing conditions can affect physical and mental health in various ways. The independent Marmot Review (2010) said housing is a 'social determinant of health', meaning it can affect physical and mental health inequalities throughout life. Improvements to housing conditions lead to improvements in health, and it is crucial that this continues to be reflected in the public policy interventions we make. Programmes which target investment towards households experiencing fuel poverty, those who are financially excluded, those affected by violence or trauma, are all more likely to achieve positive health outcomes.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on the housing system in Northern Ireland, and on the people served by public services. Thousands of people already assessed as homeless, and with the highest levels of legal protection ('Full Duty Applicants'), left or were required to leave informal sharing arrangements, and required temporary accommodation immediately. Placements in temporary accommodation trebled, from more than 3,000 a year to 9,000, and the numbers continue to grow. This is not a new generation of homeless people; these are households to whom we owe an existing duty, and who urgently need accommodation, and many people also need support. The mental health impacts of this scale of housing stress on some households, will be felt for some time, and it is essential that services recognise and prepare for these evolving needs.

In our response, the NIHE set out a clear set of principles. The first was that we would use our own stock as much as possible to meet soaring need. The second, was that we would only use hotel and B&B accommodation for children in exceptional circumstances, and for limited periods. The third, was that we would

seek to find as much 'own front door' accommodation as possible. As a result, when compared to other jurisdictions, we have succeeded in ensuring that much of our temporary accommodation usage allows households to remain able to access health and education services, to remain as close as possible to family and community networks. However, the cost of this accommodation is several times more than our own stock, which has now run out. The consequence of this is that there is virtually no funding available for prevention services. This is unsustainable over time.

But, to finish on a positive. Recent years have shown a capacity and a culture of partnership between agencies that is hugely encouraging. The 'Complex Lives' project in Belfast is a collaboration between housing, health, justice and local government to take a person centred approach to the provision of services for people experiencing homelessness. It is beginning to make a huge difference, and has the potential to truly transform how we provide services, and most importantly to transform the lives of the people we serve.

Grainia Long
Chief Executive
Northern Ireland Housing Executive

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Indicator	Policing district *	Local policing team	Belfast LGD	Northern Ireland	Assembly area	DEA	Other
Road traffic collisions							
Seriously injured							
Fatalities							
Walking							
Likelihood of walking any journeys that have to be made up to 2 miles/3 km							
Satisfaction with current situation for walking and walkers in the local area							
Weekly household expenditure on transport/Vulnerability to transport poverty							England, Scotland & Wales
Homelessness							
Homelessness presentations							
Homelessness acceptances							
Percentage of homelessness presentations that became homelessness acceptances							
Waiting list for the social rented sector							
Waiting list for the social rented sector							
Total allocations, including transfers, in the social rented sector							

Indicator	Policing district *	Local policing team	Belfast LGD	Northern Ireland	Assembly area	DEA	Other
New dwelling completions							
Social housing							
Private and speculative							
Registered HMOs				Some data missing			
Average monthly rent in the private rented sector							
Housing-related benefits: Housing Benefit and the housing-cost element of Universal Credit							

* Policing districts are coterminous with LGDs

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SECTION 1

Road Traffic Collisions: Seriously Injured

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Police Service Northern Ireland, Road Traffic Collision Statistics, 2022 Detailed Trends Report, published 23 June 2023, Accompanying spreadsheet.¹

YEARS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Calendar years 2020, 2021 and 2022

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

In the Police Recorded Injury Road Traffic Collisions, Northern Ireland, 2022 Key Statistics Report, 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022, it states:

“Lockdown measures in relation to Covid-19 were introduced on 23rd March 2020. Restrictions were eased during the summer months of 2020 before further measures were reintroduced on 16th October and 26th December 2020. The second half of March 2021 saw the start of gradual relaxation of restrictions, with enhanced restrictions and introduction of a vaccine pass in November 2021. As of 15th February 2022, all Covid-19 legal restrictions have been replaced by guidance. The reduction in collisions and casualties seen through the Covid period should be seen in the context of overall traffic volumes which were estimated to have more than halved following the initial lockdown in March 2020 before returning to more normal levels at the time the traffic flow publication was discontinued in June 2021.”²

1. Road Traffic Collision Statistics | PSNI (Last accessed 27 June 2023)
2. Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 26 June 2023)

In Belfast City Policing District, the number of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions:

- In 2020, covering the first 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 77, which comprised 12.92% of Northern Ireland's total that year
- In 2021, covering the first calendar year of the pandemic, was 102, which comprised 12.61% of Northern Ireland's total that year
- In 2022, covering the second calendar year of the pandemic, was 163, which comprised 17.91% of Northern Ireland's total that year

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, in Belfast City Policing District:

- The number of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions increased overall by 33, from 130 to 163
- The percentage share of Northern Ireland's total number of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions increased overall by 1.11 percentage points, from 16.80% to 17.91% (a percentage increase of 6.61%)

See pages 58-71, in the Place Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, the number of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions increased:

- In Belfast City Policing District, by 33, from 130 to 163 (a percentage increase of 25.38%)
- In Northern Ireland, by 136, from 774 to 910 (a percentage increase of 17.57%)

Comparison with other policing districts

When compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had:

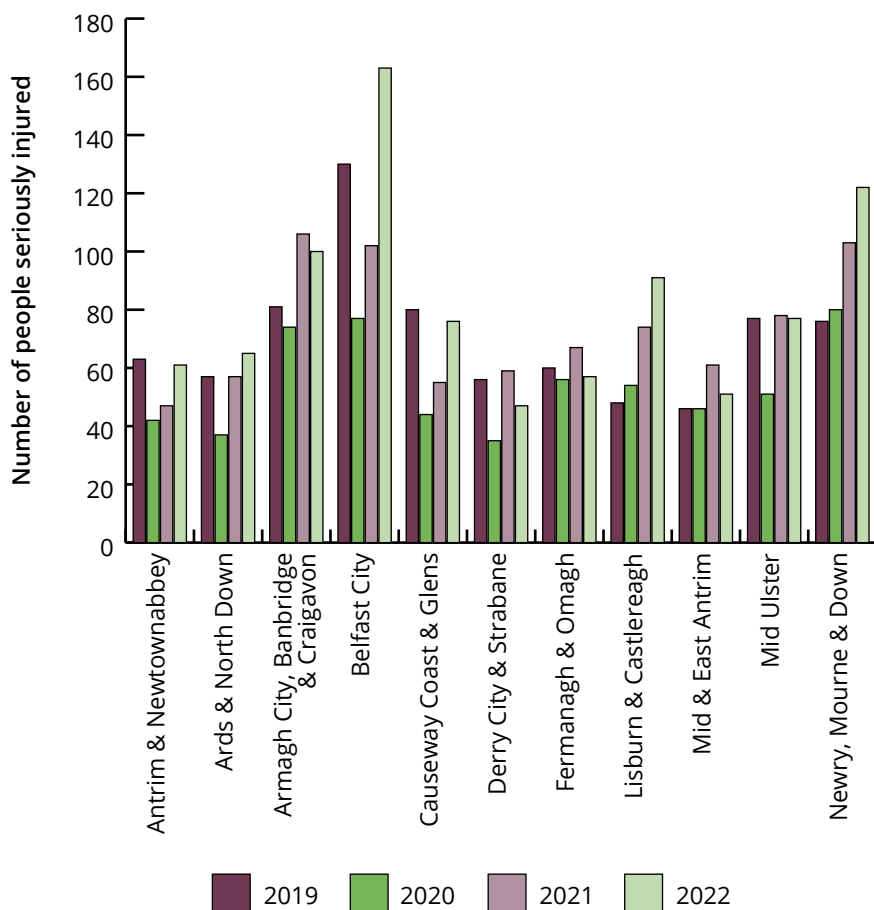
- The highest number of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions and the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019
- The second highest number of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions and the second highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total during the first 9 months of the pandemic in 2020
- The third highest number of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions and the third highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total during the first calendar year of the pandemic in 2021
- The highest number of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions and the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total during the second calendar year of the pandemic in 2022 (see COVID-19 Place Figure 1)

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, the number of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions:

- Increased overall in 6 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Decreased overall in 4 policing districts
- Remained the same in one policing district (see COVID-19 Place Figure 1)

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 1:

Number of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions by policing district, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022



Source: Police Service Northern Ireland, Road Traffic Collision Statistics, 2021 Detailed Trends Report, Accompanying spreadsheet, Table 1.7, and 2022 Calendar Year Statistics, 2022 Statistics spreadsheet of tables, Table 5

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Before and during the first two years and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District varied in its percentage share of Northern Ireland’s total of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions:

- In 2019, before the pandemic, it had one-sixth of Northern Ireland's total
- In 2020, covering the first 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in 2021, covering the first calendar year of the pandemic, it had one-eighth of Northern Ireland's total
- In 2022, covering the second calendar year of the pandemic, Belfast City Policing District returned to one-sixth of Northern Ireland's total

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, the gap in the number of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions between Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland widened, due to a greater percentage increase in Belfast City Policing District when compared with Northern Ireland.

Comparison with other policing districts

Before and during the first two years and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, of all policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had among:

- **The highest numbers of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions – highest in 2019 and 2022, third highest in 2021 and second highest in 2020**
- **The highest percentage shares of Northern Ireland's totals**

There was no overall change in the relative position of Belfast City Policing District among policing districts, as Belfast was the highest in 2019 and returned to being the highest in 2022; however, in Belfast City Policing District, the number of people seriously injured decreased in 2020 and did not return to pre-pandemic levels in 2021, which is why it was not the highest in 2020 and 2021, together with increases in the number of people seriously injured in other policing districts, especially Newry, Mourne & Down, which caused the changes to Belfast's relative position during that timeframe.

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic:

- **Belfast had the third greatest percentage increase in the number of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions at 25.38%**
- **Lisburn & Castlereagh City Policing District had the greatest percentage increase at 89.58%**
- **Mid & East Antrim LGD had the smallest percentage increase at 10.87%**

The median percentage increase was 24.42%.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic:

- The number of people seriously injured from road traffic collisions increased overall in 6 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District, and in Northern Ireland
- Belfast City Policing District's percentage share of Northern Ireland's total of people seriously injured increased
- Among policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had a relatively higher percentage increase in the number of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions
- Belfast City Policing District had a greater percentage increase in the number of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions than that in Northern Ireland

In Belfast City Policing District, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an overall increase in the number of people seriously injured in road traffic collisions, despite a decrease in 2020 and 2021. The decrease in 2020, and possibly in 2021, could have been partly due to restrictions on movement and congregation during periods of lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SECTION 2

Road Traffic Collisions: Fatalities

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Police Service Northern Ireland, Road Traffic Collision Statistics, 2022 Detailed Trends Report, published 23 June 2023, Accompanying spreadsheet.³

YEARS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Calendar years 2020, 2021, and 2022

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

In the Police Recorded Injury Road Traffic Collisions, Northern Ireland, 2022 Key Statistics Report, 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022, it states:

“Lockdown measures in relation to Covid-19 were introduced on 23rd March 2020. Restrictions were eased during the summer months of 2020 before further measures were reintroduced on 16th October and 26th December 2020. The second half of March 2021 saw the start of gradual relaxation of restrictions, with enhanced restrictions and introduction of a vaccine pass in November 2021. As of 15th February 2022, all Covid-19 legal restrictions have been replaced by guidance. The reduction in collisions and casualties seen through the Covid period should be seen in the context of overall traffic volumes which were estimated to have more than halved following the initial lockdown in March 2020 before returning to more normal levels at the time the traffic flow publication was discontinued in June 2021.”⁴

3. Road Traffic Collision Statistics | PSNI (Last accessed 27 June 2023)
4. Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland (psni.police.uk) (Last accessed 26 June 2023)

PROFILE FINDINGS

In Belfast City Policing District, the number of fatalities in road traffic collisions:

- In 2020, covering the first 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 3, which comprised 5.36% of Northern Ireland's total for that calendar year
- In 2021, covering the first calendar year of the pandemic, was 3, which comprised 6.00% of Northern Ireland's total for that calendar year
- In 2022, covering the second calendar year of the pandemic, was 7, which comprised 12.73% of Northern Ireland's total for that calendar year

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, in Belfast City Policing District:

- The number of fatalities in road traffic collisions increased overall by 3, from 4 to 7
- The percentage share of Northern Ireland's total increased overall by 5.59 percentage points, from 7.14% to 12.73% (a percentage increase of 78.29%)

See pages 66-71, in the Place Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, the number of fatalities in road traffic collisions increased:

- Increased in Belfast City Policing District, by 3, from 4 to 7 households (a percentage increase of 75.00%)
- Decreased in Northern Ireland, by 1, from 56 to 55 (a percentage decrease of 1.79%)

Comparison with other policing districts

When compared with other policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had:

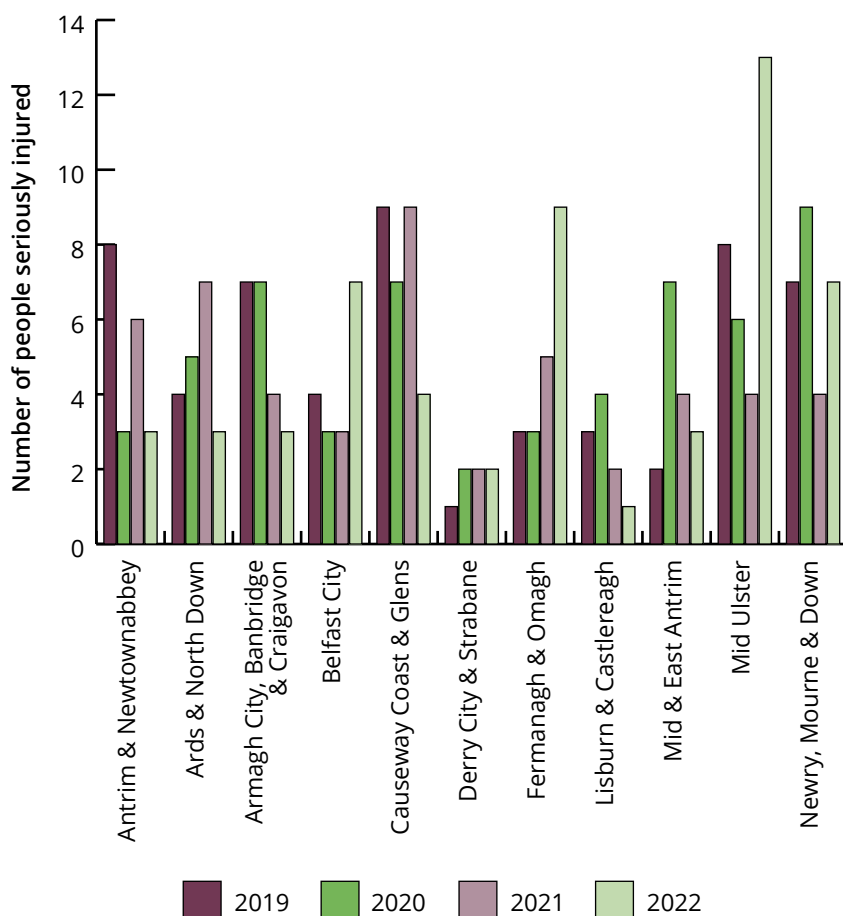
- The equal median number of fatalities in road traffic collisions before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019
- The equal second lowest number of fatalities in road traffic collisions during the first 9 months of the pandemic in 2020
- The second lowest number of fatalities in road traffic collisions during the first calendar year of the pandemic in 2021
- The equal third highest number of fatalities in road traffic collisions during the second calendar year of the pandemic in 2022 (see COVID-19 Place Figure 2)

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, the number of fatalities in road traffic collisions:

- Increased overall in 5 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District
- Decreased overall in 5 policing districts
- Remained the same in one policing district (see COVID-19 Place Figure 2)

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 2:

Number of fatalities in road traffic collisions by policing district, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022



Source: Police Service Northern Ireland, Road Traffic Collision Statistics, 2021 Detailed Trends Report, Accompanying spreadsheet, Table 1.4, and 2022 Calendar Year Statistics, 2022 Statistics spreadsheet of tables, Table 5

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Before and during the first two years and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District varied in its percentage share of Northern Ireland's total of fatalities in road traffic collisions:

- In 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, it had less than one-tenth of Northern Ireland's total
- In 2020 and 2021, during the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, it had between one-sixteenth and one eighteenth of Northern Ireland's total

- In 2022, from the first year and 9 months to the second year and 9 months into the pandemic, it had one-eighth of Northern Ireland's total

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, the gap in the number of fatalities in road traffic collisions between Belfast City Policing District and Northern Ireland widened, due to a percentage increase in Belfast City Policing District and a percentage decrease in Northern Ireland.

