



Focus on Homelessness

North-East

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Challenging homelessness. Changing lives.

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Introduction

Focus Ireland and the School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin have collaborated for over a decade to bring high quality and up-to-date research on homelessness to a wider audience and into the core of public policy formation. This series 'Focus on Homelessness' aims to build on the success of our research partnership by making the now substantial body of data published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and other State Agencies working in the area of Housing and Homelessness, available in an accessible format.

Since 2020, Focus on Homelessness has provided an overview of key trends in the number of households experiencing homelessness in Ireland in recent years, the number of entries into and exits from emergency accommodation, length of stay in emergency accommodation and the expenditure on these services. Special editions of Focus on Homelessness have examined Adult-Only Homelessness, Gender and Homelessness, patterns of homelessness in each of the nine regions and 'A Decade of Homelessness' data. All previous editions of Focus on Homelessness can be found [here](#).

This Focus on Homelessness edition will take a closer look at homelessness around the country by providing a detailed report for each of the nine Local Authority administrative regions that organise homelessness services covering the period from mid-2014 to mid-2025. There will also be a combined report which will draw general observations on trends in homelessness in Ireland over this eleven-year period.

This is the second iteration of regional analysis of homelessness in the Focus on Homelessness series. The previous Focus on Homelessness edition on regional trends analysed the changes between 2014 and 2021. This iteration will compare figures in 2025 to both 2021 and 2014. Current figures are compared to two separate points in time as it shows how the introduction and subsequent ending of certain COVID-19 policies have impacted homelessness¹. This edition will also analyse a number of new data trends around aspects of homelessness that have become available since 2022.

This report looks at homelessness in the North-East region of Ireland, which covers Cavan, Louth and Monaghan.

¹ The two most relevant temporary measures were a moratorium on evictions and a rent freeze. The moratorium on the termination of rental tenancies on all grounds was in place between March and August 2020. Evictions were permitted under limited circumstances during the 2nd and 3rd lockdowns, from October 2020 to November 2020 and from January 2021 to April 2021 respectively.

Prevention¹

Figure 1 shows the number of adults who were assessed² as homeless under Section 2 of the *Housing Act, 1988* by the three North-East Local Authorities, but were provided with housing options and so were prevented from entering emergency accommodation between 2022 and 2025. The average number of preventions per quarter in the first half of 2025 was 42 – a 16.7% increase from 2024's quarterly average of 36. While there is variance, since 2024 the majority of preventions have been from the Private Rented Sector (PRS). In Q2 2025, 75.9% (n=41) of preventions came from the PRS, followed by LA Tenant-in-Situ Schemes (14.8%, n=8), LA lettings (5.6%, n=3) and AHB Lettings (3.7%, n=2).

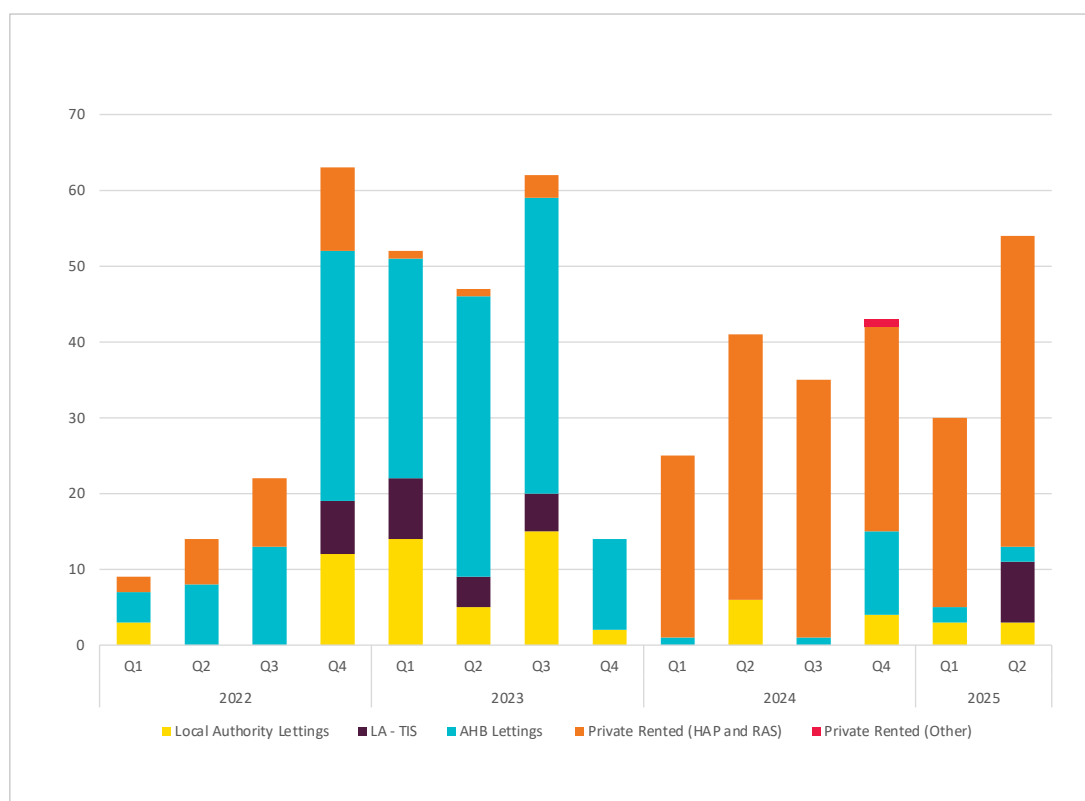


Figure 1: Adult Preventions from Entering Emergency Accommodation in the North-East, Q1 2022-Q2 2025

¹ Data on prevention is only available from Q1 2022 onwards.

² Note that legislation uses the term 'regarded ... as being homeless' rather than 'assessed'.

Presentations to Emergency Accommodation

Figure 2 shows the number of adult individuals who were assessed as homeless under Section 2 of the *Housing Act, 1988* by the Local Authorities in the North-East and *provided with emergency or temporary accommodation*. In 2024, an average of 69 adults were provided with emergency accommodation per quarter in the North-East, compared to 155 per quarter in 2021 and 123 per quarter in 2014. In the first half of 2025, 44 adults were provided with emergency accommodation on average per quarter.

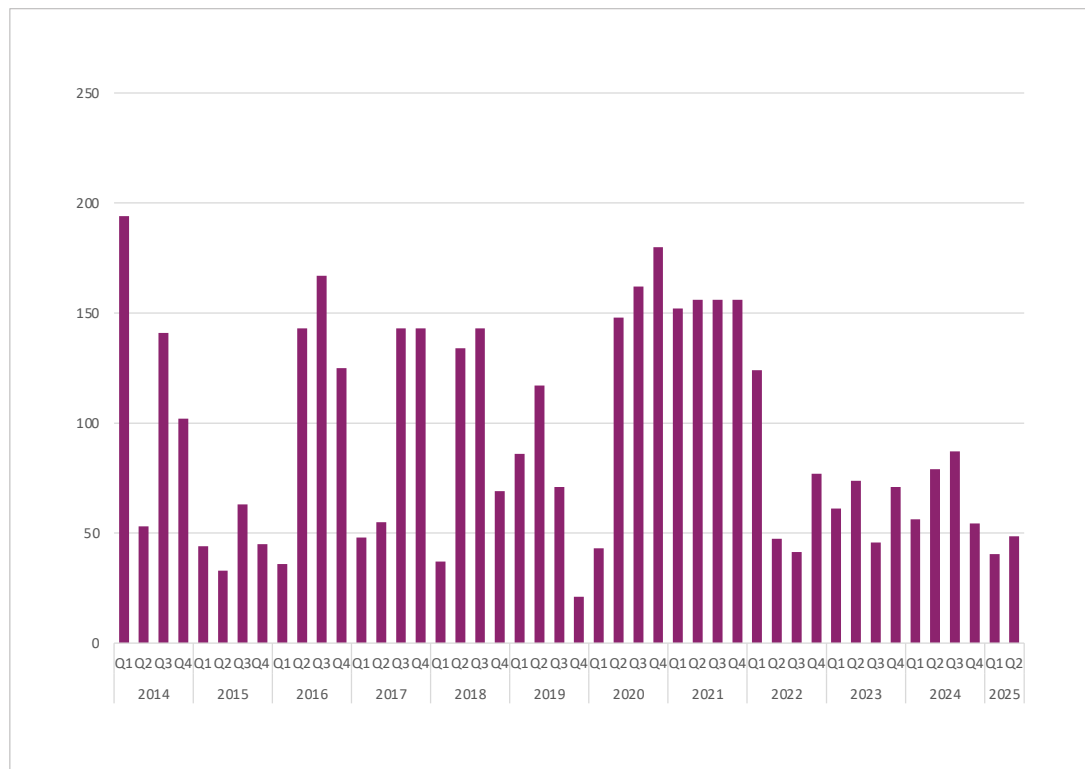


Figure 2: New Adult Presentations to Emergency Accommodation in the North-East, Q1 2014-Q2 2025

Drivers of Entries to Emergency Accommodation

Figure 3 shows two explanations given by *households* for becoming homeless and entering emergency accommodation: Leaving Direct Provision and No-Fault Notices of Termination (NoTs)³. In Q2 2025, 7 households (16.7%) stated a No-Fault Notice of Termination (NoT) as their reason for presenting as homeless and entering emergency accommodation in the North-East, while no households stated Leaving Direct Provision as their reason.

