

## **Belfast Corporation Housing Points Scheme**

This file contains the points scheme used by the Belfast Country Borough Council (Belfast Corporation) to allocate council houses from 1946 until the end of the 1960s. It was widely deemed to be uncontroversial.

It is therefore surprising that it is very similar to the points scheme used by the Londonderry Corporation, which can be found at <http://analogical.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/points.pdf>

The points scheme is included as Appendix 3 in the report of the Inspector for the Belfast Corporation Housing Allocations Inquiry in 1954. This investigated a case of good old fashioned non-sectarian corruption whereby housing applicants could acquire documentation which incorrectly represented them as being suspected of having tuberculosis (thus acquiring additional housing points) if they handed money to the right person.

The points scheme is reproduced by kind permission of the Deputy Keeper of Records, Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI). For researchers interested in viewing the original document, it can be found using the PRONI reference HE/1/2B/2.

APPENDIX 3

BELFAST CORPORATION (HOUSING SCHEMES)

**Points System for dealing with New Houses  
(Including Prefabricated Houses)**

The "points system," whereby priority groups of applicants are determined according to the circumstances of the cases as disclosed in the application forms, has been devised by the Corporation as a suitable method of allocation of houses to workers.

Service in H.M. Armed Forces or Merchant Navy ... .. One point for each completed year, maximum 4 points.

(Armed Forces include Army, R.A.F., Navy, Merchant Navy, A.T.S., W.A.A.F., W.R.N.S., and Nursing Services).  
(Points are given for the Service record of the applicant, who must be the person to whom the house would normally be let. If the applicant is a dependent of a deceased person who served, points are given for the Service record of the deceased).

Loss of home by enemy action ... .. Maximum 4 points.

**Tuberculosis—**

Each person with confirmed T.B. living at home ... .. 2 points  
Each T.B. suspect undergoing treatment ... .. 1 point } With a maximum of four points for a family.

**Children—**

Each child in excess of two under 16 years ... .. 1 point, maximum 3 points.

**Insanitary conditions—**

W.C. common to more than two families ... .. 1 point.

**Overcrowding—Minimum Standards:**

Man and wife—one bedroom. One child over 10 years—one bedroom. Each two persons over 10 years of same sex—one bedroom. Each two persons over 10 years of opposite sex—two bedrooms. If total family six or less—one living room. If total family seven or more—two living rooms. "Living room" means parlour, dining room or kitchen. Where a house is shared, the family is assumed to occupy half a common living room ... ..

**Ascertainment of points—**

Subtract number of rooms actually occupied from minimum standard and add 50 p.c. (ignore fractions). Example:

Say minimum standard 4 rooms.  
In actual use .. 1½ "  
Plus 50 p.c. 2¼ "  
3 points.

Evacuated in consequence of war conditions and living outside City of Belfast ... .. 2 points.

Discretionary points ... .. Maximum 5 points.

Date of application to be the deciding factor where applicants have equal points.