# OSFC Statistical Report

1 July 2016 to 30 September 2016



# **Contents**

Chapter	Page
Purpose of Statistical Report and How to Use It	3
District and Regional comparisons:	
Falls	5
Lisburn	8
Knockbreda & Downpatrick	11
Antrim	14
Armagh	17
foyle	20
Appendix 1:	
Quality of decisions	23
Issues handled correctly	24
CCG Substitutions	25
CL Substitutions	26
CCG – Breakdown of Issues	27-33
CL – Breakdown of Issues	34-40
Appendix 2 - Time to process:	
CCG & BL – Time to process	41
Annualiza 2 OSEC Contacts	40
Appendix 3 – OSFC Contacts	42

## Purpose of Statistical Report and How to Use It

#### Why are the reports produced?

This Report is intended to help Social Fund Managers identify trends and issues in their District. The information in the report can therefore be used to help improve decision making and customer service. The report contains information relating to performance based on data collected by the Office of the Social Fund Commissioner ("OSFC") through our casework.

#### Who produces the reports?

The report is prepared by the OSFC. If you would like to raise an issue or if you want more information please contact OSFC on 0808 127 0417 or by e-mail at <a href="mailto:sfc@dsdni.gsi.gov.uk">sfc@dsdni.gsi.gov.uk</a>.

## How often are reports issued?

A Statistical Report is produced every 3 months. This report covers the period 1 July 2016 to 30 September 2016.

#### How to interpret the information about the quality of decision making

An Inspector's review has one of three outcomes, to:

- o **confirm** the Reviewing Officer's decision. The confirmation rate is the percentage of decisions where the outcome remained the same;
- o **substitute** a new decision with a different outcome; or
- o **refer back** the matter to the Reviewing Officer.

The Inspector also records whether the Reviewing Officer handled the decision correctly in law. This is irrespective of the outcome, so that a:

- o confirmed decision could have been handled wrongly in law
- o correctly made decision could be substituted (e.g. on new information)

The "correct rate" is the percentage of decisions in which all the crucial issues are handled correctly. A low "correct rate" therefore suggests a need for technical training.

It is also important to examine the relationship between "confirmations" and "correct rates". If the confirmation rate is lower than the correct rate this indicates new information frequently came out at the Inspector stage. Could this information have been obtained earlier? Alternatively, if the confirmation rate is higher than the correct rate, training may be required.

## How to focus training in the right areas

This Report provides a further breakdown of the decisions so that it is possible to focus training and development in the right areas.

- Firstly, by showing the reasons for substituting a community care grant or crisis loan.
   It is possible for there to be more than one reason. This includes the total percentage of cases where important new information was obtained regardless of whether the decision was correct.
- Secondly, by detailing why Inspectors concluded Reviewing Officer's decisions were not handled correctly.

The top section of the breakdown of issues table shows the number of decisions where the Inspector concluded that the Reviewing Officer's decision was incorrect (i.e. Direction 1 error). If there was an error, the reason could have been a rationality error, a natural justice error, a law error, or a combination of the above. If the error was a law error, further details are provided. The table therefore shows the frequency of an error, which can be compared to the frequency across the region.

## How to use the tables on time to process

The time to process tables provide information on performance against:

- Reviewing Officer process time 10 days (CCGs & BLs). This is the time from receipt of the request for review, to the date of the Reviewing Officer's decision; and
- Cases received within 4 days. This is the time from when an applicant asked for an
  independent review and papers were requested from the SSA, to the day the case papers
  arrived at the OSFC.

#### **Comments on Statistical Report**

OSFC welcomes comments from District Managers on any aspect of the statistical information provided, including suggestions as to how you feel this Statistical Report may be improved. Your comments should be sent to the office manager at <a href="mailto:sfc@dsdni.gsi.gov.uk">sfc@dsdni.gsi.gov.uk</a>

#### **Falls District**

## **Community Care Grants**

#### Quality – confirmation and error rates

	Region	Falls
% decisions confirmed	59.7%	58.8%
% decisions handled correctly	60.1%	41.2%

The OSFC confirms a below average percentage of decisions from Falls. The percentage of decisions with all issues handled correctly is below the regional average.

#### Reasons for community care grant substitutions

Inspectors substituted 41.2% of community care grant decisions. This is above the regional average of 35.1%.

	Region	Falls
Incorrect	59.8%	85.7%

An above average percentage of grant decisions are substituted due to the Reviewing Officer's decision being incorrectly made.

	Region	Falls
New Information	40.2%	14.3%

This is the total percentage of cases where important new information was obtained – regardless of whether the decision was correct.

	Region	Falls
SFI invoked Direction 49	3.4%	0.0%

The Inspector was the first person to consider a grant in a below average number of crisis loan cases.

#### Breakdown of issues

The issues with the most common law errors are shown below. In brackets is this number expressed as a percentage of the total number of cases which had this as a key issue:

Most common law errors	Region	Most common law errors	Falls
Issue		Issue	
Inquisitorial role	32 (82.1%)	Inquisitorial role	6 (100%)
Direction 4 - Qualification	26 (13.8%)	Direction 4 - Qualification	6 (25.0%)
Priority	13 (31.7%)	No offer of interview	4 (100%)

- Inquisitorial role in other words the Reviewing Officer failed to ask crucial questions where more information was needed.
- Priority for example the priority decision reached was not a reasonable one on the available evidence or irrelevant factors were taken into account or relevant factors not addressed.
- Qualification for example the law was misinterpreted, the wrong test was applied, or the decision reached was not a reasonable one on the available evidence.

