



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

Homeless Quarterly Progress Report

Quarter 3 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 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 Quarter 3 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 Quarter 3 2020.

Scale of Homelessness

There were 8,656 individuals accessing emergency accommodation at the end of Q3 2020, a reduction of 43 individuals on the position at the end of Q2 and a decrease of 1,741 individuals (16.7%) on the 10,397 total recorded at end Q3 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.

In the year to date, a total of 4,401 exits from homelessness have been achieved. This is a 0.3% increase on the numbers recorded at the same point in 2019 when 4,389 exits were achieved. Of the total number of exits from homelessness in the first nine months of 2020:

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.

- 825 exits were to local authority owned properties, down 5% on the corresponding period in 2019;
- 699 exits were to Approved Housing Body (AHB) lettings or Long Term Supported Accommodation, up 1% on the corresponding period in 2019; and
- 2,877 exits were to the private rental market up, 2% on the corresponding period in 2019.

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

Exits from Homelessness 2020			
	Q1 2020	Q2 2020 ²	Q3 2020
Local authority lettings	335 (21%)	309 (21%)	181 (13%)
AHB lettings/LSTA	307(20%)	249 (17%)	143 (11%)
Private rental market	924 (59%)	927 (62%)	1,026 (76%)
	1,566	1,485	1,350

During Quarter 3, a total of 1,350 adults and their dependants exited homelessness into tenancies. This is a 14% decrease on the comparable quarter last year when 1,564 exits were achieved. The quarterly decrease in exits comes in the context of a declining number of adult individuals and families presenting as homeless, and a fall in the numbers entering emergency accommodation. Exits to local authority properties and Approved Housing Body lettings were more significantly represented in the first two quarters of 2020. The exits in Quarter 3 included:

- 181 exits to local authority owned properties, compared to 341 exits to local authority owned properties in Q3 2019;
- 143 exits to Approved Housing Body (AHB) lettings or Long Term Supported Accommodation, compared to 281 exits to this tenancy type in Q3 2019; and
- 1,026 exits to the private rental market compared to 942 exits in Q3 2019.

² Subsequent to publication of Homeless Quarterly Progress Report for Quarter 2 2020 the Mid-West region submitted revised data in respect of exits by tenancy type. The revisions notified have been reflected in Q2 data above.

The following table sets out exits from homelessness for each region in Q3 and the cumulative total number of exits to date in 2020.

Exits from Homelessness by Region in 2020		
Region	Exits achieved in Q3 2020	Exits to Date 2020
Dublin	1,005	3,283
Mid-East	39	146
Midlands	26	73
Mid-West	53	180
North-East	64	163
North-West	13	37
South-East	5	24
South-West	111	355
West	34	140
Totals	1,350	4,401

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 Q3 were down 29% on the corresponding period in 2019 (from 577 to 407). In the year to date, family presentations are down 451 (28%) on the corresponding period in 2019 (from 1,615 to 1,164);
- The number of families entering emergency accommodation in the Dublin region in Q3 was down 38% on the corresponding period in 2019 (from 329 to 205). In the year to date, the number of families entering emergency accommodation was down by 318 (38%) compared to the same period in 2019 (837 to 519);

- Of the families presenting to homeless services in the Dublin Region in Q3, 50% were prevented from having to enter emergency accommodation by way of a tenancy having been created. To the end of Quarter 3, 55% of families presenting to homeless services were prevented from having to enter emergency accommodation by way of a tenancy having been created;
- A total of 242 families exited emergency accommodation into a tenancy in Q3, a 27% decrease on the 330 family exits achieved in the Dublin region in the corresponding period in 2019. In the year to date, 926 families exited emergency accommodation into a tenancy, a 16% increase on the corresponding period in 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 new families entering emergency accommodation</u>	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
2020 YTD	1,164	645	519	926
2019 YTD comparison	-451	-133	-318	+129

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 3, 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 largest proportion of adults in emergency accommodation for longer than 6 months (67%), with the West Region (Galway, Mayo, and Roscommon) having the second largest proportion (63%). The North West Region (Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo) has the lowest percentage of adults in emergency accommodation for over 6 months (27%). The table below includes a breakdown for each region.

	< 6 months		> 6 Months	
	No. of Individual Adults	%	Amount	%
Dublin	1,265	33%	2,516	67%
Mid-East	126	41%	179	59%
Midland	39	46%	45	54%
Mid-West	132	53%	118	47%
North-East	46	47%	51	53%
North-West	78	73%	29	27%
South-East	101	54%	85	46%
South-West	210	49%	222	51%
West	102	37%	171	63%
Totals	2,099	38%	3,416	62%

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 Q3 2020.

	Families	Adults in Families	Dependants
24+ months	183 (22%)	275	512
18-24 months	86 (10%)	135	203
12-18 months	130 (15%)	194	353
6-12 months	168 (20%)	240	384
Under 6 months	278 (33%)	385	518
	845	1,229	1,970

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 2021.³ The table below sets out the numbers of tenancies created in each region in Q3 and the total number of tenancies in place at the end of Q3 2020.

Region	Number of individuals entering Housing First tenancy in Q3 2020	Numbers of individuals in Housing First tenancies at end of Q3 2020
Dublin	9	323
Mid-East	5	14
Midlands	1	6
Mid-West	2	18
North-East	3	13
North-West	0	9
South-East	4	53
South-West	0	11
West	3	12
Total	27	459

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³ The Programme for Government commits to continue to expand the Housing First approach. Research is being undertaken to carry out an assessment of need for the supports provided by Housing First. The outcome of this research, which is due to be completed by year end, will inform decisions around the expansion of targets.