



**NOTIFICATION TO ATTEND MEETING OF THE HOUSING SPC**

**TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, DAME STREET, DUBLIN 2.**

**ON WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL 2023 AT 11.00 AM**

**WEBCASTING NOTICE**

This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the Council is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2014, the Data Protection Act 1988 and 2018, General Data Protection Regulations (EU) 2016/679 and the Defamation Act 2009. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the legislation.

Therefore, by entering the Council Chamber/Meeting Room and using the seats around the meeting tables, public gallery etc., you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the Chief Executives Department on Extn. 2101 or DD (01) 222 2100.

**AGENDA**

**WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL 2023**

		<b>PAGE</b>
1	Minutes of meeting dated Wednesday 15th of March 2023 and matters arising	<b>2 - 6</b>
2	Chairpersons Business	
	i. Correspondence	
3	Work Plan & Schedule/Site Visits	<b>7 - 9</b>
4	Tenant in Situ Update	<b>10 - 11</b>
5	Homeless Report	<b>12 - 19</b>
6	6. Updates	<b>20 - 23</b>
	i. Public Housing Working Group	
	ii. Special Committee on Homelessness	
	iii. Senior Citizens Working Group	
	iv. Oversight Committee on Animal Welfare Issues	
7	AOB	

**HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES FOR SPC MEETING ON**  
**WED 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

**Attendance:**

**Members:**

Cllr Mary Callaghan  
Cllr Hazel Chu  
Cllr Donna Cooney  
Cllr Deirdre Cronin  
Cllr Kevin Donoghue  
Cllr Daithí Doolan  
Cllr Pat Dunne  
Cllr James Geoghegan  
Cllr Alison Gilliland (CP)  
Cllr Dermot Lacey  
Cllr Briega MacOscar  
Cllr Eimer McCormack  
Cllr Colm O'Rourke  
Cllr Cieran Perry  
Cllr Karl Stanley

Mike Allen - FI  
Claire McManus - JFOC

**Dublin City Council Officials**

Coilín O'Reilly, Assistant Chief Executive  
Mary Hayes, Director of DRHE  
Michelle Robinson, SEO  
Mary McQuillan, Acting Senior Architect  
Gavin Doyle, Assistant Chief Quantity Surveyor  
Bruce McDevitt,  
Rebecca Ward, Administrator  
Damien McCabe, Administrator

**Other Councillors in attendance**

Cllr Mannix Flynn  
Cllr Deirdre Heney  
Cllr Janet Horner  
Cllr Patricia Roe

**Apologies**

Cllr Máire Devine  
Pat Greene - DSC

**External Personnel**

Adrian Cristea - DCIF  
Darren Coventry – Howlett DCIF  
Dr. Sean O'Riordan – Sean O'Riordan and Associates

## **1. Minutes of meeting dated Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and matters arising**

**Agreed:** Minutes Agreed

## **2. Chairpersons Business**

- No Correspondence

**Agreed:** Update Noted

## **3. Dublin City Interfaith Forum**

Adrian Cristea and Darren Coventry Howard from the DCIF provided a presentation on their work. The following items were covered and discussed:

- Background to DCIF.
- Facilitating integration of migrants.
- Membership of DCIF.
- Education and Activities provided by DCIF.
- Key challenges, opportunities and potential.
- Review of Safe Haven – Hate Crime Report & Response project.
- Integration of DCIF into Dublin for All movement.

**Agreed:** Update Noted

## **4. Construction Cost Analysis – Further Information**

Michelle Robinson, DCC SEO Housing Development introduced the item. Dr. Sean O’Riordan, Independent Researcher, Gavin Doyle, DCC Assistant Chief Quantity Surveyor, Mary McQuillan, DCC Acting Senior Architect & Michelle Robinson provided a presentation. The following items were covered and discussed:

- Review of commissioned construction costs research and analysis (previously presented to the November 2022 SPC meeting)
- Learnings from report and examination of DCC projects.
- How costs differ across different projects.
- Four Stage Process for Social Housing Approval.

- Capital Works Management Framework.
- Challenges with tendering process
- Contract sum and potential increase in costs throughout developments.
- Life-cycle approach to design/works: high standard of works being provided afford cost savings in terms of long term maintenance.
- Update on various complete, ongoing & proposed DCC developments.
- Actions taken based on findings of the report.

**Agreed:** Presentation Noted

## 5. Update on Working Groups

### i. Public Housing Working Group

Cllr Alison Gilliland provided a verbal report on a meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> of March exploring rents relevant to high income earners.

