



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Spending Review 2021 – Social Impact Assessment Series Homeless Services

Jane Burmanje

Department of Public Expenditure And Reform

*November 2021*

# Spending Review 2021 – Overview, Aims & Objectives



## Overview

Expenditure on housing and homeless services has increased notably from 2016 to 2019. Numbers of individuals experiencing homelessness has also risen over this period, falling in 2020. Analysing the reach of homeless supports and the demographic profile of those experiencing homelessness and in receipt of supports is key to providing a greater understanding of the recipients of homelessness support and identifying groups that may be most impacted by policy changes in this area.

## Aims and Objectives

- This paper presents a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) of Homeless Services in Ireland.
- It provides an overview of the trends in numbers accessing these services and trends in expenditure on these services from 2016 to 2020 with a particular focus on emergency homeless housing supports.
- It also presents a demographic profile of the service user in the Dublin region in 2020.

# Spending Review 2021 – Key Findings



## Key Policy Relevant Findings

### Trends in Service Use and Expenditure

- The number of homeless individuals increased from 6,419 in 2016 to 10,255 in 2019, a growth of 60%, before falling by 11.6% in 2020 to 9,062. This fall was largely driven by families exiting homelessness while total numbers still remain above 2017 levels.
- Exchequer funding provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage towards expenditure incurred on the provision of homeless services has increased each year over the period 2016-2019, from €89m to €165m (85%) with the majority of this provided to the Dublin Region.

### Profile of the Homeless Services User in the Dublin region in 2020

- 62% of adult homeless individuals accessing emergency accommodation in the Dublin region in 2020 are male. The majority of services users are young with 45% under the age of 35. 59% of service users were Irish and the majority are single (75%).
- The most common self-reported reason for homelessness were reasons relating to family circumstances.