



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

MONTHLY SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

DECEMBER 2024

04 February 2025
Version 1.0

Note: Data presented are latest available and can change from data previously published due to ongoing validation

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Headline Data – December 2024

Child Protection & Welfare

- **7,685 referrals** in December 2024, 979 (11%) fewer than November 2024 (8,664) and 1,065 (16%) more than December 2023 (6,620). This brings to 96,364 the number of referrals for 2024, 4,440 (5%) more than 2023 (91,924).
- **22,839 cases open to social work** at the end of December 2024, 412 (2%) more than November 2024 (22,427) and 757 (3%) more than December 2023 (22,082). *Open cases include child protection and welfare cases including children in care.*
- **75% (17,049) of cases open to social work at the end of December 2024 had an allocated worker**, down two percentage points from November 2024. (Ref note on Page 4).
- **5,790 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of December 2024, 626 (12%) more than November 2024 (5,164). Third consecutive monthly increase. Cases awaiting allocation are up 459 (9%) from December 2023 (5,331).
- Six areas account for 72% (4,162) of cases awaiting allocation: Dublin South Central (953), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (890), Midlands (730), Cork (682), Louth/Meath (574) and Waterford/Wexford (333).
- **9% (523) of cases awaiting allocation** at the end of December 2024 were **categorised as high priority**, 81 (18%) more than November 2024 (442) and 75 (17%) more than December 2023 (448).

Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

- **55 referrals assigned to CASP Teams in December 2024.** This brings to 709 the number of referrals assigned for 2024, 280 (28%) fewer than 2023 (989).
- **707 assessments open at the end of December 2024**, 6 (<1%) fewer than November 2024 (713) and 69 (9%) fewer than December 2023 (776).
- **74% (526/707) of assessments open at the end of December 2024 were allocated to a social worker**, down three percentage point from November 2024 (77%), first decrease after four consecutive monthly increases.
- **Remaining 26% (181) were awaiting allocation** with 14 more cases awaiting allocation at the end of December 2024 than at the end of November 2024 (167). Some 79 (30%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of December 2024 than at the end of December 2023 (260).

Children in Care

- **5,823 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of December 2024, 28 (<1%) more than November 2024 (5,795).** Figure includes 118 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP)
- **87.2% (5,077)** of all children in care (17 Areas and SCSIP) are in **foster care** (3,581 general foster care, and 1,496 relative foster), **9.3% (543) are in residential care** (530 general residential care and 13 special care) and **3.5% (203) are in “other” care placements.**

Children in Care (contd.)

- Across Tusla’s 17 areas 88.6% (5,057/5,705) of children in care are in foster care.
- **1,015 (17%) children in care at the end of December 2024 were in placements with private providers**, 15 (1.5%) more than November 2024 (1,000).
- **86% (5,003) of children in care at the end of December 2024 had an allocated worker** with two areas reporting 100% (Dublin South East/Wicklow and Mayo), no change from November 2024 (86%).
- **83% (4,844) of children in care at the end of December 2024 had an up-to-date care plan**, down one percentage point from November 2024 (84%).

Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

- **1,037 children listed as “active”** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) in December 2024, 7 (<1%) more than November 2024 (1,030), first increase after four consecutive monthly decreases. [Ref note on page 15 regarding the date data extracted]
- There were 75 (8%) more children “active” in December 2024 than in December 2023 (962).
- All children “active” in December 2024 had an allocated social worker.

Children’s Services Regulation

- **4,045 early years services on the register at the end of December 2024**, three more than November 2024 (4,042) and one more than December 2023 (4,044).
- **117 inspections** of early years services in December 2024. This brings to 2,316 the number of inspections for 2024, 75 (3%) fewer than 2023 (2,391).
- **2,325 children on the register** for home education at the end of December 2024, 99 (4%) more than November 2024 (2,226).
- **639 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of December 2024**, 17 (3%) fewer than November 2024 (656) and 461 (42%) fewer than December 2023 (1,100).

Tusla Education Support Services

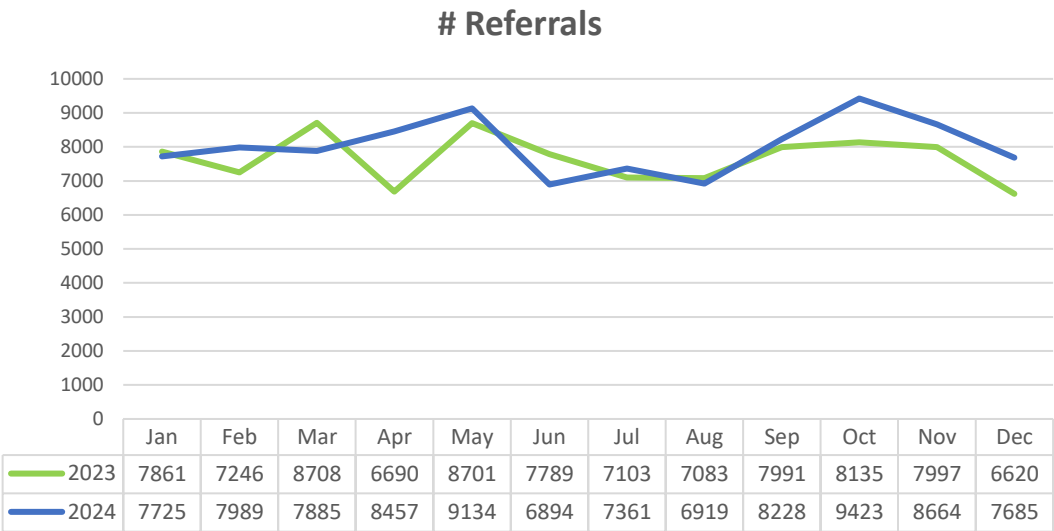
- **782 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in December 2024. This brings to 2,706 the number of referrals for the first four months of the academic year 2024 – 2025, some 647 (31%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (2,059).
- **3,728 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of December 2024, 428 (13%) more than November 2024 (3,300).
- 1,003 (37%) more referrals on a waiting list at the end of December 2024 (3,728) than at the end of December 2023 (2,725).

Child Protection and Welfare

Referrals¹

- **7,685 referrals** in December 2024, 979 (11%) fewer than November 2024 (8,664) and 1,065 (16%) more than December 2023 (6,620).
- This brings to 96,364 the number of referrals for 2024, 4,440 (5%) more than 2023 (91,924).

It should be noted that the data presented for the first nine months of 2024 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for Oct-Dec 2024 is based on referrals logged on the Tusla Case Management (TCM) system at the time the data was extracted for reporting. Referrals logged after the date the data was extracted are not included, nor are figures updated until quarterly validation is complete.

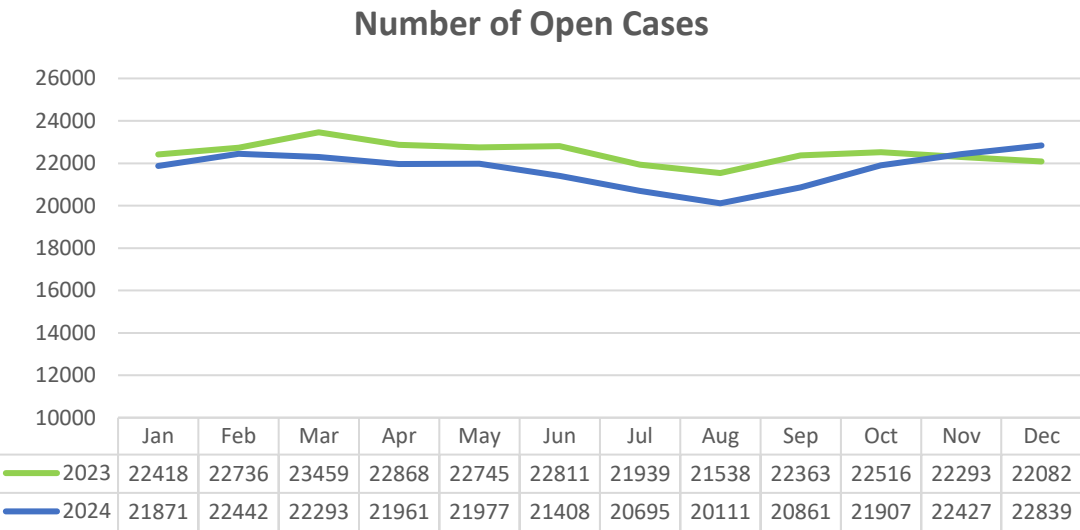


Open Cases

- **22,839 cases open to social work** at the end of December 2024, 412 (2%) more than November 2024 (22,427) and 757 (3%) more than December 2023 (22,082).

Notes:

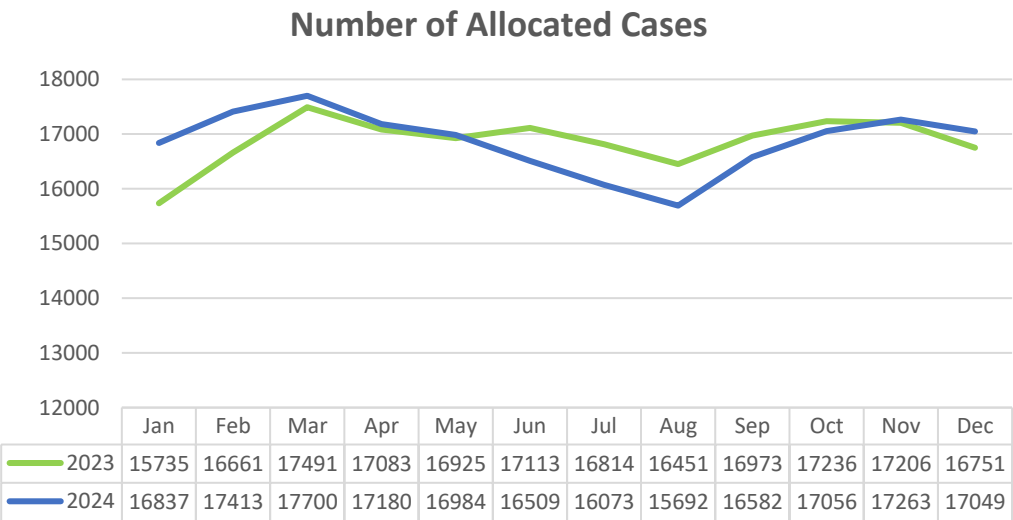
- 1) Open cases include, all cases held on duty, allocated and unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care.
- 2) The data presented on cases is based on the status of cases on the TCM at month end.



