

Monthly Report to Dublin City Councillors on Homelessness

This is the thirty-sixth report/update on homelessness in the Dublin region. This report focuses on the situation in the Dublin region at the end of **February 2023**. There are 65 more households in emergency accommodation when compared to the previous month, with 65 more individuals. This reflects an increase in both families and single adult households, but predominantly in single households following the introduction of extra capacity under the Cold Weather Strategy.

*Number of individuals in Emergency Accommodation in the **Dublin Region** – from February 2022 to February 2023, as published nationally:*

Month	Families	Adults in Families	Children	Singles	Total Adults	Total Individuals	Total Households
Feb 2023	1,169	2,008	2,576	4,004	6,012	8,588	5,173
Jan 2023	1,165	2,003	2,577	3,943	5,946	8,523	5,108
Dec 2022	1,148	1,960	2,583	3,833	5,793	8,376	4,981
Nov 2022	1,134	1,914	2,549	3,741	5,655	8,204	4,875
Oct 2022	1,120	1,885	2,529	3,673	5,558	8,087	4,793
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

1. Family Homelessness

In Dublin at the end of February 2023, there were **1,169** families in emergency accommodation. This is an increase of **4** on the January 2023 number, and an increase of **318** when compared with February 2022 when there were **851** families in emergency accommodation. That is a 37% increase in the number of families in emergency accommodation in the Dublin Region in the past 12 months.

The number of children residing in emergency accommodation at the end of February was **2,576**. This is a decrease of **1** when compared to the January 2023 figure and **580** more than the February 2022 figure of **1,996**.

1.1. Use of Commercial Hotels:

The numbers of families residing in commercial hotels has increased. By the end of February 2023, there were **304** families using commercial hotels. This represents an increase of **7** families from **297** in January 2023 and compared with **126** in February 2022, an increase of **178** families. The highest level was in March 2017, when the number of families in commercial hotels reached **871**.

In general, commercial hotels and Bed and Breakfast placements are booked through 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.

1.2. New Family Presentations – February 2023:

62 families entered emergency accommodation for the first time in February 2023. This represents an increase of 5 on January 2023. The table below shows family presentations for the previous 12 months.

Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023
80	91	80	64	69	79	78	63	58	62	49	57

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

Citizenship	Irish	EU/ EEA	Non-EU	UK	Total
February 2023	33 (53%)	16 (26%)	11 (18%)	2 (3%)	62 (100%)

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

Family Reason for Homelessness	Feb 2023	%
Notice Of Termination (NOT)	12	19%
Unsuitable Accommodation	2	3%
Unknown	4	6%
Domestic Violence	6	10%
No previous address in Ireland	4	6%
Freephone Placement	1	2%
Relationship breakdown Family/partner	19	31%
Leaving Family Support Services Non S10	1	2%
Family Reunification	2	3%
Leaving Direct Provision	1	2%
Overcrowding	10	16%
Total	62	100%

The NOTs reflect

1. notices given pre-moratoria, but where over-holding or other temporary arrangements have broken down
2. valid notices including rent arrears or ASB

Presented to Local Authority: DCC – 25, DLRCC – 3, FCC – 9, SDCC – 25

1.4. Prevention – Family Homelessness:

In February 2023, **48 families** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through the HHAP Scheme (40) and Social Housing (8)*. This prevention figure does not include tenancies protected by the (DRHE funded) Threshold Tenancy Protection Service or other prevention services.

**Additional social housing prevention lettings 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 that may not be included here.*

1.5. Families – Exit to Tenancies*:

In February 2023, **37 families** exited emergency accommodation into new tenancies. 21 moved to HAP, 15* to Social Housing and 1 to LTA. The table below shows family exits for the previous 12 months.

Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023
32	44	29	46	44	50	31	31	24	44	41	21

**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.*

Over the first 2 months of this year **30** families in the Dublin Region have exited emergency accommodation to social housing Local Authority/AHB /LTA. A further **28** families across the 4 Dublin Local Authorities moved with the assistance of HAP.

The fall in families exiting homelessness to tenancies is the primary reason for increasing homeless numbers, as the rate of new presentations has remained relatively stable. The number of families exiting homelessness to tenancies must be higher than the number of new presenting families to achieve a reduction in family homelessness. The number of families moving to HAP from emergency accommodation saw a small but welcome increase from 7 in January to 21 in February. The monthly average number of families exiting emergency accommodation to tenancies in 2023 is currently running at **29**, compared with **33** in 2022, **57** in 2021, **94** in 2020, and **95** in 2019. We would hope to see an increase as the year progresses.