Comparison with other policing districts

Before and during the first two years and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast City Policing District varied in its position relative to other Policing Districts:

- In 2019, before the pandemic, it had the median number of fatalities together with Ards & North Down Policing District
- In 2020, during the first 9 months of the pandemic, it had the equal second lowest number of fatalities
- In 2021, during the first 10 months to the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, it had the second lowest number of fatalities
- In 2022, during the first year and 10 months to the second year and 9 months of the pandemic, it had the equal third highest number of fatalities
- Thus, the relative position of Belfast City Policing District changed each year; during the two years and 9 months of the pandemic, there was an increase from the median in 2019 to equal third highest in 2022; however, Belfast City Policing District's fatalities decreased in 2020 and 2021, before they increased to higher than pre-pandemic levels.

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic:

- Belfast had the median percentage increase in the number of fatalities in road traffic collisions at 75.00%
- Fermanagh & Omagh Policing District had the greatest percentage increase at 200.00%
- Mid & East Antrim LGD had the smallest percentage increase at 50.00%
- The large percentage increases are due to the relatively small number of fatalities in all policing districts.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic:

- The number of fatalities from road traffic collisions increased overall in 5 policing districts, including Belfast City Policing District, decreased in 5 policing districts and in Northern Ireland, and remained the same in one policing district
- Belfast City Policing District's percentage share of Northern Ireland's fatalities increased overall
- Among policing districts, Belfast City Policing District had median percentage increase in the number of fatalities in road traffic collisions

In Belfast City Policing District, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an overall increase in the number of fatalities in road traffic collisions, despite a decrease in 2020 and 2021. The decrease in 2020 and possibly in 2021 could have been partly due to restrictions on movement and congregation during periods of lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SECTION 3

Likelihood of Walking Any Journeys that People Have to Make of up to 2 Miles/3 km

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Department for Infrastructure, Walking, cycling and public transport in Northern Ireland, Continuous Household Survey (CHS) results, Walking, Cycling and Public Transport in Northern Ireland 2021/21, and Attitudes to Walking, Cycling and Public Transport in Northern Ireland 2019/20.⁵

YEARS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Financial year 2021/22; there are no disaggregated data for financial year 2020/21 (for explanation, see below)

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

Data for this indicator are from the Continuous Household Survey (CHS). During financial year 2020/21, data collection for the CHS was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. NISRA suspended all face-to-face household interviews in the middle of March 2020 due to the pandemic. In the reporting period April 2020 to March 2021, all interviews were conducted by telephone. It is important to consider several factors when interpreting the 2020/21 results. Care should be taken when comparing these to previously published findings from the survey.

5. Walking, cycling and public transport in Northern Ireland | Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 19 April 2023)

- While survey methodology changed, the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the resultant introduction of new public health regulations, guidance and advice may have also changed peoples' behaviour and attitudes. At present, it is difficult to separate out change caused by the methodological adjustments and behavioural change
- The change in data collection from face-to-face to telephone may have altered how people responded to the survey
- The change in data collection also required some streamlining of the questionnaire and changes to how some questions were asked or presented as well as the response categories associated with them, which may also have implications for how people responded to the survey
- The achieved response rate for the survey by telephone was 16%, which is a lower response rate compared with the usual achieved response rate of 55% for the survey by face-to-face. This reduced rate has reduced the number of cases at the household and individual levels. The precision of the survey estimates in 2020/21 was also reduced compared with previous findings
- The demographic profile of the achieved sample has changed when compared with previous years. There is a greater under-representation of people aged 16-44 years, and there are fewer households from the most-deprived areas and more households from the least-deprived areas ⁶

A similar notice of caution has been issued for CHS data in 2021/22.⁷

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2021/22, the second full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of people likely to walk any journeys that they have to make that are up to 2 miles/3 km was 67%.

From 2019/20 to 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of people likely to walk any journeys that they have to make of up to 2 miles/3 km increased by 5 percentage points, from 62% to 67%.

See pages 44-47, in the Place Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

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6. Continuous Household Survey 2020/21 - Things users need to know (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 20 April 2023)
 7. Continuous Household Survey 2021/22 Things users need to know (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 20 April 2023)

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

When compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people likely to walk any journeys that they have to make of up to 2 miles/3 km:

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, was 5 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 62% compared with 57%
- In 2021/22, after the first two full years of the pandemic, was 4 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 67% compared with 63%.

From 2019/20 to 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the percentage of people likely to walk any journeys that they have to make of up to 2 miles/3 km increased:

- In Belfast LGD, by 5 percentage points, from 62% to 67% (a percentage increase of 8.06%)
- In Northern Ireland, by 6 percentage points, from 57% to 63% (a percentage increase of 10.53%)

Comparison with other LGDs

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast LGD had:

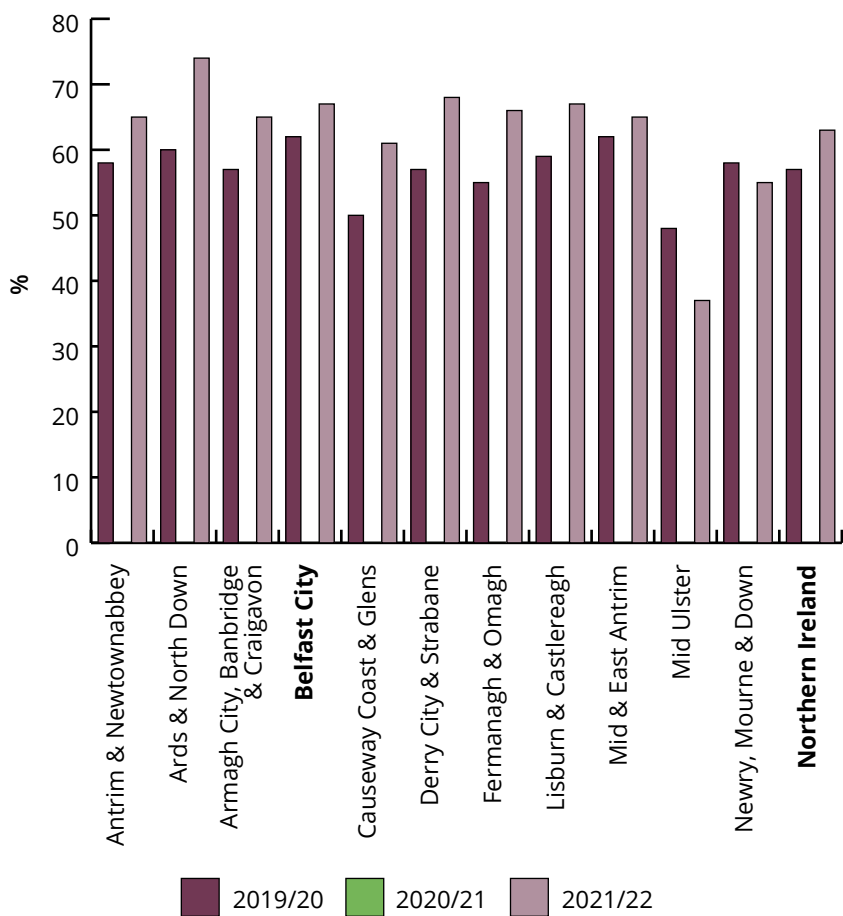
- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the equal highest percentage of people likely to walk any journeys that they have to make of up to 2 miles/3 km, together with Mid & East Antrim LGD, at 62% – for this financial year, the lowest percentage was in Mid Ulster LGD at 48%, and the median percentage was in Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD and Newry, Mourne & Down LGD at 58%
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the equal third highest percentage of people likely to walk any journeys that they have to make of up to 2 miles/3 km, together with Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD at 67% – for this financial year, the lowest percentage was in Mid Ulster LGD at 37%, and the median percentage was in Antrim & Newtownabbey, Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon, and Mid & East Antrim LGDs at 65% (see COVID-19 Place Figure 3)

From 2019/20 to 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic the percentage of people likely to walk any journeys that they have to make of up to 2 miles/3 km:

- Increased in 9 LGDs, including Belfast LGD
- Decreased in 2 LGDs (see COVID-19 Place Figure 3)

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 3:

Percentage (%) of people likely to walk any journeys that they have to make of up to 2 miles/3 km by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019/20, and 2021/22



Source: Department for Infrastructure: Walking, Cycling and Public Transport in Northern Ireland 2021/21, Tables 1.2a and 1.2e; Attitudes to Walking, Cycling and Public Transport in Northern Ireland 2019/20, Table 2.1

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In comparison with Northern Ireland, Belfast LGD had a higher percentage of people likely to walk any journeys that they have to make of up to 2 miles/3 km in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic

From 2019/20 to 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, although there was an increase in the percentages in both Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, the percentage increase in Northern Ireland was greater than that in Belfast and the gap between the two narrowed.

Comparison with other LGDs

In comparison with other LGDs, before the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast LGD had the equal highest percentage of people likely to walk any journeys that they have to make of up to 2 miles/3 km, whereas after the first two full years of the pandemic, Belfast LGD had the equal third highest percentage. Thus, from 2019/20 to 2021/22, there was a change in Belfast's position among LGDs due to Belfast LGD having a relatively low percentage increase when compared with other LGDs.

From 2019/20 to 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic:

- Belfast LGD had the second lowest percentage increase in the percentage of people likely to walk any journeys that they have to make up to 2 miles/3 km at 8.06%
- Ards & North Down LGD had the greatest percentage increase at 23.33%
- Mid & East Antrim LGD had the smallest percentage increase at 4.84%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the median percentage increase at 14.04%

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

From 2019/20 to 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the percentage of people likely to walk any journeys that they have to make of up to 2 miles/3 km:

- Increased in 9 LGDs, including Belfast LGD
- Increased in Northern Ireland.
- Decreased in 2 LGDs

In 2021/22, in Belfast LGD, approaching 7 out of every 10 people were likely to walk any journeys that they have to make of up to 2 miles/3 km compared with over 6 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland.

In Belfast LGD, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an increase in the percentage of people likely to walk any journeys that they have to make of up to 2 miles/3 km.

SECTION 4

Satisfaction with the Current Situation for Walking and Walkers in the Local Area

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Department for Infrastructure, Walking, cycling and public transport in Northern Ireland, Continuous Household Survey (CHS) results, Walking, Cycling and Public Transport in Northern Ireland 2021/21, and Attitudes to Walking, Cycling and Public Transport in Northern Ireland 2019/20.⁸

YEARS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Financial year 2021/22; there are no disaggregated data for 2020/21 (for explanation, see below)

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

Data for this indicator are from the Continuous Household Survey (CHS). During financial year 2020/21, data collection for the CHS was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. NISRA suspended all face-to-face household interviews in the middle of March 2020 due to the pandemic. In the reporting period April 2020 to March 2021, all interviews were conducted by telephone. It is important to consider several factors when interpreting the 2020/21 results. Care should be taken when comparing these to previously published findings from the survey.

8. Walking, cycling and public transport in Northern Ireland | Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 19 April 2023)

- While survey methodology changed, the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the resultant introduction of new public health regulations, guidance and advice may have also changed peoples' behaviour and attitudes. At present, it is difficult to separate out change caused by the methodological adjustments and behavioural change
- The change in data collection from face-to-face to telephone may have altered how people responded to the survey
- The change in data collection also required some streamlining of the questionnaire and changes to how some questions were asked or presented as well as the response categories associated with them, which may also have implications for how people responded to the survey
- The achieved response rate for the survey by telephone was 16%, which is a lower response rate compared with the usual achieved response rate of 55% for the survey by face-to-face. This reduced rate has reduced the number of cases at the household and individual levels. The precision of the survey estimates in 2020/21 was also reduced compared with previous findings
- The demographic profile of the achieved sample has changed when compared with previous years. There is a greater under-representation of people aged 16-44 years, and there are fewer households from the most-deprived areas and more households from the least-deprived areas⁹

A similar notice of caution has been issued for CHS data in 2021/22.¹⁰

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2021/22, the second full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of people satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers in their local area was 72%.

From 2019/20 to 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of people satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers in their local area increased by 7.0 percentage points, from 65% to 72%.

See pages 48-52, in the Place Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

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9. Continuous Household Survey 2020/21 - Things users need to know (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 20 April 2023)
 10. Continuous Household Survey 2021/22 Things users need to know (nisra.gov.uk) (Last accessed 20 April 2023)

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

When compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of people satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers in their local area:

- In 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic, was 6 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 65% compared with 59%
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, was 5 percentage points higher in Belfast LGD, 72% compared with 67%

From 2019/20 to 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the percentage of people satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers in their local area increased:

- In Belfast LGD, by 7 percentage points, from 65% to 72% (a percentage increase of 10.77%)
- In Northern Ireland, by 8 percentage points, from 59% to 67% (a percentage increase of 13.56%)

Comparison with other LGDs

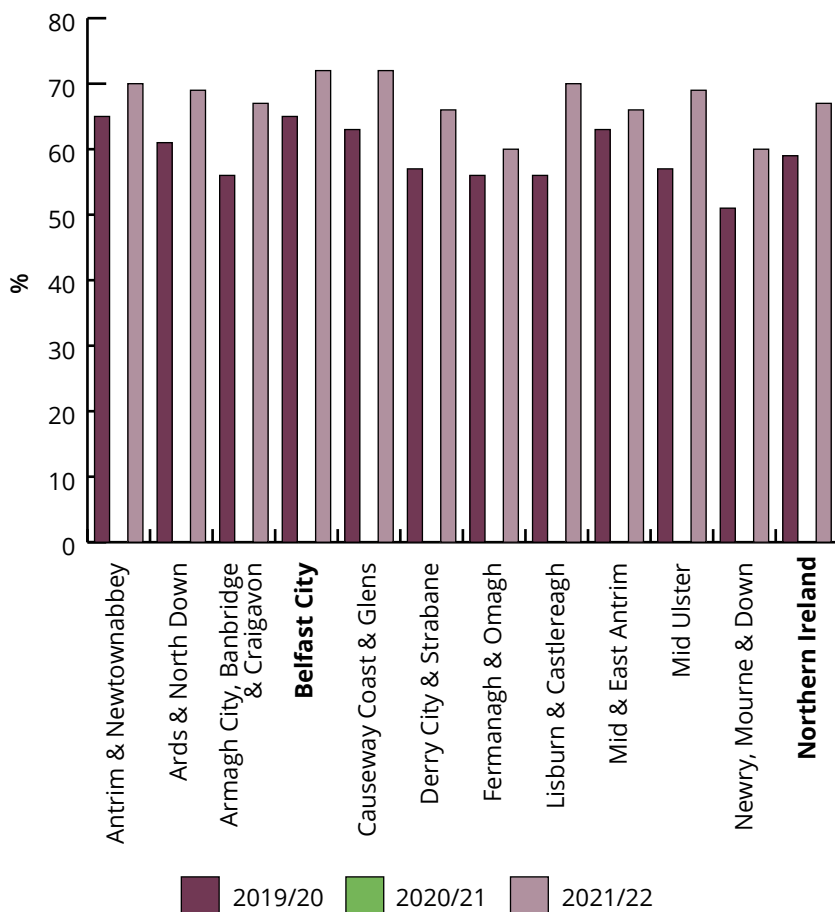
When compared with other LGDs, Belfast LGD had the equal highest percentage of people satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers in their local area in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic – for this financial year, Belfast LGD had the equal highest percentage with Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD at 65%; the lowest percentage was in Newry, Mourne & Down LGD at 51%, and the median percentage was in Derry City & Strabane LGD and Mid Ulster LGD at 57%
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic – for this financial year, Belfast LGD had the equal highest percentage with Causeway Coast & Glens LGD at 72%; the lowest percentage was in Fermanagh & Omagh LGD and Newry Mourne & Down LGD at 60%, and the median percentage was in Ards & North Down LGD and Mid Ulster LGD at 69% (see COVID-19 Place Figure 4)

From 2019/20 to 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the percentage of people satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers in their local area increased in all LGDs, including Belfast LGD (see COVID-19 Place Figure 4).

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 4:

Percentage (%) of people satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers in their local area by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019/20, and 2021/22



Source: Department for Infrastructure: Walking, Cycling and Public Transport in Northern Ireland 2021/21, Tables 1.3a and 1.3e; Attitudes to Walking, Cycling and Public Transport in Northern Ireland 2019/20, Table 2.3

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In comparison with Northern Ireland, Belfast LGD had a higher percentage of people satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers in their local area in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic

From 2019/20 to 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, although there was an increase in the percentages in both Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, the percentage increase in Northern Ireland was greater than that in Belfast LGD and the gap between the two narrowed.

Comparison with other LGDs

In comparison with other LGDs, before and covering the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast LGD had the equal highest percentage of people satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers in their local area. Thus, from 2019/20 to 2021/22, there was no change in the relative position of Belfast LGD, apart from Belfast sharing the equal highest position with a different LGD before, and two years into, the pandemic.

