



National Traveller Mabs

Money Advice & Budgeting Service

- Pre Budget Submission - Budget 2018

Prepared Oct 2017

Focus – Travellers addressing fuel poverty

(an addendum document to the Dublin 10 & 20 MABS document on Fuel Poverty)

National Traveller MABS was formally established in 2005 and is fully funded by the Citizens Information Board (CIB). National Traveller MABS *is a leading advocate for the financial inclusion of Travellers in Ireland.*

Travellers and accommodation in the Republic of Ireland

Travellers in Ireland represent just over half of one percent of the total population according to the Central Statistics Office, with the 2011 Census citing an Irish Traveller population of approximately 30,000. As a community, Travellers continue to face high levels of unemployment, low levels of education, poor health (in comparison to the majority settled population), higher mortality rates and many live on halting sites in very poor conditions. Failure to grant Travellers formal status as a recognised ethnic group has directly and indirectly contributed to the poor levels of attainment outlined above. Greater detail on the level of disadvantage faced by Travellers is available through the recently published National Traveller Survey of 2017, commissioned by the Community Foundation for Ireland.

The Irish state formally recognised Travellers as an indigenous ethnic minority in March 2017, and the Department of Justice launched the [National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021](#) launched in June. Minister Stanton wrote

“During the years of the recent recession from which Ireland is slowly emerging, those at the margins of our society frequently – and regrettably – suffered disproportionately from the effects of financial adjustments during the financial crisis. Now that Ireland’s economy is back on a firmer footing, it is a moral and societal imperative that we work together to address the real needs of these communities”.

Priorities Budget 2018

Fuel Poverty

When approached by our colleagues in Dublin 10 & 20 MABS, we wanted to prepare this document to lend credence to the fact that this issue directly and disproportionately affects the lives of Travellers, as borne out by the data in the Dublin 10 & 20 submission.

National Traveller MABS commissioned some research in this area, which was carried out in 2017. It was a Comparative study of how utility provision is administered and rents collected in Traveller specific accommodation in Fingal.

As part of the broader recommendations arising from that research we have the issue of fuel poverty and the following list of initiatives:

Address fuel poverty.

Specific initiatives that:

1. Identify the costs for families (of different sizes and type) of running a caravan (including the percentage of the families' income spent on rent, light and heat);
2. Identify how caravans could be made more energy efficient (e.g. insulation with the application of green technologies (e.g. wind and solar)) undertaken with the Traveller economy and social enterprises
3. Tests the use of district heating

This research and the suggested initiatives could be addressed within the format of the suggested Fuel Poverty Task Force which is being recommended by Dublin 10 & 20 MABS.

National Traveller MABS *is a leading advocate for the financial inclusion of Travellers in Ireland.* National Traveller MABS was established in 2005. It is funded by the Citizens Information Board (CIB).

National Traveller MABS
Unit 2 North Park North Road, Dublin 11
0761 072230
info@ntmabs.org
www.ntmabs.org

For further information contact:

Dermot Sreenan
Joint Coordinator

Dermot_Sreenan@mabs.ie

Nancy Power
Joint Coordinator

Nancy_power@mabs.ie