

IPAS Statistics Handbook

IPAS Statistics Handbook

Published Data and Analysis 2023 - 2026

Compiled from Official Government publications,
Parliamentary Questions, Freedom of Information Responses
and Other Publicly Available Government Information

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Disclaimer

This handbook is an independent compilation and analysis of publicly available information relating to Ireland's International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS).

Every effort has been made to accurately reproduce official statistics and clearly distinguish between:

- Official published Government data
- Figures calculated from published Government data
- Identified data gaps and methodological issues.

Where official publications contain apparent inconsistencies, missing information, or changes in reporting methodology, these have been highlighted within the handbook. No attempt has been made to alter or reinterpret official statistics beyond clearly explained calculations based on published information.

This handbook is intended as a reference document and should be read alongside the original Government publications where appropriate.

Forward

Reliable information is essential for informed public discussion.

Over recent years, a significant amount of information relating to Ireland's International Protection Accommodation Service has been published through monthly statistical reports, weekly updates, Parliamentary Questions, Freedom of Information responses and other official Government publications. While these sources contain a considerable amount of valuable information, the data is often spread across numerous publications, uses changing terminology, and in some cases lacks clear methodological explanations.

The purpose of this handbook is to bring that information together into a single reference document.

Where possible, statistics have been standardised to allow meaningful comparisons between years. Trends have been identified using published data, while areas where information is incomplete or unavailable have been documented separately. Where apparent inconsistencies exist within published reports, these are highlighted for transparency and future clarification.

This handbook does not seek to advocate for any particular policy position. Its purpose is to improve accessibility to publicly available information by presenting it in a structured, consistent and evidence-based format.

It is hoped that this publication will assist members of the public, researchers, journalists, elected representatives and policymakers in understanding the published statistics relating to the International Protection Accommodation Service.

1. Chapter 1

Introduction and Methodology

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to compile publicly available statistical information relating to Ireland's International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) into a single reference publication.

Information has been gathered from multiple official sources and organised to allow readers to better understand trends in arrivals, accommodation, demographics, operational activity and other aspects of the IPAS system.

Where official figures have been published across multiple reports, they have been compiled into annual totals where appropriate. Where calculations have been performed, the methodology used is explained throughout the handbook.

1.2 Data Sources

Unless otherwise stated, information contained within this handbook has been compiled from publicly available Government sources, including:

- IPAS Weekly Statistics Reports
 - IPAS Monthly Statistics Reports
 - Department of Justice publications
 - Parliamentary Questions
 - Freedom of Information responses
 - Central Statistics Office (CSO) publications where relevant
 - Other official Government datasets where appropriate
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1.3 Scope

This handbook covers published information from **2023 through to 2026**.

Where monthly reports were unavailable or where datasets were not published, whose gaps have been clearly identified. Consequently, some annual totals represent the available published information rather than complete annual figures.

1.4 Methodology

Statistics contained within this handbook have been presented using the following principles:

- Official Government figures have been reproduced without alteration
- Calculated totals have been clearly identified
- Percentages have been calculated where they assist interpretation
- Changes in terminology or methodology between reports have been documented
- Apparent inconsistencies have been recorded separately within the Data Quality register.

- Information not publicly available has been identified within a dedicated “Data Not Published” section.
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Chapter 2 - National Overview

2.1 Introduction

The IPAS provides accommodation for applicants for international protection and certain other categories of persons while their applications or immigration status are being processed.

Between 2023 and 2026, the number of people accommodated within IPAS increased significantly, making it one of the largest accommodation systems operated by the State.

This chapter provides an overview of:

- Monthly arrivals
 - Total occupancy
 - Accommodation types
 - Demographic overview
 - Key annual trends
-

2.2 Key Facts (2023 - 2026)

The following key facts provide a high-level overview of Ireland’s IPAS based on publicly available Government information analysed within this handbook.

System Overview

- Throughout **2025**, IPAS accommodated approximately **33,000 people** nationwide, with monthly occupancy remaining relatively stable despite continua; arrivals and departures.
- Accommodation was provided through a combination of:
 - IPAS Accommodation
 - Emergency Accommodation
 - National Reception Centre
 - Citywest Transit Hub
 - Temporary Tented Accommodation
- IPAS accommodation was located across every county in Ireland, although the distribution varied considerably.

Population Movement

- Published statistics demonstrate that the IPAS system is dynamic, with people continually entering and leaving accommodation each month.
- Between **2023 and 2025** (based on available published reports) **at least 9,767 with status moved out of IPAS accommodation.** (Some monthly data was unavailable between those years, with no monthly figures published for 2026 at all. Therefore, the actual figure is likely to be much higher.)
- Where these **9,767 individuals** have been moved is unknown, no information available to indicate if social housing, HAP, Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) or rent.
- Despite significant numbers leaving the system, overall occupancy remained broadly stable, indicating continuing inflows into IPAS accommodation.

Applicant Demographic

Based on the available monthly statistics compiled within this handbook:

- **Single male applicants (2023 - May 2026): 18,342**
- **Single female applicants (2023 - May 2026): 4,654**
- Approximately **80%** of recorded single applicants were male
- Approximately **20%** of recorded single applicants were female
- This equates to approximately **four single male applicants for every one single female applicant.**

Immigration Outcomes

Government figures show:

- Deportation orders increased from **857** in **2023** to **4,700** in **2025**
- The number of enforced deportations increased slightly over the same period
- The majority of recorded departures from the State during **2024** and **2025** were classified as voluntary or otherwise non-enforced departures

Data Quality

During the compilation of this handbook, several issues were identified within published statistics, including:

- Changes in reporting terminology between reports
- Missing monthly datasets
- Apparent typographical errors
- Categories requiring clarification, including the definition of “Families with Children”

The issues are examined in detail within the **Data Quality Register** later in this handbook.

