

**Monthly Report to Dublin City Councillors – Covid-19 and Homelessness**

This is the twenty-fourth report/update on homelessness in the Dublin region. This report focuses on the situation in the Dublin region at the end of **February 2022**. There are 92 more households in emergency accommodation when compared to the previous month, and 199 more individuals. This reflects an increase in both family and single adult households.

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

<b>Month</b>	<b>Families</b>	<b>Adults in Families</b>	<b>Children</b>	<b>Singles</b>	<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>Total Individuals</b>	<b>Total Households</b>
<b>Feb 2022</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>1,455</b>	<b>1,996</b>	<b>3,256</b>	<b>4,711</b>	<b>6,707</b>	<b>4,107</b>
<b>Jan 2022</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>1,928</b>	<b>3,194</b>	<b>4,580</b>	<b>6,508</b>	<b>4,015</b>
<b>Dec 2021</b>	802	1,353	1,891	3,133	4,486	6,377	3,935
<b>Nov 2021</b>	815	1,364	1,930	3,204	4,568	6,498	4,019
<b>Oct 2021</b>	799	1,347	1,903	3,085	4,432	6,335	3,884
<b>Sep 2021</b>	752	1,268	1,806	3,019	4,287	6,093	3,771
<b>Aug 2021</b>	723	1,225	1,710	2,995	4,220	5,930	3,718
<b>July 2021</b>	700	1,187	1,657	3,033	4,220	5,877	3,733
<b>June 2021</b>	702	1,025	1,684	3,024	4,069	5,753	3,726
<b>May 2021</b>	688	1,025	1,659	3,029	4,054	5,713	3,717
<b>April 2021</b>	699	1,047	1,719	3,040	4,087	5,806	3,739
<b>Mar 2021</b>	681	1,020	1,669	3,073	4,093	5,762	3,754
<b>Feb 2021</b>	716	1,083	1,760	3,046	4,129	5,889	3,762

## 1. Family Homelessness

In Dublin at the end of February 2022, there were **851** families in emergency accommodation. **851** represents an increase of **30** on the January 2022 number, and an increase of **135** when compared with February 2021 when there were **716** families in emergency accommodation.

The number of children residing in emergency accommodation at the end of February was **1,996**. This is an increase of **68** when compared to the January 2022 figure and 236 more than the February 2021 figure of **1,760**.

### 1.1. Reducing the Use of Commercial Hotels:

We continue our efforts to reduce the use of commercial hotels; however, the recent increase in numbers in emergency accommodation has reversed some of that progress. By the end of February, there were **126** families residing in commercial hotels. In February 2021, that number was **156**. This is a reduction of **30** families. The highest number was in March 2017 when the number of families in commercial hotels reached **871**. In relation to the 126 families, this is broken down between contracted hotels (24) and non-contract emergency accommodation (102).

There had been a reduction in the use of non-contract accommodation (previously known as self-accommodation but now booked via DRHE) from **584** at its highest point in 2018 to **41** at the end of August 2021. This figure has increased again to **102** at the end of February 2022. We were using non-contract emergency accommodation to address a lack of alternative provision in specific areas and/or to access room configurations for larger family sizes but increasingly we are using it to place new presenting families. Of the 102 families placed in non-contract hotel accommodation at the end of February, **22** of the families were placed by DCC, FCC (37), DLRCC (2), SDCC (40) and (1). We are working with the other Local Authorities to develop alternatives to hotels with exits to housing the preferred option, and supported emergency accommodation or contracted accommodation under a Service Level Agreement where there are no immediate housing options.

### 1.2. New Family presentations – February 2022:

**80** families entered emergency accommodation for the first time in February 2022. This represents an increase of 6 on January 2022. The table below shows family presentations for the previous 12 months.

Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022
47	53	79	62	78	64	78	64	66	64	40	74

### 1.3. New Family Presentations – Demographic information and reasons for homelessness

Citizenship	Irish	UK	EU/ EEA	Non EU	Total
Feb 2022	45%	0%	29%	26%	100%

31 of the new family presentations related to private rented issues, 15 were related to relationship breakdowns, 15 were related to no income source, 7 were related to overcrowding, 3 were related to family circumstances, 2 were related to leaving an institution, 1 was related to domestic violence, and 6 were for other reasons.

#### 1.4. Prevention - Family Homelessness

In February 2022, **53 families** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through the HHAP Scheme (50) and Social Housing tenancies (3). The prevention figure does not include tenancies protected by the (DRHE funded) Threshold Tenancy Protection Service or other prevention services.

#### 1.5. Families – Exit to Tenancies

In February 2022, **31 families** exited emergency accommodation into new tenancies. 18 moved to HAP and 13 to Social Housing. The table below shows family exits for the previous 12 months.

Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022
86	69	88	78	54	45	34	42	24	48	46	35

There has been a reduction in exits to all tenancy types but particularly to the PR sector with support of HAP. The DRHE will be undertaking research to examine duration and exits and, in particular, to examine if factors such as ineligibility for social housing, large family sizes or other factors are affecting families' ability to exit homelessness.

#### 1.6. Support to Families

Residents in family hubs receive onsite support and families in private operated emergency facilities (PEAs) receive housing advice and social support from NGO/DRHE Housing teams as well as in-reach support from HSE and TUSLA. Support to family PEAs comes from a combination of Focus Ireland's Family Hat Team and DRHE's Housing Support Officers. There is also in reach by HSE and TUSLA fund Family Support Workers on the Focus Ireland team.

## 2. Single Adult Homelessness

There were **3,256** single adults in emergency accommodation at the end of February 2022. This represents an increase on last month (62). This figure was **3,046** for February 2021.

#### 2.1. New Single Adult Presentations – February 2022

The number of single adults presenting as homeless and using emergency accommodation for the first time was **162** in February 2022. This represents a decrease of **10** on the previous month and an increase of 36 on February 2021. The table below shows the new single adult presentations over the previous 12 months.

Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022
126	148	137	154	171	156	171	167	140	184	126	172

### 2.2. New Single Adult Presentations – Demographic Information and Reasons for Homelessness

41 of the new single adult presentations were related to relationship breakdowns, 42 related to no source of income, 40 related to private rented issues, 22 related to overcrowding, 8 related to leaving an institution, 4 related to family circumstances, and 5 were for other reasons.

Citizenship	Irish	EU/ EEA	Non EU	UK	Total singles
Feb 2022	49%	32%	16%	3%	100%

We continue to manage presentations from other counties and from other countries. However, we are very close to full capacity most nights and the development of further emergency accommodation options is challenging, given the substantial number of new beds opened in the city since the beginning of the cold weather period. The constraints are due to the flow in and out of homelessness but also some reduced capacity due to ongoing public health measures.

In cases where the person has access to better outcomes in their local authority of origin we liaise with the Local Authority, the Outreach Team and the individual to achieve the best outcome.

### 2.3. Prevention – Single Adult Homelessness

In February 2022, **64 single adults** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through HHAP (48) and Social Housing (14), HAA (1) 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

**53 single adults** exited to tenancies in February 2022: **20** (HAP), **23** (AHB/LA), **7** (LTA), **2** (PR) and **1** (RAS). The table below shows exits of single adults to tenancies for the previous 12 months.

Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022
93	92	139	105	68	75	81	66	49	46	43	47

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

The efforts to improve the range of supports to single adults in PEAs, either through Local Authority Housing Support Officers or visiting support teams from HSE and NGO teams have continued. Housing Support Officers visit all facilities but there has been an increased focus on health and addiction services provided on an in-reach basis by the HSE. It is welcome to have floating supports more widely available across PEAs, gradually expanding the opportunities for health or housing interventions and case management.

### 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. 136 new Homeless HAP tenancies were sourced in February 2022.

#### ***Breakdown of family type and previous accommodation of those accessing HHAP in February:***

- 6 Family leaving hotels - Private Emergency Accommodation
- 12 Family leaving Supported emergency accommodation
- 50 Families who did not use emergency accommodation (Prevention)
- 12 Singles/Couples leaving Private Emergency Accommodation
- 8 Singles/Couples leaving supported emergency accommodation
- 48 Singles/Couples who did not use emergency accommodation (Prevention)

### 4. Duration accessing emergency accommodation:

#### 4.1. Families – Detailed Analysis of Duration in Services

<b>Duration in EA – February 2022 (as at 28/02/2022)</b>	<b>Total Families</b>	<b>%</b>
24+ months	155	18%
18-24months	46	5%
12-18 months	83	10%
6-12 months	176	21%
6 months or less	381	45%
<b>Total</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* This figure differs to the 851 figure for February 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.

#### 4.2. Single Adults – Duration in Services

Duration in EA – February 2022	Total Single Adults	%
24+ months	498	16%
18-24months	229	7%
12-18 months	267	8%
6-12 months	530	17%
6 months or less	1,624	52%
<b>Total Adults (Singles)</b>	<b>3,148</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 5. Covid-19

The number of COVID-related deaths has not changed at **3** residents from Long-Term Supported Housing. As of 16<sup>th</sup> February, there were **662** confirmed (cumulative) cases within Dublin Homeless Services.

#### 6. Rising Homelessness

The DRHE has met with the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage and is exploring every possible option to act on rising family and single homelessness. We have finalised the tender for emergency accommodation across the 4 Dublin Local Authorities and we remain open at any time to proposals from the NGO sector to develop supported accommodation options. Our primary goal is to take people out of commercial hotels, followed by an overall reduction in family and single adult homelessness. We are working closely with the other Dublin Local Authorities to respond meaningfully to the current situation.

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**March 2022**



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

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