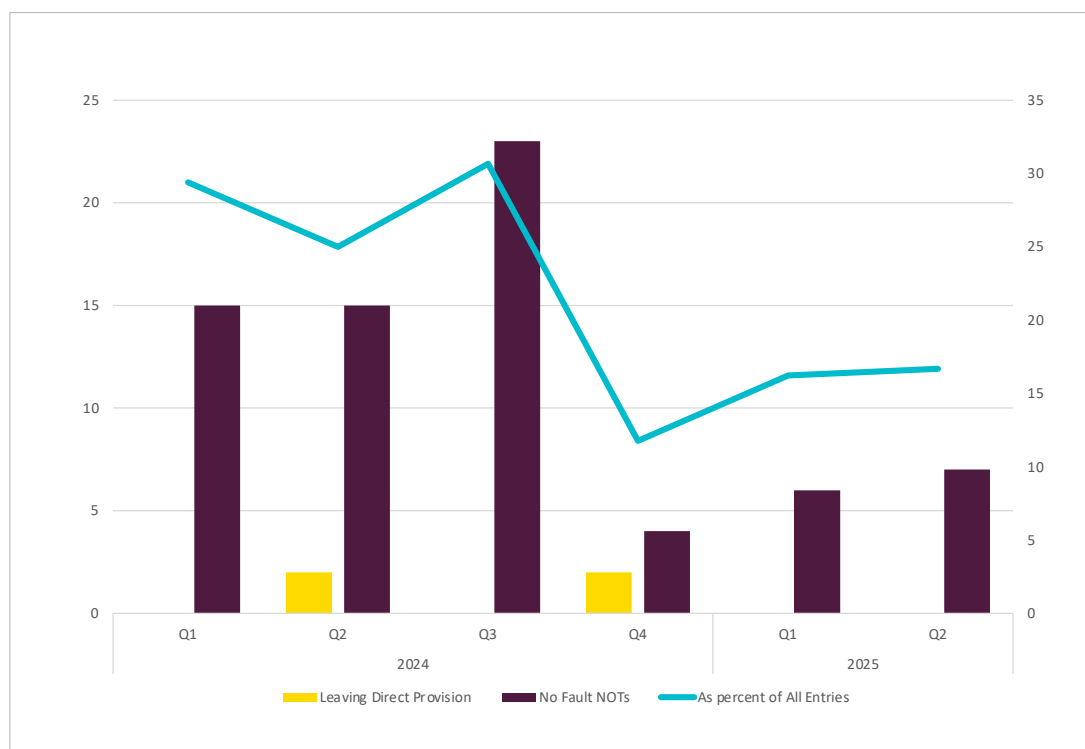


Figure 3: No Fault Terminations of Tenancy and Leaving Direct Provision as Reasons for Households Entering Emergency Accommodation, and as a Percentage of all Entries in the North-East, Q1 2024-Q2 2025⁴

While there is a very low amount of households entering emergency accommodation as a result of leaving Direct Provision, No Fault NoTs make up 10-30% of households entering emergency accommodation in the North-East.

³ While there are a number of reasons given for entering emergency accommodation, we are highlighting Leaving Direct Provision and No-Fault NoTs as these are objective explanations and are not themselves the result of other longer-term issues – e.g. a household may cite family circumstances as a reason for entering emergency accommodation, but they may have been staying with family for some time before contacting homeless services as a result of a No Fault NoT.

⁴ Data is only available from Q1 2024 onwards.

Household Composition of those in Emergency Accommodation

Figure 4 shows the number of *adult-only households* in emergency accommodation in the North-East at a point-in-time (the third week of each month), and as a percentage of all homeless adult-only households in Ireland. Increases in adult-only homelessness are not entirely consistent but broadly have increased since 2014. Numbers experienced a decrease 2020-2022 and have seen large increases since – although lower now than its peak in late 2024.

The number of adult-only households in emergency accommodation in the North-East has increased by 74.5% since June 2021 (n=85) and 552.2% since June 2014 (n=23). There were 150 adult-only households in emergency accommodation in June 2025.

Adult-only households in the North-East make up 2.1% of all adult-only households in Ireland as of June 2025. This is an increase from June 2021 (1.9%) and June 2014 (1.1%).

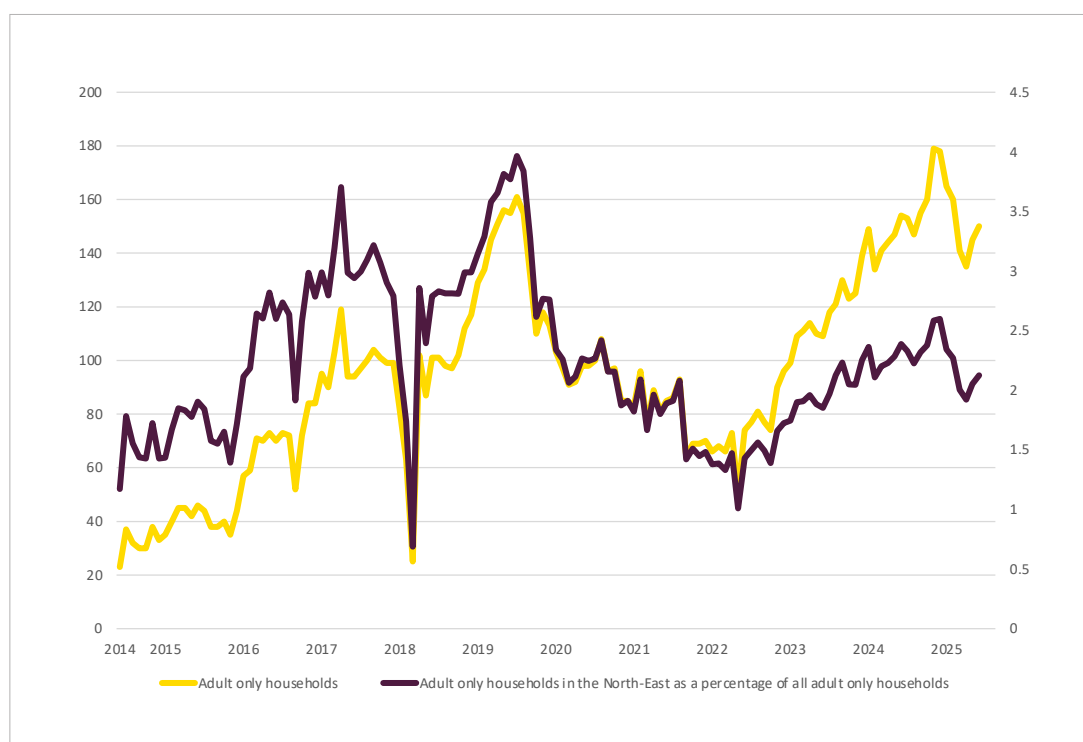


Figure 4: Adult-Only Households in Emergency Accommodation in the North-East and as a Percentage of all Adult-Only Households in Emergency Accommodation Nationally, 2014-2025

Figure 5 shows the number of *families* in emergency accommodation in the North-East, as well as homeless families in the North-East as a percentage of all families in emergency accommodation in Ireland. Family homelessness has experienced a steady decline since late 2024, following a consistent increase between 2021-2024.