Allocated Cases

- **17,049 open cases were allocated to a worker** at the end of December 2024, 214 (1%) fewer than November 2024 (17,263) and 298 (2%) more than December 2023 (16,751).
- Allocated cases account for 75% of open cases, down two percentage point from November 2024 (77%).

These numbers of allocated cases reflect a changing environment in Tusla where allocation of cases to a social worker has become more difficult with reduced availability of social workers nationally. Many cases are now allocated to other professionals also reflecting the changing nature of social work teams. In many instances where cases are unallocated to a social worker there is a social care worker or leader allocated to the case.



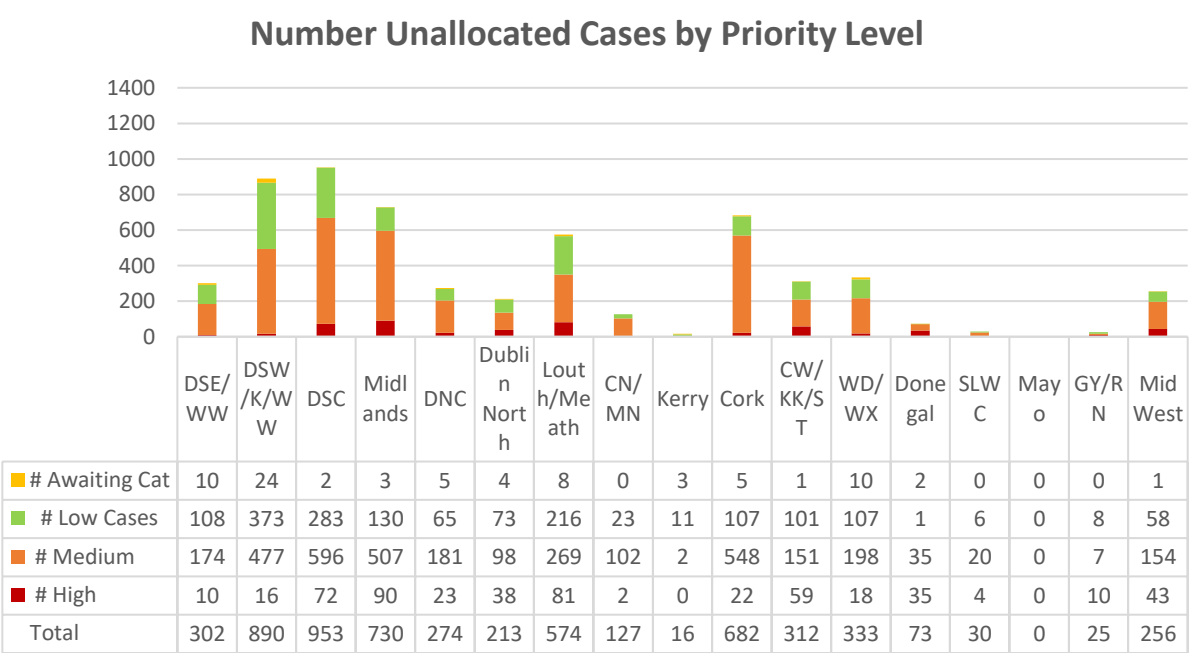
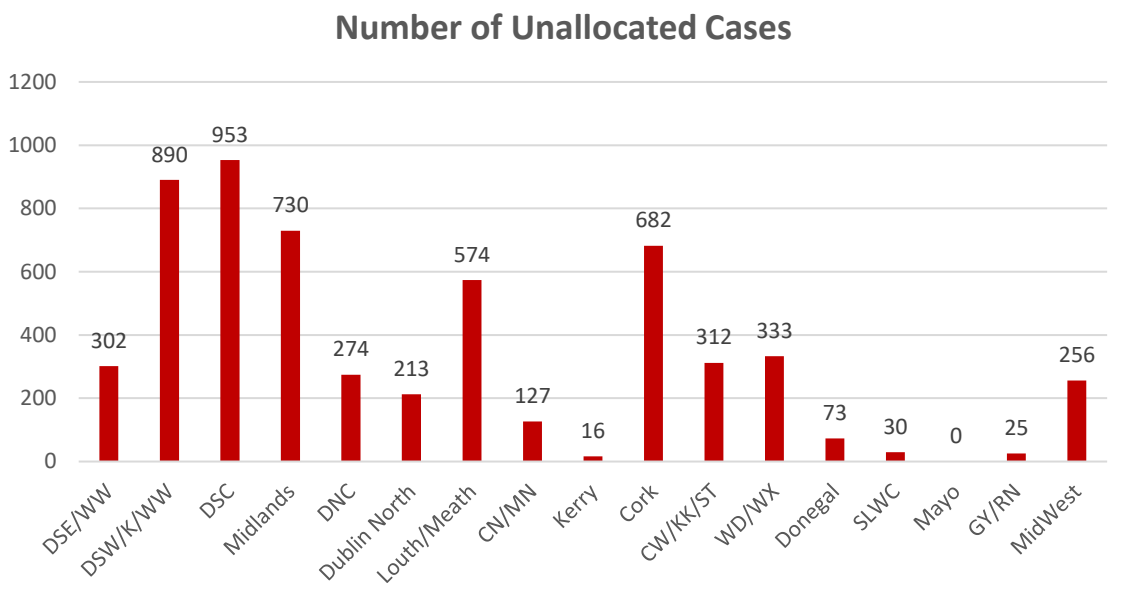
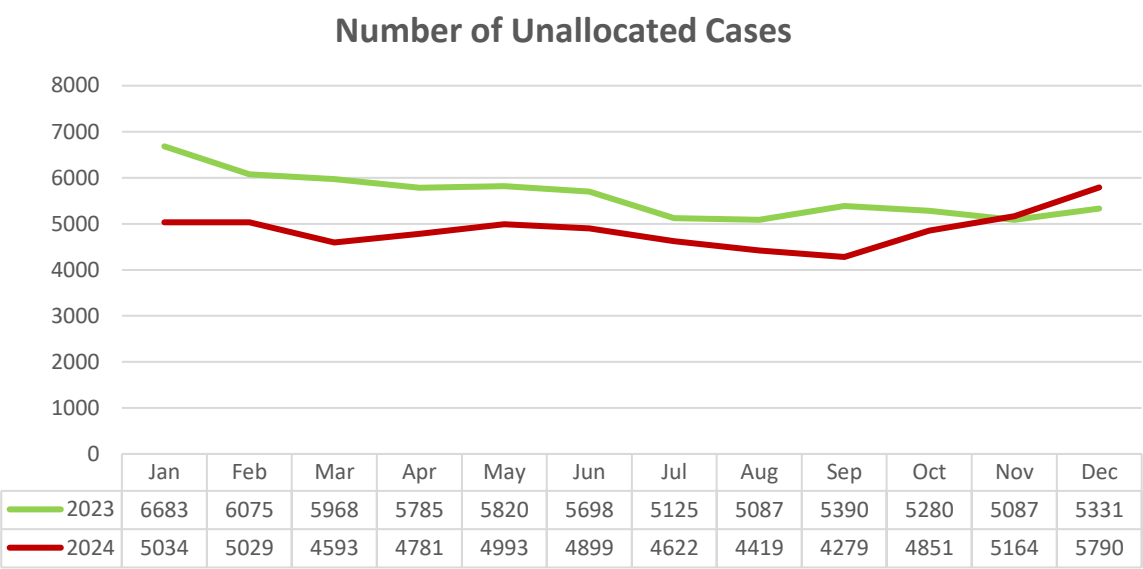
¹ Referrals include referrals meeting the eligibility criteria for child protection and welfare services, multiple reports of the same concern and referrals not meeting the eligibility criteria for child protection and welfare services. Referrals not meeting the eligibility criteria for child protection and welfare include: a request for diversion to another agency; a report in which there are no reasonable grounds for concern or no harm identified to a child indicated; a report that does not warrant a Tusla child protection and welfare led intervention (these could be children who need additional supports to stop problems or difficulties worsening but social work led intervention is not required and diversion to Prevention Partnership and Family Support is considered).

Child Protection & Welfare

Cases Awaiting Allocation

Cases awaiting allocation include cases held on duty, unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care
















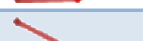

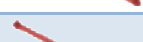

- **5,790 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of December 2024, 626 (12%) more than November 2024 (5,164). Third consecutive monthly increase.
- Cases awaiting allocation are up 459 (9%) from December 2023 (5,331).
- Cases awaiting allocation account for 25% of open cases (22,839), up two percentage point from November 2024 (23%).
- **32% (1,842) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of December 2024 were “active on duty”.** This means that actions were undertaken by dedicated duty teams or rotating social workers on a duty roster to progress the protection and welfare of the cases. Examples of actions undertaken include telephone calls relating to the concern, visits to see children, completing initial assessments and child in care reviews or care plans.
- Highest number of cases awaiting allocation reported by Dublin South Central (953) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (890), Midlands (730), Cork (682), Louth/Meath (574) and Waterford/Wexford (333). These six areas account for 72% (4,162) of all cases awaiting allocation.
- **523 cases awaiting allocation at the end of December 2024 were categorised as high priority**, 81 (18%) more than November 2024 (442) and 75 (17%) more than December 2023 (448).
- High priority cases account for 9% of cases awaiting allocation.
- 61% (3,519) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 29% (1,670) were low priority while the remaining 1% (78) were awaiting categorisation.
- Highest number of high priority cases reported by Midlands (90), Louth/Meath (81), Dublin South Central (72) Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (59), Midwest (43) and Dublin North (38). These six areas account for 73% (383) of all high priority cases awaiting.



