ANNEX A

FOI DOF/2024-0400

Request

A yearly breakdown of how many empty homes there are in Northern Ireland since 2016, per Council area.

DoF response

The Department can confirm that it holds the information requested, please see table below.

Land & Property Services (LPS) does not maintain a register of 'empty homes'.

For the purposes of this response, 'empty homes' is defined as properties included in the housing stock[1] and recorded as vacant[2], on the Land & Property Services rating system.

Housing stock[1,2] recorded as vacant in each of the 11 district council areas 2016-2024[3]

District council	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Antrim and Newtownabbey	891	915	981	936	979	1,057	985	1,016	1,131
Ards and North Down	1,499	1,538	1,511	1,508	1,566	1,512	1,410	1,477	1,541
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	2,219	2,040	2,004	2,008	1,997	2,020	2,132	2,176	2,192
Belfast	3,746	3,545	3,480	3,319	3,289	3,387	3,291	3,355	3,292
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,841	1,850	1,769	1,750	1,776	1,841	1,825	1,886	1,906
Derry City and Strabane	1,240	1,186	1,275	1,297	1,415	1,433	1,406	1,454	1,524
Fermanagh and Omagh	2,591	2,499	2,420	2,398	2,436	2,445	2,482	2,497	2,341
Lisburn and Castlereagh	1,046	1,222	1,162	1,131	1,141	1,222	1,113	1,138	1,095
Mid and East Antrim	1,138	1,148	1,165	1,218	1,327	1,394	1,287	1,342	1,389
Mid Ulster	2,065	1,924	1,959	1,991	2,018	2,073	2,110	2,184	2,235
Newry, Mourne and Down	2,321	2,271	2,199	2,247	2,296	2,354	2,384	2,427	2,435
Northern Ireland	**20,597**	**20,138**	**19,925**	**19,803**	**20,240**	**20,738**	**20,425**	**20,952**	**21,081**

[1] In line with the Rates Order (NI) 1977, Housing Stock is defined as a count of properties which are valued as domestic or mixed for the purposes of rating. This refers to properties in the Valuation List which are used (or when next in use, will be used) for the purposes of a private dwelling. This includes properties which are temporary incapable of beneficial occupation, but excludes Caravans, Domestic Garages, Domestic Stores and Car Parking Spaces.

[2] Information in the rating system on domestic properties recorded as vacant may not be current or complete Since the introduction of the Rating of Empty Homes legislation on 1st October 2011, the rate liability for vacant domestic properties has been assessed at 100%. There is currently no requirement for ratepayers to inform Land & Property Services that their property is vacant, nor is there any financial advantage in doing so.

[3] Housing stock estimates for Northern Ireland relate to the stock in April each year. See published Housing Stock data at www.finance-ni.gov.uk/topics/housing-stock-statistics