The number of families in emergency accommodation in the North-East has increased by 500% since June 2021 (n=8) and 4700% since March 2015⁵ (n=1). In June 2025 there were 48 families in emergency accommodation in the North-East.

⁵ There were no families in emergency accommodation in the North-East from June 2014-February 2015, so March 2015 is used as the first reference point.

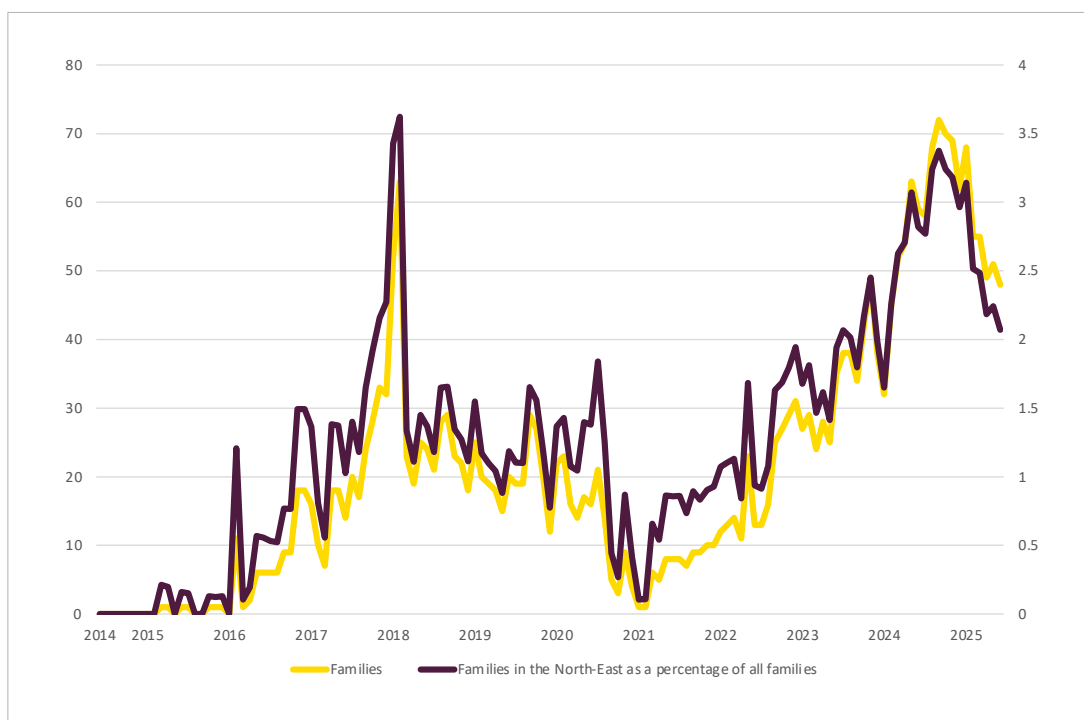


Figure 5: Families in Emergency Accommodation in the North-East and as a Percentage of all Families in Emergency Accommodation Nationally, 2014-2025

Families in emergency accommodation in the North-East make up 2.1% of all the families in emergency accommodation nationally as of June 2025. This is higher than the percentage in June 2021 (0.9%) and in March 2015 (0.2%).

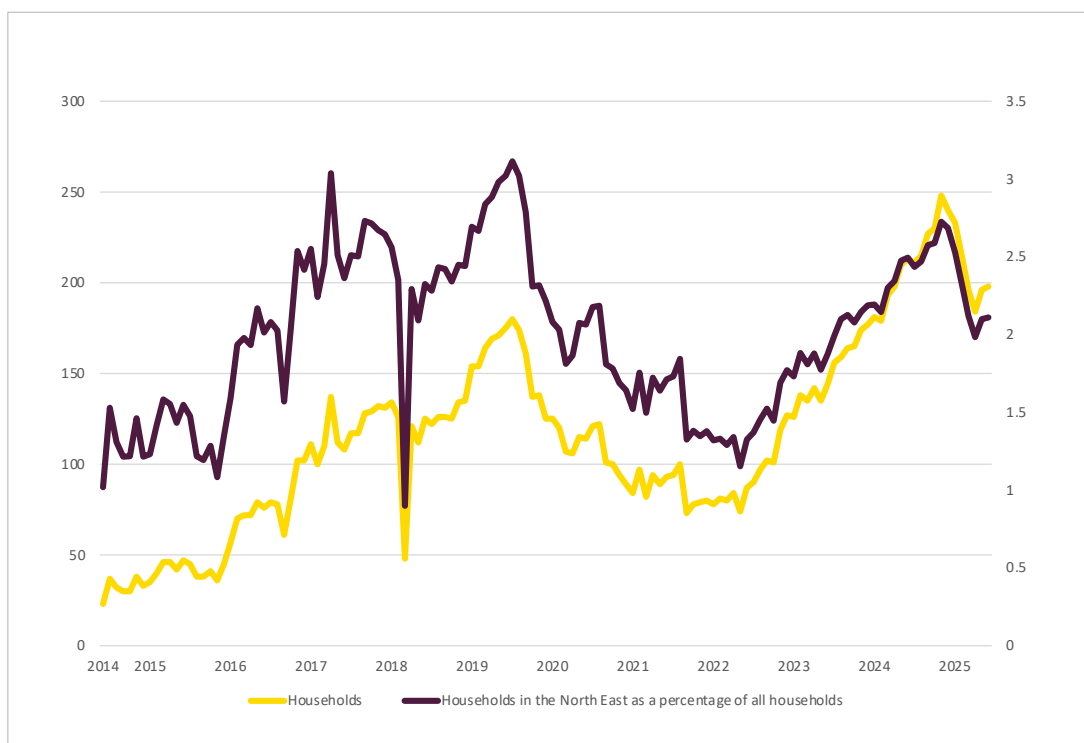


Figure 6: Households in Emergency Accommodation in the North-East and as a Percentage of all Households in Emergency Accommodation Nationally, 2014-2025

Figure 6 shows the total number of *all households* in emergency accommodation in the North-East, and the number of households in the North-East as a percentage of all households in emergency accommodation nationally. Households experienced a reduction from 2019-2021, and are currently lower than their peak of 248 in November 2024.

The number of households in emergency accommodation in the North-East has increased by 112.9% since June 2021 (n=93) and 760.9% since June 2014 (n=23). There were 198 households in emergency accommodation in the North-East in June 2025.

Households in the North-East represented 2.1% all households in emergency accommodation nationally. This is an increase in proportion compared to June 2021 (1.7%) and June 2014 (1%)

Figure 7 shows the number of child dependents in the North-East, and the number of child dependents in the North-East as a percentage all child dependents in emergency accommodation nationally. The trend of child dependents follows a similar pattern to families, with decreases occurring 2024-25 after a period of increase from 2021-2024.

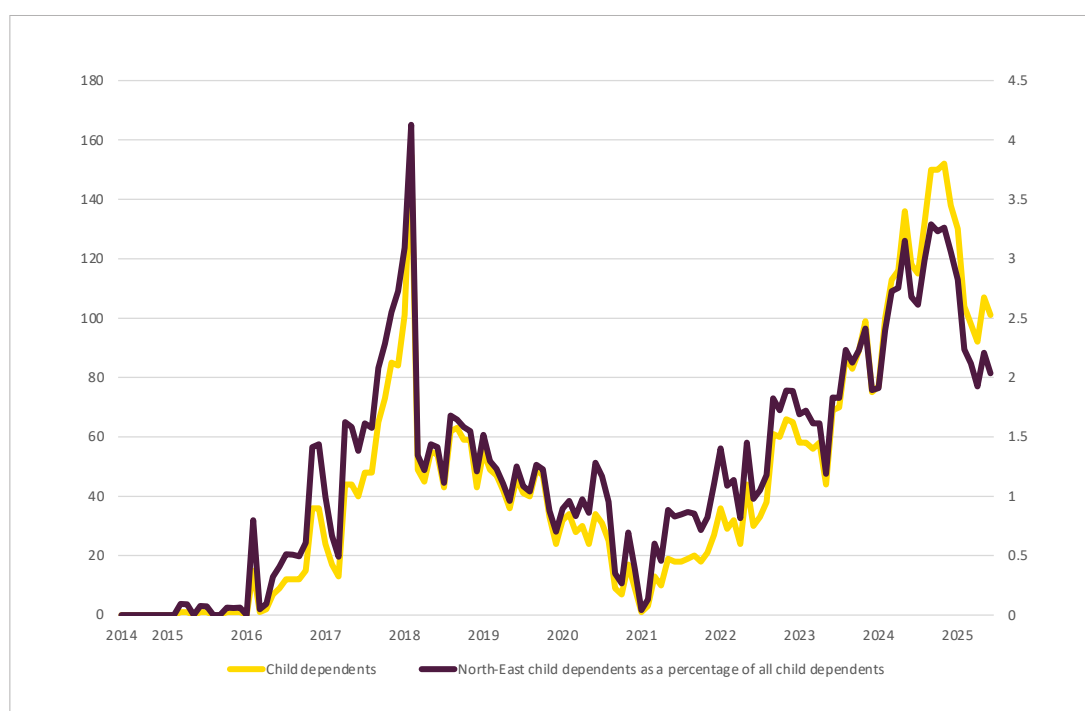


Figure 7: Child Dependents in Emergency Accommodation in the North-East and as a Percentage of all Child Dependents Nationally, 2014-2025