Child Protection & Welfare

Cases Awaiting Allocation

- 4/17 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from November 2024.
 - Largest decreases reported by Dublin South Central (down 77) followed by Galway/Roscommon (down 6), Donegal (down 5) and Kerry (down 2).
 - 12/17 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from November 2024. Largest increases reported by Louth/Meath (up 154), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 110), Cork (up 102) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (92).
 - Nationally 25% of open cases were awaiting allocation at the end of December 2024. Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 25%. Highest percentages reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (44%) followed by Dublin South Central (43%), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (40%), Midlands (36%) and Louth/Meath (32%).
- 12/17 areas had fewer cases awaiting allocation at the end of December 2024 than at the end of December 2023. Largest decreases reported by Dublin North City (down 174), Midwest (down 139) and Dublin South Central (down 114).
 - 5/17 areas had more cases awaiting allocation at the end of December 2024 than at the end of December 2023. Increases reported by Midlands (up 478), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 341), Louth/Meath (up 173), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (up 69) and Dublin North (up 65).

Area	Dec-23 # Unallocated	Dec-23 % Unallocated	Oct-24 # Unallocated	Nov-24 # Unallocated	Dec-24 # Unallocated	Dec-24 % Unallocated		Dec-24 v Dec-23	% Δ	Dec-24 v Nov-24	% Δ1
DSE/WW	319	31%	212	210	302	27%		-17	-5%	92	44%
DSW/K/WW	549	35%	687	780	890	44%		341	62%	110	14%
DSC	1,067	48%	981	1030	953	43%		-114	-11%	-77	-7%
Midlands	252	13%	567	674	730	36%		478	190%	56	8%
DNC	448	24%	269	262	274	15%		-174	-39%	12	5%
Dublin North	148	7%	123	146	213	11%		65	44%	67	46%
Louth/Meath	401	28%	405	420	574	32%		173	43%	154	37%
CN/MN	142	21%	134	114	127	16%		-15	-11%	13	11%
Kerry	39	10%	11	18	16	4%		-23	-59%	-2	-11%
Cork	746	28%	466	580	682	26%		-64	-9%	102	18%
CW/KK/ST	243	29%	238	266	312	40%		69	28%	46	17%
WD/WX	355	25%	307	288	333	25%		-22	-6%	45	16%
Donegal	138	17%	84	78	73	10%		-65	-47%	-5	-6%
SLWC	33	10%	19	20	30	9%		-3	-9%	10	50%
Mayo	9	2%	3	0	0	0%		-9	-100%	0	
GY/RN	47	4%	27	31	25	2%		-22	-47%	-6	-19%
MidWest	395	29%	318	247	256	18%		-139	-35%	9	4%
TOTAL	5331	24%	4851	5164	5790	25%		459	9%	626	12.1%

Cases awaiting allocation include cases held on duty, unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care

Child Protection & Welfare

Summary Tables

Referrals				Open Cases			Allocated Cases			Unallocated Cases		
Area	Nov-24	Dec-24	Δ	Nov-24	Dec-24	Δ2	Nov-24	Dec-24	Δ3	Nov-24	Dec-24	Δ4
DSE/WW	361	289	-72	1,013	1,103	90	803	801	-2	210	302	92
DSW/K/WW	896	704	-192	1,945	2,028	83	1,165	1,138	-27	780	890	110
DSC	697	610	-87	2,299	2,207	-92	1,269	1,254	-15	1030	953	-77
Midlands	784	805	21	1,930	2,003	73	1,256	1,273	17	674	730	56
DNC	465	440	-25	1,780	1,819	39	1,518	1,545	27	262	274	12
Dublin North	775	674	-101	1,881	1,966	85	1,735	1,753	18	146	213	67
Louth/Meath	690	586	-104	1,712	1,810	98	1,292	1,236	-56	420	574	154
CN/MN	290	256	-34	755	818	63	641	691	50	114	127	13
Kerry	217	173	-44	405	394	-11	387	378	-9	18	16	-2
Cork	750	744	-6	2,531	2,654	123	1,951	1,972	21	580	682	102
CW/KK/ST	378	358	-20	801	771	-30	535	459	-76	266	312	46
WD/WX	717	551	-166	1,359	1,358	-1	1,071	1,025	-46	288	333	45
Donegal	315	251	-64	765	714	-51	687	641	-46	78	73	-5
SLWC	148	144	-4	306	318	12	286	288	2	20	30	10
Mayo	97	99	2	314	298	-16	314	298	-16	0	0	0
GY/RN	448	380	-68	1,237	1,174	-63	1,206	1,149	-57	31	25	-6
MidWest	636	621	-15	1,394	1,404	10	1,147	1,148	1	247	256	9
Total	8,664	7,685	-979	22,427	22,839	412	17,263	17,049	-214	5,164	5,790	626

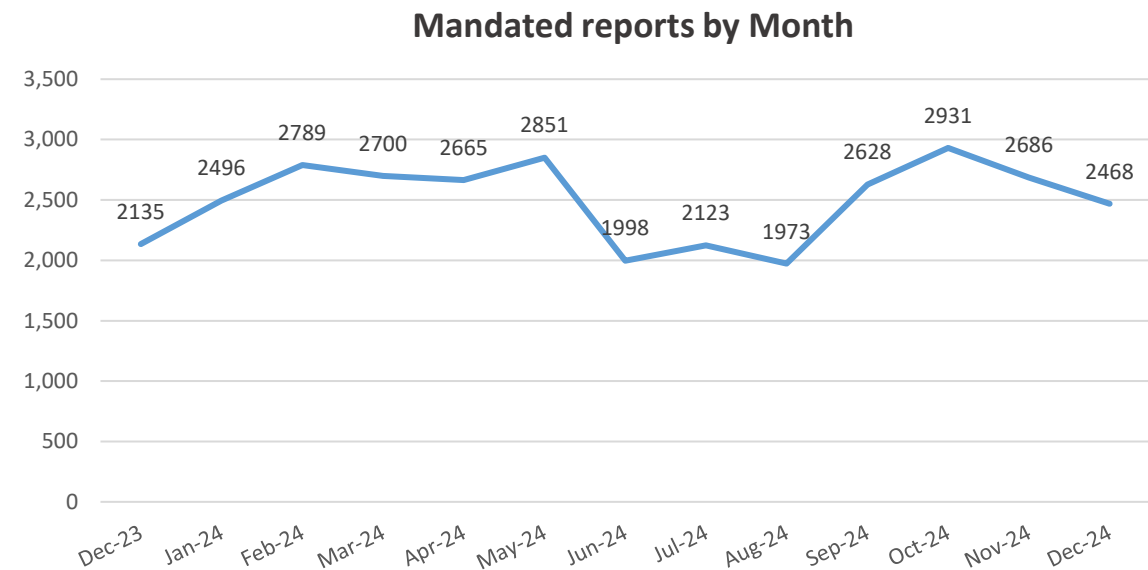
High Priority				Medium Priority			Low Priority			Awaiting		
Area	Nov-24	Dec-24	Δ	Nov-24	Dec-24	Δ 2	Nov-24	Dec-24	Δ 3	Nov-24	Dec-24	Δ 4
DSE/WW	13	10	-3	124	174	50	65	108	43	8	10	2
DSW/K/WW	14	16	2	430	477	47	308	373	65	28	24	-4
DSC	69	72	3	596	596	0	349	283	-66	16	2	-14
Midlands	65	90	25	470	507	37	138	130	-8	1	3	2
DNC	19	23	4	169	181	12	72	65	-7	2	5	3
Dublin North	17	38	21	88	98	10	36	73	37	5	4	-1
Louth/Meath	58	81	23	202	269	67	150	216	66	10	8	-2
CN/MN	0	2	2	100	102	2	13	23	10	1	0	-1
Kerry	4	0	-4	4	2	-2	9	11	2	1	3	2
Cork	21	22	1	468	548	80	90	107	17	1	5	4
CW/KK/ST	61	59	-2	116	151	35	86	101	15	3	1	-2
WD/WX	15	18	3	181	198	17	88	107	19	4	10	6
Donegal	32	35	3	38	35	-3	3	1	-2	5	2	-3
SLWC	0	4	4	15	20	5	5	6	1	0	0	0
Mayo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GY/RN	7	10	3	11	7	-4	13	8	-5	0	0	0
MidWest	47	43	-4	135	154	19	63	58	-5	2	1	-1
TOTAL	442	523	81	3,147	3,519	372	1,488	1,670	182	87	78	-9

Mandated Reports¹ – Child Protection & Welfare

- **2,468 mandated reports of abuse** received in December 2024, 218 (8%) fewer than November 2024 (2,686) and 333 (16%) more than December 2023 (2,135). This brings to 30,308 the number of reports for 2024, 1,649 (6%) more than the same period in 2023 (28,659).

