



Focus on Homelessness

North-West

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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-West region of Ireland, which covers Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo.

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.

Prevention

Figure 1 shows the number of adults who were assessed¹ as homeless under Section 2 of the *Housing Act, 1988* by the three North-West Local Authorities, but were provided with housing options and so were prevented from entering emergency accommodation between 2022 and 2025. The average number of such preventions per quarter in the first half of 2025 was 19 – a 9.5% reduction from 2024’s quarterly average of 21 but an increase compared to 2022 and 2023. While there is variance, the largest number of preventions have generally been through Local Authority (LA) Lettings and the Private Rental Sector (PRS) In Q2 2025, 62.5% (n=15) of preventions came from LA Lettings, followed by the PRS (20.8%, n=5), and AHB Lettings and Supported Long-Term Accommodation (8.3%, n=2).

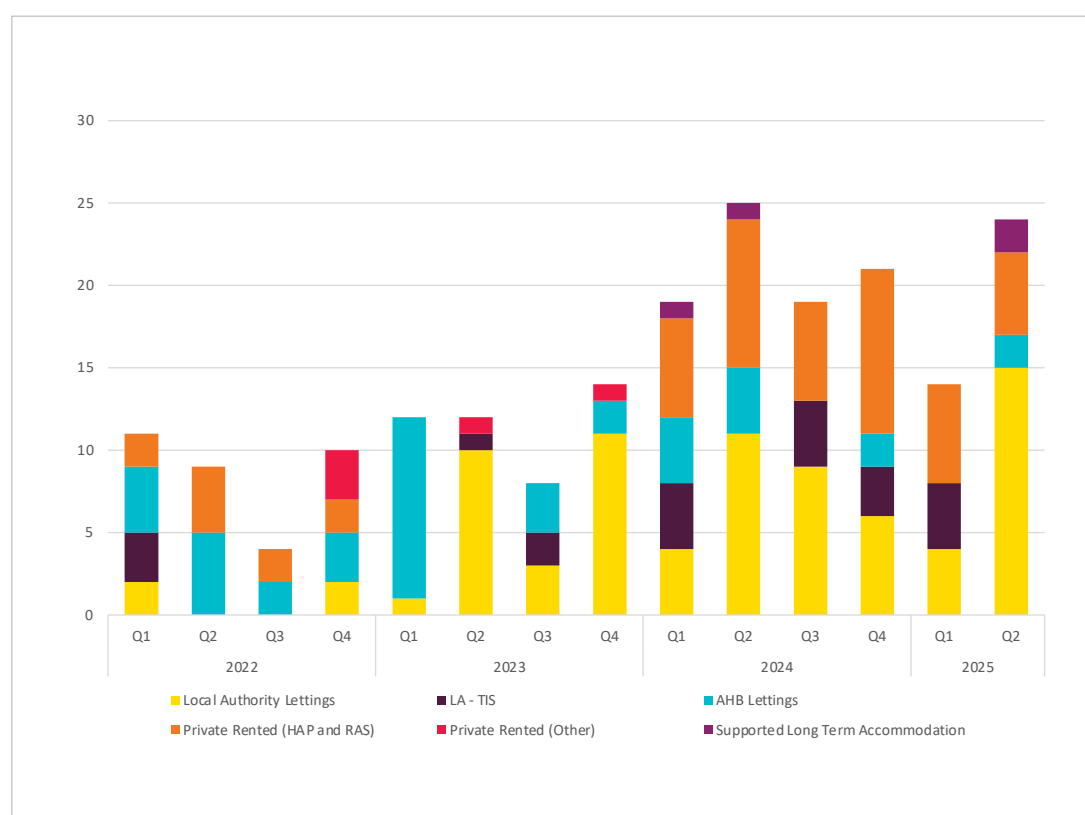


Figure 1: Adult Preventions from Entering Emergency Accommodation in the North-West, Q1 2022-Q2 2025

¹ Note that legislation uses the term 'regarded ... as being homeless' rather than 'assessed'.

² Both AHB lettings and Supported Long Term Accommodation were responsible for 2 preventions each.

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-West and *provided with emergency or temporary accommodation*. In 2024, an average of 49 adults were provided with emergency accommodation per quarter in the North-West, compared to 26 per quarter in 2021 and 56 per quarter in 2014. In the first half of 2025, 52 adults were provided with emergency accommodation on average per quarter.

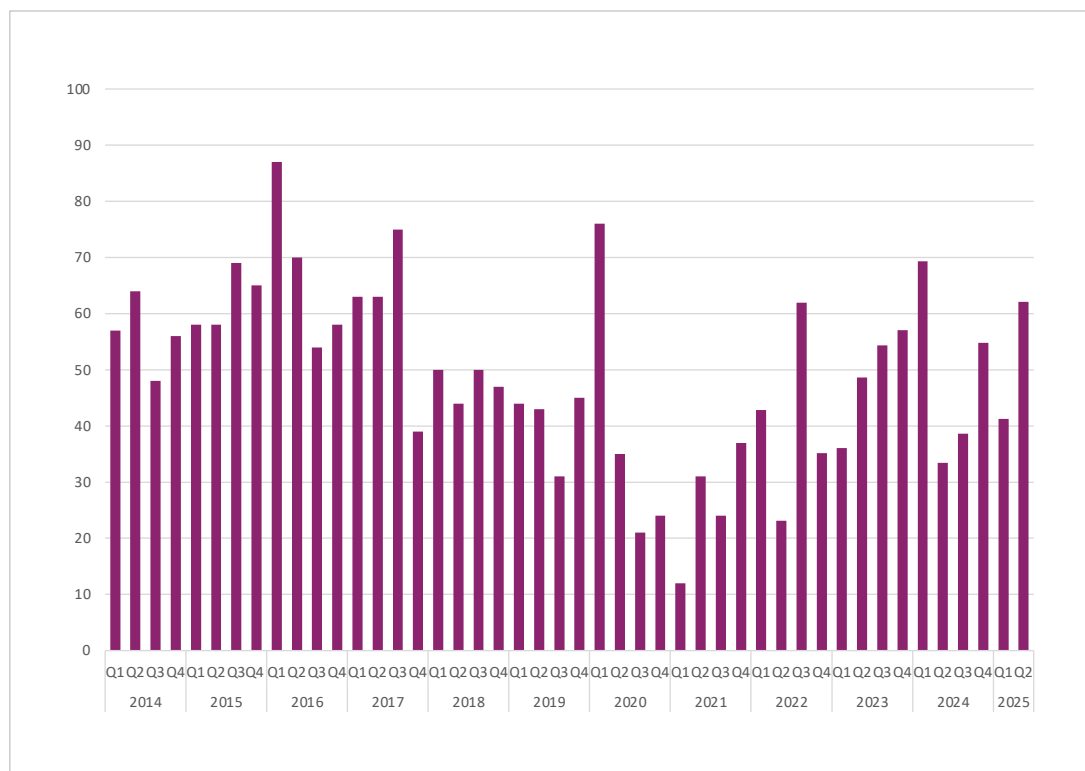


Figure 2: New Adult Presentations to Emergency Accommodation in the North-West, Q1 2014-Q2 2025

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, 9 households (16.1%) stated a No-Fault Notice of Termination (NoT) as their reason for presenting as homeless and entering emergency accommodation in the North-West. There have been no households entering emergency accommodation as a result of Leaving Direct Provision in the North-West since Q1 2024.