#### Time to process

_	Region	Falls
% reviews cleared (10 working days)	78.2%	64.3%

The percentage cleared within 10 working days is below the Regional average.

#### **Crisis Loans**

#### Quality – confirmation and error rates

	Region	Falls
% decisions confirmed	85.3%	80.0%
% decisions handled correctly	88.7%	76.0%

The OSFC confirms a below average percentage of decisions from Falls. The percentage of decisions with all issues handled correctly is below the regional average.

#### Reasons for crisis loan substitutions

Inspectors substituted 20.0% of crisis loan decisions. This is above the regional average of 12.5%.

	Region	Falls
Incorrect	45.5%	40.0%

A below average percentage of decisions are substituted due to the Reviewing Officer's decision being incorrectly made.

	Region	Falls
New information	27.3%	40.0%

This is the total percentage of cases where important new information was obtained – regardless of whether the decision was correct.

	Region	Falls
SFI used Direction 49	0.0%	0.0%

The Inspector was the first person to consider a crisis loan in an equal percentage of grant cases.

#### Breakdown of issues

The issues with the most common law errors are shown below. In brackets is this number expressed as a percentage of the total number of cases which had this as a key issue:

Most common law errors	Region	Most common law errors	Falls
Issue		Issue	
Natural justice	7 (87.5%)	Natural justice	4 (100%)
Inquisitorial role	4 (100%)	No offer of interview	1 (100%)
Other issues	4 (80.0%)	Exclusions	1 (50.0%)

- Inquisitorial role in other words the Reviewing Officer failed to ask crucial questions where more information was needed
- Exclusions in other words an award has been made for an item which is excluded by the directions, or where an item has been incorrectly excluded (e.g. where too wide an interpretation of an exclusion has been applied).
- Natural justice the applicant has not been given a fair opportunity to state his case or to know the case against him.

#### **Lisburn District**

## **Community Care Grants**

#### **Quality – confirmation and error rates**

	Region	Lisburn
% decisions confirmed	59.7%	60.0%
% decisions handled correctly	60.1%	53.3%

The OSFC confirms an above average percentage of decisions from Lisburn. The percentage of decisions with all issues handled correctly is below the regional average.

#### Reasons for community care grant substitutions

Inspectors substituted 40.0% of community care grant decisions. This is above the regional average of 35.1%.

	Region	Lisburn
Incorrect	59.8%	75.0%

An above average percentage of grant decisions are substituted due to the Reviewing Officer's decision being incorrectly made.

	Region	Lisburn
New Information	40.2%	25.0%

This is the total percentage of cases where important new information was obtained – regardless of whether the decision was correct.

	Region	Lisburn
SFI invoked Direction 49	3.4%	0.0%

The Inspector was the first person to consider a grant in a below average number of crisis loan cases.

#### Breakdown of issues

The issues with the most common law errors are shown below. In brackets is this number expressed as a percentage of the total number of cases which had this as a key issue:

Most common law errors	Region	Most common law errors	Lisburn
Issue		Issue	
Inquisitorial role	32 (82.1%)	Inquisitorial role	5 (100%)
Direction 4 - Qualification	26 (13.8%)	Direction 4 - Qualification	5 (22.7%)
Priority	13 (31.7%)	Priority	3 (75.0%)

- Inquisitorial role in other words the Reviewing Officer failed to ask crucial questions where more information was needed.
- Priority for example the priority decision reached was not a reasonable one on the available evidence or irrelevant factors were taken into account or relevant factors not addressed.
- Qualification for example the law was misinterpreted, the wrong test was applied, or the decision reached was not a reasonable one on the available evidence.

#### Time to process

	Region	Lisburn
% reviews cleared (10 working days)	78.2%	65.6%

The percentage cleared within 10 working days is below the Regional average.

#### **Crisis Loans**

#### **Quality – confirmation and error rates**

	Region	Lisburn
% decisions confirmed	85.3%	68.2%
% decisions handled correctly	88.7%	86.4%

The OSFC confirms a below average percentage of decisions from Lisburn. The percentage of decisions with all issues handled correctly is below the regional average.

#### Reasons for crisis loan substitutions

Inspectors substituted 27.3% of crisis loan decisions. This is above the regional average of 12.5%.

	Region	Lisburn
Incorrect	45.5%	33.3%

A below average percentage of decisions are substituted due to the Reviewing Officer's decision being incorrectly made.

	Region	Lisburn
New information	27.3%	0.0%

This is the total percentage of cases where important new information was obtained – regardless of whether the decision was correct.

	Region	Lisburn
SFI used Direction 49	0.0%	0.0%

The Inspector was the first person to consider a crisis loan in an equal percentage of grant cases.

#### Breakdown of issues

The issues with the most common law errors are shown below. In brackets is this number expressed as a percentage of the total number of cases which had this as a key issue:

Most common law errors	Region	Most common law errors	Lisburn
Issue		Issue	
Natural justice	7 (87.5%)	Exclusions	1 (100%)
Inquisitorial role	4 (100%)	Inquisitorial role	1 (100%)
Other issues	4 (80.0%)	Natural justice	1 (100%)

- Inquisitorial role in other words the Reviewing Officer failed to ask crucial questions where more information was needed.
- Exclusions in other words an award has been made for an item which is excluded by the directions, or where an item has been incorrectly excluded (e.g. where too wide an interpretation of an exclusion has been applied).
- Natural justice the applicant has not been given a fair opportunity to state his case or to know the case against him.

