
CHAIN QUARTERLY REPORT

GREATER LONDON

JANUARY - MARCH 2024

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MAYOR OF LONDON**



CHAIN

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CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION & KEY FINDINGS

- Introduction
- Key findings

2. ROUGH SLEEPER POPULATION ANALYSIS

- Headlines
- Achieving no second night out
- No one living on the streets
- Intermittent rough sleepers

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- Bedded down street contacts by area: Greater London level

4. NATIONALITY

- Nationality: Rolling figures
- Nationality: Breakdown by area

5. DEMOGRAPHICS

- Gender
- Age
- Ethnicity

6. SUPPORT NEEDS

7. INSTITUTIONAL & ARMED FORCES HISTORY

8. ACCOMMODATION & RECONNECTION OUTCOMES

9. TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

- Arrivals
- Departures: Destination on departure
- Departures: Reason for leaving

10. METHODOLOGY

1. INTRODUCTION & KEY FINDINGS

Introduction

This quarterly report presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London in January-March 2024.

Information in the report is derived from the 'Combined Homelessness and Information Network' (CHAIN), a database commissioned and funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and managed by Homeless Link. For more information see www.homeless.org.uk/chain.

The data on which this report is based is also available in an accessible tabular format, aggregated to borough and Greater London level, in a separate CHAIN Quarterly Data Tables file. This can be downloaded from the GLA Datastore at <http://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/chain-reports>.

In the rough sleeping figures in this report people are grouped into three categories:

New rough sleepers	Those who had not been contacted by outreach teams rough sleeping before the period
Living on the streets	Those who have had a high number of contacts over 3 weeks or more which suggests they are living on the streets
Intermittent rough sleepers	People who were seen rough sleeping before the period began at some point, and contacted in the period - but not regularly enough to be 'living on the streets'

For more information about the methods used to derive statistics for this report, and definitions of different groups, please see section 11 – Methodology.

Key findings

New rough sleepers

In the period January-March 2024 outreach teams recorded 2038 people in London sleeping rough for the first time. Of these:

- 1498 (74%) spent just one night sleeping rough
- 472 (23%) slept rough for more than one night but did not go on to live on the streets
- 68 (3%) were deemed to be living on the streets.

The number of new rough sleepers recorded during this period was 37% higher than the same period last year.

By comparison, of the 1490 rough sleepers recorded as new to the streets in January-March 2023, 1138 (76%) were seen sleeping rough just once. A similar proportion (22%) went on to spend more than one night without meeting the criteria for living on the streets, and 2% went on to live on the streets.

Living on the streets

During January-March 2024 there were 511 people recorded who were deemed to be living on the streets. This total includes:

- 68 people who were new to rough sleeping in London and remained on the streets during the period
- 24 people from the RS205+ cohort who were seen bedded down at least once.

The number of rough sleepers deemed to be living on the streets is 36% higher than the same period last year, and 9% lower than the immediately preceding period (October-December 2023).

Intermittent rough sleepers

The number of people who were seen rough sleeping during January-March 2024 who were not new, and did not have enough contacts to be deemed as living on the streets, was 1637. This is 29% higher than the same period last year, and 2% higher than the immediately preceding period.

Of these:

- 734 people (45%) were seen on just a single occasion
- 432 people (26%) were seen just twice, and
- only 9 (1%) had six or more contacts.

Total number of people seen rough sleeping

In total during the period January-March 2024 outreach teams recorded 4118 individuals sleeping rough in the capital. This is a 33% increase on the total figure for January-March 2023.

Of that total:

- new rough sleepers account for 49% of all rough sleepers
- intermittent rough sleepers account for 40% of all those recorded in the period, and
- 12% of those recorded during the period were living on the streets.

2. ROUGH SLEEPER POPULATION ANALYSIS

All London Boroughs: Headlines

Table 1: People seen rough sleeping in 2023-24 Q4, by new, living on the streets, and intermittent breakdown

NEW ROUGH SLEEPERS

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Total	2038	-11%	+37%
New RS with no second night out	1498	-9%	+32%
New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	472	-17%	+46%
New RS joining living on the streets population*	68	+6%	+134%

	This period	Last period	Same period last year
Proportion of new rough sleepers prevented from spending a second night out	74%	72%	76%

LIVING ON THE STREETS (LOS)

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Total	511	-9%	+36%
LOS - Transferred from new RS*	68	+6%	+134%
LOS - Known	419	-12%	+32%
LOS - RS205+	24	+20%	-20%

INTERMITTENT ROUGH SLEEPERS

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Total	1637	+2%	+29%

	This period	Last period	Same period last year
Proportion of intermittent rough sleepers seen only once during period	45%	43%	46%

OVERALL TOTAL ROUGH SLEEPERS

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Total	4118	-6%	+33%

*This cohort is listed under both new rough sleepers and living on the streets headings, but is only counted once towards the overall total

All London Boroughs: Achieving No Second Night Out

Chart 1: New rough sleepers 2022-23 Q4 to 2023-24 Q4

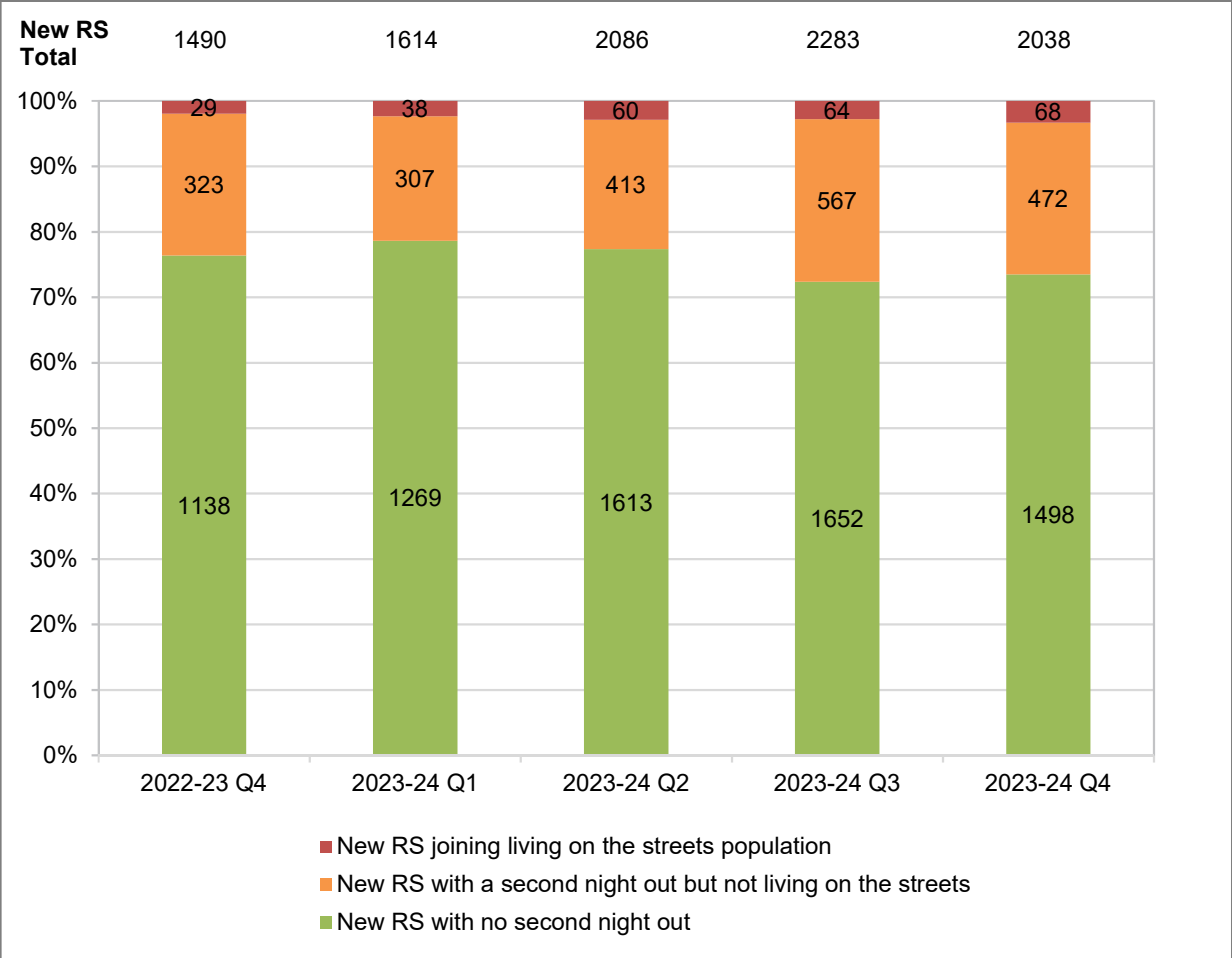


Table 2: New rough sleepers in 2023-24 Q4, by subcategory

Category	No. this period
New RS with no second night out	1498
New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	472
New RS joining living on the streets population	68
Total	2038

