

## **Categorisation of Emergency Accommodation in Monthly Homeless Reports**

1. The Department's monthly homeless report includes details of adults, families and their associated dependents accessing emergency accommodation funded by local authorities. The data is based on a specific week each month, generally the last full week of the month, and is collated on a regional basis by the nine regional lead local authorities.
2. During the compilation of the February homeless report, the Department held discussions with a number of local authorities following higher than expected increases in the numbers of families accessing emergency accommodation. It was established that certain local authorities had been categorising individuals and families who had been provided with accommodation in local authority owned stock or in properties secured by the local authorities under other arrangements, as being in emergency accommodation.
3. Further cases were discovered where families who were at risk of homelessness had been supported to remain in their own homes via additional rental supports, funded from the homelessness budget. These too were being enumerated as homeless. Following discussions with a number of local authorities, these authorities amended the reports for the subsequent reports in March and April. The numbers of adults and dependents in houses and apartments, reflected by the revised reports for March and April are detailed in the two tables below.

### **March 2018 adjustments**

<b>Region/local authority</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Dependents</b>
DRHE	39	85
South West Region(in respect of Kerry)	61	35
Mid-West Region (in respect of Limerick)	41	63
South East Region(in respect of Waterford)	12	24
North East Region (in respect of Louth)	100	111
<b>Totals</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>318</b>

## April 2018 Adjustments

Region/local authority	Adults	Dependents
DRHE	101	151
Mid-East Region (in respect of Meath)	20	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>173</b>

## Combined totals

	Adults	Dependents	Total
March	253	318	571
April	121	173	294
<b>Total</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>865</b>

4. In order to obtain a full picture of the extent of the classification of houses and apartments as emergency accommodation, including houses owned or leased by the local authorities, the Department wrote to each of the nine regional lead local authorities seeking a full account of the position in each local authority for the March report.
5. The information provided by the local authorities indicates that the majority of individuals classified as being in emergency accommodation are in hotels, hubs, hostels and other forms of emergency accommodation. However, further cases of houses and apartments being recorded as emergency accommodation have been identified in a number of local authorities. The table below sets out the numbers of houses and apartments which have been classified by certain local authorities and regional reports as being emergency accommodation, and which were not dealt with in previous reports. The table also includes the numbers of adults and dependents being accommodated in those properties.

Region	Local Authority	Houses/Apartment	Adults	Dependents
DRHE	(4 Dublin authorities)	145	152	358
Mideast	Kildare	12	20	38
	Wicklow	9	11	0
Mid West	Limerick	7	9	6
North-West	Donegal	1	1	3
	Sligo	2	2	7
SouthEast	Wexford	4	5	12
West	Galway	20	38	60
	Mayo	11	13	6
<b>Totals</b>		<b>211</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>490</b>

6. The analysis shows that a total of 211 houses and apartments were being categorised as emergency accommodation across six of the regions. A total of 741 individuals comprising 251 adults and 490 dependents were being accommodated in these properties.

Local authority	Local authority stock (no. of properties)	AHB/NGO owned properties	Properties leased or rented by local authority	Totals
Dublin	0	62	83	145
Kildare	11	0	1	12
Wicklow	9	0	0	9
Limerick	1	6	0	7
Donegal	0	0	1	1
Sligo	0	2	0	2
Wexford	4	0	0	4
Galway (City and County)	9	2	9	20
Mayo	6	0	5	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>211</b>

7. In light of the amendments across a number of local authorities earlier this year, it is clear that we continue to have some inconsistency in the report methodology across certain local authorities. This will need to be addressed as part of more general improvements to the Departments homelessness reports. We are being advised by the CSO on the development of the revised methodology. This will include the collection of data on presentations, the reasons for these presentations, preventions, exits. This information will be important in putting in place the appropriate policy responses. When the methodology has been agreed with the CSO, revised instructions will be issued to the local authorities.

Homelessness and Housing Inclusion Supports

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