The number of child dependents in emergency accommodation in the North-East has increased by 461.1% since June 2021 (n=18) and 10,000% since March 2015⁶ (n=1). There were 101 child dependents in emergency accommodation in the North-East in June 2025.

Child dependents in the North-East represented 2% of all child dependents in emergency accommodation nationally – an increase from June 2021 (0.8%) and March 2015 (0.1%).

⁶ There were no child dependents in emergency accommodation in the North-East from June 2014-February 2015, so March 2015 is used as the first reference point.

Age Profile of those in Emergency Accommodation

Figure 8 shows the age profile of *all adults* in emergency accommodation in the North-East. 25-44 year olds make up the majority of adults in emergency accommodation in the North-East at 56.8% in June 2025, a slight decrease from June 2021 (54.2%). While the 18-24 group and 65+ represented a similar proportion of the adult homeless population in the North-East, the 65+ group has remained the smallest age group since 2022, with a decrease from 10.4% in June 2021 to 3.2% in June 2025.

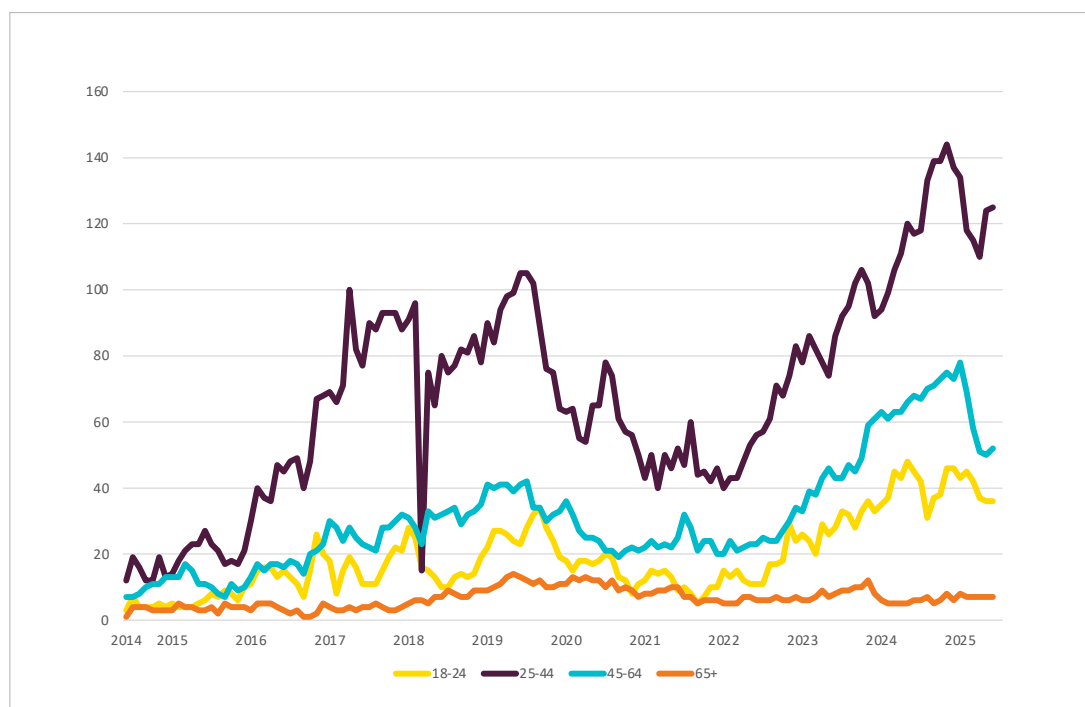


Figure 8: Age Profile of Adults in Emergency Accommodation in the North-East, 2014-2025

The number of **18-24 year olds** in emergency accommodation was 36 in June 2025 – an increase of 300% since June 2021 (n=9) and 1100% since June 2014 (n=3).

The number of **25-44 year olds** in emergency accommodation was 125 in June 2025 – an increase of 140.4% since June 2021 (n=52) and 941.7% since June 2014 (n=12).

The number of **45-64 year olds** in emergency accommodation was 52 in June 2025 – an increase of 108% since June 2021 (n=25) and 642.9% since June 2014 (n=7).

The number of **65+** in emergency accommodation was 7 in June 2025 – a decrease of 30% since June 2021 (n=10) and an increase of 600% since June 2014 (n=1).

Gender and Emergency Accommodation

Figure 9 shows the gender breakdown of *all adults* in emergency accommodation in the North-East. As of June 2025, there were 128 men and 92 women in emergency accommodation, which is a ratio of 58:42. The proportion of women in emergency accommodation in the North-East was higher in June 2025 (41.8%) than in June 2021 (30.4%) and June 2014 (15.4%).

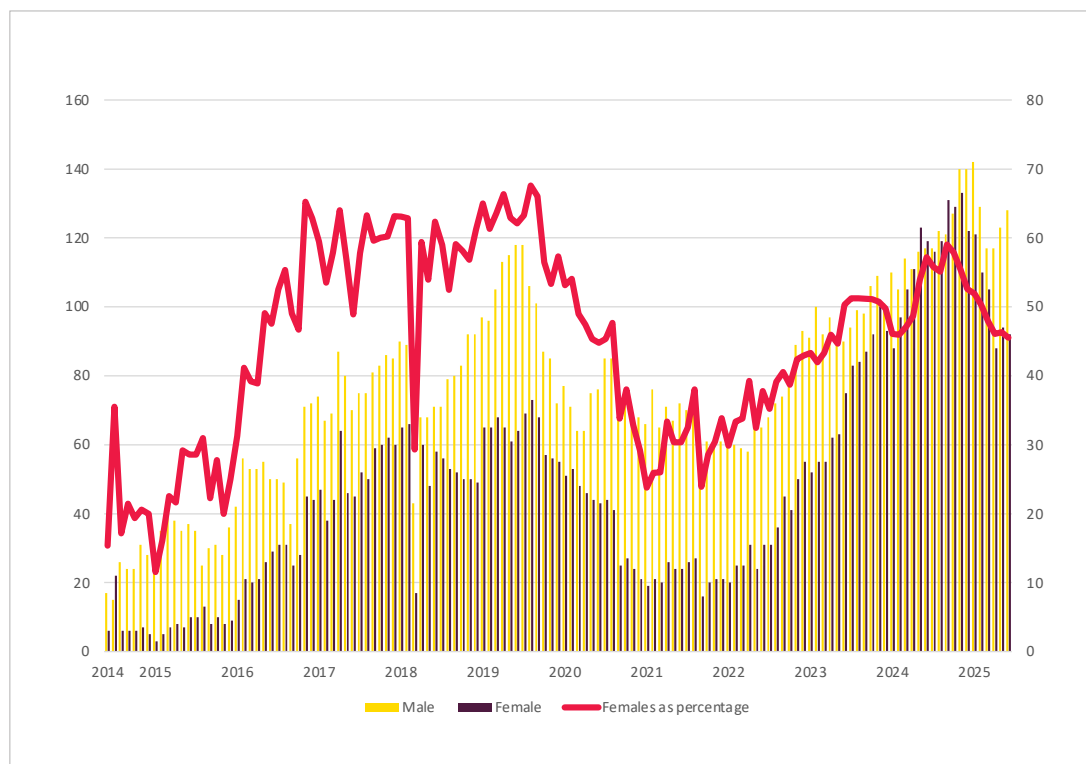


Figure 9: Adults in Temporary and Emergency Accommodation by Gender, and Females as a Percentage of all Adults in the North-East, 2014-2025

The number of men in emergency accommodation in the North-East has increased by 132.7% since June 2021 (n=55) and 287.9% since June 2014 (n=33). In comparison the number of women in emergency accommodation in the North-East has increased by 283.3% since June 2021 (n=24) and 1433.3% since June 2014 (n=6).