New RS = New rough sleepers

All London Boroughs: No One Living on the Streets

Chart 2: People living on the streets 2022-23 Q4 to 2023-24 Q4

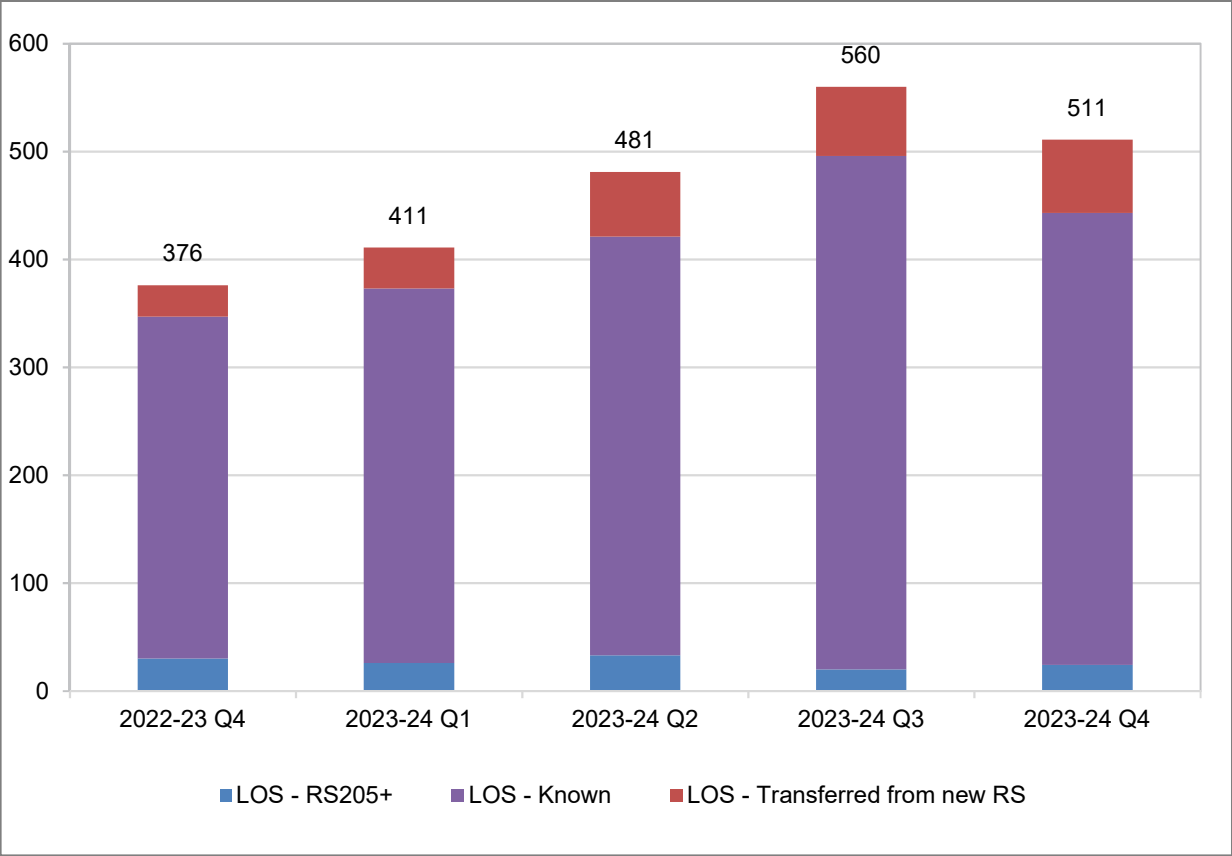


Table 3: People living on the streets in 2023-24 Q4, by subcategory

Category	No. this period
LOS - Transferred from new RS	68
LOS - Known	419
LOS - RS205+	24
Total	511

All London Boroughs: Intermittent Rough Sleepers

Chart 3: Intermittent rough sleepers 2022-23 Q4 to 2023-24 Q4

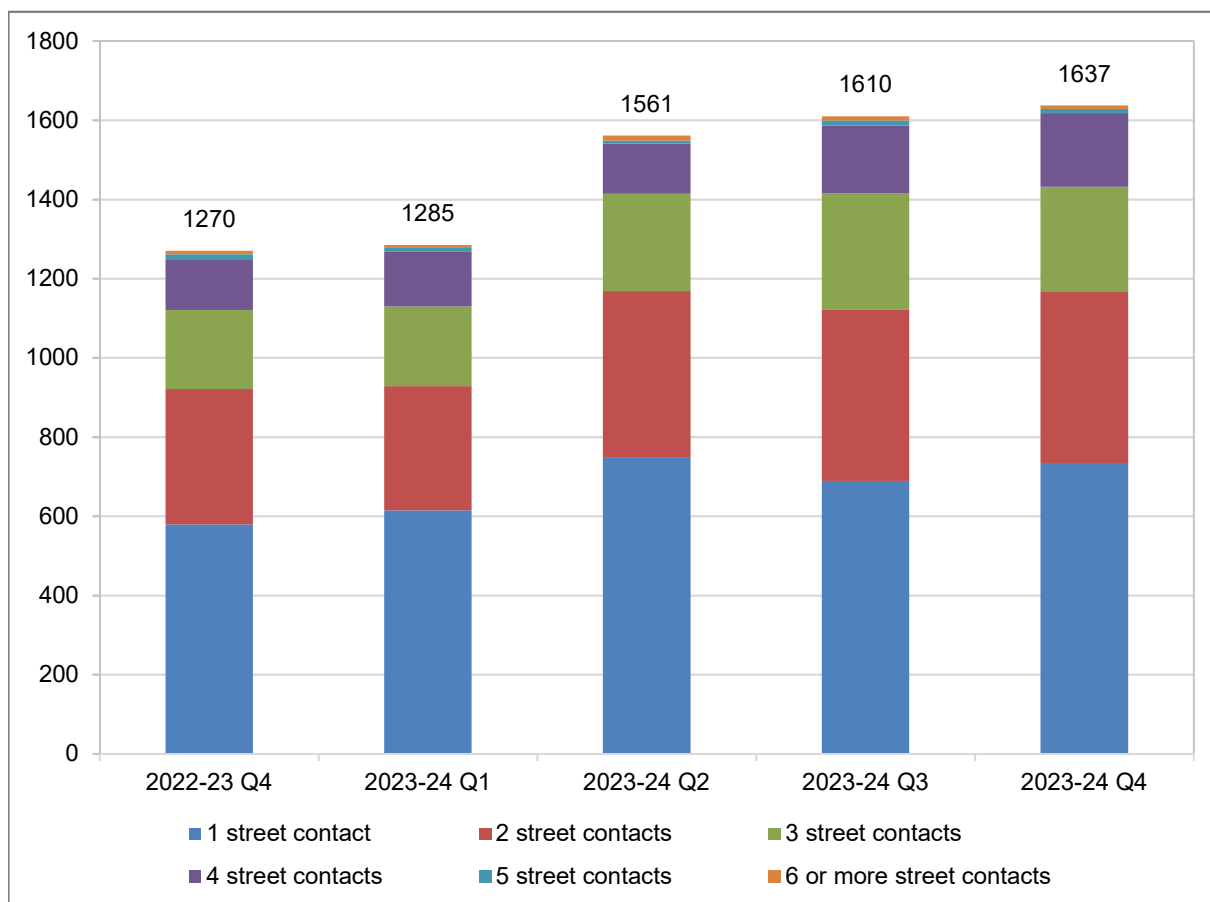


Table 4: Intermittent rough sleepers in 2023-24 Q4, by number of bedded down contacts during the period