From 2019/20 to 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- **Belfast LGD had the fourth lowest percentage increase in the percentage of people satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers in their local area at 10.77%**
- **Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the greatest percentage increase at 25.00%**
- **Mid & East Ulster LGD had the smallest percentage increase at 4.76%**
- **Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the median percentage increase at 14.29%**

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

From 2019/20 to 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the percentage of people satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers in their local area increased in all LGDs, including Belfast LGD, and in Northern Ireland.

In 2021/22, in Belfast LGD, more than 7 out of every 10 people were satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers in their local area compared with approaching 7 out of every 10 people in Northern Ireland.

In Belfast LGD, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an increase in the percentage of people satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers in their local area. While acknowledging the data-holder's caution about the interpretation of Continuous Household Survey data collected during the pandemic, it is possible that the increase in the level of people's satisfaction with the current situation for walking and walkers in their local area reflects the situation during periods of lockdown when people were more restricted in their wider movements and may have walked more in their local area and used public transport and/or their cars less, and thereby gained a different perception of their surroundings.

SECTION 5

Weekly Household Expenditure on Transport/Vulnerability to Transport Poverty

DATA SOURCE

Information is from ONS, Dataset Family spending workbook 3: expenditure by region, Editions in this dataset: FYE 2021 edition of this dataset, and FYE 2020 edition of this dataset.¹¹

Data in this dataset have been rounded, and individual items of expenditure may not sum to the Northern Ireland total due to rounding.

THREE-YEAR TIME-PERIODS BEFORE AND OVERLAPPING WITH COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

It is not possible to provide data that covers the COVID-19 pandemic specifically because data on weekly household expenditure are presented in three-year time-periods. At the time of writing, it is possible only to provide the data for the following three-year time-periods:

- 2017/18-2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2018/19-2020/21, covering a time-period of two years before the pandemic and the first full year of the pandemic
- 2019/20-2021/22, covering a time-period of one year before the pandemic and the first and second full years of the pandemic

11. Family spending workbook 3: expenditure by region - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) (Last accessed 30 June 2023)

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

In the Background Notes 2020 to this spreadsheet, there is a section on “Impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the Living Costs and Food Survey (LCF) for the financial year ending 2020”, in which it states:

“Data collected in March 2020 may have covered changes to spending habits around the start of the first UK lockdown on March 23rd, for example panic buying beforehand and reduced spending during lockdown when people were advised to stay at home and many businesses were closed. However, due to reduced data collection in the latter half of March data may not accurately reflect the impact of lockdown on spending and the annual estimates reported in this release will not be significantly impacted.

Following Government guidance in relation to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, a pause in data collection led to interviews being conducted for 13 fewer days in March 2020 than planned. Final March interviews took place on Monday March 16th. All households that were not interviewed as a result were treated as non-responders and data were weighted to account for reduced data collection in March 2020 compared to previous years.”

INTRODUCTION

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.¹²

12. Transport and Poverty: a review (ucl.ac.uk) (Last accessed 15 July 2022)

In the absence of an official transport poverty indicator or readily available data that would allow a minimum standards approach to be presented, 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, data for weekly household expenditure on transport have 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."¹³

PROFILE FINDINGS

In 2018/19-2020/21, in Northern Ireland:

- Weekly household expenditure on transport was £69.30, representing 14.50% of the total weekly household expenditure of £477.90
- The largest component of total weekly household expenditure was food and non-alcoholic drinks, at £70.00, representing 14.65% of the total weekly expenditure, closely followed by transport at £69.30, the second largest component (see COVID-19 Place Figure 5)

In 2019/20-2021/22, in Northern Ireland:

- Weekly household expenditure on transport was £68.50, representing 14.36% of the total weekly household expenditure of £476.90
- The largest component of total weekly household expenditure was food and non-alcoholic drinks, at £73.70, representing 15.45% of the total weekly expenditure, closely followed by transport at £68.50, the second largest component (see COVID-19 Place Figure 5)

Between 2017/18-2019/20 and 2019/20-2021/22, in Northern Ireland:

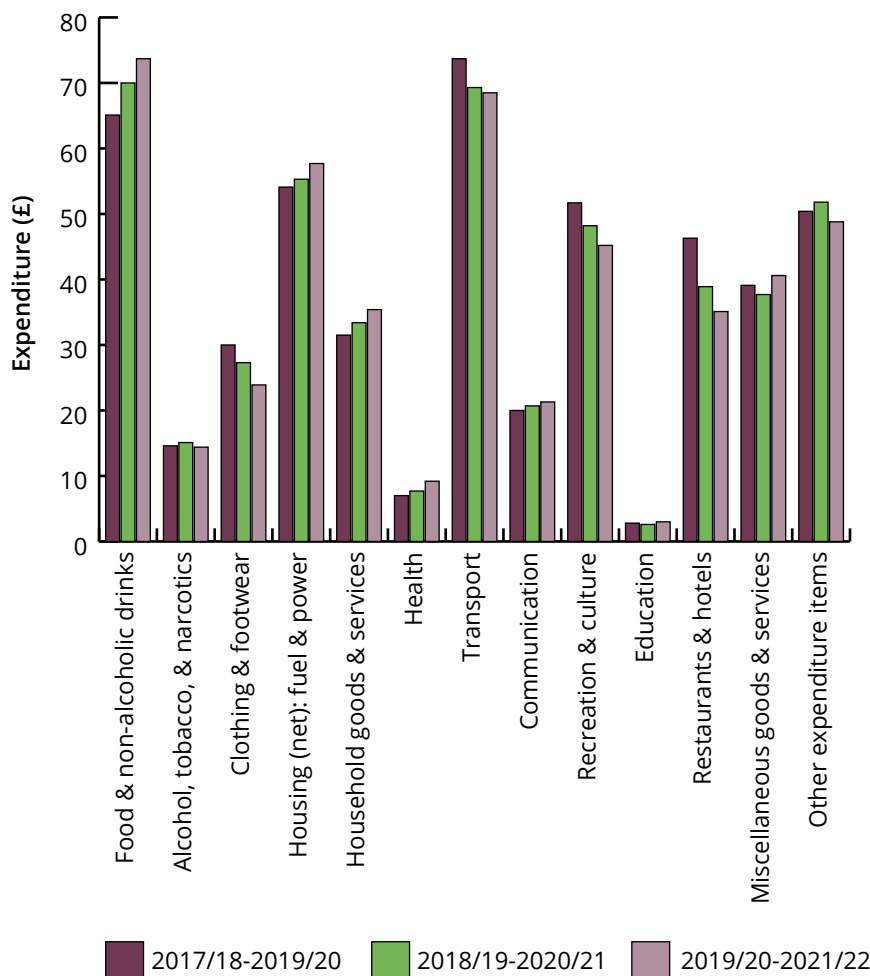
- Weekly household expenditure on transport decreased by £5.20, from £73.70 to £68.50 (a percentage decrease of 7.06%)
- Total weekly household expenditure decreased by £9.50, from £486.40 to £476.90 (a percentage decrease of 1.95%; see COVID-19 Place Figure 5)

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

The change in the relative position of transport from the highest to the second highest component of household expenditure in Northern Ireland was due not only to the decrease in expenditure on transport but also to an increase in expenditure on food and non-alcoholic drinks (see COVID-19 Place Figure 5).

COVID-19 FIGURE 5:

Weekly household expenditure (£) on commodities and services in Northern Ireland, 2017/18-2019/20, 2018/19-2020/21, and 2019/20-2021/22



Source: Data extracted from ONS: Family spending workbook 3: expenditure by region, Editions in this dataset: FYE 2022 edition of this dataset, FYE 2021 edition of this dataset, and FYE 2020 edition of this dataset, Table A35 in all spreadsheets

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with the UK

When compared with the UK, Northern Ireland had a higher percentage of weekly household expenditure on transport in:

- 2017/18-2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2018/19/2020/21, covering an overlapping time-period of two years before the pandemic and the first full year of the pandemic
- 2019/20-2021/22, covering an overlapping time-period of one year before the pandemic and the first and second full years of the pandemic

Between 2017/18-2019/20 and 2019/20-2021/22, the percentage of weekly household expenditure on transport decreased in:

- Northern Ireland by 0.79 percentage points, from 15.15% to 14.36% (a percentage decrease of 5.21%)
- The UK by 0.54 percentage points, from 14.11% to 13.57% (a percentage decrease of 3.83%)

Comparison with other parts of the UK

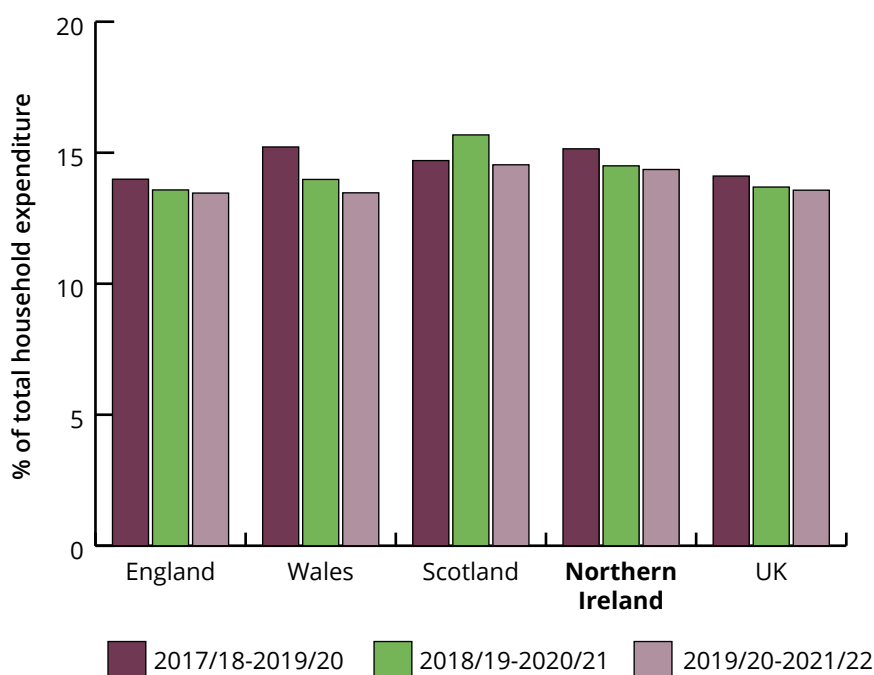
When compared with other parts of the UK, Northern Ireland had the second highest percentage of weekly household expenditure on transport in:

- 2017/18-2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2018/19/2020/21, covering an overlapping time-period of two years before the pandemic and the first full year of the pandemic
- 2019/20-2021/22, covering an overlapping time-period of one year before the pandemic and the first and second full years of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Place Figure 6)

Between 2017/18-2019/20 and 2019/20-2021/22, the percentage of household expenditure on transport decreased overall in all parts of the UK, including Northern Ireland (see COVID-19 Place Figure 6).

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 6:

Percentage (%) of total weekly household expenditure on transport, by parts of the UK and UK, 2017/18-2019/20, 2018/19-2019/20, and 2019/20-2021/22



Source: Data extracted from ONS: Family spending workbook 3: expenditure by region, Editions in this dataset: FYE 2022 edition of this dataset, FYE 2021 edition of this dataset, and FYE 2020 edition of this dataset, Table A35 in all spreadsheets

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with the UK

In comparison with the UK, Northern Ireland had a higher percentage of weekly household expenditure on transport before the COVID-19 pandemic in the time-period 2017/18-2019/20 and in the pre-COVID-19/COVID-19 overlapping time-periods of 2018/19-2020/21 and 2019/20-2021/22.

Between 2017/18-2019/20 and 2019/20-2021/22, the percentage of weekly household expenditure on transport decreased in both Northern Ireland and the UK, but the gap between the two narrowed, with a greater percentage decrease in Northern Ireland when compared with the UK, 5.21% compared with 3.83%.

Comparison with other parts of the UK

Despite a decrease in the percentage of weekly household expenditure on transport in all parts of the UK between 2017/18-2019/20 and 2019/20-2021/22, Northern Ireland's percentage remained the second highest in the UK, with no change in relative position among the other parts of the UK.

Between 2017/18-2019/20 and 2019/20-2021/22, among the other parts of the UK:

- Northern Ireland had the second largest percentage decrease in the percentage of household expenditure on transport at 5.21%
- Wales had the greatest percentage decrease at 11.50%
- Scotland had the smallest percentage decrease at 1.09%

The median percentage decrease was 4.50%.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 2019/2020-2021/22, given that the percentage of average weekly household expenditure on transport in Northern Ireland was 14.36%, 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
- The average percentage spend on transport in the UK

This criterion of expenditure on transport, however, takes account of only the financial aspects of transport poverty, and does not include other important aspects, such as availability, affordability, quality, and frequency of various transport services.

SECTION 6

Homelessness Presentations

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Department for Communities, Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin January - June 2022, Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin January - June 2022 Accompanying Tables.¹⁴

SIX-MONTHLY TIME-PERIODS FOR WHICH DATA HAVE BEEN USED WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

- July-December 2020
- July-December 2021

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

None reported.

PROFILE FINDINGS

In July-December 2020, covering the first 4-9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, in Belfast LGD, the rate of homelessness presentations was 6.7 per 1,000 population.

In July-December 2021, covering the first 16-21 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, in Belfast LGD, the rate of homelessness presentations was 6.2 per 1,000 population.

14. Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin January - June 2022 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 23 April 2023)

Between July-December 2019 and July-December 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, in Belfast LGD, the rate of homelessness presentations decreased by 1.4 per 1,000 population, from 7.6 to 6.2 per 1,000 population.

See pages 185-189, in the Place Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

When compared with Northern Ireland, the rate of homelessness presentations was higher in Belfast LGD:

- In July-December 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, by 3.2 per 1,000 population, 7.6 compared with 4.4 per 1,000 population
- In July-December 2020, covering the first 4-9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, by 2.5 per 1,000 population, 6.7 compared with 4.2 per 1,000 population
- In July-December 2021, covering the first 16-21 months of the COVID-19 pandemic by 2.3 per 1,000 population, 6.2 compared with 3.9 per 1,000 population

Between July-December 2019 and July-December 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, the rate of homelessness presentations decreased:

- In Belfast LGD, by 1.4 per 1,000 population, from 7.6 to 6.2 per 1,000 population (a percentage decrease of 18.42%)
- In Northern Ireland, by 0.5 per 1,000 population, from 4.4 to 3.9 per 1,000 population (a percentage decrease of 11.36%; see COVID-19 Place Figure 7)

Comparison with other LGDs

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast LGD had the highest rate of homelessness presentations in:

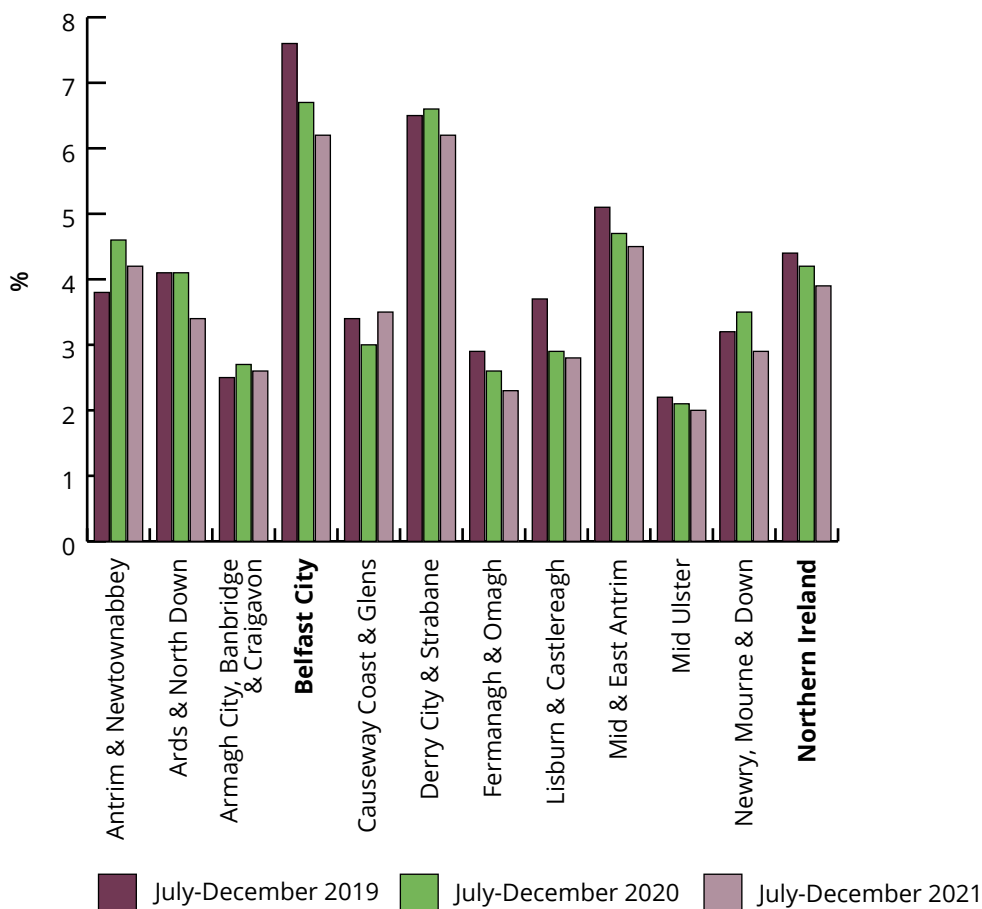
- July-December 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- July-December 2020, covering the first 4-9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic,
- July-December 2021, covering the first 16-21 months of the pandemic, although Belfast LGD had the equal highest rate with Derry City & Strabane LGD in this time-period (see COVID-19 Place Figure 7)

Between July-December 2019 and July-December 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, the rate of homelessness presentations:

- Decreased in 8 LGDs, including Belfast LGD
- Increased in 3 LGDs (see COVID-19 Place Figure 7)

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 7:

Rate of homelessness presentations per 1,000 population by LGD and Northern Ireland, July-December 2019, July-December 2020, and July-December 2021



Source: Department for Communities: Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin January - June 2022, Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin January - June 2022 Accompanying Tables, Table 1.3

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In comparison with Northern Ireland, Belfast LGD had a higher rate of homelessness presentations before and covering the first year and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic; however, owing to a greater percentage decrease in Belfast LGD compared with Northern Ireland, the gap between the two narrowed.

