

January 2022 Report to Dublin City Councillors – Covid-19 and Homelessness

This is the twenty-second report/update on homelessness in the Dublin region that we have issued since the onset of Covid-19 in early 2020. This report provides both an overview of the data collated and analysed by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) for December 2021 and for comparative purposes for the entirety of 2021. As illustrated in the table on page 2, there has been an increase in the number of households (both singles and families) in emergency accommodation throughout the second half of 2021, with a small decrease in December 2022.

As at the end of December 2021 there were **802** families and **3,133** single individuals in emergency accommodation. This represents 84 less households and 121 less individuals in emergency accommodation when compared to the previous month (4,019 & 6,498 respectively in November 2021).

When we look at 2021 in its entirety, there are **60** more families in emergency accommodation in December 2021 compared to January 2021 and **79** more single individuals. The relatively small increase in presentations coupled with a more significant decrease in exits has contributed to the overall increase in households in emergency accommodation.

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

Month	Families	Adults in Families	Children	Singles	Total Adults	Total Individuals	Total Households
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
Dec 2020	755	1,131	1,864	3,027	4,158	6,022	3,782

1. Family Homelessness

In Dublin at the end of December 2021, there were **802** families in emergency accommodation. **802** represents a decrease of **13** on the November 2021 number, but a slight increase of **13** when compared with December 2020 when there were **755** families in emergency accommodation.

The number of children residing in emergency accommodation at the end of December was **1,891**. This is a slight decrease of **39** when compared to the November figure but 27 more than the December 2020 figure of 1,864.

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 the progress that had been made. By the end of December, there were **114** families residing in commercial hotels. In January 2021, that number was **175**. This is a reduction of **61** families. The highest number was in March 2017 when the number of families in commercial hotels reached **871**. In relation to the **114** families, this is broken down between contracted hotels (23) and non-contract emergency accommodation (91).

There had been a steady reduction in the use of non-contract accommodation (formerly Self-accommodation but now booked by the DRHE on a monthly basis) from **584** at its highest point in 2018 to **41** at the end of August 2021. This figure has increased again to **91** at the end of December 2021. In December 2020 that figure was **112**. We had continued using non-contract emergency accommodation to address a lack of alternative provision in a specific area and/or to access room configurations for larger family sizes, but towards the latter part of 2021, we have been relying on it to place new presenting families. Of the 91 families at the end of December, 13 of the families in Non-Contract/on account hotel placements are by DCC with the remaining **78** by FCC, DLR & SDCC. 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.

1.1. New Family presentations - December 2021:

40 families entered emergency accommodation for the first time in December 2021. This is the lowest figure for the entire year and represents a decrease of 24 on November 2021. The table below shows family presentations for 2021. In total, **749** families entered emergency accommodation in 2021. This figure was **699** in 2020, **1,031** in 2019 and **1,112** in 2018. **Average** family presentations in 2021 were **62** per month, an increase on the average of **58** per month for 2020 and lower than the 2019 average of **85** new families per month.

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

1.2. New Family Presentations – Nationality and reasons for homelessness

Citizenship	Irish	UK	EU/ EEA	Non EU	Total
Dec 2021	48%	0%	28%	25%	40

10 of the new family presentations related to private rented issues, 10 were related to relationship breakdowns, 10 were related to no income source, 4 were related to overcrowding, 4 were related to family circumstances, and 2 were related to domestic violence. The reduced number of EU/EEA migrant families in December is likely to be the primary reason for lower numbers of families entering emergency accommodation in December 2021.

1.3. Prevention - Family Homelessness

In December 2021, **66 families** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through the HHAP Scheme (59) and Social Housing tenancies (7). The prevention figure does not include tenancies protected by the (DRHE funded) Threshold Tenancy Protection Service or other prevention services.

This is on par with **December 2020** when **67** families were prevented from entering emergency accommodation.

1.4. Families – Exit to Tenancies

In December 2021, **46 families** exited emergency accommodation into new tenancies (48 exited in November) 28 moved to HAP, 17 to Social Housing, and 1 to LTA.

In total, **695** families exited emergency accommodation in 2021 – an average of **58 families** per month.

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

Overall exits to tenancies have reduced on previous years. 695 family exits compares with 1,220 in 2020 and 1,137 in 2019. 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, ethnicity or large family sizes are affecting families' ability to exit homelessness. There are renewed efforts across the sector to engage with Landlords to encourage uptake of the Homeless Housing Assistance Payment scheme. In DCC, we have with the support of the housing SPC, directed an increased ration of social housing lettings to homeless families in the latter months to sustain the progress made in the reduction of family homelessness.

1.5. 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 **3,133** single adults in emergency accommodation at the end of December 2021. This represents a decrease on last month (71). This figure was **3,027** for December 2020.