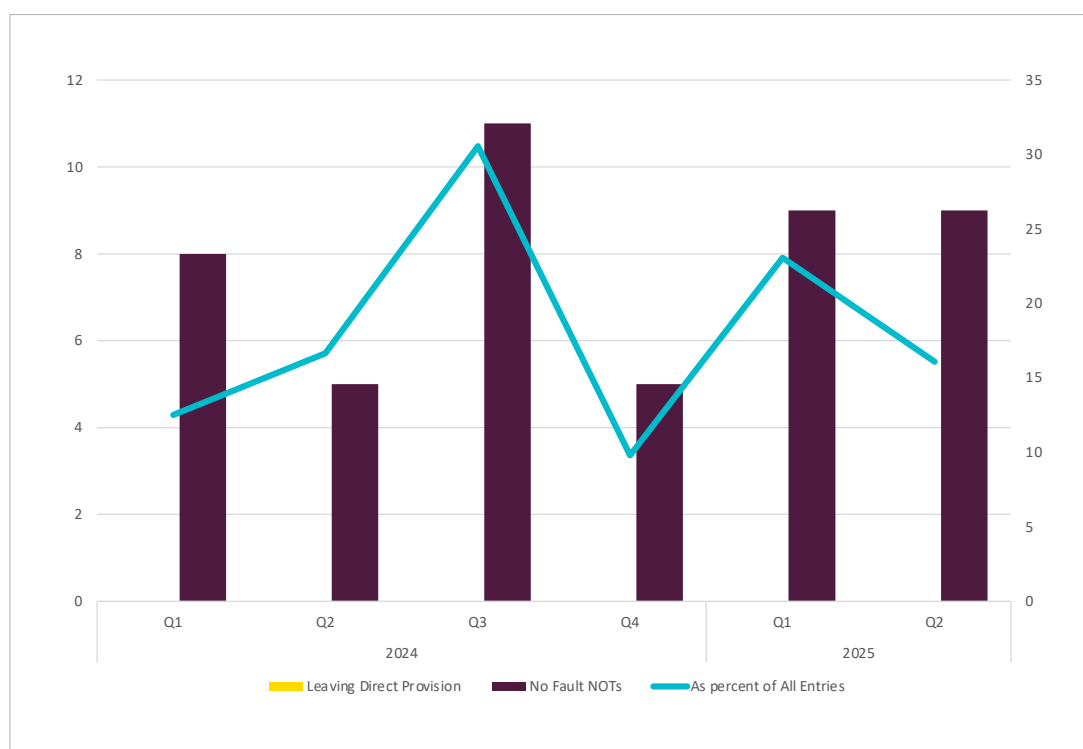


Figure 3: No Fault Terminations of Tenancy and Leaving Direct Provision as Reasons for Households Entering Emergency Accommodation, and as a Percentage of all Entries in the North-West, Q1 2024-Q2 2025⁴

There is a high amount of variance in the proportion of households entering emergency accommodation as a result of a No-Fault NoT (10-31%).

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-West at a point-in-time (the third week of each month), and as a percentage of all homeless adult-only households in Ireland. While there have been some reductions, adult-only homelessness has largely increased since 2014 – with large increases occurring 2022-2024. Adult-only homelessness numbers peaked at 143 in February 2024.

The number of adult-only households in emergency accommodation in the North-West has increased by 91.9% since June 2021 (n=74) and 273.7% since June 2014 (n=38). There were 142 adult-only households in emergency accommodation in June 2025.

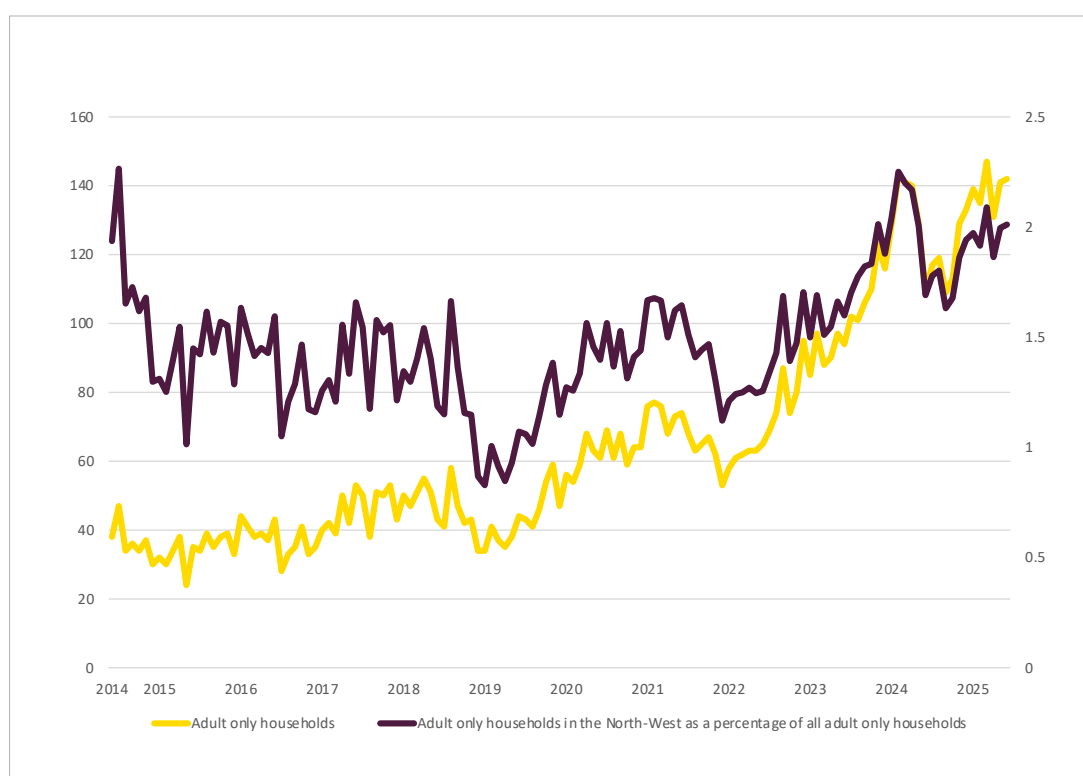


Figure 4: Adult-Only Households in Emergency Accommodation in the North-West and as a Percentage of all Adult-Only Households in Emergency Accommodation Nationally, 2014-2025

Adult-only households in the North-West make up 2% of all adult-only households in Ireland as of June 2025. This percentage has increased slightly since June 2021 (1.7%) and June 2014 (1.9%).

Figure 5 shows the number of *families* in emergency accommodation in the North-West, as well as homeless families in the North-West as a percentage of all families in emergency accommodation in Ireland. Family homelessness in the North-West is inconsistent but has broadly increased since 2014, and particularly since the beginning of 2025.

The number of families in emergency accommodation in the North-West has increased by 366.7% since June 2021 (n=6) and 211.1% since June 2014 (n=9). In June 2025 there were 28 families in emergency accommodation in the North-West.

