

Useful information for landlords

This information is for private landlords. Private tenants can find information and advice [here](#).

Landlords can get advice, resources and training from a range of organisations. These agencies can help you keep up to date on changes to legislation in the private rented sector.

You may need to become a member to access some of these services.

If you plan to be a landlord in the long term, you should:

- consider joining a professional body
- undergo accredited training

Housing Rights

[Housing Rights](#) is a specialist in housing advice, law and policy in Northern Ireland.

The organisation operates a [housing helpline](#) and a [landlord helpline](#) free of charge.

It also provides [training on a range of housing issues](#), including:

- renting privately
- antisocial behaviour
- houses in multiple occupation (HMOs)
- housing benefit and universal credit

Housing Rights' [members](#) can get discounts on training and events.

Landlords Association for Northern Ireland

The [Landlords Association for Northern Ireland \(LANI\)](#) represents private landlords in Northern Ireland.

LANI aims to:

- promote high standards in managing privately rented accommodation
- engage with government bodies and represent the interests of landlords
- alert members to the implications of changing legislation

Members can get help, information and attend events for free.

Local councils in Northern Ireland

[Local councils](#) are responsible for a range of housing issues, including:

- fitness standards
- fitness certificates
- harassment and illegal eviction
- enforcing legislation affecting tenants and landlords

The environmental health departments within the councils carry out this role.

[Belfast City Council](#) is responsible for licensing all houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).

The Department for Communities

The Department for Communities is responsible for housing in Northern Ireland. This includes developing new laws and regulations for the private rented sector.

[Their website](#) includes:

- information on legislative requirements
- public consultations on changes to laws
- [a free newsletter](#) for private landlords

Other organisations that can help

The organisations below can help with other aspects of being a landlord:

Gas Safe Register

The [Gas Safe Register](#) is a list of registered engineers who are authorised to carry out checks on gas appliances and installations

Landlord Registration Scheme

The [Scheme](#) records and maintains accurate information on private landlords and their properties.

Land & Property Services

[Land & Property Services](#) deals with rates and Rate Rebate applications for domestic properties.

NI Business Info

[NI Business Info](#) offers advice for commercial landlords operating in Northern Ireland.

Belfast City Council

[Belfast City Council](#) operates the HMO licensing scheme for all Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)

The [NIHE](#) deals with Housing Benefit, Discretionary Housing Payments and grants.

Rent Register

The [Rent Register](#) lists all known [protected and rent-controlled tenancies](#) in Northern Ireland.

Some protected tenancies are not listed on the rent register. If there is any doubt, the landlord must prove that the tenancy is not protected.

The [Rent Officer](#) sets the rents for protected and rent-controlled tenancies.

Smartmove Housing

[Smartmove Housing](#) works with private landlords to provide affordable rented accommodation to people who are homeless.

The Law Society of Northern Ireland

The Law Society of Northern Ireland is the professional body for solicitors in Northern Ireland. It has [a directory of solicitors](#) practising in Northern Ireland.

The Property Ombudsman

[This is a voluntary scheme](#) that can help with complaints against estate and letting agents who are members.

More advice

- [Landlord registration](#)
- [Certificates and safety checks](#)
- [Setting up a tenancy](#)