



An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency

# MONTHLY SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

## DECEMBER 2025

27 February 2026  
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 2025

## Child Protection & Welfare

- **8,121 referrals** in December 2025, 1,198 (13%) fewer than November 2025 (9,319) and 342 (4%) more than December 2024 (7,779). Brings to 106,444 the number of referrals for 2025, 9,778 (10%) more than 2024 (96,666).
- **23,612 cases open to social work** at the end of December 2025, 555 (2%) fewer than November 2025 (24,167) and 773 (3%) more than December 2024 (22,839). *Open cases include child protection and welfare cases and children in care.*
- **77% (18,214) of cases** open to social work at the end of December 2025 had an **allocated case worker**. Of these, 82% (14,928) were allocated to a social worker and 18% (3,286) were allocated to a another professional. (*Ref to note on Page 4*).
- **5,398 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of December 2025, 490 (10%) more than November 2025 (4,908) and 392 (7%) fewer than December 2024 (5,790). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases.*
- Six areas account for account for 74% (4,011) of all cases awaiting allocation: Cork (1,066), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (995), Dublin South Central (879), Midlands (416), Louth/Meath (335) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (320).
- **4% (232) of cases awaiting allocation** at the end of December 2025 were categorised as **high priority**, 7 (3%) fewer than November 2025 (225) and 291 (56%) fewer than December 2024 (523).

## Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

- **20 referrals assigned** to CASP Teams in December 2025. This brings to 446 the number of referrals assigned for 2025, 250 (36%) fewer than 2024 (696).
- **93% (324/347) of assessments open at the end of December 2025** were allocated to a social worker. The remaining 7% (23) were awaiting allocation, no change from November 2025.
- 158 (87%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of December 2025 (23) than at the end of December 2024 (181).

## Children in Care

- **5,879 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of December 2025**, 11 more than November 2025 (5,868) and 56 (1%) more than December 2024 (5,823). *Figure includes 150 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP).*
- **86% (5,058) of all children in care (17 Areas and SCSIP) are in foster care** (3,545 general foster care, and 1,513 relative foster), 10.4% (609) are in residential care (594 general residential care and 15 special care) and 3.6% (212) are in “other” care placements.
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas **88.0% (5,042/5,729) of children in care are in foster care.**

## Children in Care (contd.)

- **1,130 (19%) children in care at the end of December 2025 were in placements with private providers**, 14 (1%) more than November 2025 (1,116) and 115 (11%) more than December 2024 (1,015).
- **98% (5,777) of children in care at the end of December 2025 had an allocated case worker**. Of the 5,777 children allocated, 89% (5,165) were allocated to a social worker and 11% (612) were allocated to another professional.
- A total of 102 (2%) children were awaiting allocation, 13 (15%) more than November 2025 (89).

## Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

- **1,173 children listed as ‘active’** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of December 2025, 33 (3%) more than November 2025 (1,140) and the sixth consecutive increase.
- There were 136 (13%) more children ‘active’ at the end of December 2025 than at the end of December 2024 (1,037).

*It should be noted that a small number of large sibling groups can have a significant effect on numbers reported.*

- 98% (1,155) of children ‘active’ had an allocated social worker, 18 children were awaiting allocation to a social worker, of which 11 were allocated to another professional. Thirteen of the 18 children were subsequently allocated to a social worker.

## Children’s Services Regulation

- **3,948 early years services (pre-schools) on the register at the end of December 2025**, 9 (<1%) fewer than November 2025 (3,957) and 97 (2%) fewer than December 2024 (4,045).
- **135 inspections** of early years services (pre-schools) in December 2025. Brings to 2,514 the number of inspections for 2025, 198 (9%) more than 2024 (2,316).
- **2,592 children on the register** for home education at the end of December 2025, 7 (<1%) more than November 2025 (2,585), and 267 (11%) more than December 2024 (2,325).
- **350 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of December 2025**, 11 (3%) more than November 2025 (339), fourth consecutive increase after 12 consecutive decreases. There were 289 (45%) fewer children awaiting at the end of December 2025 than at the end of December 2024 (639).

## Tusla Education Support Services

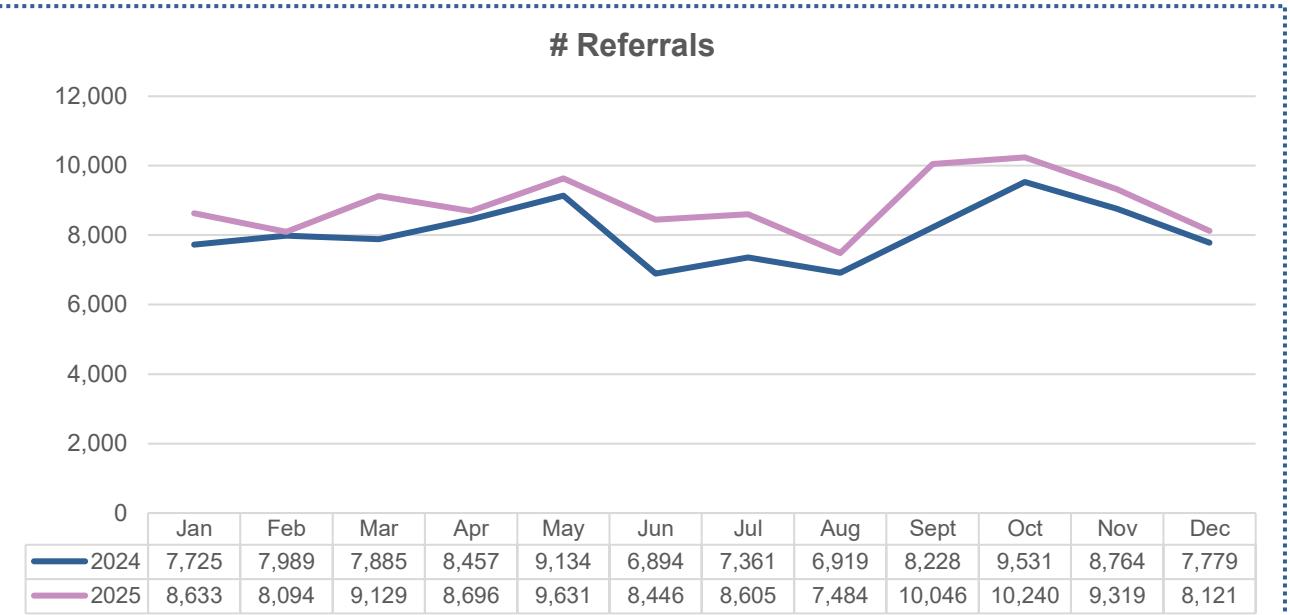
- **1,051 referrals** for an educational welfare service in December 2025. Brings to 4,342 the number of referrals for the first four months of the academic year 2025/26.
- **9,079 cases open** to educational welfare services at the end of December 2025, 86 (1%) more than November 2025 (8,993).
- **43% (3,893) of open cases were on a waiting list for allocation**, up from 41% (3,732) at the end of November 2025.

# Child Protection and Welfare

## Referrals<sup>1</sup>

- **8,121 referrals** in December 2025, 1,198 (13%) fewer than November 2025 (9,319) and 342 (4%) more than December 2024 (7,779).
- This brings to 106,444 the number of referrals for 2025, 9,778 (10%) more than 2024 (96,666).

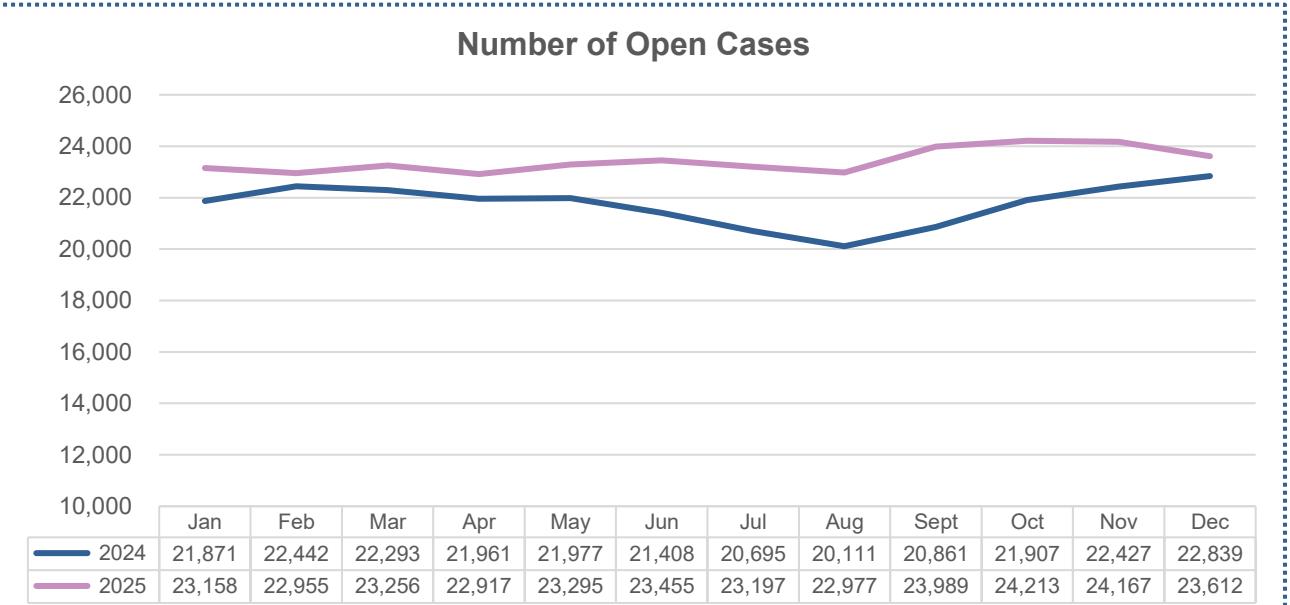
*It should be noted that the data presented for first 11 months of 2025 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for 2025.*