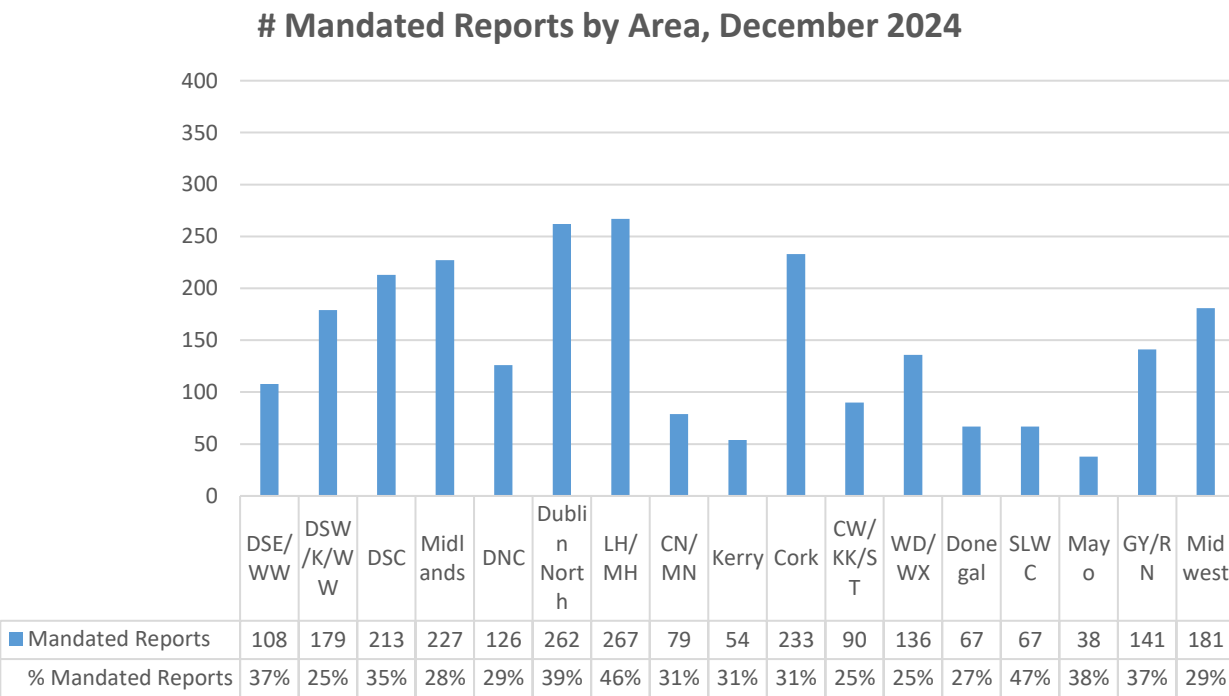
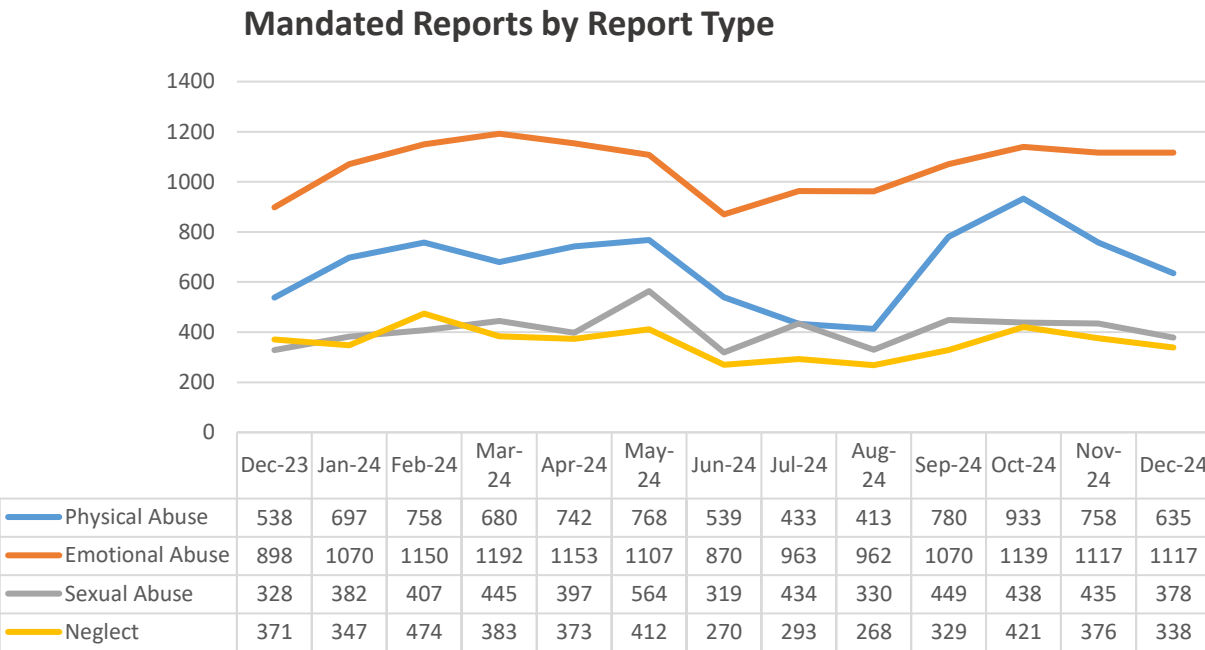
It should be noted that the data presented for the first nine months of 2024 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for Oct-Dec 2024 is based on referrals logged on the Tusla Case Management (TCM) system at the time the data was extracted for reporting. Referrals logged after the date the data was extracted are not included, nor are figures updated until quarterly validation is complete.

- Mandated reports accounted for 32% (2,468) of all referrals received (7,685) in November 2024.



- The number of mandated reports for December 2024, by area ranged from 38 (Mayo) to 267 (Louth/Meath).
- As a percentage of referrals, the highest percentage (47%) was reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan
- The lowest percentage (25%) was reported by Waterford/Wexford.

- Highest number of reports for December 2024 were for emotional abuse (1,117; 45%) followed by physical abuse (635; 26%), sexual abuse (378; 15%) and neglect (338; 14%).



¹ Mandated reports are included in the data on referrals (slide 4)

Mandated Reports – Child Protection & Welfare

Source of Reports

- Highest number of reports for December 2024 from An Garda Síochána (1,000; 40.5%) followed by teachers (378; 15.3%), safeguarding officer (318; 12.9%); social workers (220; 8.9%), social care workers (109; 4.4%) and medical practitioners (84; 3.4%). These six sources account for 85%% (2,109) of reports for December 2024.
- Highest number of reports for 2024 from An Garda Síochána (11,516; 38.0%) followed by teachers (4,285; 14.1%), safeguarding officers (4,065; 13.4%), social workers (3,333; 11.0%), social care workers (1,426; 4.7%) and medical practitioners (1,027; 3.4%). These six sources account for 85% (25,652) of reports for 2024.

Source (Schedule 2 Children First 2015)	# Dec 2024	% Dec 2024	2024	% Total 2024
An Garda Síochána Member	1,000	40.5%	11,516	38.0%
Teacher registered with the Teaching Council.	378	15.3%	4,285	14.1%
Safeguarding officer, child protection officer	318	12.9%	4,065	13.4%
Social worker	220	8.9%	3,333	11.0%
Social care worker	109	4.4%	1,426	4.7%
Medical practitioner (Registered)	84	3.4%	1,027	3.4%
Domestic violence shelter manager	48	1.9%	866	2.9%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	64	2.6%	761	2.5%
Psychologist	53	2.1%	674	2.2%
Nurse or registered midwife (Registered)	47	1.9%	630	2.1%
Youth worker employed in a youth work service	38	1.5%	531	1.8%
Homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility manager	20	0.8%	274	0.9%
Youth work service - person responsible	7	0.3%	121	0.4%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	7	0.3%	115	0.4%
Pre-school service within the meaning of the Child Care Act	12	0.5%	101	0.3%
Asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre manager	10	0.4%	96	0.3%
Occupational therapist (Registered)	7	0.3%	68	0.2%
Guardian ad litem	*	0.1%	64	0.2%
Speech & language therapist (Registered)	12	0.5%	63	0.2%
Physiotherapist (Registered)	*	0.1%	54	0.2%
Foster carer registered with the Agency.	8	0.3%	51	0.2%
Probation officer	*	0.1%	51	0.2%
Addiction counsellor	5	0.2%	49	0.2%
EMT, paramedic and advanced paramedic	10	0.4%	32	0.1%
Institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	*	0.0%	24	0.1%
Language school or other recreational school where children reside	*	0.0%	16	0.1%
Registered dentist	*	0.0%	*	0.0%
Clergy member	0	0.0%	*	*
Total (includes suppressed values)	2,468	100.0%	30,308	100.0%

*Values suppressed for confidentiality purposes. Suppressed figures included in totals.

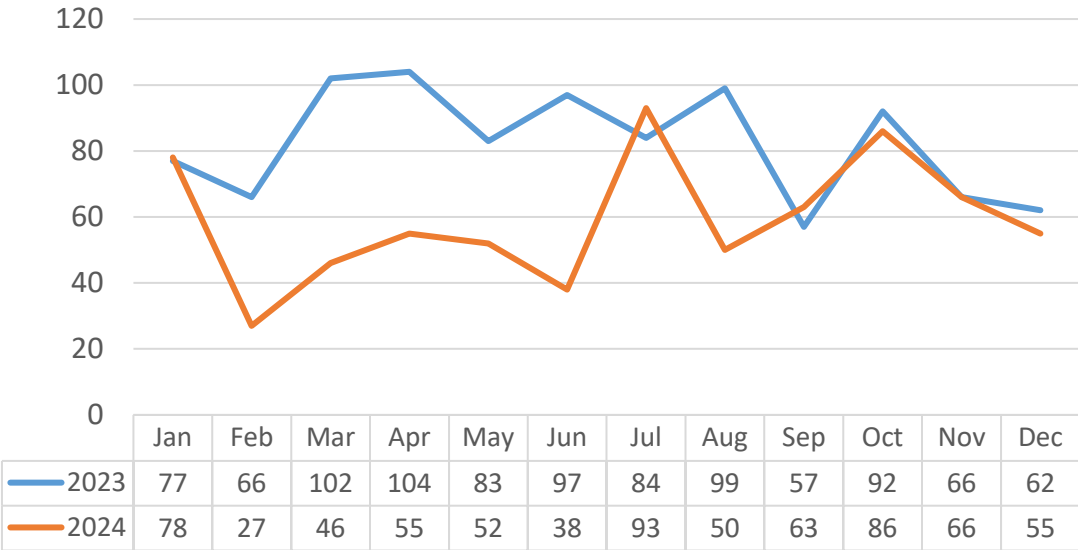
Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

It is Tusla’s statutory obligation and responsibility to promote the welfare of children under Section 3 of the Child Care Act 1991 and under Section 8 (1)(b) of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013. In meeting this obligation and responsibility, where there is a need to share information with a relevant third party to protect an identified child or yet to be identified child or children from harm, Tusla must carry out an assessment of allegations of child abuse in line with fair procedures. This is called a ‘substantiation assessment’ – an assessment that examines and weighs up all the evidence and decides if the allegation is founded or unfounded on the balance of probabilities. If the allegation is founded a determination is made that the person who is the subject of the abuse allegations poses a potential risk to a child or children. Tusla calls this process the CASP – Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure.

