

---

# CHAIN QUARTERLY REPORT

## GREATER LONDON

### APRIL - JUNE 2024

SUPPORTED BY  
MAYOR OF LONDON



CHAIN

# COPYRIGHT

**Greater London Authority**  
**July 2024**

Published by  
Greater London Authority  
City Hall  
Kamal Chunchie Way  
London  
E16 1ZE  
**[www.london.gov.uk](http://www.london.gov.uk)**

CHAIN enquiries 020 7840 4451

Copies of this report are available  
from <http://data.london.gov.uk>

# 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 OUTCOMES

## 9. METHODOLOGY

# 1. INTRODUCTION & KEY FINDINGS

## Introduction

This quarterly report presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London in April-June 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](http://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>. A suite of interactive charts and maps based on the data can be accessed via the CHAIN Quarterly Data Visualisations Tool at <https://bit.ly/chain-quarterly-vis-tool>.

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

<b>New rough sleepers</b>	Those who had not been contacted by outreach teams rough sleeping before the period
<b>Living on the streets</b>	Those who have had a high number of contacts over 3 weeks or more which suggests they are living on the streets
<b>Intermittent rough sleepers</b>	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.

### Changes to CHAIN quarterly report content for 2024/25

Previous editions of this report have included a section on arrivals and departures at temporary accommodation managed by homelessness support providers (primarily hostels and assessment centres). We have discontinued this section as the number of accommodation services inputting information to CHAIN has declined over recent years, meaning the dataset in this area is incomplete and could be misleading. Data on usage of and outcomes from accommodation services may be available from individual support provider organisations.

We have also discontinued the previously published section on reconnection outcomes achieved with people seen rough sleeping. This is partly because fewer services are focusing on facilitating reconnections abroad than in former years, and partly because there are significant variations across the sector in the understanding of what constitutes a reconnection, meaning it has been difficult to ensure a consistent and reliable dataset in this area.

## Key findings

### New rough sleepers

In the period April-June 2024 outreach teams recorded 1931 people in London sleeping rough for the first time. Of these:

- 1419 (73%) spent just one night sleeping rough
- 440 (23%) slept rough for more than one night but did not go on to live on the streets
- 72 (4%) were deemed to be living on the streets.

The number of new rough sleepers recorded during this period was 20% higher than the same period last year.

By comparison, of the 1614 rough sleepers recorded as new to the streets in April-June 2023, 1269 (79%) were seen sleeping rough just once. A lower proportion (19%) 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 April-June 2024 there were 624 people recorded who were deemed to be living on the streets. This total includes:

- 72 people who were new to rough sleeping in London and remained on the streets during the period
- 23 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 52% higher than the same period last year, and 22% higher than the immediately preceding period (January-March 2024).

### Intermittent rough sleepers

The number of people who were seen rough sleeping during April-June 2024 who were not new, and did not have enough contacts to be deemed as living on the streets, was 1740. This is 35% higher than the same period last year, and 6% higher than the immediately preceding period.

Of these:

- 787 people (45%) were seen on just a single occasion
- 454 people (26%) were seen just twice, and
- only 4 (<1%) had six or more contacts.

### Total number of people seen rough sleeping

In total during the period April-June 2024 outreach teams recorded 4223 individuals sleeping rough in the capital. This is a 29% increase on the total figure for April-June 2023.

Of that total:

- new rough sleepers account for 46% of all rough sleepers
- intermittent rough sleepers account for 41% of all those recorded in the period, and
- 15% 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 2024-25 Q1, 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>1931</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>+20%</b>
New RS with no second night out	1419	-5%	+12%
New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	440	-7%	+43%
New RS joining living on the streets population*	72	+6%	+89%

	This period	Last period	Same period last year
Proportion of new rough sleepers prevented from spending a second night out	73%	74%	79%

#### LIVING ON THE STREETS (LOS)

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
<b>Total</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>+22%</b>	<b>+52%</b>
LOS - Transferred from new RS*	72	+6%	+89%
LOS - Known	529	+26%	+52%
LOS - RS205+	23	-4%	-12%

#### INTERMITTENT ROUGH SLEEPERS

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
<b>Total</b>	<b>1740</b>	<b>+6%</b>	<b>+35%</b>

	This period	Last period	Same period last year
Proportion of intermittent rough sleepers seen only once during period	45%	45%	48%

#### OVERALL TOTAL ROUGH SLEEPERS

	No. this period	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
<b>Total</b>	<b>4223</b>	<b>+3%</b>	<b>+29%</b>

