



18 December 2023

Circular Housing 46/2023

To: Director of Service (Housing)

Traveller Accommodation Programmes 2025-2029

Dear Director,

I am directed by Mr. Kieran O' Donnell, T.D., Minister of State for Planning and Local Government to refer to the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 and for housing authorities to commence preparation of the next 5-year Traveller Accommodation Programmes (TAPs) for adoption by 31 December 2024. The existing TAPs will therefore continue to operate to end 2024 while local authorities prepare for the adoption by end 2024 of the Sixth Traveller Accommodation Programmes (TAPs) 2025-2029. The Minister's objective is to ensure that the incoming elected members will have full ownership of the new TAPs including implementation, which is also in line with the advice of the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (NTACC).

The attached "*Guidelines on the Preparation and Implementation of Traveller Accommodation Programmes 2025 - 2029*" provide housing authorities with advice and guidance on the preparation, adoption and implementation of the next TAPs.

1. Duration of the Programme

Under Section 10 of the 1998 Act the Minister has directed that the next accommodation programme should be for a period of 5 years for the period from 1



January, 2025 to 31 December 2029 which was informed by advice from the National Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (NTACC).

2. Date for Adoption of New Traveller Accommodation Programme

The Minister has specified 31 December, 2024, as the latest date by which accommodation programmes must be adopted. Housing authorities are therefore directed to commence arrangements for the preparation of the new programmes. The table on Page 5 of the Guidelines attached provides indicative timescales for the various stages of the preparation and adoption process.

3. Consultation

It is essential that Traveller Accommodation Programmes are prepared in a consultative manner. The Act requires that housing authorities consult with adjoining housing authorities, the HSE, approved housing bodies, the Local Traveller Consultative Committee, other local Traveller representative groups, community and interest groups and the public in general.

The purpose of broad consultation is to ensure that the interests of all concerned with or affected by proposals for Traveller accommodation are considered and to facilitate a planned and comprehensive response by housing authorities to the accommodation needs of Travellers.

4. Assessment of Need

Housing authorities, following consultation, must make an estimate of the current and projected accommodation needs of Traveller families arising over the five-year programme. The housing authorities must identify:

- the estimate of the number of Traveller families for whom accommodation will be required for the duration of the programme;



- the existing and projected accommodation needs of Travellers over the five-year period of the programme; and
- accommodation options required including standard and group housing, permanent residential sites for caravans and transient sites.

In conducting the assessment of need for Travellers, housing authorities should have regard to data gathered in the summary of social housing assessments as of 1 November 2023. Housing authorities should also have regard to submissions made during the consultative stages and any other supplementary information available to the authority.

5. Preparation of New Programme and Targets

The form and content of the Traveller Accommodation Programmes is set out under Section 10 of the 1998 Act and the Guidelines attached will assist in the preparation of the programme.

To facilitate monitoring of progress on the implementation of the programme, annual targets should be included in programmes. The targets should include details of the numbers of units of accommodation proposed to be delivered for each of the five years of the programme for Traveller specific accommodation (group housing, bays on halting sites, including the need for transient sites), both new and refurbished as well as standard housing.

6. Mid-Term Review

A Mid-Term Review of the next Traveller Accommodation Programme should be carried out not later **than 30 June 2027**. Following a review, any amendment to the proposed accommodation programme must be made within seven months. More frequent reviews should be carried out, if required.



Enquiries

Any enquiries in relation to this circular may be addressed to Iain Long at 01 888 2421, iain.long@housing.gov.ie or Gary Coogan at 01 888 2176, gary.coogan@housing.gov.ie.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick O'Sullivan".

Patrick O' Sullivan

Principal Officer

Social Inclusion