Citizenship of those in Emergency Accommodation

Figure 10 shows the citizenship breakdown of *all adults* in emergency accommodation between April 2022 and June 2025⁷. In June 2025 there were 124 Irish citizens (56.4%), 38 UK/EEA citizens (17.3%) and 58 non-EEA citizens (26.4%) in emergency accommodation in the North-East.

Non-EEA citizens have seen the largest increase, from 2 in April 2022 to 58 in June 2025 – a 2800% increase in 3 years.

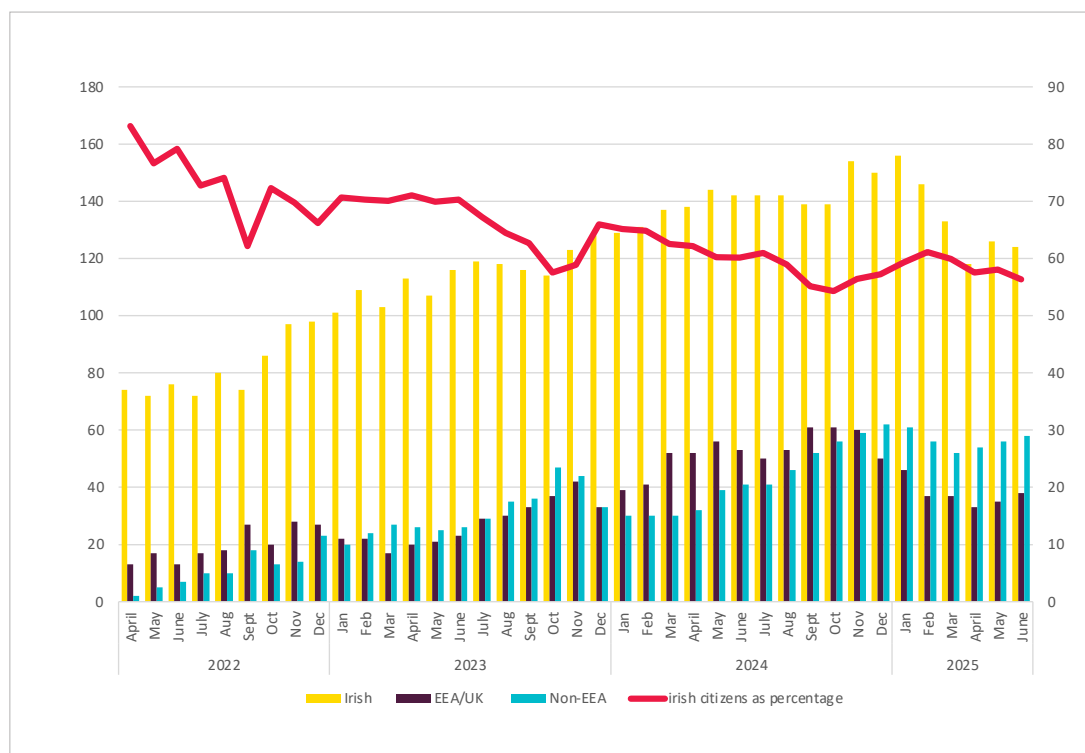


Figure 10: Citizenship of Adults in Local Authority Funded Emergency and Temporary Accommodation in the North-East, April 2022-June 2025

The number of Irish citizens in emergency accommodation in the North-East represents a declining proportion of the total number of homeless adults, falling from 83.2% in April 2022 to 56.4% in June 2025.

⁷ Data only available from April 2022 onwards.

Emergency Accommodation providers

Figure 11 shows the types of emergency accommodation in use in the North-East. There are three types⁸ of emergency accommodation reported. *Private Emergency Accommodation* (PEA) includes hostels, B&Bs and other residential facilities that are privately owned and have been contracted by local authorities on a temporary or long-term basis to be used as emergency accommodation. *Supported Temporary Accommodation* (STA) primarily comprises of congregate shelters and Family Hubs, which have onsite professional support and are operated by Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), and are wholly or partially funded by Section 10 funding via the relevant local authority. *Temporary Emergency Accommodation* (TEA) includes emergency accommodation with minimal to no supports and are operated both by NGOs and private operators. The recorded use of TEA is low and so is included in the graph along with the STA figure.

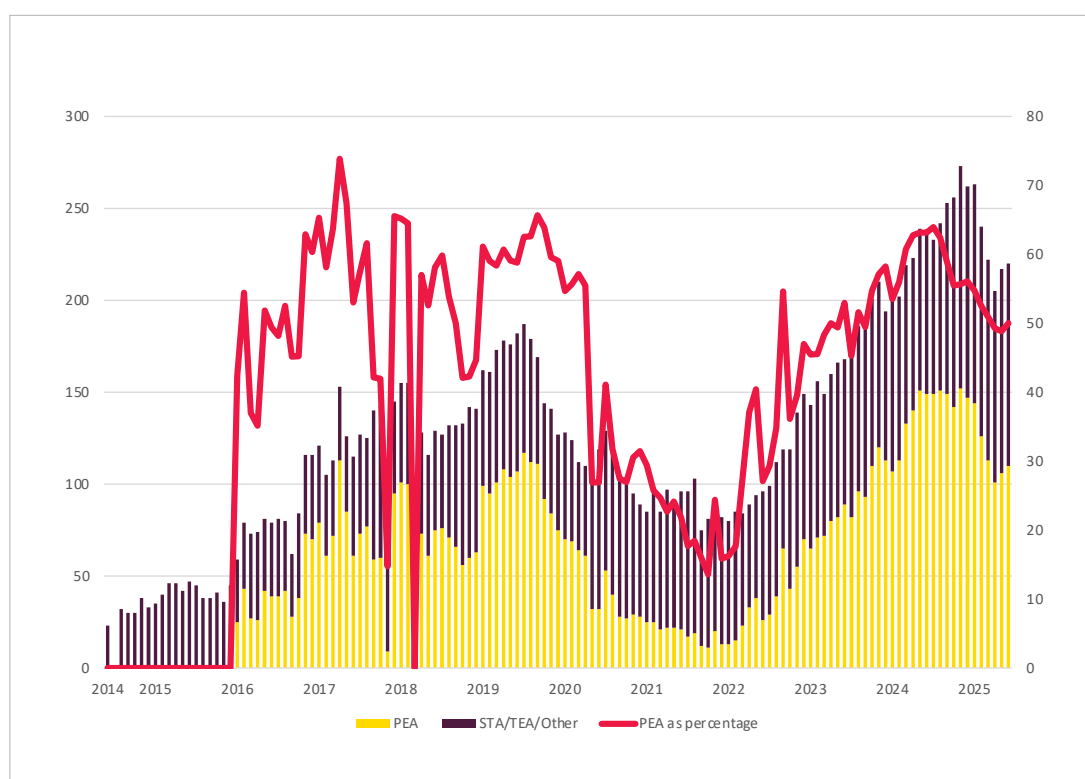


Figure 11: Emergency Accommodation in the North-East, and PEA as a Percentage of all Emergency Accommodation in the North-East, 2014-2025

Compared to other regions there is more variation in the largest provider, and while PEA has usually been the largest provider since 2023, the split between PEA and STA/TEA/Other is relatively even. As of June 2025, PEA makes up 50% (n=110) of the total emergency accommodation beds in the North-East, compared to 21.9% (n=21) in June 2021 and 42.4% (n=25) in January 2016⁹. PEA accommodation beds in the North-East have increased by 423.8% since June 2021 and 340% since June 2021. In comparison, STA/TEA/Other has increased by 46.7% since June 2021 (n=75) and by 378.3% since June 2014 (n=23).

⁸ There is a very small number of housing under the 'Other' category, which is included in the STA/TEA group for the purposes of this analysis.

⁹ There was no PEA in the North-East from June 2014-December 2015, so January 2016 is used as the first reference point.