\*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 2023-24 Q1 to 2024-25 Q1

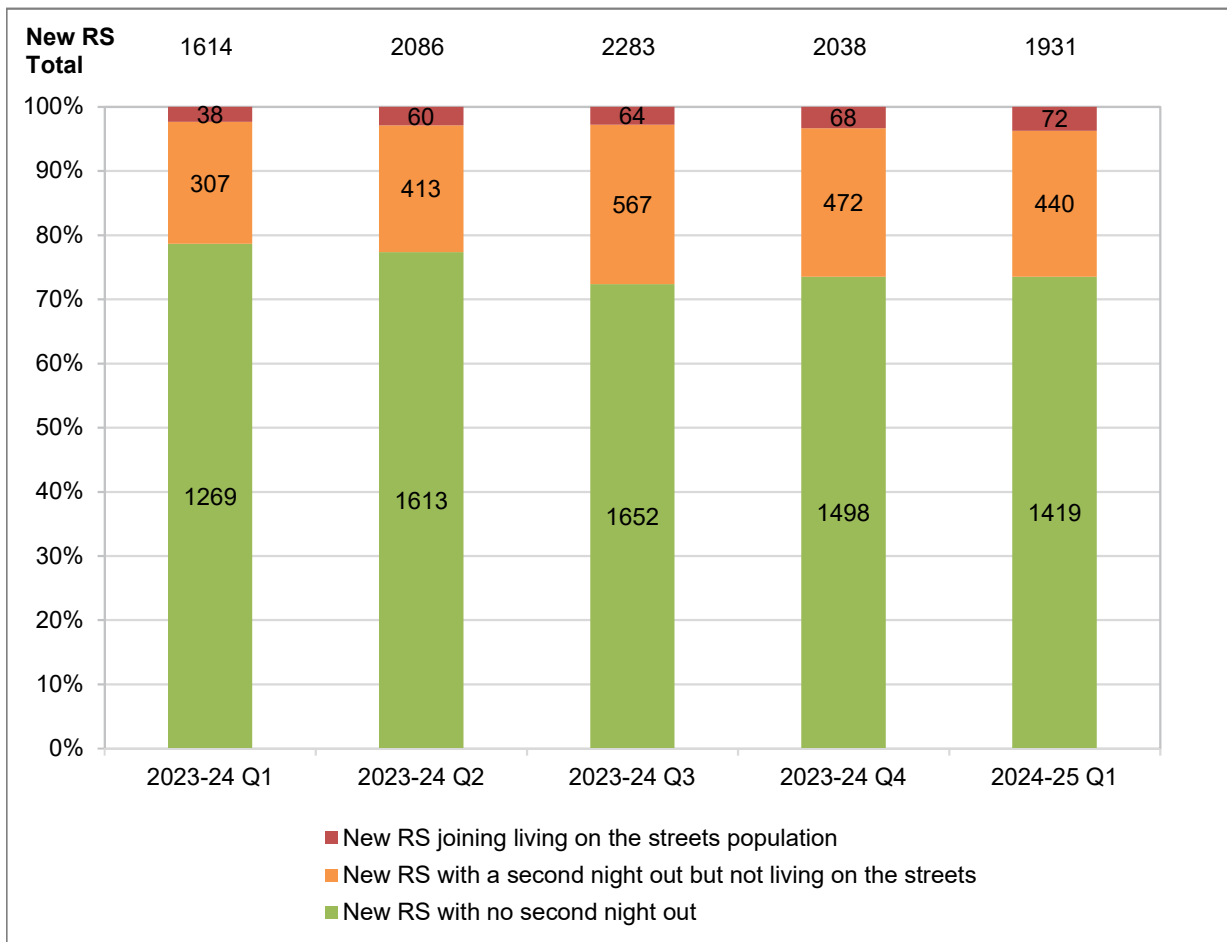


Table 2: New rough sleepers in 2024-25 Q1, by subcategory

Category	No. this period
New RS with no second night out	1419
New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	440
New RS joining living on the streets population	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>1931</b>

New RS = New rough sleepers

## All London Boroughs: No One Living on the Streets

Chart 2: People living on the streets 2023-24 Q1 to 2024-25 Q1

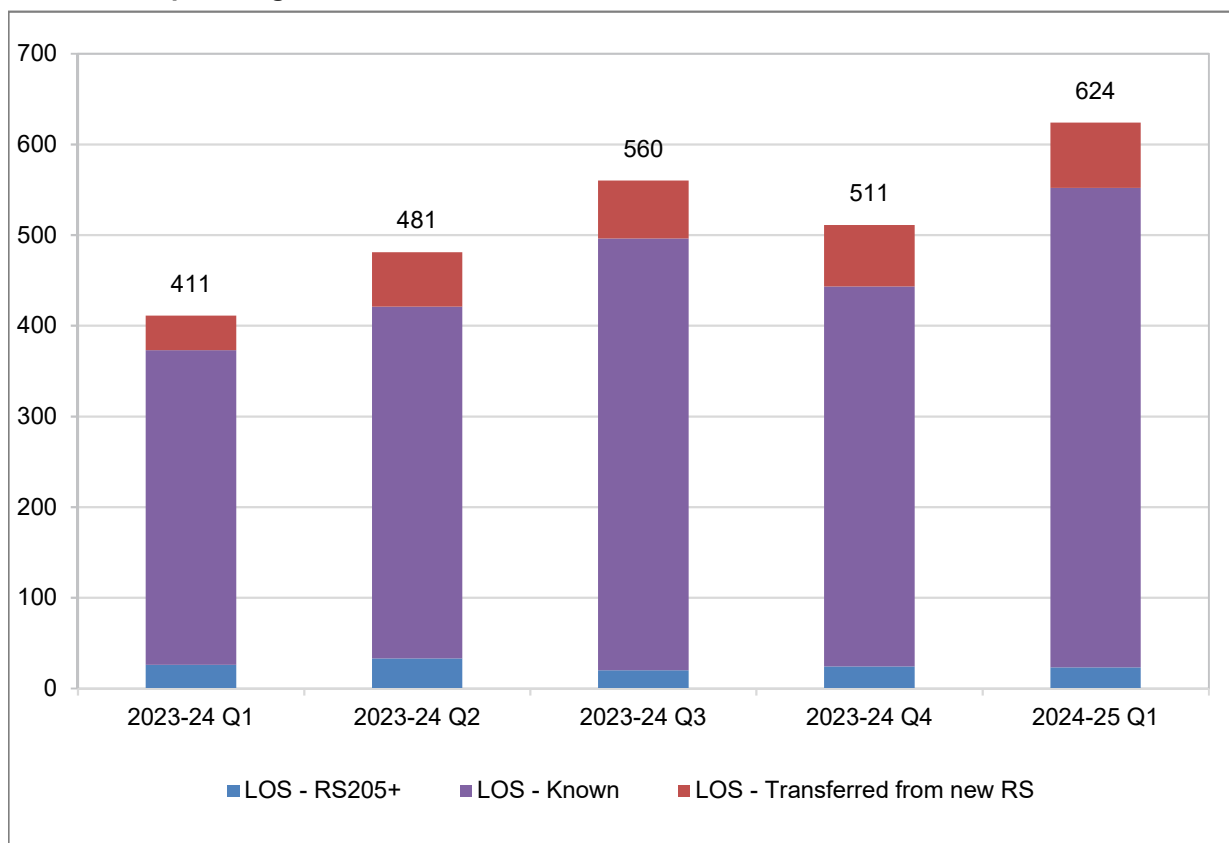


Table 3: People living on the streets in 2024-25 Q1, by subcategory

Category	No. this period
LOS - Transferred from new RS	72
LOS - Known	529
LOS - RS205+	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>624</b>



