



**An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil**  
Department of Housing,  
Planning and Local Government

# **Homeless Quarterly Progress Report**

## **Quarter 1 2020**



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#### **Background**

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

The Homeless Quarterly Progress Report summarises the data submitted to the Department in respect of Quarter 1 2020. The report also includes details on the number of Housing First tenancies created during the Quarter and the number of tenancies in place at the end of the Quarter 1 2020.

#### **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 tenancy. During Quarter 1, a total of 1,565 adults and their dependants exited homelessness into tenancies. This is a 12% increase on the comparable period last year when 1,401 exits were achieved. The exits in Quarter 1 included:

- 331 exits to local authority owned properties, up 28% on the corresponding period in 2019;
- 246 exits to Approved Housing Body (AHB) lettings or Long Term Supported Accommodation, up 18% on the corresponding period in 2019; and
- 988 exits to the private rental market up 5% on the corresponding period in 2019.

The table below sets out the number of exits by tenancy type for the Quarter (Q1 2019 also included for comparison).

<b>Exits from Homelessness in Quarter 1 2020</b>		
	<b>Q1 2019</b>	<b>Q1 2020</b>
Local authority lettings	258 (18%)	331 (21%)
AHB lettings/LSTA	208 (15%)	246 (16%)
Private rental market	935 (67%)	988 (63%)
	1,401	1,565

The table below sets out exits from homelessness for each region in Quarter 1 2020.

<b>Exits from Homelessness by Region in 2020</b>		
<b>Region</b>	<b>Q1 2019</b>	<b>Q1 2020</b>
Dublin	1,016	1,187
Mid-East	31	49
Midlands	31	28
Mid-West	57	40
North-East	17	43
North-West	35	8
South-East	55	12
South-West	115	139
West	44	59
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>1,565</b>

#### **Family Presentations, Preventions and Exits (Dublin only)**

In addition to the performance reports, the Dublin Region Homeless Executive 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 shows that in Q1 2020:

- Family presentations in the Dublin region fell by 18% in Q1 2020 in comparison to Q1 2019 (from 569 to 465);
- The number of families entering emergency accommodation also fell over the same time period, by 22% (from 276 to 216);
- Of the families presenting to homeless services in the Dublin Region, 53.5% were prevented from having to enter emergency accommodation by way of a tenancy having been created; and
- 350 families exited emergency accommodation into a tenancy, a 48% increase on the 237 family exits achieved in the Dublin region in Q1 2019.

The table below sets out the number of family presentations, preventions and exits in the Dublin Region in Q1 2020.

Month	Total families Presenting	Less families prevented from entering emergency accommodation	Net 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
2020 YTD	<b>465</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>350</b>

### 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 Quarter 1, 38% of individuals had been accessing emergency accommodation for less than six months, while 62% had been accessing emergency accommodation for more than six months. The performance report shows that the Dublin region has the highest largest proportion of adults in emergency accommodation for longer than 6 months (69%), with the West (Galway, Mayo and Roscommon) having the second largest proportion (58%). The

North West Region (Sligo, Leitrim, Donegal) has the lowest percentage of adults in emergency accommodation for over 6 months (30%). The table below includes a breakdown for each region.

	< 6 months		> 6 Months	
	No. of Individual Adults	%	No of Individual Adults	%
Dublin	1,188	31%	2,673	69%
Mid East	160	50%	159	50%
Midlands	49	52%	46	48%
Mid West	208	63%	120	37%
North East	62	56%	49	44%
North West	47	70%	20	30%
South East	121	56%	95	44%
South West	222	52%	201	48%
West	140	42%	196	58%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,197</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>3,559</b>	<b>62%</b>

#### Length of Stay in Emergency Accommodation – Dublin Region

The Dublin Region Homeless Executive 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 on 31 March 2020.

	Families	Adults in Families	Dependants
24+ months	180 (17%)	266 (17%)	463 (19%)
18-24 months	127 (11%)	184 (11%)	352 (15%)
12-18 months	176 (17%)	256 (17%)	411 (17%)
6-12 months	251 (24%)	370 (24%)	526 (22%)
Under 6 months	331 (31%)	473 (31%)	654 (27%)
	<b>1,065</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>2,406</b>

## Housing First

Housing First enables people who may have been homeless and who have high levels of complex needs to obtain permanent secure accommodation with the provision of intensive supports to help them maintain their tenancies.

The National Implementation Plan for Housing First is designed to provide this response, by delivering permanent housing solutions and associated supports for rough sleepers and long-term users of emergency accommodation. The Plan contains targets for each local authority, with an overall national target of an additional 663 tenancies, beyond those already established, to be delivered by end-2021.

In Quarter 1 2020, 72 individuals were established in a Housing First tenancy. At the end of Quarter 1 2020, there were a total 410 individuals in Housing First tenancies. The table below sets out the numbers of tenancies created in each region in Q1 2020 and the total number of tenancies in place at the end of the Q1 2020.

### Housing First tenancies Q1 2020

<b>Region</b>	<b>Number of individuals entering Housing First tenancy in Q1 2020</b>	<b>Numbers of individuals in Housing First tenancies at end of Q1 2020</b>
Dublin	34	317
Mid-East	7	7
Midlands	4	4
Mid-West	1	10
North-East	8	8
North West	6	6
South-East	5	44
South-West	1	7
West	6	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>410</b>

## **Response to COVID-19**

In February, local authorities began implementing measures to safeguard households accessing emergency accommodation from the risks presented by COVID-19. This work was informed by HSE advice and guidance and involved significant coordination work at the regional level and at the national level with the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government and the HSE.

The response included the introduction of significant additional emergency accommodation to allow for the necessary social distancing in emergency accommodation. Additional accommodation was also provided to allow for the 'cocooning' of vulnerable individuals and to allow individuals accessing emergency accommodation to self-isolate when required. In Dublin, the response to COVID required the introduction of over 1,000 additional beds. Nationally over 1,500 beds were introduced or were made available as part of the homeless response to COVID-19.

Significant progress was also made by outreach workers to encourage rough sleepers to engage with services and to enter emergency accommodation. A number of these individuals were established in Housing First tenancies (Quarter 1 details are included above).

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