Comparison with other LGDs

Before and covering the first year and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, of all LGDs, Belfast LGD had the highest rate of homelessness presentations; however, in July-December 2021, the first 16-21 months of the pandemic, Belfast LGD had the equal highest rate with Derry City & Strabane LGD.

Between July-December 2019 and July-December 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, of the 8 LGDs that had a decrease in the rate of homelessness presentations:

- Belfast LGD had the third highest percentage decrease at 18.42%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the greatest percentage decrease at 24.32%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the smallest percentage decrease at 4.62%

The median percentage decrease was 14.42%.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Between July-December 2019 and July-December 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, the rate of homelessness presentations:

- Decreased in 8 LGDs, including Belfast LGD
- Decreased in Northern Ireland
- Increased in 3 LGDs

Before, and covering the first year and 9 months of, the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast LGD had:

- A higher rate of homelessness presentations than that in Northern Ireland
- Among LGDs, the highest rate of homelessness presentations, which in July-December 2021 was shared with Derry City & Strabane LGD
- Among LGDs, a relatively greater percentage decrease in the rate of homelessness presentations

For Belfast LGD, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with a decrease in homelessness presentations.

SECTION 7

Homelessness Acceptances

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Department for Communities, Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin January - June 2022, Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin January - June 2022 Accompanying Tables.¹⁵

SIX-MONTHLY TIME-PERIODS FOR WHICH DATA HAVE BEEN USED FROM WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

- July-December 2020
- July-December 2021

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

None reported.

PROFILE FINDINGS

In July-December 2020, covering the first 4-9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, in Belfast LGD, the number of homelessness acceptances was 1,407.

In July-December 2021, covering the first 16-21 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, in Belfast LGD, the number of homelessness acceptances was 1,315.

15. Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin January - June 2022 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 23 April 2023)

Between July-December 2019 and July-December 2021, covering the first year and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of homelessness acceptances decreased by 394, from 1,709 to 1,315.

See pages 190-194, in the Place Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

The number of homelessness acceptances in Belfast LGD:

- In July-December 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, comprised 30.17% of Northern Ireland's total for that time-period
- In July-December 2020, covering the first 4-9 months of the pandemic, comprised 27.88% of Northern Ireland's total for that time-period
- In July-December 2021, covering the first 16-21 months of the pandemic, comprised 27.23% of Northern Ireland's total for that time-period

Between July-December 2019 and July-December 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic the number of homelessness acceptances decreased:

- In Belfast LGD, by 394, from 1,709 to 1,315 (a percentage decrease of 23.05%)
- In Northern Ireland, by 835, from 5,664 to 4,829 (a percentage decrease of 14.74%; see COVID-19 Place Figure 8)

Comparison with other LGDs

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast LGD had the highest number of homelessness acceptances in:

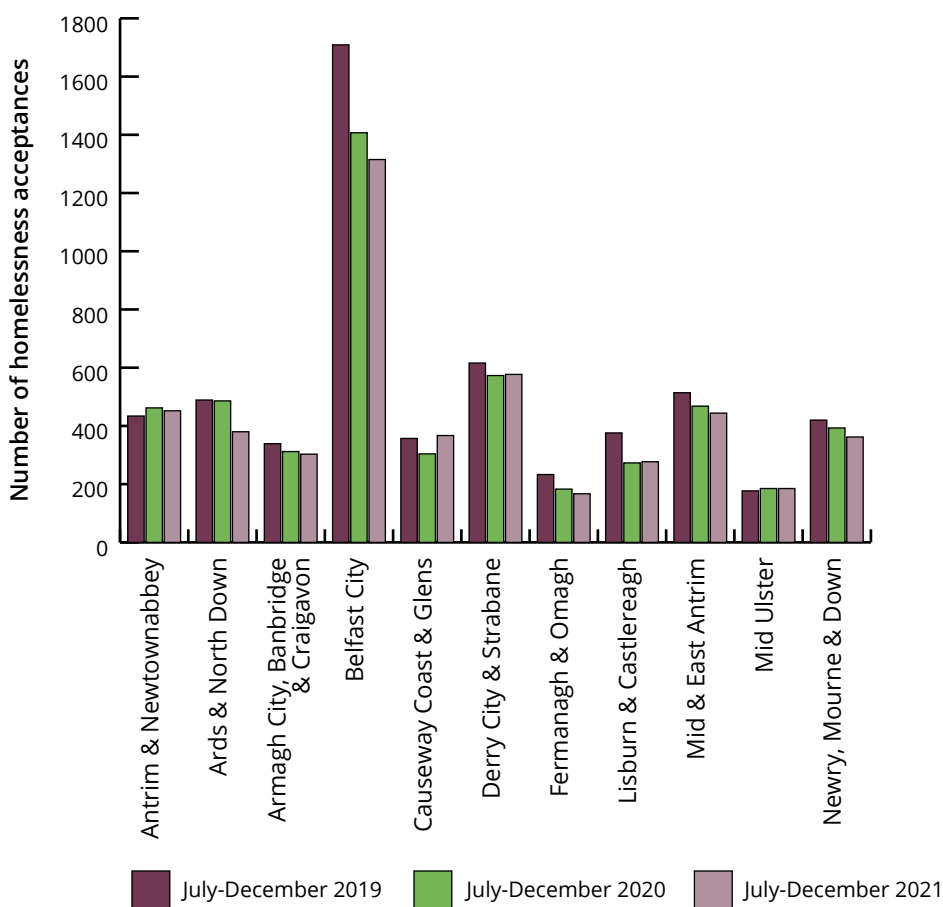
- July-December 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- July-December 2020, covering the first 4-9 months of the pandemic
- July-December 2021, covering the first 16-21 months of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Place Figure 8)

Between July-December 2019 and July-December 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, the number of homelessness acceptances:

- Decreased in 8 LGDs, including Belfast LGD
- Increased in 3 LGDs (see COVID-19 Place Figure 8)

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 8:

Number of homelessness acceptances by LGD, July-December 2019, July-December 2020, and July-December 2021



Source: Department for Communities: Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin January - June 2022, Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin January - June 2022 Accompanying Tables, Table 2.3

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Of Northern Ireland's total number of homelessness acceptances, Belfast LGD's number comprised:

- In July-December 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, approaching one-third
- In July-December 2020, the first 4-9 months of the pandemic, and in July-December 2021, the first 16-21 months of the pandemic, more than one-quarter

Owing to a greater percentage decrease in Belfast LGD when compared with Northern Ireland, however, the gap between the two widened.

Comparison with other LGDs

Before and covering the first year and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, of all LGDs, Belfast LGD had the highest number of homelessness acceptances.

Between July-December 2019 and July-December 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, of the 8 LGDs that had a decrease in the number of homelessness acceptances:

- Belfast LGD had the third highest percentage decrease at 23.05%
- Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the greatest percentage decrease at 28.33%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the smallest percentage decrease at 6.33%

The median percentage decrease was 18.50%.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Between July-December 2019 and July-December 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, the number of homelessness acceptances:

- **Decreased in 8 LGDs, including Belfast LGD**
- **Decreased in Northern Ireland**
- **Increased in 3 LGDs**

Before the pandemic, in July-December 2019, Belfast LGD had 3 out of every 10 of Northern Ireland's homelessness acceptances, whereas during July-December 2020 and July-December 2021 Belfast LGD had approaching 3 out of every 10 of Northern Ireland's homelessness acceptances.

Among LGDs, before, and covering the first year and 9 months of, the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast LGD had:

- **The highest number of homelessness acceptances**
- **A relatively greater percentage decrease in the number of homelessness acceptances**

For Belfast LGD, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with a decrease in homelessness acceptances.

SECTION 8

Percentage of Homelessness Presenters who became Homelessness Acceptances

DATA SOURCE

Data were extracted from the Department for Communities, Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin January - June 2022, Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin January - June 2022 Accompanying Tables.¹⁶

SIX-MONTHLY TIME-PERIODS FOR WHICH DATA HAVE BEEN USED FROM WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

- July-December 2020
- July-December 2021

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

None reported.

16. Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin January - June 2022 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 23 April 2023)

PROFILE FINDINGS

In July-December 2020, covering the first 4-9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances was 61.17%.

In July-December 2021, covering the first 16-21 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, in Belfast LGD, the percentage of homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances was 61.80%.

Between July-December 2019 and July-December 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, the percentage of homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances decreased by 4.01 percentage points, from 65.81% to 61.80%.

See pages 190-194, in the Place Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

When compared with Northern Ireland, the percentage of homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances was lower in Belfast LGD in:

- July-December 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, by 2.61 percentage points, 65.81% compared with 68.42%
- July-December 2020, covering the first 4-9 months of the pandemic, by 2.49 percentage points, 61.17% compared with 63.66%
- July-December 2021, covering the first 16-21 months of the pandemic, by 3.40 percentage points, 61.80% compared with 65.20%

Between July-December 2019 and July-December 2021, covering the first year and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the percentage of homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances decreased overall:

- In Belfast LGD, by 4.01 percentage points, from 65.81% to 61.80% (a percentage decrease of 6.09%)
- In Northern Ireland, by 3.22 percentage points, from 68.42% to 65.20% (a percentage decrease of 4.71%; see COVID-19 Place Figure 9)

Comparison with other LGDs

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast LGD, in:

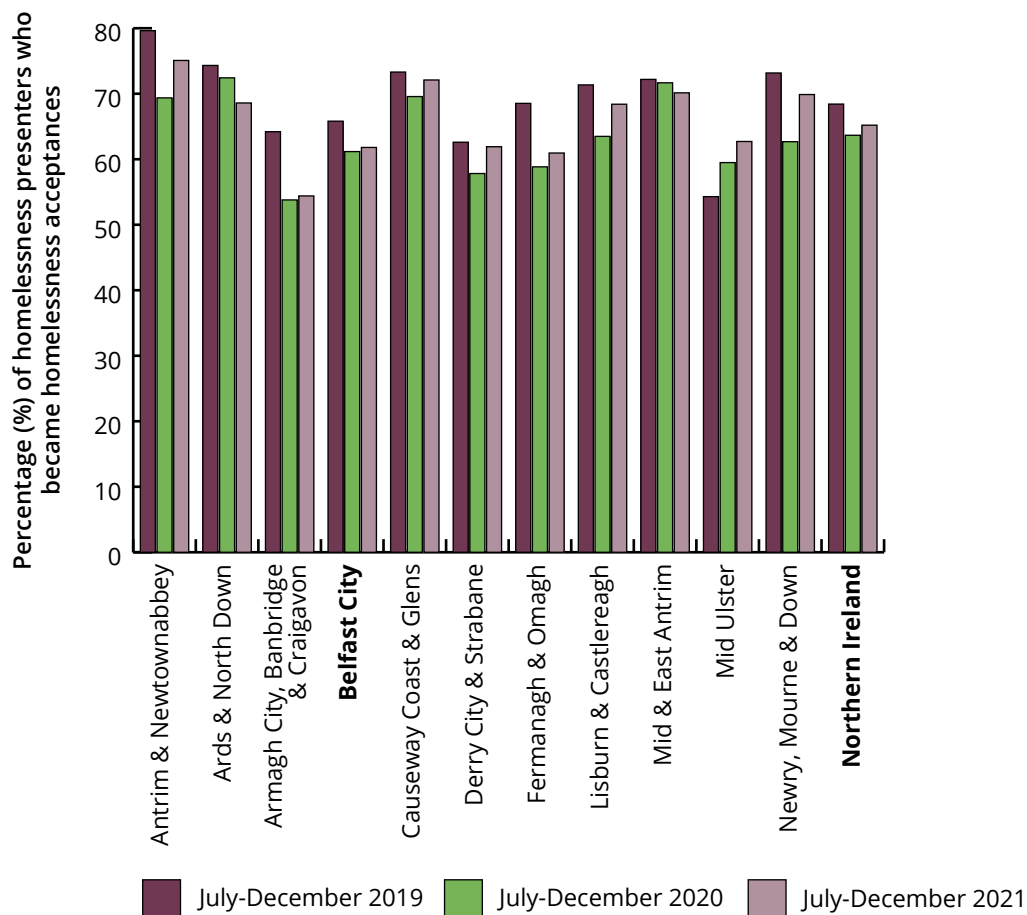
- July-December 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, had the fourth lowest percentage of homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances
- July-December 2020, covering the first 4-9 months of the pandemic, had the fifth lowest percentage of homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances
- July-December 2021, covering the 16-21 months of the pandemic, had the third lowest percentage of homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances (see COVID-19 Place Figure 9)

Between July-December 2019 and July-December 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, the percentage of homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances:

- Decreased overall in 10 LGDs, including Belfast LGD
- Increased overall in 1 LGD (see COVID-19 Place Figure 9)

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 9:

Percentage (%) of homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances by LGD and Northern Ireland, July-December 2019, July-December 2020, and July-December 2021



Source: Data to calculate percentages extracted from Department for Communities: Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin January - June 2022, Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin January - June 2022 Accompanying Tables, Tables 1.3 & 2.3

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In comparison with Northern Ireland, Belfast LGD had lower percentages of homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances from before the COVID-19 pandemic, in July-December 2019, to July-December 2021, after the first year and 9 months of the pandemic. Over this time-period, in both Belfast LGD and Northern Ireland, the percentage of homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances decreased, but the percentage decrease was greater in Belfast LGD, and the gap between the two widened.

Comparison with other LGDs

In comparison with other LGDs, Belfast LGD had relatively lower percentages of homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances, although the magnitude of the percentage varied from before the COVID-19 pandemic in July-December 2019, to July-December 2021, after one year and 9 months of the pandemic. Thus, the relative position of Belfast LGD among other LGDs changed overall with a drop from fourth lowest in July-December 2019 to third lowest in July-December 2021.

Between July-December 2019 and July-December 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, of the 10 LGDs that had a decrease in the percentage of homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances:

- **Belfast LGD had the fourth highest percentage decrease at 6.09%**
- **Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the greatest percentage decrease at 15.26%**
- **Derry City & Strabane LGD had the smallest percentage decrease at 1.10%**

The median percentage decrease was 5.11%.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Between July-December 2019 and July-December 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, the percentage of homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances:

- **Decreased overall in 10 LGDs, including Belfast LGD**
- **Decreased overall in Northern Ireland**
- **Increased overall in one LGD**

Before the pandemic, in July-December 2019, in Belfast LGD, between 6 and 7 out of every 10 homelessness presenters became homelessness acceptances, whereas during July-December 2020 and July-December 2021 Belfast LGD had over 6 out of every 10 homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances.

In July-December 2021, over 6 out of every 10 homelessness presenters became homelessness acceptances in Belfast LGD compared with between 6 and 7 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland, between 7 and 8 out of every 10 in Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD, over 7 out of every 10 in Causeway Coast & Glens LGD, 7 out of every 10 in Mid & East Antrim LGD, and approaching 7 out of every 10 in Ards & North Down, Lisburn & Castlereagh, and Newry, Mourne & Down LGDs.

For Belfast LGD, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an overall decrease in the percentage of homelessness presenters who became homelessness acceptances.

