

Monthly Report to Dublin City Councillors on Homelessness

This is the thirty-eighth report/update on homelessness in the Dublin region. This report focuses on the situation in the Dublin region (inclusive of the 4 Dublin Local Authorities) at the end of **April 2023**. There are **116** more households in emergency accommodation when compared to the previous month, with **235** 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 April 2022 to April 2023, as published nationally:*

| Month | Families | Adults in Families | Children | Singles | Total Adults | Total Individuals | Total Households |
|------------|----------|--------------------|----------|---------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Apr 2023 | 1,263 | 2,160 | 2,722 | 4,128 | 6,288 | 9,010 | 5,391 |
| Mar 2023 | 1,203 | 2,065 | 2,638 | 4,072 | 6,137 | 8,775 | 5,275 |
| 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 |

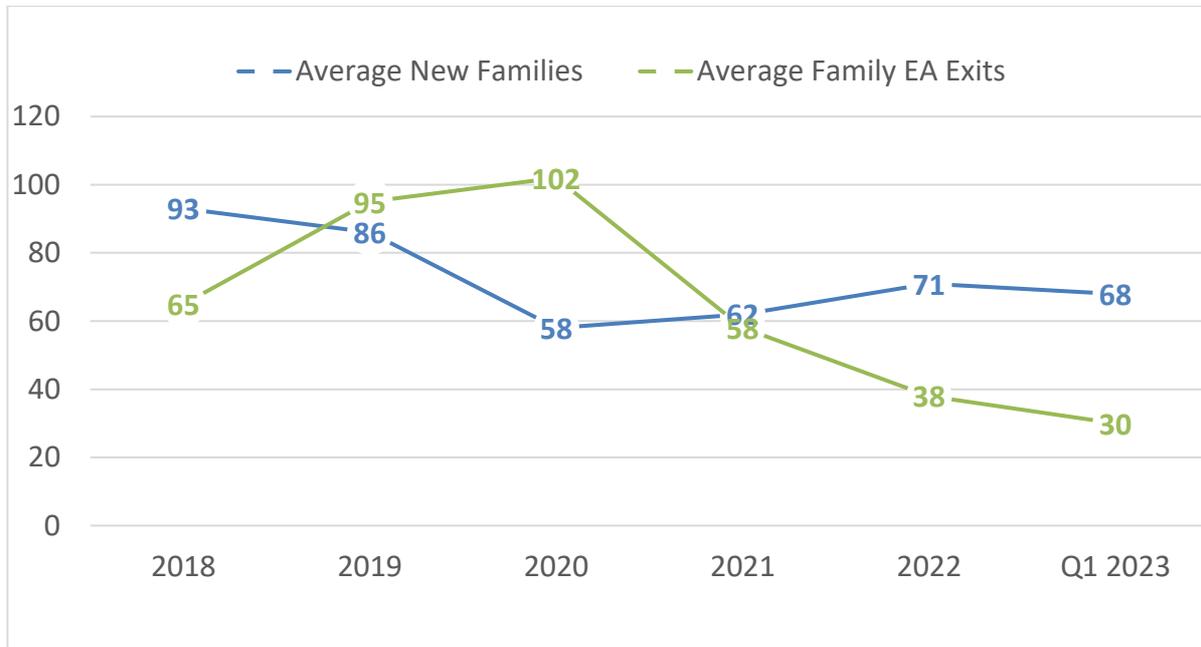
1. Family Homelessness

In Dublin at the end of April 2023, there were **1,263** families in emergency accommodation. This is an increase of **60** on the March 2023 number, and an increase of **307** when compared with April 2022 when there were **956** families in emergency accommodation. That is a 32% 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 April was **2,722**. This is an increase of **84** when compared to the March 2023 figure and **513** more than the April 2022 figure of **2,209**.

Examining the rate of new family presentations per quarter, we can see that new presentations have been relatively consistent but there has been a significant fall in the number of families exiting emergency accommodation to a tenancy. This is the single biggest driver of the increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness. In 2022 and Q1 2023, on average, for every one family exiting EA, two families entered homelessness.

Table 1: Average presentations and exits (families)



1.1. Use of Commercial Hotels

The numbers of families residing in commercial hotels has increased. By the end of April 2023, there were **333** families using commercial hotels. This represents an increase of **16** families from **317** in March 2023 and compared with **169** in April 2022, an increase of **164** families. The highest level was in March 2017, when the number of families in commercial hotels reached **871**.