## Open Cases

- **23,612 cases open to social work** at the end of December 2025, 555 (2%) fewer than November 2025 (24,167) and 773 (3%) more than December 2024 (22,839).

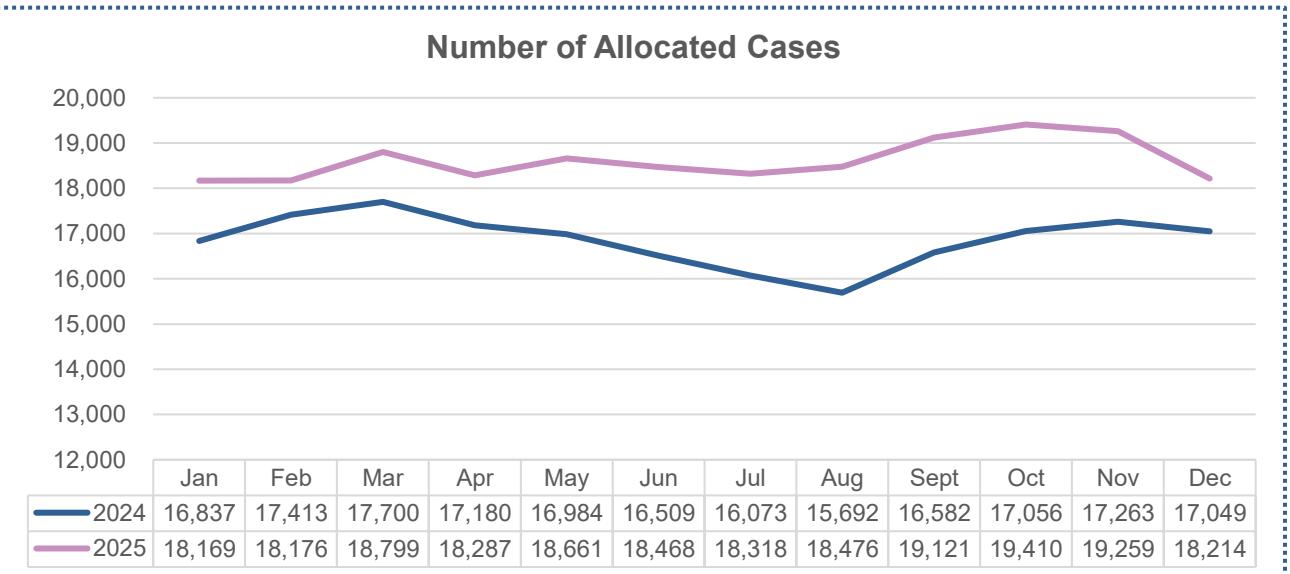
- 1) *Open cases include, all cases held on duty, allocated and unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care.*
- 2) *The data presented on cases is based on the status of cases on the TCM at month end.*



## Allocated Cases

- **18,214 open cases were allocated** to a case worker at the end of December 2025, 1,045 (5%) fewer than November 2025 (19,259) and 1,165 (7%) more than December 2024 (17,049).
- Allocated cases account for 77% of open cases, down from 80% at the end of November 2025.

*Reflecting an ongoing changing environment and significant social work vacancies, Tusla has moved to a more multi-disciplinary way of working with children now allocated to social workers and other professional grades where necessary and appropriate to ensure they have the support of a key worker. All children continue to be overseen by social work management.*



<sup>1</sup> 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 and Welfare

## Allocated Cases

To improve transparency and ensure the data reported reflects our practice change, reports (from January 2025) now reflect where a child is allocated a social worker and where they are allocated to another professional. Other professionals include professionally qualified social care leaders, social care workers, family support workers, therapists etc..

- Of the cases allocated (18,214) at the end of December 2025, 82% (14,928) were allocated to a social worker and 18% (3,286) were allocated to a another professional.

**Breakdown of cases allocated by area and role of worker, December 2025**

Area	Allocated Social Worker	Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	742	174	<b>916</b>
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	1,004	483	<b>1,487</b>
Dublin South Central	880	263	<b>1,143</b>
Midlands	931	237	<b>1,168</b>
Dublin North City	1,262	205	<b>1,467</b>
Dublin North	1,339	205	<b>1,544</b>
Louth/Meath	1,188	374	<b>1,562</b>
Cavan/Monaghan	486	200	<b>686</b>
Kerry	333	77	<b>410</b>
Cork	1,877	167	<b>2,044</b>
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	433	236	<b>669</b>
Waterford/Wexford	833	234	<b>1,067</b>
Donegal	538	75	<b>613</b>
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	445	12	<b>457</b>
Mayo	307	21	<b>328</b>
Galway/Roscommon	1251	44	<b>1,295</b>
Midwest	1079	279	<b>1,358</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,928</b>	<b>3,286</b>	<b>18,214</b>

**Percentage breakdown of cases allocated by area and role of worker, December 2025**

Area	% Allocated Social Worker	% Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	81%	19%	100%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	68%	32%	100%
Dublin South Central	77%	23%	100%
Midlands	80%	20%	100%
Dublin North City	86%	14%	100%
Dublin North	87%	13%	100%
Louth/Meath	76%	24%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	71%	29%	100%
Kerry	81%	19%	100%
Cork	92%	8%	100%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	65%	35%	100%
Waterford/Wexford	78%	22%	100%
Donegal	88%	12%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	97%	3%	100%
Mayo	94%	6%	100%
Galway/Roscommon	97%	3%	100%
Midwest	79%	21%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Child Protection & Welfare

## Cases Awaiting Allocation

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

- **5,398 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of December 2025, 490 (10%) more than November 2025 (4,908) and 392 (7%) fewer than December 2024 (5,790). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases introduced in January 2025.*

- Cases awaiting allocation account for 23% of open cases (23,612), up from 20% at the end of November 2025.

- **49% (2,665) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of December 2025 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 Cork (1,066) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (995), Dublin South Central (879), Midlands (416), Louth/Meath (335) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (320). These six areas account for 74% (4,011) of all cases awaiting allocation.

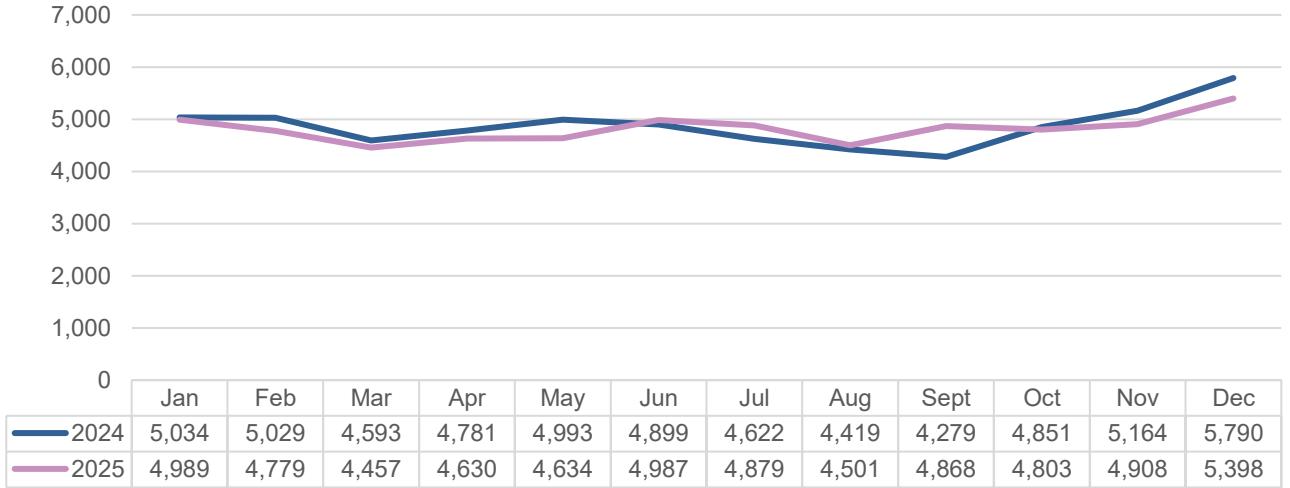
- **232 cases awaiting allocation at the end of December 2025 were categorised as high priority**, 7 (3%) more than November 2025 (225) and 291 (56%) fewer than December 2024 (523).

