

# External Report

Week long assessment of rough sleepers in the  
Dublin Region

November 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Winter Count

## Winter 2023 Count of Rough Sleepers in the Dublin Region

The Rough Sleeper Count takes place bi-annually to measure the level of street homelessness in the Dublin Region and to enhance our understanding of the reasons for rough sleeping. Since Autumn 2020, the count has taken place over a full week, during which the Dublin Simon Outreach team engage in a full region assessment of the people met sleeping rough, or at risk of sleeping rough.

The Winter 2023 count was conducted over the week of November 6<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> 2023. Additional staff were deployed to ensure more thorough coverage of the city centre areas. They communicated with the Gardaí and staff in all four Dublin Local Authorities to ensure they were fully informed about any individuals who were known to be rough sleeping, particularly in isolated areas. This follows the approach taken for the previous 6 rough sleeper counts since November 2020 where over the 7 days, the Outreach teams visited all areas in the region at least once.

Please note that the statistics below represent the total unique individuals over a seven day period, and should not be compared with the figures from the single-night counts published prior to November 2020. Where useful, figures have been compared with the March 2023, November 2022, April 2022, October 2021, and April 2021 counts as they all used the same methodology.

During the course of the week long count, the Outreach team encountered 118 individuals, of which 114 (97%) had PASS IDs. This is an increase of 35 individuals on the March 2023 count, and 27 individuals on the November 2022 count.

## Summary of key points from the Winter 2023 count of rough sleepers:

- There were 118 individuals found to be rough sleeping, of which 114 (97%) had PASS IDs.
- Most individuals (69%; n=79) were aged 26-45.
- The majority (65%; n=74) of those found were male, while 35% (n=40) were female.
- Of those known to homeless services (n=114), 39% (n=45) were using tents, while the remaining 61% were not (n=69).
- The majority of individuals (82%; n=93) were associated with one of the four local authorities within the Dublin Region.
- 2% (n=2) had an active tenancy on PASS. A further 6% (n=7) had recently lost their tenancies.
- 32% (n=37) of individuals had an Emergency Accommodation booking on PASS on the day they were met by the Outreach team. Of these, 26% (n=30) did not present at their accommodation that night (i.e. were no-shows).
- During the course of the count week, 34% (n=39) had a booking for Emergency Accommodation on another night during the count week. However, only 10% (n=11) presented at their accommodation while the rest were no-shows (25%, n=28).
- After the week of the count, 30% (n=34) of those the Outreach team engaged with had a booking for Emergency Accommodation, of which 12% (n=14) were no-shows.
- 56% of individuals (n=64) had booked Emergency Accommodation at some stage in the three months prior to the count, of which 10% (n=11) were no-shows.
- The majority (81%, n=92) of individuals who were found rough sleeping in the Dublin Region during the November 2023 count were Irish, while a further 15% (n=17) had EU citizenship. The remaining 4% (n=5) had non-EU citizenship.

## Findings

*Table 1 – Total unique individuals found during the week of the count*

Count	Nov 2023	March 2023	Nov 2022	April 2022	Oct 2021	April 2021	Difference on November 2022
Total found	118	83	91	91	94	125	+27
<i>Of which with PASS IDs</i>	114	75	87	72	82	110	+27

Of the 118 found rough sleeping, 114 individuals (or 97%) had active PASS records or had PASS records created during the week of the count. Several of those identified at the beginning of the week as not registered were registered over the course of the week or soon after. The following summary statistics were taken from the 114 individuals who were registered on PASS.

