

Monthly Report to Dublin City Councillors on Homelessness

This is the twenty-fifth report/update on homelessness in the Dublin region. This report focuses on the situation in the Dublin region at the end of **March 2022**. There are 137 more households in emergency accommodation when compared to the previous month, and 288 more individuals. This reflects an increase in both family and single adult households.

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

Month	Families	Adults in Families	Children	Singles	Total Adults	Total Individuals	Total Households
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
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

1. Family Homelessness

In Dublin at the end of March 2022, there were **901** families in emergency accommodation. **901** represents an increase of **50** on the February 2022 number, and an increase of **220** when compared with March 2021 when there were **681** families in emergency accommodation.

The number of children residing in emergency accommodation at the end of March was **2,109**. This is an increase of **113** when compared to the February 2022 figure and 440 more than the March 2021 figure of **1,669**.

1.1. Use of Commercial Hotels:

Given the uptick in family homelessness, there has been an increase in the numbers of families using commercial hotels. By the end of March 2022, there were **141** families residing in commercial hotels. This compares with **121** in March 2021, an increase of **20** families. The highest level was in March 2017, when the number of families in commercial hotels reached **871**.

Non-contract accommodation (previously known as self-accommodation) is now booked via DRHE. 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.

There is still space for smaller families in supported accommodation but we are often reliant on commercial accommodation for larger family sizes or in locations where there are no/limited alternatives.

1.2. New Family presentations – March 2022:

91 families entered emergency accommodation for the first time in March 2022. This represents an increase of 11 on February 2022. The table below shows family presentations for the previous 12 months.

Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022
53	79	62	78	64	78	64	66	64	40	74	80

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

Citizenship	Irish	UK	EU/ EEA	Non EU	Total
March 2022	47%	0%	37%	15%	100%

We have included a more detailed breakdown this month of the presenting reasons to aid understanding of the drivers of homelessness:

- 23 families presented to homeless services on arrival to the country.
- 16 of the families presented with a Notice of Termination: Landlord Sale (7), Rent Arrears (2), Anti-Social Behaviour (2), Other (5).
- 16 presented due to relationship breakdowns, predominantly with a parent(s).
- 15 presented due to overcrowding (LA/PR/Family Home/Friends).
- 10 presented because of experience of domestic violence, of which, 7 from refugees.
- 3 Family Reunification.
- 3 cited unaffordability of Private Rented.
- 1 Repossession.
- 4 Other.

1.4. Prevention - Family Homelessness

In March 2022, **55 families** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through the HHAP Scheme (52), Social Housing (2)* and LTA (1). 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 March 2022, **41 families** exited emergency accommodation into new tenancies. 25 moved to HAP and 16 to Social Housing tenancies. The table below shows family exits for the previous 12 months.

Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022
69	88	78	54	45	34	42	24	48	46	35	31

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 **3,343** single adults in emergency accommodation at the end of March 2022. This represents an increase on last month (87). This figure was **3,073** for March 2021.

2.1. New Single Adult Presentations – March 2022

The number of single adults presenting as homeless and using emergency accommodation for the first time was **179** in March 2022. This represents an increase of **17** on the previous month. The table below shows the new single adult presentations over the previous 12 months.

Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022
148	137	154	171	156	171	167	140	184	126	172	162

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

92 of the new single adult presentations were related to private rented issues, 50 related to relationship breakdowns, 37 were for other reasons.

Citizenship	Irish	EU/ EEA	Non EU	UK	Total
Mar 2022	29%	50%	18%	3%	100%

There has been intensive pressure on the beds available to single adults for emergency accommodation. Demand came from new presentations but also the re-accommodation of the residents of Little Britain Street STA following a fire in the premises.

We are thankful that everyone was evacuated safely and sincerely thank DePaul Ireland and Dublin Fire Brigade for their response, and Peter McVerry Trust for their support to accommodate displaced residents on the night.

2.3. Prevention – Single Adult Homelessness

In March 2022, **56 single adults** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through HHAP (45) and Social Housing (11). 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

55 single adults exited to tenancies in March 2022: **23** (HAP), **22** (AHB/LA), **9** (LTA) and **1** (RAS). The table below shows exits of single adults to tenancies for the previous 12 months.

Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022
92	139	105	68	75	81	66	49	46	43	47	53

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 for by the HSE. In partnership with the DRHE, the HSE has commenced a training programme for staff in Private Emergency Accommodation.

Training to Date:

- Crisis Prevention Safety intervention Training.
- Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training
- Naloxone and Overdose Awareness
- First Aid

Planned training includes:

- Intercultural Awareness
- Equality and Diversity
- Safeguarding Adults
- Children First
- Trauma Informed Skills Training

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. 145 new Homeless HAP tenancies were sourced in March 2022.

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

- 6 Family leaving hotels - Private Emergency Accommodation
- 19 Family leaving supported emergency accommodation
- 52 Families who did not use emergency accommodation (Prevention)
- 12 Singles/Couples leaving Private Emergency Accommodation
- 11 Singles/Couples leaving supported emergency accommodation
- 45 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 – March 2022 (as at 31/03/2022)	Total Families	%
24+ months	157	18%
18-24months	49	5%
12-18 months	86	10%
6-12 months	199	22%
6 months or less	405	45%
Total	896*	100%

* This figure differs to the 901 figure for March 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.

The percentage of families in the 0-6 and 6-12 month categories has increased compared with the same month last year, while the percentage of families in the 18-24 months and 24+ months categories has decreased slightly, reflecting a concerted effort to target families experiencing long term homelessness.

4.2. Single Adults – Duration in Services

Duration in EA – February 2022	Total Single Adults	%
24+ months	539	16%
18-24months	204	6%
12-18 months	253	8%
6-12 months	582	18%
6 months or less	1,676	52%
Total Adults (Singles)	3,254	100%

5. Rough Sleeper Count

The Rough Sleeper Count for Spring 2022

- ▶ **91** individuals found to be rough sleeping
- ▶ **72** individuals had PASS ID's
- ▶ **9** individuals had an active tenancy
- ▶ **11** individuals had an EA booking on the night of engagement
- ▶ **13** individuals from this count were also recorded in October 2021 count
- ▶ **67%** of individuals were aged 26-45
- ▶ **78%** were associated with a Dublin Local Authority
- ▶ **46%** individuals met on week of count were accessing EA the following week

We welcome that rough sleeper numbers have not increased with the overall increase in homelessness and acknowledge the considerable effort by Dublin Simon Outreach to ensure rough sleepers get effective interventions, i.e. access to shelter and access to healthcare. The role of Housing First has been critical to the reduction in rough sleeping in the past year.

6. Housing First

Housing First in the Dublin Region is provided by Peter McVerry Trust on behalf of the DRHE. By the end of Q1 2022 there were a total of 406 unique individuals in active Housing First tenancies (of which 21 were created in 2022). 12 tenancies were created in March 2022, with 4 in DCC, 7 in SDCC and 1 in FCC.

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April 2022

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

Play your part and let us know if you see anyone sleeping rough. Download our free Dublin Rough Sleeper Alert app from App stores