# **Knockbreda & Downpatrick District**

## **Community Care Grants**

#### **Quality – confirmation and error rates**

	Region	Knockbreda & Downpatrick
% decisions confirmed	59.7%	61.0%
% decisions handled correctly	60.1%	67.8%

The OSFC confirms an above average percentage of decisions from Knockbreda & Downpatrick. The percentage of decisions with all issues handled correctly is above the regional average.

#### Reasons for community care grant substitutions

Inspectors substituted 28.8% of community care grant decisions. This is below the regional average of 35.1%.

	Region	Knockbreda & Downpatrick
Incorrect	59.8%	41.2%

A below average percentage of grant decisions are substituted due to the Reviewing Officer's decision being incorrectly made.

	Region	Knockbreda & Downpatrick
New Information	40.2%	58.8%

This is the total percentage of cases where important new information was obtained – regardless of whether the decision was correct.

	Region	Knockbreda & Downpatrick
SFI invoked Direction 49	3.4%	5.9%

The Inspector was the first person to consider a grant in an above average number of crisis loan cases.

#### **Breakdown of issues**

The issues with the most common law errors are shown below. In brackets is this number expressed as a percentage of the total number of cases which had this as a key issue:

Most common law errors		Most common law errors	Knockbreda
	Region		&
Issue	_	Issue	Downpatrick
Inquisitorial role	32 (82.1%)	Inquisitorial role	6 (100%)

Direction 4 - Qualification	26 (13.8%)	Priority	5 (41.7%)
Priority	13 (31.7%)	Exclusions	2 (100%)

The most common crucial issues are:

- Inquisitorial role in other words the Reviewing Officer failed to ask crucial questions where more information was needed.
- Priority for example the priority decision reached was not a reasonable one on the available evidence or irrelevant factors were taken into account or relevant factors not addressed.
- Qualification for example the law was misinterpreted, the wrong test was applied, or the decision reached was not a reasonable one on the available evidence.
- Exclusions in other words an award has been made for an item which is excluded by the directions, or where an item has been incorrectly excluded (e.g. where too wide an interpretation of an exclusion has been applied).

Time to process

	Region	Knockbreda & Downpatrick
% reviews cleared (10 working days)	78.2%	89.5%

The percentage cleared within 10 working days is above the Regional average.

#### **Crisis Loans**

#### **Quality – confirmation and error rates**

	Region	Knockbreda & Downpatrick
% decisions confirmed	85.3%	83.8%
% decisions handled correctly	88.7%	83.8%

The OSFC confirms a below average percentage of decisions from Knockbreda & Downpatrick. The percentage of decisions with all issues handled correctly is below the regional average.

#### Reasons for crisis loan substitutions

Inspectors substituted 13.9% of crisis loan decisions. This is above the regional average of 12.5%.

	Region	Knockbreda & Downpatrick
Incorrect	45.5%	60.0%

An above average percentage of decisions are substituted due to the Reviewing Officer's decision being incorrectly made.

Dagion	Knockbreda &
Region	Downpatrick

New information	27.3%	20.0%

This is the total percentage of cases where important new information was obtained – regardless of whether the decision was correct.

	Region	Knockbreda & Downpatrick
SFI used Direction 49	0.0%	0.0%

The Inspector was the first person to consider a crisis loan in an equal percentage of grant cases.

#### **Breakdown of issues**

The issues with the most common law errors are shown below. In brackets is this number expressed as a percentage of the total number of cases which had this as a key issue:

Most common law errors		Most common law errors	Knockbreda
	Region		&
Issue		Issue	Downpatrick
Natural justice	7 (87.5%)	Other issues	2 (100%)
Inquisitorial role	4 (100%)	Inquisitorial role	2 (100%)
Other issues	4 (80.0%)	Exclusions	1 (100%)

- Inquisitorial role in other words the Reviewing Officer failed to ask crucial questions where more information was needed.
- Exclusions in other words an award has been made for an item which is excluded by the directions, or where an item has been incorrectly excluded (e.g. where too wide an interpretation of an exclusion has been applied).
- Natural justice the applicant has not been given a fair opportunity to state his case or to know the case against him.

#### **Antrim District**

## **Community Care Grants**

#### **Quality – confirmation and error rates**

	Region	Antrim
% decisions confirmed	59.7%	60.6%
% decisions handled correctly	60.1%	63.6%

The OSFC confirms an above average percentage of decisions from Antrim. The percentage of decisions with all issues handled correctly is above the regional average.

#### Reasons for community care grant substitutions

Inspectors substituted 33.3% of community care grant decisions. This is below the regional average of 35.1%.

	Region	Antrim
Incorrect	59.8%	54.5%

A below average percentage of grant decisions are substituted due to the Reviewing Officer's decision being incorrectly made.

	Region	Antrim
New Information	40.2%	45.5%

This is the total percentage of cases where important new information was obtained – regardless of whether the decision was correct.

	Region	Antrim
SFI invoked Direction 49	3.4%	0.0%

The Inspector was the first person to consider a grant in a below average number of crisis loan cases.