## All London Boroughs: Intermittent Rough Sleepers

Chart 3: Intermittent rough sleepers 2023-24 Q1 to 2024-25 Q1

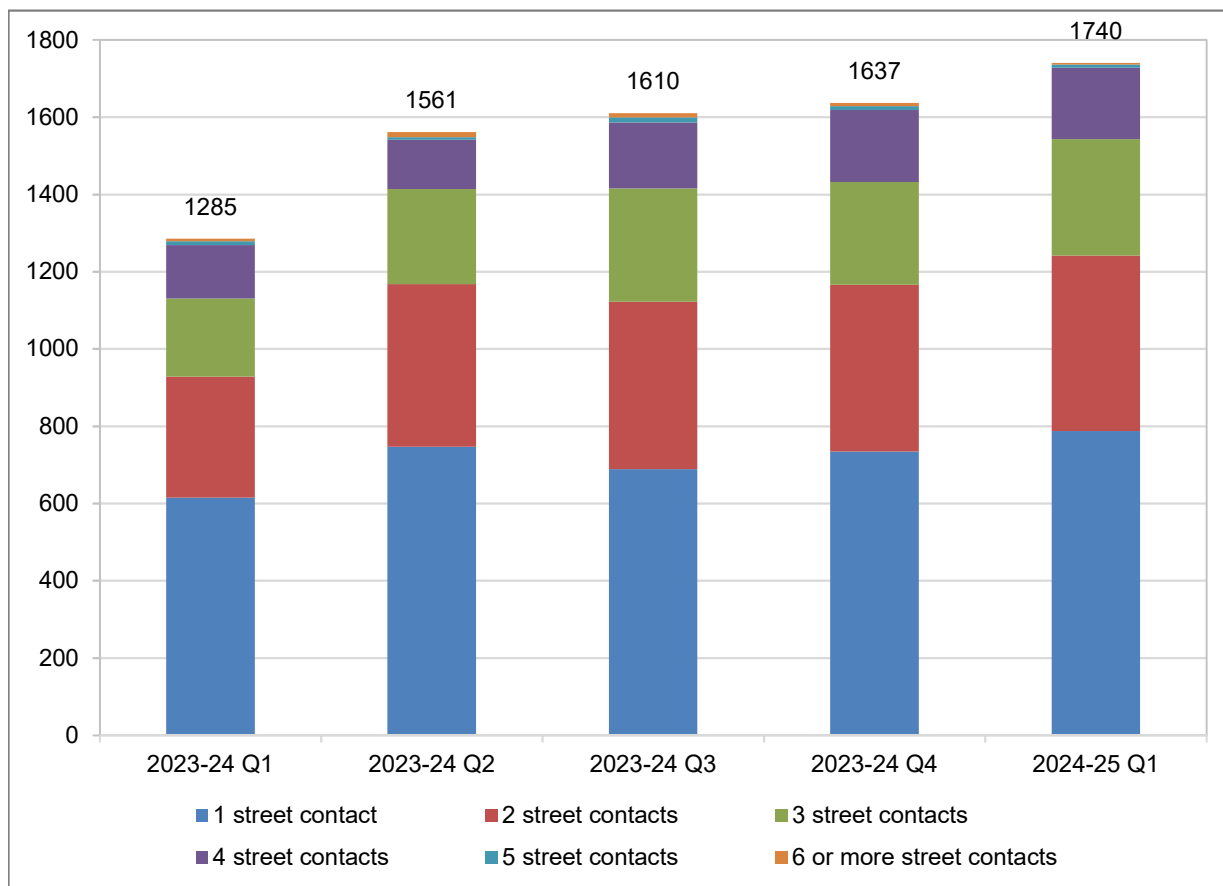


Table 4: Intermittent rough sleepers in 2024-25 Q1, by number of bedded down contacts during the period

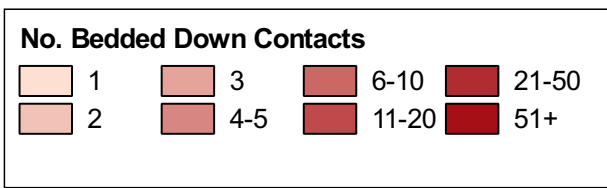
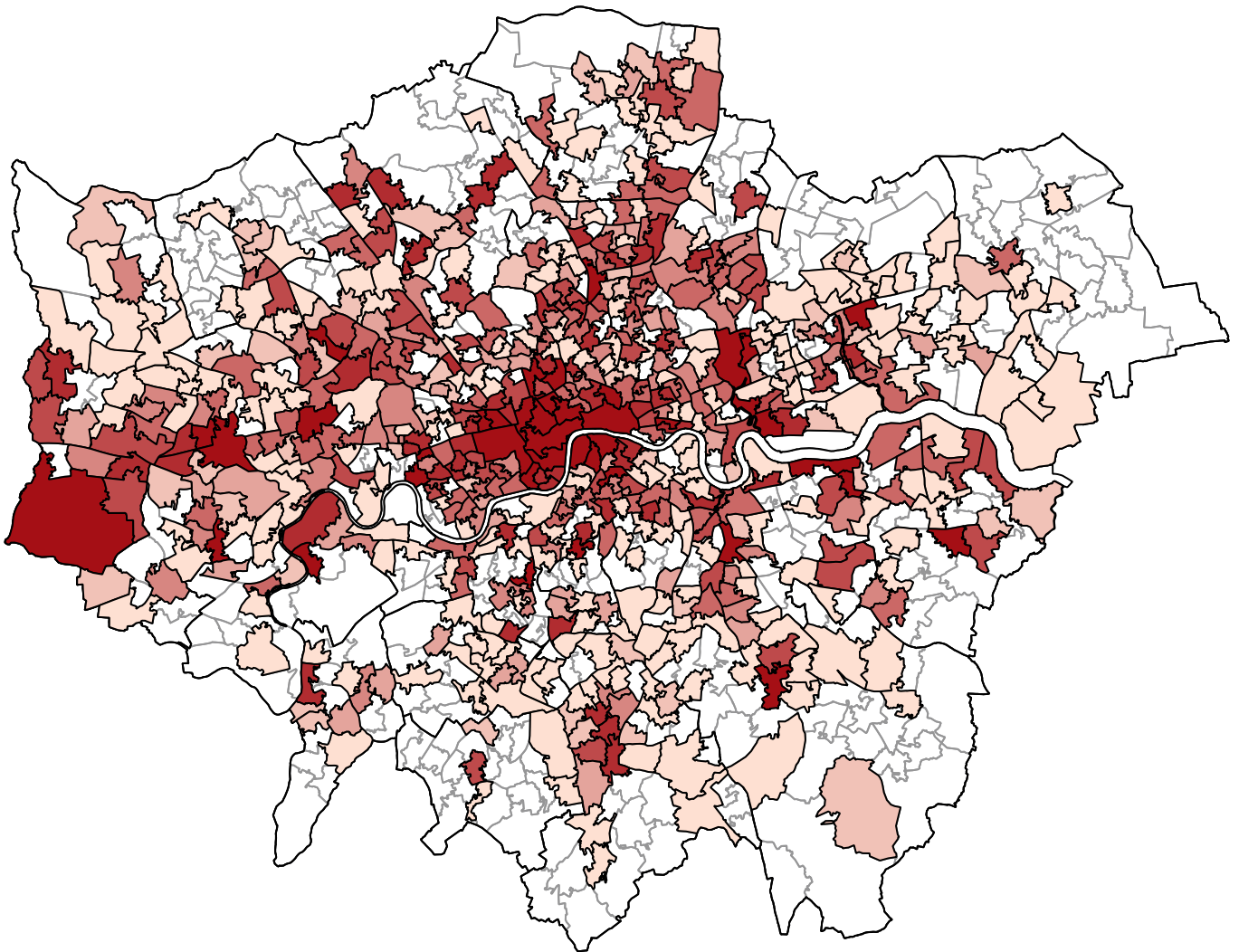
No. bedded down street contacts during this period	No. intermittent rough sleepers
1 street contact	787
2 street contacts	454
3 street contacts	302
4 street contacts	185
5 street contacts	8
6 or more street contacts	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1740</b>