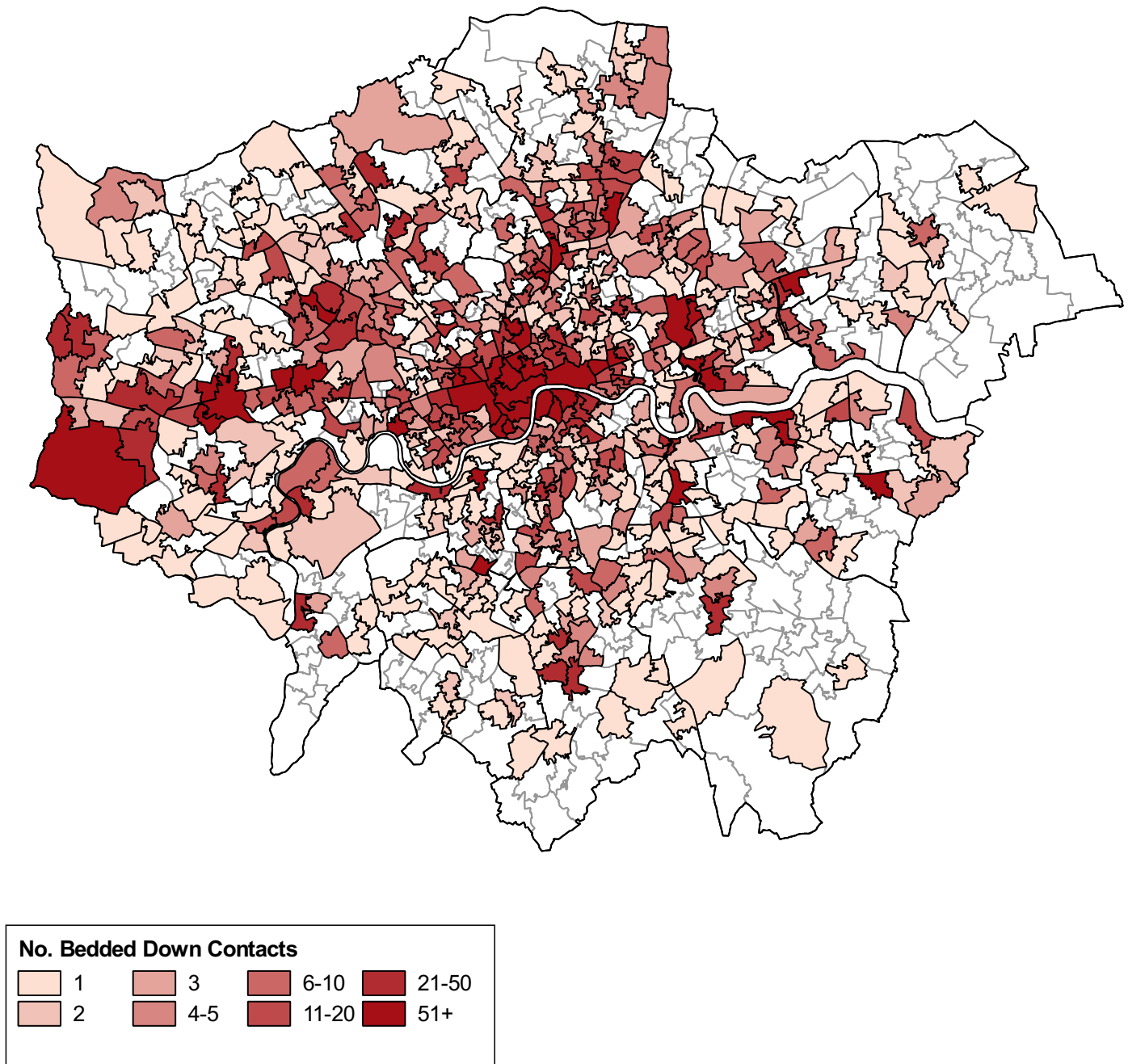
No. bedded down street contacts during this period	No. intermittent rough sleepers
1 street contact	734
2 street contacts	432
3 street contacts	266
4 street contacts	186
5 street contacts	10
6 or more street contacts	9
Total	1637

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

Bedded down street contacts by area: Greater London level

It is important to note that this map represents volume of contacts rather than individuals, and some people may have been seen on multiple occasions within a given area. Recording of street contacts is to some extent influenced by outreach provision and practice, which can vary across local authority areas.

Map 1: Number of bedded down street contacts recorded in each Middle Super Output Area across Greater London during the period



4. NATIONALITY

Nationality: Rolling figures

Table 5: Nationality of people seen rough sleeping 2023-24 Q2 to 2023-24 Q4

	Jul-Sep 23		Oct-Dec 23		Jan-Mar 24	
Nationality	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	1741	47.4%	1742	43.5%	1633	43.7%
Romania	426	11.6%	403	10.1%	339	9.1%
Poland	198	5.4%	228	5.7%	194	5.2%
Lithuania	59	1.6%	67	1.7%	57	1.5%
Portugal	46	1.3%	52	1.3%	40	1.1%
Ireland (Republic of)	58	1.6%	46	1.1%	57	1.5%
Bulgaria	42	1.1%	48	1.2%	41	1.1%
Italy	33	0.9%	37	0.9%	45	1.2%
Latvia	14	0.4%	18	0.4%	9	0.2%
France	16	0.4%	23	0.6%	16	0.4%
Spain	17	0.5%	15	0.4%	21	0.6%
Other European (EEA) countries	76	2.1%	67	1.7%	60	1.6%
Europe (EEA)	985	26.8%	1004	25.1%	879	23.5%
Europe (Non-EEA)	39	1.1%	42	1.0%	39	1.0%
Europe (Not known)	27	0.7%	19	0.5%	13	0.3%
Eritrea	171	4.7%	281	7.0%	216	5.8%
Sudan	73	2.0%	170	4.2%	184	4.9%
Nigeria	33	0.9%	37	0.9%	39	1.0%
Somalia	27	0.7%	27	0.7%	25	0.7%
Ethiopia	19	0.5%	26	0.6%	43	1.2%
Other African countries	143	3.9%	139	3.5%	154	4.1%
Africa	466	12.7%	680	17.0%	661	17.7%
India	127	3.5%	183	4.6%	154	4.1%
Afghanistan	41	1.1%	43	1.1%	67	1.8%
Iran	38	1.0%	60	1.5%	53	1.4%
Pakistan	16	0.4%	19	0.5%	16	0.4%
Bangladesh	14	0.4%	18	0.4%	11	0.3%
Other Asian countries	88	2.4%	119	3.0%	133	3.6%
Asia	324	8.8%	442	11.0%	434	11.6%
Americas	87	2.4%	73	1.8%	75	2.0%
Australasia	4	0.1%	3	0.1%	2	0.1%
Not known	395		384		382	
Total (excl. not known)	3673	100.0%	4005	100.0%	3736	100.0%
Total (incl. not known)	4068		4389		4118	