#### **Breakdown of issues**

The issues with the most common law errors are shown below. In brackets is this number expressed as a percentage of the total number of cases which had this as a key issue:

Most common law errors	Region	Most common law errors	Antrim
Issue		Issue	
Inquisitorial role	32 (82.1%)	Direction 4 - Qualification	4 (14.8%)
Direction 4 - Qualification	26 (13.8%)	Natural justice	2 (66.7%)
Priority	13 (31.7%)	Inquisitorial role	2 (50.0%)

- Inquisitorial role in other words the Reviewing Officer failed to ask crucial questions where more information was needed.
- Priority for example the priority decision reached was not a reasonable one on the available evidence or irrelevant factors were taken into account or relevant factors not addressed.
- Qualification for example the law was misinterpreted, the wrong test was applied, or the decision reached was not a reasonable one on the available evidence.
- Natural justice the applicant has not been given a fair opportunity to state his case or to know the case against him.

#### Time to process

	Region	Antrim
% reviews cleared (10 working days)	78.2%	85.2%

The percentage cleared within 10 working days is above the Regional average.

#### **Crisis Loans**

#### **Quality – confirmation and error rates**

	Region	Antrim
% decisions confirmed	85.3%	89.7%
% decisions handled correctly	88.7%	89.7%

The OSFC confirms an above average percentage of decisions from Antrim. The percentage of decisions with all issues handled correctly is above the regional average.

#### Reasons for crisis loan substitutions

Inspectors substituted 3.4% of crisis loan decisions. This is below the regional average of 12.5%.

	Region	Antrim
Incorrect	45.5%	100%

An above average percentage of decisions are substituted due to the Reviewing Officer's decision being incorrectly made.

	Region	Antrim
New information	27.3%	0.0%

This is the total percentage of cases where important new information was obtained – regardless of whether the decision was correct.

	Region	Antrim
SFI used Direction 49	0.0%	0.0%

The Inspector was the first person to consider a crisis loan in an equal percentage of grant cases.

#### **Breakdown of issues**

The issues with the most common law errors are shown below. In brackets is this number expressed as a percentage of the total number of cases which had this as a key issue:

Most common law errors	Region	Most common law errors	Antrim
Issue		Issue	
Natural justice	7 (87.5%)	Other issues	1 (100%)
Inquisitorial role	4 (100%)	Natural justice	1 (100%)
Other issues	4 (80.0%)	Direction 3 - Qualification	1 (4.0%)

- Inquisitorial role in other words the Reviewing Officer failed to ask crucial questions where more information was needed.
- Qualification for example the law was misinterpreted, the wrong test was applied, or the decision reached was not a reasonable one on the available evidence.
- Natural justice the applicant has not been given a fair opportunity to state his case or to know the case against him.

# **Armagh District**

## **Community Care Grants**

#### Quality – confirmation and error rates

	Region	Armagh
% decisions confirmed	59.7%	63.5%
% decisions handled correctly	60.1%	75.0%

The OSFC confirms an above average percentage of decisions from Armagh. The percentage of decisions with all issues handled correctly is above the regional average.

#### Reasons for community care grant substitutions

Inspectors substituted 32.7% of community care grant decisions. This is below the regional average of 35.1%.

	Region	Armagh
Incorrect	59.8%	47.1%

A below average percentage of grant decisions are substituted due to the Reviewing Officer's decision being incorrectly made.

	Region	Armagh
New Information	40.2%	52.9%

This is the total percentage of cases where important new information was obtained – regardless of whether the decision was correct.

	Region	Armagh
SFI invoked Direction 49	3.4%	5.9%

The Inspector was the first person to consider a grant in an above average number of crisis loan cases.

#### **Breakdown of issues**

The issues with the most common law errors are shown below. In brackets is this number expressed as a percentage of the total number of cases which had this as a key issue:

Most common law errors	Region	Most common law errors	Armagh
Issue		Issue	
Inquisitorial role	32 (82.1%)	Inquisitorial role	4 (57.1%)
Direction 4 - Qualification	26 (13.8%)	Direction 4 - Qualification	4 (8.7%)
Priority	13 (31.7%)	Priority	2 (15.4%)

- Inquisitorial role in other words the Reviewing Officer failed to ask crucial questions where more information was needed.
- Priority for example the priority decision reached was not a reasonable one on the
  available evidence or irrelevant factors were taken into account or relevant factors not
  addressed.
- Qualification for example the law was misinterpreted, the wrong test was applied, or the decision reached was not a reasonable one on the available evidence.

#### Time to process

	Region	Armagh
% reviews cleared (10 working days)	78.2%	71.7%

The percentage cleared within 10 working days is below the Regional average.

#### Crisis Loans

#### **Quality – confirmation and error rates**

	Region	Armagh
% decisions confirmed	85.3%	89.2%
% decisions handled correctly	88.7%	94.6%

The OSFC confirms an above average percentage of decisions from Armagh. The percentage of decisions with all issues handled correctly is above the regional average.

#### Reasons for crisis loan substitutions

Inspectors substituted 10.8% of crisis loan decisions. This is below the regional average of 12.5%.

	Region	Armagh
Incorrect	45.5%	50.0%

An above average percentage of decisions are substituted due to the Reviewing Officer's decision being incorrectly made.

	Region	Armagh
New information	27.3%	50.0%

This is the total percentage of cases where important new information was obtained – regardless of whether the decision was correct.

	Region	Armagh
SFI used Direction 49	0.0%	0.0%

The Inspector was the first person to consider a crisis loan in an equal percentage of grant cases.