### 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

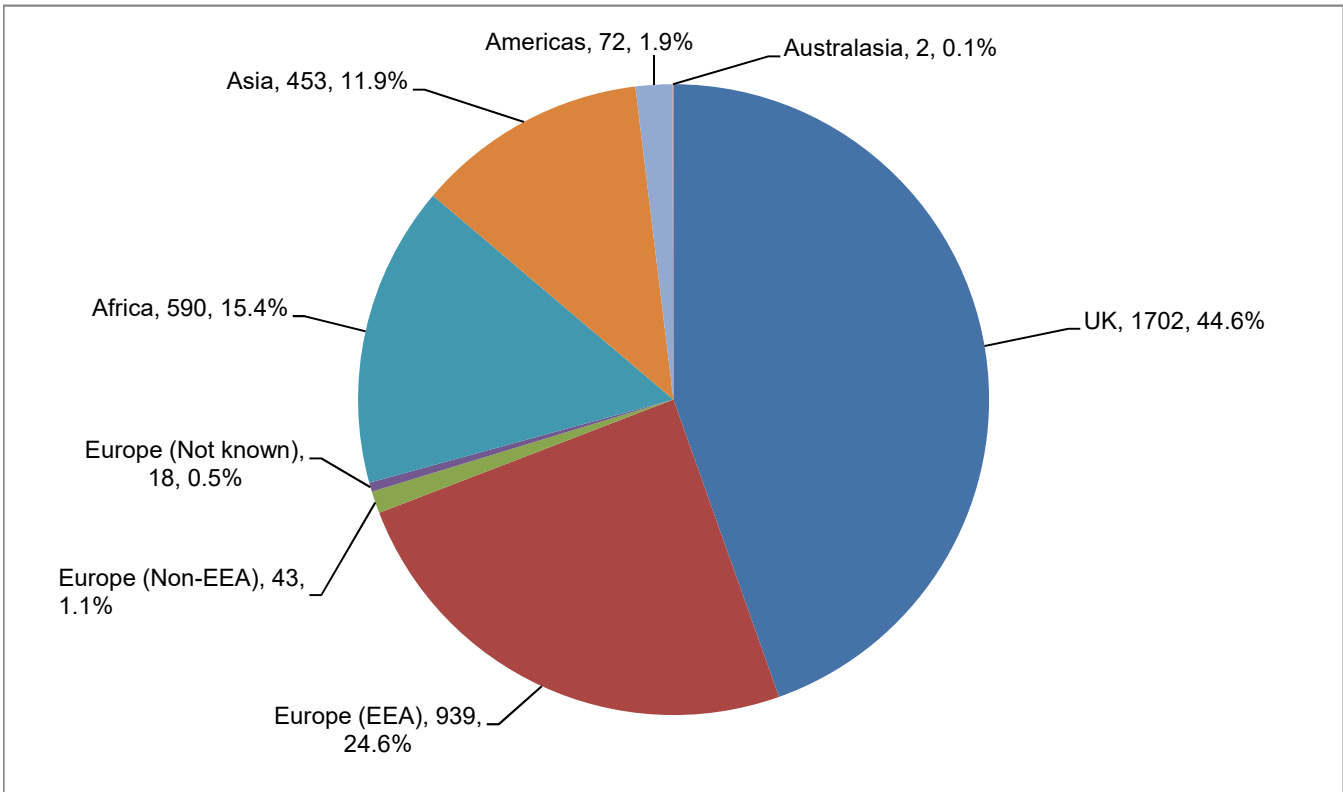
Table 5: People seen rough sleeping 2023-24 Q3 to 2024-25 Q1 by nationality

