

Mirror

Rats infest home of heartbroken flood victim after family forced to abandon property

By Blanaid Murphy, 6 January 2016, Mirror, Ireland

Veronica Dilworth may have to wait between eight and 12 months before she and her family are able to move back into their flood-ravaged house



Heartbreak: Flood victim Veronica says the the flooding reached crisis point on New Year's Eve

A heartbroken flood victim forced to abandon her home has revealed how her property has now become infested with rats.

Veronica Dilworth, 41, her husband Joe and their three children took shelter in a nearby hotel after their house was ruined.

And it could be between eight and 12 months before they are able to move back into their flood-ravaged house in Cork city.

Veronica told the Irish Mirror: "Words can't describe it. We have rats now.

"I've already seen six or seven on the back wall but I'm sure there is more than that.

"We can't get the water out of the house because we've no pump.

"So as long as there is water there will be rats there.



Rats: The cost of flood damage could amount to more than £146,000

"The water is still in the garden and there is a bad smell. I don't know if we'll ever get it back to the way it was."

Veronica's husband Joe had a kidney transplant a couple of years ago and she fears his immune system is too weak to return to a damp house.

The householder has flood insurance but the damage could amount to more than £146,000.

She revealed how the flooding reached crisis point on New Year's Eve.

Veronica added: "We live in a dip so all the water from nearby houses and fields gather at our house. At the moment our house is less than three feet of slurry water.

"We eventually got a lorry last night to pump some of the water out.

"But as we pumped it was coming right back in again through the sandbags."

Veronica struggled to hold back the tears as she described the damage the flood waters had caused.



She added: "Until you see it you don't understand. The floorboards have lifted, the carpets have lifted. All of our clothes are destroyed.

"I'm still in my clothes from Friday evening and the kids have none. The bedrooms, the kitchen, every room is destroyed."

However she was full of praise for everyone who helped her over the last few days.

Speaking on Cork's 96FM Opinion Line radio show she added: "Family, friends and neighbours have all been amazing.



Flooding: A farmer removes his boots as he walks home to Cork

"The Montenotte Hotel has been really good and the Rochestown Park Hotel has now offered us a lodge."

According to Met Eireann hundreds of homes and businesses across the country have been left destroyed in what has been the wettest December on record.

Some of the worst hit areas are counties Galway, Kilkenny, Clare and Westmeath.

Elsewhere, a dad of two and his family have been left homeless after their bungalow near Castlemartyr, Cork was also destroyed by floods.

Miley Cotter, his wife, Margaret, and their children, Barry, 27, and 20-year-old Laura, were evacuated by the army.

After two nights in the Midleton Park Hotel, the family is now being looked after at the Castlemartyr Resort.

Mr Cotter said he has no flood insurance and he hasn't had time to apply to the State's humanitarian fund.

He added: "Anyway, every bit of documentation I had is floating in the house."