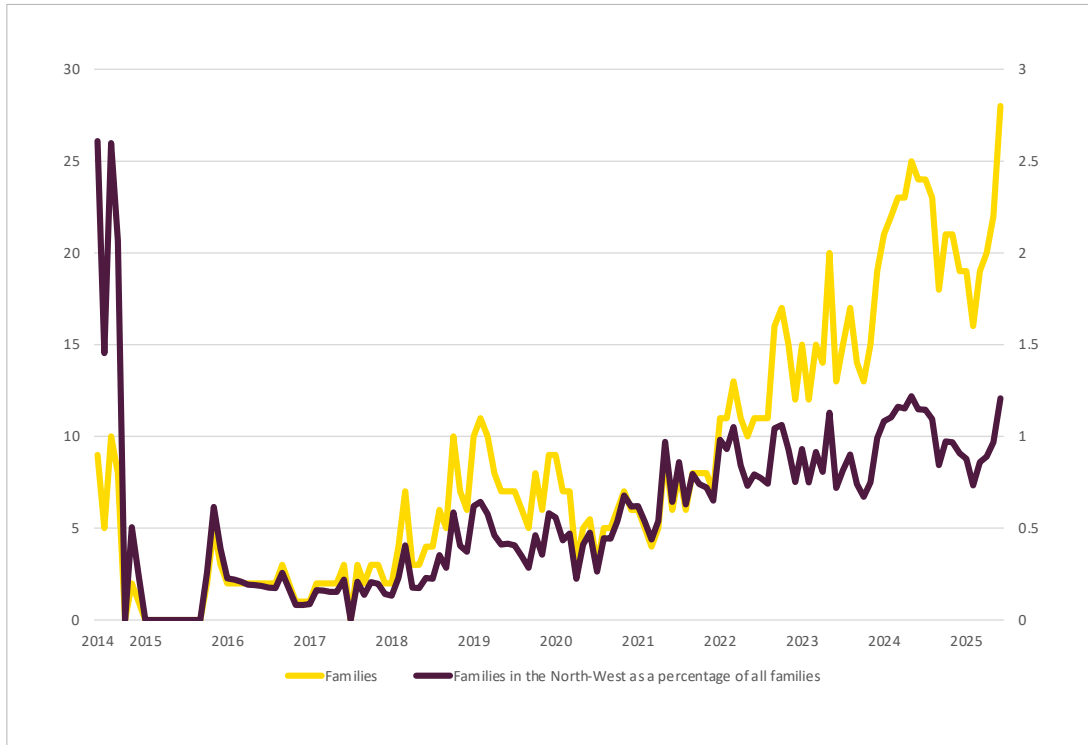


Figure 5: Families in Emergency Accommodation in the North-West and as a Percentage of all Families in Emergency Accommodation Nationally, 2014-2025

Families in emergency accommodation in the North-West make up 1.2% of all families in emergency accommodation nationally as of June 2025. This is higher than the percentage in June 2021 (0.6%) but lower than in June 2014 (2.6%).

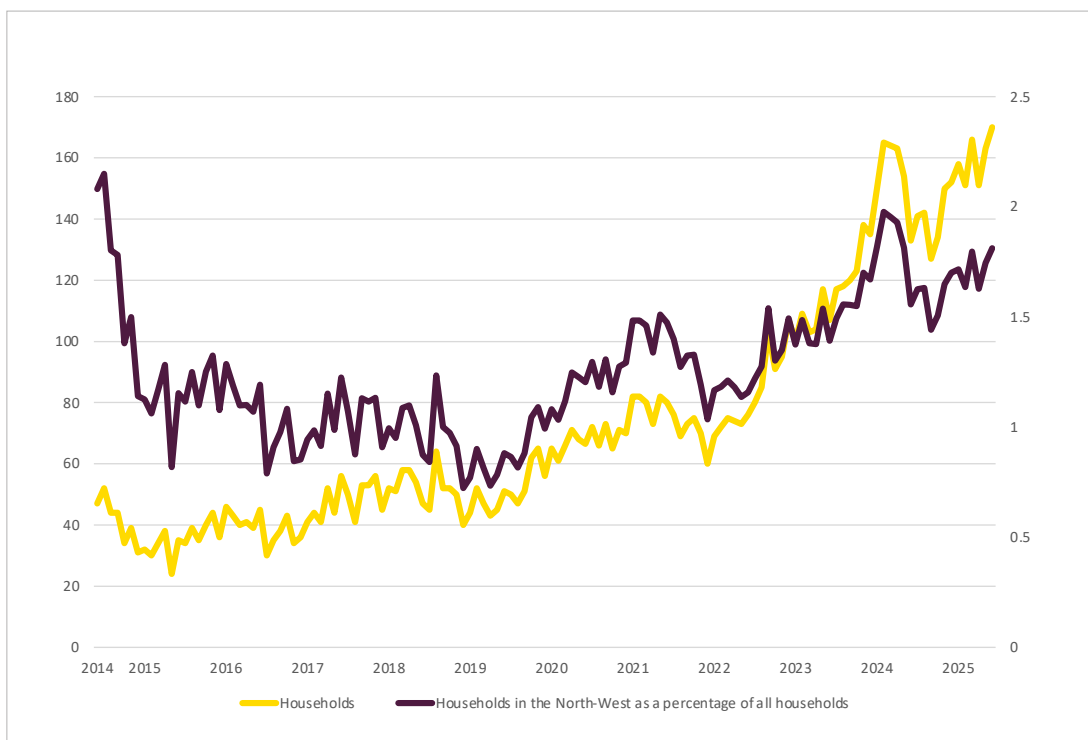


Figure 6: Households in Emergency Accommodation in the North-West and as a Percentage of all Households in Emergency Accommodation Nationally, 2014-2025

Figure 6 shows the total number of *all households* in emergency accommodation in the North-West, and the number of households in the North-West as a percentage of all households in emergency accommodation nationally. The number of households in emergency accommodation has increased at a faster rate 2022-2025 than 2014-2021, although it is not entirely consistent.

The number of households in emergency accommodation in the North-West has increased by 112.5% since June 2021 (n=80) and 261.7% since June 2014 (n=47). There were 170 households in emergency accommodation in the North-West in June 2025.

Households in the North-West represented 1.8% all households in emergency accommodation nationally. This is a slight increase from June 2021 (1.5%) and decrease from June 2014 (2.1%).

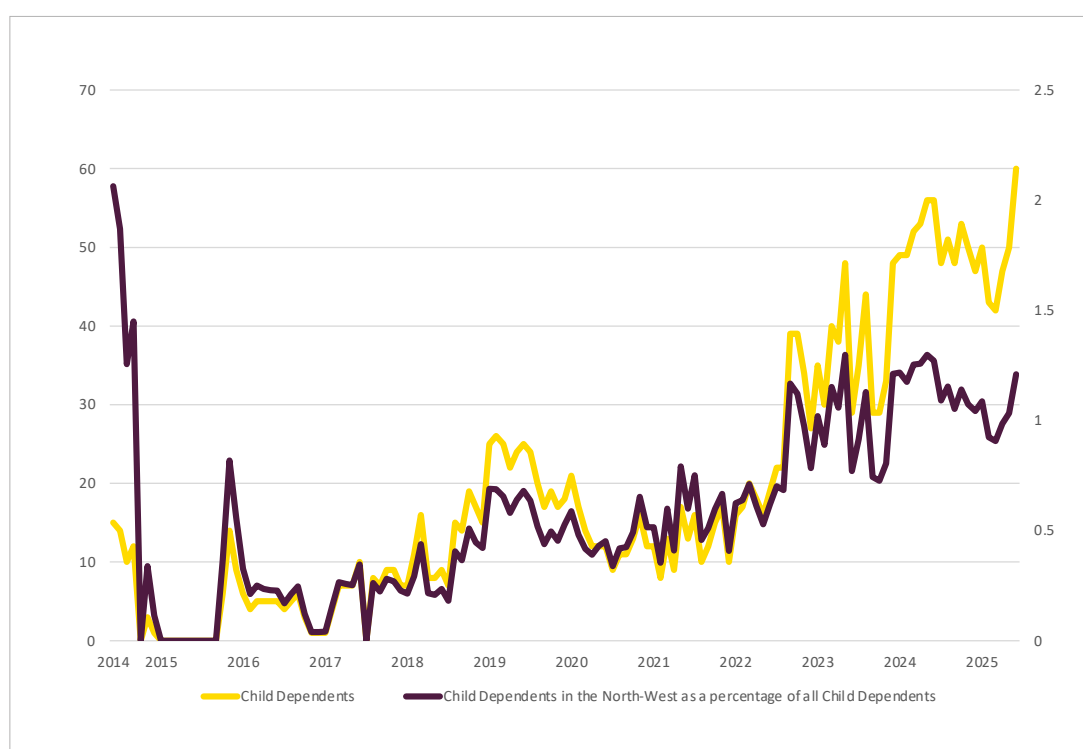


Figure 7: Child Dependents in Emergency Accommodation in the North-West and as a Percentage of all Child Dependents Nationally, 2014-2025

Figure 7 shows the number of child dependents in emergency accommodation in the North-West, and the number of child dependents in the North-West as a percentage of all child dependents in emergency accommodation nationally. Child dependents follow a similar pattern to families in emergency accommodation, with somewhat inconsistent increases occurring from 2014-2025 and particularly between 2022-2025.