Key Takeaways

- The IPAS system accommodated approximately 33,000 people during 2025
- The accommodation system experienced continual movement with thousands of people entering and leaving over the period analysed.
- Single male applicants represented the largest demographic group within available published applicant statistics
- County-level accommodation was unevenly distributed, with some countries accommodating substantially higher numbers relative to their population than others.
- While significant amount of information is publicly available, important gaps remain, particularly regarding the accommodation outcomes of people leaving IPAS after receiving status

2.3 Total IPAS Occupancy

Introduction

The total number of people accommodated within IPAS represents a snapshot of the system at a given point in time. Monthly occupancy figures show the number of people residing in IPAS accommodation on the reporting date and should not be interpreted as the total number of people who entered or exited the system during the month.

The published statistics indicated that, throughout much of 2025, overall occupancy remained relatively stable at approximately **33,000 people**, despite continual movement into and out of the system.

Monthly Occupancy (2025)

| Month | Total Occupancy | Monthly Change |
|-----------|-----------------|----------------|
| January | 32,948 | +246 |
| February | 33,007 | +59 |
| March | 33,025 | +18 |
| April | 33,098 | +73 |
| May | 32,674 | - 424 |
| June | 32,770 | + 96 |
| July | 32,774 | + 4 |
| August | 32,575 | - 206 |
| September | 32,636 | + 61 |
| October | 32,728 | + 92 |
| November | 32,879 | + 151 |
| December | 33,241 | + 362 |

Observations

The monthly statistics show that overall occupancy remained broadly stable throughout the period examined. Although the total number of residents fluctuated slightly between reporting periods, the accommodation system consistently housed approximately 33,000 people.

This occurred alongside ongoing arrivals, grants of protection status and departures from IPAS accommodation, demonstrating that occupancy figures represent a continuously changing population rather than a static group of individuals.

Why occupancy matters

Occupancy figures provide an indication of the overall size of the accommodation system at a given point in time. However, they should be interpreted alongside other indicators, including:

- Monthly arrivals
- People granted international protection or permission to remain
- People with status remaining in IPAS
- People who moved out of IPAS accommodation

Considering these indicators together provides a more complete understanding of the movement of people through the system.

Key Takeaway

- IPAS accommodation approximately **33,000 people** throughout much of 2025
- Monthly occupancy varied only slightly despite ongoing movement into and out of the system
- Occupancy figures represent a snapshot and should not be interpreted as the total number of people who used the system during a month
- Occupancy should be analysed alongside arrivals and departures to understand overall system trends

Questions Raised by the Data

- Why did occupancy remain broadly stable despite thousands of people entering the system and leaving it?
 - What factors influenced increases or decreases in monthly occupancy?
 - How did new arrivals compare with departures during the same period?
-

2.4 System Flow and Occupancy Reconciliation

One of the objectives of this handbook was to determine whether the published statistics could be used to reconcile annual arrivals, departures and year-end occupancy within the IPAS.

Using the published Government figures, the following information was available for 2025.

| Published Indicator | Total |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Total arrivals | 10,597 |
| People with status who moved out of IPAS | 4,335 |
| Departures from the State (voluntary and enforced) | 2,111 |
| Net increase in IPAS occupancy | +246 (32,995 to 33,241) |

Published Flow

| calculation | Total |
|--|---|
| Total arrivals | 10,597 |
| Less people with status moving out of IPAS | - 4,335 |
| Less departures from State | - 2,111 |
| Remaining | 4,151 |
| Less increase in overall IPAS occupancy | - 246 |
| Difference not explained by published data | 3,905 (subject to the methodology used and available published data) |

Note: the discrepancy shown above does **not** indicate that people are “missing”. Rather, it demonstrates that the published statistics do not include sufficient information to fully reconcile annual inflows and outflows from IPAS systems.

Possible explanation

The published reports do not separately identify all potential exit pathways from IPAS. The unexplained difference may include one or more of the following:

- Applicants who withdrew or abandoned their applications
- Applicants who left IPAS accommodation without having received status
- Administration adjustments or data corrections
- Other exit categories not published in the available reports
- Other movements within the international protection systems.

As these categories are not separately published, it is not possible to determine their contradiction using publicly available information alone.

Recommendation

To improve transparency, future statistical publications could include an annual or monthly reconciliation table showing:

- Opening occupancy
- New arrivals
- All exit categories, broken down by reason
- Administrative adjustments
- Closing occupancy

Publishing this information would enable a complete understanding of movement into and out of the IPAS accommodation system.

Chapter 3 - Applicant Demographics

3.1 introduction

Understanding the demographic profile of applicants is important in interpreting published applicants is important in interpreting published IPAS statistics and planning accommodation and support services.

This chapter examines the demographic characteristics of applicants using the available published Government statistics between 2023 and 2026. Where possible, annual totals have been compiled from monthly reports to provide a clearer overview of trends over time.

The chapter examines:

- Single male applicants
- Single female applicants
- Age profile
- Family composition
- Nationality
- Country of origin

Where reporting methodologies changed or definitions were unclear, these issues have been identified within the Data Quality Register.

3.2 Single Applicant Profile

The published monthly statistics provide a breakdown of single male and single female applicants.

