

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

This is the twentieth report/update on homelessness in the Dublin region that we have issued since the onset of Covid-19 early last year. There have been months of progressive reductions in homelessness and we are carefully tracking the changes that have come about since the easing of restrictions. This report focuses on the situation in the Dublin Region at the end of **August 2021**. There are **15** fewer households in emergency accommodation when compared to the previous month, albeit **53** more individuals. This reflects an increase in families and a slight decrease in single adult households.

*Number of individuals in Emergency Accommodation in the **Dublin Region** – from August 2020 to August 2021, as published nationally:*

Month	Families	Adults in Families	Children	Singles	Total Adults	Total Individuals	Total Households
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
Dec 2020	755	1,131	1,864	3,027	4,158	6,022	3,782
Sep 2020	865	1,257	2,008	2,994	4,251	6,259	3,859
Aug 2020	856	1,242	2,023	2,961	4,204	6,227	3,817

1. Family Homelessness

In Dublin at the end of August 2021, there were **723** families in emergency accommodation. This is an increase of **23** on the July 2021 number, but a total decrease of **133** families when compared to August 2020, when there were **856** families in emergency accommodation.

The number of children residing in emergency accommodation at the end of July was **1,710**. This is an increase of **53** on the July 2021 figure and indicative of larger families entering homelessness; overall, the trend has been downwards since September 2019, when the figure reached **2,872**. It also

represents a decrease of **313** when compared to August 2020, when there were **2,023** children in emergency accommodation.

1.1. Reducing the Use of Commercial Hotels:

We continue our efforts to reduce the use of commercial hotels. By the end of August, there were **67** families residing in commercial hotels. This is the lowest number of families in hotels since September 2014. In August 2020, the number was **302** and this represents a reduction of **235** families over that 12-month period. The highest number was in March 2017, when the number of families in commercial hotels reached **871**. In relation to the current **67** families, this is broken down between contracted hotels (26) and non-contract emergency accommodation (41).

There has been a steady reduction in the use of self-accommodation/non-contract accommodation from **584** at its highest point in 2018 to **41** at the end of August 2021. The main reasons we retain non-contract emergency accommodation are to address a lack of alternative provision in a specific area and/or to access room configurations for larger family sizes. **4** of the **41** families are placed by Dublin City Council with the remaining **37** placed by Fingal County Council or South Dublin County Council.

1.2. New Family presentations - August 2021:

78 families entered emergency accommodation for the first time in August 2021. The table below shows family presentations for the previous 12 months. This represented an increase of **14** families compared to the previous month.

Aug 2020	Sept 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021
78	71	64	56	60	54	47	53	79	62	78	64	78

1.3. New Family Presentations – Nationality and reasons for homelessness

Citizenship	Irish	EU/ EEA	Non EU	Total
August 2021	50%	28%	22%	100%

In the case of Irish or non-EU families, the presentations generally follow the traditional patterns of a tenancy breakdown (e.g. Notice of Termination) or family breakdown, as the families have mostly been resident in Ireland and in tenancies prior to presentation. Families presenting as homeless on arrival from within the EU has now become a consistent reason for presentations to Dublin City Council, South Dublin County Council and Fingal County Council.

Reasons for Homelessness: **17** of the new family presentations were related to private rented issues, **15** families presented from outside the state, **13** were related to relationship breakdowns, **8** were related to overcrowding and the remaining presentations related to other issues.

1.4. Prevention - Family Homelessness

In August 2021, **52 families** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through the HHAP Scheme (50) and Social Housing tenancies (2). 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 August 2021, **34** families exited emergency accommodation into new tenancies. **25** moved to HAP, **8** to Social Housing and **1** to Long Term Accommodation.

The Housing Support and NGO teams report greater difficulty in sourcing tenancies for large family sizes. To give a sense of this, we analysed family information for one night.

- 33% of families had 1 child under 18
- 29% of families had 2 children under 18
- 20% of families had 3 children under 18
- 18% of families had 4 children or more (78 families x 4 children, 36 families x 5 children, 13 families x 6 children, 5 families x 7 children, 3 families x 8 children, 1 family x 12 children)

This report does **not include** dependents over 18 years so represents the minimum figure.

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 families PEAs comes from a combination of Focus Ireland's Family Hat Team and DRHE Housing Support Officers. There is also inreach by HSE and TUSLA fund Child Support Workers on the Focus Ireland team.

