

# **Social Justice Meeting with Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne**

**30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

## **Points raised by Social Justice:**

### **1. Review of Housing for All Targets:**

- Conduct a comprehensive review of the Housing for All targets to ensure the plan accommodates the increased demographics, including the number of families and individuals who have been granted permission to stay but remain in direct provision due to a lack of housing.
- Adjust targets to reflect the current and projected housing needs, ensuring that all individuals in direct provision can transition to permanent housing.

### **2. Effective Strategy to End Homelessness by 2030:**

- Develop and implement an effective strategy that includes collaboration with experts, the community, and the voluntary sector to comply with the Lisbon Treaty and aim to end homelessness by 2030.
- Ensure the strategy addresses the root causes of homelessness and includes measures for prevention, intervention, and long-term support.

### **3. Supports for Children in Emergency Accommodation:**

- Implement supports needed to minimise the impact of homelessness on all children in emergency accommodation. This would include access to education, healthcare, and child support workers to ensure the well-being and development of children experiencing homelessness.
- Concerns that no one agency is responsible for supporting school transport costs for children in emergency accommodation. We are aware that children are missing school because of placements too far from schools.

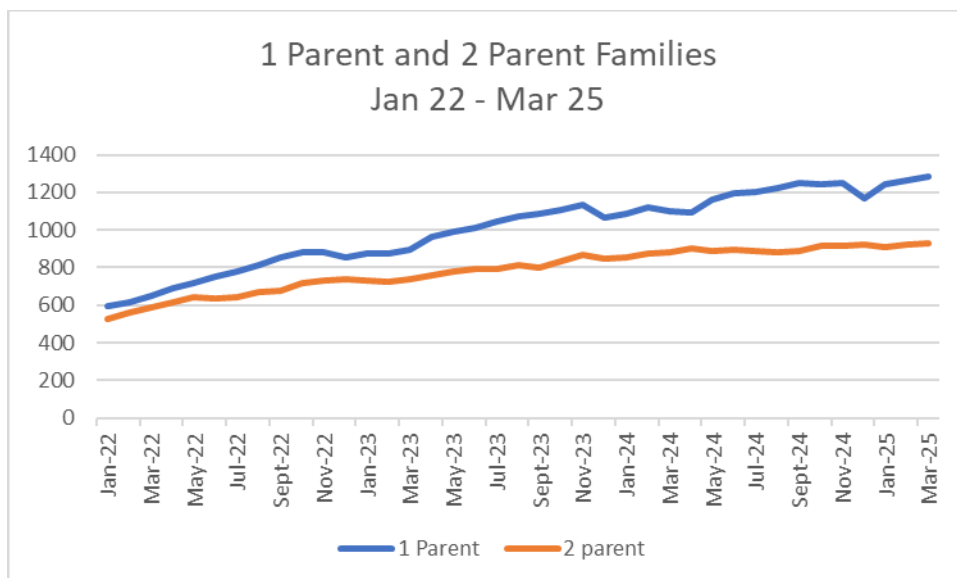
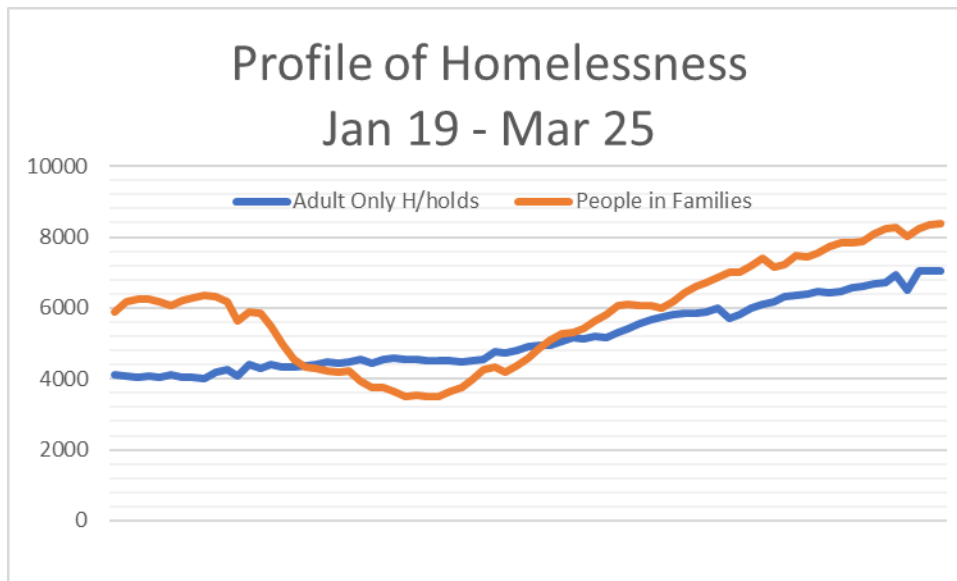
### **4. Concerns around Tenant in Situ Scheme**