The compiled figures from available reports are shown below.

| Year | Single Male Applicants | Single Female Applicants | Total |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| 2023 | 5,773 | 1,795 | 7,568 |
| 2024 | 6,367 | 1,843 | 8,210 |
| 2025 | 5,678 | 918 | 6,596 |
| 2026 (Jan - May) | 524 | 98 | 622 |
| Total | 18,342 | 4,654 | 22,996 |

Key Findings

Analysis of the available published statistics indicates:

- Approximately **80%** of recorded single applicants were male
- Approximately **20%** were female
- Across the available data, there were approximately **four single male applicants for every one single female applicant.**

While annual totals varied, single males remained the largest demographic group within the published applicant statistics throughout the period examined.

Notes on Methodology

The figures above have been compiled from the available published monthly IPAS statistics.

Some monthly reports were unavailable or did not contain all demographic information.

Consequently, the totals presented represent the available published data and may underestimate the true annual totals.

Key takeaway

- Single male applicants represent the largest demographic group in every year examined
- The overall ratio of single male to single female applicants was approximately **4:1**
- Published demographic data was generally consistent across the period, although some monthly reports were unavailable.

3.2.1 Methodological Note - Family Composition Data

During the compilation of this handbook, annual totals were successfully calculated for **single male** and **single female** applicants using the published monthly statistics.

However, equivalent annual totals have **not** been calculated for couples, lone parents and children for the following reasons:

- The terminology used within the published reports changes over time, with categories including “**children**”, “**families**”, and later “**families with children**”.
- The published figures do not consistently explain whether families are counted as **individual people** or **family units**.
- Weekly reports provide separate figures for couples, children and lone parents, while monthly reports frequently combine these into a single “families” category
- In several months, the published weekly totals could not be reconciled with the corresponding monthly family figures.
- At least one apparent typographical error and several apparent inconsistencies were identified during the review of the published reports.

For these reasons, annual totals for couples, children and lone parents have **not** been calculated in this handbook. Presenting totals based on inconsistent source data could lead to inaccurate conclusions.

These issues are examined in greater detail within the **Data Quality Register**.

Where the published data could not be reconciled with confidence, no calculated totals have been produced. This handbook prioritises accuracy and transparency over completeness.

3.3 Age Profile of Applicants

Introduction

The published IPAS statistics provide a monthly breakdown of the age profile of people accommodated within the IPAS.

These figures represent the age profile of the population accommodation within IPAS at the time of reporting and provide an indication of the demographic composition of the accommodation system.

The published age categories are:

- 0 - 4 years
- 5 - 12 years
- 13 - 17 years
- 18 -25 years
- 26 -65 years
- 66 years and over

Latest Published Age Profile

Figures from December 2025 last published figures.

| Age Group | Number of people |
|-----------|------------------|
| 0 - 4 | 3,517 |
| 5 - 12 | 4,222 |
| 13 - 17 | 2,050 |
| 18 - 25 | 4,564 |
| 26 - 65 | 18,623 |
| 66+ | 186 |

Total: 33,162

Key Findings

The published figures indicated:

- The largest age group accommodated within IPAS was **26 - 65 years**
- Children (0 - 17 years) represented a substantial proportion of the accommodated population
- People aged over 66 represented a relatively small proportion of residents

Data Quality Note

During the review of the monthly statistics, one apparent inconsistency was identified.

The March 2025 report appears to contain a typographical error within the **18 - 25 years** category. Comparison with the preceding and following monthly reports indicates that the published figure is inconsistent with surrounding months and the overall occupancy totals.

The original published figure has not been altered within this handbook. The issue has instead been recorded with the **Data Quality Register** for transparency.

Key Takeaways

- Adults aged **26 - 65 years** represented the largest age group within the published IPAS accommodation, with **18,623 people**
- The combined population aged **0 - 25 years** totalled **14,353 people**, meaning there were **4,270 more people aged 26 - 65 than there were people aged 0 - 25 combined**.
- People aged **66 years and over** represented only a small proportion of the total IPAS population

This indicates that the majority of people accommodated within IPAS during the reporting period were adults of working age (26 - 65 years). The largest age category published in IPAS statistics is 26 - 65 years.

Why this Matters

Understanding the age profile of the IPAS population assists in interpreting demand for accommodation, education, healthcare and other public services. It also provides context for understanding changes in the demographic composition of the system over time.

Chapter 3.4 - Countries and Regions of Origin

This Chapter should answer two important questions:

- **Where are applicants coming from?**
- **How has that changed over time?**

3.4.1 Countries and Regions of Origin

Introduction

The published IPAS weekly reports include a breakdown of new arrivals by continent. These statistics provide an overview of the geographical regions from which applicants arrived during the reporting period.

The analysis below combines all published weekly data available between **July 2024 and July 2025**, providing a twelve-month overview of regional arrival patterns.

3.4.2 Continental Origin

| Region | 2025 Arrivals until July 2025 | Percentage |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Asia | 6,438 | 47.8% |
| Africa | 5,421 | 40.3% |
| Europe | 1,203 | 8.9% |
| Other | 401 | 3.0% |
| Total | 13,463 | 100% |

Key Findings

During the twelve-month period examined:

- **Asia accounted for the largest share of published arrivals (47.8%)**
- **Africa represented the second largest regional group (40.3%)**
- **Europe accounted for 8.9% of arrivals**
- **The “other” category represented 3.0% of arrivals.**
- **During 2025, the regional pattern changed. While Asia was the largest source region during much of 2024, arrivals from Africa increased substantially and became the largest regional source in several 2025 reporting periods.**

Together, arrivals from Asia and Africa accounted for approximately **88% of all published arrivals** during the period.