The number of child dependents in emergency accommodation in the North-West has increased by 361.5% since June 2021 (n=13) and 300% since June 2014 (n=15). There were 60 child dependents in emergency accommodation in the North-West in June 2025.

Child dependents in the North-West represented 1.2% of all child dependents in emergency accommodation nationally – a slight increase from June 2021 (0.6%) and slight decrease from June 2014 (2.1%).

Age Profile of those in Emergency Accommodation

Figure 8 shows the age profile of *all adults* in emergency accommodation in the North-West. 25-44 year olds make up the largest proportion of adults in emergency accommodation in the North-West at 48.9% in June 2025, a slight decrease from June 2021 (49.4%). The 65+ category remains the smallest age category, with a slight increase from 1.2% in June 2021 to 4.5% in June 2025.

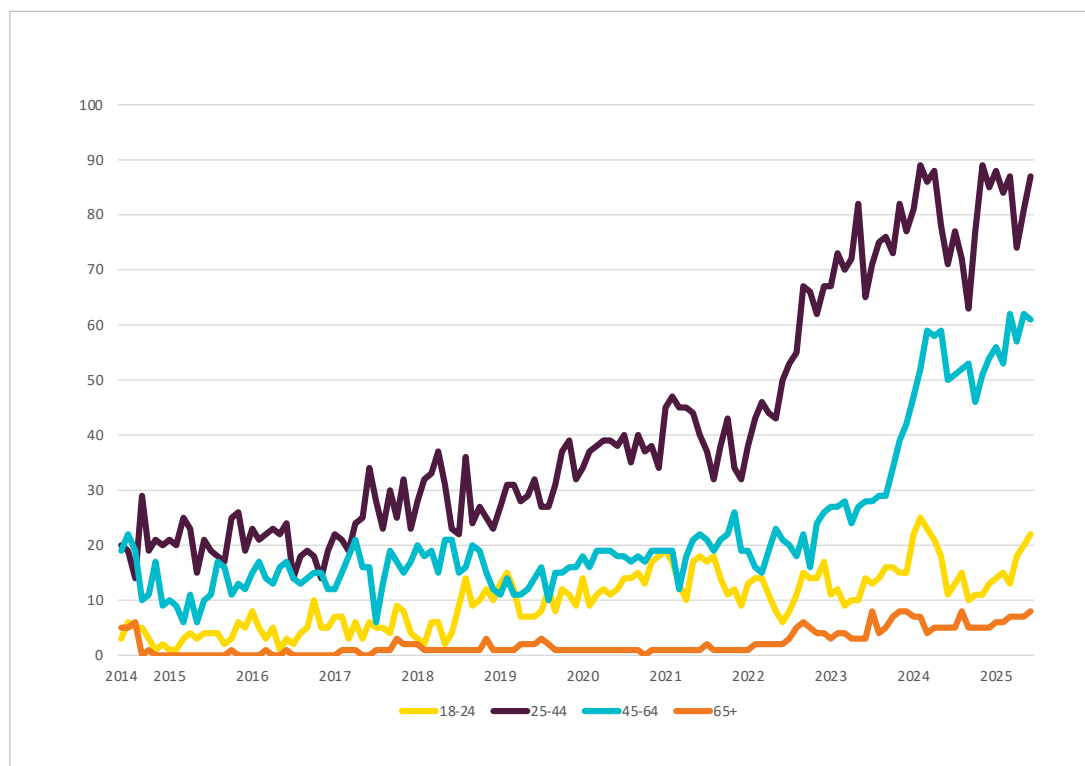


Figure 8: Age Profile of Adults in Emergency Accommodation in the North-West, 2014-2025

The number of **18-24 year olds** in emergency accommodation was 22 in June 2025 – an increase of 22.2% since June 2021 (n=18) and 633.3% since June 2014 (n=3).

The number of **25-44 year olds** in emergency accommodation was 87 in June 2025 – an increase of 117.5% since June 2021 (n=40) and 335% since June 2014 (n=20).

The number of **45-64 year olds** in emergency accommodation was 61 in June 2025 – an increase of 177.3% since June 2021 (n=22) and 221.1% since June 2014 (n=19).

The number of **65+** in emergency accommodation was 8 in June 2025 – an increase of 700% since June 2021 (n=1) and 60% since June 2014 (n=5).

Gender and Emergency Accommodation

Figure 9 shows the gender breakdown of *all adults* in emergency accommodation in the North-West. As of June 2025, there were 110 men and 68 women in emergency accommodation, which is a ratio of 62:38. The proportion of women in emergency accommodation in the North-West was slightly higher in June 2025 (38.2%) than in June 2021 (32.1%) and June 2014 (29.8%).

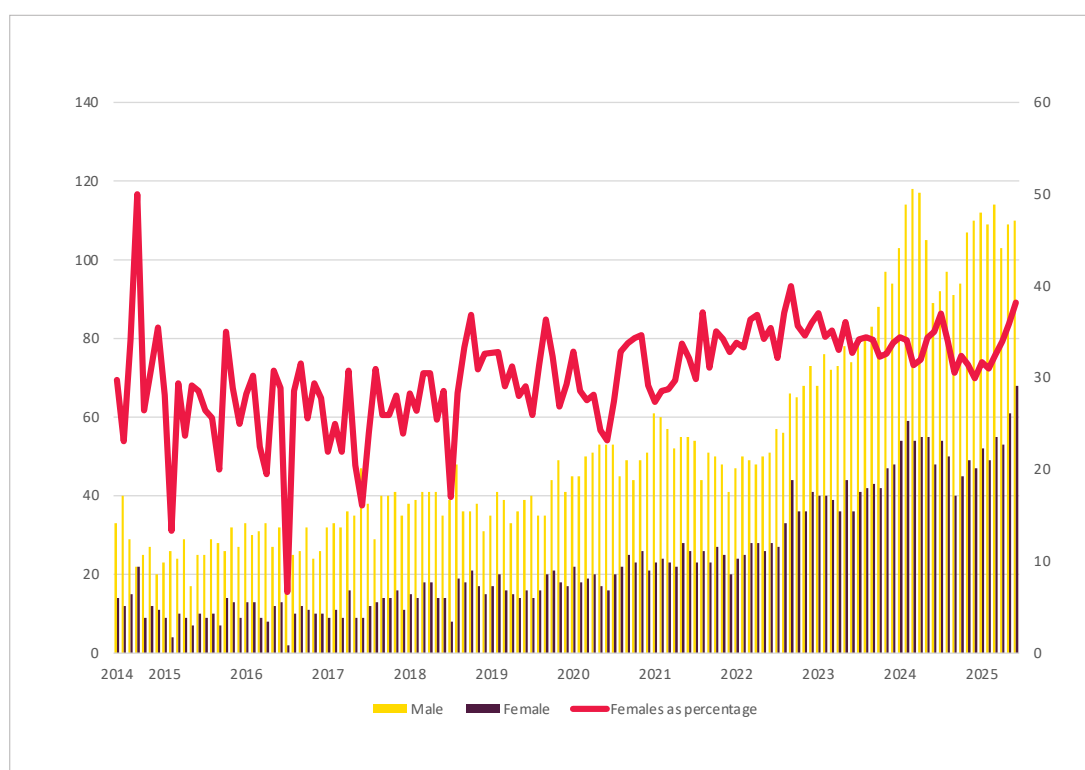


Figure 9: Adults in Temporary and Emergency Accommodation by Gender, and Females as a Percentage of all Adults in the North-West, 2014-2025

The number of men in emergency accommodation in the North-West has increased by 100% since June 2021 (n=55) and 233.3% since June 2014 (n=33). In comparison the number of women in emergency accommodation in the North-West has increased by 161.5% since June 2021 (n=26) and 385.7% since June 2014 (n=14).