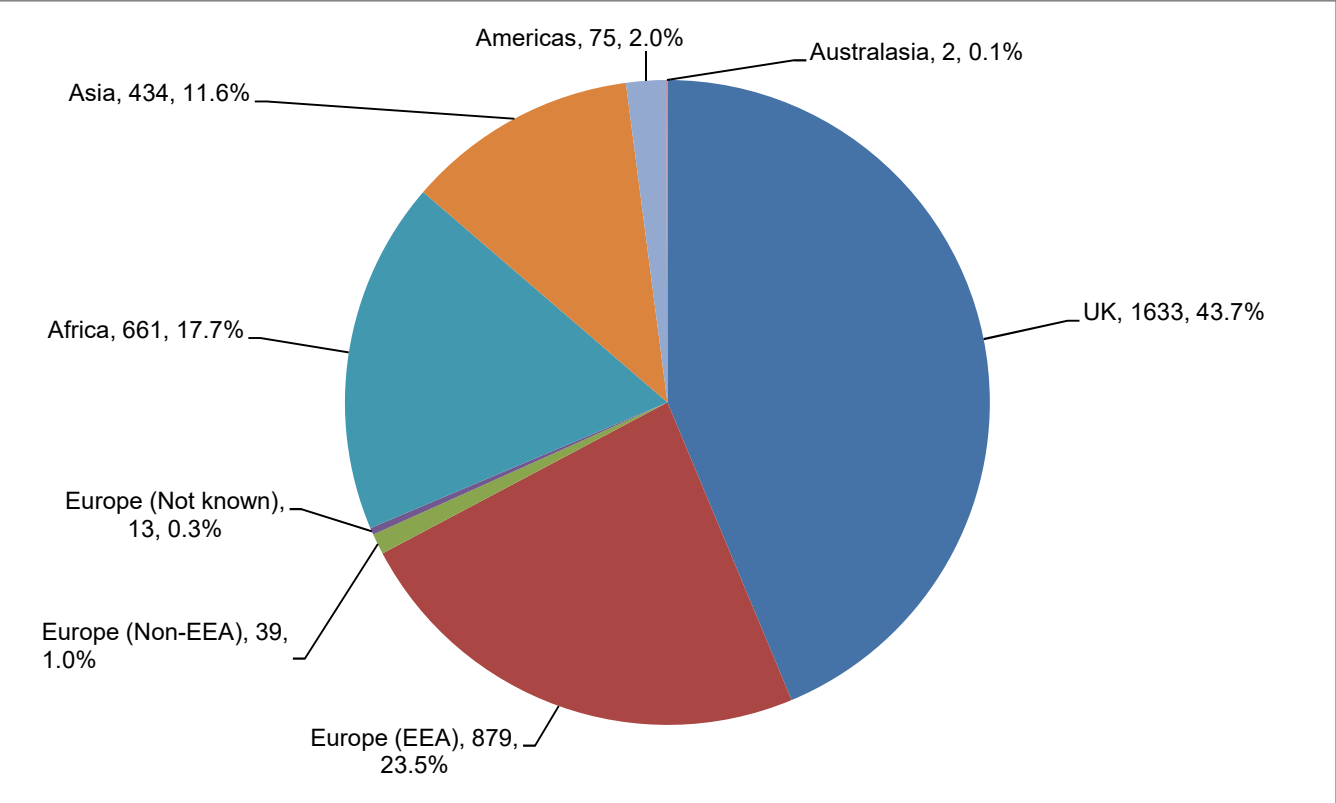
Total excluding not known is used as the base for percentages.

In individual borough reports some nationalities included in the table above may have '0' clients recorded against them – these nationalities are included in this standardised table as they represent a significant number of clients across London as a whole.

As of 2022/23 Q1, we have adjusted categories used for nationality reporting, so that the ten countries previously categorised as CEE are now included in the broader category of Europe (EEA).

Nationality: Breakdown by area

Chart 4: People seen rough sleeping in 2023-24 Q4, by nationality

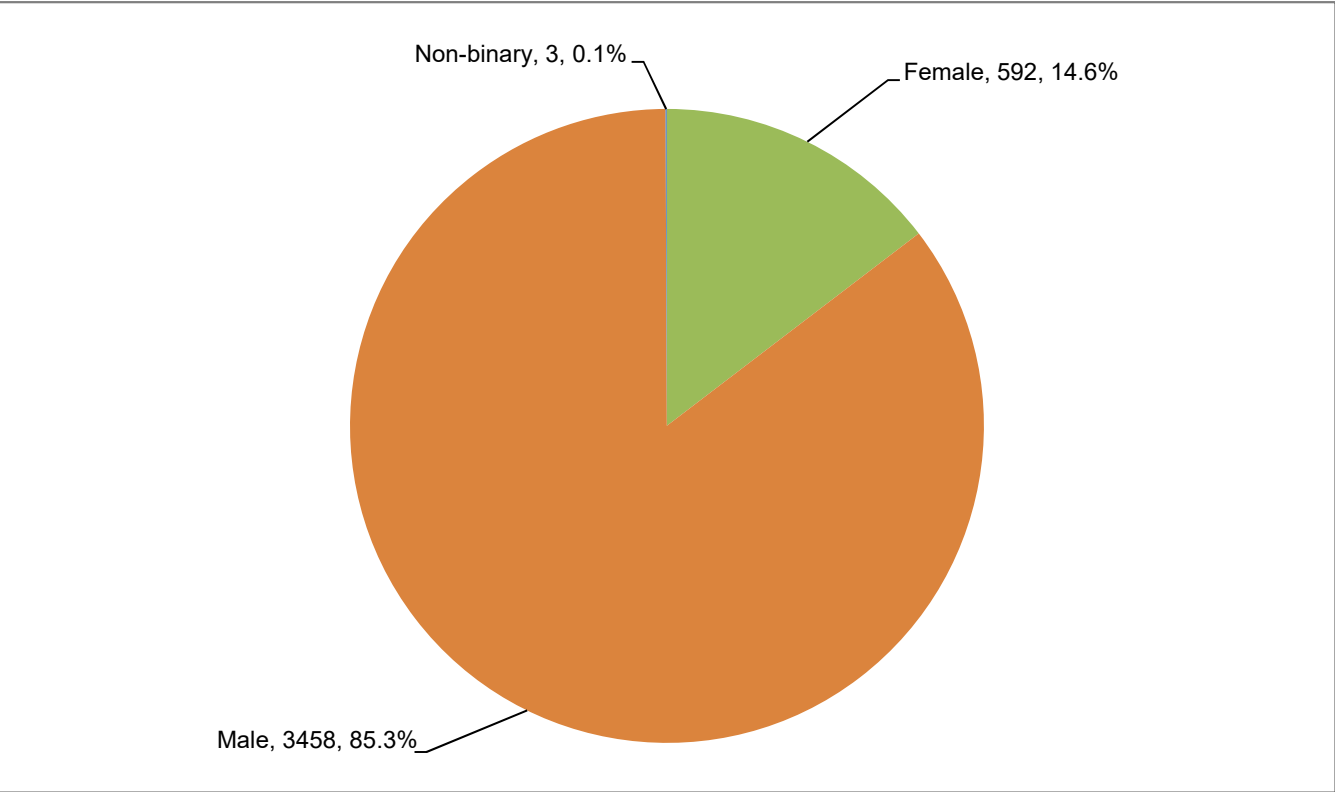


Base: 3736 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose nationality was known.

5. DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender

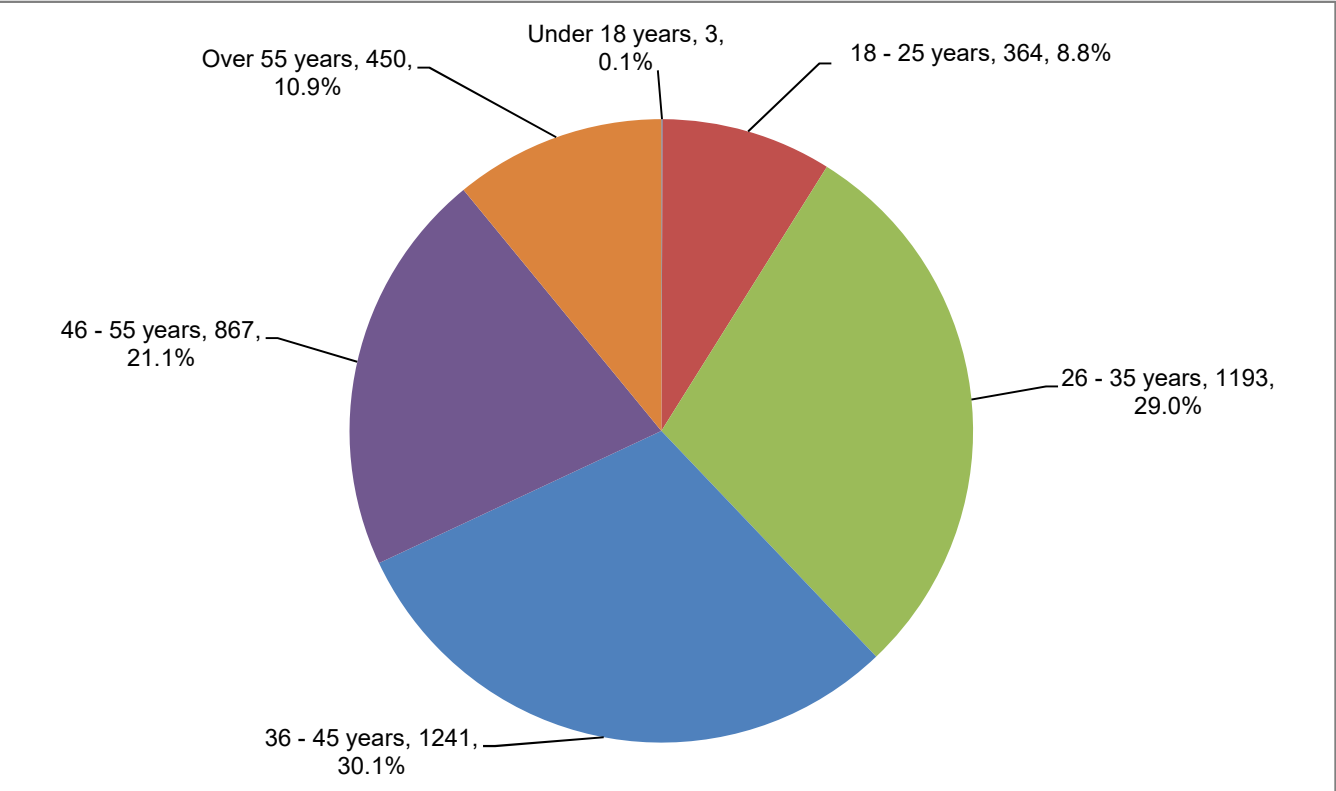
Chart 5: People seen rough sleeping in 2023-24 Q4, by gender



Base: 4053 people seen rough sleeping whose gender was known. This excludes 65 people whose gender was not known.

Age

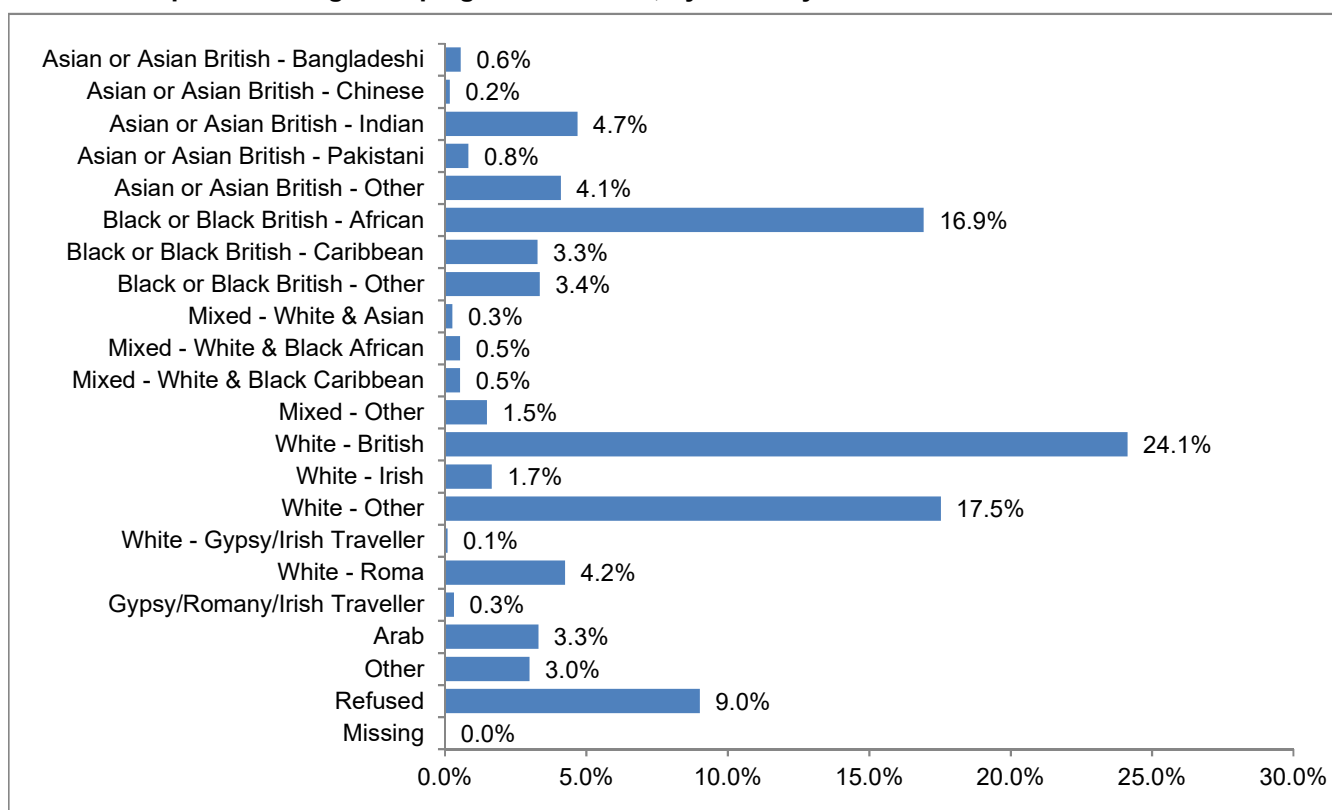
Chart 6: People seen rough sleeping in 2023-24 Q4, by age