Nationality	Oct-Dec 23		Jan-Mar 24		Apr-Jun 24	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	1742	43.5%	1633	43.7%	1702	44.6%
Romania	403	10.1%	339	9.1%	333	8.7%
Poland	228	5.7%	194	5.2%	221	5.8%
Lithuania	67	1.7%	57	1.5%	65	1.7%
Ireland (Republic of)	46	1.1%	57	1.5%	52	1.4%
Portugal	52	1.3%	40	1.1%	45	1.2%
Italy	37	0.9%	45	1.2%	46	1.2%
Bulgaria	48	1.2%	41	1.1%	47	1.2%
Spain	15	0.4%	21	0.6%	18	0.5%
France	23	0.6%	16	0.4%	22	0.6%
Latvia	18	0.4%	9	0.2%	14	0.4%
Other European (EEA) countries	67	1.7%	60	1.6%	76	2.0%
Europe (EEA)	1004	25.1%	879	23.5%	939	24.6%
Europe (Non-EEA)	42	1.0%	39	1.0%	43	1.1%
Europe (Not known)	19	0.5%	13	0.3%	18	0.5%
Eritrea	281	7.0%	216	5.8%	175	4.6%
Sudan	170	4.2%	184	4.9%	153	4.0%
Nigeria	37	0.9%	39	1.0%	45	1.2%
Ethiopia	26	0.6%	43	1.2%	34	0.9%
Somalia	27	0.7%	25	0.7%	31	0.8%
Other African countries	139	3.5%	154	4.1%	152	4.0%
Africa	680	17.0%	661	17.7%	590	15.4%
India	183	4.6%	154	4.1%	159	4.2%
Afghanistan	43	1.1%	67	1.8%	73	1.9%
Iran	60	1.5%	53	1.4%	58	1.5%
Syrian Arab Republic	18	0.4%	34	0.9%	24	0.6%
Pakistan	19	0.5%	16	0.4%	12	0.3%
Other Asian countries	119	3.0%	110	2.9%	127	3.3%
Asia	442	11.0%	434	11.6%	453	11.9%
Americas	73	1.8%	75	2.0%	72	1.9%
Australasia	3	0.1%	2	0.1%	2	0.1%
Not known	384		382		404	
<b>Total (excl. not known)</b>	<b>4005</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3736</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3819</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Total (incl. not known)	4389		4118		4223	

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

### Nationality: Breakdown by area

Chart 4: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q1, by nationality

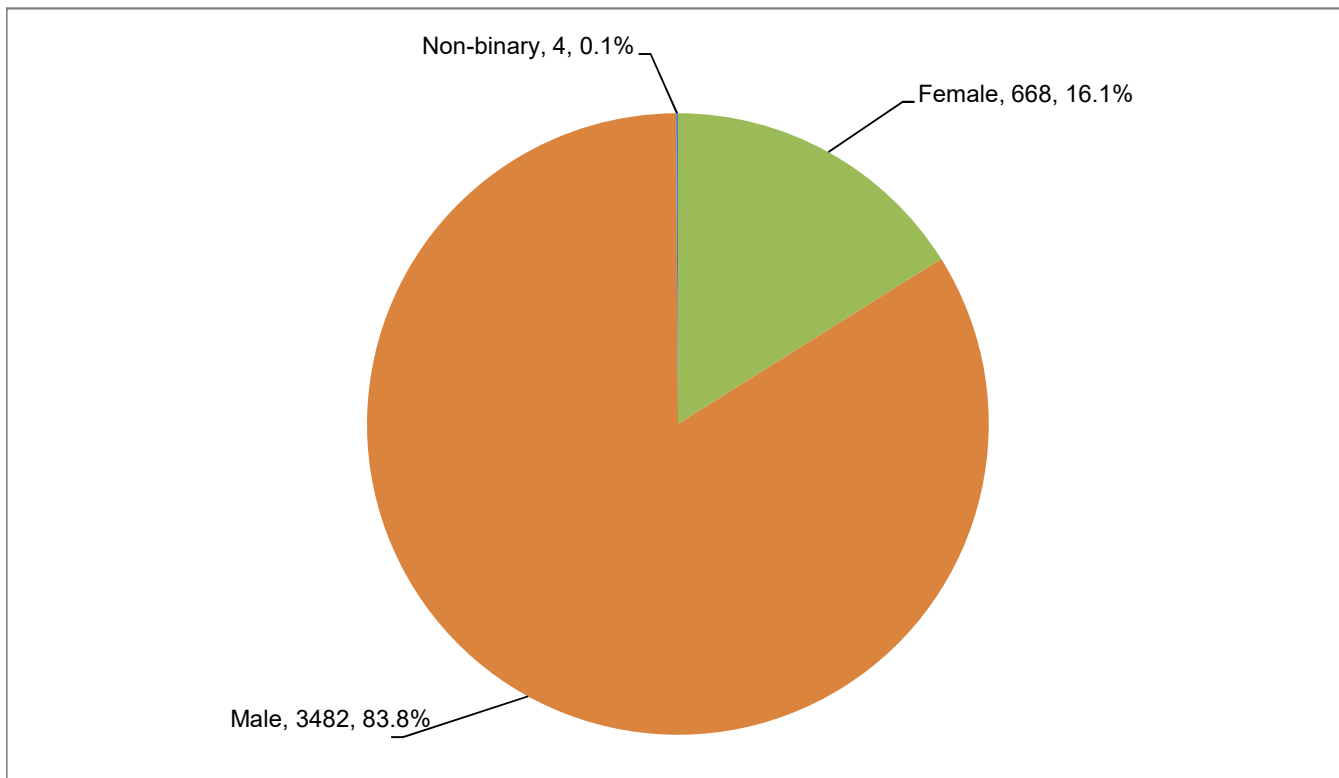


Base: 3819 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose nationality was known. This excludes 404 people whose nationality was not known.