*Table 2 – Age profile of individuals found during week of count*

Age group	March 2023	% Nov 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021	% April 2021
18-25	7	6%	7%	9%	8%	11%	7%
26-45	79	69%	68%	63%	67%	68%	70%
46-61	26	23%	23%	25%	25%	17%	23%
62+	2	2%	3%	2%	0%	4%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>						

The youngest person found rough sleeping during the count was 18 years old, and the oldest found was 73 years. More than two-thirds of rough sleepers (69%, 79 individuals) were aged between 26-45 years. Those aged 18-25 accounted for 6% of the count (7 individuals). The percentage distribution for the Winter 2023 rough sleeper count is similar to that of the Spring 2023 and Winter 2022 counts, where the majority were also aged between 26 and 45 years old (68% for Spring 2023 and 63% for Winter 2022).

Table 3 – Gender profile of individuals found during the week of count

Gender	March 2023	% Nov 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021	% April 2021
Male	74	65%	71%	72%	64%	79%	78%
Female	40	35%	29%	28%	36%	21%	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>						

The November 2023 count shows an increase in the percentage of females found rough sleeping in the Dublin Region. The proportion of females found rough sleeping in the November 2023 count was 35% (40 individuals), an absolute increase of 6% on the March 2023 count. This increase in female rough sleepers may be explained by the significant number of women with partners who were also found rough sleeping during the November 2023 count. There were 11 couples found rough sleeping in the November 2023 count, comprising of 22 individuals (19% of individuals with PASS IDs). The proportion of male rough sleepers in November 2023 was 65% (74 individuals), a 6% absolute decrease on the March 2023 count.

Table 4 – Comparison of those found rough sleeping with and without tents during the week of count

Tents	Nov 2023	% Nov 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021	% April 2021
Number found with tents	45	39%	48%	24%	31%	45%	59%
Number found without tents	69	61%	52%	76%	69%	55%	41%
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>						

Data relating to those rough sleeping with tents was introduced in the April 2021 count. In November 2023, almost two-fifths (39%, 45 individuals) of those found rough sleeping were using tents, an absolute decrease of 9% on the March 2023 count. The proportion of individuals found rough sleeping not using tents in November 2023 was 61% (69 individuals), a 9% absolute increase on the March 2023 count.

Table 5 – Individuals found on both the November 2023 count and the March 2023 count

<b>Number of those found in Rough Sleeper Count in both November 2023 AND March 2023</b>	<b>18</b>
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Of those with PASS IDs, 18 individuals (16%) found in the November 2023 count were also found in the March 2023 count.

Table 6 – Number of engagements with individuals over the week (for those with PASS IDs only)

No. of engagements	Nov 2023	% Nov 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021	% April 2021
1	75	66%	69%	60%	71%	95%	75%
2	25	22%	20%	24%	18%	5%	17%
3	11	10%	7%	9%	3%	0%	6%
4	2	2%	4%	3%	4%	0%	2%
5 or more	1	1%	0%	3%	4%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>						

While the majority (66%, or 75 individuals) had only one engagement over the week, 34% (39 individuals) required multiple engagements as the team worked with them to find a suitable alternative to rough sleeping. This is reflected in Table 10, where it can be seen that 34% (39 individuals) had an Emergency Accommodation booking at some stage over the count week, and 30% (34 individuals) had an Emergency Accommodation booking after the count week had ended.

Table 7 – Local Authority area recorded on PASS for the individuals found over the count week

Local Authority	Nov 2023	% Nov 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021	% April 2021
DCC	66	58%	60%	63%	53%	23%	24%
DLRCC/FCC/SDCC	27	24%	32%	16%	25%	61%	51%
Outside Dublin Region	20	18%	8%	11%	6%	15%	16%
Unknown	1	1%	0%	9%	16%	1%	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>						

Of those found during the count week, the majority (82%, or 93 individuals) were associated with one of the four local authorities within the Dublin region. 18% (20 individuals) were from outside the Dublin region. Local authority information was unavailable for the remaining 1%<sup>1</sup> (1 individual).