- High priority cases account for 4% of cases awaiting allocation.

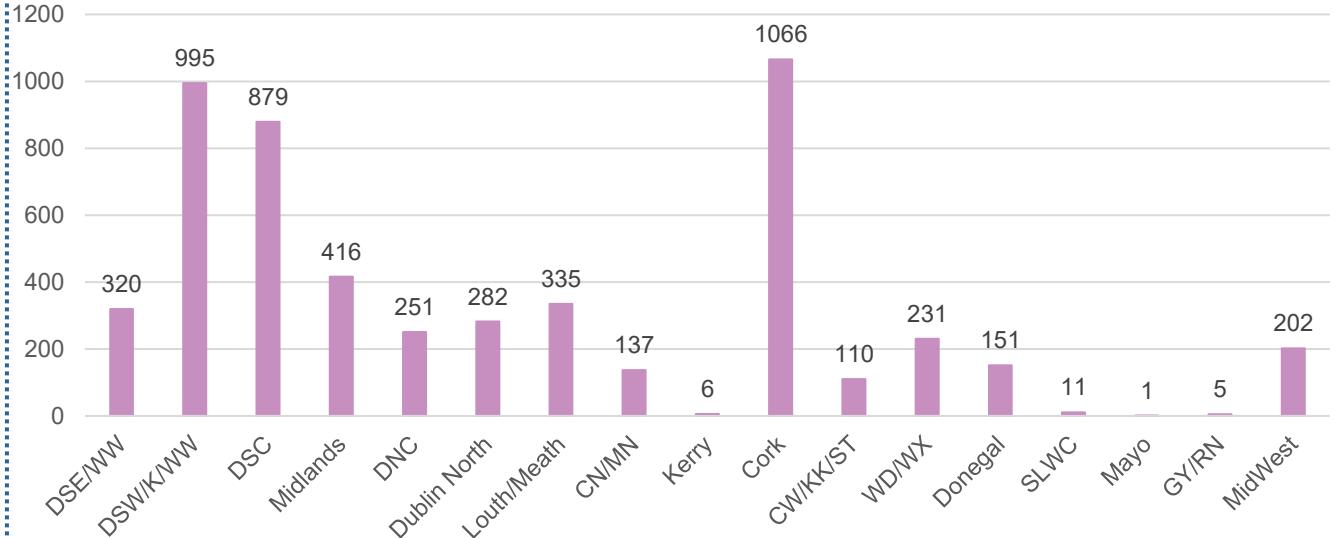
- 69% (3,708) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 26% (1,380) were low priority while the remaining 1% (78) were awaiting categorisation.

- Highest number of high priority cases reported by Dublin South Central (65), Cork (32), Midlands (28), Louth/Meath (27) and Donegal (18). These five areas account for 73% (170) of all high priority cases awaiting.

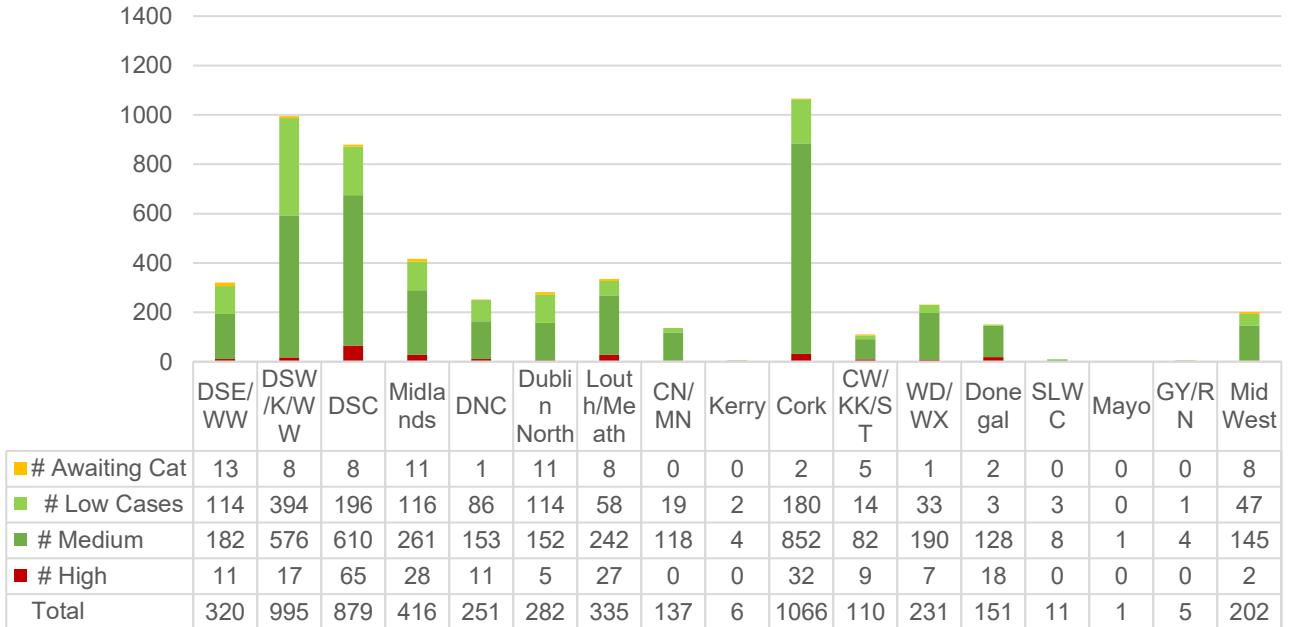
Number of Unallocated Cases



Number of Unallocated Cases



Number Unallocated Cases by Priority Level



# Child Protection & Welfare

## Cases Awaiting Allocation

- 12 of the 17 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from November 2025.
- Largest increase reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 118) followed by Midwest (94), Louth/Meath (62) and Cork (53).
- 4 of the 17 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from November 2025.
- Largest decrease reported by Galway/Roscommon (down 13), followed by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (down 3), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 2) and Cavan/Monaghan (down 2).
- The remaining area (Mayo) reported no change.

- Nationally 23% of open cases were awaiting allocation at the end of December 2025. Five areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 23%. Highest percentages reported by Dublin South Central (43%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (40%), Cork (34%), Midlands (26%) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (26%).
- 7 of the 17 areas had more cases awaiting allocation at the end of December 2025 than at the end of December 2024. Largest increases reported by Cork (up 384), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (105), Donegal (78) and Dublin North (69). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases introduced in January 2025.*
- 10 of the 17 areas had fewer cases awaiting allocation at the end of December 2025 than at the end of December 2024. Largest decreases reported by Midlands (down 314), Louth/Meath (down 239), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 202) and Waterford/Wexford (down 102).