**Agreed:** Update noted

### ii. Local Traveller Accommodation Group Consultative Committee

Cllr Alison Gilliland provided a verbal update in relation to meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> February, where the following topics were discussed

- Report on matters arising on traveller sites
- Traveller count.
- Financial update on last 6 months.
- Update on Traveller Accommodation Programme Review

**Agreed:** Update noted

iii. Special Committee on Homelessness

Cllr Hazel Chu provided a brief verbal update in relation to the following:

- Committee to meet next week to discuss lettings ~~and the eviction ban.~~

**Agreed:** Update noted

iv. Senior Citizens Working Group

Cllr Mary Freehill provided a verbal update, the following items were raised:

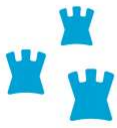
- Support for seating at bus stops for older persons.
- Improved face to face services from Dublin City Council.
- Pilot scheme in Harold Cross & Glasnevin to improve maintenance of footpaths.

**Agreed:** Update noted

**6. AOB**

- Cllr. Mannix Flynn requested review in relation to Acquisitions programme.
- Cllr. Donna Cooney suggested annual invite for DCIF to attend the Housing SPC.

**Agreed:** N/A



**Housing Strategic Policy Committee Work Plan & Schedule 2023**

**May**

**Date: 10/05/2023**

**In Person Workshop – Wood Quay Venue**

**Topics to be discussed: Current Regeneration Programme and Role of an Enhanced Works Programme**

**June**

**Date: 14/06/2023**

**Regular SPC – Hybrid meeting to be held in Council Chambers & via Zoom**

**Topics to be discussed: Green Builds and Housing Supply**

**July**

**Date 12/07/2023**

**In Person Workshop – Wood Quay Venue**

**Topics to be discussed: Homeless Day Services, Street food, Wellbeing & Affordable Housing Scheme**

**August**

**No Meeting**

**September**

**Date: 14/09/2023**

**Regular SPC – Hybrid meeting to be held in Council Chambers & via Zoom**

**Topics to be discussed: Unactivated Planning Permissions, Vacant Properties above Commercial Units**

**October**

**Date: 11/10/2023**

**In Person Workshop – Wood Quay Venue**

**Topics to be discussed: Update on Housing Supply**

**November**

**Date: 08/11/2023**

**Regular SPC – Hybrid meeting to be held in Council Chambers & via Zoom**

**Topics to be discussed: Circular Economy, Housing Maintenance**

**December**

**Date 13/12/2023**

**Regular SPC – Hybrid meeting to be held in Council Chambers & via Zoom**

**Topics to be discussed: Estate Management and Anti-Social Behaviour**

**Please note that meetings locations are subject to change based on availability of meeting spaces.**







### **BACKGROUND TO DCC TENANT IN SITU ACQUISITION POLICY**

As a homeless preventative measure, and in response to the increase in the number of requests to acquire units through the Acquisition Programme with tenants remaining in-situ and, Dublin City Council introduced a Pilot Tenant in-Situ Acquisition Policy in 2018, initially for a period of twelve months, due to the continued demand this policy has continued.

### **THE TENANCY CATEGORIES TO WHICH THE POLICY APPLIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:-**

- Rental accommodation scheme (RAS)
- Long term lease scheme
- Hap /rent supplement

### **TENANT IN-SITU CRITERIA**

- Eligible for Social Housing Support
- Property suitable to the needs as identified by the HNA; (Discretion applied)
- No rent arrears or arrears to be cleared
- Estate Management check clear.
- Notice of Termination received from Landlord advising of the intention to sell property.

### **THE PROCESS**

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>No of Properties</b>
<b>1</b>	<u>Initial enquiry &amp; Tenant check stage;</u> <i>Acquisitions, Allocations, HAP &amp; Homeless HAP teams &amp; CPS</i>  Contact from either landlord or tenant, file opened. This process includes a verification of the household need, confirmation tenant wants to remain and landlord has issued a Notice intending to sell	99
<b>2</b>	<u>Property inspection stage;</u>  The property is inspected by DCC Clerk of Works for suitability to acquire this includes an assessment of what if any works maybe required.	46

<b>3</b>	<u>Valuation and offer ;</u> <i>City Valuers</i>  Valuers team engage with the vendor and agents on price	52
<b>4</b>	<u>Sale agreed &amp; Conveyancing ;</u> <i>Law Dept &amp; Contracted Solicitors</i>  Legals, title checks etc	81
<b>5</b>	<u>Acq closed Jan to March 23</u> <i>Acquisitions, Allocations &amp; Rents</i>  Property added to DCC stock, tenant signed up to DCC tenancy agreement	12



