

TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION



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The 1995 Government Task Force Report acknowledges the need to respect Traveller culture when providing accommodation.

The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 obliges local authorities to draw up five year Traveller Accommodation Programmes.



"Travellers have a right to their culture – and nomadism is an important part of that culture. It is up to our society to accommodate cultural diversity – not to try and destroy it,"

- Martin Collins, Pavee Point.

1998 - 2015 - Local authorities consistently fail to complete their own Traveller Accommodation Programmes and funding for Traveller accommodation is consistently returned to central government.

The economic crisis hits and Traveller accommodation is cut from €40 million in 2008 to €4 million in 2013. Funding is still returned by local authorities – unspent!

Failure to provide Traveller accommodation results in :

800 Travellers still being forced to live on the side of the road with no sewage facilities (Census 2011)

Serious overcrowding on halting sites and group housing schemes contributing to high levels of ill health among Travellers.

Many Travellers forced to live away from their community and the numbers of Travellers in private rented accommodation rises by 30%.

Isolation contributes to the further breakdown of Traveller inter-generational solidarity and an increase in stress and mental health issues. Suicide rates among Travellers are 6 times the national average.