Area	Dec-24 # Unallocated	Dec-24 % Unallocated	Oct-25 # Unallocated	Nov-25 # Unallocated	Dec-25 # Unallocated	Dec-25 % Unallocated	Oct-Dec	Dec-25 v Dec-24	% Δ	Dec-25 v Nov- 25	% Δ1
DSE/WW	302	27%	302	319	<b>320</b>	<b>26%</b>		18	6%	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>
DSW/K/WW	890	44%	819	877	<b>995</b>	<b>40%</b>		105	12%	<b>118</b>	<b>13%</b>
DSC	953	43%	875	840	<b>879</b>	<b>43%</b>		-74	-8%	<b>39</b>	<b>5%</b>
Midlands	730	36%	385	370	<b>416</b>	<b>26%</b>		-314	-43%	<b>46</b>	<b>12%</b>
DNC	274	15%	201	201	<b>251</b>	<b>15%</b>		-23	-8%	<b>50</b>	<b>25%</b>
Dublin North	213	11%	234	281	<b>282</b>	<b>15%</b>		69	32%	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>
Louth/Meath	574	32%	246	273	<b>335</b>	<b>18%</b>		-239	-42%	<b>62</b>	<b>23%</b>
CN/MN	127	16%	122	139	<b>137</b>	<b>17%</b>		10	8%	<b>-2</b>	<b>-1%</b>
Kerry	16	4%	15	5	<b>6</b>	<b>1%</b>		-10	-63%	<b>1</b>	<b>20%</b>
Cork	682	26%	1024	1013	<b>1066</b>	<b>34%</b>		384	56%	<b>53</b>	<b>5%</b>
CW/KK/ST	312	40%	111	112	<b>110</b>	<b>14%</b>		-202	-65%	<b>-2</b>	<b>-2%</b>
WD/WX	333	25%	196	193	<b>231</b>	<b>18%</b>		-102	-31%	<b>38</b>	<b>20%</b>
Donegal	73	10%	141	144	<b>151</b>	<b>20%</b>		78	107%	<b>7</b>	<b>5%</b>
SLWC	30	9%	14	14	<b>11</b>	<b>2%</b>		-19	-63%	<b>-3</b>	<b>-21%</b>
Mayo	0	0%	3	1	<b>1</b>	<b>0.3%</b>		1		<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
GY/RN	25	2%	17	18	<b>5</b>	<b>0.4%</b>		-20	-80%	<b>-13</b>	<b>-72%</b>
MidWest	256	18%	98	108	<b>202</b>	<b>13%</b>		-54	-21%	<b>94</b>	<b>87%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5790</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>4803</b>	<b>4908</b>	<b>5398</b>	<b>23%</b>		<b>-392</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>10%</b>

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

# Child Protection & Welfare

## Summary Tables

Area	Referrals Nov-25	Referrals Dec-25	Δ	Open Cases Nov-25	Open Cases Dec-25	Δ2	Allocated Cases Nov-25	Allocated Cases Dec-25	Δ3	Unallocated Cases Nov-25	Unallocated Cases Dec-25	Δ4
DSE/WW	425	331	-94	1,324	1,236	-88	1,005	916	-89	319	320	1
DSW/K/WW	879	870	-9	2,379	2,482	103	1,502	1,487	-15	877	995	118
DSC	626	538	-88	2,167	2,022	-145	1,327	1,143	-184	840	879	39
Midlands	903	827	-76	1,716	1,584	-132	1,346	1,168	-178	370	416	46
DNC	558	456	-102	1,718	1,718	0	1,517	1,467	-50	201	251	50
Dublin North	861	798	-63	1,995	1,826	-169	1,714	1,544	-170	281	282	1
Louth/Meath	765	603	-162	1,842	1,897	55	1,569	1,562	-7	273	335	62
CN/MN	354	208	-146	828	823	-5	689	686	-3	139	137	-2
Kerry	204	201	-3	433	416	-17	428	410	-18	5	6	1
Cork	865	772	-93	3,209	3,110	-99	2,196	2,044	-152	1013	1066	53
CW/KK/ST	467	406	-61	782	779	-3	670	669	-1	112	110	-2
WD/WX	658	520	-138	1,378	1,298	-80	1,185	1,067	-118	193	231	38
Donegal	334	246	-88	766	764	-2	622	613	-9	144	151	7
SLWC	140	158	18	430	468	38	416	457	41	14	11	-3
Mayo	127	166	39	314	329	15	313	328	15	1	1	0
GY/RN	426	390	-36	1,347	1,300	-47	1,329	1,295	-34	18	5	-13
MidWest	727	631	-96	1,539	1,560	21	1,431	1,358	-73	108	202	94
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,319</b>	<b>8,121</b>	<b>-1198</b>	<b>24,167</b>	<b>23,612</b>	<b>-555</b>	<b>19,259</b>	<b>18,214</b>	<b>-1,045</b>	<b>4,908</b>	<b>5,398</b>	<b>490</b>

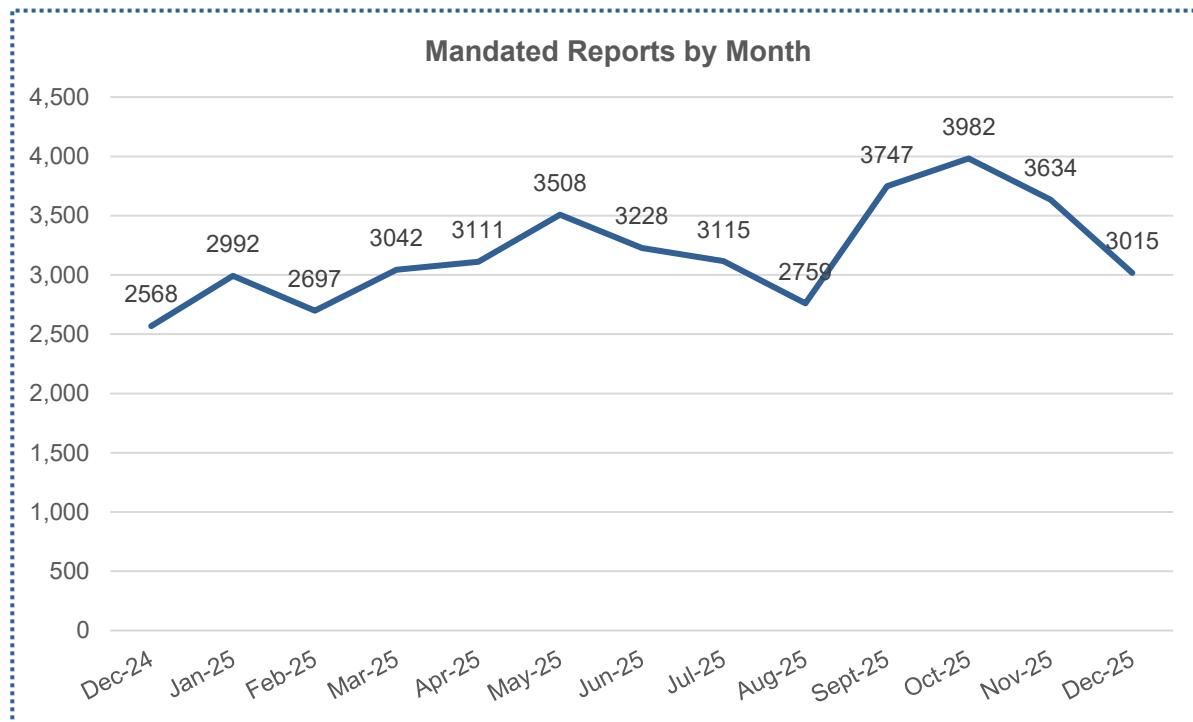
Area	High Priority Awaiting Nov-25	High Priority Awaiting Dec-25	Δ	Medium Priority Awaiting Nov-25	Medium Priority Awaiting Dec-25	Δ 2	Low Priority Awaiting Nov-25	Low Priority Awaiting Dec-25	Δ 3	Awaiting Categorisation Nov-25	Awaiting Categorisation Dec-25	Δ 4
DSE/WW	9	11	2	149	182	33	94	114	20	67	13	-54
DSW/K/WW	16	17	1	448	576	128	249	394	145	164	8	-156
DSC	63	65	2	538	610	72	208	196	-12	31	8	-23
Midlands	40	28	-12	167	261	94	68	116	48	95	11	-84
DNC	13	11	-2	130	153	23	54	86	32	4	1	-3
Dublin North	4	5	1	163	152	-11	77	114	37	37	11	-26
Louth/Meath	29	27	-2	147	242	95	18	58	40	79	8	-71
CN/MN	0	0	0	97	118	21	16	19	3	26	0	-26
Kerry	0	0	0	1	4	3	0	2	2	4	0	-4
Cork	20	32	12	749	852	103	167	180	13	77	2	-75
CW/KK/ST	5	9	4	76	82	6	19	14	-5	12	5	-7
WD/WX	0	7	7	128	190	62	35	33	-2	30	1	-29
Donegal	23	18	-5	116	128	12	0	3	3	5	2	-3
SLWC	0	0	0	7	8	1	3	3	0	4	0	-4
Mayo	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	-1
GY/RN	2	0	-2	4	4	0	9	1	-8	3	0	-3
MidWest	1	2	1	83	145	62	10	47	37	14	8	-6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3,003</b>	<b>3,708</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>1,027</b>	<b>1,380</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>-575</b>

