

“ It is a strong objective of the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) and Dublin City Council (DCC) to reduce the reliance on commercial hotels for the provision of emergency accommodation. Very good progress has been made on this objective over the last 15 months with the number of families in such emergency accommodation at its lowest level since 2015. Commercial hotels were used only when there were no supported alternative accommodation available.

One of the few remaining hotels in use is the Travel Lodge in Ballymun which has provided vital emergency accommodation for over 3 years when it was most needed. It is a positive development that the DRHE/DCC are now in a position to offer better and more suitable accommodation to all of the remaining homeless households in this hotel.

The Dublin Region Homeless Executive intends to cease use of the Travel Lodge Hotel in Ballymun for emergency accommodation for families from **15th June 2021**. The DRHE now has vacancies in a number of hub facilities on the Northside where families will have access to a broad range of facilities and onsite supports to support them to move out of homelessness. We originally had contracted 62 units in the Travel Lodge and there are currently just 15 families and 3 single individuals remaining. Some of the families are under offer for social housing and others have upcoming HAP viewings.

We have staff working directly with the remaining households in the Travel Lodge over the coming weeks to source alternative accommodation that matches their needs, taking into consideration for example location of schools and ties to the area. We appreciate that it may be difficult for some of the families but we will work very hard to ensure a smooth transition.

We can categorically state that no household is under pressure to move immediately- (nobody is being evicted and nobody was told that they had to vacate within a very short of time) and they can contact us directly to discuss what they need.

The statement that families are being requested to leave to make way for workers from a named company is totally inaccurate. Given the reduced numbers of families experiencing homelessness, we can now offer choice, as we have vacancies in a number of supported family hubs across the Northside. There is no pressure on anyone to vacate the Travel lodge immediately and they can remain in the property up until the 15th June if they so wish.

Each household has notified us of their preferences and we will be working with families over the coming weeks to ensure their needs are met.