Exits from Emergency Accommodation to Housing

Figure 12 shows the number of adults exiting emergency accommodation to housing in the North-East in each quarter since 2014. LA refers to *Local Authority housing*, AHB/LTSA is for housing provided by *Approved Housing Bodies* and PRS refers to exits to the *Private Rented Sector*, largely supported by HAP payments.

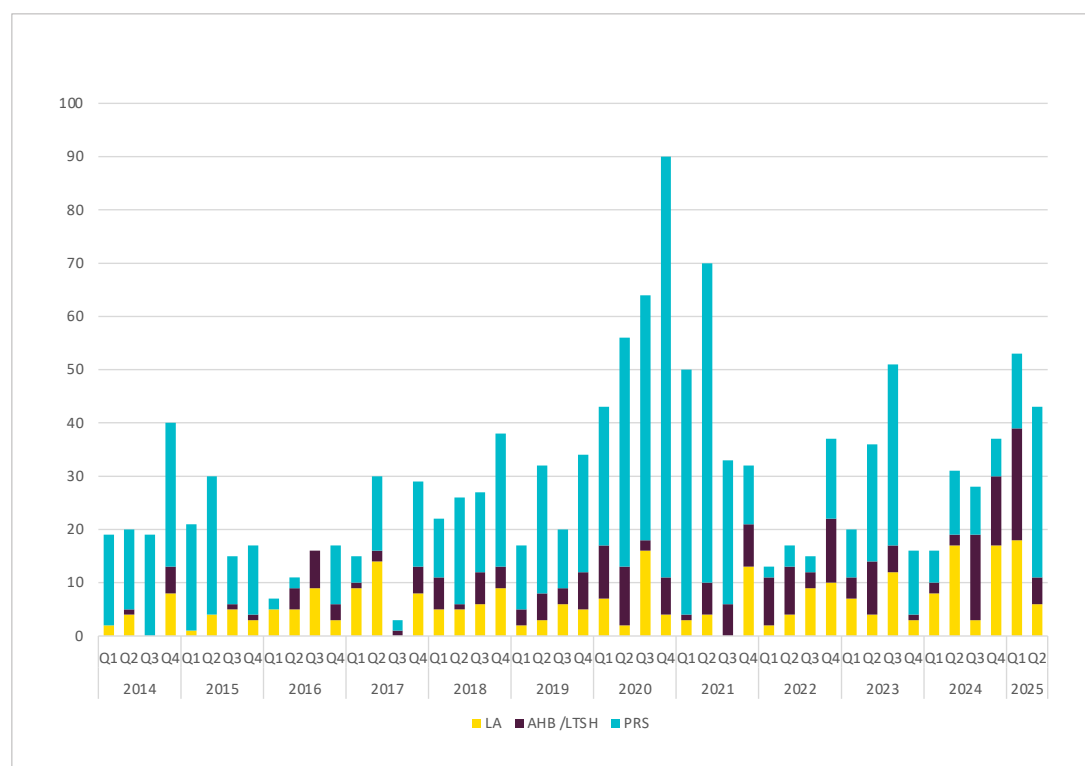


Figure 12: Adult Exits to Housing from Emergency Accommodation by Type in the North-East, Q1 2014-Q2 2025

In Q2 2025 6 households (14%) exited into LA housing, 5 (11.6%) into AHB/LTSA and 32 (74.4%) into the PRS. Unlike other regions the proportion of exits to housing is still largely into the PRS – although there is variance and the proportion has reduced.

Between Q3 2021 and Q2 2025 there were 478 adult exits from emergency accommodation to housing in the North-East: 27.8% to LAs (n=133), 26.4% to AHB/LTSA (n=126) and 45.8% to the PRS (n=219). Between Q1 2014 and Q2 2025 there were 1,376 adult exits from emergency accommodation to housing in the North-East: 21.1% to LAs (n=290), 16.6% to AHB/LTSA (n=229) and 62.3% to the PRS (n=857). Compared to the last iteration of this paper, there is a larger proportion of exits into both LAs and AHB/LTSA.

Figure 13 shows the breakdown of exits to Social Housing Tenancies (Local Authority and Approved Housing Bodies) versus Social Housing Support (Private Rental Tenancies supported by rent subsidies such as HAP and RAS).

In Q2 2025 there was a 26:74 ratio of Social Housing Tenancy to Social Housing Support. This is a large decrease in the proportion of Social Housing support exits compared to Q2 2021, which had a 14:86 ratio of tenancies to support.

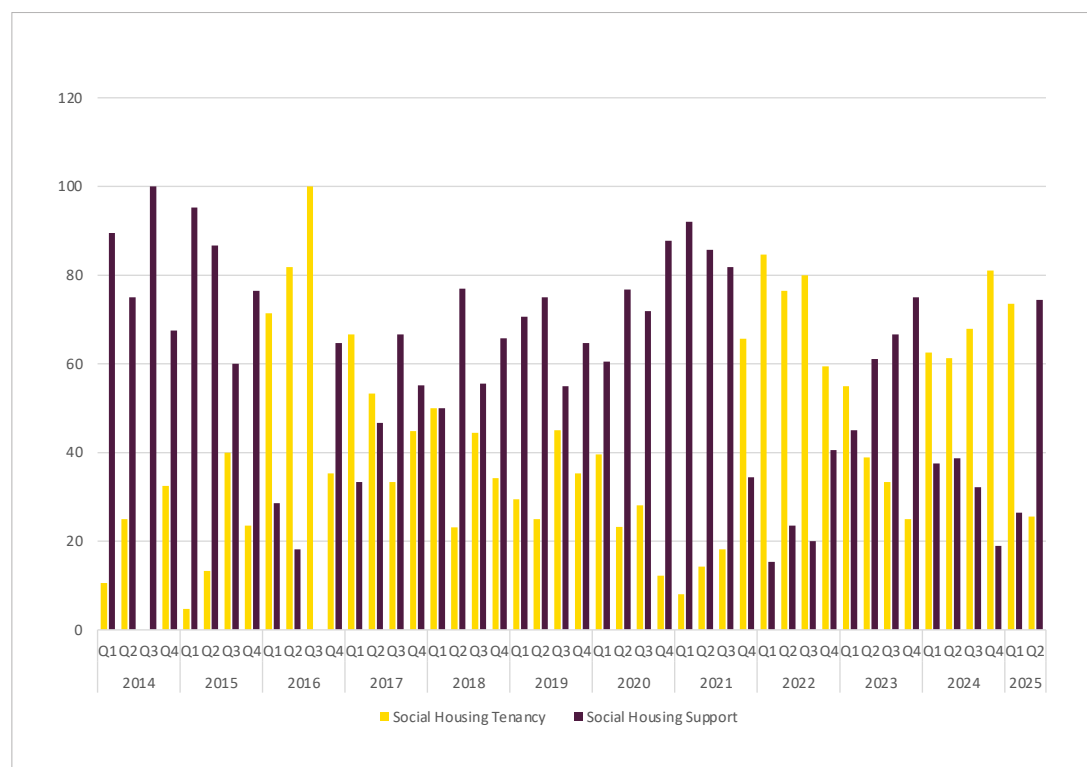


Figure 13: Adult Exits from Emergency Accommodation by Tenancy/Support in the North-East, Q1 2014-Q2 2025

Duration in Emergency Accommodation

Figure 14 shows the average duration of stay in emergency accommodation for *adult-only households* between Q1 2022 and Q2 2025¹⁰. In Q2 2025 47.6% of adult-only households stayed in emergency accommodation for 0-6 months (n=68); 25.9% for 6-12 months (n=37); 14.7% for 12-18 months (n=21); 4.9% for 18-24 months (n=7) and 7% for 24+ months (n=10). The number of adult-only households staying in emergency accommodation for 0-6 months represents a smaller proportion of the population than in Q1 2022, where 66.7% (n=44) were in emergency accommodation for 0-6 months.

In Q2 2025 26.6% of adult-only households were in emergency accommodation for 12+ months (n=38). In Q1 2022 this was 25.8% (n=17).