This report focuses on the situation in the Dublin region at the end of **January 2023**. There are 127 more households in emergency accommodation when compared to the previous month, with 147 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 January 2022 to January 2023, as published nationally:*

Month	Families	Adults in Families	Children	Singles	Total Adults	Total Individuals	Total Households
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
Jan 2022	821	1,386	1,928	3,194	4,580	6,508	4,015

## 1. Family Homelessness

In Dublin at the end of January 2023, there were **1,165** families in emergency accommodation. This is an increase of **17** on the December 2022 number, and an increase of **344** when compared with January 2022 when there were **821** families in emergency accommodation. That is a 42% 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 January was **2,577**. This is a decrease of **6** when compared to the December 2022 figure and **649** more than the January 2022 figure of **1,928**.

### 1.1. Use of Commercial Hotels:

The numbers of families residing in commercial hotels has increased. By the end of January 2023, there were **297** families using commercial hotels. This represents an increase of **28** families from **269** in December 2022 and compares with **106** in January 2022, an increase of **191** 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. The DRHE re-issued the tender for emergency accommodation to move families out of non-contracted or hotel/B&BS in late 2022 and the deadline for submission was 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

### 1.2. New Family Presentations – January 2023:

**57** families entered emergency accommodation for the first time in January 2023. This represents an increase of 8 on December 2022. The table below shows family presentations for the previous 12 months.

Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022
74	80	91	80	64	69	79	78	63	58	62	49

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

Citizenship	Irish	EU/ EEA	Non-EU	UK	Total
January 2023	29 (50.9%)	14 (24.6%)	12 (21.1%)	2 (3.5%)	<b>57 (100%)</b>

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

Family Reason for Homelessness	Jan 2023	%
Notice Of Termination (NOT)	8	14%
Family Circumstances	2	4%
Domestic Violence	7	12%
No previous address in Ireland	4	7%
Relationship breakdown	3	5%
Family Breakdown	14	25%
Overcrowding - Mobile Home	1	2%
Family Reunification	1	2%
Overcrowding	17	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100%</b>

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 – 29, DLRC – 6, FCC – 14, SDCC – 15

#### 1.4. Prevention – Family Homelessness:

In January 2023, **41 families** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through the HHAP Scheme (38) and Social Housing (3)\*. 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 January 2023, **21 families** exited emergency accommodation into new tenancies. 7 moved to HAP and 14\* to Social Housing. The table below shows family exits for the previous 12 months.

Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022
40	32	44	29	46	44	50	31	31	24	44	41

*\*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.*

### 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 **3,943** single adults in emergency accommodation at the end of January 2023, which represents an increase of **110** on last month. This figure was **3,194** for January 2022.

### 2.1. New Single Adult Presentations – January 2023:

The number of single adults presenting as homeless and using emergency accommodation for the first time was **162** in January 2023. This represents an increase of **5** on the previous month. The table below shows the new single adult presentations over the previous 12 months.

Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022
172	162	179	165	181	180	168	176	160	159	200	157

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

Citizenship	Irish	EU/EEA	Non-EU	UK	Total
January 2023	89 (55%)	36 (22%)	35 (22%)	2 (1%)	(100%)

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

Singles Reason for Homelessness	Jan 2023	%
Relationship breakdown (Family/Partner)	41	25%
Notice of Termination	13	8%
Family circumstances	7	4%
Newly Arrived from Abroad	25	15%
Insufficient Funds	12	7%
From Outside DRHE Region	5	3%
Overcrowding	9	6%
Hospital Discharge	2	1%

Leaving Treatment	1	1%
Leaving Direct Provision	7	4%
Rough sleeper	4	2%
Relationship breakdown (Other)	4	2%
Left informal tenancy	2	1%
Leaving care	3	2%
Anti-Social behaviour	1	1%
Emergency Placement/Did not engage	7	4%
Domestic Violence	2	1%
Tenancy Surrendered	1	1%
Victim of Crime or Anti-Social behaviour	3	2%
Unknown	11	7%
Prison discharge	1	1%
Returning from Abroad	1	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Presented to Local Authority:** DCC – 116, DLRCC – 5, FCC – 22, SDCC – 19

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 January 2023, **29 single adults** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through HHAP (21), Social Housing (4) 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:

**41 single adults** exited to tenancies in January 2023: **13** (HAP), **26** (AHB/LA), and **2** (LTA). The table below shows exits of single adults to tenancies for the previous 12 months.

Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022	May 2022	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022	Sept 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022
----------	----------	----------	----------	----------	-----------	-----------	----------	-----------	----------	----------	----------



48	49	52	39	48	33	36	44	40	34	39	42
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

*\*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.*

### 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. **79** new Homeless HAP tenancies were sourced in January 2023.