- The decision to exclude properties where the landlord has failed to register with the RTB
- The proposal to exclude rental properties which have been less than two years in the social housing support system
- The decision to exclude single adult tenants from the scheme
- The proposal to abolish funding for refurbishment costs for properties which fall below a suitable standard.

## 5. Concerns about the increase in homelessness.

- There are now 8,387 people living with their families that are homeless and 7,031 single adults.
- In March, there was a drop of 16 single adults and an increase of 22 children.
- There was an increase of 27 families in emergency accommodation, 21 of which were lone parents.
- In the last 12 months, there was an increase of 231 families in emergency accommodation and 185 of them were one parent families.
- Overall, homelessness increased by 11.19% but female homelessness rose by 13.35% and male homelessness by 8.81%. This is caused by the increase in family homelessness.
- Housing First supports adult homelessness, we have a youth strategy but we now need a task force on one parent family homelessness, as they are the group that is driving high increase in homelessness.

Yearly				
Mar 24 - Mar 25	Yearly Change	% Change	Monthly Change	% Change
Adults in Families	402	12.15%	34	0.97%
Adult Only H/holds	622	9.71%	-16	-0.24%
People in Families	930	12.47%	56	0.69%
Children	528	12.73%	22	0.48%
Families	231	11.66%	27	1.27%
1 Parent	185	16.85%	21	1.68%
2 parent	46	5.21%	6	0.68%
Adult Male	531	8.81%	-22	-0.35%
Adult Female	493	13.35%	40	1.01%
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Total Homeless	1552	11.19%	40	0.27%



## 6. HAP Sustainability

Despite the pressures in the Private Rental Sector, HAP continues to play an important role in preventions and exits from homelessness. In 2024, in 2024, 24.1% of adult exits from homelessness was using HAP (alongside other housing supports such as rent supplement RAS) and 43.9% of preventions were through HAP.

As HAP rates have not increased in line with market rates, households in receipt of this support are the group at the highest risk of poverty after housing costs. HAP and RAS recipients have a lower risk of poverty before housing costs than local authority tenants, however their risk of poverty after housing costs is significantly higher, despite being meeting the criteria for social housing. These high poverty rates lead to HAP arrears, but they do not have the same protection offered to tenants in local authority housing and

puts them at greater risk of homelessness. In SVP, we support many households in receipt of HAP/ RAS with meeting their basic needs because of the higher burden of their housing costs. We believe that DSP should provide additional supports for households where top-ups are unsustainable.

Type of Housing	AROP 2023	AROPaH 2023	AROP 2024	AROPaH 2024
Local Authority	25.8%	44.1%	29.5%	43.4%
HAP/RAS/RS	12.0%	58.6%	21.5%	57.3%

Source: CSO SILC 2023 & 2024

AROP: At Risk of Poverty

AROPaH: At Risk of Poverty after Housing Costs.

In 2024, the statewide *At Risk of Poverty* rate was 11.7% rising to 17.9% after housing costs.