



**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Homeless Quarterly Progress Report

Quarter 4 2020



Summary Analysis of Homelessness Quarterly Performance Reports - Quarter 4 2020

Background

Under arrangements in place between the Department and the housing authorities, performance reports are submitted on a quarterly basis through the regional lead authorities¹. The quarterly performance reports include details of the numbers of individuals exiting homelessness into tenancies and the duration of stay in emergency accommodation.

This Homeless Quarterly Progress Report summarises the data submitted to the Department in respect of Q4 2020. The report also includes details on the number of Housing First tenancies created during the Quarter and the total number of such tenancies in place at the end of the Q4 2020.

Scale of Homelessness

There were 8,200 individuals accessing emergency accommodation at the end of Q4 2020, a reduction of 456 individuals on the position at the end of Q3 2020 and a decrease of 1,531 individuals (16%) on the 9,731 total recorded at end Q4 2019.

Exits from Homelessness

The quarterly performance reports include details of the numbers of adult individuals exiting homelessness. The figures for exits include both exits from emergency accommodation and persons who were assessed as homeless but were prevented from having to enter emergency accommodation through the creation of a tenancy.

¹ The administration of homeless services is organised across nine administrative regions, with one local authority in each of the regions, "the lead authority", having overall responsibility for the disbursement of Exchequer funding.

During Q4, a total of 1,485 adults and their dependants exited homelessness into tenancies. Over the full course of 2020, a total of 5,886 exits from homelessness were achieved. This represented a 1.4% decrease on the 5,971 exits achieved in 2019 and is reflective of the overall declining number of adult individuals and families presenting as homeless, and a fall in the numbers entering emergency accommodation.

The table below sets out the number of exits by tenancy type on a quarterly basis in 2020.

Exits from Homelessness by Quarter 2020					
	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Total 2020
Local authority lettings	335 (21%)	309 (21%)	181 (13%)	166 (11%)	991(17%)
AHB lettings/LTSA	307(20%)	249 (17%)	143 (11%)	174 (12%)	873 (15%)
Private rental market	924 (59%)	927(62%)	1,026 (76%)	1,145 (77%)	4,022 (68%)
	1,566	1,485	1,350	1,485	5,886

The table below sets out exits from homelessness for each region by quarter and cumulatively for 2020.

Exits from Homelessness by Region in 2020					
Region	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Total 2020
Dublin	1,188	1,090	1,005	1,100	4,383
Mid-East	49	58	39	51	197
Midlands	28	19	26	29	102
Mid-West	40	87	53	51	231
North-East	43	56	64	90	253
North-West	8	16	13	16	53
South-East	12	7	5	7	31
South-West	139	105	111	101	456
West	59	47	34	40	180
Totals	1,566	1,485	1,350	1485	5,886

The table below sets out the overall number of exits from homelessness achieved by tenancy type each year since 2016.

	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	Exits	%								
Local Authority	831	27%	1,063	22%	804	16%	1,199	20%	991	17%
AHB Lettings /LTSA	596	19%	938	20%	662	13%	954	16%	873	15%
Private Rental Market	1,652	54%	2,728	58%	3,669	71%	3,818	64%	4,022	68%
Total	3,079		4,729		5,135		5,971		5,886	

Family Presentations, Preventions and Exits (Dublin only)

In addition to the performance reports, the Dublin Region Homeless Executive (DRHE) has been providing the Department with enhanced data on family homelessness in the Dublin Region. This includes information on family presentations to homeless services, preventions achieved, new families entering emergency accommodation and families exiting emergency accommodation in the Dublin Region. The data provided show that:

- Family presentations in the Dublin region in Q4 were down 10% on the corresponding period in 2019 (from 423 to 380). Over the full course of 2020, family presentations fell by 494 (24%) on 2019 (from 2,038 to 1,544);
- Of the families presenting to homeless services in the Dublin Region in Q4, 53% were prevented from having to enter emergency accommodation by way of a tenancy having been created. Over the full course of 2020, 55% of families (845) presenting to homeless services were prevented from having to enter emergency accommodation by way of a tenancy having been created;
- The number of families entering emergency accommodation in the Dublin region in Q4 was down 7% on the corresponding period in 2019 (from 194 to 180). Over the full course of 2020, the number of families entering emergency accommodation fell by 32% (332) compared to 2019 (1,031 to 669);

- A total of 295 families exited emergency accommodation into a tenancy in Q4, a 7% decrease on the 316 family exits achieved in the Dublin region in the corresponding period in 2019. Over the full course of 2020, 1,221 families exited emergency accommodation into a tenancy, a 10% increase on 2019.