2. Single Adult Homelessness

As we indicated in our previous reports, the situation in relation to **single persons** is currently much more challenging. There were **2,995** single adults in emergency accommodation at the end of August. This is a welcome decrease on last month (38).

2.1. New Single Adult Presentations – August 2021

The number of single adults presenting as homeless and using emergency accommodation for the first time has remained high, the number in August was **171**. That represents an increase of **15** on the previous month and an increase of **37** on August 2020.

Aug 2020	Sept 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021
134	135	156	116	133	149	126	148	137	154	171	156	171

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

Citizenship	Irish	EU/ EEA	Non EU	UK	Total singles
August 2021	125 (73%)	21 (12%)	23 (13.45%)	2 (1%)	171

We continue to manage presentations from other counties and other countries. 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. We have experienced more constraints on emergency capacity during August but we have maintained a small level of excess capacity. The constraints are due to the flow in and out of homelessness but also some reduced capacity due to consolidation of facilities from Private Emergency to Supported Temporary Accommodation.

2.3. Prevention – Single Adult Homelessness

In August 2021, **66 single adults** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through HHAP (51), Social Housing (12) and LTA (3). This is additional to tenancies protected by the (DRHE funded) Threshold Tenancy Protection Service and other prevention services. In DCC these include Older Persons at risk of homelessness as prioritised for housing under the changes to the adopted 2018 Scheme of lettings priorities.

2.4. Single Adult Homeless – Exit to Tenancies

79 single adults exited to tenancies in August 2021: **55 (HAP), 16 (AHB/LA), 3 (PR) and 5 (LTA).**

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 has continued. Housing Support Officers visit facilities and there has been an increased focus on health and addiction services provided on an in-reach basis. 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 has continued to operate successfully, with our Housing Support Officers and Place-Finders assisting households to move out of emergency accommodation. **181** new Homeless HAP tenancies were sourced in August 2021.

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

- 4 Families leaving hotels - Private Emergency Accommodation
- 19 Families leaving Supported emergency accommodation
- 2 Families leaving Own Front Door accommodation
- 50 Families who did not use emergency accommodation (Prevention)

- 25 Singles/Couples leaving Private Emergency Accommodation
- 30 Singles/Couples leaving supported emergency accommodation
- 51 Singles/Couples who did not use emergency accommodation (Prevention)

56% of tenancies were preventions and 44% exits from emergency accommodation

4. Duration accessing emergency accommodation:

4.1. Families – Detailed Analysis of Duration in Services

The Housing Support Officers, onsite support staff and In-reach teams continue to target families in all categories for HAP, social housing (including Capital Assistant Scheme and Long-term leasing) and long-term onsite supported housing. There are reported difficulties in accessing the Private Rental market for large family sizes.

Duration in EA – August 2021 (as at 31/08/2021)	Total Families	Total Adults	Number Dependents
24+ months	153	275	321
18-24months	74	120	182
12-18 months	56	104	141
6-12 months	118	203	290
6 months or less	321	419	779
Total	722*	1,221	1,713

* This figure is lower than the 723 figure for August 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 – August 2021	Total Single Adults	%
24+ months	586	20%
18-24months	228	8%
12-18 months	325	11%
6-12 months	447	16%
6 months or less	1,288	45%
Total Adults (Singles)	2,874	100%

Dublin City Council's Housing First lettings are targeted at single adults experiencing long-term homelessness needing a high level of support to move to tenancy and at single adults with a history of

rough sleeping. There is also a dedicated Housing Support Officer to target single adults who may be suitable for Older Persons' accommodation.

5. Governance and Regulation of Homeless Services

The month of August was a difficult month for those working and volunteering in the homeless sector. The DRHE has stated its support of greater regulation of charities involved in the provision of services to persons experiencing homelessness.

In particular, we recognise the need for Child and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding across **all** services and we co-operate closely with TUSLA and funded service providers to this end. The availability of vetting of persons working or volunteering in homeless service is under discussion with the support of the Department of Housing.

The DRHE also recognises, and is addressing with the support of the HSE, shortcomings in the supports available to single adults in Private Emergency accommodation.

6. Covid-19

The number of COVID-related deaths has not changed at 3 residents from Long-Term Supported Housing. As of 27th August there were **334** confirmed (cumulative) cases within Dublin Homeless Services.

Under guidance from the HSE, we are moving cautiously to a new phase of the management of COVID-19 in our services. As ever, we express our thanks to all frontline staff.

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September 2021.



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

Download Rough Sleeping Application from APP Store.