Citizenship of those in Emergency Accommodation

Figure 10 shows the citizenship breakdown of *all adults* in emergency accommodation between April 2022 and June 2025⁵. In June 2025 there were 128 Irish citizens (71.9%), 37 UK/EEA citizens (20.8%) and 13 non-EEA citizens (7.3%) in emergency accommodation in the North-West.

UK/EEA citizens have seen the largest increase, from 10 in April 2022 to 37 in June 2025 – a 270% increase in 3 years.

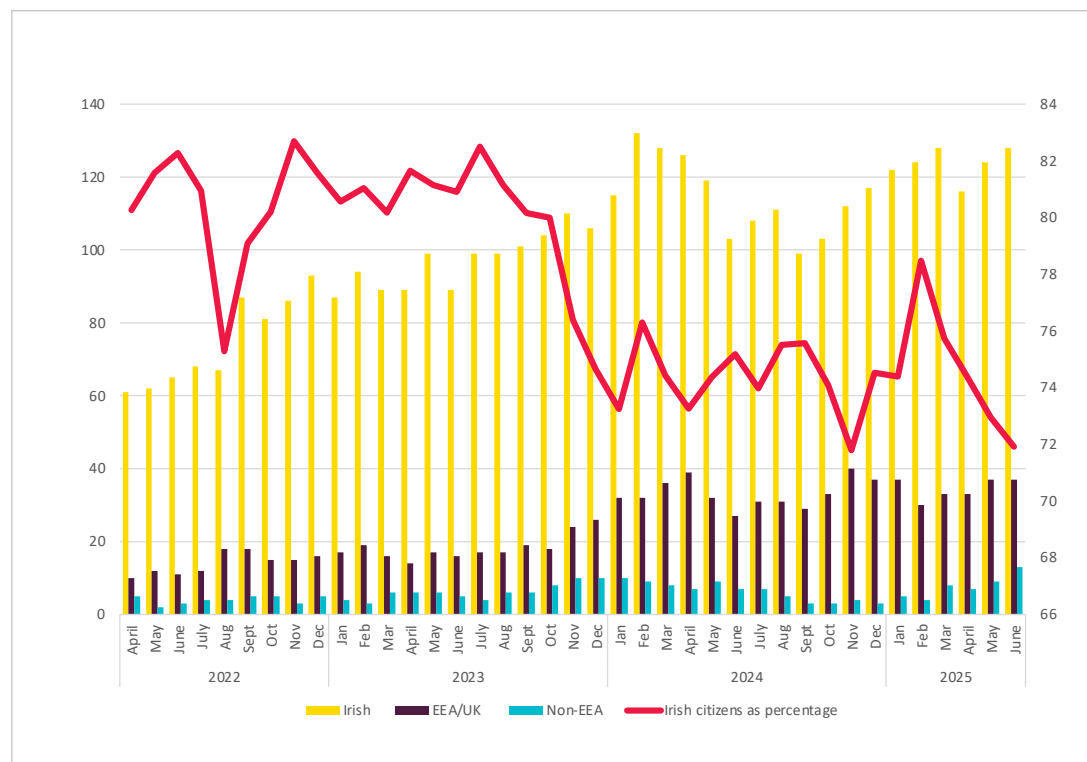


Figure 10: Citizenship of Adults in Local Authority Funded Emergency and Temporary Accommodation in the North-West, April 2022-June 2025

The number of Irish citizens in emergency accommodation represents a declining proportion of the total number of homeless adults in the North-West, falling from 80.3% in April 2022 to 71.9% in June 2025.

⁵ Data only available from April 2022 onwards.

Emergency Accommodation providers

Figure 11 shows the types of emergency accommodation in use in the North-West. There are three types⁶ 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.

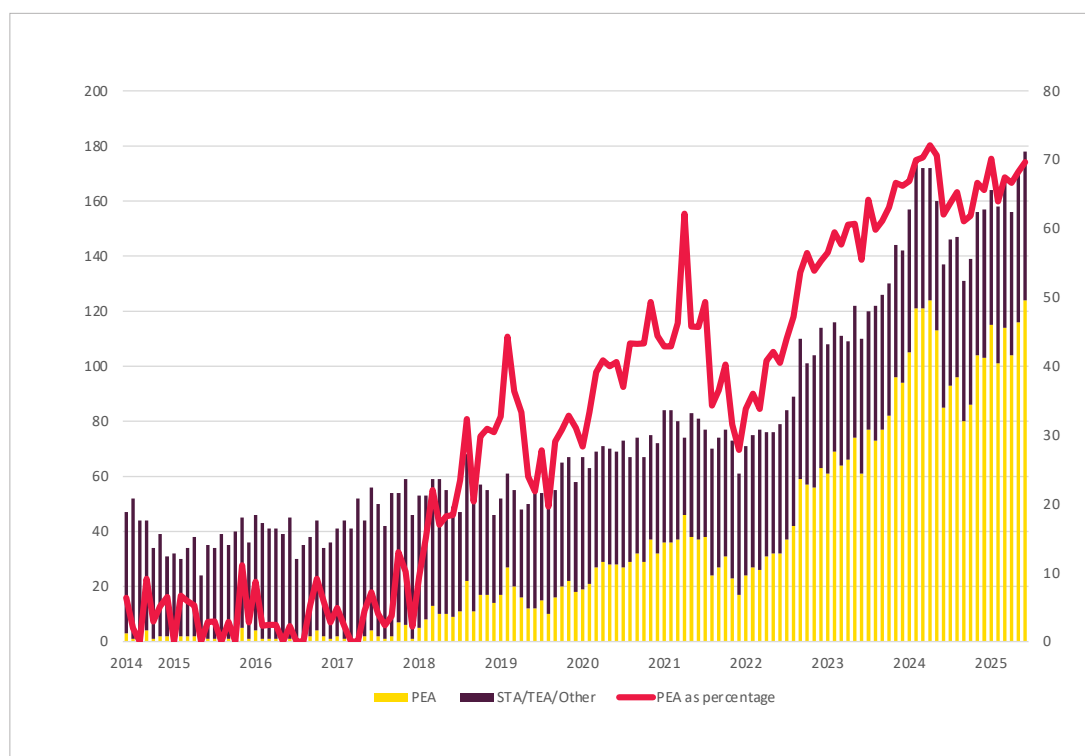


Figure 11: Emergency Accommodation in the North-West, and PEA as a Percentage of all Emergency Accommodation in the North-West, 2014-2025

Figure 11 shows that since the end of 2022 PEA has made up the majority of emergency accommodation in the North-West and has been largely increasing in proportion since. As of June 2025, PEA makes up 69.7% (n=124) of the total emergency accommodation beds in the North-West, compared to 45.7% in June 2021 (n=37) and 6.4% in June 2014 (n=3). PEA accommodation beds in the North-West have increased by 235.1% since June 2021 and by 4033.3% since June 2014. In comparison, STA/TEA/Other has increased by 22.7% since June 2021 and June 2014 (n=44⁷).

⁶ 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.

⁷ There were 44 STA/TEA/Other accommodation beds in the North-West in both June 2014 and June 2021.

Exits from Emergency Accommodation to Housing

Figure 12 shows the number of adults exiting emergency accommodation to housing in the North-West 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.