#### **Breakdown of issues**

The issues with the most common law errors are shown below. In brackets is this number expressed as a percentage of the total number of cases which had this as a key issue:

Most common law errors		Most common law errors	
	Region		Armagh
Issue		Issue	
Natural justice	7 (87.5%)	Inquisitorial role	1 (100%)
Inquisitorial role	4 (100%)	Direction 3 - Qualification	1 (2.9%)
Other issues	4 (80.0%)		

- Inquisitorial role in other words the Reviewing Officer failed to ask crucial questions where more information was needed.
- Qualification for example the law was misinterpreted, the wrong test was applied, or the decision reached was not a reasonable one on the available evidence.
- Natural justice the applicant has not been given a fair opportunity to state his case or to know the case against him.

# **foyle District**

# **Community Care Grants**

#### Quality – confirmation and error rates

	Region	foyle
% decisions confirmed	59.7%	52.5%
% decisions handled correctly	60.1%	47.5%

The OSFC confirms a below average percentage of decisions from foyle. The percentage of decisions with all issues handled correctly is below the regional average.

#### Reasons for community care grant substitutions

Inspectors substituted 40.0% of community care grant decisions. This is above the regional average of 35.1%.

	Region	foyle
Incorrect	59.8%	62.5%

An above average percentage of grant decisions are substituted due to the Reviewing Officer's decision being incorrectly made.

	Region	foyle
New Information	40.2%	37.5%

This is the total percentage of cases where important new information was obtained – regardless of whether the decision was correct.

	Region	foyle
SFI invoked Direction 49	3.4%	6.3%

The Inspector was the first person to consider a grant in an above average number of crisis loan cases.

#### Breakdown of issues

The issues with the most common law errors are shown below. In brackets is this number expressed as a percentage of the total number of cases which had this as a key issue:

Most common law errors	Region	Most common law errors	foyle
Issue		Issue	-
Inquisitorial role	32 (82.1%)	Inquisitorial role	9 (81.8%)
Direction 4 - Qualification	26 (13.8%)	Direction 4 - Qualification	5 (20.8%)
Priority	13 (31.7%)	Natural justice	2 (100%)

- Inquisitorial role in other words the Reviewing Officer failed to ask crucial questions where more information was needed.
- Priority for example the priority decision reached was not a reasonable one on the available evidence or irrelevant factors were taken into account or relevant factors not addressed.
- Qualification for example the law was misinterpreted, the wrong test was applied, or the decision reached was not a reasonable one on the available evidence.
- Natural justice the applicant has not been given a fair opportunity to state his case or to know the case against him.

#### Time to process

	Region	foyle
% reviews cleared (10 working days)	78.2%	90.7%

The percentage cleared within 10 working days is above the Regional average.

#### **Crisis Loans**

#### Quality – confirmation and error rates

	Region	foyle
% decisions confirmed	85.3%	96.3%
% decisions handled correctly	88.7%	100%

The OSFC confirms an above average percentage of decisions from foyle. The percentage of decisions with all issues handled correctly is above the regional average.

#### Reasons for crisis loan substitutions

Inspectors substituted 3.7% of crisis loan decisions. This is below the regional average of 12.5%.

	Region	foyle
Incorrect	45.5%	0.0%

A below average percentage of decisions are substituted due to the Reviewing Officer's decision being incorrectly made.

	Region	foyle
New information	27.3%	100%

This is the total percentage of cases where important new information was obtained – regardless of whether the decision was correct.

	Region	foyle
SFI used Direction 49	0.0%	0.0%

The Inspector was the first person to consider a crisis loan in an equal percentage of grant cases.

#### **Breakdown of issues**

The issues with the most common law errors are shown below. In brackets is this number expressed as a percentage of the total number of cases which had this as a key issue:

Most common law errors		Most common law errors	
	Region		foyle
Issue		Issue	
Natural justice	7 (87.5%)		
Inquisitorial role	4 (100%)		
Other issues	4 (80.0%)		

- Inquisitorial role in other words the Reviewing Officer failed to ask crucial questions where more information was needed.
- Natural justice the applicant has not been given a fair opportunity to state his case or to know the case against him.

# Appendix 1

# **Quality of Decisions**

	To	<b>Total Decisions</b>		CCG Confirmed			CL Confirmed			BL Confirmed		
DISTRICT	Total	Con- firmed	%	Total	Con- firmed	%	Total	Con- firmed	%	Total	Con- firmed	%
Antrim	65	47	72.3%	33	20	60.6%	29	26	89.7%	3	1	33.3%
Armagh	91	67	73.6%	52	33	63.5%	37	33	89.2%	2	1	50.0%
Falls Road	59	40	67.8%	34	20	58.8%	25	20	80.0%	0	0	0.0%
Foyle	67	47	70.1%	40	21	52.5%	27	26	96.3%	0	0	0.0%
Knockbreda & Downpatrick	96	67	69.8%	59	36	61.0%	37	31	83.8%	0	0	0.0%
Lisburn	54	35	64.8%	30	18	60.0%	22	15	68.2%	2	2	100.0%
Total	432	303	70.1%	248	148	59.7%	177	151	85.3%	7	4	57.1%

# **Issues Handled Correctly**

District	Te	Total Decisions			CCG Correct			CL Correct			BL Correct		
District	Total	Correct	%	Total	Correct	%	Total	Correct	%	Total	Correct	%	
Antrim	65	48	73.8%	33	21	63.6%	29	26	89.7%	3	1	33.3%	
Armagh	91	75	82.4%	52	39	75.0%	37	35	94.6%	2	1	50.0%	
Falls Road	59	33	55.9%	34	14	41.2%	25	19	76.0%	0	0	0.0%	
Foyle	67	48	71.6%	40	19	47.5%	27	27	100.0%	0	0	0.0%	
Knockbreda &													
Downpatrick	96	75	78.1%	59	40	67.8%	37	31	83.8%	0	0	0.0%	
Lisburn	54	37	68.5%	30	16	53.3%	22	19	86.4%	2	2	100.0%	
Total	432	316	73.1%	248	149	60.1%	177	157	88.7%	7	4	57.1%	