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 **4,004** single adults in emergency accommodation at the end of February 2023, which represents an increase of **61** on last month. This figure was **3,256** for February 2022. That is a 23% increase in single adults in emergency accommodation in the Dublin Region over the past 12 months.

2.1. New Single Adult Presentations – February 2023:

The number of single adults presenting as homeless and using emergency accommodation for the first time was **141** in February 2023. This represents a decrease of **21** on the previous month. The table below shows the new single adult presentations over the previous 12 months.

Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023
162	179	165	181	180	168	176	160	159	200	157	162

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

Citizenship	Irish	EU/EEA	Non-EU	UK	Total
February 2023	74 (53%)	33 (23%)	30 (21%)	4 (3%)	141 (100%)

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

Singles Reason for Homelessness	Feb 2023	%
Relationship breakdown (Family/Partner)	37	26%
Notice of Termination	13	9%
Family circumstances	1	1%
Newly Arrived from Abroad	9	6%
Insufficient Funds	6	4%
From Outside DRHE Region	3	2%
Overcrowding	15	11%
Hospital discharge/Leaving treatment	6	4%
Mental health issues	1	1%
Leaving Direct Provision	4	3%
Rough sleeper	10	7%
Relationship breakdown (Other)	2	1%
Left informal tenancy	2	1%
Leaving care	1	1%
Family Reunification	4	3%
Freephone (Short-term placement)	12	9%
Domestic Violence	2	1%
Substance abuse	3	2%
Home repossessed	2	1%
Unknown	4	3%
Prison discharge	3	2%
Returning from Abroad	1	1%
Total	141	100%

Presented to Local Authority: DCC – 95, DLRCC – 4, FCC – 16, SDCC – 26

Sourcing sufficient capacity in a context of limited move-on possibilities for single person households continues to be a significant challenge.

2.3. Prevention – Single Adult Homelessness:

In February 2023, **44 single adults** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through HHAP (27), 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.

**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:

52 single adults exited to tenancies in February 2023: **20** (HAP), **27** (AHB/LA), **4** (LTA) and **1** (RAS). The table below shows exits of single adults to tenancies for the previous 12 months.

Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023
49	52	39	48	33	36	44	40	34	39	42	41

**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.*

The monthly average number of singles exiting emergency accommodation to tenancies in 2023 is **47**, compared with **44** in 2022, **81** in 2021, **84** in 2020, and **48** in 2020.

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 is 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. **108** new Homeless HAP tenancies were sourced in February 2023.

Breakdown of household type and previous accommodation of those accessing HHAP in February:

Previous Accommodation	Singles/Couples	Families
Leaving hotels/PEA	14	9
Leaving STA	6	12
Prevention/did not use EA	40	27
Total	60	48

4. Duration accessing emergency accommodation

4.1. Families – Detailed Analysis of Duration in Services:

Duration in EA – February 2023 (as at 28/02/2023)	Total Families	%
24+ months	203	17%
18-24months	96	8%
12-18 months	188	16%
6-12 months	322	28%
6 months or less	356	31%
Total	1,165*	100%

* This figure differs to the 1,169 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.

When compared to February 2022, the percentage of families in the 6-12 months, 12-18 months and 18-24 months categories has increased. The percentage of families accessing Emergency Accommodation for 6 months or less and the percentage experiencing homelessness for 24+ months has decreased.

4.2. Single Adults – Duration in Services:

Duration in EA – February 2023	Total Single Adults	%
24+ months	598	16%
18-24months	255	7%
12-18 months	477	12%
6-12 months	747	19%
6 months or less	1,788	46%
Total Adults (Singles)	3,865	100%

5. Housing First

Housing First in the Dublin Region is provided by Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT) on behalf of the DRHE. As of the end of February 2023, there were a total of **468** active Housing First tenancies with a retention rate of 86%. **5** Housing First tenancies were created in February 2023: DCC – 4, DLRCC – 0, FCC – 0, SDCC – 1.

6. Notices of Termination

We strongly encourage anyone with a Notice of Termination to contact their local authority as soon as they receive a Notice from their landlord. Our first response will be to try to prevent homelessness. This includes assessing a household's position on the social housing list, advice on applying for Choice Based Lettings, advising on the level of Housing Assistance Payment a household may be eligible to receive and, in some cases, assessing if we can acquire the current dwelling under the Tenant in Situ Scheme if it is being offered for sale.

Advice, including the contact details for the four Dublin Local Authorities, has been published on our website: www.homelessdublin.ie.

Mary Hayes

Director

Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE)

March 2023

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

Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) – General Enquiries - 01 222 6611

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



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