Referrals

- 55 referrals assigned to CASP Teams in December 2024. This brings to 709 the number of referrals assigned for 2024, 280 (28%) fewer than 2023 (989).

Referrals Assigned by Month



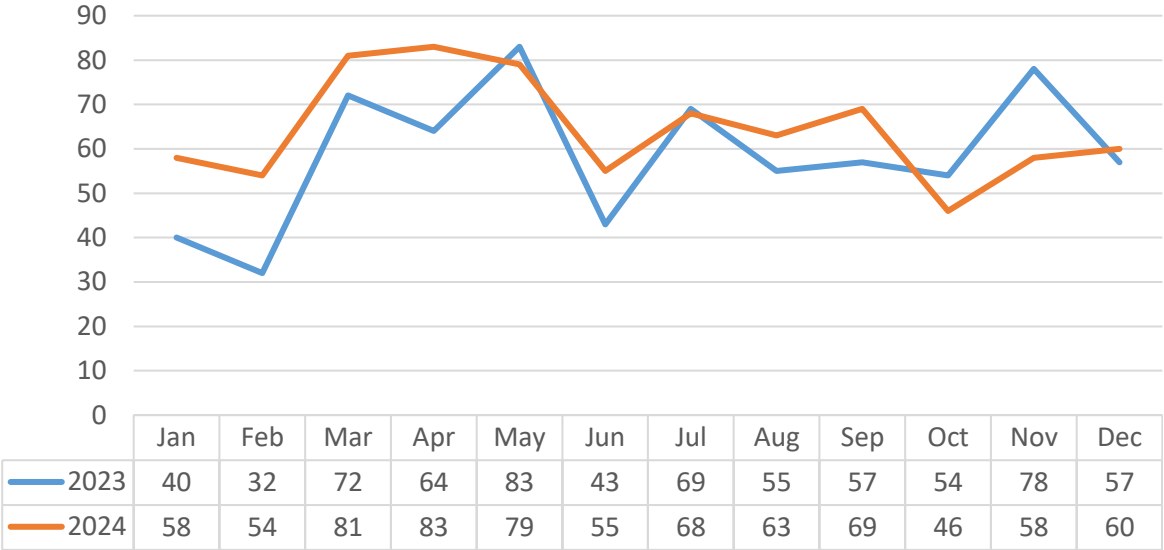
Open Assessments

- 707 assessments open at the end of December 2024, 6 (<1%) fewer than November 2024 (713) and 69 (9%) fewer than December 2023 (776).

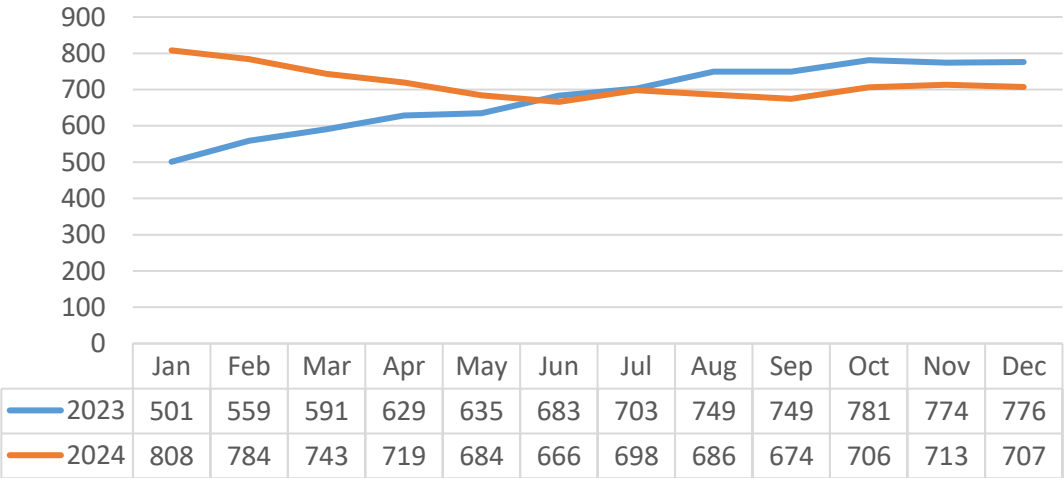
Assessments Closed

- 60 assessments closed in December 2024. This brings to 774 the number of assessments closed for 2024, 70 (10%) more than 2023 (704).

Assessments Closed by Month



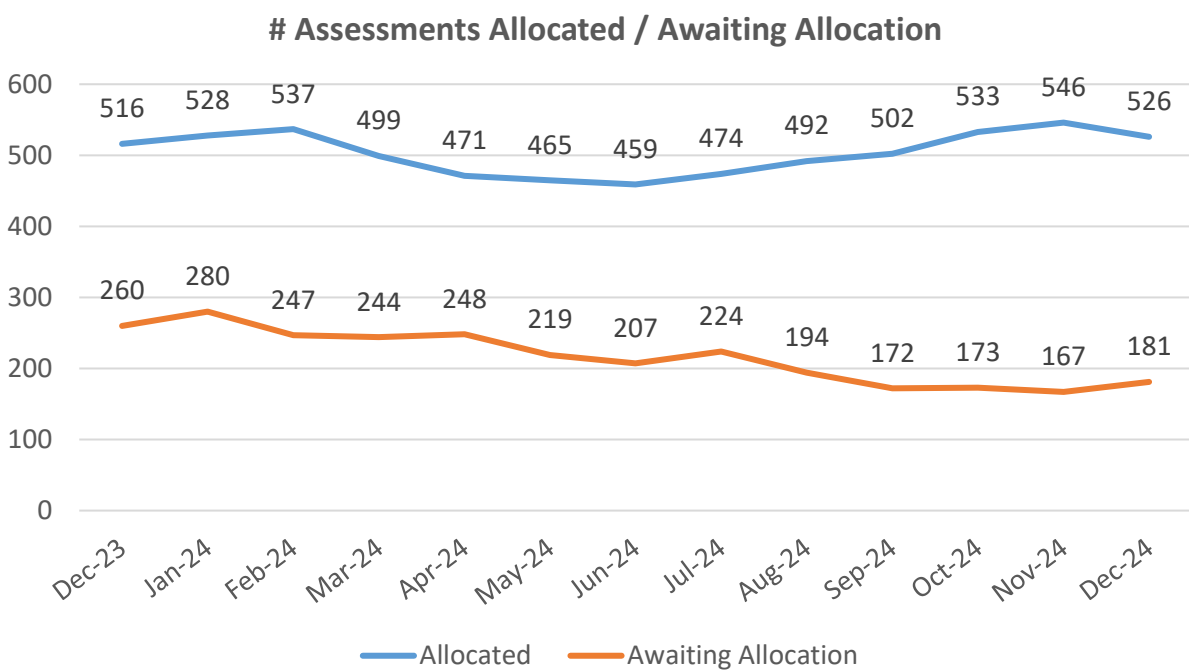
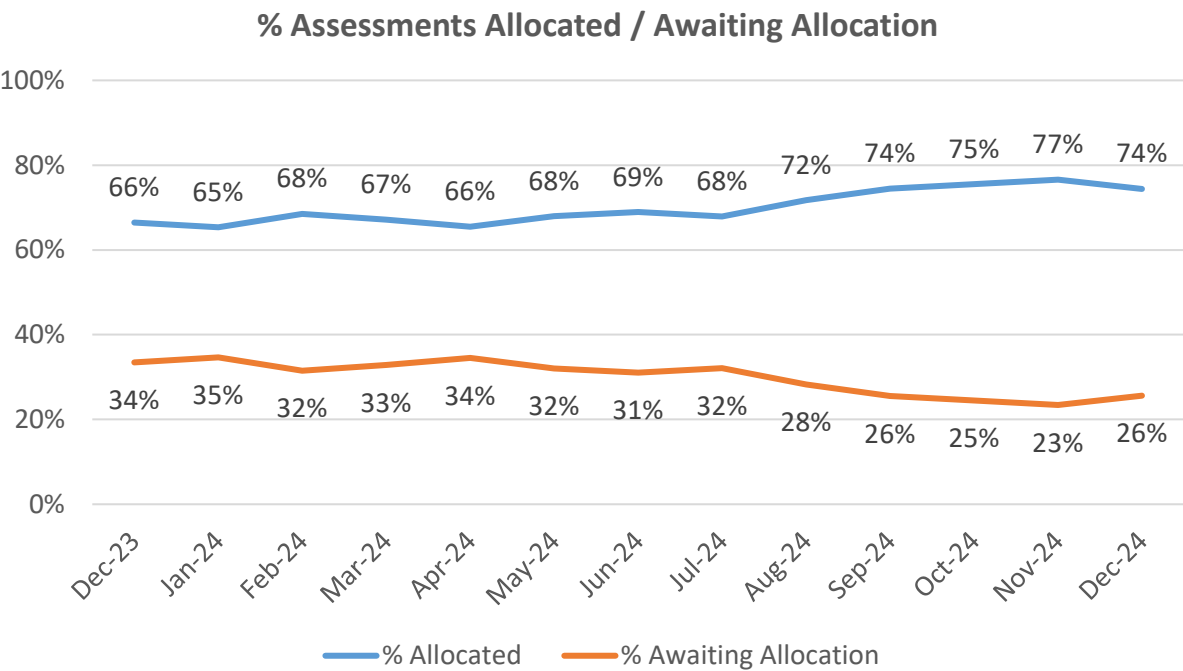
Open Assessments at Month End



Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

Allocation Status of Open Assessments

- 74% (526/707) of assessments open at the end of December 2024 were allocated to a social worker, down three percentage point from November 2024 (77%), first decrease after four consecutive monthly increases.
- The remaining 26% (181) were awaiting allocation with 14 more cases awaiting allocation at the end of December 2024 than at the end of November 2024 (167).
- 79 (30%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of December 2024 than at the end of December 2023 (260).