Inequalities with the potential for inequity

In July-December 2021, in Belfast LGD, approaching 4 out of every 10 homelessness presenters did not become homelessness acceptances compared with between 3 and 4 out of every 10 in Northern Ireland, between 2 and 3 out of every 10 in Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD, approaching 3 out of every 10 in Causeway Coast & Glens LGD, and 3 out of every 10 in Mid & East Antrim LGD.

SECTION 9

Waiting List for Social Rented Sector

PLACE

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Department for Communities Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22. Table 3.6 in each spreadsheet.¹⁷

YEARS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Financial years 2020/21 and 2021/22

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

None reported.

PROFILE FINDINGS

In Belfast LGD, the number of households on the waiting list for the social rented sector:

- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 11,858, which comprised 26.97% of Northern Ireland's households on the waiting list
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, was 12,237, which comprised 27.54% of Northern Ireland's households on the waiting list

17. 2019/20: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 18 April 2023); 2020/21: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2020-21 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 18 April 2023); 2021/22: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2021-22 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 18 April 2023)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, in Belfast LGD:

- The number of households on the waiting list for the social rented sector increased by 1,418, from 10,819 to 12,237
- The percentage share of Northern Ireland's total number of households on the waiting list decreased by 0.38 percentage points, from 27.92% to 27.54% (a percentage decrease of 1.36%)

See pages 154-165, in the Place Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of households on the waiting list for the social rented sector increased:

- In Belfast LGD, by 1,418 households, from 10,819 to 12,237 households (a percentage increase of 13.11%)
- In Northern Ireland, by 5,681 households, from 38,745 to 44,426 households (a percentage increase of 14.66%; see COVID-19 Place Figure 10)

Comparison with other LGDs

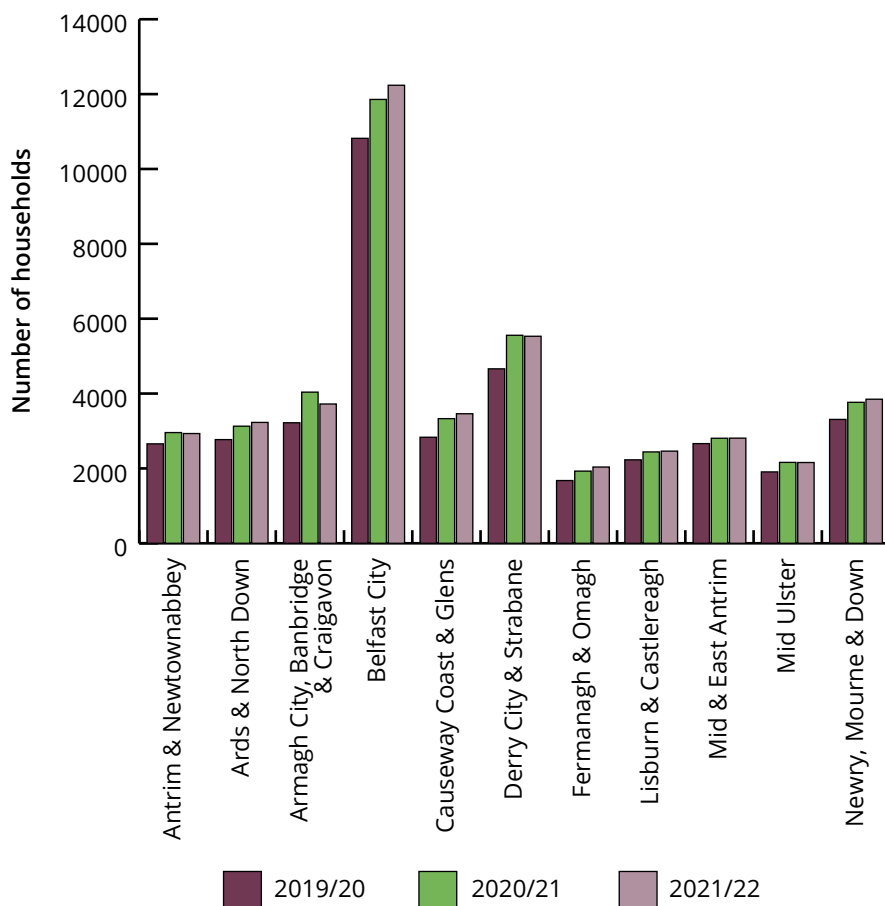
When compared with other LGDs, Belfast LGD had the highest number of households on the waiting list for the social rented sector, and the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's households on the waiting list, in:

- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Place Figures 10 and 11)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of households on the waiting list for the social rented sector increased overall in all LGDs, including Belfast LGD (see COVID-19 Place Figure 10).

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 10:

Number of households on the waiting list for the social rented sector by LGD, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



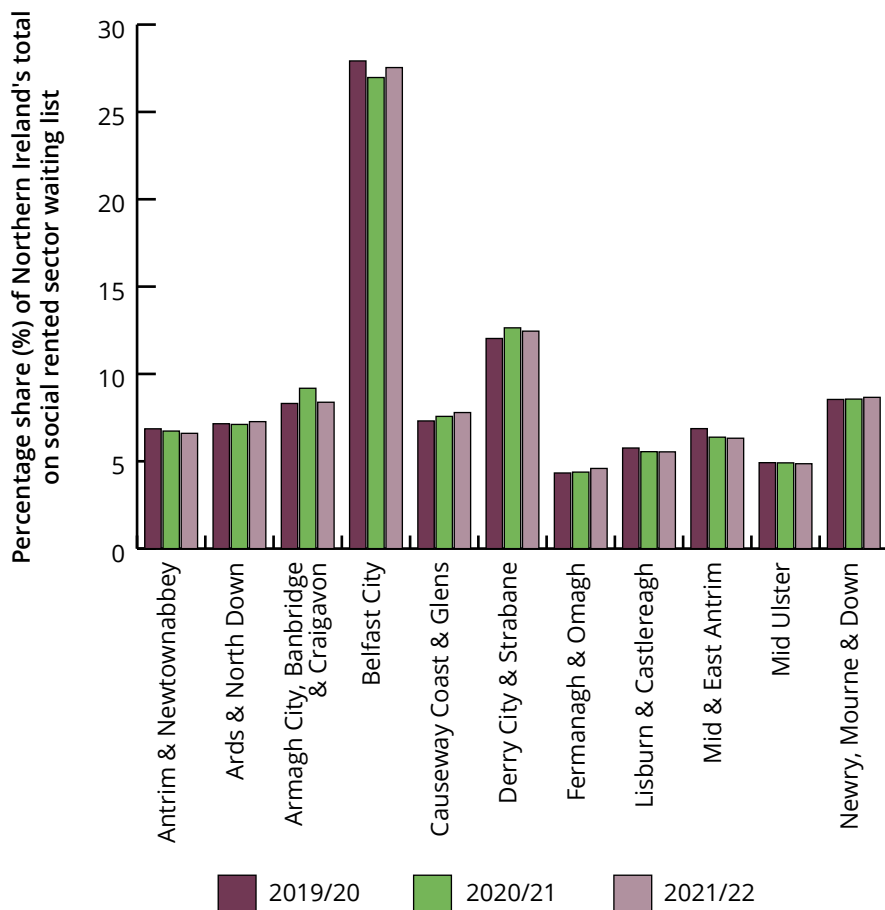
Source: Department for Communities: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22; Table 3.6 in each spreadsheet

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the percentage share of Northern Ireland’s total number of households on the waiting list for the social rented sector:

- Increased overall in 6 LGDs
- Decreased overall in 5 LGDs, including Belfast LGD (see COVID-19 Place Figure 11)

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 11:

Percentage share (%) of Northern Ireland's total number of households on the waiting list for the social rented sector by LGD, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: Data to calculate percentage share extracted from Department for Communities: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22; Table 3.6 in each spreadsheet

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast LGD had more than one-quarter of Northern Ireland's households on the waiting list for the social rented sector.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a greater percentage increase in the number of households on the waiting list for the social rented sector in Northern Ireland than in Belfast and the gap between the two narrowed.

Comparison with other LGDs

Before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, of all LGDs, Belfast LGD had:

- **The highest number of households on the waiting list for the social rented sector**
- **The highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's households on the waiting list**

Consequently, there was no overall change in the relative position of Belfast LGD among LGDs.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic:

- **Belfast had the fourth smallest percentage increase in the number of households on the waiting list for the social rented sector at 13.11%**
- **Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the greatest percentage increase at 22.17%, closely followed by Fermanagh & Omagh LGD at 21.54%**
- **Mid & East Antrim LGD had the smallest percentage increase at 5.48%**
- **Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the median percentage at 15.56%**

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, of the 5 LGDs in which there was a decrease in the percentage share of Northern Ireland's total number of households on the waiting list for the social rented sector:

- **Belfast LGD had the second lowest decrease in percentage share at 1.36%**
- **Mid & East Antrim LGD had the greatest decrease in percentage share at 8.01%**
- **Mid Ulster LGD had the smallest percentage decrease at 1.22%**
- **Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD had the median percentage increase at 3.79%**

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic:

- The number of households on the waiting list for the social rented sector increased overall in all LGDs, including Belfast LGD, and in Northern Ireland
- Belfast LGD's percentage share of Northern Ireland's households on the waiting list decreased slightly
- Among LGDs, Belfast LGD had a relatively lower percentage increase in the number of households on the waiting list, although this percentage increase was from a high baseline level

For households in Belfast LGD, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an increase in the number on the waiting list for the social rented sector.

SECTION 10

Total Allocations, including Transfers, in the Social Rented Sector

PLACE

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Department for Communities Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22.¹⁸

YEARS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Financial years 2020/21 and 2021/22

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

None reported.

PROFILE FINDINGS

In Belfast LGD, the number of total allocations in the social rented sector, including NIHE and housing association transfers:

- In 2020/21, the first full year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 2,344, which comprised 28.32% of Northern Ireland's total allocations including transfers
- In 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic, was 2,489, which comprised 28.58% of Northern Ireland's total allocations including transfers

18. 2019/20: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 18 April 2023); 2020/21: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2020-21 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 18 April 2023); 2021/22: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2021-22 | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 18 April 2023)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, in Belfast LGD:

- The number of total allocations, including NIHE and housing association transfers, decreased by 428, from 2,917 to 2,489
- The percentage share of Northern Ireland's total allocations including transfers decreased by 2.78 percentage points, from 31.36% to 28.58% (a percentage decrease of 8.86%)

See pages 157-165, in the Place Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of total allocations including NIHE and housing association transfers decreased:

- In Belfast LGD, by 428, from 2,917 to 2,489 (a percentage decrease of 14.67%)
- In Northern Ireland, by 593, from 9,301 to 8,708 (a percentage decrease of 6.38%)

Comparison with other LGDs

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast LGD had the highest number of total allocations including NIHE and housing association transfers, and the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total allocations including transfers, in:

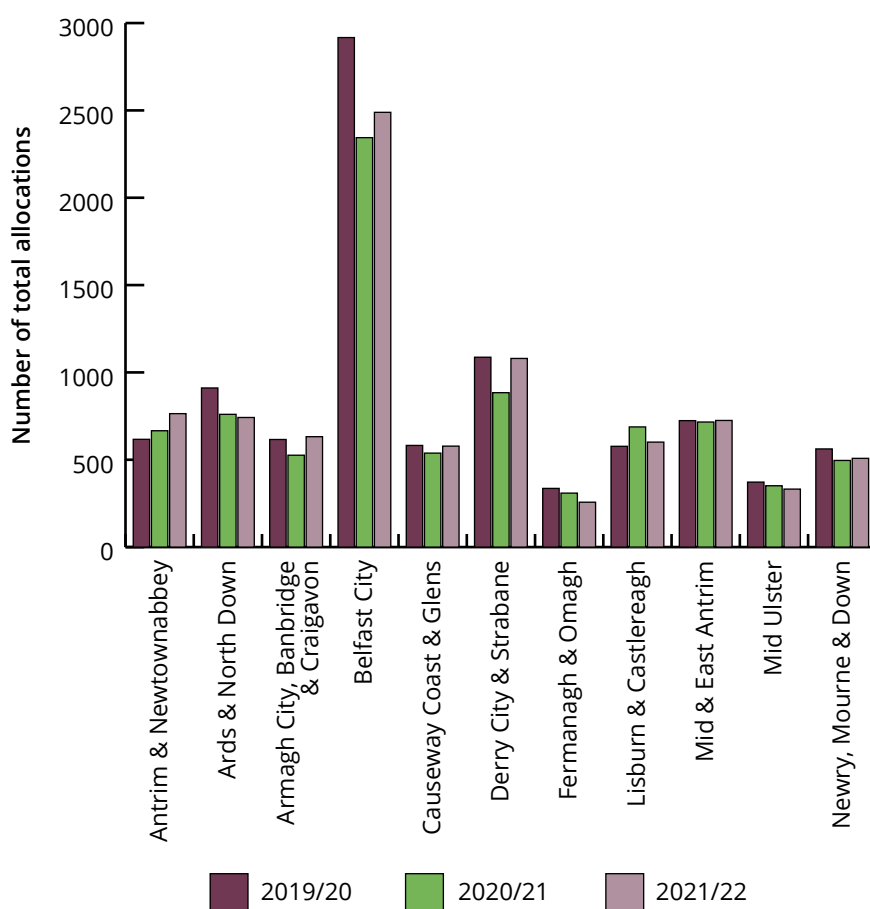
- 2019/20, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020/21, the first full year of the pandemic
- 2021/22, the second full year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Place Figure 12)

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of total allocations, including NIHE and housing association transfers:

- Decreased overall in 7 LGDs, including Belfast LGD
- Increased overall in 4 LGDs (see COVID-19 Place Figure 12)

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 12:

Number of total allocations, including NIHE and housing association transfers, by LGD, 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22



Source: Department for Communities: Northern Ireland Housing Statistics 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22; Table 3.7 in each spreadsheet

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Before and during the first two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast LGD had more than one-quarter of Northern Ireland's total allocations, including NIHE and housing association transfers; however, before the pandemic, in 2019/20, Belfast's percentage share was closer to one-third at 31.36%, whereas in 2021/22 it was closer to one-quarter at 28.58%.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, Belfast LGD had a greater percentage decrease in the number of total allocations, including NIHE and housing association transfers, than Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two widened.

Comparison with other LGDs

Before and during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, of all LGDs, Belfast LGD had:

- **The highest number of total allocations, including NIHE and housing association transfers**
- **The highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total allocations including transfers**

Consequently, there was no overall change in the relative position of Belfast LGD among LGDs.

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, of the LGDs that had a decrease in total allocations, including NIHE and housing association transfers:

- **Belfast LGD had the third greatest percentage decrease at 14.67%**
- **Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the greatest percentage decrease at 23.51%**
- **Derry City & Strabane LGD had the smallest percentage decrease at 0.37%**
- **Mid Ulster LGD had the median percentage decrease at 10.75%**

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Between 2019/20 and 2021/22, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two full years of the pandemic, the number of total allocations, including NIHE and housing association transfers:

- Decreased overall in 7 LGDs, including Belfast LGD, and in Northern Ireland, and increased overall in 4 LGDs
- Belfast LGD's percentage share of Northern Ireland's total allocations including transfers decreased
- Among LGDs, Belfast LGD had a relatively higher percentage decrease in the number of total allocations including transfers

For households on the waiting list for the social renting sector in Belfast LGD, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with a decrease in the number of total allocations including NIHE and housing association transfers. This decrease has occurred in the context of an increasing number of households on the waiting list for the social rented sector (see pages 49-50).

SECTION 11

Social Housing New Dwelling Completions

DATA SOURCE

Information is from data.gov.uk, Northern Ireland New Dwelling Completions, Private and speculative new dwelling completions by LGD, Q2 2015-Q1 2022.¹⁹ These data are from a beta website.²⁰

YEARS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Calendar years 2020, 2021, and 2022

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

None reported.

PROFILE FINDINGS

In Belfast LGD, the number of social housing new dwelling completions:

- In 2020, covering the first 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 73
- In 2021, covering the first calendar year of the pandemic, was 156
- In 2022, covering the second calendar year of the pandemic, was 327

19. Northern Ireland New Dwelling Completions - data.gov.uk (Last accessed 25 April 2023)

20. A beta website is a website in its testing phase, that is, before the introduction of the final website that has been checked for 'bugs' and errors

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, in Belfast LGD, the number of social housing new dwelling completions increased by 177, from 150 to 327.