Monthly Trends

Monthly arrivals varied throughout the reporting period.

While the overall number of arrivals fluctuated from month to month, the region's composition remained broadly consistent, with arrivals from Asia accounting for the majority of new applicants in most reporting periods.

The accompanying monthly charts illustrate these trends over time.

Change in Regional Trends

The published weekly data indicates a noticeable shift in regional arrival patterns between 2024 and 2025.

Throughout much of **2024**, arrivals from **Asia** exceeded those from Africa. However, during **2025**, arrivals from **Africa** increased while arrivals from Asia declined compared with earlier levels. As a result, **Africa became the largest regional source of arrivals in several weekly reporting periods during 2025.**

This demonstrates that the regional composition of arrivals changed over time rather than remaining static.

Data Limitations

This analysis is based solely on **official Government published IPAS weekly statistics.**

The regional breakdown of arrivals was **discontinued after July 2025** and was not routinely published in later reports. Consequently, this section is limited to the period for which official data was available.

The figures presented refer to **new arrivals** and should not be interpreted as the total number of residents accommodated within IPAS at any given time. Occupancy statistics are analysed separately in later chapters.

4. Geographic Distribution of IPAS Accommodation

Introduction

The published IPAS weekly reports provide the number of people accommodated within each county and local authority area throughout Ireland.

While these figures identify where accommodation is located, they do not on their own illustrate the relative impact in local communities. This chapter therefore examines both the total number of people accommodated and those figures in the context of local population.

Where appropriate, occupancy rates per 1,000 residents have been calculated using published population estimates to facilitate comparison between counties.

Understanding “Per 1,000 Population”

Throughout this handbook, some figures are presented **per 1,000 population**.

This is a way of comparing areas of different sizes fairly.

For example:

- **County A** has a population of **100,000** and **1,000** IPAS residents
- **County B** has a population of **50,000** and **600** IPAS residents

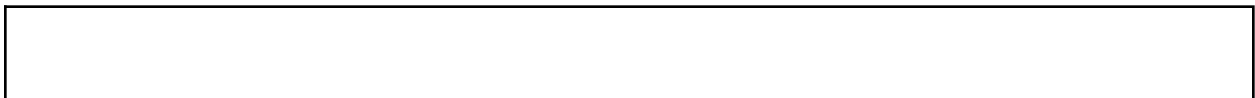
Looking only at the total numbers, County A appears to have more IPAS residents.

However, when adjusting for population:

- County A = **10 IPAS residents per 1,000 population**
- County B = **12 IPAS residents per 1,000 population**

Although County B has fewer IPAS residents overall, it has a **higher concentration relative to its population**.

Using figures per 1,000 population allows areas of different sizes to be compared on an equal basis.



Example

County Donegal has approximately **13.2 IPAS residents per 1,000 population**.

This does **not** mean 13.2 people out of every 1,000 are located together. It is simply a standardised way of comparing counties with different population sizes.

Latest Published County Occupancy

| Area | Population | IPAS | Per 1,000 |
|---------------------|------------|-------|-------------|
| Sligo | 70,198 | 1,276 | 18.2 |
| Donegal | 167,084 | 2,199 | 13.2 |
| South Dublin County | 301,000 | 4,157 | 13.8 |

Town analysis

This shows the **local concentration** around a specific accommodation centre

| Town | Population | IPAS Centre | Equivalent per 1,000 |
|------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Sligo Town | 21,604 | 799 | 37.0 |
| Saggart | 6,248 | 2,300 | 368.1 |

This illustrates the scale of large centres relative to its immediate host community. Town level comparisons illustrate the scale of individual accommodation centres relative to the population of the host town.

Key findings

Analysis of the latest published occupancy data shows:

- IPAS accommodation was distributed across all regions of Ireland
- Accommodation numbers varied considerably between counties

- Dublin accommodated the largest number of residents in absolute terms
- Several smaller counties accommodated a comparatively high number of residents relative to their population

4.2 Occupancy Relative to Population

Why compare per 1,000 residents?

Comparing occupancy by population provides additional context beyond raw numbers.

A county with a large population may accommodate a greater number of residents in absolute terms, while a smaller county may accommodate a higher proportion of residents relative to its own population.

For this reason, occupancy has been examined on a **per 1,000 population** basis where population data was available.

Observations

Comparison by population demonstrates that the distribution of accommodation is not uniform across Ireland.

While some counties accommodate larger numbers because of their larger populations, other counties accommodate proportionally higher numbers when adjusted for population size. This highlights the importance of considering both absolute numbers and population-adjusted figures when examining accommodation distribution.

4.3 Accommodation Centres and Local Impact

Introduction

While county-led statistics provide an overview of the distribution of IPAS accommodation across Ireland, they do not illustrate the scale of individual accommodation centres within local communities.

Some counties contain numerous small centres, while others contain a small number of large centres. Examining individual centres alongside the population of the surrounding town provides additional context regarding their relative scale.

The examples presented in this section are intended to illustrate the size to their immediate host communities.

Local Case Studies

Case Study 1 – Donegal

- Population
- IPAS occupancy
- Residents per 1,000 population
- Comparison with national average

Case Study 2 – South Dublin County

- Population (~301,000)
- Local authority occupancy
- Largest accommodation centres
- Comparison with other Dublin authorities

Case Study 3 – Citywest / Saggart

This is where your local analysis comes in.