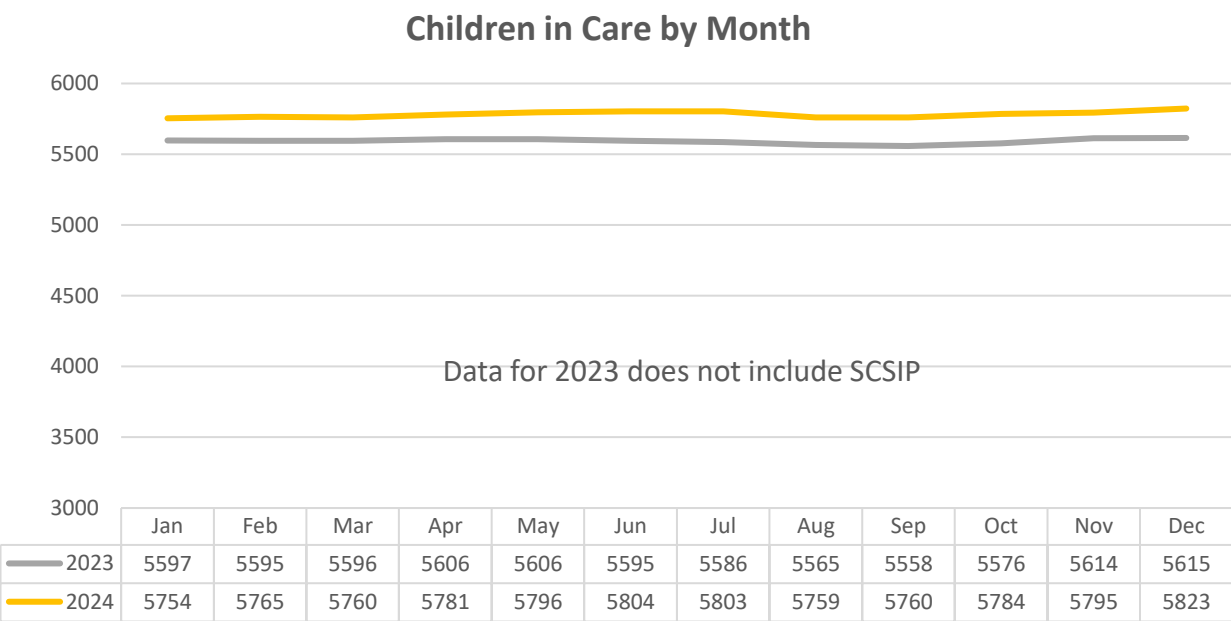


Children in Care

- **5,823 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of December 2024, 28 (<1%) more than November 2024 (5,795).** Figure includes 118 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP)¹.
- Breakdown of children in care by Tusla’s 17 areas and SCSIP as follows:

	Dec-23	Nov-24	Dec-24	Dec-24 v Dec-23	Dec-24 v Nov-24
17 Tusla Areas	5615	5677	5705	+90	+28
SCSIP	NA	118	118	-	0
Total	5615	5795	5823	90	28
- Breakdown of children in care by placement type as follows (Dec 2024):

Placement Type	17 areas	SCSIP	Total
Residential Care	457 (8%)	86 (72.9%)	543 (9.3%)
Foster Care	5,057 (88.6%)	20 (16.9%)	5,077 (87.2%)
Other*	191 (3.3%)	12 (10.2%)	203 (3.5%)
Total	5,705 (100%)	118 (100%)	5,823 (100%)
- Residential care (543) includes 13 children in special care. Of the children in foster care (5,077), 71% (3,581) were in general foster care and 29% (1,4796) were in relative foster care.
- Highest number of children in care reported by Cork (667) followed by Midwest (501) and Dublin North City (465).
- Fewest number reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (118) and Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan (119).
- Across the 17 Areas the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 children was reported by Dublin North City (9.5) followed by Waterford/Wexford (6.2) and Donegal (5.6).
- Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.3) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.8).
- Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 4.7/1,000 children.



Rate of Children in Care / 1,000 population 0-17 years (ranked by rate/1,000)

Area	Dec-23	Nov-24	Dec-24	Dec-24 v Dec-23	Dec-24 v Nov-24	Population	Rate/1,000
Dublin North City	460	463	465	5	2	48,909	9.5
Waterford/Wexford	427	434	430	3	-4	69,239	6.2
Donegal	213	237	236	23	-1	42,144	5.6
Midwest	504	493	501	-3	8	96,764	5.2
Kerry	165	172	174	9	2	34,994	5.0
CW/KK/ST	319	310	308	-11	-2	62,366	4.9
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	108	120	119	11	-1	24,312	4.9
Cork	705	660	667	-38	7	136,786	4.9
Dublin South Central	335	327	332	-3	5	70,259	4.7
Mayo	141	145	146	5	1	31,911	4.6
Cavan/Monaghan	157	164	167	10	3	37,336	4.5
Louth/Meath	428	418	418	-10	0	96,531	4.3
Midlands	322	344	346	24	2	80,962	4.3
Galway/Roscommon	356	344	344	-12	0	81,799	4.2
Dublin North	388	417	424	36	7	104,281	4.1
DSW/K/WW	393	419	419	26	0	108,927	3.8
Dublin South East/Wicklow	194	210	209	15	-1	91,047	2.3
Total Areas	5,615	5,677	5,705	90	28	1,218,567	4.7
SCSIP	NA	118	118		0		
Total National	5,615	5,795	5,823		28		

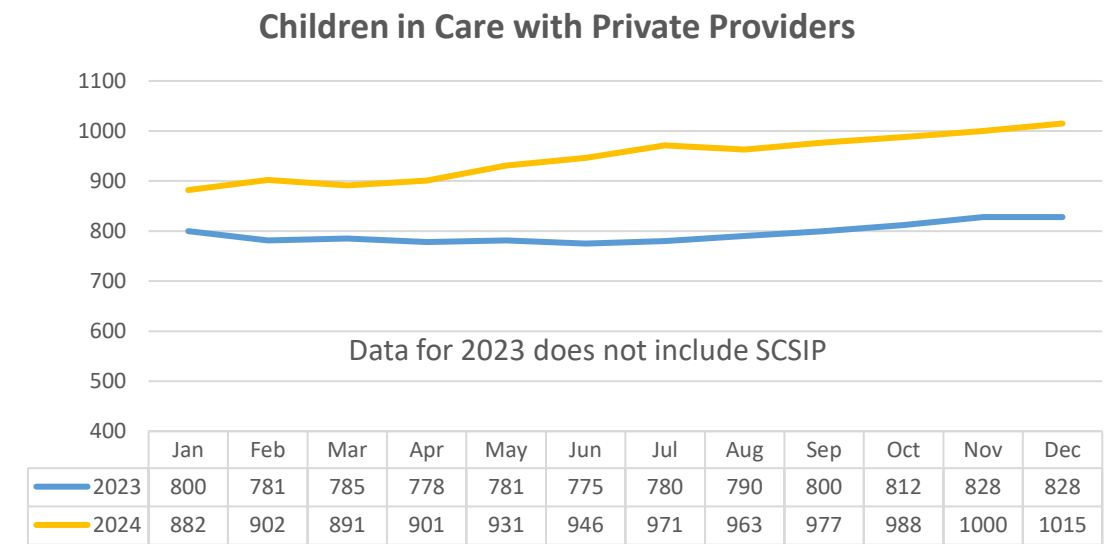
Population: CSO Census 2022

Notes:

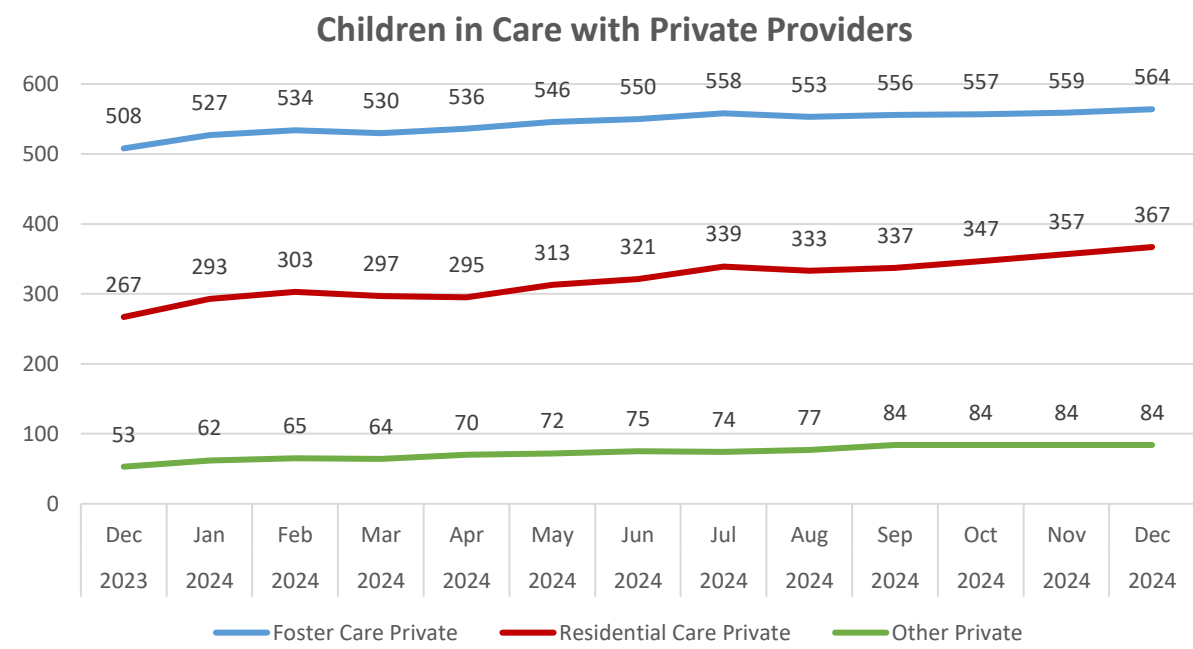
1. The Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection has an additional **333 children accommodated under Section 5 Child Care Act 1991**.
2. ***Other care placements** includes children at home under a care order, in a detention centre, disability unit, mental health unit, drugs/alcohol rehabilitation unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, supported lodgings etc.