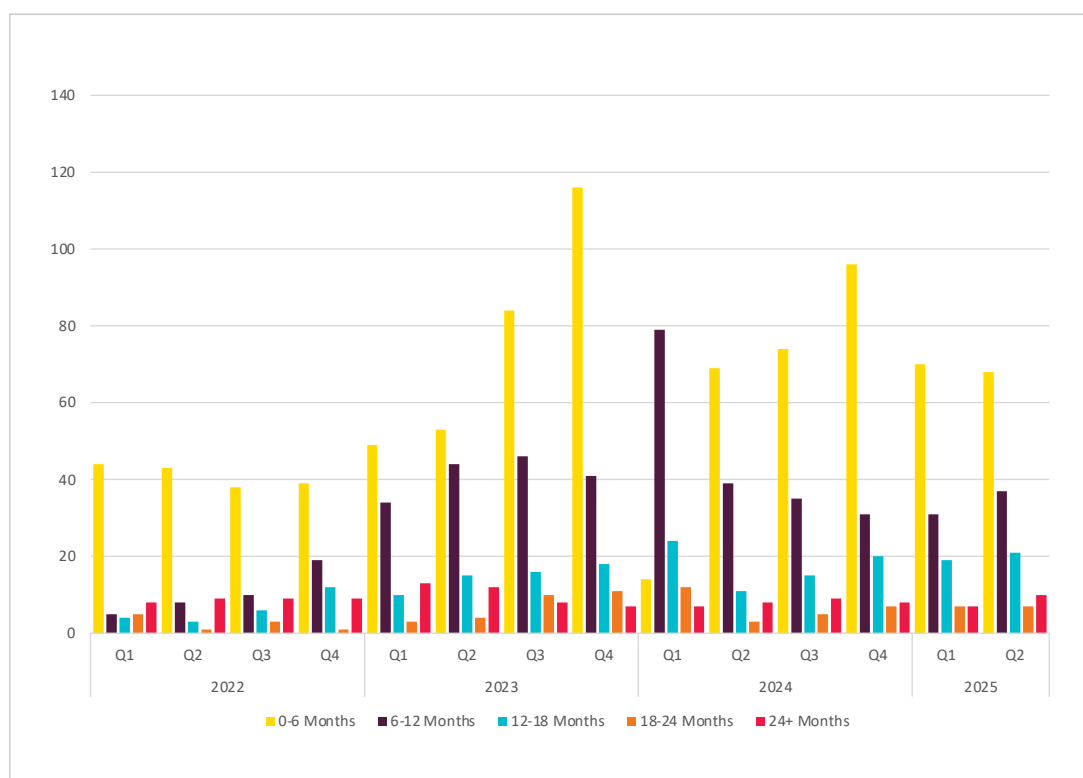


Figure 14: Duration of Stay by Adult-Only Households in Emergency Accommodation in the North-East, Q1 2022-Q2 2025

Figure 15 shows the duration of stay for *families* in emergency accommodation in the North-East. In Q2 2025 32.6% of families stayed in emergency accommodation for 0-6 months (n=15); 30.4% for 6-12 months (n=14); 21.7% for 12-18 months (n=10); 8.7% for 18-24 months (n=4) and 6.5% for 24+ months (n=3). There is much lower proportion of families that are staying in emergency accommodation for 0-6 months now than in Q2 2022 (71.4%, n=5). There were no families who stayed in emergency accommodation for 24+ months in 2022 in the North-East, which has now increased to 6.5% of families.

In Q2 2025, 37% (n=17) of families were staying in emergency accommodation for over 12 months. In Q1 2022 this was 14.3% (n=1).

¹⁰ Figures are shown from 2022 onward, as the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage changed the presentation of the length of stay options from <6 months or >6 months to 0-6 months, 6-12 months, 12-18 months, 18-24 months, and 24+ months.

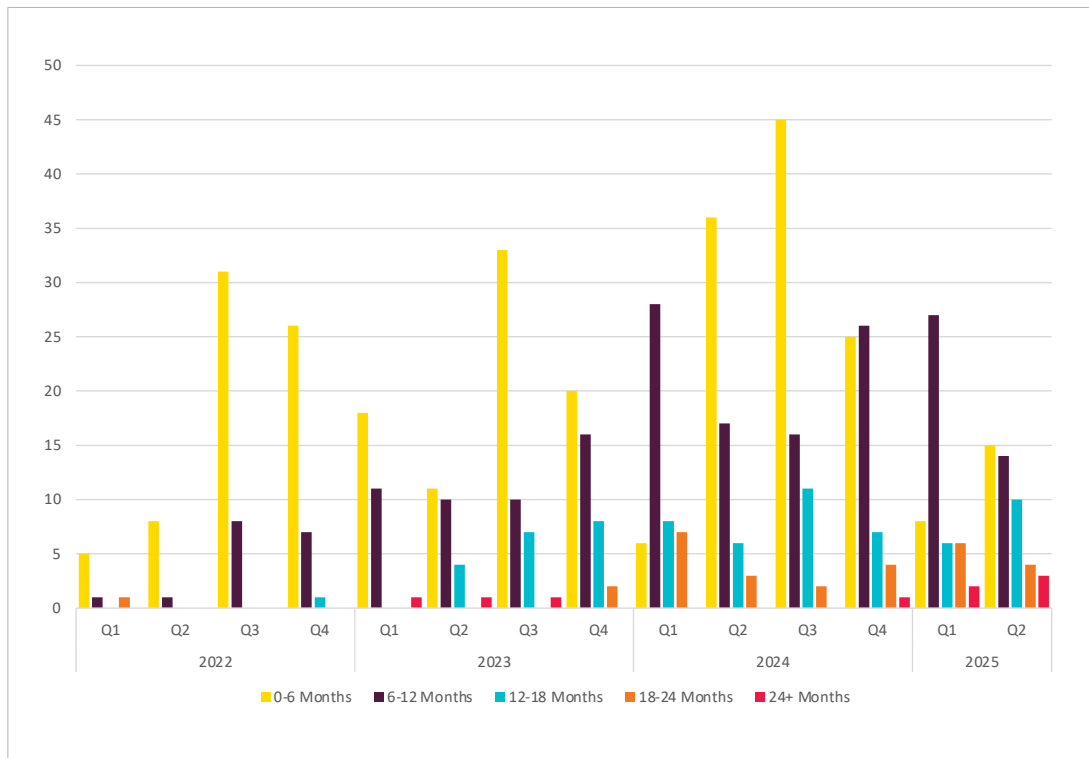


Figure 15: Duration of Stay by Families in Emergency Accommodation in the North-East, Q1 2022-Q2 2025

Housing First

Figure 16 shows the number of Housing First tenancies created in the North-East since 2020. One tenancy was created in Q2 2025. This is an 88.9% decrease from its highest point of 9 new tenancies in Q3 2021 and Q4 2023. There was an average of 2 new tenancies per quarter in 2024 and the first half of 2025. Since 2020 a total of 68 Housing First tenancies have been created in the North-East.

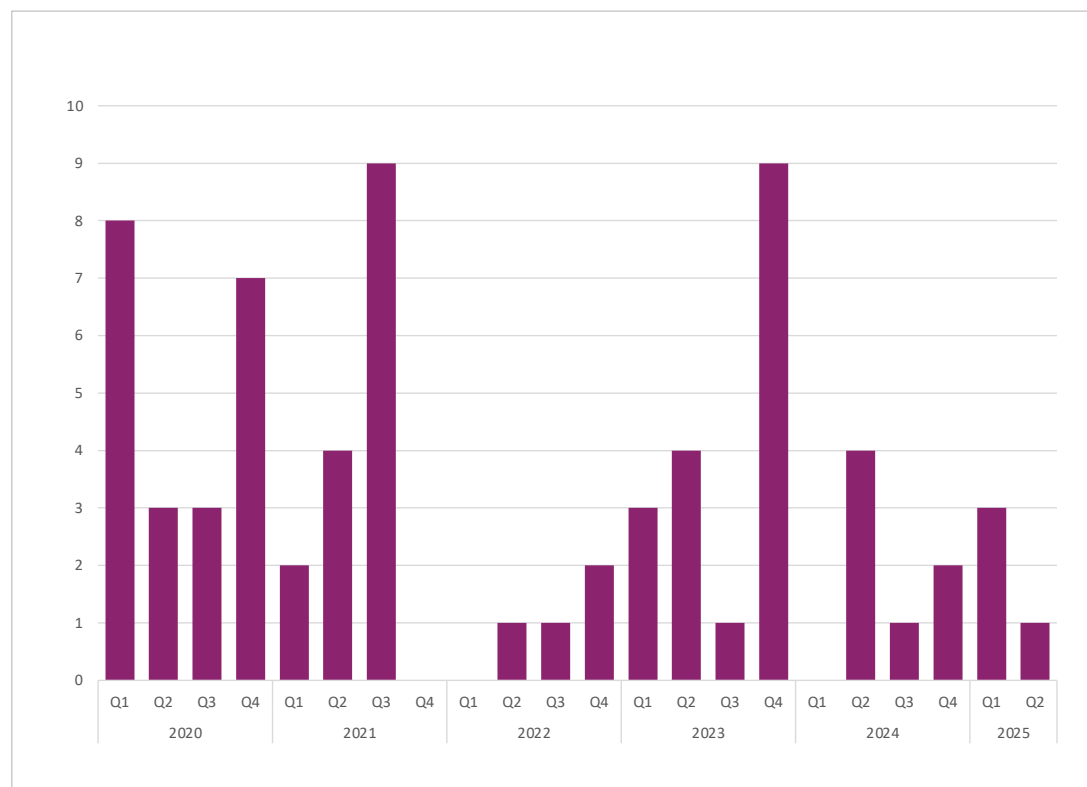


Figure 16: Number of Housing First Tenancies Created in the North-East, Q1 2020-Q2 2025