Base: 4118

Ethnicity

Chart 7: People seen rough sleeping in 2023-24 Q4, by ethnicity

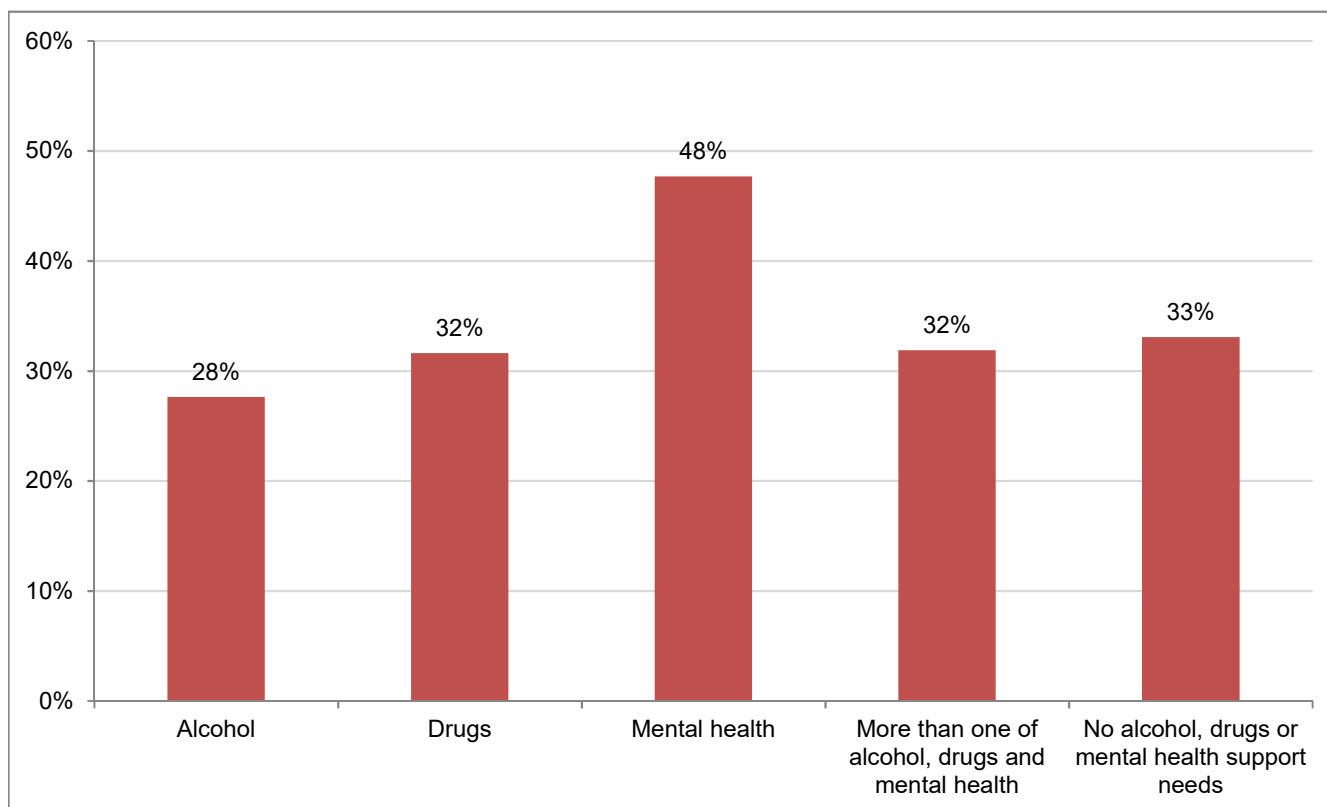


Base: 4118

The previously employed category of 'Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller' was replaced with separate categories for 'White - Gypsy/Irish Traveller' and 'White - Roma' in April 2021. However, many people seen rough sleeping during the period may not have had their ethnicity information updated to reflect these new categories, so the original category is also included in the graph.

6. SUPPORT NEEDS

Chart 8: People seen rough sleeping in 2023-24 Q4, by support needs



Base: 3189. Note that the base figure for this chart excludes people for whom none of the three support needs were known or assessed (929)

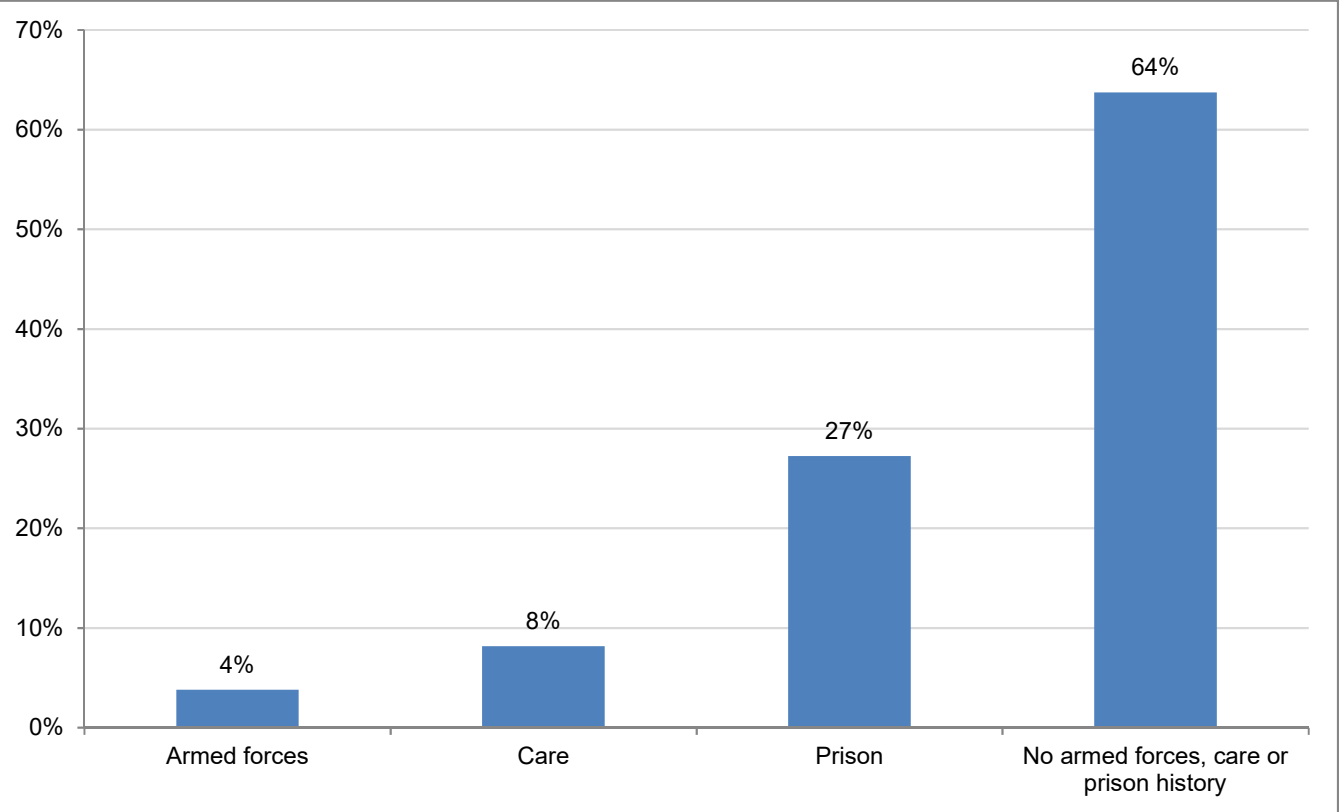
Table 6: People seen rough sleeping in 2023-24 Q4, by support needs combination

Support Needs	No. people	% of people seen rough sleeping
Alcohol only	270	8%
Drugs only	205	6%
Mental health only	593	19%
Alcohol and drugs	89	3%
Alcohol and mental health	214	7%
Drugs and mental health	406	13%
Alcohol, drugs and mental health	308	10%
All three no	1055	33%
All three no, not known or not assessed	49	2%
All three not known or not assessed	929	
Total (excl. not assessed)	3189	100%
Total (incl. not assessed)	4118	

Total excluding not known or assessed is used as base for percentages.

7. INSTITUTIONAL & ARMED FORCES HISTORY

Chart 9: People seen rough sleeping in 2023-24 Q4, by experience of armed forces, care or prison



Base: 3096. Note that the base figure for this chart excludes people for whom none of the three institutional histories were assessed.

Table 7: Nationality of people seen rough sleeping in 2023-24 Q4 with experience of armed forces

Nationality	No. people	% of people seen rough sleeping
UK	34	1%
Non-UK	83	3%
Not known/recorded	0	0%
Total	117	4%

8. ACCOMMODATION & RECONNECTION OUTCOMES

Reconnections and bookings into accommodation achieved by outreach teams, No Second Night Out, and other support services during the period. People included in these figures will have been seen rough sleeping at some point in their history, but not necessarily during the reporting period.

From April 2023, outcomes achieved by the pan-London No Second Night Out and MAPS (formerly Routes Home) services are included in this section of the report, rather than in their own separate section.

Table 8: Accommodation and reconnection outcomes achieved during 2023-24 Q4, compared to 2023-24 Q3, by number of people

	Oct-Dec 23	Jan-Mar 24
Outcome	No. people	No. people
Booked into accommodation or reconnected	2096	1914
Booked into accommodation	2061	1882
Booked into hub, shelter or emergency accommodation	1009	998
Booked into temporary accommodation	1048	944
Booked into long-term accommodation	299	281
Reconnected	93	90

Some people may have been booked into more than one type of accommodation during the period.

