

Londonderry Corporation Housing Points Scheme

This file contains photographs of the two page points scheme used by the Londonderry County Borough Council (Londonderry Corporation) from 1946 to 1969 for the allocation of houses. When the Londonderry Corporation was suspended in 1969, its functions were taken over by the unelected Londonderry Development Commission, which initially used the very same points scheme to allocate houses.

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 in the file with the PRONI reference LA/79/12/AA/5. It is adjacent to the agenda for the Londonderry Corporation Housing Sub-Committee meeting of 14 November 1968.

Dr Paul Kingsley

LONDONDERRY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Housing "Points" Scheme.

The Housing Act (N.I.) 1945, which has for its object the provision of housing accommodation for workers, defines the expression "workers" as including "all persons working for wages, persons not working for wages but working at some trade or handicraft without employing others except members of their own families; and persons whose income in any case does not exceed an average of Eight Pounds per week; and includes the families of any such persons who may be residing with them." A residence qualification contained in the Housing Acts provides that any person shall not be accepted as a tenant unless such person has, during the whole of the period of seven years ending on the date of the letting been resident in the United Kingdom; any period during which a person has served outside the United Kingdom in time of War emergency, in the Armed Forces of the Crown, or in the Merchant Navy, or in the Mercantile Marine, shall be treated as a period during which he has been resident in the United Kingdom, or such person was born at some place which is situate within Northern Ireland.

Regulations dated 10th December, 1945, for the management of Housing accommodation, made by the Ministry of Health and Local Government under sections 23 and 29 of the Housing Act (N.I.) 1945, provide, inter alia (Clause 2) :

The maximum and minimum number of persons who may be permitted to occupy any housing accommodation to which these Regulations apply, or any letting thereof, shall be as set out hereunder.

<u>Number of Apartments.</u>	<u>Maximum Number of Persons.</u>	<u>Minimum Number of Persons.</u>
2	2	-
3	4	-
4	6	-
5	8	6
ex- ceeding 5	8 plus 2 in respect of each apartment exceeding 5.	6 plus 2 in respect of each apart- ment exceeding 5.

"Provided that, in calculating the maximum number of persons, children under the age of 10 years, up to a maximum of two, may be disregarded."

Regulations also require (Clause 3, paragraph (1)) that a housing authority in selecting tenants or occupiers in respect of accommodation to which the Regulations apply shall give a reasonable preference to persons who are not already in occupation of adequate accommodation, and paragraph (2) that a housing authority in selecting tenants or occupiers from the category of persons referred to in paragraph (1) shall give a reasonable preference to persons in that category who have served full-time in the Armed Forces of the Crown or the Merchant Navy or in the Mercantile Marine in time of war emergency, and the dependants of deceased persons who have so served and to those who have lost their homes as a result of enemy action.

ALLOCATION OF HOUSES - "POINTS" SYSTEM.

1. Service in H.M. Forces, Merchant Navy or Mercantile Marine in time of War Emergency

(Points given for Service record of applicant, who must be the person to whom the house would normally be let).

(If applicant is the dependant of a deceased person who served, points are given for service record of deceased).

1 Point for each completed year of service
(Maximum of 6 Points)
2. Loss of home by enemy action.

1 - 4 Points
3. Tuberculosis

Each person with confirmed T.B. living at home. 2 Points

Each T.B. suspect undergoing treatment 1 Point

} Max. of 4 Points for a family
4. Size of family

(a) Adults - for each adult member or other adults normally resident with the family. 1 Point

(b) Children - for each child under 10 years $\frac{1}{2}$ Point
5. (a) Insanitary Conditions Maximum - 3 Points
 (b) House unfit for human habitation 4 Points

6. Overcrowding

Minimum Standards

Man and Wife	One Bedroom
One child over ten years	One Bedroom
Each two children under 10 years	One Bedroom
Each two persons over 10 years of same sex	One Bedroom
Each two persons over 10 years of different sex	Two Bedrooms
If total family 6 or less	One living room
If total family 7 or more	Two living rooms

Ascertainment of Points:-

Subtract number of rooms occupied from minimum standard and add 50% (Ignore fractions).

Example:- Say Minimum Standard	4 rooms	
In actual use	$1\frac{1}{2}$	
	<u>$2\frac{1}{2}$</u>	
Add 50%	$1\frac{1}{4}$	

Disregarding fractions 3 Points

7. Date of first application to be deciding factor where applicants have equal Points.

5th July, 1946.