# Mandated Reports<sup>1</sup> – Child Protection & Welfare

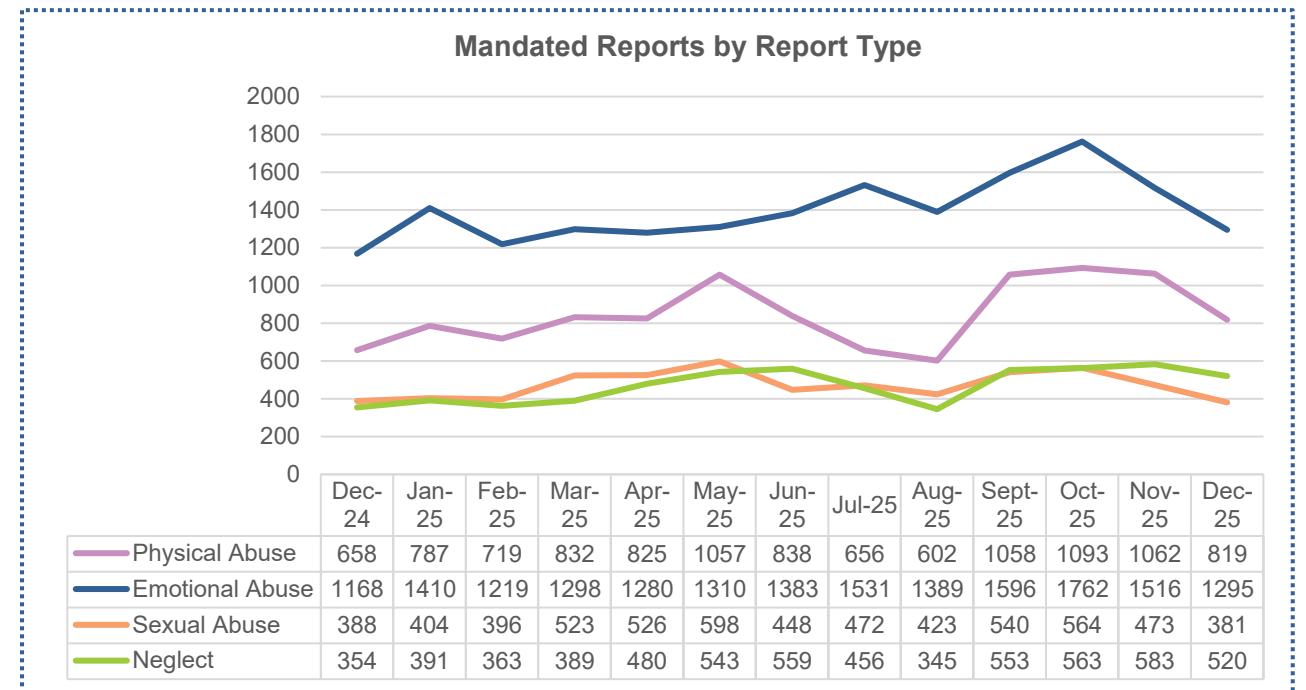
- **3,015 mandated reports of abuse** received in December 2025. This brings to 38,830 the number of reports 2025, 8,190 (27%) more 2024 (30,640).

*It should be noted that the data presented for the first 11 months of 2025 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for 2025.*

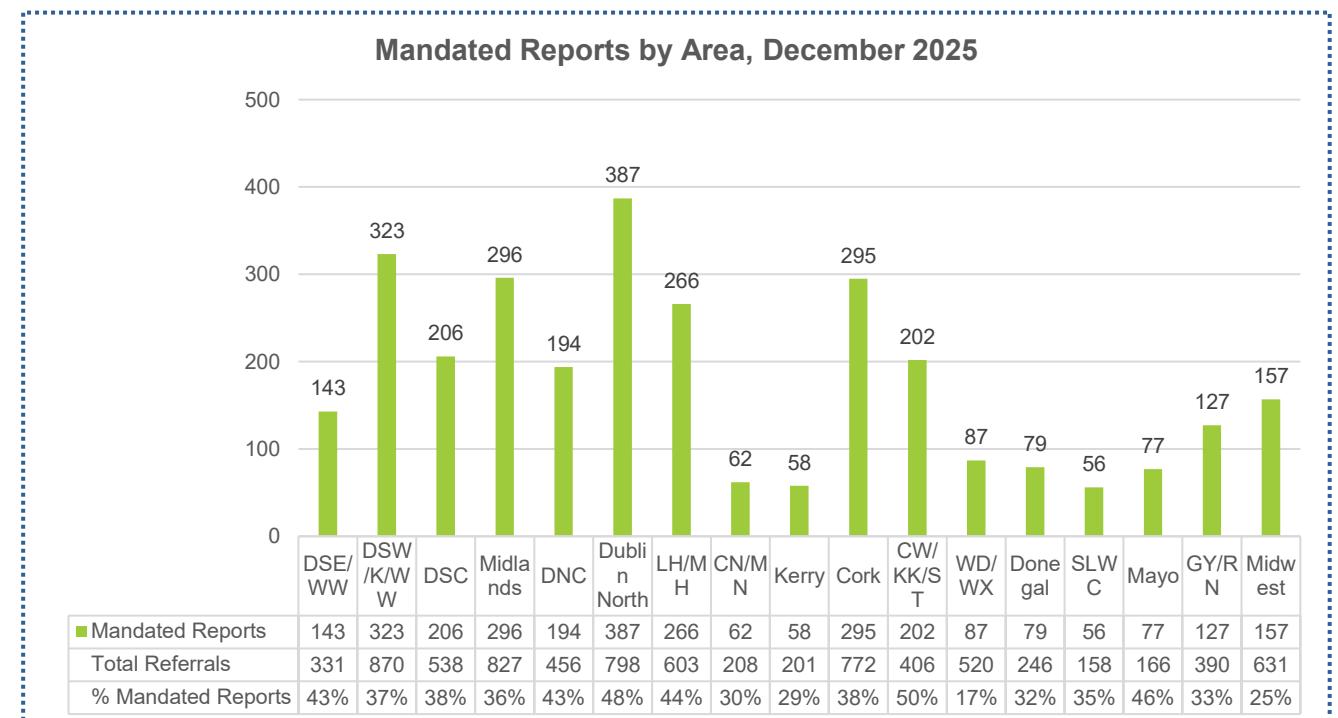
Mandated reports accounted for 37% (3,015) of all referrals received (8,121) in December 2025 and 36% (38,830) of referrals for 2025 (106,444).



- Highest number of reports for December 2025 were for emotional abuse (1,295; 43%) followed by physical abuse (819; 27%), neglect (520; 17%) and sexual abuse (381; 13%).



- The number of mandated reports for December 2025, by area ranged from 56 (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 387 (Dublin North).
- As a percentage of referrals, the highest percentage (50%; 202/406) was reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary.
- The lowest percentage (17%; 87/520) was reported by Waterford/Wexford



<sup>1</sup> 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 2025 from An Garda Síochána (1,191; 40%) followed by teachers (597; 20%), safeguarding officer (299; 10%), social workers (251; 8%), and social care workers (131; 4%). These five sources account for 82% (2,469) of reports for December 2025.
- Highest number of reports for 2025 from An Garda Síochána (15,224; 39%) followed by teachers (5,733; 15%), safeguarding officer (4,799; 12%); social workers (3,670; 10%) and social care workers (2,001; 5%). These five sources account for 81% (31,427) of reports for received for 2025.

Source (Schedule 2 Children First 2015)	# Dec-25	% Total	# 2025	% Total
An Garda Síochána	1,191	39.5%	15,224	39.2%
Teacher	597	19.8%	5,733	14.8%
Safeguarding officer, child protection officer	299	9.9%	4,799	12.4%
Social worker	251	8.3%	3,670	9.5%
Social care worker	131	4.3%	2,001	5.2%
Medical practitioner	110	3.6%	1,204	3.1%
Domestic violence shelter manager	69	2.3%	1,060	2.7%
Psychologist	87	2.9%	977	2.5%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	83	2.8%	947	2.4%
Nurse or registered midwife	62	2.1%	814	2.1%
Youth worker holds a professional qualification..	39	1.3%	647	1.7%
Homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility manager	22	0.7%	329	0.8%
Asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre manager	11	0.4%	208	0.5%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	6	0.2%	152	0.4%
Youth work service - person responsible for the care or management	5	0.2%	148	0.4%
Speech & language therapist	9	0.3%	127	0.3%
Occupational therapist	*	*	109	0.3%
Probation officer	*	*	105	0.3%
Guardian ad litem	*	*	101	0.3%
Not specified	8	0.3%	99	0.3%
Physiotherapist	*	*	89	0.2%
Addiction counsellor	5	0.2%	68	0.2%
Pre-school service	6	0.2%	65	0.2%
EMT, paramedic and advanced paramedic registered	7	0.2%	61	0.2%
Foster carer registered with the Agency.	*	*	53	0.1%
Institution where a child is detained by an order of a court (Director)	*	*	14	0.0%
Language school or other recreational school where children reside	*	*	12	0.0%
Clergy member	*	*	9	0.0%
Dentist	*	*	5	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,015</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>38,830</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

