

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

This is the twenty-third report/update on homelessness in the Dublin region. This report focuses on the situation in the Dublin region at the end of **January 2022**. There are 80 more households in emergency accommodation when compared to the previous month, and 131 more individuals. This reflects an increase in both family and single adult households.

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

Month	Families	Adults in Families	Children	Singles	Total Adults	Total Individuals	Total Households
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
Mar 2021	681	1,020	1,669	3,073	4,093	5,762	3,754
Feb 2021	716	1,083	1,760	3,046	4,129	5,889	3,762
Jan 2021	742	1,121	1,823	3,054	4,175	5,998	3,796

1. Family Homelessness

In Dublin at the end of January 2022, there were **821** families in emergency accommodation. **821** represents an increase of **19** on the December 2021 number, and an increase of **79** when compared with January 2021 when there were **742** families in emergency accommodation.

The number of children residing in emergency accommodation at the end of January was **1,928**. This is an increase of **37** when compared to the December 2021 figure and 105 more than the January 2021 figure of 1,823.

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 January, there were **106** families residing in commercial hotels. In January 2021, that number was **175**. This is a reduction of **69** families. The highest number was in March 2017 when the number of families in commercial hotels reached **871**. In relation to the 106 families, this is broken down between contracted hotels (22) and non-contract emergency accommodation (84).

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 **84** at the end of January 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 84 families placed in Non-Contract hotel accommodation at the end of January, **14** of the families were placed by DCC, FCC (30), DL RCC (2) and SDCC (37). We are working with the other Local Authorities to develop alternatives to hotels with exits to housing the preferred option and contracted accommodation under a Service Level Agreement where this is required.

1.2. New Family presentations – January 2022:

74 families entered emergency accommodation for the first time in January 2022. This represents an increase of 34 on December 2021. The table below shows family presentations for the previous 12 months.

Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022
54	47	53	79	62	78	64	78	64	66	64	40	74

1.3. New Family Presentations – Nationality and reasons for homelessness

Citizenship	Irish	UK	EU/ EEA	Non EU	Total
Jan 2022	55%	0%	26%	19%	100%

33 of the new family presentations related to private rented issues, 14 were related to relationship breakdowns, 9 were related to no income source, 6 were related to family

circumstances, 5 were related to overcrowding, 3 were related to domestic violence, 1 was related to leaving an institution, and 3 were for other reasons.

1.4. Prevention - Family Homelessness

In January 2022, **60 families** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through the HHAP Scheme (59) and Social Housing tenancies (1). 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 January 2022, **35 families** exited emergency accommodation into new tenancies. 19 moved to HAP, 15 to Social Housing, and 1 to RAS. The table below shows family exits for the previous 12 months.

Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021
81	86	69	88	78	54	45	34	42	24	48	46

There has been a reduction in exits to all tenancy types but particularly to 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 **3,194** single adults in emergency accommodation at the end of January 2022. This represents an increase on last month (61). This figure was **3,054** for January 2021.

2.1. New Single Adult Presentations – January 2022

Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021
149	126	148	137	154	171	156	171	167	140	184	126

The number of single adults presenting as homeless and using emergency accommodation for the first time was **172** in January 2022. This represents an increase of **46** on the previous month and an increase of **23** on January 2021.

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

Citizenship	Irish	EU/ EEA	Non EU	UK	Total singles
Jan 2022	48%	27%	23%	2%	100%

48 of the new single adult presentations were related to relationship breakdowns, 34 related to no source of income, 30 related to private rented issues, 24 related to overcrowding, 15 related to leaving an institution, 9 related to family circumstances, and 12 were for other reasons

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 January 2022, **34 single adults** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through HHAP (24) and Social Housing (5) and LTA (5). 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

47 single adults exited to tenancies in January 2022: **19** (HAP), **19** (AHB/LA) and **9** (LTA). The table below shows exits of single adults to tenancies for the previous 12 months.

Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021
110	93	92	139	105	68	75	81	66	49	46	43

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 but the second half of the year has seen a fall-off in new tenancies. DRHE Housing Support Officers and Place-Finders, as well as NGO staff, assist households to move out of emergency accommodation. **121** new Homeless HAP tenancies were sourced in January 2022.

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

- 5 Families leaving hotels - Private Emergency Accommodation
- 14 Families leaving Supported emergency accommodation
- 59 Families who did not use emergency accommodation (Prevention)
- 9 Singles/Couples leaving Private Emergency Accommodation
- 10 Singles/Couples leaving supported emergency accommodation
- 24 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 – January 2022 (as at 31/01/2022)	Total Families	%
24+ months	173	21%
18-24months	36	4%
12-18 months	95	12%
6-12 months	166	20%
6 months or less	340	42%
Total	810*	100%

* This figure differs to the 821 figure for January 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 – January 2022	Total Single Adults	%
24+ months	619	20%
18-24months	243	8%
12-18 months	289	9%
6-12 months	526	17%
6 months or less	1,419	46%
Total Adults (Singles)	3,096	100%

5. Covid-19

Supported temporary accommodation (STA) with enhanced health supports continues to be provided for most at-risk persons experiencing homelessness.

The number of COVID-related deaths has not changed at **3** residents from Long-Term Supported Housing. As of 28th January, there were **629** confirmed (cumulative) cases within Dublin Homeless Services.

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February 2021.



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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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