Table 9: Reconnection outcomes achieved during 2023-24 Q4, compared to 2023-24 Q3, by number of outcomes

	Oct-Dec 23		Jan-Mar 24	
Reconnection reason	No. events	%	No. events	%
Return to home area	69	73%	61	66%
Seeking work	7	7%	5	5%
Move to area for friends/family	25	27%	27	29%
Move to area with appropriate services	43	46%	47	51%
Reconnections total	94		92	

An individual may have had more than one reconnection during the period. Reconnections can be recorded with multiple reasons, so the overall total will be lower than the combined sum of the separate reconnection reasons. Percentages are based on the total number of reconnections.

	Oct-Dec 23		Jan-Mar 24	
Reconnection destination	No. events	%	No. events	%
UK - London	57	61%	52	57%
UK - outside London	15	16%	20	22%
Europe	9	10%	9	10%
Rest of the world	13	14%	11	12%
<i>Not known</i>	0		0	
Reconnections total (excl. destination not known)	94	100%	92	100%

An individual may have had more than one reconnection during the period.

Table 10: Accommodation outcomes achieved during 2023-24 Q4, compared to 2023-24 Q3, by number of outcomes

Accommodation type	Oct-Dec 23		Jan-Mar 24	
	No. events	%	No. events	%
Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation				
Hub	51	2%	27	1%
Nightstop	8	0%	6	0%
SWEP (Local)	563	21%	852	32%
SWEP (Pan-London)	83	3%	167	6%
Winter/Night Shelter	500	18%	208	8%
<i>Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>1205</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>1260</i>	<i>47%</i>
Temporary accommodation				
Assessment centre	194	7%	160	6%
Bed & breakfast	245	9%	205	8%
Clinic/Detox/Rehab	4	0%	10	0%
Friends & family	22	1%	27	1%
Hostel	156	6%	182	7%
Local authority temporary accommodation	326	12%	289	11%
Staging post	158	6%	125	5%
Other temporary accommodation	126	5%	130	5%
<i>Temporary accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>1231</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>1128</i>	<i>42%</i>
Long-term accommodation				
Care home	4	0%	5	0%
Clearing House/RSI	47	2%	44	2%
Local authority tenancy (general needs)	10	0%	11	0%
Private rented sector - independent	96	4%	91	3%
Private rented sector - with some floating support	40	1%	44	2%
RSL tenancy (general needs)	3	0%	4	0%
Sheltered housing	3	0%	9	0%
Supported housing	89	3%	68	3%
Tied accommodation	1	0%	2	0%
Other long-term accommodation	10	0%	8	0%
<i>Long-term accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>303</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>286</i>	<i>11%</i>
Total	2739	100%	2674	100%

An individual may have been booked into accommodation more than once during the period.

9. TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

Hostels, assessment centres and second-stage accommodation.

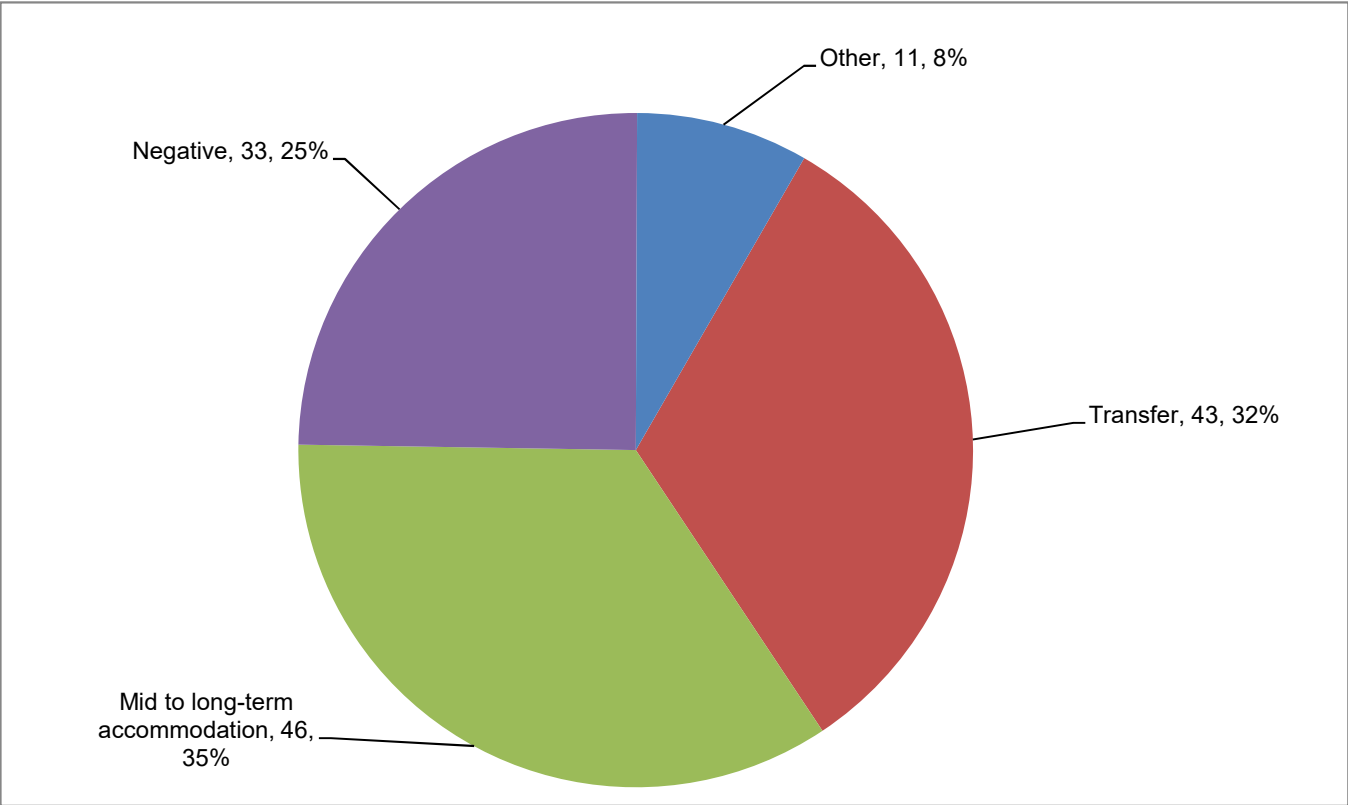
Arrivals

A total of 94 individuals arrived at temporary accommodation during the period.

Departures: Destination on Departure

A total of 131 individuals departed from temporary accommodation during the period.

Chart 10: Departures from temporary accommodation in 2023-24 Q4, by destination on departure



Base: 133

Destination on departure	Destination category	Chart colour
Assessment Centre, Bed & Breakfast, Covid-19 emergency hotel, Detox clinic, Hospital - not long-term/acute care, Hostel - another organisation, Hostel - within the organisation, Internal SWEP transfer, Internal transfer, NASS accommodation, Night shelter, NSNO staging post, Psychiatric hospital, Rehab clinic, Temporary accommodation (LA)	Transfer	
Accommodation where client is owner, Care home, Clearing House/RSI, Hospital - long-term, LA tenancy (general needs), Long stay hospice, Private rented sector - independent, Private rented sector - with some floating support, Returned to home country (EEA), Returned to home country (non EEA), RSL tenancy (general needs), Sheltered Housing, Supported Housing, Tied accommodation with work	Mid to long-term accommodation	
Died by suicide, Not known, Sleeping rough/Returned to streets, Taken into custody	Negative	
Died, Previous home, Staying with family, Staying with friends, Other	Other	

An individual may have had more than one accommodation departure during the period.