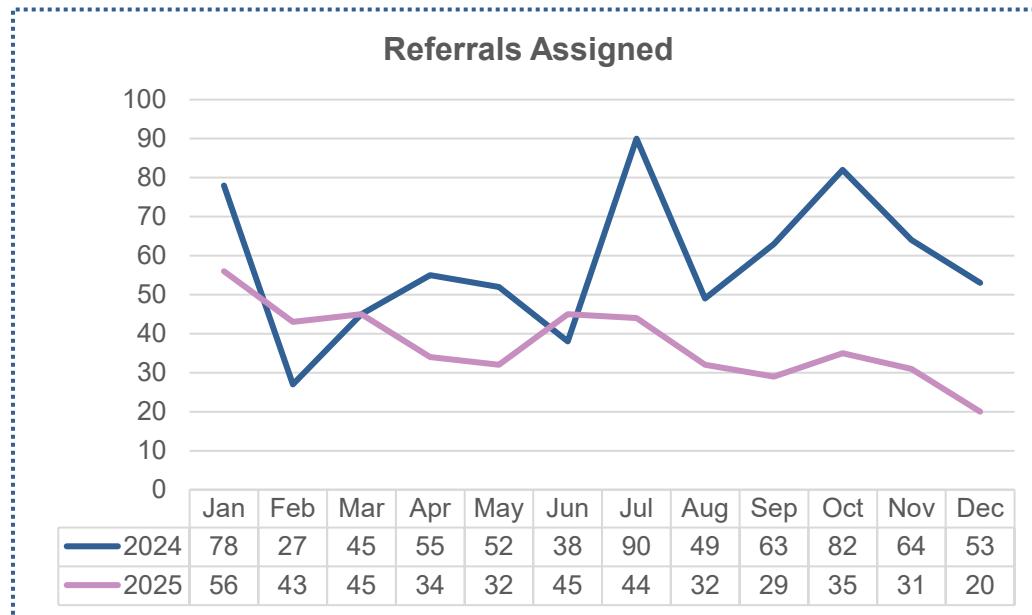
\*Values suppressed for confidentiality reasons.

# 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.

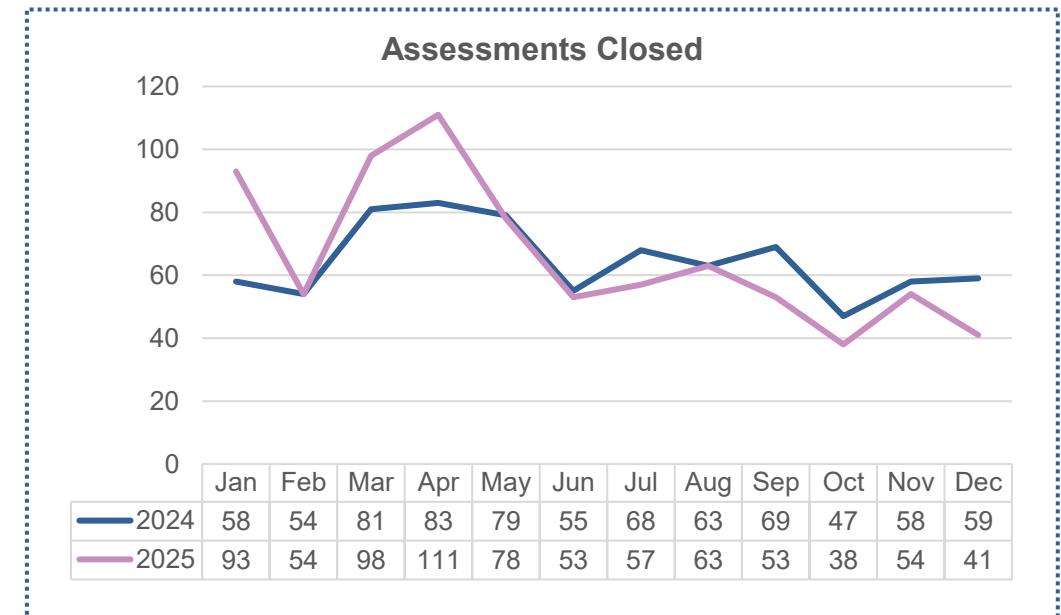
## Referrals

- **20 referrals assigned** to CASp Teams in December 2025.
- This brings to 446 the number of referrals assigned for 2025, 250 (36%) fewer than 2024 (696).



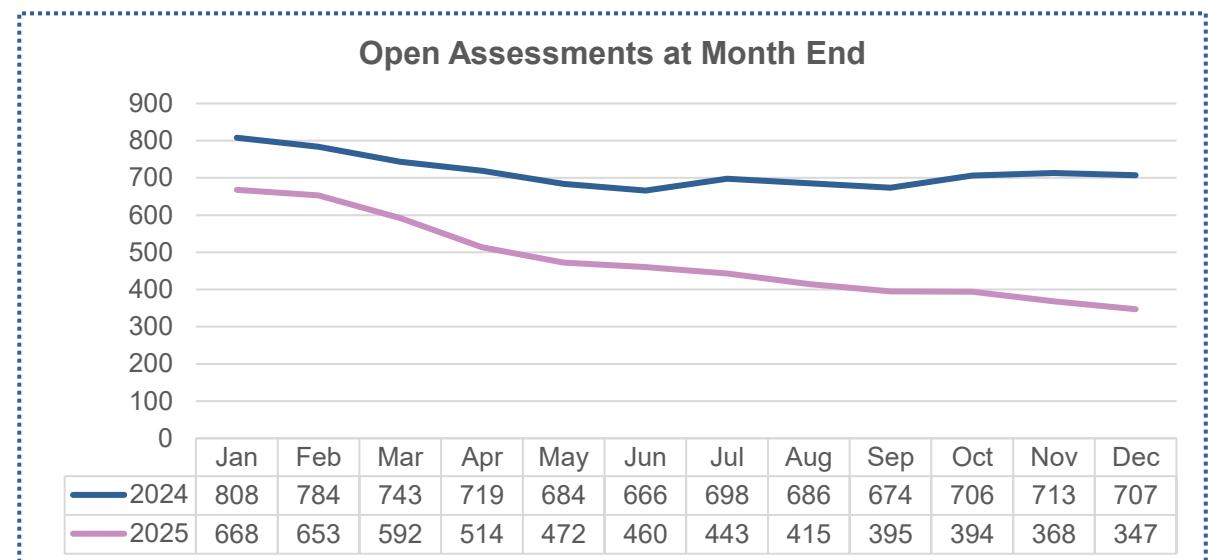
## Assessments Closed

- **41 assessments closed** in December 2025.
- This brings to 793 the number of assessments closed for 2025, 19 (2%) more than 2024 (774).



