

**Monthly Report to Dublin City Councillors on Homelessness**

This is the thirty-first report/update on homelessness in the Dublin region. This report focuses on the situation in the Dublin region at the end of **September 2022**. There are 18 more households in emergency accommodation when compared to the previous month, with 53 more individuals. This reflects an increase in both families and single adult households.

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

Month	Families	Adults in Families	Children	Singles	Total Adults	Total Individuals	Total Households
Sep 2022	1,081	1,815	2,429	3,541	5,356	7,785	4,622
Aug 2022	1,067	1,789	2,406	3,537	5,326	7,732	4,604
July 2022	1,016	1,700	2,339	3,509	5,209	7,548	4,525
June 2022	990	1,661	2,274	3,597	5,258	7,532	4,587
May 2022	972	1,654	2,259	3,519	5,173	7,432	4,491
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

## 1. Family Homelessness

In Dublin at the end of September 2022, there were **1,081** families in emergency accommodation. 1,081 represents an increase of **14** on the August 2022 number, and an increase of **329** when compared with September 2021 when there were **752** families in emergency accommodation.

The number of children residing in emergency accommodation at the end of September was **2,429**. This is an increase of **23** when compared to the August 2022 figure and **623** more than the September 2021 figure of **1,806**.

### 1.1. Use of Commercial Hotels:

The numbers of families residing in commercial hotels has increased. By the end of September 2022, there were **228** families residing in commercial hotels. This represents an increase of **14** families from **214** in August 2022 and compares with **80** in September 2021, an increase of **148** families. The highest level was in March 2017, when the number of families in commercial hotels reached **871**.

Commercial hotels and Bed and Breakfast placements are booked by the DRHE, once approved by the relevant local authority. We are working across all 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.

While we generally have hub spaces for smaller families, we are often reliant on commercial accommodation for larger family sizes or in locations where there are no/limited alternatives. There are difficulties in getting accommodation to meet family size or location preference that may take a number of days to resolve. The DRHE has re-issued the tender for emergency accommodation to move families out of non-contracted or hotel/B&BS at the earliest opportunity. The closing date for this tender process is the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

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

**63** families entered emergency accommodation for the first time in September 2022. This represents a decrease of 15 on August 2022. The table below shows family presentations for the previous 12 months.

Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022
64	66	64	40	74	80	91	80	64	69	79	78

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

Citizenship	Irish	EU/ EEA	Non-EU	Total
September 2022	36 (57%)	20 (32%)	7 (11%)	63 (100%)

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

Reason for Homelessness	September	% of total
NOT	26	41%
Family Breakdown	2	3%
Asked to leave friends – Sofa Surfing	5	8%
Domestic Violence	3	5%
No previous address in Ireland	0	0%
Family re-unification	2	3%
Relationship breakdown	16	25%
Other	4	6%
Insufficient funds/Affordability	2	3%
Overcrowding	3	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Presented to Local Authority:** DCC – 35, DLRCC – 5, FCC – 11, SDCC – 12

#### 1.4. Prevention - Family Homelessness

In September 2022, **49 families** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through the HHAP Scheme (47) and Social Housing (2)\*. 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 September 2022, **29 families** exited emergency accommodation into new tenancies. 10 moved to HAP, 1 to LTA and 18 to Social Housing. The table below shows family exits for the previous 12 months.

Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022
42	24	48	46	39	31	42	25	43	37	43	28

Revisions to this table have been made for previous months following a review by each LA.

*\*Additional social housing exits are completed by each Local authority, under their respective Schemes of Lettings, to homeless families coming from long-term supported accommodation or from non-Section 10-funded accommodation that may not be included here.*

#### 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 **3,541** single adults in emergency accommodation at the end of September 2022, which represents an increase on last month (4). This figure was **3,019** for September 2021.

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

The number of single adults presenting as homeless and using emergency accommodation for the first time was **160** in September 2022. This represents a decrease of **16** on the previous month. The table below shows the new single adult presentations over the previous 12 months.

Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022
167	140	184	126	172	162	179	165	181	180	168	176

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

39 of the new single adult presentations were related to private rented issues, 35 related to family circumstances, 59 for other reasons and 27 were unknown pending full assessment.

Citizenship	Irish	EU/EEA	Non-EU	UK	Total
September 2022	76 (47.5%)	44 (27.5%)	39 (24.4%)	1 (0.6%)	160 (100%)

The DRHE put in place new capacity for couples, as accommodation options for both cohorts were at capacity. Capacity for single adult males is constrained and we are planning for increased capacity over the coming weeks in line with the Cold Weather Strategy, which runs from November to April each year.

### 2.3. Prevention – Single Adult Homelessness

In September 2022, **57 single adults** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through HHAP (34), Social Housing (20) and LTA (3). 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.

*\*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.*

### 2.4. Single Adult Homeless – Exit to Tenancies

**41 single adults** exited to tenancies in September 2022: **13** (HAP), **21** (AHB/LA), and **7** (LTA). The table below shows exits of single adults to tenancies for the previous 12 months.

Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022
66	49	46	43	49	49	54	42	56	40	44	47

As with the family exits, the table above has been adjusted for previous months following a review of lettings with each LA.

*\*Additional social housing exits are completed by each Local authority, under their respective Schemes of Lettings, to homeless single households coming from long-term supported accommodation or from non-Section 10-funded accommodation, that are not included here.*

## 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 by the HSE and an integrated Care and Case Management Team is now providing case management and clinics in private emergency accommodation across the region. In partnership with the DRHE, the HSE is running a training programme for staff in Private Emergency Accommodation.

## 3. Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP):

The Homeless HAP Scheme continues to be an important tool in the 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. 104 new Homeless HAP tenancies were sourced in September 2022.

### ***Breakdown of household type and previous accommodation of those accessing HHAP in September:***

<b>Previous Accommodation</b>	<b>Singles/Couples</b>	<b>Families</b>
Leaving hotels/PEA	13	4
Leaving STA	0	5
Leaving Own Front Door (OFD) Accommodation	0	1
Prevention/did not use EA	34	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>57</b>

## 4. Duration accessing emergency accommodation:

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

<b>Duration in EA – September 2022 (as at 30/09/2022)</b>	<b>Total Families</b>	<b>%</b>
24+ months	154	14.3%
18-24months	75	7%
12-18 months	144	13.4%
6-12 months	260	24.2%
6 months or less	443	41.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,076*</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* This figure differs to the 1,081 figure for September 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.

When compared to September 2021, the number of families across all categories, bar those accessing Emergency Accommodation for 24+ months, has increased. The households experiencing long-term homelessness had been steadily decreasing due to a concerted effort to target these families with supports. The DRHE will monitor the slight increase going forward.

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

<b>Duration in EA – September 2022</b>	<b>Total Single Adults</b>	<b>%</b>
24+ months	560	16.2%
18-24months	162	4.7%
12-18 months	372	10.7%
6-12 months	690	19.9%
6 months or less	1,682	48.5%
<b>Total Adults (Singles)</b>	<b>3,466</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 5. Housing First

Housing First in the Dublin Region is provided by Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT) on behalf of the DRHE. As of 30th September 2022, there were a total of 427 unique individuals in active Housing First tenancies with a retention rate of 86%.

#### 6. Cold Weather Strategy 2022

In partnership with our service providers, the DRHE will increase capacity for singles and couples on a phased basis throughout the winter months. The beds will be triggered as needed, depending on the demand for homeless services on any given night. Equally, we will have in place vital capacity should an extreme weather event occur. The total new capacity is 280 beds, comprising of 240 permanent beds and 40 extreme weather beds. Full details of our Cold Weather Strategy 2022 will be available on our website on 01/11/2022, [www.homelessdublin.ie](http://www.homelessdublin.ie).

#### **Mary Hayes**

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**October 2022**

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

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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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