1.2. New Family Presentations – April 2023

79 families entered emergency accommodation for the first time in March 2023. This represents a decrease of 5 on March 2023. The table below shows family presentations for the previous 12 months.

| Apr 2022 | May 2022 | June 2022 | July 2022 | Aug 2022 | Sept 2022 | Oct 2022 | Nov 2022 | Dec 2022 | Jan 2023 | Feb 2023 | Mar 2023 |
|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 80 | 64 | 69 | 79 | 78 | 63 | 58 | 62 | 49 | 57 | 62 | 84 |

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

| Citizenship | Irish | EU/ EEA | Non-EU | UK | Total |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|--------|-----------|
| April 2023 | 41 (52%) | 17 (22%) | 20 (25%) | 1 (1%) | 79 (100%) |

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

| Family Reason for Homelessness | Apr 2023 | % |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Notice Of Termination (NOT) | 44 | 56% |
| License Agreement not Renewed | 1 | 1% |
| Out of Hours Placement (Short Term) | 1 | 1% |
| Domestic Violence | 3 | 4% |
| Arrived From Abroad Recently | 2 | 3% |
| Relationship breakdown Family/partner | 15 | 19% |
| Family Reunification | 1 | 1% |
| Leaving Direct Provision | 1 | 1% |
| Overcrowding | 11 | 14% |
| Total | 79 | 100% |

Notice of Termination were high at 44.

16 - property to be sold (8 DCC Clients – sent to Housing Acquisitions), 7- Unsuitable Accommodation; 5 - Rent Arrears, 9 – Landlord Requires for Own or Family Use, 2 – Substantial Renovations & 1 - Landlord Bankrupt/Receivership, 4 – Unknown (Clarification sought from LA's).

Presented to Local Authority: DCC – 39, DLRCC – 3, FCC – 14, SDCC – 23

Reasons why Tenant in Situ was not possible for 16 Landlord sales:

2 - Household size (overcrowded)

1 – Property already sold

3 – Landlord not willing to engage

2 – Family under offer

1 – Now in process of TIS, family could be moving back into property soon

1 – Landlord now living in property

1 – Not enough notice for Landlord

5 – Tenants did not contact/apply for TIS

The Tenant in Situ scheme has made a sizeable contribution to ensuring there was no great change in the numbers of families presenting to homeless services. The DRHE welcomes the commitment to the scheme and considers it is already making a significant contribution to the prevention of Family homelessness. It is very important we get the message out to tenants with a Notice of Termination to engage with their Local Authority at an early stage.

Presented to Local Authority: DCC – 39, DLRCC – 3, FCC – 14, SDCC – 23

1.4. Prevention – Family Homelessness

In April 2023, **63** families were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through the HHAP Scheme (48), Social Housing (14)* 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 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 April 2023, **20** families exited emergency accommodation into new tenancies. 9 moved to HAP, 10* to Social Housing and 1 to RAS. The table below shows family exits for the previous 12 months.

| Apr 2022 | May 2022 | June 2022 | July 2022 | Aug 2022 | Sept 2022 | Oct 2022 | Nov 2022 | Dec 2022 | Jan 2023 | Feb 2023 | Mar 2023 |
|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 29 | 46 | 44 | 50 | 31 | 31 | 24 | 44 | 41 | 21 | 37 | 20 |

**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 4 months of this year **62** families in the Dublin Region have exited emergency accommodation to social housing Local Authority (36) / AHB (24) / LTA (2). A further **46** families across the 4 Dublin Local Authorities moved with the assistance of HAP.

The number of families moving to HAP from emergency accommodation was 9 in April which was the same as the previous month. The monthly average number of families exiting emergency accommodation to tenancies in 2023 is currently running at **28**, compared with **33** in 2022, **57** in 2021, **94** in 2020, and **95** in 2019. There will be a strong focus on improving the pathway out of homelessness 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 NGO and DRHE teams, as well as access to services provided by the HSE and TUSLA.