# **CCG Substitutions**

District	Total Substituted			Substi Incor		(all decise new info	ormation sions with ormation, oth neorrect)	SFI Invoked Dir 49 (all decisions with new information, both correct/incorrect)		
	Total	Substituted	%	Number	%	Number %		Number	%	
Antrim	33	11	33.3%	6	54.5%	5	45.5%	0	0.0%	
Armagh	52	17	32.7%	8	47.1%	9	52.9%	1	5.9%	
Falls Road	34	14	41.2%	12	85.7%	2	14.3%	0	0.0%	
Foyle	40	16	40.0%	10	62.5%	6	37.5%	1	6.3%	
Knockbreda &										
Downpatrick	59	17	28.8%	7	41.2%	10	58.8%	1	5.9%	
Lisburn	30	12	40.0%	9	75.0%	3	25.0%	0	0.0%	
Total	248	87	35.1%	52	59.8%	35	40.2%	3	3.4%	

# **CL Substitutions**

District	Total Substituted		Incorrect decisinfor		New Inform decisions v informatio correct/ind	vith new on, both	SFI Invoked Dir 49 (all decisions with new information, both correct/incorrect)		
	Total	Substituted	<b>%</b>	Number	%	Number	<b>%</b>	Number	%
Antrim	29	1	3.4%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Armagh	37	4	10.8%	2	50.0%	2	50.0%	0	0.0%
Falls Road	25	5	20.0%	2	40.0%	2	40.0%	0	0.0%
Foyle	27	1	3.7%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%
Knockbreda &									
Downpatrick	36	5	13.9%	3	60.0%	1	20.0%	0	0.0%
Lisburn	22	6	27.3%	2	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	176	22	12.5%	10	45.5%	6	27.3%	0	0.0%

## **Northern Ireland**

	Total					
Number of decisions	24	248				
Number with issues handled						
incorrectly	86	34.7%	Rig	ht	$\mathbf{W}$	rong
Facts or Evidence	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Unfairness or bias	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
No offer of interview	7	1.9%	0	0.0%	7	100.0%
Dir-4 Qualification	189	50.9%	163	86.2%	26	13.8%
Other Issues	5	1.3%	0	0.0%	5	100.0%
Eligibility	8	2.2%	6	75.0%	2	25.0%
Inquisitorial Role	39	10.5%	7	17.9%	32	82.1%
Direction 7	3	0.8%	1	33.3%	2	66.7%
Exclusions	5	1.3%	2	40.0%	3	60.0%
Priority	41	11.1%	28	68.3%	13	31.7%
Amount of Award	8	2.2%	6	75.0%	2	25.0%
Natural Justice	14	3.8%	3	21.4%	11	78.6%
Direction 49	52	14.0%	51	98.1%	1	1.9%
	371		267	72.0%	104	28.0%

<sup>\*\*</sup> The total number of issues may be greater than the total number of decisions.

**Falls** 

	To	tal					
Number of decisions	34						
Number with issues							
handled incorrectly	20	58.8%	Ri	ght	$\mathbf{W}$	Wrong	
Facts or Evidence	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Unfairness or bias	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
No offer of interview	4	7.4%	0	0.0%	4	100.0%	
Dir-4 Qualification	24	44.4%	18	75.0%	6	25.0%	
Other Issues	1	1.9%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	
Eligibility	1	1.9%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	
Inquisitorial Role	6	11.1%	0	0.0%	6	100.0%	
Direction 7	1	1.9%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	
Exclusions	2	3.7%	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	
Priority	3	5.6%	2	66.7%	1	33.3%	
Amount of Award	1	1.9%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Natural Justice	4	7.4%	0	0.0%	4	100.0%	
Direction 49	7	13.0%	7	100.0%	0	0.0%	
	54		29	53.7%	25	46.3%	

<sup>\*\*</sup> The total number of issues may be greater than the total number of decisions.

## Lisburn

	To	tal					
Number of decisions	30	0					
Number with issues							
handled incorrectly	14	46.7%	Ri	ght	W	Wrong	
Facts or Evidence	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Unfairness or bias	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
No offer of interview	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Dir-4 Qualification	22	52.4%	17	77.3%	5	22.7%	
Other Issues	1	2.4%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	
Eligibility	2	4.8%	2	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Inquisitorial Role	5	11.9%	0	0.0%	5	100.0%	
Direction 7	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Exclusions	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Priority	4	9.5%	1	25.0%	3	75.0%	
Amount of Award	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Natural Justice	1	2.4%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	
Direction 49	7	16.7%	7	100.0%	0	0.0%	
	42		27	64.3%	15	35.7%	

<sup>\*\*</sup> The total number of issues may be greater than the total number of decisions.