## 5. DEMOGRAPHICS

### Gender

Chart 5: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q1, by gender



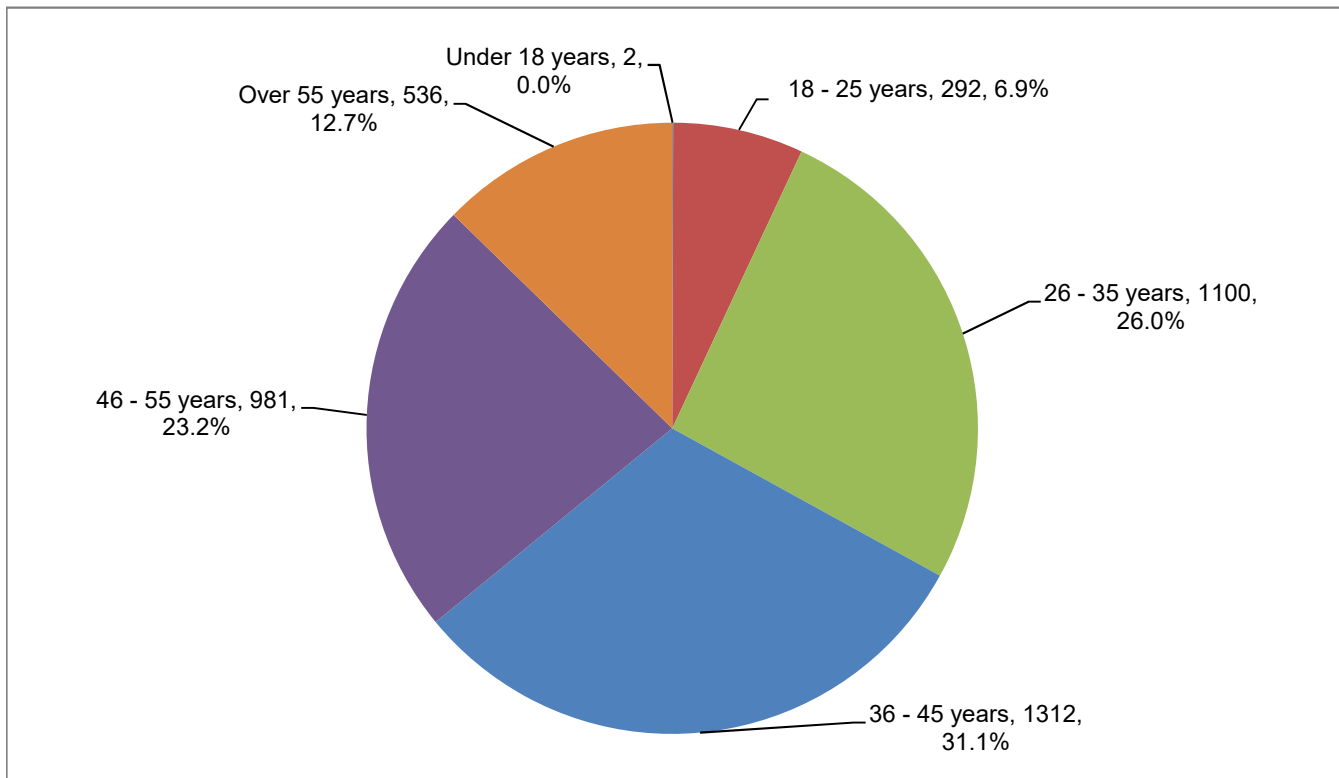
Base: 4154 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose gender was known. This excludes 69 people whose gender was not known.

Table 6: People seen rough sleeping during 2024-25 Q1, by gender

Gender	No.	%
Female	668	16.1%
Male	3482	83.8%
Non-binary	4	0.1%
Not known	69	
<b>Total (excl. not known)</b>	<b>4154</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Total (incl. not known)</b>	<b>4223</b>	

## Age

**Chart 6: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q1, by age**



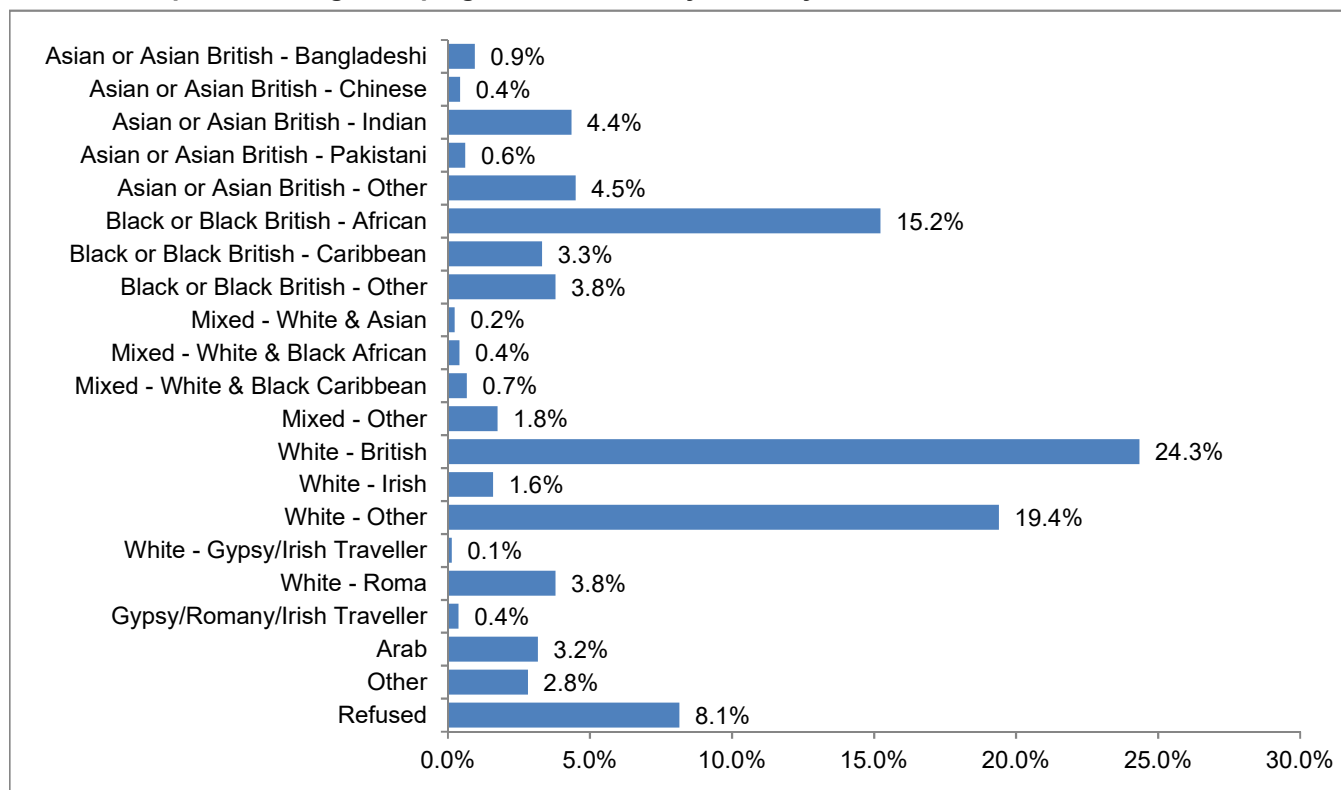
Base: 4223 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

