

Monthly Report to Dublin City Councillors on Homelessness

This is the twenty-sixth report/update on homelessness in the Dublin region. This report focuses on the situation in the Dublin region at the end of **April 2022**. There are 77 more households in emergency accommodation when compared to the previous month, and 205 more individuals. This reflects an increase in both family and single adult households.

*Number of individuals in Emergency Accommodation in the **Dublin Region** – from April 2021 to April 2022, as published nationally:*

Month	Families	Adults in Families	Children	Singles	Total Adults	Total Individuals	Total Households
April 2022	956	1,626	2,209	3,365	4,991	7,200	4,321
Mar 2022	901	1,543	2,109	3,343	4,886	6,995	4,244
Feb 2022	851	1,455	1,996	3,256	4,711	6,707	4,107
Jan 2022	821	1,386	1,928	3,194	4,580	6,508	4,015
Dec 2021	802	1,353	1,891	3,133	4,486	6,377	3,935
Nov 2021	815	1,364	1,930	3,204	4,568	6,498	4,019
Oct 2021	799	1,347	1,903	3,085	4,432	6,335	3,884
Sep 2021	752	1,268	1,806	3,019	4,287	6,093	3,771
Aug 2021	723	1,225	1,710	2,995	4,220	5,930	3,718
July 2021	700	1,187	1,657	3,033	4,220	5,877	3,733
June 2021	702	1,025	1,684	3,024	4,069	5,753	3,726
May 2021	688	1,025	1,659	3,029	4,054	5,713	3,717
April 2021	699	1,047	1,719	3,040	4,087	5,806	3,739

1. Family Homelessness

In Dublin at the end of April 2022, there were **956** families in emergency accommodation. 956 represents an increase of **55** on the March 2022 number, and an increase of **257** when compared with April 2021 when there were **699** families in emergency accommodation.

The number of children residing in emergency accommodation at the end of April was **2,209**. This is an increase of **100** when compared to the March 2022 figure and **490** more than the April 2021 figure of **1,719**.

1.1. Use of Commercial Hotels:

In line with the uptick in family homelessness, there has been an increase in the numbers of families using commercial hotels. By the end of April 2022, there were **169** families residing in commercial hotels. This compares with **113** in April 2021, an increase of **56** families. The highest level was in March 2017, when the number of families in commercial hotels reached **871**.

Non-contract accommodation (previously known as self-accommodation) is now booked via DRHE. We are working with the other Local Authorities to develop alternatives to hotels with exits to housing the preferred option, followed by NGO-run Supported Temporary Emergency accommodation and contracted accommodation, where there are no available housing options.

There is still space for smaller families in supported accommodation but we are often reliant on commercial accommodation for larger family sizes or in locations where there are no/limited alternatives.

1.2. New Family presentations – April 2022:

80 families entered emergency accommodation for the first time in April 2022. This represents a decrease of 11 on March 2022. The table below shows family presentations for the previous 12 months.

Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022
79	62	78	64	78	64	66	64	40	74	80	91

1.3. New Family Presentations – Demographic information and reasons for presentation to Homeless Services

Citizenship	Irish	UK	EU/ EEA	Non EU	Total
April 2022	59%	1%	24%	16%	100%

Below are the presenting reasons to aid understanding of the drivers of homelessness:

- 36 presented due to relationship breakdowns, predominantly with a parent(s).
- 24 of the families presented with a Notice of Termination: 8 – property to be sold, 6 - family members joined the tenant and the property was no longer suitable, 3 – ASB, 2 –

Change of Use, 1 – substantial renovations, 1 – unaffordable after partner left, 3 – not known.

- 7 presented due to overcrowding (LA/PR/Family Home/Friends).
- 7 families presented to homeless services on arrival to the country
- 6 presented because of experience of domestic violence, of which, 3 from refugees.

1.4. Prevention - Family Homelessness

In April 2022, **41* families** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through the HHAP Scheme. This prevention figure does not include tenancies protected by the (DRHE funded) Threshold Tenancy Protection Service or other prevention services.

**Additional social housing prevention are made through rehousing of tenants whose landlords are exiting the Rental Accommodation Scheme or where a purchase has been made under Tenant in Situ Scheme on the grounds of homelessness prevention.*

1.5. Families – Exit to Tenancies

In April 2022, **25 families** exited emergency accommodation into new tenancies. 10 moved to HAP and 15 to Social Housing tenancies. The table below shows family exits for the previous 12 months.

Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022
88	78	54	45	34	42	24	48	46	35	31	41

For each family that left emergency accommodation to a tenancy in April, 3 families entered emergency accommodation.

1.6. Support to Families

Residents in family hubs/Supported Temporary Accommodation receive onsite support in NGO run accommodation. Families in private operated emergency facilities (PEAs) receive in-reach housing advice/social support from Focus Ireland and DRHE teams, as well as access to services provided by the HSE and TUSLA.

2. Single Adult Homelessness

There were **3,365** single adults in emergency accommodation at the end of April 2022. This represents an increase on last month (22). This figure was **3,040** for April 2021.