#### ***Breakdown of household type and previous accommodation of those accessing HHAP in January:***

Previous Accommodation	Singles/Couples	Families
Leaving hotels/PEA	8	4
Leaving STA	5	3
Prevention/did not use EA	21	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>45</b>

### 4. Duration accessing emergency accommodation

#### *4.1. Families – Detailed Analysis of Duration in Services:*

Duration in EA – January 2023 (as at 31/01/2023)	Total Families	%
24+ months	200	17.5%
18-24months	86	7.55%
12-18 months	183	16%
6-12 months	311	27%
6 months or less	371	32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,151*</b>	<b>100%</b>

*\* This figure differs to the 1,165 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 January 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:*

<b>Duration in EA – January 2023</b>	<b>Total Single Adults</b>	<b>%</b>
24+ months	593	15
18-24months	235	6%
12-18 months	454	12%
6-12 months	755	20%
6 months or less	1,782	47%
<b>Total Adults (Singles)</b>	<b>3,819</b>	<b>100%</b>

**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 January 2023, there were a total of **469** active Housing First tenancies (449 mainstream and 20 in the Criminal Justice Strand) with a retention rate of 86%. **9** Housing First tenancies were created in January 2023: DCC – 3, DLRCC – 1, FCC – 0, SDCC – 5.

**Mary Hayes**

**Director**

**Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE)**

**March 2023**

**Website: [www.homelessdublin.ie](http://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***





## CONTROL OF DOGS

	Total 2022	Year to Date 2023
Number of dogs to enter the shelter	286	59
Number of dogs rehomed to charities	163	11
Number of dogs euthanised (court order / medical recommendation)	10	8
Number of dogs on hand	15	23 & 7 pups
Number of dogs returned to owners	98	10
Number of dog licences issued	9203	1898

<b>Dog Breeding Establishments</b> <a href="#">Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010</a>	Total 2022	Year to Date 2023
Reports received of suspected DBE (call & emails)	19	6
Inspections of reported properties	11	3
Dogs removed from inspected properties	4	0
Official application for DBE Boarding Kennel	1	0
DBE certificates issued in 2022	0-one improvement notice	0

### Dog Shelter Capacity

The demands on the Dog Warden service continues to increase and this is placing a continuous strain on kennel space and operational capacity at Hollygrove. There is regularly no headroom for incidents of seizure of multiple dogs and this is likely to impact on our ability to provide a full service into the coming months. We are exploring options to increase space at Hollygrove and potential for alternative overflow capacity at other locations.

## CONTROL OF HORSES

### Statistical information

	Total 2022	Year to date 2023
Number of horses seized	43	3
Number of horses transferred to My Lovely Horse Rescue	36	3
Number of horses returned to owners	7	0
Number of horses in Pound @ 15/03/2023	0	0

Number of horses euthanised	0	0
Number of horse licences issued	12	0 (21 applications)

### Site Visit to HMS Horse Pound

Staff of the Animal Welfare Unit visited the offices of HMS and the Horse Pound facility in Dunboyne on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The discussion with the operators and the opportunity to view the animals and the facility itself were useful and can be arranged for other members of the Committee if requested.

### Procurement Process for New Control of Horses Contract

A procurement process has been initiated for a multi-supplier framework for the “*Provision of Services for the Control of Stray, Abandoned and Unidentified Horses for DAFM*”. The first phase of the process is a pre-tender ‘Request for Information’ from potential suppliers and the open call was published on e-tenders on 7<sup>th</sup> March with a closing date of 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The nationwide tender process will be run, by OGP appointed company Education Procurement Service on behalf of Local Authorities, the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (DAFM) and Coillte. It is proposed that Dublin City will be included in a new LOT structure under the heading ‘Cavan / Monaghan / North Leinster’ (comprising Louth, Meath, Fingal and Dublin City). DCC Animal Welfare Unit was invited by EPS to input into the process and this opportunity was welcomed. It is anticipated that the new Framework will be in place by autumn 2023.

[Public RFT - Provision of Services for the Control of Stray, Abandoned and Unidentified Horses for DAFM \(eu-supply.com\)](#)

### Horse Drawn Carriages Bill

Following the last report to the Committee there has been no further contact from the Public Transport Regulation Division, Department of Transport or no indication of any progress on the Heads of Bill prepared in 2021. Further representations have been made by the Chair on behalf of the Committee to Eamonn Ryan T.D., Minister for Transport in this regard.

