

HOMELESS
not voiceless

Full. **D**uty. **A**pplicant. **NO**
DELAY!

Armagh NI Housing Executive
48 Dobbin Street
Armagh
BT61 7QQ

20th December 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

When you are in need of social housing, you are assessed by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to determine how serious your need is.

Full Duty Applicant (FDA) points are awarded to people who meet the following criteria:

- homeless
- not 'intentionally' homeless
- eligible for public assistance
- "less able to cope as a homeless person than the average person because you are vulnerable in some way" (e.g. pregnancy, children, ill-health, at risk of violence, etc).



In our experience, the overwhelming majority of people staying in homeless hostels meet these criteria.

There is growing evidence that being 'homelessness' in itself creates vulnerabilities: research by CRISIS demonstrated that *"the prevalence of common mental health problems is over twice as high and of psychosis 4-15 times as high amongst the homeless population compared to the general population."* (*Mental Ill Health in the Adult Single Homeless Population* (2009))

According to the NIHE – as of July 2018 - there were only 19 people staying in hostels who do not have FDA status.

However a survey carried out within Simon Community NI hostels alone, on one day in July 2018, found that 78 residents did not have FDA status. These included cases like:

A male living in a hostel for 3 years with only 20 points. He has been homeless 4 times in the past 10 years

A female who has been in hostel accommodation 5 times and has never been awarded FDA status

This is unacceptable.

People should receive their assessment and their F.D.A. points immediately when they are accepted into homelessness hostels. It is only when they receive this assessment and their entitled points that they will be treated as a priority for adequate housing.

As homeless people we are asking for F.D.A. status without any delay!

Yours Sincerely

Homeless Not Voiceless Campaign