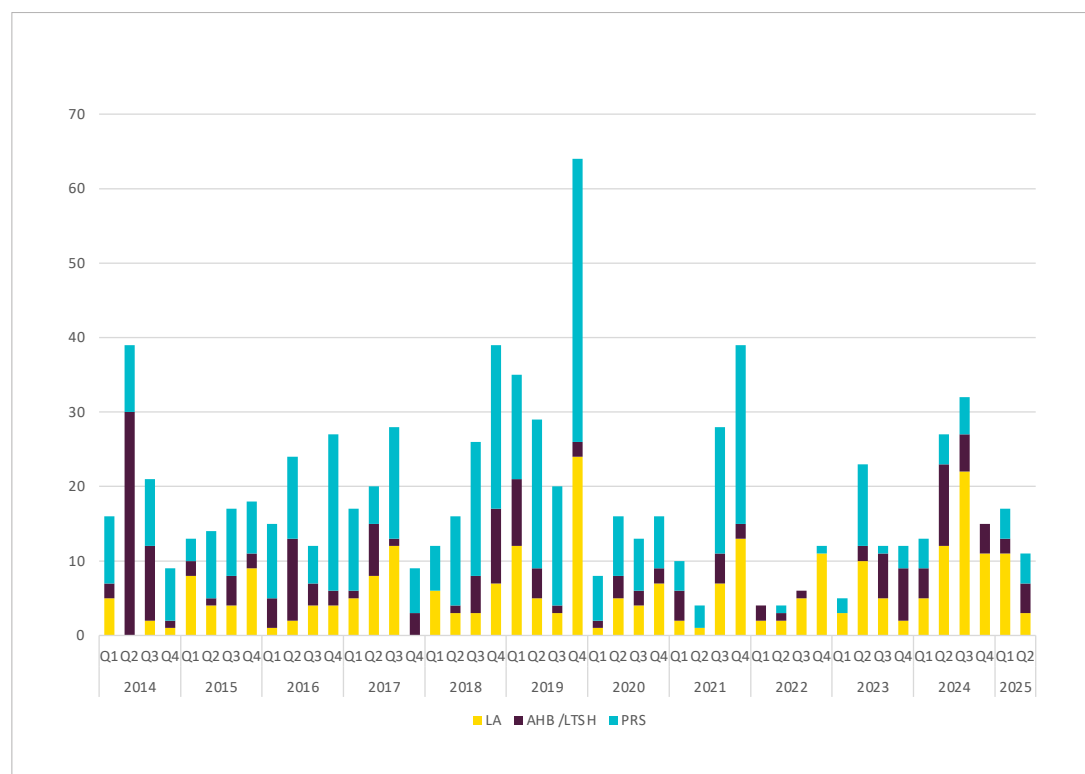


Figure 12: Adult Exits to Housing from Emergency Accommodation by Type in the North-West, Q1 2014-Q2 2025

In Q2 2025 3 households (27.3%) exited into LA housing, 4 (36.4%) into AHB/LTSA and 4 (26.4%) into the PRS. The proportion of exits into the PRS has reduced between 2021 and 2025. In Q2 2021 75% (n=3) of exits were into the PRS, which fell to 36.4% in 2025.

Between Q3 2021 and Q2 2025 there were 260 adult exits from emergency accommodation to housing in the North-West: 47.7% to LAs (n=124), 21.2% to AHB/LTSA (n=55) and 31.2% to the PRS (n=81). Between Q1 2014 and Q2 2025 there were 867 adult exits from emergency accommodation to housing in the North-West: 31.8% to LAs (n=276), 21.1% to AHB/LTSA (n=183) and 47.1% to the PRS (n=408). Compared to the last iteration of this paper LA housing represents a larger proportion of exits – although this has reduced in Q2 2025.

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 64:36 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 25:75 ratio of tenancies to support.

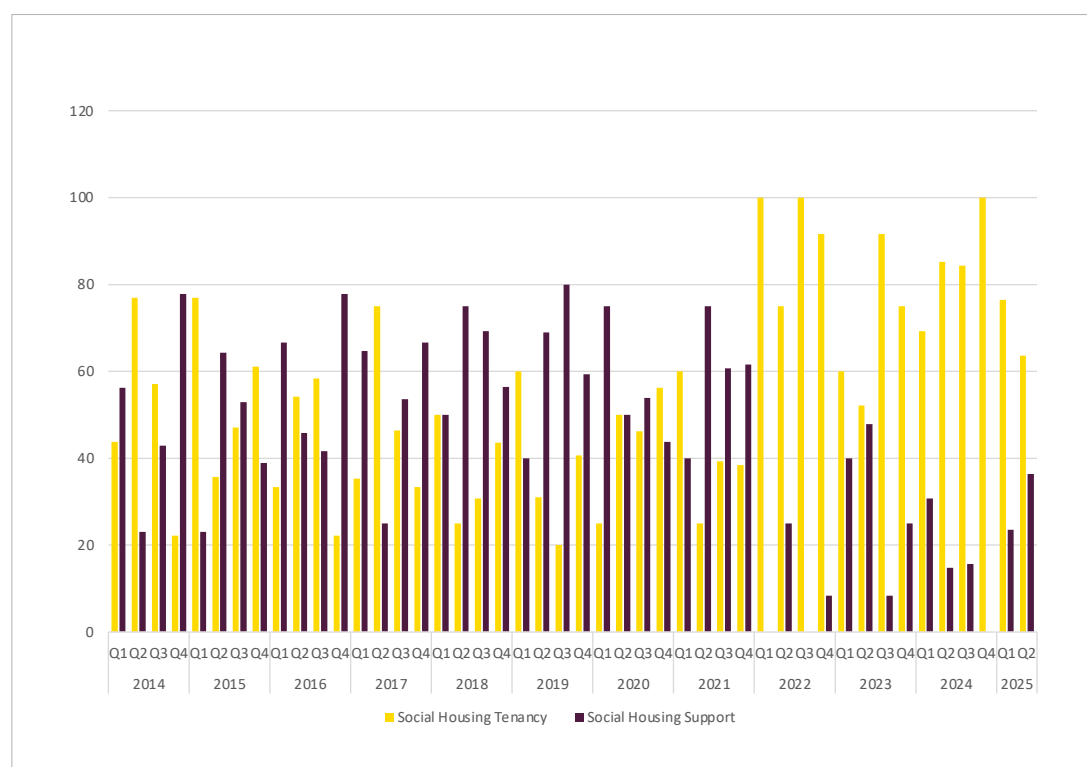


Figure 13: Adult Exits from Emergency Accommodation by Tenancy/Support in the North-West, Q1 2014-Q2 2025

Duration in Emergency Accommodation

Figure 14 shows the average duration of stay in emergency accommodation for *adult-only households* between Q1 2022 and Q2 2025⁸. In Q2 2025 31.9% of adult-only households stayed in emergency accommodation for 0-6 months (n=46); 28.5% for 6-12 months (n=41); 22.22% for 12-18 months (n=32); 6.9% for 18-24 months (n=10) and 15% for 24+ months (n=15). 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 40% (n=24) were in emergency accommodation for 0-6 months.

In Q2 2025 39.6% of adult-only households were in emergency accommodation for 12+ months (n=57). In Q1 2022 this was 33.3% (n=20).