2.1. New Single Adult Presentations – December 2021

The number of single adults presenting as homeless and using emergency accommodation for the first time was **126** in December 2021. This is the lowest number of presentations all year (**126** also in February 2021) and represents a decrease of **56** on the previous month and a decrease of **7** on the previous year December 2020.

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

In total, **1,827** singles individuals presented to homeless services in **2021**, which was an increase of **167** on the number presenting in **2020**. The average monthly total in **2021** was **152**, an increase on the average monthly presentation for **2020** of **138**. This reflects a continuation of the overall trend of annual increases in single adults presenting to homeless services. It is notable that the trend in single presentations was not reversed during the period of moratoria on evictions. It is the intention of the DRHE to examine more closely the presentation reasons for single adult homelessness in the region during 2022 to inform the homeless action plan.

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

Citizenship	Irish	EU/ EEA	Non EU	UK	Total singles
Dec 2021	47%	25%	25%	3%	126

37 of the new single adult presentations were related to relationship breakdowns, 27 related to private rented issues, 20 related to overcrowding, 17 related to no source of income, 10 related to leaving an institution, 7 related to family circumstances, 3 related to being the victim of anti-social behaviour, and 5 were for other reasons

We continue to manage presentations from other counties and from 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 September but we have maintained a level of excess capacity. The constraints are due to the flow in and out of homelessness but also some reduced capacity due to improvement works.

2.3. Prevention – Single Adult Homelessness

In December 2021, **52 single adults** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through HHAP (35) and Social Housing (16) 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.

In total in 2021, **755** single individuals were prevented from entering homeless services. This is a monthly average of **62**. In 2020, **729** singles individuals were prevented, with an average of 60 per month, so 2021 was a slightly more favourable year for us in terms of preventions.

2.4. Single Adult Homeless – Exit to Tenancies

3. 43 single adults exited to tenancies in December 2021: **21** (HAP), **16** (AHB/LA) and **6** (LTA). In total in 2021, **950** single individuals exited EA with a monthly average of **79**. This compares with **1,006** single adults that exited to tenancy, a monthly average of **83**, in 2020. The number of single adults presenting is consistently higher than the number of single adults exiting to tenancies thus increasing the demand for additional capacity in emergency accommodation. Increasing tenancy options for single adults to exit homelessness or to be prevented from experiencing homelessness must be a key priority in the next Homeless Action Plan for the region.

3.1. 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. **143** new Homeless HAP tenancies were sourced in December 2021.

2,516 HHAP tenancies were created in 2021 compared to 2,731 in 2020.

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

- 10 Families leaving hotels - Private Emergency Accommodation
- 18 Families leaving Supported emergency accommodation
- 59 Families who did not use emergency accommodation (Prevention)
- 15 Singles/Couples leaving Private Emergency Accommodation
- 6 Singles/Couples leaving supported emergency accommodation
- 35 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 – December 2021 (as at 31/12/2021)	Total Families	Total Adults	Number Dependents
24+ months	169	323	424
18-24months	44	78	125
12-18 months	93	167	237
6-12 months	148	248	348
6 months or less	325	504	711
Total	779*	1,320	1,845

* This figure differs to the 802 figure for December 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 – December 2021	Total Single Adults	%
24+ months	612	20
18-24months	230	8
12-18 months	304	10
6-12 months	498	16
6 months or less	1,402	46
Total Adults (Singles)	3,046	100%

5. Rise in Family Homelessness

The principal reason for the rise in family homelessness is the fall off in exits. Average monthly exits were **98** in 2018, **141** in 2019, **186** in 2020 and **58** for 2021. While a fall was to be anticipated given the lower number of families in homeless accommodation overall, the level is concerning if progress on the reduction of family homelessness is to be maintained.

6. Statutory Homeless Action Plan 2022 - 2024

The consultation for the development of a new Statutory Homeless Action Plan has completed and we are awaiting a draft plan based on primary research, PASS data and the consultation. The draft will be considered in detail by the various partners statutory and NGO on the consultative forum, the Management Group and will then be submitted to the 4 Dublin Local Authorities for approval.

7. 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 31st December there were **544** confirmed (cumulative) cases within Dublin Homeless Services.

8. Procurement

The DRHE issued an Invitation to Tender for Emergency accommodation on January 17th 2022. The Inspections tender is due to be re-issued as the process did not identify a qualified candidate within the tender specification. A tender to manage DCC owned or leased properties will issue in Q1- Q2 2022.

Mary Hayes

Director

Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE)

January 2021.



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

E-mail: www.homelessdublin.ie Twitter: @homelessDublin and @housingdcc

Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) – General Enquiries - 01 222 6861

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

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