2.1. New Single Adult Presentations – April 2022

The number of single adults presenting as homeless and using emergency accommodation for the first time was **165** in April 2022. This represents a decrease of **14** on the previous month. The table below shows the new single adult presentations over the previous 12 months.

Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022
137	154	171	156	171	167	140	184	126	172	162	179

2.2. New Single Adult Presentations – Demographic Information and Reasons for Presentation to Homeless Services

69 of the new single adult presentations were related to private rented issues, 55 related to family circumstances, and 41 were for other reasons.

Citizenship	Irish	EU/ EEA	Non EU	UK	Total
April 2022	55%	28%	17%	1%	100%

There has been adequate capacity for single males but new services for single adult females and couples will be needed, as accommodation options for both cohorts are at capacity.

2.3. Prevention – Single Adult Homelessness

In April 2022, **29 single adults** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through HHAP (23), Social Housing (5) and LTA (1). This is additional to tenancies protected by the (DRHE funded) Threshold Tenancy Protection Service and other prevention services. In DCC, these lettings include those to Older Persons at risk of homelessness as prioritised under the changes to the adopted 2018 Allocations Policy.

2.4. Single Adult Homeless – Exit to Tenancies

40 single adults exited to tenancies in April 2022: **10** (HAP), **25** (AHB/LA), and **5** (LTA). The table below shows exits of single adults to tenancies for the previous 12 months.

Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022
139	105	68	75	81	66	49	46	43	47	53	55

For each single adult that left emergency accommodation to a tenancy in April, nearly 4 single adults entered emergency accommodation.

2.5. Housing Support Officers and Other Supports to Private operated facilities (PEA)

Housing Support Officers visit private emergency accommodation facilities to give housing support. In-reach health and addiction services are provided for by the HSE. In partnership with the DRHE, the HSE has commenced a training programme for staff in Private Emergency Accommodation.

3. Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP):

The Homeless HAP Scheme continues to be a key response to homelessness. DRHE Housing Support Officers and Place-Finders, as well as NGO staff, assist households to move out of emergency accommodation or prevent them from entering in the first place. 84 new Homeless HAP tenancies were sourced in April 2022.

Breakdown of family type and previous accommodation of those accessing HHAP in April:

- 4 Family leaving hotels - Private Emergency Accommodation
- 6 Family leaving supported emergency accommodation
- 41 Families who did not use emergency accommodation (Prevention)
- 4 Singles/Couples leaving Private Emergency Accommodation
- 6 Singles/Couples leaving supported emergency accommodation
- 23 Singles/Couples who did not use emergency accommodation (Prevention)

4. Duration accessing emergency accommodation:

4.1. Families – Detailed Analysis of Duration in Services

Duration in EA – April 2022 (as at 30/04/2022)	Total Families	%
24+ months	155	16%
18-24months	60	6%
12-18 months	82	9%
6-12 months	220	23%
6 months or less	430	45%
Total	947*	100%

* This figure differs to the 956 figure for April because it is calculated using a point in time. The monthly family figure is calculated by counting all families using emergency accommodation over the final week of each month.

The percentage of families in the 0-6 and 6-12 month categories has increased compared with the same month last year, while the percentage of families in the 18-24 months and 24+ months categories has decreased slightly, reflecting a concerted effort to target families experiencing long term homelessness.

4.2. Single Adults – Duration in Services

Duration in EA – April 2022	Total Single Adults	%
24+ months	552	17%
18-24months	199	6%
12-18 months	269	8%
6-12 months	578	18%
6 months or less	1,689	51%
Total Adults (Singles)	3,287	100%

5. Housing First

Housing First in the Dublin Region is provided by Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT) on behalf of the DRHE. As at 27th April 2022, PMVT were working with over 560 individuals across the Greater Dublin area. There were a total of 403 unique individuals in active Housing First tenancies with a retention rate of 86.8%. 2 tenancies were created in April 2022, both in SDCC.

6. Rise in Homelessness

The continued rise in homelessness is troubling. In the Dublin Region, it has become increasingly difficult to access affordable alternatives to rent privately with the support of Housing Assistance Payment and this has affected pathways out of homelessness for families and single adults.

We are making a renewed and concerted effort to contact landlords in the coming weeks to promote the benefits of the Homeless HAP scheme and the post tenancy supports we can offer. Social lettings will continue to be offered but for families who do not have much time on the social housing list or who do not qualify for social housing, an affordable private rental option is vital to reducing homelessness.

The 2022-2026 Homeless Action Plan will be going to the Councils of the 4 Dublin Local Authorities in the coming weeks for amendment/adoption following extensive review and consultation.

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May 2022

Website: www.homelessdublin.ie Twitter: [@homelessDublin](https://twitter.com/homelessDublin) and [@housingdcc](https://twitter.com/housingdcc)

Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) – General Enquiries - 01 222 6611

Homeless FREEPHONE 1800 707 707; for access to Emergency Accommodation out of hours service for the Dublin Region.

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