



There has been an increase in the total households in emergency accommodation in the Dublin Region with the October figure of 3,844 the highest this year to date. There are 113 more households in emergency accommodation when compared to the previous month, and 242 more individuals. This reflects an increase in both families and single adult households.

*Number of individuals in Emergency Accommodation in the **Dublin Region** – from October 2020 to October 2021, as published nationally:*

Month	Families	Adults in Families	Children	Singles	Total Adults	Total Individuals	Total Households
Oct 2021	799	1,347	1,903	3,085	4,432	6,335	3,884
Sep 2021	752	1,268	1,806	3,019	4,287	6,093	3,771
Aug 2021	723	1,225	1,710	2,995	4,220	5,930	3,718
July 2021	700	1,187	1,657	3,033	4,220	5,877	3,733
June 2021	702	1,025	1,684	3,024	4,069	5,753	3,726
May 2021	688	1,025	1,659	3,029	4,054	5,713	3,717
April 2021	699	1,047	1,719	3,040	4,087	5,806	3,739
Mar 2021	681	1,020	1,669	3,073	4,093	5,762	3,754
Feb 2021	716	1,083	1,760	3,046	4,129	5,889	3,762
Jan 2021	742	1,121	1,823	3,054	4,175	5,998	3,796
Dec 2020	755	1,131	1,864	3,027	4,158	6,022	3,782
Oct 2020	858	1,246	2,070	3,051	4,297	6,367	3,909

1. Family Homelessness

In Dublin at the end of October 2021, there were **799** families in emergency accommodation. The figure for October represents an increase of **47** on the September 2021 number, but a total decrease of **59** families when compared to October 2020, when there were **858** families in emergency accommodation.

The number of children residing in emergency accommodation at the end of October was **1,903**. This is an increase of **97** on the September 2021 figure; the overall trend had been downwards until Jul September 2019, when the figure reached **2,872**. It also represents a decrease of **167** when compared to October 2020, when there were **2,070** children in emergency accommodation.

1.1. Reducing the Use of Commercial Hotels:

We continue our efforts to reduce the use of commercial hotels, however the recent increase in numbers in emergency accommodation has reversed some of the progress that had been made. By the end of October, there were **97** families residing in commercial hotels. In October 2020, that number was **246**. This is a reduction of **149** families. The highest number was in March 2017 when the number of families in commercial hotels reached **871**. In relation to the **97** families, this is broken down between contracted hotels (29) and non-contract emergency accommodation (68).

There had been a steady reduction in the use of self-accommodation/non-contract accommodation from **584** at its highest point in 2018 to **41** at the end of August. This figure has increased to **68** at the end of October 2021 and continued to increase during November. We had continued using non-contract emergency accommodation to address a lack of alternative provision in a specific area and/or to access room configurations for larger family sizes but during October and November, we have been relying on it to place new presenting families. **6** of the **62** families in Non-Contract/on account hotel placements are by DCC with the remaining **62** by FCC or SDCC.

We will consider the contracting or preferably purchase of new emergency accommodation for families in the region to avoid dependence on commercial bookings.

1.2. New Family presentations - October 2021:

66 families entered emergency accommodation for the first time in October 2021. The table below shows family presentations for the previous 12 months. **Average** family presentations in 2021 were **64** per month, an increase on the average of **58** per month for 2020 and lower than the 2019 average of **85** new families per month.

Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021
64	56	60	54	47	53	79	62	78	64	78	64	66

1.3. New Family Presentations – Nationality and reasons for homelessness

Citizenship	Irish	UK	EU/ EEA	Non EU	Total
Oct 2021	41%	1%	44%	14%	66

21 of the new family presentations related to no income source, 15 were related to relationship breakdowns, 14 were related to private rented issues, 7 were related to family circumstances, 5 were related to overcrowding and the remaining presentations related to other issues.

Of note, 23 of the families above presented as homeless from outside the state.

1.4. Prevention - Family Homelessness

In October 2021, **71 families** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through the HHAP Scheme (69) and Social Housing tenancies (2). The prevention figure does not include tenancies protected by the (DRHE funded) Threshold Tenancy Protection Service or other prevention services.

1.5. Families – Exit to Tenancies

In October 2021, **24 families** exited emergency accommodation into new tenancies. 13 moved to HAP and 11 to Social Housing.

1.6. Support to Families

Residents in family hubs receive onsite support and families in private operated emergency facilities (PEAs) receive housing advice and social support from NGO/DRHE Housing teams as well as in-reach support from HSE and TUSLA. Support to family PEAs comes from a combination of Focus Ireland’s Family Hat Team and DRHE’s Housing Support Officers. There is also inreach by HSE and TUSLA fund Family Support Workers on the Focus Ireland team.

2. Single Adult Homelessness

There were **3,085** single adults in emergency accommodation at the end of October. This represents an increase on last month (66).

2.1. New Single Adult Presentations – October 2021

The number of single adults presenting as homeless and using emergency accommodation for the first time remains high, the number in October was **140**. This represents a decrease of **27** on the previous month and a decrease of **16** on October 2020.

Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Oct 2021
156	116	133	149	126	148	137	154	171	156	171	167	140

2.2. New Single Adult Presentations – Demographic Information and Reasons for Homelessness

Citizenship	Irish	EU/ EEA	Non EU	UK	Total singles
Oct 2021	61%	1%	16%	22%	140

46 of the new single adult presentations were related to relationship breakdowns, 30 related to private rented issues, 4 related to family circumstances, 13 related to overcrowding, 23

related to no source of income, 2 related to being the victim of anti-social behaviour, 8 related to leaving an institution and 14 were for other reasons.

We continue to manage presentations from other counties and from other countries. In cases where the person has access to better outcomes in their local authority of origin we liaise with the Local Authority, the Outreach Team and the individual to achieve the best outcome. We have experienced more constraints on emergency capacity during September but we have maintained a level of excess capacity. The constraints are due to the flow in and out of homelessness but also some reduced capacity due to improvement works.

2.3. Prevention – Single Adult Homelessness

In October 2021, **62 single adults** were prevented from entering emergency accommodation through HHAP (47) and Social Housing (15). 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.

2.4. Single Adult Homeless – Exit to Tenancies

49 single adults exited to tenancies in October 2021: **26** (HAP), **16** (AHB/LA) and **7** (LTA).

2.5. Housing Support Officers and Other Supports to Private operated facilities (PEA)

The efforts to improve the range of supports to single adults in PEAs, either through Local Authority Housing Support Officers or visiting support teams from HSE and NGO teams have continued. Housing Support Officers visit all facilities but there has been an increased focus on health and addiction services provided on an in-reach basis. It is welcome to have floating supports more widely available across PEAs, gradually expanding the opportunities for health or housing interventions and case management.

3. Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP):

The Homeless HAP Scheme has continued to operate successfully, with our Housing Support Officers and Place-Finders assisting households to move out of emergency accommodation. **155** new Homeless HAP tenancies were sourced in October 2021.

Breakdown of family type and previous accommodation of those accessing HHAP in October:

- 2 Families leaving hotels - Private Emergency Accommodation
- 11 Families leaving Supported emergency accommodation
- 69 Families who did not use emergency accommodation (Prevention)
- 16 Singles/Couples leaving Private Emergency Accommodation
- 10 Singles/Couples leaving supported emergency accommodation
- 47 Singles/Couples who did not use emergency accommodation (Prevention)

4. Duration accessing emergency accommodation:

4.1. Families – Detailed Analysis of Duration in Services

Duration in EA – October 2021 (as at 31/10/2021)	Total Families	Total Adults	Number Dependents
24+ months	168	298	364
18-24months	51	86	127
12-18 months	79	139	201
6-12 months	122	218	299
6 months or less	367	586	885
Total	787*	1,327	1,876

* This figure differs to the 799 figure for October 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.

4.2. Single Adults – Duration in Services

Duration in EA – October 2021	Total Single Adults	%
24+ months	577	19
18-24months	270	9
12-18 months	287	10
6-12 months	449	15
6 months or less	1,390	47
Total Adults (Singles)	2,973	100%

5. Rise in Family Homelessness

The principal reason for the rise in family homelessness is the fall off in exits. This is being experienced across the country. Average monthly exits were **98** in 2018, **141** in 2019, **186** in 2020 and **72** in 2021 (up to October). This is due to a significant fall off in both Local authority and HAP exits.

As discussed at previous meeting, in DCC we are directing increased lettings to families in emergency accommodation in the run up to year-end. Offers are based on relative position on the housing list. We will provide a full 2021 allocations report to the February SPC meeting.

We have been heavily engaged with the DHLGH, Limerick Shared Services Centre and Focus Ireland to try to encourage families who have accrued HAP arrears to enter into a repayment plan prior to the planned resumption of Suspension Letters in January 2022.

6. **Statutory Homeless Action Plan 2022 -2024**

As part of the consultation process for the development of a new Statutory Homeless Action Plan, the DRHE are planning a consultation session with Councillors of the four Dublin Local Authorities to take place via Teams/Zoom at 10am on Friday 10th December.

Councillors interested in participating should email emma.leonard@dublincity.ie to confirm their interest.

7. **Covid-19**

Supported temporary accommodation (STA) with enhanced health supports continues to be provided for most at-risk persons experiencing homelessness. The Housing Support Team engages directly with all clients and key workers to identify longer-term accommodation solutions. This work requires a multi-agency approach and we are working closely with the HSE, the 4 Dublin Local Authorities and NGO providers to progress people to tenancies from shielding.

The number of COVID-related deaths has not changed at 3 residents from Long-Term Supported Housing. As of 29th October there were **384** confirmed (cumulative) cases within Dublin Homeless Services. The booster programme for the medically vulnerable is due to be commenced shortly by the HSE.

Mary Hayes

Director - DRHE

December 2021.