The proposed **Horse Drawn Carriages Bill** is listed again on the [Government Legislation Programme - Spring Session 2023](#) (Pg. 17) published on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The purpose of the legislation is to *repeal the Dublin Carriage Acts 1853-55 and relieve An Garda Síochána of responsibility for the regulation and licensing of horse-drawn carriages in Dublin and assert the power of local authorities, including Dublin City Council.* The status is listed on the Programme as “Work is ongoing”. It is not included in the ‘Legislation for Priority Drafting this Session – Spring 2023’ category.

### Multi-agency checkpoints

A series of Garda led multi-agency checkpoints have been carried out since the last meeting, both in the busy pre-Christmas period and more recently with further operations planned in the coming weeks. The agencies requested to support An Garda Síochána were Revenue, Social Protection, Dublin City Council, and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Further checkpoints will be arranged on an ongoing basis as resources permit. Operational details of (times, dates, locations) will remain confidential.

## ANIMAL WELFARE UNIT STAFFING

The revised optimum Staff Structure for the Animal Welfare Unit reporting to Senior Executive Officer and Executive Manager, Housing & Community Services is as follows:

Administration	Operations
1 Administrative Officer (Gr. 7) 1 Staff Officer (Gr 5) 1 Assistant Staff Officer 1 Clerical Officer	1 Animal Welfare Inspector (Gr. 6) 1 Assistant Animal Welfare Inspector (Gr. 5) 5 Animal Welfare Officers / Dog Wardens

At present 5 of the 11 posts are filled (1 temporary). Status updates as follows:

Posts Filled:

- **1 Administrative Officer (Gr. 7)** – Post Filled w.e.f. 20<sup>th</sup> February
- **1 Assistant Animal Welfare Inspector (confined to Dublin City Council)**  
Recruitment completed w/e 10<sup>th</sup> March – Assistant Inspector post filled
- 1 Staff officer – post filled
- 1 Clerical Officer – post filled
- 1 Temporary Dog Warden

Posts pending:

- **Animal Welfare Inspector (open competition)** – 95 applications received, shortlisted to 20, Interviews held 13<sup>th</sup>-15 March. Offer made to successful candidate.
- A request has been submitted for assignment of an additional **administrative post** to the AWU from the new Gr. 4 panel (DCC competition underway)
- **5 no. Animal Welfare Officers / Dog Wardens** – (see note below\*). Business case submitted to HR, process underway for sanction of posts. 1 Temporary Dog Warden in place.

**\*Note:** The process of Dog Warden recruitment remained on hold pending outcome of Labour Court proceedings initiated by former employees of Ashton Dog Pound. Those proceedings concluded on 21st December 2022 in Dublin City Council's favour in respect of one of the former employees (Determination Nos.; TU/22/9; TU22/10 and TU/22/11 refer). In summary, the Court has determined that no transfer of undertakings took place between Ashton Pound and Dublin City Council therefore there are no legal grounds for transfer of former employees of Ashton Dog Pound and Warden Services to Dublin City Council.

### Joint Dublin City Council / An Garda Síochána Animal Welfare Training

A program of training will be developed by Dublin City Council, Animal Welfare Section in association with An Garda Síochána and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the marine. The program will draw from existing training content delivered to Gardaí and Dog Wardens and will be based on current legislation. It is hoped that the target audience will extend beyond staff currently active in the Animal Welfare sphere to encompass community Gardaí, Parks staff and Housing & Community personnel.

DCC will engage with its partners in other Local Authorities and the DAFM to draw from the expertise of as large a pool of Animal Welfare professionals as possible.

## HOURS OF SERVICE – Temporary Reduction

Pending filling of staff vacancies it remains necessary to reduce the hours of service to prevent breaches of Organisation of Working Time Act, 1997 and overtime thresholds. This will be reviewed as daylight hours increase and new appointments are in place.

The Animal Welfare Unit are examining other available channels including Internet and Social Media platforms to reach a larger audience outside of standard office hours.

For clarification the current contact details and hours of operation for the Animal Welfare Unit are

**Office Hours:** Tel. **01 222 3368 / 5441** E-Mail [animalwelfare@dublincity.ie](mailto:animalwelfare@dublincity.ie)  
Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Out of Hours:** Tel. **01 222 6060**  
Monday – Friday 5.00p.m. – 7.00p.m.  
Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday 12:00 noon – 4:00 p.m.

All other hours are **voicemail only**. All voicemails will be dealt with on the following working day.

The Animal Welfare Service is **not an Emergency Service**. A **life-threatening** Emergency incident involving an animal should be reported to An Garda Síochána via **999**

\*\*\*\*\*