For example:

Citywest Accommodation Centre

- Approximate capacity: 2,300
- Population of Saggart: 6,248

Observation:

The accommodation capacity of the Citywest centre is equivalent to approximately 37% of the population of Saggart. This comparison illustrates the scale of a single accommodation centre relative to its immediate surrounding community. It should not be interpreted as representing the wider South Dublin County area, which has a substantially larger population.

Key Takeaways

- Accommodation was distributed throughout every county.
- Distribution varied significantly between counties.
- Population-adjusted analysis provides additional context beyond raw occupancy figures.

- Local authority analysis provides a more detailed understanding of accommodation patterns.
 - Individual accommodation centres can have a substantial local presence even where county-wide figures appear proportionally lower.
-

Chapter 5 - Movement Through the IPAS System

This chapter answers of of the biggest questions:

How do people move into and out of the IPAS accommodation system?

5.1 Introduction

The published IPAS monthly reports provide information on new arrivals, grants of international protection status, and the number of people with status who subsequently left IPAS accommodation.

Together, these datasets provide an overview of the movement of people through the accommodation system.

This chapter compiles the published statistics for the period reviewed and examines how they relate to changes in overall occupancy.

5.2 New Arrivals

Introduction

New arrivals represent individuals who entered the IPAS accommodation system during the reporting period.

The statistics presented below are compiled from the published weekly and monthly IPAS reports

| Year | Published Arrivals |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 2023 | 12,251 |
| 2024 | 17,396 |

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 2025 | 11,195 |
| 2026 (Jan - May) | unavailable |

5.3 People Granted Status

The monthly reports also publish the number of applicants granted international protection status.

Receiving status does not necessarily mean an individual immediately leaves IPAS accommodation. Many continue to reside within the system while awaiting alternative accommodation.

| Year | Individuals granted status |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2023 | 2,552 |
| 2024 | 2,921 |
| 2025 | 3,882 |
| 2026 | Unavailable |

5.4 People Leaving IPAS After Receiving Status

This section compiles the published monthly figures showing the number of people with status who moved out of IPAS accommodations.

| Year | People with Status Leaving IPAS |
|--------------|--|
| 2023 | 1,660 |
| 2024 | 3,774 |
| 2025 | 4,335 |
| 2026 | Unavailable |
| Total | 9,767 |

Key Finding

Across the available published data (noting that some monthly reports were unavailable, so the figure is likely much higher), **at least 9,767 people with status moved out of IPAS accommodation** between 2023 and 2025.

This figure is based solely on Government statistics and may understate the true total where monthly data was unavailable, and 2026 reports omit this data completely.

No information is provided to show where people who move out of IPAS accommodation are housed, and whether that is in AHB, Council homes, HAP, or rented accommodation.

5.5 Occupancy Trends

Despite thousands of arrivals, grants of status and departures throughout the reporting period, total IPAS occupancy remained broadly stable at approx **33,000 residents**.

This reflects the continuous movement of people into and out of accommodation.

End of May 2026

| County | Occupancy | County | Occupancy | County | Occupancy |
|----------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Carlow | 427 | Kerry County | 775 | Offaly County | 559 |
| Cavan | 142 | Kildare County | 458 | Roscommon County | 202 |
| Clare County | 923 | Kilkenny County | 185 | Sligo County | 1276 |
| Cork city | 709 | Laois County | 497 | South Dublin County | 4157 |
| Cork County | 1512 | Leitrim County | 199 | Tipperary County | 1038 |
| Donegal County | 2199 | Limerick City & County | 906 | Waterford City and County | 614 |
| Dublin city | 3448 | Longford County | 135 | Westmeath County | 1202 |
| Dun Laoghaire | 1166 | Louth County | 1158 | Wexford County | 600 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-----------------|------|--------------------|---------------|
| Rathdown | | | | | |
| Fingal County | 1956 | Mayo County | 1559 | Wicklow County | 1134 |
| Galway City Council | 1716 | Meath County | 1107 | Grand Total | 33,044 |
| Galway County Council | 393 | Monaghan County | 692 | | |

5.6 Statistical Observation

Analysis of the published dataset identified several areas where further clarification would assist interpretation.

These include:

- The relationship between arrivals and occupancy
- How departures from IPAS are reflected in occupancy totals
- The destination of people leaving IPAS after receiving status
- Difference between weekly and monthly reporting
- And instances where published datasets do not reconcile directly

These observations are intended to identify areas where additional information would improve transparency. They should not be interpreted as evidence of inaccuracies within the published statistics.

5.7 Questions Arising from the Published Data

Analysis of the published statistics raised a number of questions that cannot be answered using the information currently available.

These include:

- Through which housing pathways did people leaving IPAS after receiving status move?
- How many entered social housing?
- How many entered HAP-supported accommodation?
- How many moved into private rented accommodation?
- How many stayed with family or friends?
- How many left the State?
- How are occupancy totals reconciled with arrivals and departures?

- Why do some weekly and monthly datasets differ in methodology?

These questions are included to highlight areas where additional published data would improve public understanding of the operation of the IPAS system.

Data Clarification - Annual Arrival Figures

During the preparation of this handbook, annual arrival totals were calculated by summing the published weekly and monthly IPAS arrival statistics for each calendar year.

These calculated totals were then compared with annual international protection applicant figures published elsewhere by the Government.