**Table 7: People seen rough sleeping during 2024-25 Q1, by age**

Age	No.	%
Under 18 years	2	0.0%
18 - 25 years	292	6.9%
26 - 35 years	1100	26.0%
36 - 45 years	1312	31.1%
46 - 55 years	981	23.2%
Over 55 years	536	12.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4223</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Ethnicity

**Chart 7: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q1, by ethnicity**



Base: 4223 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

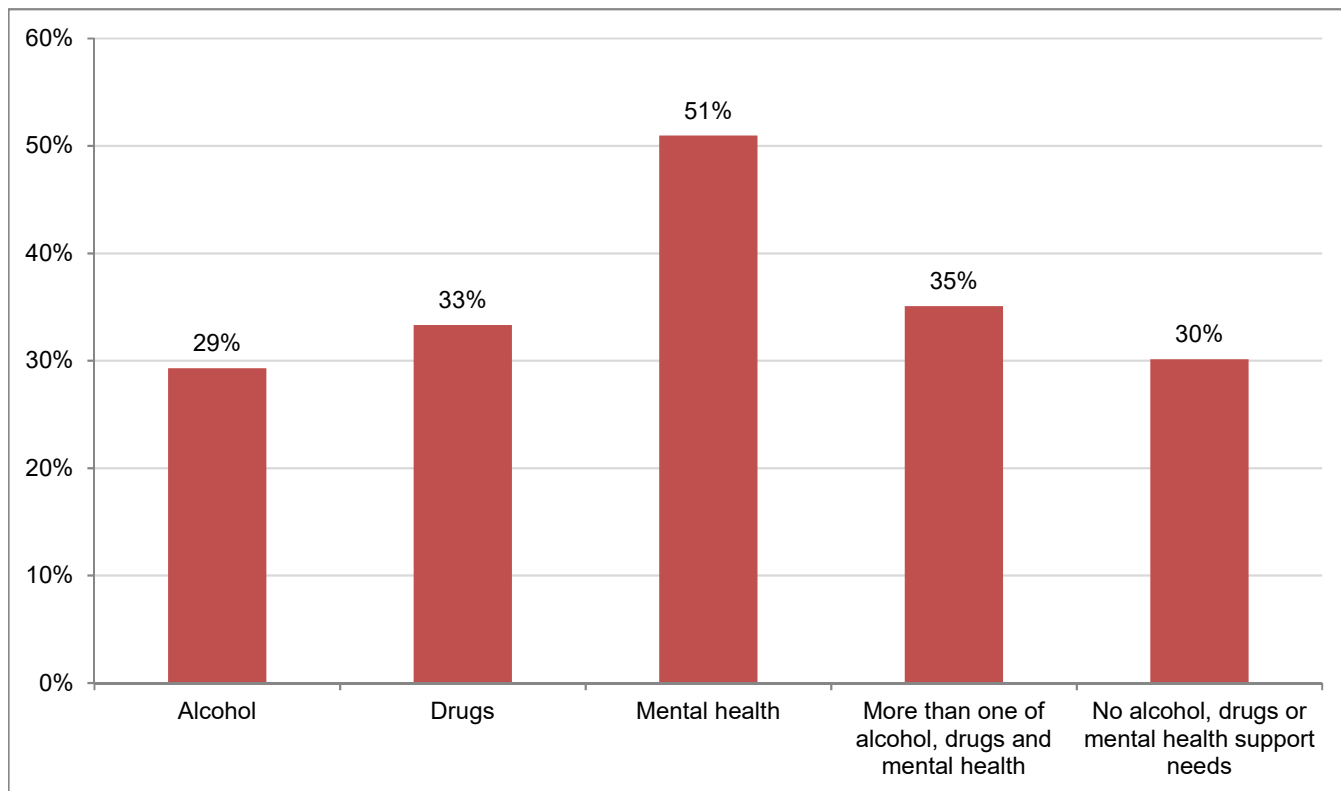
The previously employed category of 'Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller' was replaced with separate categories for 'White - Gypsy/Irish Traveller' and 'White - Roma' in April 2021. However, many people seen rough sleeping during the period may not have had their ethnicity information updated to reflect these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

**Table 8: People seen rough sleeping during 2024-25 Q1, by ethnicity**

Ethnicity	No.	%
Asian (incl. Chinese)	458	10.8%
Black	943	22.3%
Mixed	129	3.1%
White (incl. Gypsy/Irish Traveller/Roma)	2096	49.6%
Arab/Other	253	6.0%
Refused	344	8.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4223</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 6. SUPPORT NEEDS

**Chart 8: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q1, by support needs**



Base: 3311 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 912 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

**Table 9: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q1, by support needs**

Support need	No.	%
Alcohol	970	29.3%
Drugs	1103	33.3%
Mental health	1687	51.0%
More than one of alcohol, drugs and mental health	1161	35.1%
No alcohol, drugs or mental health support needs	998	30.1%
<b>Total (excl. not assessed)</b>	<b>3311</b>	
<b>Total (incl. not assessed)</b>	<b>4223</b>	