# Knockbreda & Downpatrick

	То	tal					
Number of decisions	5	9					
Number with issues							
handled incorrectly	13	22.0%	Ri	ght	W	Wrong	
Facts or Evidence	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Unfairness or bias	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
No offer of interview	1	1.2%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	
Dir-4 Qualification	46	53.5%	44	95.7%	2	4.3%	
Other Issues	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Eligibility	1	1.2%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Inquisitorial Role	6	7.0%	0	0.0%	6	100.0%	
Direction 7	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Exclusions	2	2.3%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%	
Priority	12	14.0%	7	58.3%	5	41.7%	
Amount of Award	3	3.5%	3	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Natural Justice	4	4.7%	2	50.0%	2	50.0%	
Direction 49	11	12.8%	11	100.0%	0	0.0%	
	86		68	79.1%	18	20.9%	

<sup>\*\*</sup> The total number of issues may be greater than the total number of decisions.

## Antrim

	To	tal					
Number of decisions	3	3					
Number with issues							
handled incorrectly	10	30.3%	Ri	ght	W	Wrong	
Facts or Evidence	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Unfairness or bias	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
No offer of interview	1	2.1%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	
Dir-4 Qualification	27	57.4%	23	85.2%	4	14.8%	
Other Issues	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Eligibility	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Inquisitorial Role	4	8.5%	2	50.0%	2	50.0%	
Direction 7	1	2.1%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	
Exclusions	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Priority	3	6.4%	3	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Amount of Award	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Natural Justice	3	6.4%	1	33.3%	2	66.7%	
Direction 49	8	17.0%	7	87.5%	1	12.5%	
	47		36	76.6%	11	23.4%	

<sup>\*\*</sup> The total number of issues may be greater than the total number of decisions.

# Armagh

	To	tal					
Number of decisions	5	52					
Number with issues							
handled incorrectly	11	21.2%	Ri	ight	$\mathbf{W}$	Wrong	
Facts or Evidence	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Unfairness or bias	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
No offer of interview	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Dir-4 Qualification	46	54.1%	42	91.3%	4	8.7%	
Other Issues	1	1.2%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	
Eligibility	1	1.2%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Inquisitorial Role	7	8.2%	3	42.9%	4	57.1%	
Direction 7	1	1.2%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Exclusions	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Priority	13	15.3%	11	84.6%	2	15.4%	
Amount of Award	2	2.4%	2	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Natural Justice	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Direction 49	14	16.5%	14	100.0%	0	0.0%	
	85		74	87.1%	11	12.9%	

<sup>\*\*</sup> The total number of issues may be greater than the total number of decisions.

Foyle

	To	tal					
Number of decisions	4	-0					
Number with issues							
handled incorrectly	18	45.0%	Ri	ght	W	Wrong	
Facts or Evidence	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Unfairness or bias	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
No offer of interview	1	1.8%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	
Dir-4 Qualification	24	42.1%	19	79.2%	5	20.8%	
Other Issues	2	3.5%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%	
Eligibility	3	5.3%	2	66.7%	1	33.3%	
Inquisitorial Role	11	19.3%	2	18.2%	9	81.8%	
Direction 7	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Exclusions	1	1.8%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Priority	6	10.5%	4	66.7%	2	33.3%	
Amount of Award	2	3.5%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%	
Natural Justice	2	3.5%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%	
Direction 49	5	8.8%	5	100.0%	0	0.0%	
	57		33	57.9%	24	42.1%	

<sup>\*\*</sup> The total number of issues may be greater than the total number of decisions.

## **Northern Ireland**

	Total						
Number of decisions	17	7					
Number with issues handled incorrectly	20	11.3%	Right		W	Wrong	
Facts or Evidence	3	1.6%	3	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Unfairness or bias	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
No offer of interview	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	
Dir-3 Qualification	154	82.4%	150	97.4%	4	2.6%	
Other Issues	5	2.7%	1	20.0%	4	80.0%	
Eligibility	4	2.1%	4	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Inquisitorial Role	4	2.1%	0	0.0%	4	100.0%	
Direction 7	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Exclusions	4	2.1%	1	25.0%	3	75.0%	
Priority	1	0.5%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Amount of Award	1	0.5%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Direction 49	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Withdrawn	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Repayability	2	1.1%	2	100.0%	0	0.0%	
TFM	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Natural Justice	8	4.3%	1	12.5%	7	87.5%	
Jurisdiction	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
	187		164	87.7%	23	12.3%	

<sup>\*\*</sup> The total number of issues may be greater than the total number of decisions.

**Falls** 

	To	tal					
Number of decisions	2:	5					
Number with issues handled incorrectly	6	24.0%	Right		w	Wrong	
Facts or Evidence	1	3.6%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Unfairness or bias	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
No offer of interview	1	3.6%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	
Dir-3 Qualification	20	71.4%	20	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Other Issues	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Eligibility	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Inquisitorial Role	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Direction 7	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Exclusions	2	7.1%	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	
Priority	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Amount of Award	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Direction 49	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Withdrawn	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Repayability	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
TFM	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Natural Justice	4	14.3%	0	0.0%	4	100.0%	
Jurisdiction	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
	28		22	78.6%	6	21.4%	

<sup>\*\*</sup> The total number of issues may be greater than the total number of decisions.

## Lisburn

	Tot	al				
Number of decisions	22	2				
Number with issues handled incorrectly	3 13.6%		Rig	ht	Wrong	
Facts or Evidence	1	4.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%
Unfairness or bias	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
No offer of interview	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Dir-3 Qualification	17	68.0%	16	94.1%	1	5.9%
Other Issues	2	8.0%	1	50.0%	1	50.0%
Eligibility	1	4.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%
Inquisitorial Role	1	4.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
Direction 7	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Exclusions	1	4.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
Priority	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Amount of Award	1	4.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%
Direction 49	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Withdrawn	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Repayability	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
TFM	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Natural Justice	1	4.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
Jurisdiction	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	25		20	80.0%	5	20.0%

<sup>\*\*</sup> The total number of issues may be greater than the total number of decisions.