Comparison of Published Figures

| Year | Handbook Total (Calculated from IPAS weekly/Monthly reports) | Government Figures | Difference |
|------|--|--------------------|------------|
| 2023 | 13,006 | 13,276 | 270 |
| 2024 | 17,396 | 18,560 | 1,164 |
| 2025 | 11,195 | 13,159 | 1,964 |
| 2026 | Unavailable | unavailable | |

Observation

The figures published in the IPAS weekly and monthly reports do not currently reconcile with the higher annual international protection applicant figures published elsewhere by the Government.

At the time of publication, the reason for this difference could not be determined from the published material reviewed during the preparation of this handbook.

Possible explanations include differences in:

- Reporting methodology
- Reporting period
- The population being measured (for example international protection applicants compared with people entering IPAS accommodation) or

- Other administrative or statistical classifications

Further clarification from the relevant Government departments would assist readers in understanding how these datasets relate to one another.

The figures presented in this handbook are derived from published IPAS weekly and monthly statistical reports. The Government figures shown are reproduced from separate official publications and may use different methodologies or definitions.

Chapter 6 - Outcomes and Exits from the IPAS System

This chapter answers:

- What happens after the application is processed?
- How many people receive status?
- How many leave IPAS?
- How many are subject to deportation?
- What can we conclude from the published data?

6.1 Introduction

The published IPAS and Department of Justice statistics provide information on a number of outcomes following an application for international protection.

These include:

- Grants of international protection or permission to remain
- People with status who subsequently move out of IPAS accommodation
- Deportation orders
- Voluntary departures
- Enforced deportations

Taken together, these statistics provide insight into how published information does not identify every possible exit pathway, meaning a complete reconciliation of all movements is not currently possible using publicly available data alone.

6.2 People Granted Status

| Year | Individuals granted status |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2023 | 2,552 |
| 2024 | 2,921 |
| 2025 | 3,882 |
| 2026 | Unavailable |
| Total | 9,355 |

Summary of Findings

- The number of people granted status varied throughout the reporting period
- Receiving status did not necessarily result in an immediate departure from IPAS accommodation
- Many people remained within IPAS after being granted status while awaiting alternative accommodation
- These figures are likely to be higher as some weekly and monthly figures were missing.

6.3 People with Status Leaving IPAS

| Year | People with Status Leaving IPAS |
|--------------|--|
| 2023 | 1,660 |
| 2024 | 3,774 |
| 2025 | 4,335 |
| 2026 | Unavailable |
| Total | 9,767 |

Summary of Findings

Analysis of the available published monthly reports shows that **at least 9,767 people with status moved out of IPAS accommodation between 2023 and 2025.**

As some monthly reports were unavailable, this figure should be regarded as a **minimum** based on the published data reviewed.

The published statistics do not identify where these individuals were moved too, and whether that was AHB, County Council housing, HAP, or rented accommodation.

6.4 Deportation Orders and Departures

| Year | Deportation Orders | Left the State | Enforced Deportations |
|--------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 2023 | 857 | 79 | 79 |
| 2024 | 2,403 | 1,116 | 134 |
| 2025 | 4,700 | 2,111 | 434 |
| 2026 | – | 984 | 272 |
| Total | 7,960 | 2,179 | 919 |

Summary of Findings

The published figures indicate:

- A substantial increase in deportation orders between 2023 and 2025
- An slight increase in enforced deportations over the same period
- In 2024 and 2025, most recorded departures were voluntary or otherwise non-enforced.

6.5 Data Gaps

The published statistics do not currently identify:

- the destination of people after leaving IPAS following the grant of status;
- the housing pathway used following departure from IPAS;
- all categories required to reconcile annual arrivals with year-end occupancy;
- a complete breakdown of all exit pathways from the IPAS system.

These gaps have been identified throughout this handbook and may warrant further clarification through future statistical publications, Parliamentary Questions or Freedom of Information requests.

6.6 Comparison of Published Outcomes

| Year | Applications | Status Granted | Deportation Orders | Status Holders Leaving IPAS | Left the State | Enforced Deportations |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 2023 | 13,006 | 2,552 | 857 | 1,660 | 79 | 79 |
| 2024 | 17,396 | 2,921 | 2,403 | 3,774 | 1,116 | 134 |
| 2025 | 11,195 | 3,882 | 4,700 | 4,335 | 2,111 | 434 |
| | | | | | | |
| Total | 41,597 | 9,355 | 3,730 | 15,769 | 3,306 | 647 |

As calculated from the published IPAS weekly and monthly reports. *see the Data Clarification section regarding differences between this figure and other published Government statistics.*

Summary of Findings

Presenting these statistics together allows readers to compare the principal published outcomes of the international protection system for each year.

The comparison shows:

- The number of new applicants entering the system
- The number granted protection status
- The number of deportation orders issued
- The number of people with status who subsequently left IPAS accommodation
- The number of people who left the state, and
- The number of enforced deportations.

Examining these indicators together provides a broader understanding of the published outcomes than reviewing each statistic in isolation.

Chapter 7 – Data Quality, Methodology and Information Gaps

7.1 Introduction

During the preparation of this handbook, all available published IPAS weekly and monthly statistical reports, Parliamentary Questions, Freedom of Information responses and other official Government publications were reviewed and compared.

While the published statistics provide a significant amount of information regarding the operation of the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS), a number of methodological issues, inconsistencies and information gaps were identified.

These observations do not necessarily indicate errors within the published statistics. Rather, they identify areas where additional clarification, improved consistency or further published information would assist readers in understanding the data.