Expenditure on Homeless services in the North-East

Figure 17 shows the expenditure by local authorities on services for households experiencing homelessness in the North-East was €10.9m¹¹ in 2024 – the majority of this (87.5%) being in Louth County Council. North-East local authorities' annual expenditure on homelessness has seen a 121.5% increase since 2020 (€4.9m) and a 14,625.5% increase since 2009 (€0.07m). In the past ten years (2015–2024) €43.2m has been spent on homelessness by local authorities in the North-East.

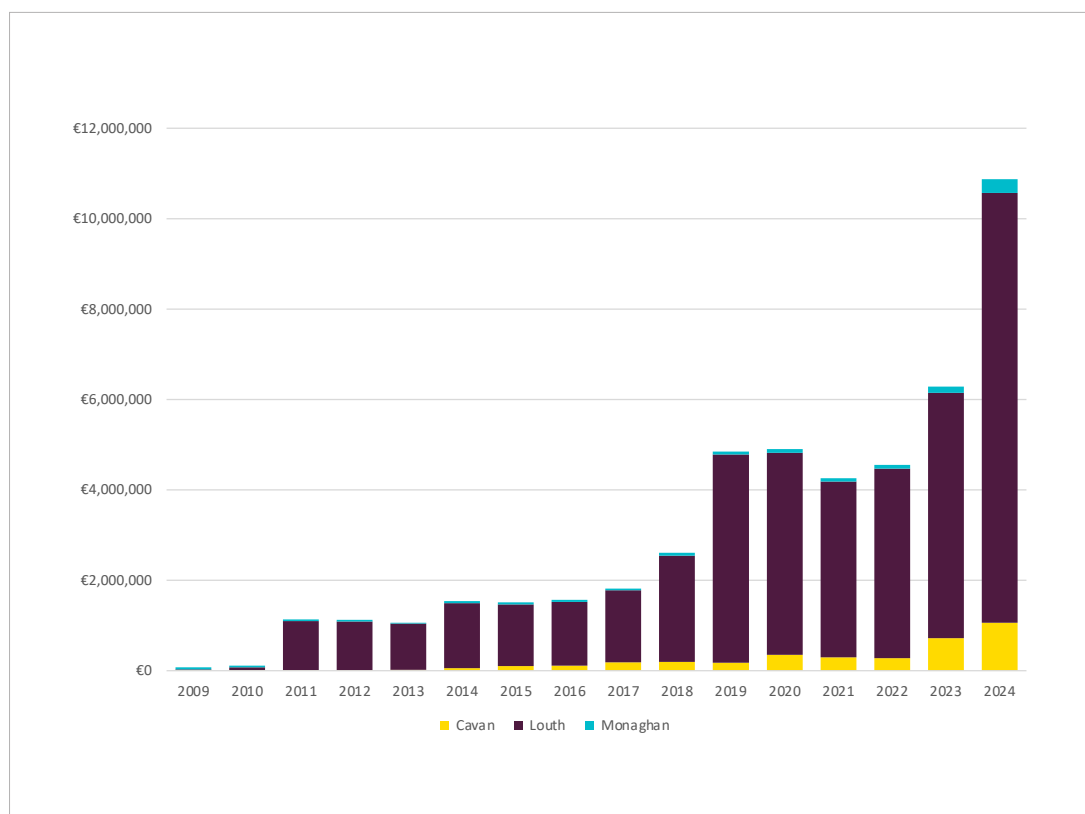


Figure 17: Expenditure on Services for Households Experiencing Homelessness by Local Authorities in the North-East, 2009-2024

Figure 18 shows Section 10 expenditure on homelessness services in the North-East – that is for services funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Section 10 of the Housing Act, 1988. In 2024 €9.7m was spent on homeless services, the vast majority of this (88.2%) on emergency accommodation. €8.5m was spent on emergency accommodation in 2024, an increase of 228.5% since 2020 (€2.6m) and 1283.4% since 2013 (€0.6m). In comparison, expenditure on all other services combined has increased by 103.3% since 2020 (€0.6m) and by 241.6% since 2013 (€0.3m).

¹¹ See Focus on Homelessness Report on Public Expenditure on Services for Households Experiencing Homelessness (2025).

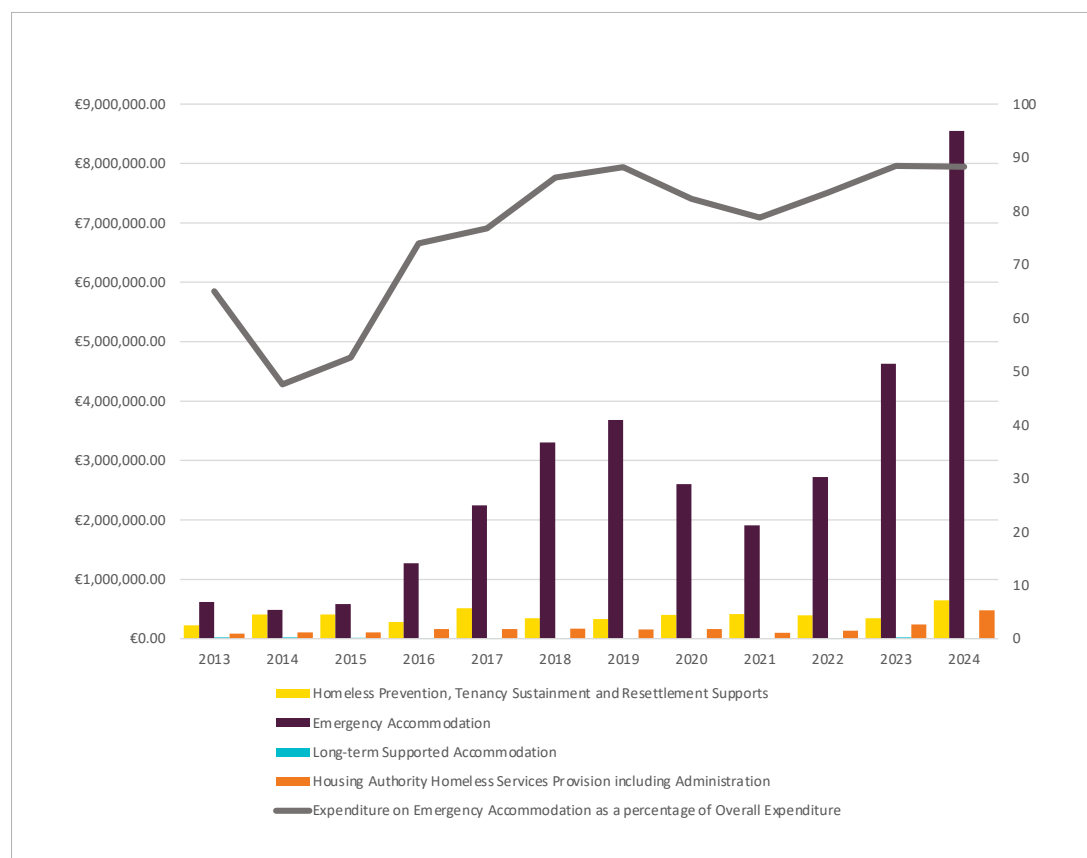


Figure 18: Section 10 Expenditure on Homeless Services in the North-East, 2013-2024

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