# Knockbreda & Downpatrick

	Tot	al				
Number of decisions	37	7				
Number with issues handled						
incorrectly	6	16.2%	Rigl	nt	W	rong
Facts or Evidence	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Unfairness or bias	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
No offer of interview	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Dir-3 Qualification	31	81.6%	30	96.8%	1	3.2%
Other Issues	2	5.3%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%
Eligibility	1	2.6%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%
Inquisitorial Role	2	5.3%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%
Direction 7	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Exclusions	1	2.6%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
Priority	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Amount of Award	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Direction 49	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Withdrawn	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Repayability	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
TFM	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Natural Justice	1	2.6%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
Jurisdiction	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	38		31	81.6%	7	18.4%

<sup>\*\*</sup> The total number of issues may be greater than the total number of decisions.

## Antrim

	To	tal				
Number of decisions	29					
Number with issues handled incorrectly	3 10.3%		Right		Wrong	
Facts or Evidence	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Unfairness or bias	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
No offer of interview	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Dir-3 Qualification	25	86.2%	24	96.0%	1	4.0%
Other Issues	1	3.4%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
Eligibility	1	3.4%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%
Inquisitorial Role	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Direction 7	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Exclusions	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Priority	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Amount of Award	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Direction 49	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Withdrawn	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Repayability	1	3.4%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%
TFM	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Natural Justice	1 3.4%		0	0.0%	1	100.0%
Jurisdiction	0 0.0%		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	29		26	89.7%	3	10.3%

<sup>\*\*</sup> The total number of issues may be greater than the total number of decisions.

# Armagh

	To	tal				
Number of decisions	37					
Number with issues handled incorrectly	2 5.4%		Right		Wrong	
Facts or Evidence	1	2.6%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%
Unfairness or bias	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
No offer of interview	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Dir-3 Qualification	35	89.7%	34	97.1%	1	2.9%
Other Issues	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Eligibility	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Inquisitorial Role	1	2.6%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%
Direction 7	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Exclusions	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Priority	1	2.6%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%
Amount of Award	0 0.0%		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Direction 49	0 0.0%		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Withdrawn	0 0.0%		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Repayability	0 0.0%		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
TFM	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Natural Justice	1 2.6%		1	100.0%	0	0.0%
Jurisdiction	0 0.0%		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	39		37	94.9%	2	5.1%

<sup>\*\*</sup> The total number of issues may be greater than the total number of decisions.

Foyle

	To	otal					
Number of decisions	27						
Number with issues handled							
incorrectly	0	0.0%	Ri	ght	Wrong		
Facts or Evidence	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Unfairness or bias	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
No offer of interview	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Dir-3 Qualification	26	92.9%	26	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Other Issues	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Eligibility	1	3.6%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	
Inquisitorial Role	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Direction 7	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Exclusions	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Priority	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Amount of Award	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Direction 49	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Withdrawn	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Repayability	1	3.6%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	
TFM	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Natural Justice	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
Jurisdiction	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	
	28		28	100.0%	0	0.0%	

<sup>\*\*</sup> The total number of issues may be greater than the total number of decisions.

# **Appendix 2 - Time to process**

**CCG & BL - Time to Process** 

		CC	G		BL				Combined CCG & BL						
		2nd S (reques revi				2nd Stage (request to RO review)				2nd Stage (request to RO review)		3rd Stage (request to papers rec'd)		Combined Time	
District	Number of Reviews	Within 10 days	%	Avg time taken (days)	Number of Reviews	Within 10 days	%	Avg time taken (days)	Number of Reviews	Within 10 days	%	Within 4 days	%	Within 14 days	%
Antrim	27	23	85.2%	5.5	3	3	100.0%	1	30	26	86.7%	30	100.0%	29	96.7%
Armagh	60	43	71.7%	8.6	1	1	100.0%	7	61	44	72.1%	60	98.4%	49	80.3%
Falls Road	42	27	64.3%	9	0	0	0.0%	0	42	27	64.3%	38	90.5%	30	71.4%
Foyle	43	39	90.7%	7.7	0	0	0.0%	0	43	39	90.7%	43	100.0%	42	97.7%
Knockbreda & Downpatrick	57	51	89.5%	6.2	0	0	0.0%	0	57	51	89.5%	55	96.5%	55	96.5%
Lisburn	32	21	65.6%	9.7	2	2	100.0%	2	34	23	67.6%	31	91.2%	25	73.5%
Total	261	204	78.2%	7.8	6	6	100.0%	1.7	267	210	78.7%	257	96.3%	230	86.1%

# **Appendix 3 – OSFC contacts**

Social Fund Commissioner	Mr Walter Rader OBE sfc@dsdni.gsi.gov.uk					
Statistical Reports	Nikki Croft 08081270417 sfc@dsdni.gsi.gov.uk					
Casework (for progress, information before the Inspector's decision)	Nikki Croft 08081270417 sfc@dsdni.gsi.gov.uk					
(for queries, complaints after the Inspector's decision)	Nikki Croft 08081270417 <b>sfc@dsdni.gsi.gov.uk</b>					
Leaflets and Publications	Nikki Croft 08081270417 sfc@dsdni.gsi.gov.uk					
OSFC website (contains a range of information and support including, quarterly and annual statistics reports, Corporate Plans and Annual Reports)	www.osfcni.org.uk					