<sup>1</sup> Percentages have been rounded off to the nearest %, hence the total sum of 101%

Table 8 – Individuals with a tenancy found rough sleeping during the week of the count

Tenancy	Nov 2023	March 2023	Nov 2022	April 2022	Oct 2021	April 2021
Yes	2	4	1	9	2	10
No	112	71	86	63	80	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>110</b>

Of those found rough sleeping during the count week, 2 individuals (2%) had active tenancies on the PASS system. The remaining 112 individuals (98%) did not have an active tenancy listed on PASS. Of those without an active tenancy, 7 individuals (6%) had lost their tenancies within the previous 6-month period.

Table 9 – Housing Needs Assessments recorded on PASS for individuals found during the count week

Housing Needs Assessment	Nov 2023	% Nov 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021	% April 2021
Completed	78	68%	79%	87%	53%	43%	55%
Not completed	36	32%	21%	13%	47%	57%	45%
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>						

The vast majority found during the November 2023 count (68%, or 78 individuals) had a completed Housing Needs Assessment (HNA), while the remaining 32% (36 individuals) had ‘not completed’ or ‘not accepted HNA’ recorded on PASS.

Table 10 – Emergency Accommodation usage by individuals found during the count week

Emergency Accommodation use	Nov 2023	March 2023	Nov 2022	April 2022	Oct 2021	April 2021
Had booking on night of engagement	37	29	20	11	29	32
Had booking over week of engagement	39	36	36	20	35	44
Had booking after week of engagement	34	32	31	33	32	45
Used Emergency Accommodation in the three months prior to week of count	64	55	53	44	43	78
Had used EA any time prior to week of count	100	73	82	66	66	99

Of those found during the November 2023 count, 37 individuals (32%) had an active Emergency Accommodation booking on PASS on the day they were met by the Outreach team. Of these, 30 individuals (26%) did not present to their Emergency Accommodation provider (i.e. were no-shows). This is a slight increase on the March 2023 count, where the number found rough sleeping with an existing booking was 29 individuals.

The number of individuals with an Emergency Accommodation booking at any stage during the count week was higher than that of the March 2023 count. In November 2023, 39 individuals (34%) had a booking for Emergency Accommodation during the week of the count, compared with 36 individuals (48%) in March 2023. However, only 11 individuals (10%) arrived at their Emergency Accommodation while the remaining 28 individuals (25%) were no-shows. After the count week, 34 individuals (30%) the Outreach team engaged with had a booking for Emergency Accommodation, of which 14 individuals (12%) were no-shows.

In the three months prior to count week, 64 individuals (56%) had at least one booking for Emergency Accommodation, of which 11 individuals (10%) did not present (i.e. were no-shows). This is an improvement in Emergency Accommodation uptake on the previous count where 55 individuals had an Emergency Accommodation booking, of which 11 individuals did not present (i.e. were no-shows).

The vast majority (100 individuals, 88%) had a booking for Emergency Accommodation at some stage prior to the count week, which is in line with the March 2023 count. Of these, 10 individuals (9%) were no-shows, compared with 5 individuals (7%) in the previous count. 14 individuals (12%) had never had an emergency accommodation booking on PASS, an increase of 12 individuals on the March 2023 count.

Table 11: Citizenship recorded on PASS for those found during the count week

Citizenship	Nov 2023	% Nov 2023	% March 2023	% Nov 2022	% April 2022	% Oct 2021	% April 2021
Irish	92	81%	79%	69%	90%	85%	83%
EU	17	15%	19%	28%	10%	12%	10%
Non-EU	5	4%	3%	3%	0%	1%	4%
Unknown	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>						

In the November 2023 count, the vast majority of those found rough sleeping in the Dublin Region had Irish citizenship (81%, or 92 individuals). This is an absolute increase of 2% on the March 2023 count, and a 12% absolute increase on the November 2022 count. 15% of those found (17 individuals) had EU citizenship, an absolute decrease of 4% on the March 2023 count. The remaining 4% (5 individuals) had non-EU citizenship, an absolute increase of 1% on the March 2023 count.