The table below sets out the number of family presentations, preventions and exits in the Dublin Region in 2020.

Month	Total families Presenting	Less families prevented from entering emergency accommodation	<u>Net</u> new families entering emergency accommodation	Families leaving emergency accommodation
Jan-20	171	77	94	106
Feb-20	171	91	80	146
Mar-20	123	81	42	98
Apr-20	76	62	14	122
May-20	87	62	25	140
Jun-20	129	70	59	72
Jul-20	118	62	56	89
Aug-20	159	81	78	77
Sep-20	130	59	71	76
Oct-20	124	60	64	99
Nov-20	146	90	56	116
Dec -20	110	50	60	80
2020	1,544	845	699	1221
2019 comparison	-494	-162	-332	+108

Length of Stay in Emergency Accommodation

The performance reports provide data on the length of time spent in emergency accommodation. This is based on the duration spent in emergency accommodation by adult individuals and is separated into adults who have been accessing emergency accommodation for less than/more than six months on the last day of the Quarter.

At the end of Q4, 37% of individuals had been accessing emergency accommodation for less than six months, while 63% had been accessing emergency accommodation for more than

six months. The performance report shows that the Dublin region has the largest proportion of adults in emergency accommodation for longer than 6 months (74%), with the North East Region having the second largest proportion (67%). The North West Region has the lowest percentage of adults in emergency accommodation for over 6 months (13%). The table below includes a breakdown for each region.

	< 6 months		> 6 Months	
	No. of Individual Adults	%	Amount	%
Dublin	844	26%	2,365	74%
Mid-East	291	63%	174	37%
Midland	32	54%	27	46%
Mid-West	146	56%	117	44%
North-East	29	33%	60	67%
North-West	40	87%	6	13%
South-East	100	62%	62	38%
South-West	221	53%	199	47%
West	119	44%	151	56%
Totals	1,822	37%	3,161	63%

Length of Stay in Emergency Accommodation – Dublin Region (Families)

The DRHE has been providing the Department with enhanced information on the duration spent in emergency accommodation by families in the Dublin Region. The data includes six monthly bands ranging from less than six months to more than two years and relates to all families in emergency accommodation in the Dublin region at the end of Q4 2020.

	Families	Adults in Families	Dependants
24+ months	184 (25%)	275	543
18-24 months	72 (10%)	108	197
12-18 months	108 (14%)	167	279
6-12 months	120 (16%)	179	272
Under 6 months	263 (35%)	392	547
	747	1,121	1,838

Housing First

Housing First provides housing and wrap-around supports to rough sleepers and long-term users of emergency accommodation with complex health needs. The National Implementation Plan for Housing First was published in 2018 and includes targets for each local authority. The Plan has an overall national target of 663 new tenancies, to be delivered by the end of 2021.²

The table below sets out the numbers of tenancies created in each region in Q4 and the total number of tenancies in place at the end of Q4 2020.

Region	Number of individuals entering Housing First tenancy in Q4 2020	Numbers of individuals in Housing First tenancies at end of Q4 2020
Dublin	13	336
Mid-East	3	17
Midlands	5	11
Mid-West	0	18
North-East	7	20
North-West	5	14
South-East	4	57
South-West	7	18
West	5	17
Total	49	508

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² The Programme for Government commits to an expansion of the Housing First targets. Research is being undertaken by the Housing Agency to carry out an assessment of need for the supports provided by Housing First which is being used to inform the expansion of the Programme. Details of the expansion of the Programme will be announced during 2021.