## Open Assessments

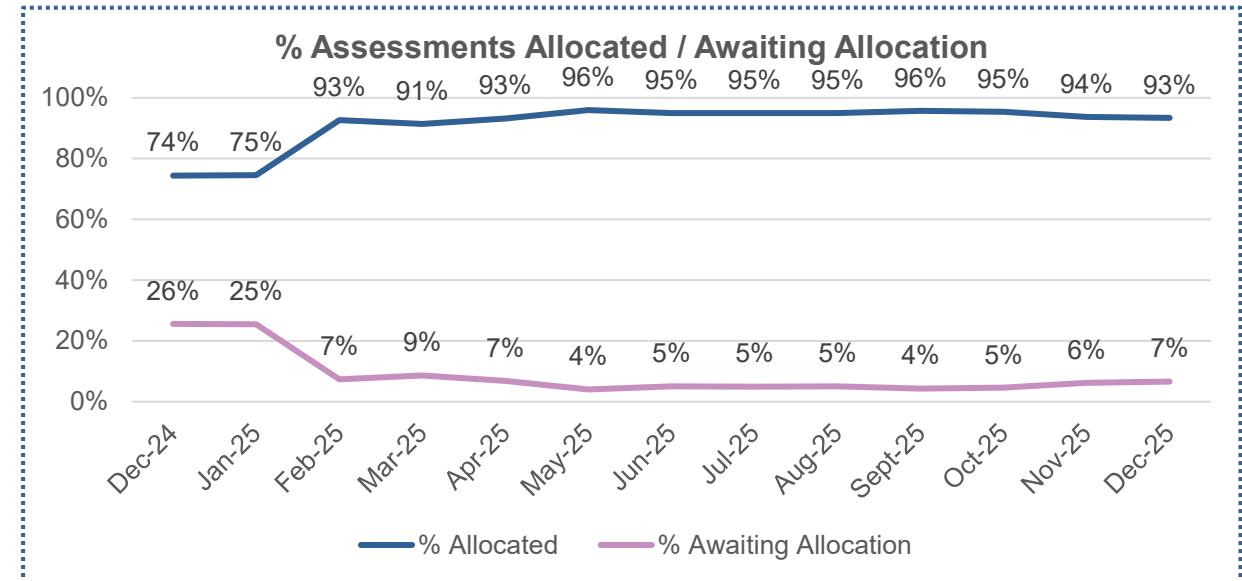
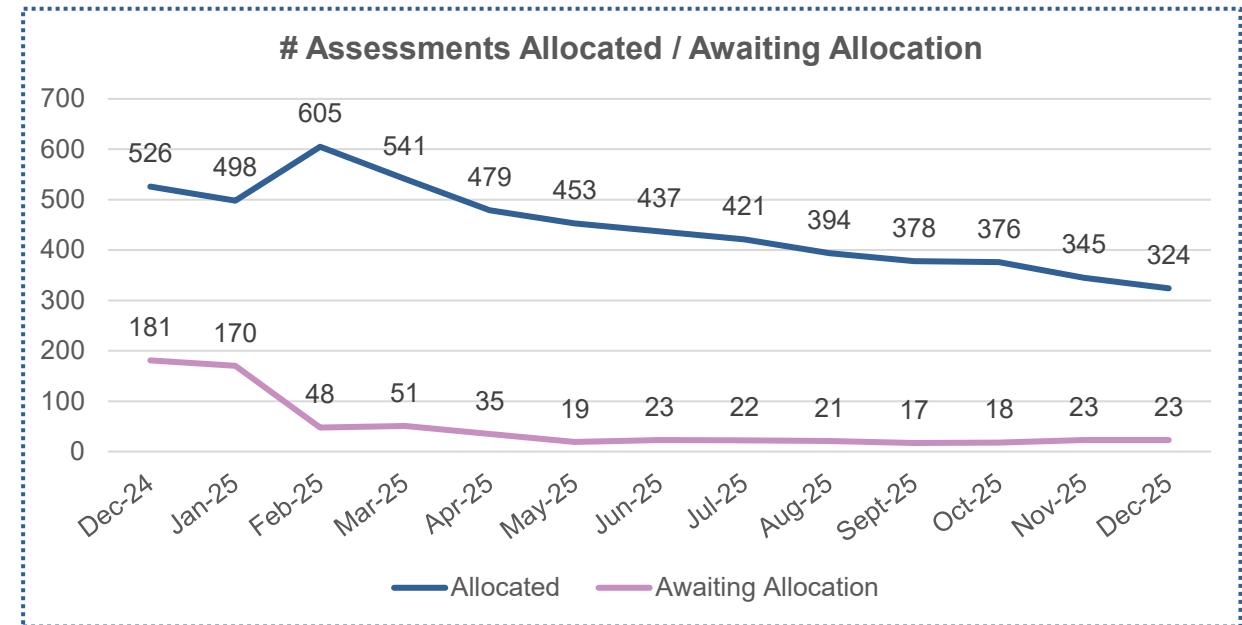
- **347 assessments open at the end of December 2025**, 21 (6%) fewer than November 2025 (368) and the fewest number for the period January 2024 – December 2025.
- There were 360 (51%) fewer assessments open at the end of December 2025 (347) than at the end of December 2024 (707).



# Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

## Allocation Status of Open Assessments

- **93% (324/347) of assessments open at the end of December 2025** were allocated to a social worker, down one percentage point from November 2025 (94%) and up 19 percentage points from December 2024 (74%).
- The remaining 7% (23) were awaiting allocation, no change from November 2025.
- 158 (87%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of December 2025 (23) than at the end of December 2024 (181).



# Children in Care

- **5,879 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of December 2025, 11 more than November 2025 (5,868) and 56 (1%) more than December 2024 (5,823).** Figure includes 150 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP)<sup>1</sup>.

- **Breakdown of children in care by Tusla's 17 areas and SCSIP as follows:**

	Dec-24	Nov-25	Dec-25	Dec 25 v Dec 24	Dec-25 v Nov-25
17 Tusla Areas	5,705	5,721	<b>5,729</b>	+24	+8
SCSIP	118	147	<b>150</b>	+32	+3
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,823</b>	<b>5,868</b>	<b>5,879</b>	<b>+56</b>	<b>+11</b>

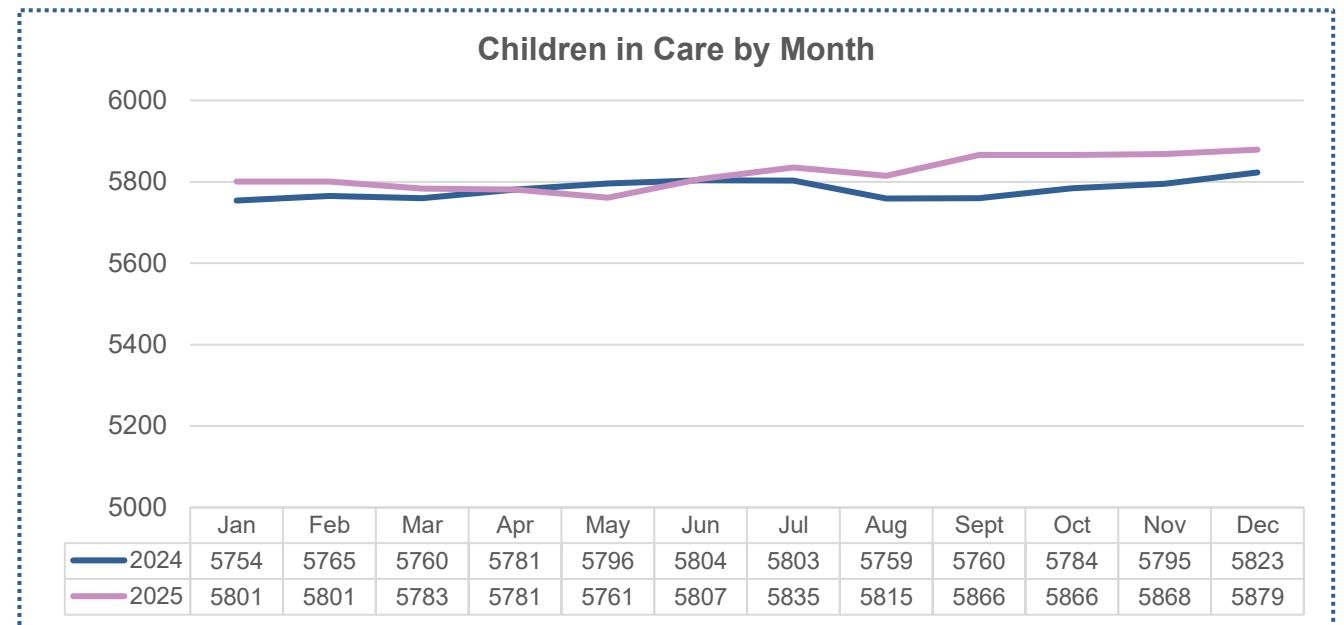
- **Breakdown of children in care by placement type as follows (Dec-25):**

Placement Type	17 areas	SCSIP	Total
Residential Care	484 (8.4%)	125 (83.3%)	<b>609 (10.4%)</b>
Foster Care	5,042 (88.0%)	16 (10.7%)	<b>5,058 (86.0%)</b>
Other*	203 (3.5%)	9 (6.0%)	<b>212 (3.6%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,729 (100%)</b>	<b>150 (100%)</b>	<b>5,879 (100.0%)</b>

- Residential care (609) includes 15 children in special care and 594 in general residential care. Of the children in foster care (5,058), 70% (3,545) were in general foster care and 30% (1,513) were in relative foster care.
- Highest number of children in care reported by Cork (663) followed by Dublin North City (506) and Midwest (502).
- Fewest number reported Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan (122) followed by Mayo (147) and the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (150).
- Across the 17 Areas the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 children was reported by Dublin North City (10.3) followed by Donegal (5.7) and Waterford/Wexford (5.6).
- Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.1) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.8).
- 9 areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 4.7/1,000 children.

## Notes:

1. The Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection has an additional **457 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.