See pages 135-141, in the Place Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Belfast LGD comprised:

- In 2020, covering the 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, 10.72% of Northern Ireland's total of social housing new dwelling completions in that year
- In 2021, covering the first calendar year of the pandemic, 19.33% of Northern Ireland's total of social housing new dwelling completions in that year
- In 2022, covering the second calendar year of the pandemic, 42.08% of Northern Ireland's total of social housing new dwelling completions in that year

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, the number of social housing new dwelling completions increased:

- In Belfast LGD, by 177, from 150 to 327 (a percentage increase of 118.00%)
- In Northern Ireland, by 133, from 644 to 777 (a percentage increase of 20.65%; see COVID-19 Place Figure 13)

Comparison with other LGDs

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast LGD had:

- The second highest number of social housing new dwelling completions in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- The equal fourth highest number in 2020, together with Ards & North Down LGD, covering the first 9 months of the pandemic

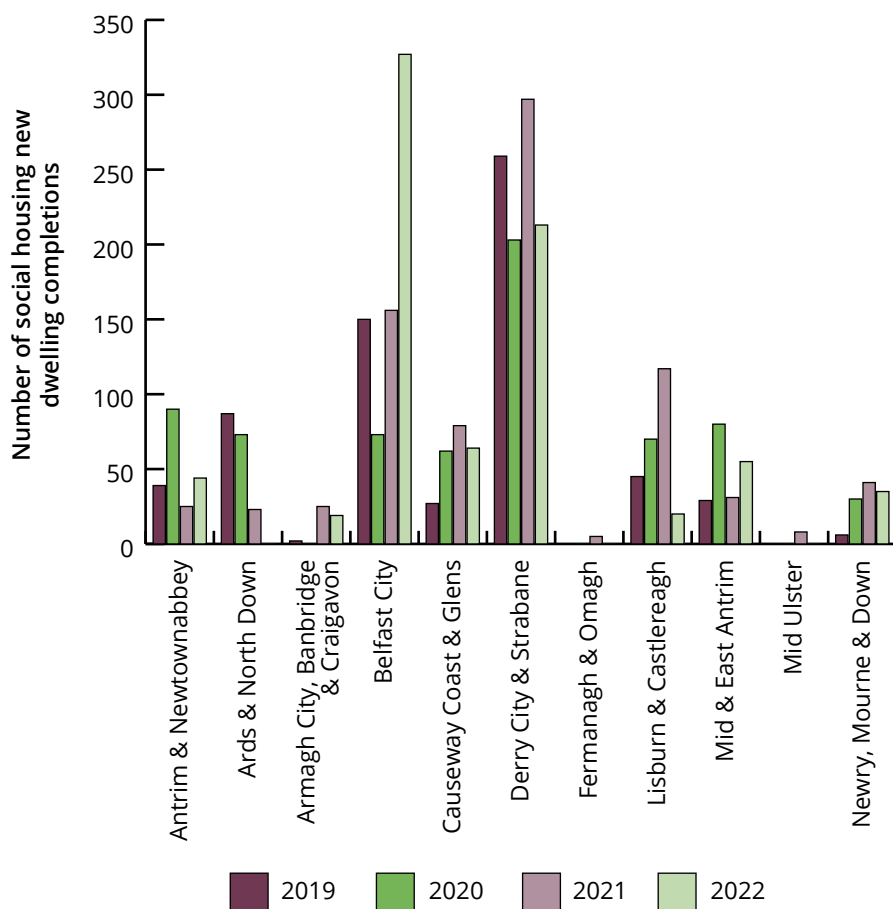
- The second highest number in 2021, covering the first calendar year of the pandemic
- The highest number in 2022, covering the second calendar year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Place Figure 13)

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, the number of social housing new dwelling completions:

- Increased overall in 6 LGDs, including Belfast LGD
- Decreased overall in 3 LGDs
- Remained the same overall in 2 LGDs (see COVID-19 Place Figure 13)

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 13:

Number of social housing new dwelling completions by LGD, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022



Source: data.gov.uk, Northern Ireland New Dwelling Completions, Private and speculative new dwelling completions by LGD, Q2 2015-Q1 2022

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

From before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, Belfast LGD's percentage share of Northern Ireland's social housing new dwelling completions varied:

- In 2019, it was 23.29%, comprising more than one-fifth and approaching one-quarter
- In 2020, it was 10.72%, comprising one-tenth
- In 2021, it was 19.33%, comprising one-fifth
- In 2022, it was 42.08%, comprising two-fifths

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, there was a greater percentage increase in social housing new dwelling completions in Belfast LGD when compared with Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two narrowed.

Comparison with other LGDs

Among LGDs, Belfast LGD had relatively high numbers of social housing new dwelling completions both before and during the first two years and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

From 2019 to 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, of the 6 LGDs that had an increase in the number of social housing new dwelling completions:

- Belfast LGD had the third smallest percentage increase at 118.00%
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the greatest percentage increase at 850.00% (from a very low baseline)
- Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD had the smallest percentage decrease at 12.82%

The median percentage decrease was 127.52%.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

From 2019 to 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, the number of social housing new dwelling completions:

- Increased overall in 6 LGDs, including Belfast LGD
- Increased overall in Northern Ireland
- Decreased overall in 3 LGDs
- Remained the same overall in 2 LGDs

In 2022, Belfast LGD had more than 4 out of every 10 social housing new dwelling completions.

Among LGDs, before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, Belfast LGD had:

- A relatively higher number of social housing new dwelling completions
- A relatively lower percentage increase in the number of social housing new dwelling completions

For Belfast LGD, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an increase in the number of social housing new dwelling completions; however, the number of social housing new dwelling completions was lower than the number of private and speculative new dwelling completions in:

- 2019, when there were almost 4 times more private and speculative new dwelling completions than social housing ones (569 compared with 150)
- 2020, when there were about seven times more private and speculative new dwelling completions than social housing ones (524 compared with 73)
- 2021, when there were about four times more private and speculative new dwelling completions than social housing ones (604 compared with 156)
- 2022, when there was about one-third more private and speculative new dwelling completions than social housing ones (483 compared with 327; see pages 65-66)

This difference in the number of social housing new dwelling completions compared with private and speculative new dwelling completions has taken place in the context of an increase in the number of people on the waiting list for the social rented sector (see pages 49-50).

SECTION 12

Private and Speculative New Dwelling Completions

DATA SOURCE

Information is from data.gov.uk, Northern Ireland New Dwelling Completions, Private and speculative new dwelling completions by LGD, Q2 2015-Q1 2022.²¹ These data are from a beta site.

YEARS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Calendar years 2020, 2021, and 2022

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

None reported.

PROFILE FINDINGS

In Belfast LGD, the number of private and speculative new dwelling completions:

- In 2020, covering the first 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 524
- In 2021, covering the first calendar year of the pandemic, was 604
- In 2022, covering the second year of the pandemic, was 483

21. Northern Ireland New Dwelling Completions - data.gov.uk (Last accessed 25 April 2023)

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, the number of private and speculative new dwelling completions decreased by 86, from 569 to 483.

See pages 135-141, in the Place Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Belfast LGD comprised:

- In 2020, covering the first 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, 9.13% of Northern Ireland's total of private and speculative new dwelling completions in that year
- In 2021, covering the first calendar year of the pandemic, 9.13% of Northern Ireland's total of private and speculative new dwelling completions in that year
- In 2022, covering the second calendar year of the pandemic, 7.96% of Northern Ireland's total of private and speculative new dwelling completions in that year

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, the number of private and speculative new dwelling completions decreased:

- In Belfast LGD, by 86, from 569 to 483 (a percentage decrease of 15.11%)
- In Northern Ireland, by 717, from 6,779 to 6,062 (a percentage decrease of 10.58%; see COVID-19 Place Figure 14)

Comparison with other LGDs

When compared with other LGDs, Belfast LGD had:

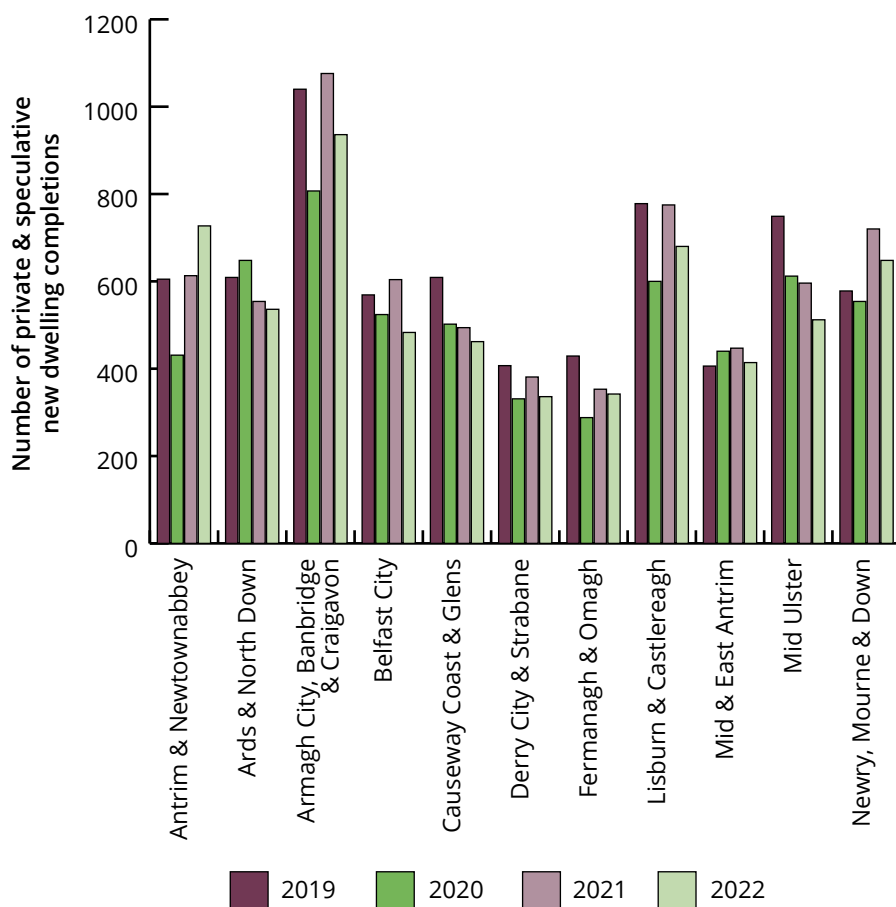
- The fourth lowest number of private and speculative new dwelling completions in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- The median number in 2020, covering the first 9 months of the pandemic
- The fifth highest number in 2021, covering the first calendar year of the pandemic
- The fifth lowest number in 2022, covering the second calendar year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Place Figure 14)

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, the number of private and speculative new dwelling completions:

- Decreased in 8 LGDs, including Belfast LGD
- Increased in 3 LGDs (see COVID-19 Place Figure 14)

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 14:

Number of private and speculative new dwelling completions by LGD, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022



Source: data.gov.uk, Northern Ireland New Dwelling Completions, Private and speculative new dwelling completions by LGD, Q2 2015-Q1 2022

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Both before and during the first two years and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast LGD’s private and speculative new dwelling completions comprised less than 10% of Northern Ireland’s totals.

Between 2019 and 2022, before and covering the first two years and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a greater percentage decrease in private and speculative new dwelling completions in Belfast LGD when compared with Northern Ireland, and the gap between the two widened.

Comparison with other LGDs

Among LGDs, apart from 2021, when Belfast LGD had the fifth highest number of private and speculative new dwelling completions, Belfast LGD had the median or lower number of private and speculative new dwelling completions.

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, of the 8 LGDs that had a decrease in the number of private and speculative new dwelling completions:

- **Belfast LGD had the fourth smallest percentage decrease at 15.11%**
- **Mid Ulster LGD had the greatest percentage decrease at 31.64%**
- **Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD had the smallest percentage decrease at 10.00%**

The median percentage decrease was 16.28%.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

From 2019 to 2022, from before and covering the first two years and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of private and speculative new dwelling completions:

- **Decreased in 8 LGDs, including Belfast LGD**
- **Decreased in Northern Ireland**
- **Increased in 3 LGDs**

In 2022, Belfast LGD had approaching 1 out of every 10 new dwelling completions compared with between 1 and 2 out of every 10 in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon LGD and over 1 out of every 10 in Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD and in Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD.

Among LGDs, before, and covering the first two years and 9 months of, the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast LGD had:

- **A relatively lower number of private and speculative new dwelling completions**
- **A relatively lower percentage decrease in the number of private and speculative new dwelling completions**

For Belfast LGD, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with a decrease in the number of private and speculative new dwelling completions.

SECTION 13

Registered Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Housing Executive, Housing Investment Plans; for each LGD Housing Investment Plan Update 2020, 2021, and 2022.²²

YEARS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Calendar years 2020, 2021, and 2022

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

None.

PROFILE FINDINGS

In Belfast LGD, the number of registered houses of multiple occupation (HMOs):

- In 2020, covering the first 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, was 22,617
- In 2021, covering the first calendar year of the pandemic, was 19,867
- In 2022, covering the second calendar year of the pandemic, was 20,623

22. The Housing Executive - Housing Investment Plans (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 21 April 2023)

Between 2020 and 2022, covering the first two years and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, in Belfast LGD, the number of registered HMOs decreased overall by 1,994, from 22,617 to 20,623.

See pages 151-153, in the Place Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In the absence of 2020 data for Causeway Coast & Glens LGD, it is not possible to calculate any LGD's percentage share of Northern Ireland's total of HMOs for 2020; however:

- **In 2021, covering the first calendar year of the pandemic, Belfast LGD had 28.70% of Northern Ireland's registered HMOs**
- **In 2022, covering the second calendar year of the pandemic, Belfast LGD had 27.82% of Northern Ireland's registered HMOs**

In the absence of 2020 data for Causeway Coast & Glens LGD, it is not possible to calculate Northern Ireland's overall percentage decrease or increase between 2020 and 2022; however, between 2021 and 2022, covering the first and second calendar years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of registered HMOs increased:

- **In Belfast LGD, by 756, from 19,867 to 20,623 (a percentage increase of 3.81%)**
- **In Northern Ireland, by 4,992, from 69,220 to 74,142 (a percentage increase of 7.11%)**

Comparison with other LGDs

In the absence of 2020 data for Causeway Coast & Glens LGD, it is not possible to calculate the relative numbers and positions of Belfast LGD's registered HMOs in 2020.

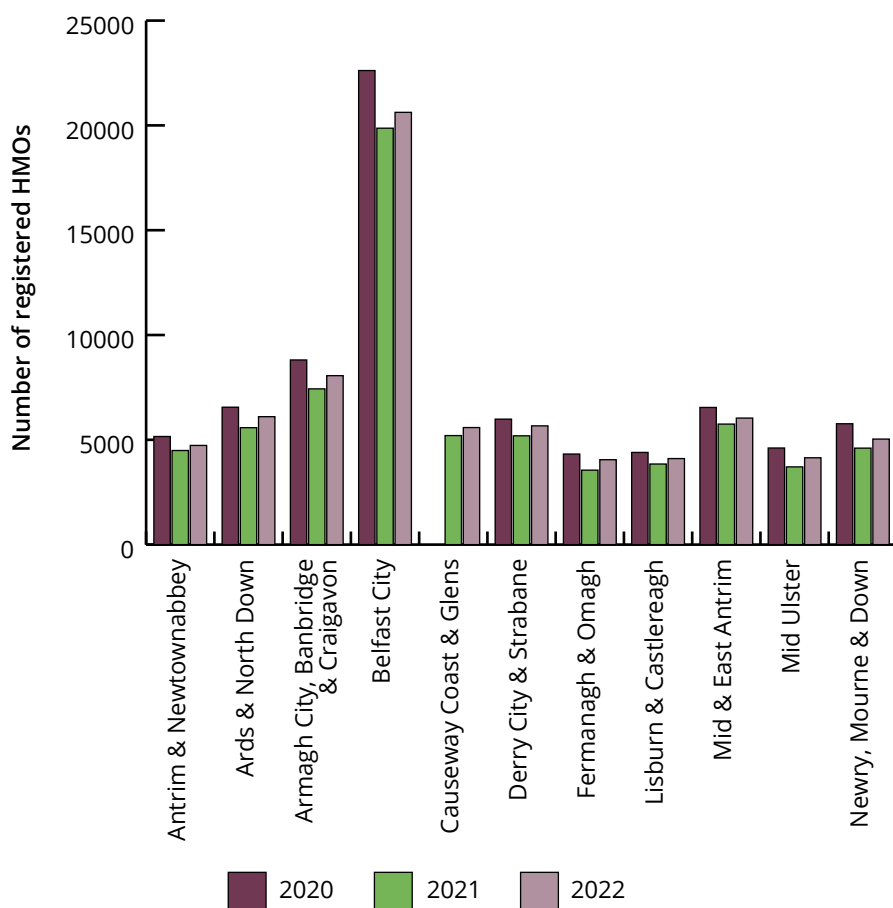
When compared with other LGDs, Belfast LGD had the highest number of registered HMOs and the highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total of registered HMOs in:

- **2021, covering the first calendar year of the pandemic**
- **2022, covering the second calendar year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Place Figure 15)**

Between 2020 and 2022, the number of registered HMOs decreased overall in 10 LGDs for which there are data available²³, including Belfast LGD (see COVID-19 Place Figure 15).