2. Single Adult Homelessness

There were **4,128** single adults in emergency accommodation at the end of April 2023, which represents an increase of **56** on last month. This figure was **3,365** for April 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 – April 2023

The number of single adults presenting as homeless and using emergency accommodation for the first time was **132** in April 2023. This represents a decrease of 57 on the previous month. The table below shows the new single adult presentations over the previous 12 months.

| Apr 2022 | May 2022 | June 2022 | July 2022 | Aug 2022 | Sept 2022 | Oct 2022 | Nov 2022 | Dec 2022 | Jan 2023 | Feb 2023 | Mar 2023 |
|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 165 | 181 | 180 | 168 | 176 | 160 | 159 | 200 | 157 | 162 | 141 | 189 |

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

| Citizenship | Irish | EU/EEA | Non-EU | UK | Total |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|--------|------------|
| March 2023 | 79 (60%) | 18 (14%) | 34 (26%) | 1 (1%) | 132 (100%) |

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

| Singles - Reason for Homelessness | Apr 2023 | % |
|---|------------|-------------|
| Relationship breakdown (Family/Partner) | 36 | 27% |
| Notice of Termination | 21 | 16% |
| Freephone (Short term Placement) | 13 | 10% |
| Insufficient Funds | 11 | 8% |
| Leaving Direct Provision | 11 | 8% |
| Overcrowding | 11 | 8% |
| Newly Arrived from Abroad | 8 | 6% |
| Asked to leave Accommodation | 3 | 2% |
| Family circumstances | 2 | 2% |
| Hospital Discharge/Leaving treatment | 2 | 2% |
| Property Repossessed | 3 | 2% |
| Relationship Breakdown (Friend) | 3 | 2% |
| Sleeping Rough | 2 | 2% |
| Domestic Violence | 1 | 1% |
| Family Reunification | 1 | 1% |
| Leaving Care | 1 | 1% |
| Licence arrangement not renewed | 1 | 1% |
| Parental House Sold | 1 | 1% |
| Substance Addiction | 1 | 1% |
| Total | 132 | 100% |

Presented to Local Authority: DCC – 92, DLRCC – 5, FCC – 18, SDCC – 17

2.3. Prevention – Single Adult Homelessness

In April 2023, **38 single adults** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through HHAP (19), Social Housing (15) and LTA (4). 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

33 single adults exited to tenancies in April 2023: 9 (HAP), 14 (AHB/LA)* and 10 (LTA). The table below shows exits of single adults to tenancies for the previous 12 months.

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

**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 **44**, 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.

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. **85** new Homeless HAP tenancies were sourced in April 2023.

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

| Previous Accommodation | Singles/Couples | Families |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Leaving hotels/PEA | 8 | 3 |
| Leaving STA | 1 | 6 |
| Prevention/did not use EA | 19 | 48 |
| Total | 28 | 57 |

4. Duration accessing emergency accommodation

4.1. Families – Detailed Analysis of Duration in Services

| Duration in EA – April 2023 (as at 30/04/2023) | Total Families | % |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|
| 24+ months | 215 | 17% |
| 18-24months | 135 | 11% |
| 12-18 months | 199 | 16% |
| 6-12 months | 299 | 24% |
| 6 months or less | 406 | 32% |
| Total | 1,254* | 100% |

* This figure differs to the 1,263 figure for April 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 April 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 – April 2023 | Total Single Adults | % |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 24+ months | 619 | 16% |
| 18-24months | 305 | 8% |
| 12-18 months | 501 | 13% |
| 6-12 months | 770 | 19% |
| 6 months or less | 1,776 | 45% |
| Total Adults (Singles) | 3,971 | 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 April 2023, there were a total of **476** active Housing First tenancies. 10 Housing First tenancies were created in April 2023: DCC – 4, DLRCC – 0, FCC – 2, SDCC – 4.

6. Training, Quality Standards and Inspections

The roll out of a training programme devised by the HSE & DRHE for PEA staff was rolled out in February 2022 and continues.

As of 2023 Q1 end, there has been 3,590 occasions PEA staff completed trainings identified on the programme. The training includes:

- Fire warden / Safety Training, Children First E-Modules, START - Suicide Awareness, First Aid with Defibrillator, Naloxone & Overdose Training, Trauma Informed Care, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, Equality & Diversity, Intercultural Awareness and Children First/Child Protection Training.

The HSE agreed in joint partnership with the DRHE to provide 46 defibrillators were to PEA services. An Independent Inspectorate was tendered in 2022 and the successful candidate began inspections across all Section 10 funded Emergency Accommodation in October 2022. Inspections cover general service conditions, fire safety standards, environmental health and food safety standards

- There have been 113 inspections completed as of April 2023
- 2022 Q4 inspections have been published on the DRHE website for public viewing. Q1 from 2023 is planned for publication at the start of June.

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May 2023

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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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