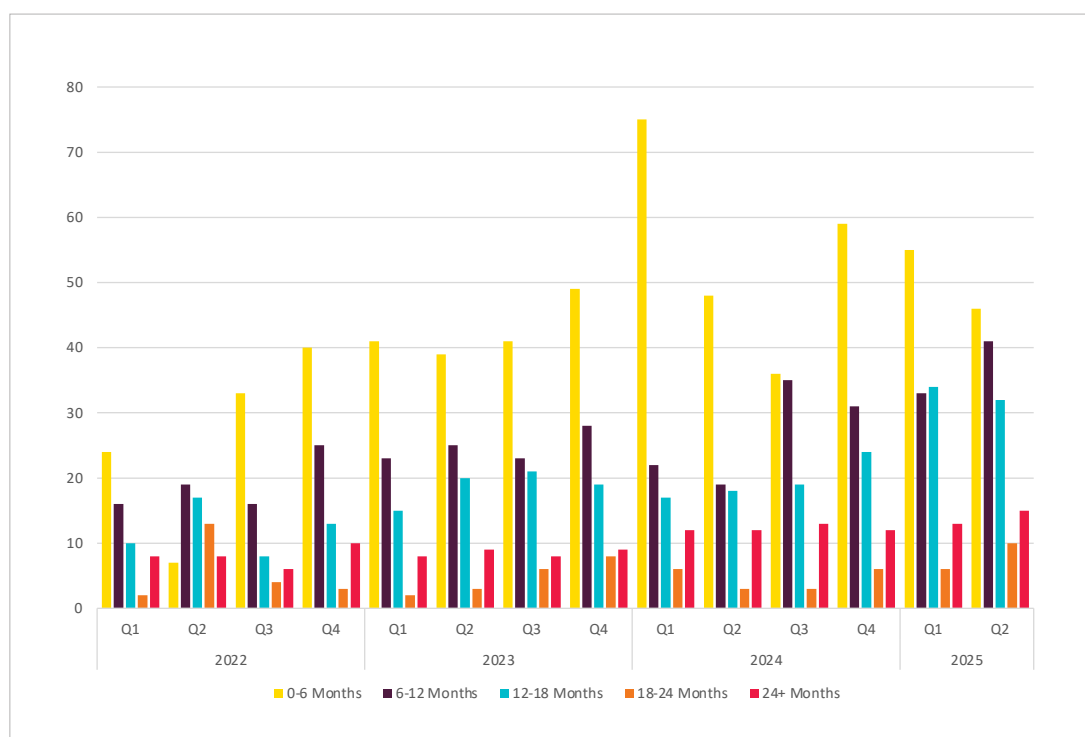


Figure 14: Duration of Stay by Adult-Only Households in Emergency Accommodation in the North-West, Q1 2022-Q2 2025

Figure 15 shows the duration of stay for *families* in emergency accommodation in the North-West. In Q2 2025 55.2% of families stayed in emergency accommodation for 0-6 months (n=16); 24.1% for 6-12 months (n=7); 10.3% for 12-18 months (n=3) and 10.3% for 18-24 months (n=3). There is a lower proportion of families staying in emergency accommodation for 0-6 months now than in Q2 2022 (66.7%, n=8). There were no families in emergency accommodation for 24+ months in the North-West 2022-2025 apart from Q1-Q2 2024.

In Q2 2025, 20.7% (n=6) of families were staying in emergency accommodation for over 12 months. In Q1 2022 this was 16.7% (n=2).

⁸ 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.

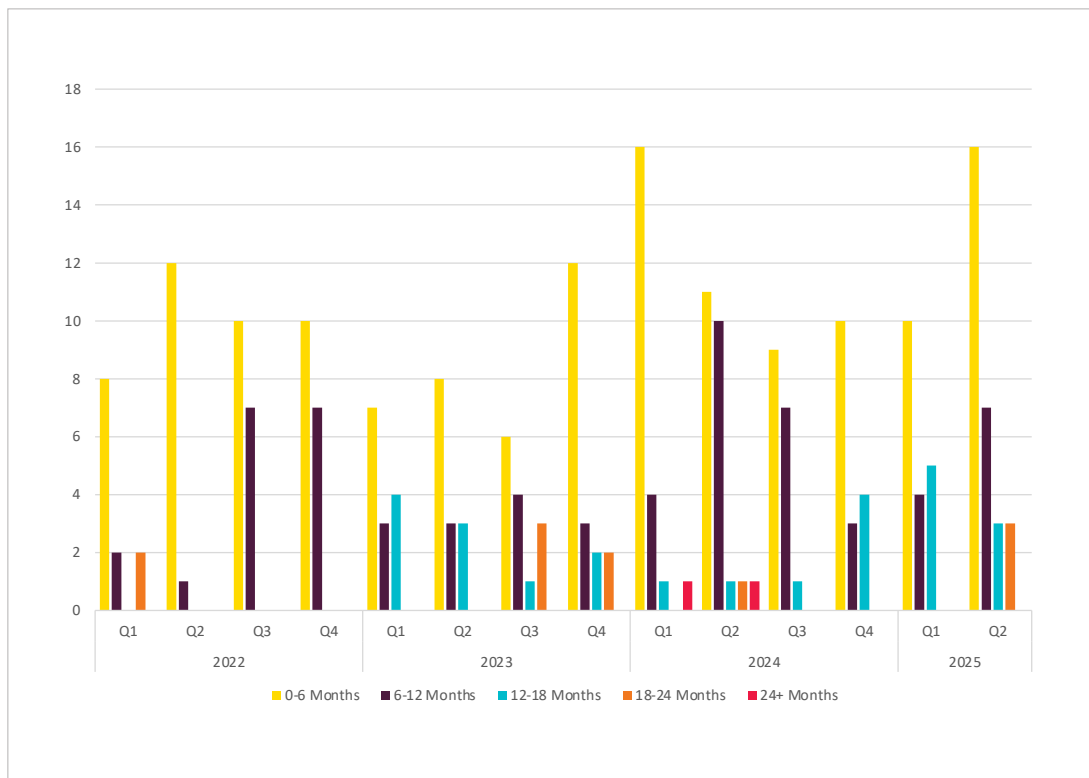


Figure 15: Duration of Stay by Families in Emergency Accommodation in the North-West, Q1 2022-Q2 2025

Housing First

Figure 16 shows the number of Housing First tenancies created in the North-West since 2020. 4 tenancies were created in Q2 2025. This is a 33.3% decrease from its highest point of 6 new tenancies in Q1 2020. There was an average of 1 new tenancy created per quarter in 2024, compared to 5 per quarter in the first half of 2025. Since 2020 a total of 50 Housing First tenancies have been created in the North-West.

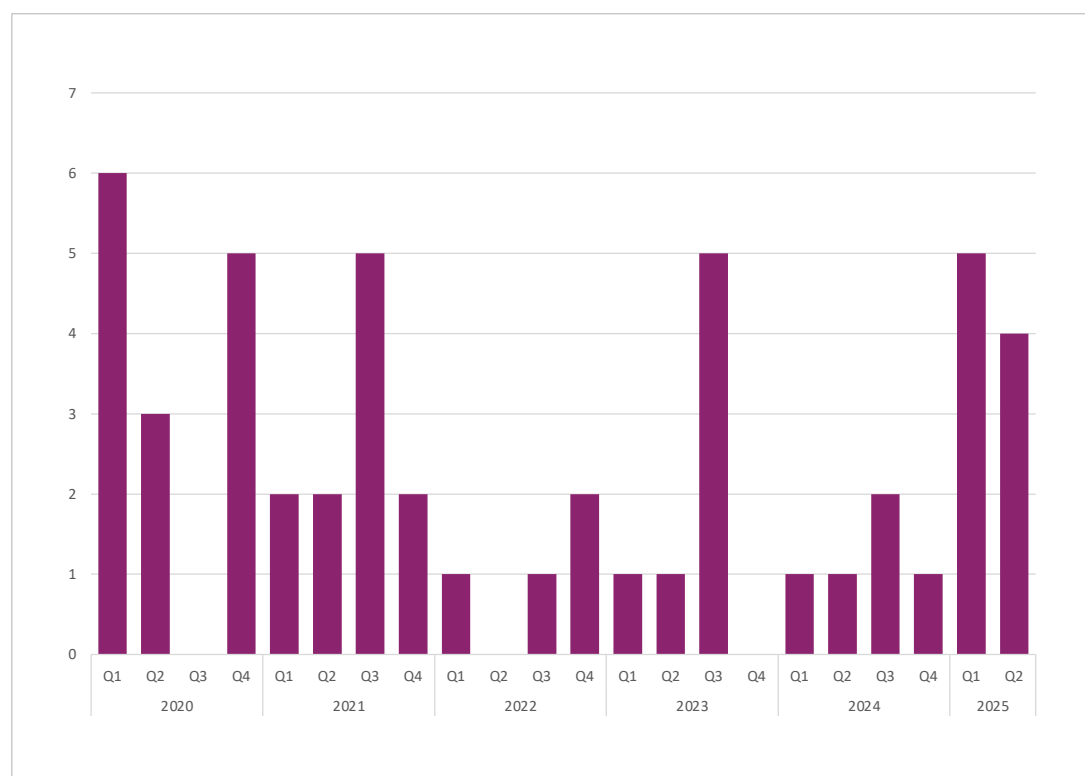


Figure 16: Number of Housing First Tenancies Created in the North-West, Q1 2020-Q2 2025