Children in Care

- 1,015 (17%) children in care at the end of December 2024 were in placements with private providers, 15 (1.5%) more than November 2024 (1,000).



- 564 (56%) children in placements with private providers were in **foster care**, five more than November 2024 (559).
- 367 (36%) children were in **residential care**, 10 (3%) more than November 2024 (357).
- The remaining **84 (8.3%)** children were in “**Other**” **care placements**, no change from November 2024. “Other” care placements include, disability units, mental health units, drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres etc.
- Highest number of children in placements with private providers reported by Dublin North City (129) followed by Dublin North (122), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (118), Dublin South Central (113) and Midlands (87). These five areas account for 56% (569) of children in placements with private providers.



Note: data for 2023 does not include data for the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.

Children in Care with Private Providers

Children in Care (Private)	Dec-23	Nov-24	Dec-24	Dec-24 v Dec-23	Dec-24 v Nov-24
Dublin North City	102	127	129	27	2
Dublin North	97	118	122	25	4
DSW/K/WW	106	116	118	12	2
Dublin South Central	107	114	113	6	-1
Midlands	65	86	87	22	1
SCSIP	NA	66	72		6
Cork	63	57	55	-8	-2
Louth/Meath	50	54	53	3	-1
Waterford/Wexford	45	51	53	8	2
Dublin South East/Wicklow	50	54	52	2	-2
Midwest	36	40	41	5	1
Kerry	29	32	33	4	1
CW/KK/ST	21	23	25	4	2
Donegal	22	22	22	0	0
Galway/Roscommon	16	17	16	0	-1
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	12	14	14	2	0
Cavan/Monaghan	6	8	9	3	1
Mayo	1	1	1	0	0
Total	828	1000	1015		15

*Data for December 2023 does not include data for the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.

Children in Care

- **86% (5,003) of children in care at the end of December 2024 had an allocated worker** with two areas reporting 100% (Dublin South East/Wicklow and Mayo), no change from November 2024 (86%).

These numbers of allocated cases reflect a changing environment in Tusla where allocation of cases to a social worker has become more difficult with reduced availability of social workers nationally. Many cases are now allocated to other professionals also reflecting the changing nature of social work teams. In many instances where cases are unallocated to a social worker there is a social care worker or leader allocated to the case.

- A total of 820 children were awaiting allocation, 18 (2%) fewer than November 2024 (838).
- Highest number awaiting allocation reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (203; 66%) followed by Midwest (151; 30%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (119; 28%), Louth/Meath (65 ; 16%) and Dublin South Central (64; 19%). These five areas account for 73% (602) of all cases awaiting allocation.

- **83% (4,844) of children in care at the end of December 2024 had an up-to-date care plan, down one percentage point from November 2024 (84%).**
- A total of 979 children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 64 (7%) more than November 2024 (915).
- Highest numbers awaiting an up-to-date care plan reported by Dublin South Central (119; 36%), Midwest (116; 23%), Louth/Meath (103; 25%), Dublin North City (96; 21%) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (91; 22%).

Area breakdown of children in care with an allocated worker –December 2024

Area	Allocated	Awaiting Allocation	Total	% Allocated
Dublin South East/Wicklow	209	0	209	100%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	300	119	419	72%
Dublin South Central	268	64	332	81%
Midlands	289	57	346	84%
Dublin North City	431	34	465	93%
Dublin North	393	31	424	93%
Louth/Meath	353	65	418	84%
Cavan/Monaghan	156	11	167	93%
Kerry	165	9	174	95%
Cork	657	10	667	99%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	105	203	308	34%
Waterford/Wexford	382	48	430	89%
Donegal	233	3	236	99%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	113	6	119	95%
Mayo	146	0	146	100%
Galway/Roscommon	342	2	344	99%
Midwest	350	151	501	70%
SCSIP	111	7	118	94%
Total	5003	820	5823	86%

Area breakdown of children in care with an up-to-date care plan– December 2024

Area	UTD Care Plan	Awaiting UTD Care Plan	Total	% UTD Care Plan
Dublin South East/Wicklow	157	52	209	75%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	328	91	419	78%
Dublin South Central	213	119	332	64%
Midlands	333	13	346	96%
Dublin North City	369	96	465	79%
Dublin North	353	71	424	83%
Louth/Meath	315	103	418	75%
Cavan/Monaghan	149	18	167	89%
Kerry	133	41	174	76%
Cork	603	64	667	90%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	279	29	308	91%
Waterford/Wexford	404	26	430	94%
Donegal	224	12	236	95%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	104	15	119	87%
Mayo	134	12	146	92%
Galway/Roscommon	293	51	344	85%
Midwest	385	116	501	77%
SCSIP	68	50	118	58%
Total	4844	979	5823	83%

Child Protection Notification System

Note: The data on children “active” for December 2024 presented below is for the 12th December and not the usual last day of the month. This is due to the migration of Tusla’s standalone CPNS to its Tusla Case Management Child Protection and Welfare Alternative Care (TCM CPAC) in the latter half of December, providing for better integration of child protection & welfare data. From Q1 2025 the CPNS data will be extracted from TCM – CPAC.

- **1,037 children listed as “active”** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) in December 2024, 7 (<1%) more than November 2024 (1,030), first increase after four consecutive monthly decreases.
- There were 75 (8%) more children “active” in December 2024 than in December 2023 (962).
- All children “active” in December 2024 had an allocated social worker.

- Highest numbers of children listed as “active” in December 2024, reported by Dublin North City (121), Midlands (115) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (108).

- Fewest numbers reported by Cavan/Monaghan (10), Mayo (22) and Kerry (25).

- The number of children “active” equates to about 9 children per 10,000 under 18 years.

- Highest rates reported by Dublin North City (24.7), Midlands (14.2), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (11.1) and Dublin South Central (11.1).

- Lowest rates reported by Cavan/Monaghan (2.7) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (3.7)

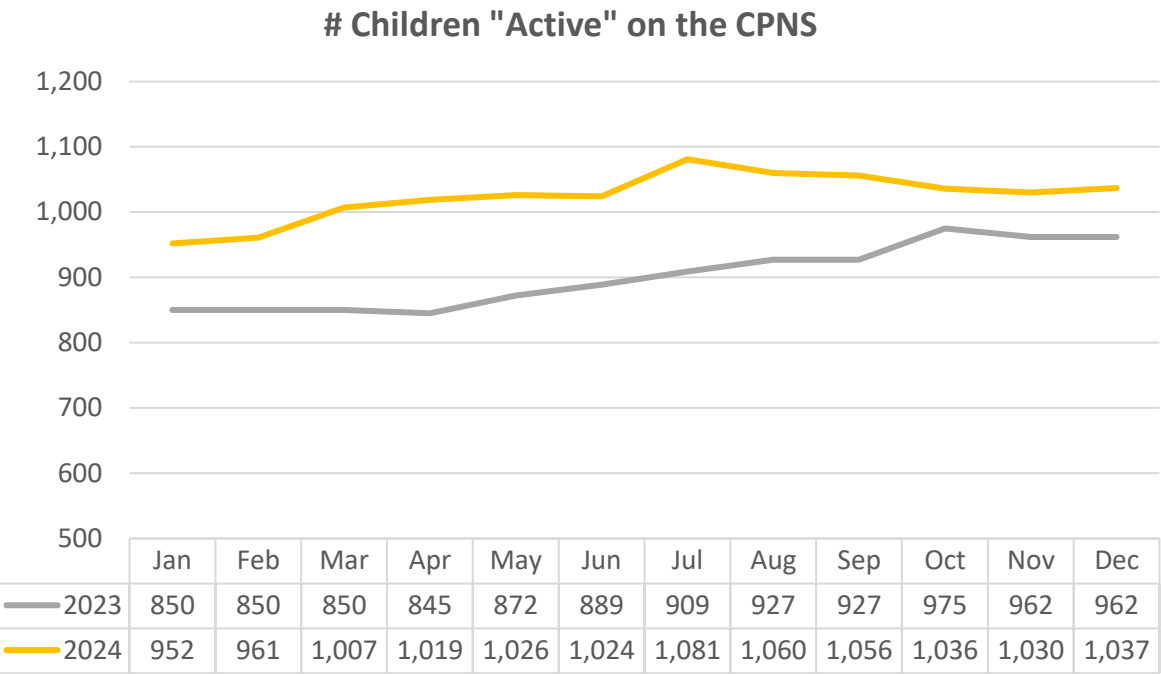
- 11/17 areas had more children listed as “active” in December 2024 than in November 2024. Largest increases reported by Cork (up 10) and Dublin North City (up 8).

- 4/17 areas reported a decrease with the largest decreases reported by Dublin South Central (down 13) and Midwest (down 10). The remaining two areas (Louth/Meath and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) reported no change.

- 11/17 areas had more children active in 2024 than in December 2023. Largest increases reported by Midlands (up 55), Dublin North City (up 34) and Dublin South Central (up 33).

- 5/17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Dublin North (down 44), Donegal (down 34), Cork (down 18) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 12).

- Remaining area (Kerry) reported no change.



