

## PBNI Disclosure Log – Response to Request

Request Reference: 026.0402

Date of Request: 20 April 2026

Date of Response: 12 May 2026

### Request

Under Article 6A5 of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 (as amended by the Housing (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland)), various agencies shall take the homelessness strategy into account in the exercise of their functions. As a named agency under the 1988 Order, please provide any information held which relates to how the homelessness strategy is taken into account in the exercise of PBNI's functions.

Please treat this as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please include any information held during the period of the current Homelessness Strategy, which began in 2022.

### Response

#### Role and functions of PBNI

PBNI does not have statutory responsibility for the provision of housing or homelessness services. However, PBNI recognises that stable accommodation is a significant factor in reducing reoffending and supporting public protection. We know that stable accommodation, coupled with family and social supports, can directly address risk factors associated with offending behaviour. It enables individuals to benefit from Probation supervision and improves engagement with programmes of intervention and services delivered by PBNI and other statutory, voluntary and community organisations designed to address issues such as addiction and mental health. It also assists with the pursuit of employment.

How the Homelessness Strategy is taken into account by PBNI:

- Probation practice and assessment  
Accommodation and the risk of homelessness are routinely considered within assessment, risk management and supervision processes. Where homelessness or insecure accommodation is identified, this informs engagement with partner organisations and local housing services.
- Partnership working  
PBNI works collaboratively with housing and homelessness partners, including the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and voluntary sector organisations, to support individuals under supervision who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This partnership approach aligns with the objectives of the Homelessness Strategy, even where PBNI is not a delivery body.

- Multi-agency arrangements  
PBNI participates in multi-agency forums, including safeguarding and public protection arrangements, where accommodation and homelessness issues may be considered alongside risk and support needs. The most relevant example of this is the Public Protection Arrangements for NI. In situations where individuals subject to the Public Protection Arrangements for NI, are being discharged from prison or managed within the community without appropriate accommodation being available, the PPANI Co-Ordinator will convene a multi-agency meeting involving senior representatives from each of the agencies to address the issue. PPANI agencies often provide information contributing to a homelessness decision.
- Strategic awareness and policy context  
PBNI is aware of, and has regard to, the strategic context provided by the Northern Ireland Homelessness Strategy when contributing to cross-departmental discussions, consultations, and implementation plans relevant to people with complex needs, including those involved in the criminal justice system.

PBNI does not have:

- An independent homelessness strategy;
- Specific policies solely dedicated to the delivery of the Northern Ireland Homelessness Strategy;
- Monitoring data measuring PBNI outcomes against homelessness strategy indicators.

If you have any queries about this letter, or if you feel I have misinterpreted your request please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way PBNI has handled your request, you have the right to request an Internal Review of the decision within two months of receiving this response letter. All FOI complaints or requests for a review should be made in writing to the Head of Communications and Compliance via the FOI mailbox: [FOI@probation-ni.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@probation-ni.gov.uk)

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information  
Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House,  
Water  
Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF.

Please note that PBNI publishes responses to requests for information on its website where we believe there may be a wider public interest. If requests are published they are anonymised i.e. details of the requester are not published.