Expenditure on Homeless services

Figure 17 shows the expenditure by local authorities on services for households experiencing homelessness in the North-West was €2.9m⁹ in 2024 – the majority of this (54.7%) being in Sligo County Council. North-West local authorities' annual expenditure on homelessness has seen a 185.4% increase since 2020 (€1m) and an 821.9% increase since 2009 (€0.3m). In the past ten years (2015-2024) €12.5m has been spent on homelessness by local authorities in the North-West.

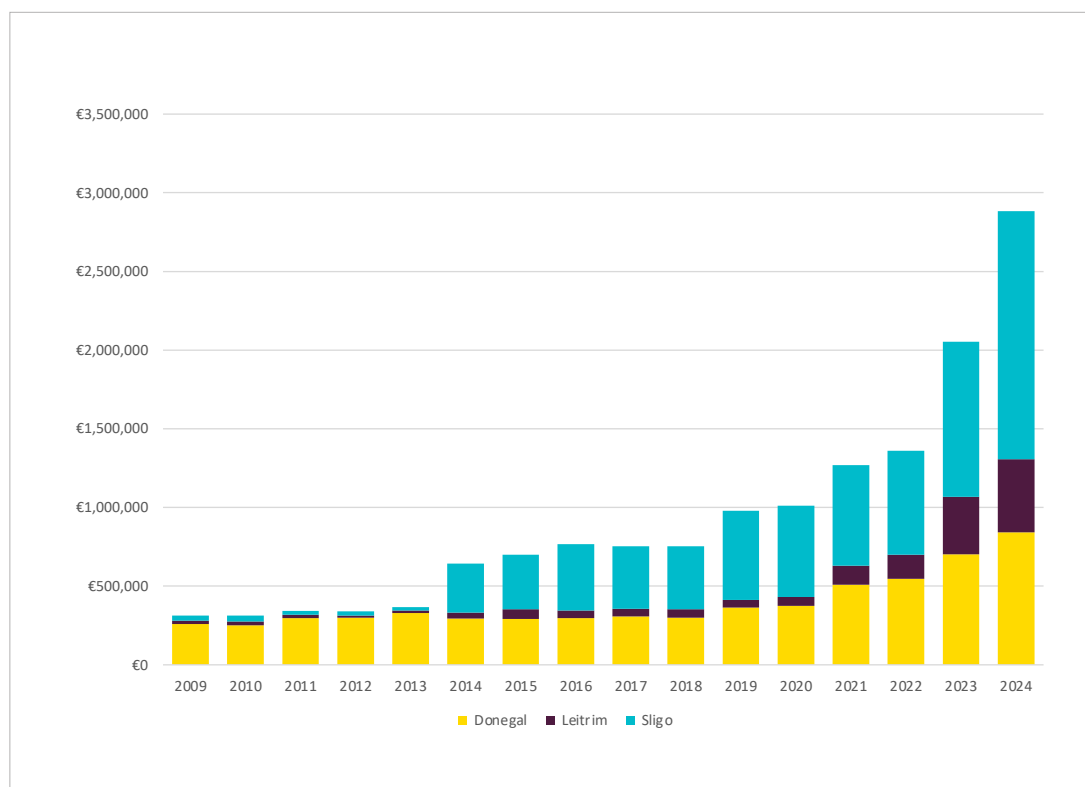


Figure 17: Expenditure on Services for Households Experiencing Homelessness by Local Authorities in the North-West, 2009-2024

Figure 18 shows Section 10 expenditure on homelessness services in the North-West – that is for services funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under Section 10 of the Housing Act, 1988. In 2024 €3.8m was spent on homeless services, the majority of this (77.2%) on emergency accommodation. €2.9m was spent on emergency accommodation in 2024, an increase of 536% since 2020 (€0.5m) and 1129.5% since 2013 (€0.01m). In comparison, expenditure on all other services combined has increased by 87.1% since 2020 (€0.5m) and by 263.3% since 2013 (€0.2m).

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

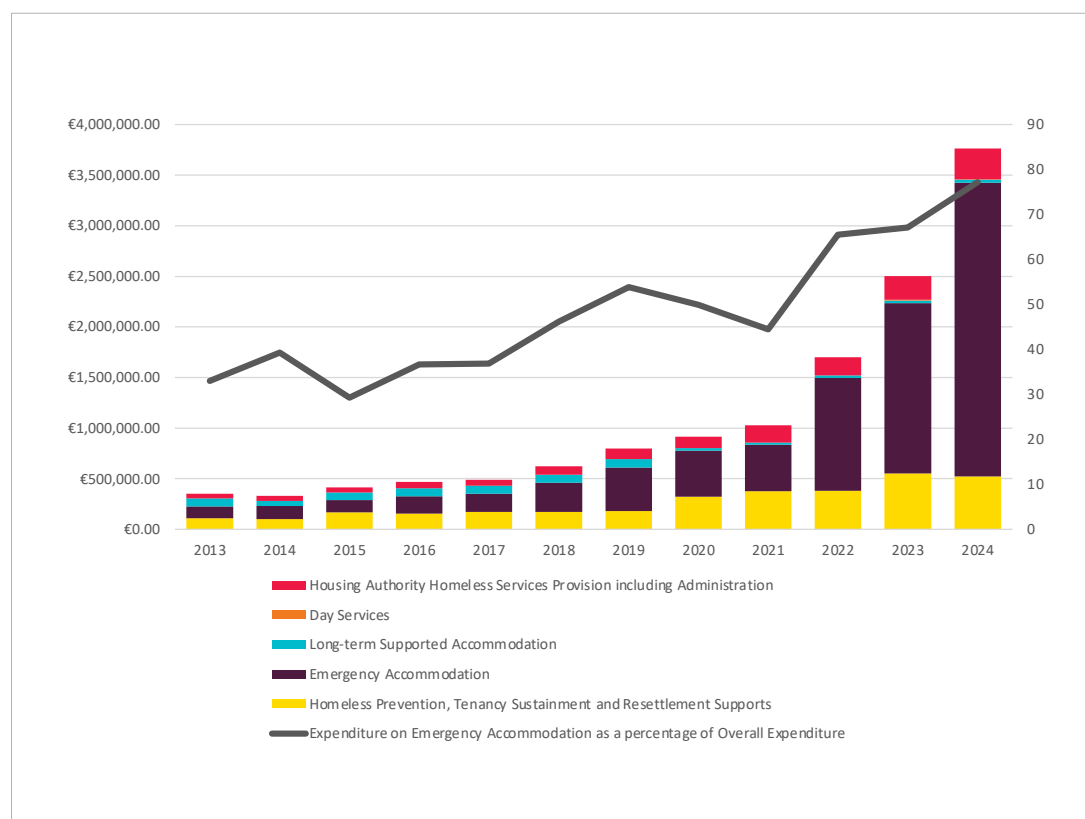


Figure 18: Section 10 Expenditure on Homeless Services in the North-West, 2013-2024

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