

Media Release Re: Rough Sleeper Count 4th to 10th November, 2024

3rd January 2025

Winter 2024 Count of People who are Sleeping Rough in the Dublin Region

The official Winter Count of people sleeping rough in the Dublin Region¹ was carried out over the week of the 4th to 10th November 2024. A total of 134 unique individuals were confirmed as rough sleeping across the Dublin region over the week of the count. This represents an increase of 16 individuals (14%) on the same period last year, with 118 individuals found to be rough sleeping during the week-long Winter Rough Sleeper count on the week of the 6th to 12th November 2023.

The count was arranged by the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) and carried out by the Dublin Simon Community Outreach Team. Additional Outreach workers were deployed to ensure intense coverage of city centre areas. Staff in all four Dublin local authorities and An Garda Síochána provided additional information about people who were rough sleeping, especially those in isolated areas.

The purpose of the count is to gather information on the patterns of rough sleeping, identify chronic rough sleepers for the Housing First programme and identify the services health and/or accommodation needed to meet each individual's need.

Of the 134 people met rough sleeping, 104 (78%) had previously been assessed or were assessed during the count week by the Local Authority, of the remaining 30 people met rough sleeping there was sparse information given to the Outreach Team on the night of the count.

The main characteristics of the 104 individuals with PASS IDs were as follows:

- The majority of the people confirmed as rough sleeping were male, Irish and aged between 26-45 years.
- 86% were linked with one of the four Dublin local authorities.
- 43% were using tents and 57% were not.
- 17 individuals (16%) were found rough sleeping in both the Winter 2024 and Spring 2024 counts. A number of these are being targeted for a Housing First response, which will provide them with permanent housing and visiting supports to help them sustain their home.
- 12 unique couples comprising of 24 individuals (of which 17 individuals (16%) had PASS IDs) were found rough sleeping in the November 2024 count, highlighting the need for an increased number of couple's beds.
- In the Winter 2024 count, 19 individuals (18%) accessed Emergency Accommodation at some stage during the count week. A further 17 individuals (16%) had an Emergency

¹ This number does not include International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) clients since these individuals are under the remit of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth.

Accommodation booking during the count week which they did not access (i.e. were no-shows).

- 58 individuals (56%) had a booking for Emergency Accommodation at some stage in the three months prior the count, of which 15 individuals (14%) did not present (i.e. were no-shows).

It can take several intensive engagements by the Outreach team with people who are rough sleeping to support them into emergency accommodation, but in the vast majority of cases the team are successful in doing so within a short time frame. 86% (n=89) of those found rough sleeping during the Winter 2024 count had booked homeless accommodation in the past, 56% (n=58) at some stage in the 3 months prior to the count, and 35% (n=36) had an open booking for emergency accommodation on at least one of the nights they were found to be sleeping rough.

The number of people rough sleeping in the Dublin Region changes from night to night. While there is a core group who regularly sleep rough, and may or may not engage with services, there is a larger group that moves between rough sleeping, accessing emergency accommodation, sleeping in insecure accommodation, and staying with family or friends. Others may engage in rough sleeping for a very brief transitional period. Conducting this count over a one-week period provides more information on the different experiences of people who engage in rough sleeping.

The DRHE sincerely thanks Dublin Simon Community, An Garda Síochána, the HSE and staff in the four Dublin Local Authorities for the co-ordinated response to end rough sleeping.

The full report is available on the DRHE website www.homelessdublin.ie

For further information please contact:

Dublin City Council's Media Relations Office T: 222 2170 M: 087 7400277

Notes for editors:

If an individual / family is presenting as homeless for the first time in Dublin, their respective Local Authority will carry out a comprehensive assessment.

Central Placement Service for singles and couples; Tel: 01 - 222 6944 Monday to Friday: 10.00am – 4.00pm. Email: homelesscops@dublincity.ie

Central Placement Service for families; Tel: 01 – 222 6977 Monday to Friday: 10.00am – 4.00pm. Email: family.support@dublincity.ie

Homeless FREEPHONE 1800 707 707; for access to emergency accommodation out of hours for the Dublin Region, extended hours – 10am to 10pm 7 days a week;

Housing Support Officers providing housing advice and move on options to families in emergency accommodation. Tel: 01 222 7414 Monday to Friday: 10.00am – 4.00pm. Email: housingsupport@dublincity.ie

Homeless HAP Tel: 01 – 222 6955 Monday to Friday: 10.00am – 4.00pm. Email: hap@dublincity.ie

Fingal County Council Homeless Section Tel 01 890 5090
Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm email homeless@fingal.ie

South Dublin County Council Homeless Section Tel: 01 414 9364
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm sdcchomeless@sdublincoco.ie

Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown County Council Homeless Section Tel; 01 205 4804
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm email: homeless@dlrcoco.ie

If a member of the public would like to alert us to anyone who may be sleeping rough in the Dublin region, please contact us here
<http://www.homelessdublin.ie/report-rough-sleeper>
or via our free app **Dublin Rough Sleeper Alert**