Number and rate of children “active” on the CPNS, by area (ranked by rate)

Area	Dec-23	Nov-24	Dec-24	Dec-24 v Dec-23	Dec-24 v Nov-24	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	87	113	121	34	8	48,909	24.7
Midlands	60	118	115	55	-3	80,962	14.2
SLWC	26	27	27	1	0	24,312	11.1
Dublin South Central	45	91	78	33	-13	70,259	11.1
CW/K/ST	53	58	62	9	4	62,366	9.9
DSW/K/WW	102	106	108	6	2	108,927	9.9
Mid West	72	97	87	15	-10	96,764	9.0
Donegal	70	33	36	-34	3	42,144	8.5
Cork	116	88	98	-18	10	136,786	7.2
Kerry	25	24	25	0	1	34,994	7.1
GY/RN	31	55	57	26	2	81,799	7.0
Mayo	20	20	22	2	2	31,911	6.9
Dublin North	110	62	66	-44	4	104,281	6.3
Louth / Meath	57	59	59	2	0	96,531	6.1
Waterford / Wexford	33	31	32	-1	1	69,239	4.6
DSE/WW	46	33	34	-12	1	91,047	3.7
Cavan / Monaghan	9	15	10	1	-5	37,336	2.7
Total	962	1,030	1,037	75	7	1,218,567	8.5

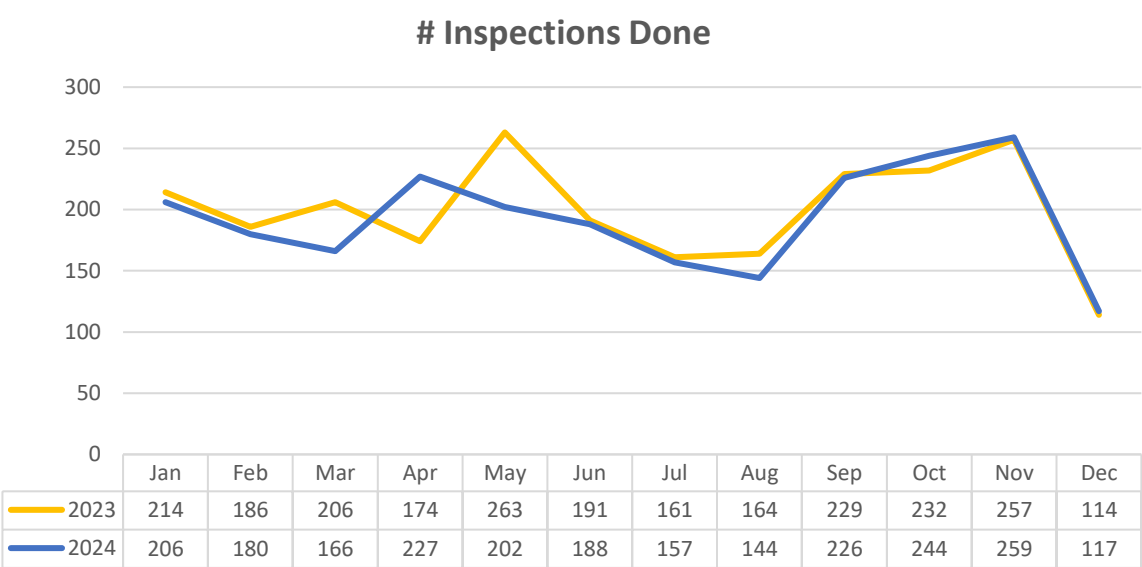
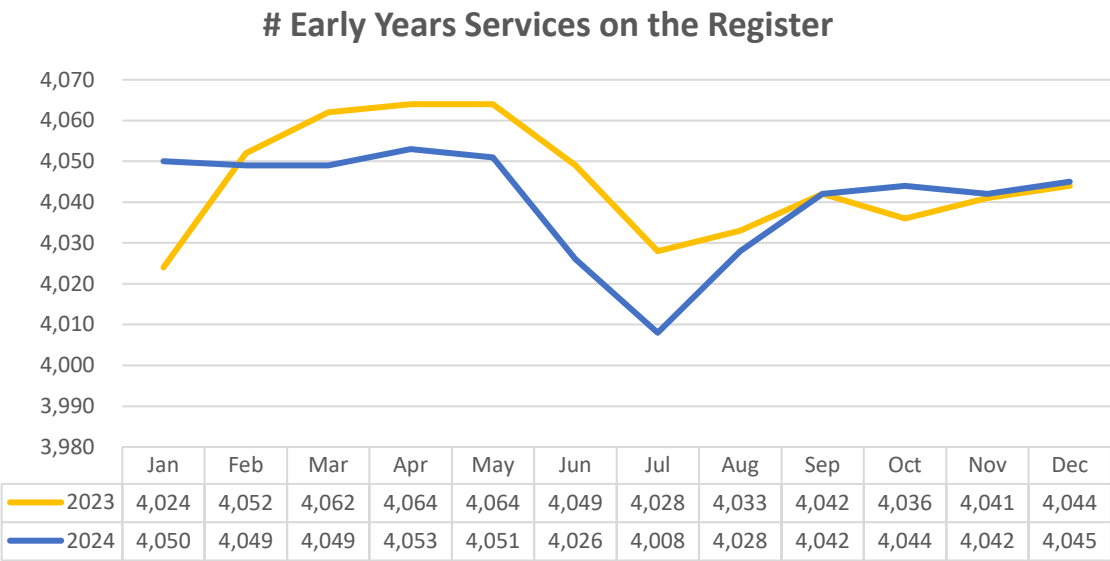
Population – source CSO Census 2022

Children’s Services Regulation

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- **4,045 early years services on the register at the end of December 2024**, three more than November 2024 (4,042) and one more than December 2023 (4,044).

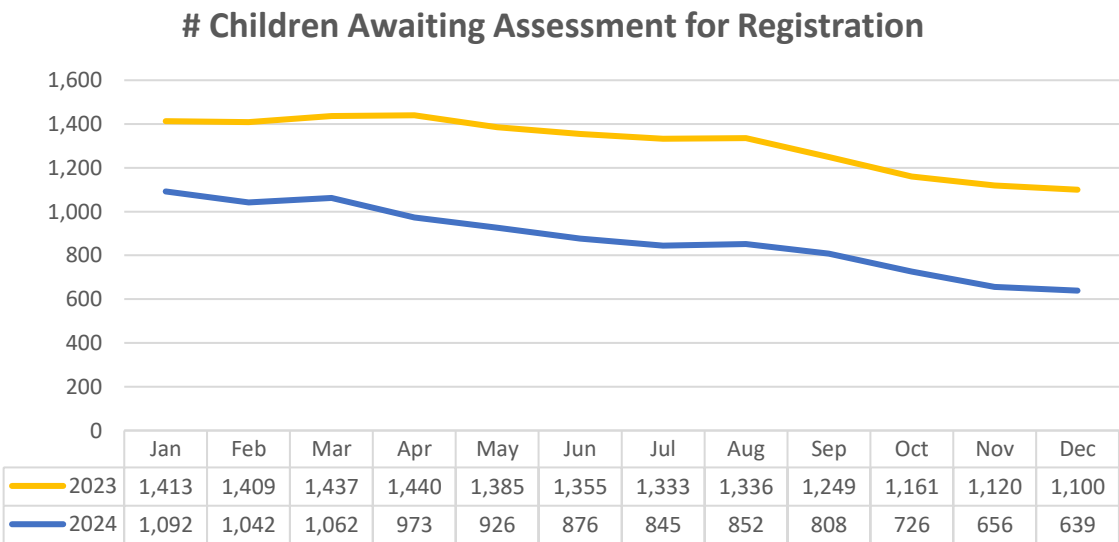
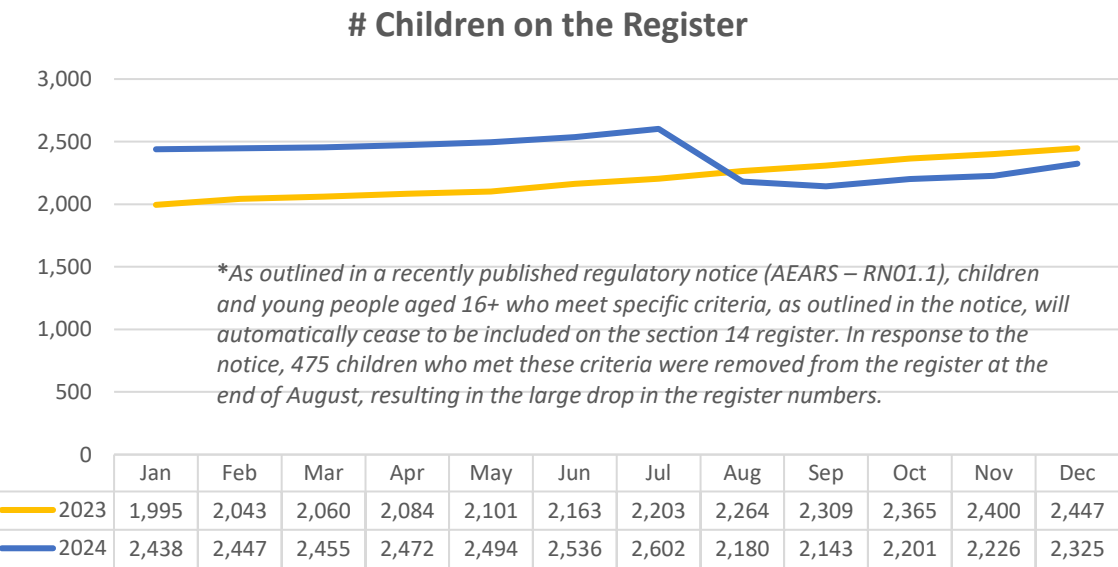
- **117 inspections** of early years services in December 2024. This brings to 2,316 the number of inspections for 2024, 75 (3%) fewer than 2023 (2,391).



ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

- **2,325 children on the register** for home education at the end of December 2024, 99 (4%) more than November 2024 (2,226).

- **639 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of December 2024**, 17 (3%) fewer than November 2024 (656) and 461 (42%) fewer than December 2023 (1,100).



Tusla Education Support Services

- **782 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in December 2024. This brings to 2,706 the number of referrals for the first four months of the academic year 2024 – 2025, some 647 (31%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (2,059).

- **3,728 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of December 2024, 428 (13%) more than November 2024 (3,300).
- 1,003 (37%) more referrals on a waiting list at the end of December 2024 (3,728) than at the end of December 2023 (2,725).

- **265 new individual children worked with** in December 2024. This brings to 1,470 the number of new individual children worked with in the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, some 75 (5%) more than the previous academic year (1,395).