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 15:

Number of registered HMOs, by LGD, 2020, 2021, and 2022



Source: Housing Executive: Housing Investment Plan Update 2020, 2021, and 2021 for each LGD

23. The Housing Investment Plan Update 2020 for Causeway Coast & Glens LGD was not available on the Housing Executive website when last accessed (Last accessed 21 April 2023)

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Between 2021 and 2022, covering the first and second calendar years of the COVID-19 pandemic, when compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast LGD had a smaller percentage increase in the number of registered HMOs. This percentage increase, however, was within an overall decrease for Belfast LGD between 2020 and 2022.

In 2021 and 2022, Belfast LGD had more than one-quarter of Northern Ireland's registered HMOs.

Comparison with other LGDs

During 2021 and 2022, covering the first and second calendar years of the COVID-19 pandemic, of all LGDs, Belfast LGD had:

- The highest number of registered HMOs
- The highest percentage share of Northern Ireland's total registered HMOs
- Consequently, there was no overall change in the relative position of Belfast LGD among LGDs in the years of the pandemic for which there are complete data.

Between 2020 and 2022, covering the first two years and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, of the 10 LGDs that had a decrease in the number of registered HMOs:

- Belfast LGD had the third greatest percentage decrease at 8.82%
- Newry, Mourne & Down LGD had the greatest percentage decrease at 12.69%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the smallest percentage decrease at 5.35%

The median percentage decrease was 8.01%.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

For the 10 LGDs for which there are 2020 data available, including Belfast LGD, between 2020 and 2022, covering the first and second calendar years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of registered HMOs decreased overall.

In 2021 and 2022, the number of registered HMOs in Belfast LGD represented over one-quarter of Northern Ireland's total.

Among LGDs, in 2021 and 2022, Belfast LGD had the highest numbers and highest percentage shares of Northern Ireland's registered HMOs.

In 2022, Belfast LGD had approaching 3 out of every 10 registered HMOs in Northern Ireland.

For Belfast LGD, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an overall decrease in the number of registered HMOs.

SECTION 14

Average Monthly Rent in the Private Rented Sector

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Housing Executive, Private rented sector and rents, Housing Executive and Propertynews.com, At a Glance Private Rental Market Performance 2020, H2 2020, Issue Number 16, and At a Glance Private Rental Market Performance 2021, H2 2021, Issue Number 18.²⁴

YEARS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Calendar years 2020 and 2021

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

In 2021, there were challenges for the private sector relating to the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the emergence of a 'supply crunch'. Following the period of exceptional market closure in the second quarter of 2020, the rental sector rebounded strongly in terms of transactional evidence²⁵ and the performance of average rents. However, the effects of the imbalance of market forces, landlords selling rental properties, and 'longer leases' where tenants have decided to renew their lease, have begun to percolate into the market in terms of affordability and tenure options. This is borne out by the annual review of the Northern Ireland private rental market which indicates a stable market sector with strong annual rates of growth in average rents across some market areas,

-
24. 2019 and 2020: Private Rental Index H2 2020 (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 20 April 2023); 2021: Ulster University - At a Glance Private Rental Market Performance 2021 (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 20 April 2023)
25. Evidence for the provision of goods

particularly those where underlying demand has been evident. Accordingly, while the evidence points to a vibrant market, earlier indications of inelastic supply and the potential for heightened price acceleration are beginning to impact directly on renters in terms of rental affordability and tenure choice.

Unrelated to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Housing Executive's Housing Benefit Unit made a policy decision at the start of 2020 to reduce the overall volume of data collected for Local Housing Allowance (LHA) purposes by approximately one-third from that point on. While the processes involved in merging and cleaning the datasets from the Housing Executive and PropertyNews.com for this analysis mean that any change in the amount of data derived from the Housing Executive LHA database may not lead to a commensurate change in the number of transactions recorded in this report, the reduced LHA dataset is likely to be reflected in the overall size of the 2021 sample.²⁶

PROFILE FINDINGS

In Belfast LGD, the average monthly rent in the private rented sector:

- In 2020, covering the first 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, was £743
- In 2021, covering the first calendar year of the pandemic, was £780

Between 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, and 2021, covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, in Belfast LGD, the average monthly rent increased by £72, from £708 to £780.

See pages 147-150, in the Place Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

26. Ulster University - At a Glance Private Rental Market Performance 2021 (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 20 April 2023)

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

When compared with Northern Ireland, the average monthly rent in the private rented sector was higher in Belfast LGD:

- In 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, by £81, £708 compared with £627
- In 2020, covering the first 9 months of the pandemic, by £85, £743 compared with £658
- In 2021, covering the first calendar year of the pandemic, by £71, £780 compared with £709

Between 2019 and 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, the average monthly rent in the private rented sector increased:

- In Belfast LGD, by £72, from £708 to £780 (a percentage increase of 10.17%)
- In Northern Ireland, by £82, from £627 to £709 (a percentage increase of 13.08%; see COVID-19 Place Figure 16)

Comparison with other LGDs

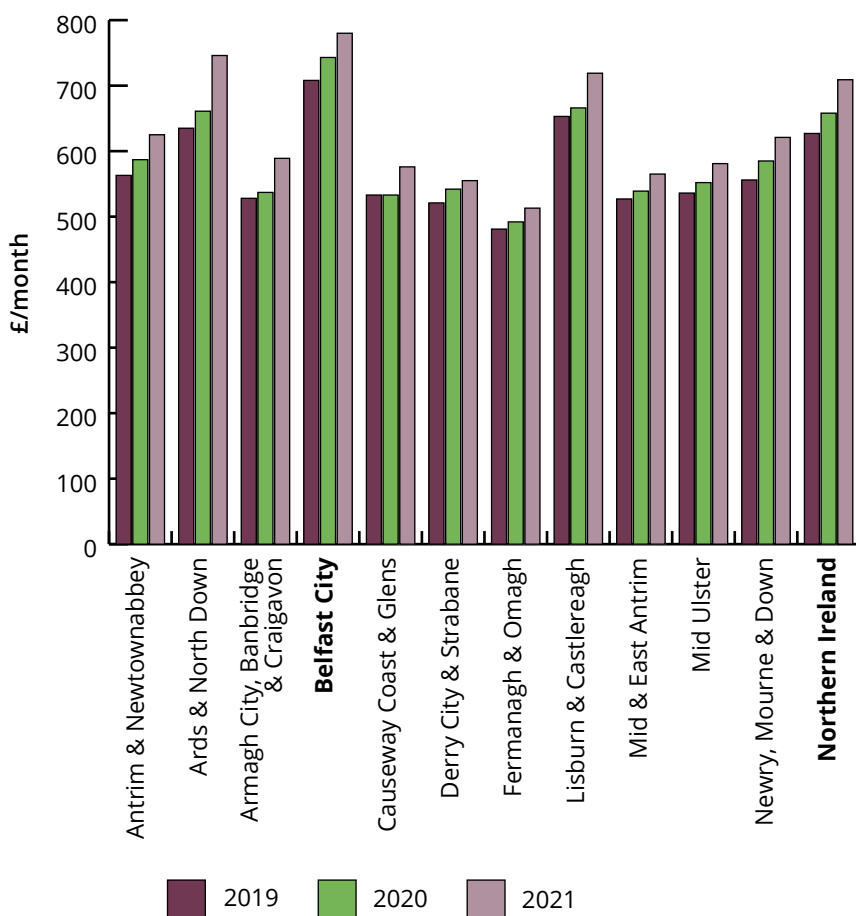
When compared with other LGDs, Belfast LGD had the highest average monthly rent in the private rented sector in:

- 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2020, covering the first 9 months of the pandemic
- 2021, covering the first calendar year of the pandemic (see COVID-19 Place Figure 16)

Between 2019 and 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, the average monthly rent in the private rented sector increased in all LGDs, including Belfast LGD (see COVID-19 Place Figure 16).

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 16:

Average monthly rent (£) in the private rented sector by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2019, 2020, and 2021



Source: At a Glance Private Rental Market Performance 2021, H2 2021, Issue Number 18, Figure 2, and At a Glance Private Rental Market Performance 2020, H2 2020, Issue Number 16, Figure 2

OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In comparison with Northern Ireland, Belfast LGD had a higher average monthly rent before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic; however, owing to a greater percentage increase in Northern Ireland compared with Belfast LGD, the gap between the two narrowed.

Comparison with other LGDs

Before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, of all LGDs, Belfast LGD had the highest average monthly rent in the private rented sector.

Between 2019 and 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic:

- Belfast had the fifth highest percentage increase in the average monthly rent for the private rented sector at 10.17%
- Ards & North Down LGD had the greatest percentage increase at 17.48%
- Derry City & Strabane LGD had the smallest percentage increase at 6.53%
- Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the median percentage increase at 10.11%

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Between 2019 and 2021, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first year and 9 months of the pandemic, the average monthly rent in the private rented sector increased in all LGDs, including Belfast LGD, and in Northern Ireland.

Before, and covering the first year and 9 months of, the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast LGD had:

- A higher average monthly rent in the private rented sector than that in Northern Ireland
- Among LGDs, the highest average monthly rent in the private rented sector
- Among LGDs, a relatively higher percentage increase in the average monthly rent in the private rented sector

For households in the private rented sector in Belfast LGD, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with an increase in the average monthly rent.

SECTION 15

Housing-related Benefits: Housing Benefit, and the Housing Cost Element of Universal Credit

DATA SOURCE

Information is from the Housing Executive, Housing Investment Plans, Belfast Housing Investment Plan Update 2022.²⁷

YEARS FOR WHICH DATA ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN COVID-19 TIMEFRAME

Calendar years 2020, 2021, and 2022

REPORTED IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON DATA COLLECTION

None reported.

27. The Housing Executive - Housing Investment Plans (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 21 April 2023)

INTRODUCTION

Universal Credit (UC) was introduced in Northern Ireland in September 2017 under the Northern Ireland (Welfare Reform) Act 2015. Universal Credit is a payment for people over 18 years or age (16-17 years of age in certain circumstances) 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.²⁸

In this indicator, the focus is on housing-related benefits and, therefore the information about Universal Credit relates only to the Housing Cost element, and the transition between the phasing in of the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit and the phasing out of Housing Benefit.

There is a “natural migration” to Universal Credit from Housing Benefit for new cases or where a tenant has a change in circumstances and, therefore, the Housing Benefit caseload is gradually decreasing. The full implementation of Universal Credit, the ‘Move to UC’, was scheduled to commence in January 2023 for working-age tenants on the relevant benefits who are being advised on when to move to Universal Credit.²⁹

PROFILE FINDINGS

From 2019 to 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, the numbers of people receiving a housing-related benefit in Belfast LGD are shown in COVID-19 Place Table 1 and COVID-19 Place Figure 17.

Between 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, and 2022, covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, in Belfast LGD, there was:

- **A decrease in the number of NIHE tenancies receiving Housing Benefit, by 4,082, from 16,753 to 12,671 tenancies (a percentage decrease of 24.37%)**
- **A decrease in the number of private rented sector tenancies receiving Housing Benefit, by 3,329, from 10,370 to 7,041 tenancies (a percentage decrease of 32.10%)**
- **A decrease in the number of housing association tenancies receiving Housing Benefit, by 2,157, from 12,152 to 9,995 tenancies (a percentage decrease of 17.75%)**
- **A decrease in the total number of all types of tenancy receiving Housing Benefit by 9,568, from 39,275 to 29,707 (a percentage decrease of 24.36%)**

28. Universal Credit | Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) (Last accessed 21 April 2023)

29. Belfast HIP 2022 (nihe.gov.uk) (Last accessed 21 April 2023)

- An increase in the number of working-age people receiving the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit, by 5,487, from 1,431 to 6,918 (a percentage increase of 383.44%)
- A decrease in the total number of tenancies/working-age people receiving a housing-related benefit by 4,081, from 40,706 to 36,625 (a percentage decrease of 10.03%)

COVID-19 PLACE TABLE 1:

Number of tenants/working-age people receiving a housing-related benefit in Belfast LGD, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022

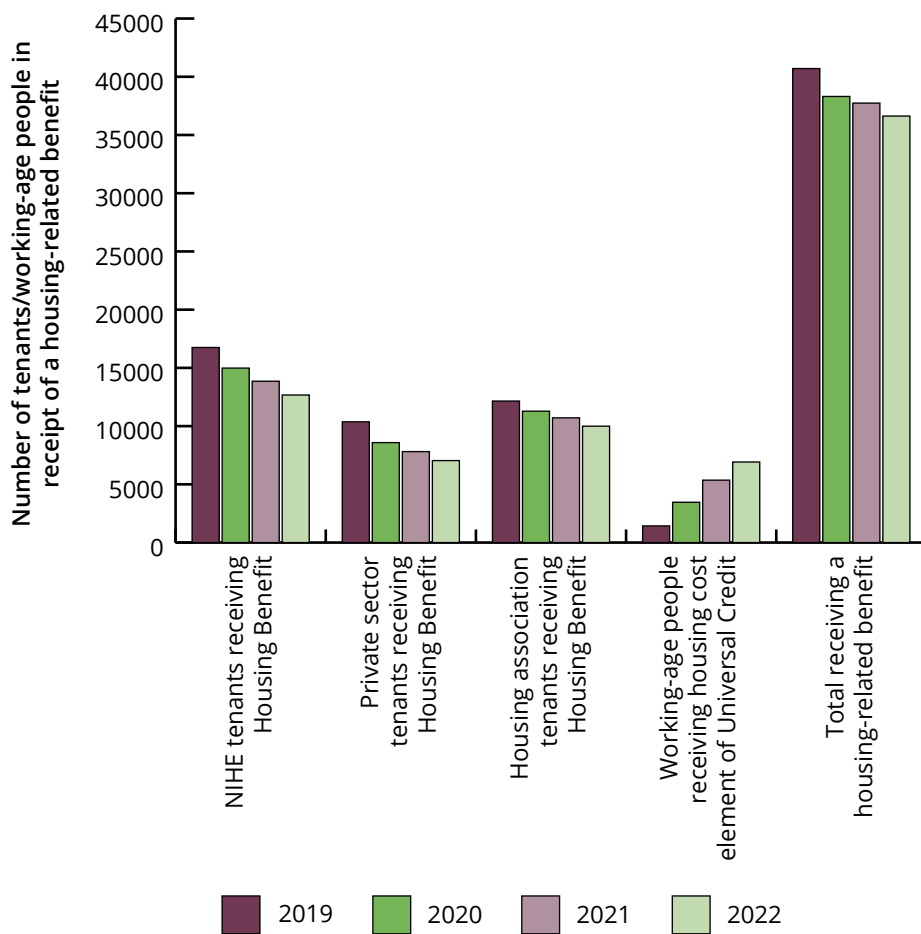
Type of tenancy in relation to the housing-related benefit received	2019	2020	2021	2022
NIHE tenants receiving Housing Benefit	16,753	14,983	13,856	12,671
Private tenants receiving Housing Benefit	10,370	8,585	7,812	7,041
Housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit	12,152	11,281	10,711	9,995
Working-age people receiving the Housing Cost element of Universal Credit	1,431	3,460	5,360	6,918
Total in receipt of a housing-related benefit	40,706	38,309	37,739	36,625

Source: Housing Executive, Housing Investment Plans, Belfast Housing Investment Plan Update 2022, Figure on page 37



COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 17:

Number of tenants/working-age people receiving a housing-related benefit in Belfast LGD, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022



Source: Housing Executive, Housing Investment Plans, Belfast Housing Investment Plan Update 2022, Figure on page 37

See pages 166-184, in the Place Chapter for further detail of the findings before the COVID-19 pandemic.

