



TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION

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The Vision of the Irish Traveller Movement

“An Ireland where Travellers are proud of their identity and with their ethnicity recognised, can achieve their fullest potential to play an active role in Irish society”

Accommodation is one of our key priorities. Our accommodation strategic aim is

“culturally appropriate accommodation provided, with families living in resourced accommodation of their choice, including nomadic provision”

As a member-led organisation we facilitate consultation on issues around accommodation through our national accommodation working group to inform collective policy positions and submissions and ensure information about any changes are widely circulated



Traveller Accommodation Crisis

The issues, the statistics, the stories

Homelessness

- 504 Travellers in emergency accommodation in Dublin alone (11% of homeless population, less than 1% of overall population) (October, 2018)
- Travellers account for 23% of homeless families in Kerry (June, 2019)

Overcrowding

- 3726 Travellers live in overcrowded accommodation (more than one family sharing)
- Overcrowding in sites presents a serious fire safety hazard

Substandard living conditions

- 591 Traveller families live on unauthorised sites without legal protection
- 37% of these families have **no access to running water, toilet, electricity**

Evictions to 'nowhere'

- Criminal Trespass 2002 - vulnerable to evictions, with nowhere to go

Difficulty accessing private rental sector

- 82% of landlords said they would not rent to Travellers (RTB Survey, 2017); difficulty accessing the private rental sector, more dependent on local authority, more impacted by government's overreliance on HAP/RAS for delivery

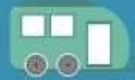
Causes of Traveller Accommodation Crisis

- Little **political will** for Traveller-specific accommodation at local level - decision making lies with elected representatives through the Part 8 planning process
- **Underspends** - in 2018, **48% of Traveller Accommodation budget went unspent**, in the midst of housing crisis
- Current **overreliance on HAP and RAS** - little supply for larger families and discrimination in access – 82% of landlords surveyed would not rent to a Traveller
- No network of **transient sites** despite promises leading to overcrowding and unauthorised sites
- Not enough planning for future population growth
- **No central accountability and monitoring body** for delivery of Traveller specific accommodation

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION EXPERT REVIEW



More research and monitoring to make sure delivery reflects need



Repeal the Criminal Trespass Act and review eviction procedure



Make sure Traveller accommodation plans are aligned with other local area plans



Change how planning decisions are made to speed up delivery



Create National Traveller Accommodation Agency to monitor progress of Traveller Accommodation Programmes



Restore funding to pre-2008 levels



Give LTACCs decision making abilities instead of just advisory through making them a Strategic Planning Committee

Traveller Accommodation Expert Review: Key Recommendations

Delivery reflecting need

- Introduction of Ethnic Identifier on Social Housing Needs Assessment to accurately monitor need and delivery
- Commission a nationwide independent needs assessment

Planning

- Amend the planning process, Part 8, to change how planning decisions are made for Traveller Accommodation
- Encourage chief executives to use emergency powers to fast track delivery in the short term
- Ensure Traveller Accommodation Programmes align with other local area plans to streamline delivery.

Capacity and Resources

- Restore funding for Traveller accommodation to pre-2008 levels.
- Ensure Traveller Accommodation Budgets are spent in their entirety

Governance

- Monitoring and planning to be delivered through a new National Traveller Accommodation Agency
- Repeal Criminal Trespass Legislation and review eviction procedure