The purpose of this chapter is to document those observations in a transparent manner and distinguish between:

- Published Government data.
- Calculated figures derived from published data.
- Apparent inconsistencies identified during analysis.
- Information that is not currently published.

Where clarification could not be obtained from the published material reviewed, this has been noted within the Data Quality Register.

7.2 Data Quality Register

The following observations were identified during the preparation of this handbook.

| Reference | Observation | Status |
|-----------|---|------------------------|
| DQ-001 | Annual arrival totals calculated from published IPAS weekly and monthly reports differ from annual applicant figures published elsewhere by the Government. | Clarification required |

| | | |
|---------------|--|---------------------------------|
| DQ-002 | Family composition figures published in weekly and monthly reports could not always be reconciled. | Clarification required |
| DQ-003 | Changes in terminology (children, families, Families with children) make year-on-year comparisons difficult | Clarification needed |
| DQ-004 | Published arrivals, departures and occupancy figures could not be fully reconciled using available data | Clarification needed |
| DQ-005 | An apparent typographical anomaly was identified within the March 2025 age profile | Clarification needed |
| DQ-006 | Weekly and monthly reports occasionally used different methodologies or classifications | Clarification needed |
| DQ-007 | Regional arrival breakdowns ceased to be routinely published after July 2025 | Information gap |
| DQ-008 | Several monthly reports were unavailable or not published, limiting annual calculations | Information gap |
| DQ-009 | Incident statistics were published only for limited periods, for a single accommodation centre, without categorisation of incident types, before publication ceased. | Information no longer published |

7.3 Methodological Changes

Throughout the reporting period, the format and content of published IPAS statistical reports changed on a number of occasions.

Examples include:

- Changes in demographic terminology.

- The discontinuation of regional arrival breakdowns.
- The discontinuation of certain monthly statistical reports.
- Variations between weekly and monthly reporting formats.

These changes can affect direct comparisons between reporting periods and should be considered when interpreting long-term trends.

7.4 Information Gaps

During the preparation of this handbook, several areas were identified where publicly available information was insufficient to answer important statistical questions.

These include:

- The destination of people leaving IPAS accommodation after receiving status.
- A complete reconciliation of annual arrivals, departures and occupancy.
- Consistent definitions of family-related categories.
- The methodology used to calculate annual applicant figures published elsewhere by the Government.
- Detailed classifications of incidents within IPAS accommodation.
- Centre-level occupancy trends over time.

Where appropriate, these gaps have informed recommendations for future Freedom of Information requests and Parliamentary Questions.

Chapter 8 – Conclusions and Recommendations

8.1 Conclusion

This handbook was prepared to bring together publicly available information relating to Ireland's International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) into a single, structured reference document.

The information examined throughout this handbook demonstrates that a significant amount of statistical data is already publicly available. However, that information is dispersed across numerous weekly reports, monthly publications, Parliamentary Questions and other Government sources, making it difficult to obtain a complete overview of the system.

By compiling these datasets into a single publication, it has been possible to identify long-term trends, compare annual statistics and examine relationships between different published datasets.

During the preparation of this handbook, several areas were also identified where published information could not be fully reconciled or where additional clarification would assist interpretation. These observations have been documented within the Data Quality Register and should not be interpreted as evidence of inaccuracies, but rather as opportunities to improve the transparency and accessibility of future statistical publications.

8.2 Key Findings

Analysis of the published statistics identified several notable observations: IPAS accommodated approximately 33,000 people throughout much of 2025 despite continual movement into and out of the accommodation system.

- Single male applicants represented the largest demographic group within the available published applicant data.
- The regional composition of arrivals changed over time, with arrivals from Africa increasing during 2025.
- Accommodation was distributed across every county, although the concentration relative to population varied considerably.
- At least 9,767 people with status moved out of IPAS accommodation between 2023 and 2025 based on the available published reports.
- Comparison of published arrivals, departures and occupancy identified areas where additional published information would assist in understanding the movement of people through the accommodation system.
- Several datasets and reporting categories changed or ceased publication during the period reviewed.

8.3 Recommendations for Statistical Transparency

The analysis undertaken during the preparation of this handbook suggests that future statistical publications could be enhanced through the publication of additional information.

The following recommendations relate solely to the publication and presentation of statistical information.

Recommendation 1 – Annual Reconciliation

Publish an annual reconciliation showing:

- Opening occupancy.
- New arrivals.
- All exit categories.
- Administrative adjustments (where applicable).
- Closing occupancy.

Recommendation 2 – Housing Outcomes Following IPAS

Publish annual aggregate statistics showing the recorded accommodation pathway for people who leave IPAS after receiving status, including, where available:

- Local authority housing.
- Approved Housing Body accommodation.
- Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).
- Private rented accommodation.
- Family or friends.
- Other recorded outcomes.

Recommendation 3 – Consistent Methodology

Maintain consistent terminology and statistical definitions across weekly and monthly reports, particularly in relation to:

- Families.
- Children.
- Couples.
- Lone parents.
- Arrivals.

Recommendation 4 – Statistical Definitions

Publish a glossary defining each statistical category used within the reports to assist interpretation by readers.

Recommendation 5 – Continue Publishing Key Datasets

Where possible, continue publishing:

- Regional breakdowns of arrivals.
- Monthly demographic statistics.
- County and local authority occupancy.

- Other datasets previously included in the reports.

Recommendation 6 – Methodology Notes

Where different Government publications report different totals for similar indicators, publish a clear explanation of the methodology used for each dataset to assist comparison.

8.4 Final Remarks

This handbook has sought to present publicly available information in an objective, transparent and accessible manner.