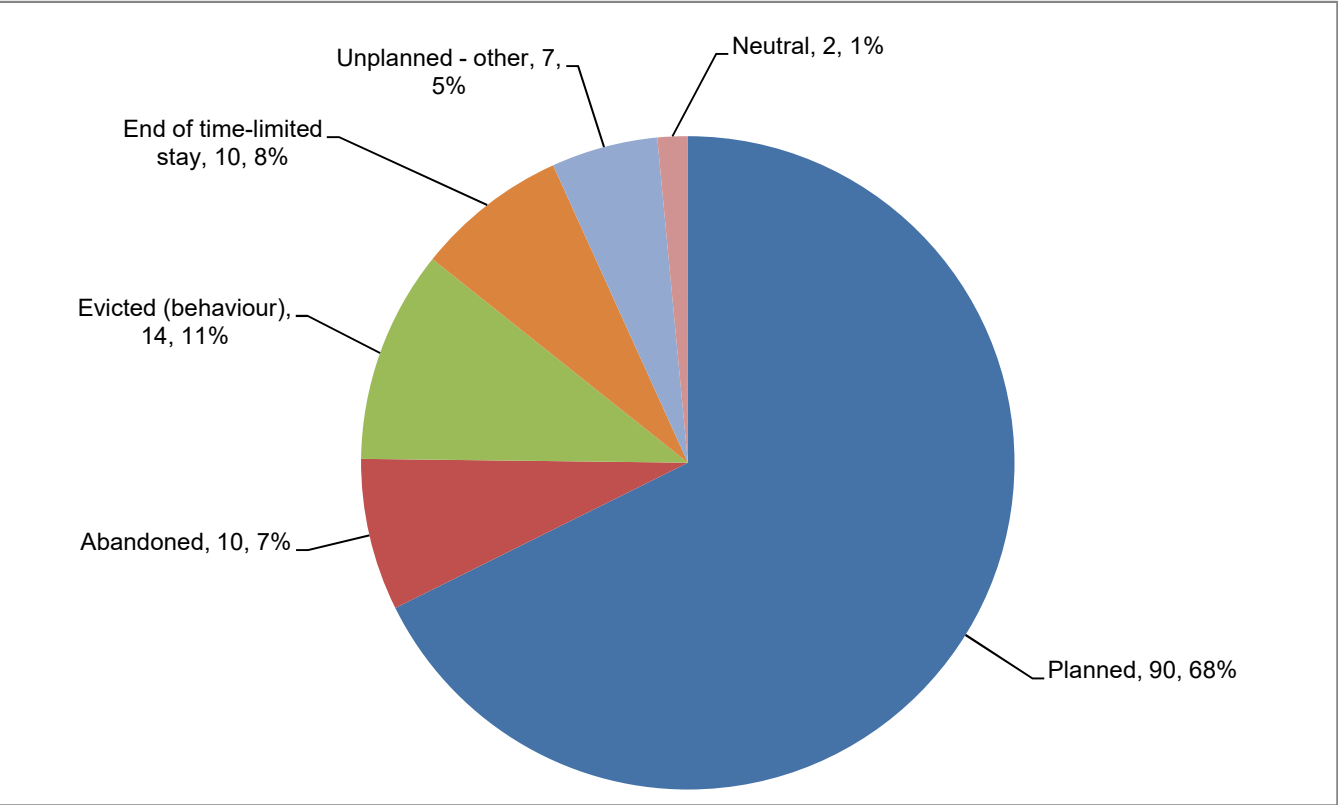
Table 11: Departures from temporary accommodation in 2023-24 Q4, by destination on departure

Destination on departure	No. departures	%
Transfer		
Assessment centre	5	4%
Bed & breakfast	0	0%
Detox clinic	2	2%
Hospital - not long-term/acute care	1	1%
Hostel - another organisation	11	8%
Hostel - within the organisation	4	3%
Hosting placement	0	0%
Internal SWEP transfer	0	0%
Internal transfer	2	2%
NASS accommodation	4	3%
Night shelter	0	0%
NSNO staging post	0	0%
Psychiatric hospital	2	2%
Rehab clinic	0	0%
Temporary accommodation (LA)	12	9%
<i>Transfer subtotal</i>	43	32%
Mid to long-term accommodation		
Accommodation where client is owner	1	1%
Care home	0	0%
Clearing House/RSI	1	1%
Hospital - long-term	0	0%
LA tenancy (general needs)	1	1%
Long stay hospice	0	0%
Private rented sector - independent	10	8%
Private rented sector - with some floating support	10	8%
Returned to home country (EEA)	4	3%
Returned to home country (non EEA)	1	1%
RSL tenancy (general needs)	1	1%
Sheltered Housing	1	1%
Supported Housing	15	11%
Tied accommodation with work	1	1%
<i>Mid to long-term accommodation subtotal</i>	46	35%
Negative		
Died by suicide	0	0%
Not known	18	14%
Sleeping rough/Returned to streets	10	8%
Taken into custody	5	4%
<i>Negative subtotal</i>	33	25%
Other		
Died	2	2%
Previous home	2	2%
Staying with family	2	2%
Staying with friends	2	2%
Other	3	2%
<i>Other subtotal</i>	11	8%
Total	133	100%

An individual may have had more than one accommodation departure during the period.

Departures: Reason for Leaving

Chart 11: Departures from temporary accommodation in 2023-24 Q4, by reason for leaving



Base: 133

An individual may have had more than one accommodation departure during the period.

10. METHODOLOGY

From January 2014 onwards, CHAIN rough sleeping figures returned to being reported on a quarterly basis, following a two year period of reporting on a bi-monthly cycle.

Alongside the change in reporting period, we have also made some other adjustments to our reporting methodology. People who have been seen rough sleeping in more than one borough during the period will now be counted towards the figures for each relevant borough, rather than being assigned to one borough only, as was previously the case with bi-monthly reports. This means that the overall unique rough sleepers total for London will not be the same as the sum of all separate borough figures.

The new quarterly reports continue to employ the methodology of assigning rough sleepers to categories based on the following factors:

- Whether they were new rough sleepers during the period
- How many times they were seen rough sleeping during the period
- Number of days elapsed between first and last time they were seen rough sleeping during the period

We continue to apply the same thresholds for the above factors to the quarterly reporting period that we previously used for bi-monthly reporting. A further explanation of the individual categories follows.

New rough sleepers

New rough sleepers, who were seen for the first time during the period. The total number of new rough sleepers is broken down into those who were seen just once and did not have a second night out, those who were seen on several occasions, but as yet have not been on the streets long enough to count as 'living on the streets', and those new to the streets who remained there long enough to fulfil the criteria for 'living on the streets' (outlined below).

Living on the streets (LOS)

With the designation 'living on the streets' we refer to rough sleepers who have stayed on the streets after arriving, and are entrenched or at risk of becoming so. In determining who is counted as living on the streets we have used a combination of time on the streets (three or more weeks between the earliest and latest bedded down contact) and number of bedded down contacts (five or more contacts) during the period we are reporting on. If a person is seen bedded down six times, but only during one week, he or she does not count. If a person has four bedded down contacts, but spread over two months, he or she would also not count. To be counted a rough sleeper must have both elements.

The reporting period covers three months. However, to ensure that we do not miss those whose rough sleeping crosses over reporting periods we look back for the three weeks immediately before the start of the three month reporting period. For a rough sleeper in these circumstances, if they are not seen again, he or she will not be reported living on the streets in the next period.

The LOS total will include some who were new to the streets in the period, but whose stay extended beyond three weeks and who were seen bedded down at least five times - these are transferred from the new rough sleeper figures (shown in red in both section one and two of the report).

It is important to note that a rough sleeper who is included in the LOS total will not necessarily have been living on the streets for the entirety of the quarter in question, but they were living on the streets for a significant period during the quarter. The LOS total will also include some who are no longer on the streets, having gone into accommodation (or disappeared). They will not appear in the subsequent LOS total. Rough sleepers will only count as LOS during the period where they meet the above definition.

RS205+ refers to people who have been identified as especially hard to help because of their prolific history of rough sleeping. This group appear in the LOS chart if they have any number of bedded down contacts within the two months being reported on.

Intermittent rough sleepers

Intermittent rough sleepers are those who are not new in this period, and have not been seen rough sleeping enough to be deemed living on the streets. This group includes those who sleep rough periodically for very short periods (including some street drinkers and beggars). It also will include those who return to the streets for a longer period (but in this period less than the 'living on the streets' definition). Those that go on to be living on the streets will appear in that category in the next period.

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