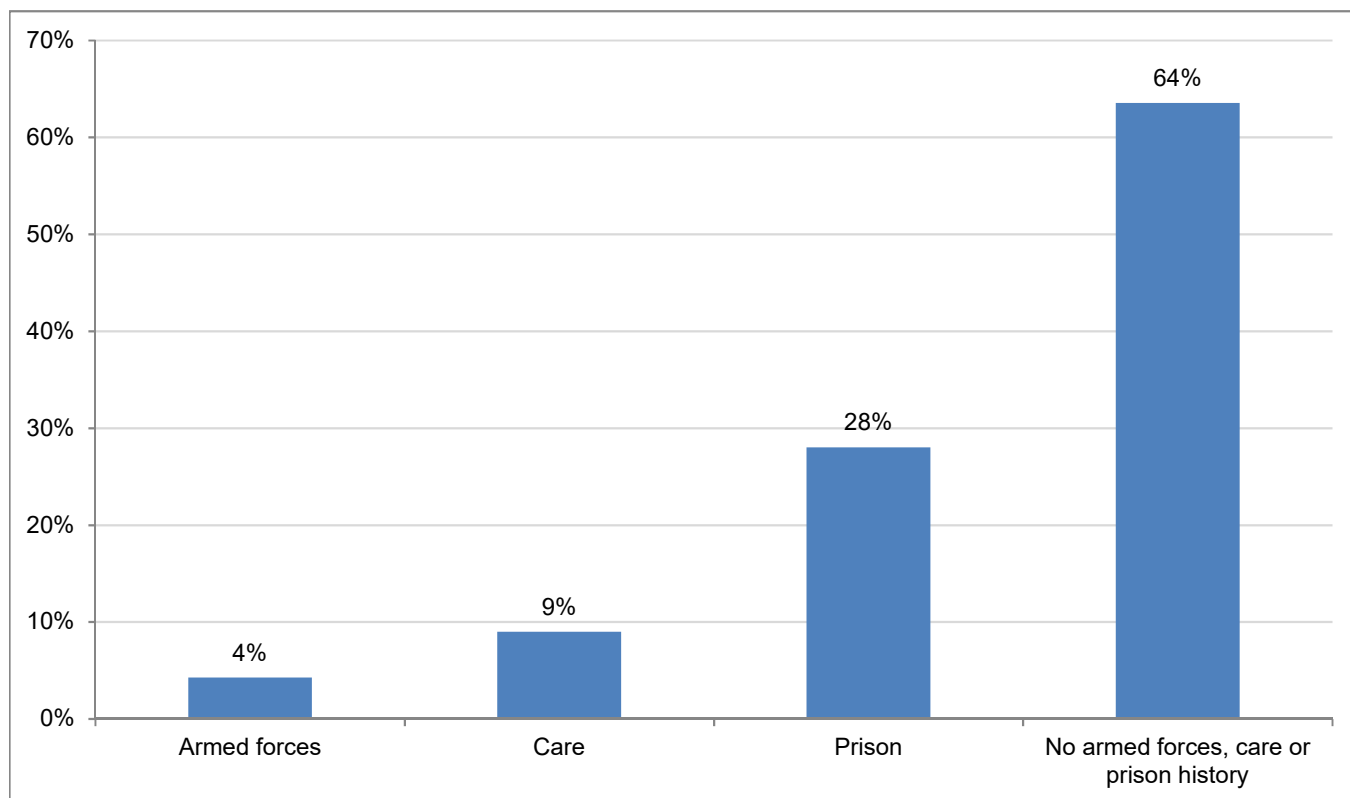
Base for percentages is people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs.



## 7. INSTITUTIONAL & ARMED FORCES HISTORY

The chart below indicates the proportions of people seen rough sleeping in Greater London during the period who had experience of spending time in prison or in local authority care as a young person, or of serving in the armed forces. This information indicates whether individuals have ever spent time in one of these settings, and does not necessarily imply that this was recent. It can include time spent in one of these settings in any country, and does not necessarily imply that it was in the UK.

**Chart 9: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q1, by experience of armed forces, care or prison**



Base: 3197 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 1026 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

**Table 10: People seen rough sleeping in 2024-25 Q1, by institutional and armed forces history**

Type of history	No.	%
Armed forces	136	4.3%
Armed forces - UK nationals	48	1.5%
Care	287	9.0%
Prison	896	28.0%
No armed forces, care or prison history	2032	63.6%
<b>Total (excl. not assessed)</b>	<b>3197</b>	
<b>Total (incl. not assessed)</b>	<b>4223</b>	

Base for percentages is people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three histories.

## 8. ACCOMMODATION OUTCOMES

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.

**Table 11: Accommodation outcomes achieved during 2024-25 Q1, compared to 2023-24 Q4, by number of people**

	Jan-Mar 24	Apr-Jun 24
Outcome	No. people	No. people
Booked into accommodation	1882	1333
Booked into hub, shelter or emergency accommodation	998	393
Booked into temporary accommodation	944	883
Booked into long-term accommodation	281	296

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

**Table 12: Accommodation outcomes achieved during 2024-25 Q1, compared to 2023-24 Q4, by number of outcomes**

Accommodation type	Jan-Mar 24		Apr-Jun 24	
	No. events	%	No. events	%
<b>Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation</b>				
Hub	27	1%	377	22%
Nightstop	6	0%	0	0%
SWEP (Local)	852	32%	5	0%
SWEP (Pan-London)	167	6%	0	0%
Winter/Night Shelter	208	8%	18	1%
<i>Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>1260</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>23%</i>
<b>Temporary accommodation</b>				
Assessment centre	160	6%	179	10%
Bed & breakfast	205	8%	179	10%
Clinic/Detox/Rehab	10	0%	2	0%
Friends & family	27	1%	13	1%
Hostel	182	7%	155	9%
Local authority temporary accommodation	289	11%	255	15%
Staging post	125	5%	128	7%
Other temporary accommodation	130	5%	100	6%
<i>Temporary accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>1128</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>1011</i>	<i>59%</i>
<b>Long-term accommodation</b>				
Care home	5	0%	3	0%
Clearing House/RSI	44	2%	48	3%
Local authority tenancy (general needs)	11	0%	11	1%
Private rented sector - independent	91	3%	99	6%
Private rented sector - with some floating support	44	2%	41	2%
RSL tenancy (general needs)	4	0%	3	0%
Sheltered housing	9	0%	7	0%
Supported housing	68	3%	83	5%
Tied accommodation	2	0%	2	0%
Other long-term accommodation	8	0%	10	1%
<i>Long-term accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>286</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>307</i>	<i>18%</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2674</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1718</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

## 9. 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.

---

SUPPORTED BY  
**MAYOR OF LONDON**