Where calculations have been undertaken, they have been clearly identified. Where information could not be reconciled or where published information was unavailable, those limitations have been documented rather than inferred.

It is hoped that this handbook will provide a useful reference for members of the public, researchers, journalists, elected representatives and public officials seeking to better understand the published statistics relating to Ireland's International Protection Accommodation Service.

About the Author

This handbook was independently compiled by Sylvia Gallagher using publicly available Government information, Parliamentary Questions and Freedom of Information responses. Its purpose is to improve public understanding by bringing together official statistics that are otherwise dispersed across multiple publications.

Readers who identify errors, updated statistics or additional official sources are encouraged to notify the author so that they can be considered in future editions.

Appendix A – Freedom of Information Findings

Appendix A – Freedom of Information Findings

FOI Reference: DOJ-FOI-2026-0563

Department of Justice

Date of Decision: 2 July 2026

Purpose of the Request

A Freedom of Information request was submitted seeking aggregated statistical information relating to applicants for international protection and immigration who had known criminal convictions, criminal charges or serious criminal findings.

- The request also sought information on:
- application outcomes;
- subsequent discovery of undisclosed criminal history;
- reviews of status;
- revocations; and
- deportation or other enforcement action.

Department Response

The Department advised that the requested information is not recorded or categorised in a manner that allows the requested statistics to be extracted.

The Immigration Service Delivery division refused the request under Section 15(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, stating that no records existed in a format capable of answering the request after reasonable searches had been undertaken.

The International Protection Office similarly advised that, although relevant information may exist within individual case files, it is not categorised in a manner that permits the production of aggregated statistical records and therefore refused those parts of the request under Section 15(1)(a).

The Department further stated that where evidence of criminality exists, it is taken into account during the decision-making process and appropriate Government agencies are consulted where necessary.

Statistics Provided

Despite refusing much of the request, the Department supplied the following statistics:

| Category | Result |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Refugee Status Revocation 2021 - 2025 | 24 |
| Reviews of Status | 58 |

The Department advised that equivalent review data for 2021–2024 was not available in a format compatible with the request.

Observation

This Freedom of Information response demonstrates that certain information relating to international protection applicants may exist within individual case records but is not maintained in a format that allows statistical reporting.

As a result, it is currently not possible, based on publicly available information or the Department's response to this request, to determine:

- the number of applicants with known criminal convictions;
- the categories of offences involved;
- the application outcomes associated with such cases; or
- how frequently previously undisclosed criminal history is identified after status has been granted.

This appendix documents the Department's response for transparency and to assist readers in understanding the limitations of the currently available statistical information.

Appendix B – Data Sources

Appendix B – Data Sources

Overview

This handbook has been compiled exclusively using publicly available official information published by the Government of Ireland, together with Parliamentary Questions and Freedom of Information responses obtained during the preparation of this publication.

Where calculations have been undertaken by the author, these have been clearly identified throughout the handbook. No unpublished Government datasets have been used unless released in response to a Freedom of Information request.

Readers are encouraged to consult the original publications where appropriate.

Primary Sources

Department of Justice

The majority of statistical information contained within this handbook was compiled from publications issued by the Department of Justice, including:

- IPAS Weekly Statistics Reports
- IPAS Monthly Statistics Reports
- International Protection publications
- Department of Justice statistical releases

These publications provided information relating to:

- IPAS occupancy
- New arrivals
- Nationality
- Age profile
- County occupancy
- Regional origin
- Applicant demographics
- Monthly movements within the accommodation system

https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/7b90fb1c/International_Protection_Summary_Report_December_2025.pdf

https://www.gov.ie/en/international-protection-accommodation-services-ipas/collections/statistics-2004-to-2026/?utm_source=chatgpt.com#2022

International Protection Office (IPO)

Published information relating to:

- Applications for International Protection
- Protection decisions
- Processing statistics
- International Protection procedures

Government

Published information relating to:

- IPAS accommodation
- Occupancy statistics
- Weekly operational reports

https://www.gov.ie/en/international-protection-accommodation-services-ipas/collections/statistics-2004-to-2026/?utm_source=chatgpt.com#2022

Parliamentary Questions

Official Parliamentary Questions published through the Oireachtas website were reviewed where relevant to provide clarification or additional statistical information not contained within routine statistical reports.

- Examples include:
- Number of accommodation centres
- Regional accommodation breakdowns
- Policy clarifications
- Operational statistics

<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2026-01-28/133/>

<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2025-05-20/701/>

Freedom of Information Requests

Freedom of Information requests submitted during the preparation of this handbook were used where relevant to obtain additional statistical information or clarify published datasets.

Where information was refused or unavailable, those responses have also been documented to improve transparency.

Other Official Publications

Additional Government publications were consulted where relevant, including:

- Census data (Central Statistics Office)
- Population estimates
- Annual reports
- Statistical bulletins
- Government policy documents

Methodology

Unless otherwise stated:

- Figures represent official published Government statistics.
- Annual totals were calculated by summing published weekly or monthly reports where annual totals were not provided.
- Percentages were calculated by the author using published figures.
- Per 1,000 population calculations were based on published Census or official population estimates.
- Where discrepancies between official publications were identified, both datasets have been presented and discussed without alteration.

Citation Policy

Throughout this handbook, every effort has been made to distinguish between:

- Official Government statistics.
- Calculations undertaken by the author.
- Observations arising from analysis.
- Areas where further clarification is required.

Where figures could not be independently reconciled using published information, this has been clearly stated.