KEY COMPARISONS

Comparison with Northern Ireland

In 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast LGD comprised:

- 28.16% of Northern Ireland's total of NIHE tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- 19.21% of Northern Ireland's total of private tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- 41.35% of Northern Ireland's total of housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- 24.07% of Northern Ireland's total of working-age people receiving the housing costs element of Universal Credit

In 2020, covering the first 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast LGD comprised:

- 27.97% of Northern Ireland's total of NIHE tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- 18.85% of Northern Ireland's total of private tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- 40.72% of Northern Ireland's total of housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- 26.58% of Northern Ireland's total of working-age people receiving the housing costs element of Universal Credit

In 2021, covering the first calendar year of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast LGD comprised:

- 27.69% of Northern Ireland's total of NIHE tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- 19.00% of Northern Ireland's total of private tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- 40.39% of Northern Ireland's total of housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- 27.42% of Northern Ireland's total of working-age people receiving the housing costs element of Universal Credit

In 2022, covering the second calendar year of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast LGD comprised:

- 27.48% of Northern Ireland's total of NIHE tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- 19.27% of Northern Ireland's total of private tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- 39.71% of Northern Ireland's total of housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- 27.87% of Northern Ireland's total of working-age people receiving the housing costs element of Universal Credit

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, when compared with Northern Ireland, Belfast LGD had:

- A greater percentage decrease in the number of NIHE tenants receiving Housing Benefit, 24.37% compared with 22.51%
- A slightly smaller percentage decrease in the number of private tenants receiving Housing Benefit, 32.10% compared with 32.31%
- A greater percentage decrease in the number of housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit, 17.75% compared with 14.36%
- A greater percentage increase in the number of working-age people receiving the housing cost element of Universal Credit, 383.44% compared with 317.60%

Comparison with other LGDs

When compared with other LGDs, in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, Belfast LGD had the highest number, and the highest percentage shares, of Northern Ireland's:

- NIHE tenants receiving Housing Benefit (see COVID-19 Place Figure 18)
- Private tenants receiving Housing Benefit (see COVID-19 Place Figure 19)
- Housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit (see COVID-19 Place Figure 20)
- Working-age people receiving the housing element of Universal Credit (see COVID-19 Place Figure 21)

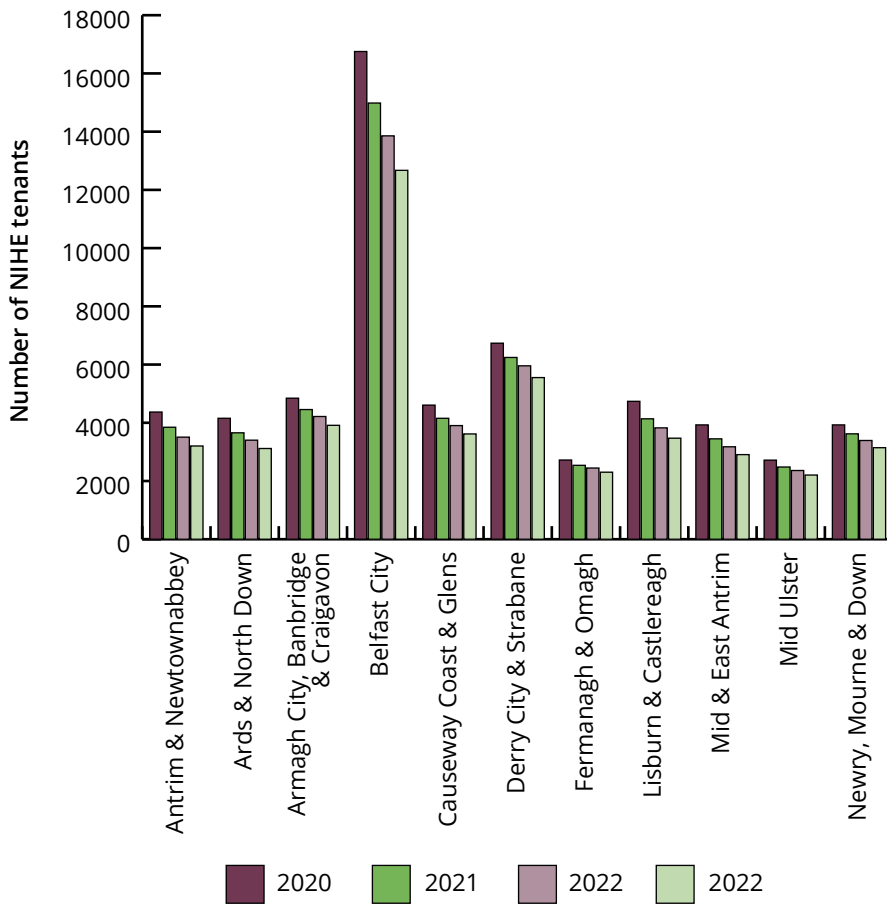
Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, in all LGDs, including Belfast LGD, the number of:

- NIHE tenants receiving Housing Benefit decreased (see COVID-19 Place Figure 18)
- Private tenants receiving Housing Benefit decreased (see COVID-19 Place Figure 19)
- Housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit decreased (see COVID-19 Place Figure 20)
- Working-age people receiving the housing element of Universal Credit increased (see COVID-19 Place Figure 21)



COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 18:

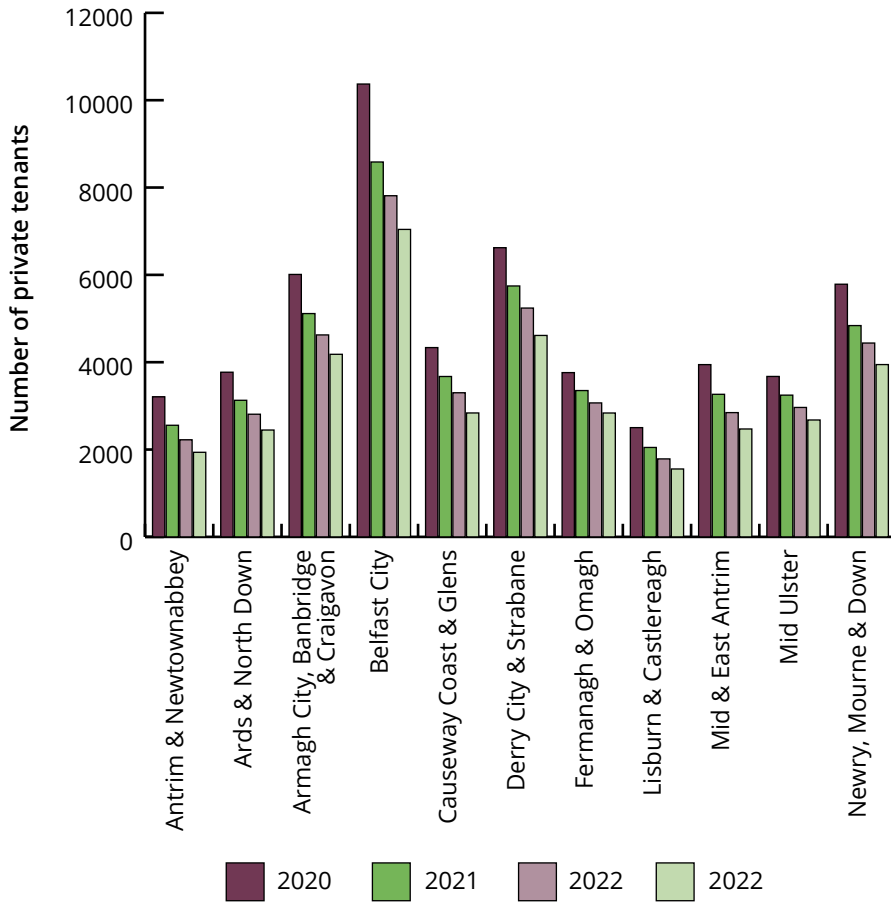
Number of NIHE tenants receiving Housing Benefit by LGD, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022



Source: Housing Executive: Housing Investment Plan Update 2022 for each LGD

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 19:

Number of private tenants receiving Housing Benefit by LGD, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022



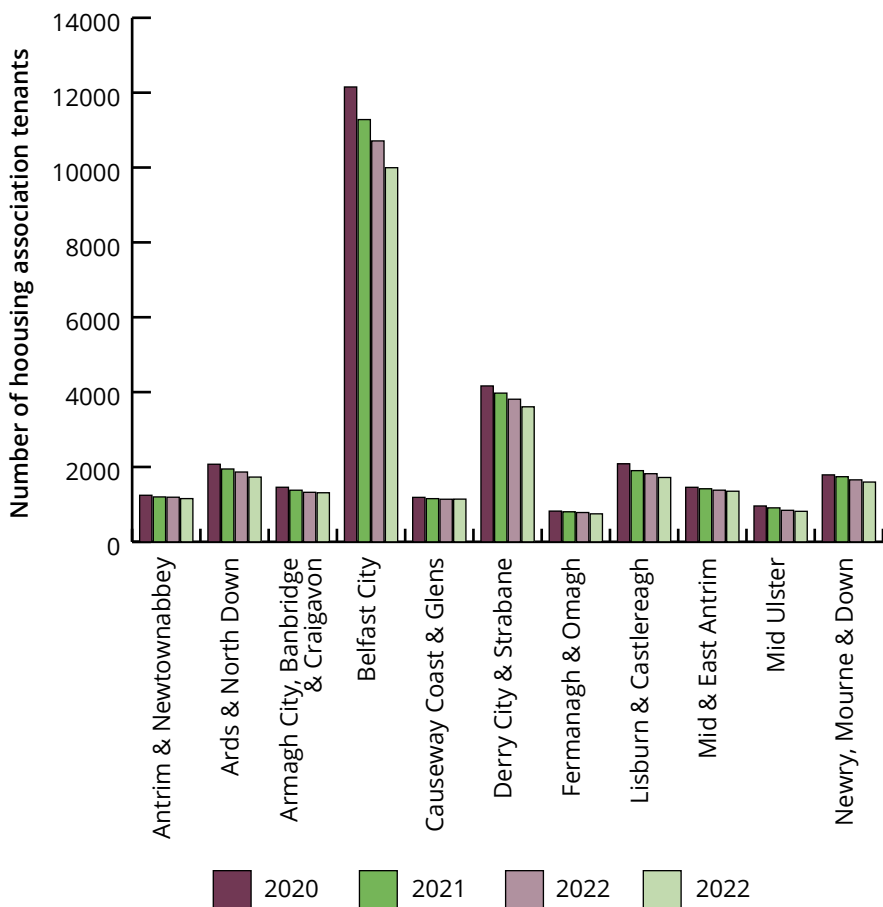
Source: Housing Executive: Housing Investment Plan Update 2022 for each LGD





COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 20:

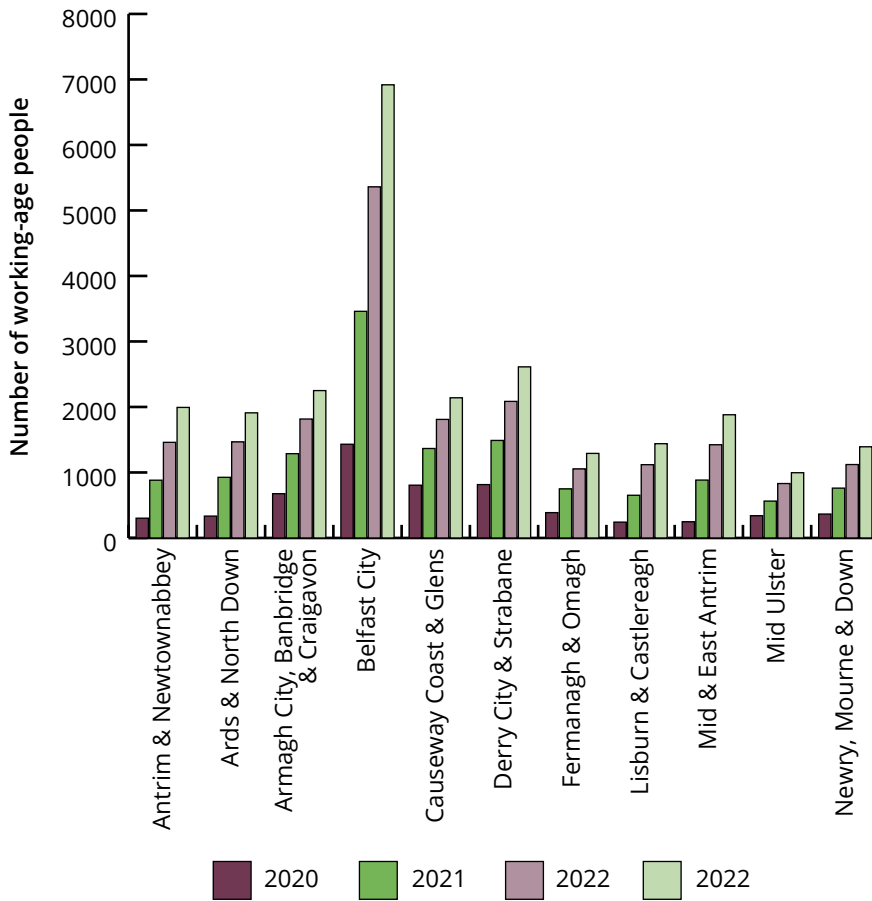
Number of housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit by LGD, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022



Source: Housing Executive: Housing Investment Plan Update 2022 for each LGD

COVID-19 PLACE FIGURE 21:

Number of working-age people receiving the housing cost element of Universal Credit by LGD, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022



Source: Housing Executive: Housing Investment Plan Update 2022 for each LGD



OBSERVATIONS ON THE DATA

Comparison with Northern Ireland

Both before and during the first two years and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast LGD had:

- More than one-quarter of Northern Ireland's NIHE tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- Almost one-fifth of Northern Ireland's private tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- Two-fifths of Northern Ireland's housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- One-quarter of Northern Ireland's working-age people receiving the housing cost element of Universal Credit

Comparison with other LGDs

Among LGDs, before and covering the first two years and 9 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, of all LGDs, Belfast LGD had the highest number of:

- NIHE, private and housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- Working-age people receiving the housing cost element of Universal Credit

Between 2019 and 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic:

- Belfast LGD had the fifth greatest percentage decrease in the number of NIHE tenants receiving Housing Benefit at 24.37%; Lisburn & Castlereagh LGD had the greatest percentage decrease at 26.73%, Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the smallest percentage decrease at 15.36%, and Causeway Coast & Glens had the median percentage decrease at 21.49%
- Belfast LGD had median percentage decrease in the number of private tenants receiving Housing Benefit at 32.10%; Antrim & Newtownabbey LGD had the greatest percentage decrease at 39.60%, and Fermanagh & Omagh LGD had the smallest percentage decrease at 24.59%
- Belfast LGD had highest percentage decrease in the number of housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit at 17.75%; Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the smallest percentage decrease at 3.96%, and Newry, Mourne & Down had the median percentage decrease at 10.73%

- Belfast LGD had the fifth highest percentage increase in the number of working-age people receiving the housing cost element of Universal Credit at 383.44%; Mid & East Antrim LGD had the greatest percentage increase at 661.54%, Causeway Coast & Glens LGD had the smallest percentage increase at 165.51%, and Newry, Mourne & Down had the median percentage increase at 281.37%

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

From 2019 to 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, there was a decrease in the number of:

- NIHE tenants receiving Housing Benefit in all LGDs, including Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland
- Private tenants receiving Housing Benefit in all LGDs, including Belfast LGD, and Northern Ireland
- Housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit in all LGDs, including Belfast LGD, and in Northern Ireland

From 2019 to 2022, from before the COVID-19 pandemic and covering the first two years and 9 months of the pandemic, there was an increase in the number of working-age people receiving the housing cost element of Universal Credit in all LGDs, including Belfast LGD, and in Northern Ireland.

Although the decrease in recipients of Housing Benefit and the increase in the recipients of the housing-cost element was to be anticipated with the roll-out of Universal Credit and the 'natural' migration from Housing Benefit, between 2019 and 2022, there was a decrease in the total number of people in Belfast LGD receiving a housing-related benefit by 4,081, from 40,706 to 36,625 (a percentage decrease of 10.03%).

In 2022, Belfast LGD had:

- Approaching 3 out of every 10 of Northern Ireland's NIHE tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- 2 out of every 10 of Northern Ireland's private tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- 4 out of every 10 of Northern Ireland's housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- Approaching 3 out of every 10 of Northern Ireland's working-age population receiving the housing cost element of Universal Credit

Among LGDs, before, and covering the first two years and 9 months of, the COVID-19 pandemic, Belfast LGD had the highest number of:

- NIHE tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- Private tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- Housing association tenants receiving Housing Benefit
- Working-age people receiving the housing cost element of Universal Credit
- People receiving a housing-related benefit

For Belfast LGD, the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with:

- A decrease in NIHE, private and housing association tenancies receiving Housing Benefit, which was to have been anticipated with the coincidental roll-out of Universal Credit, although not necessarily the scale of the decrease
- An increase in working-age people receiving the housing cost element of Universal Credit, which was to have been anticipated with the coincidental roll-out of Universal Credit, although not necessarily the scale of the increase
- A decrease in the number of people overall receiving a housing-related benefit – it is not clear, but in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which represented an unexpected health and economic shock during the planned roll-out of Universal Credit in Northern Ireland, this decrease in the number of people receiving a housing-related benefit may have increased inequality, with the potential for inequity, by reducing the overall income of more than 4,000 households in Belfast LGD, which could have precipitated income poverty for some and exacerbated pre-existing income poverty for others, particularly in light of the increase in private sector rents (see page 76-78).



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Healthy City

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Belfast Health and
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Public Health
Agency

Housing
Executive