## Rate of children in care / 1,000 child population 0-17 years (ranked by rate/1,000)

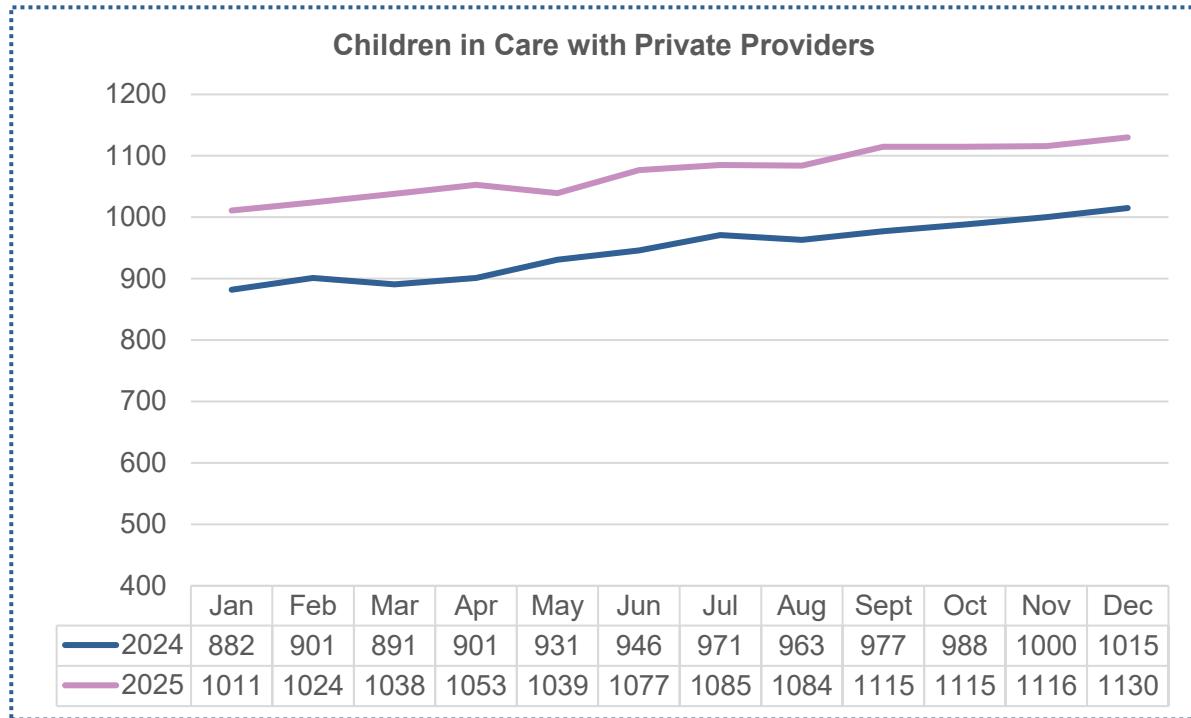
Area	Dec-24	Nov-25	Dec-25	Dec-25 v Dec-24	Dec-25 v Nov-25	Population	Rate/1,000
Dublin North City	465	507	<b>506</b>	41	-1	48,909	<b>10.3</b>
Donegal	236	244	<b>242</b>	6	-2	42,144	<b>5.7</b>
Waterford/Wexford	430	383	<b>386</b>	-44	3	69,239	<b>5.6</b>
CW/KK/ST	308	319	<b>324</b>	16	5	62,366	<b>5.2</b>
Midwest	501	502	<b>502</b>	1	0	96,764	<b>5.2</b>
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	119	118	<b>122</b>	3	4	24,312	<b>5.0</b>
Kerry	174	170	<b>173</b>	-1	3	34,994	<b>4.9</b>
Cork	667	666	<b>663</b>	-4	-3	136,786	<b>4.8</b>
Dublin South Central	332	330	<b>332</b>	0	2	70,259	<b>4.7</b>
Cavan/Monaghan	167	176	<b>173</b>	6	-3	37,336	<b>4.6</b>
Mayo	146	149	<b>147</b>	1	-2	31,911	<b>4.6</b>
Galway/Roscommon	344	366	<b>366</b>	22	0	81,799	<b>4.5</b>
Louth/Meath	418	426	<b>427</b>	9	1	96,531	<b>4.4</b>
Midlands	346	349	<b>345</b>	-1	-4	80,962	<b>4.3</b>
Dublin North	424	421	<b>421</b>	-3	0	104,281	<b>4.0</b>
DSW/K/WW	419	405	<b>409</b>	-10	4	108,927	<b>3.8</b>
Dublin South East/Wicklow	209	190	<b>191</b>	-18	1	91,047	<b>2.1</b>
<b>Total Areas</b>	<b>5,705</b>	<b>5,721</b>	<b>5,729</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,218,567</b>	<b>4.7</b>
SCSIP	118	147	150	32	3		
<b>Total National</b>	<b>5,823</b>	<b>5,868</b>	<b>5,879</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>11</b>		

Population: CSO Census 2022

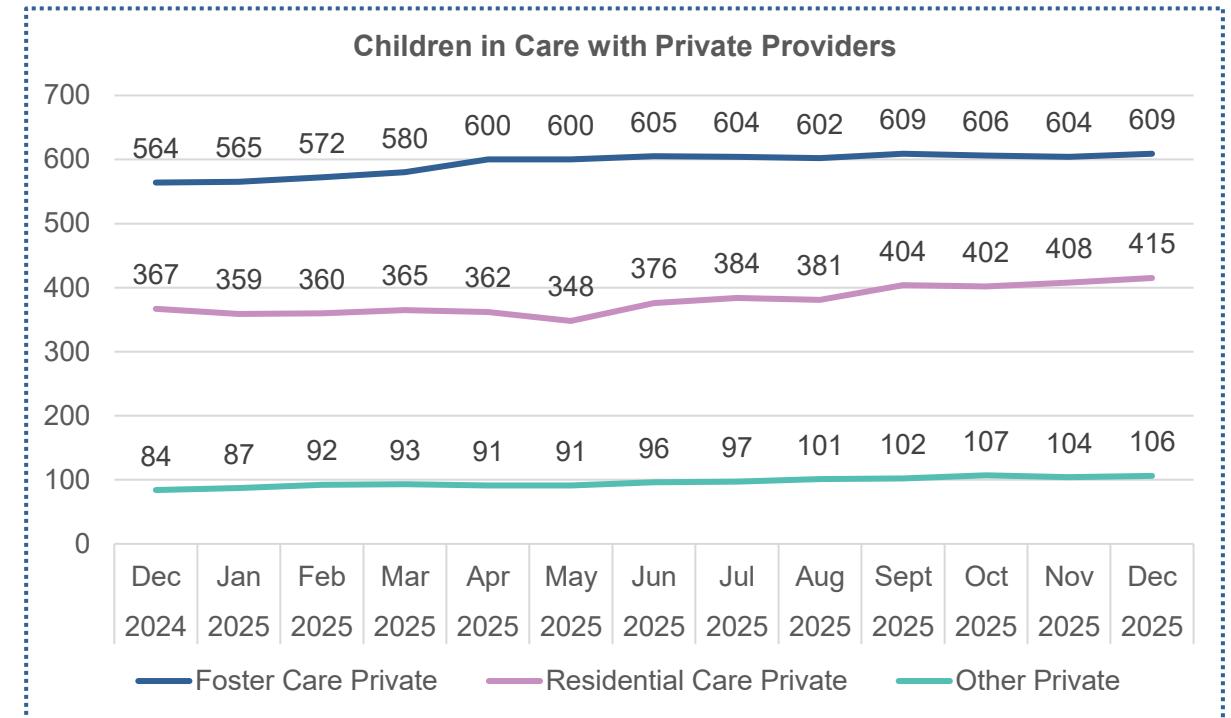
# Children in Care

## Private Providers

- **1,130 (19%)** children in care at the end of December 2025 were in placements with private providers, 14 (1%) more than November 2025 (1,116) and 115 (11%) more than December 2024 (1,015).



- **609 (54%)** children in placements with private providers were in **foster care**, 5 (<1%) more than November 2025 (604) and 45 (8%) more than December 2024 (564).
- **415 (37%)** children were in **residential care**, 7 (2%) more than November 2025 (408) and 48 (13%) more than December 2024 (367).
- The remaining **106 (9%)** children were in “**Other**” care placements, up two from November 2025 (104) and 22 (26%) more than December 2024 (84). “*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 (165), Dublin North (123), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (122), Dublin South Central (120) and SCSIP (117). These five account for 57% (647) of children in placements with private providers.



## Children in Care with Private Providers

Children in Care (Private)	Dec-24	Nov-25	Dec-25	Dec-25 v Dec-24	Dec-25 v Nov-25
Dublin North City	129	163	<b>165</b>	36	2
Dublin North	122	123	<b>123</b>	1	0
DSW/K/WW	118	120	<b>122</b>	4	2
Dublin South Central	113	116	<b>120</b>	7	4
SCSIP	72	111	<b>117</b>	45	6
Midlands	87	105	<b>102</b>	15	-3
Cork	55	68	<b>69</b>	14	1
Louth/Meath	53	50	<b>50</b>	-3	0
Waterford/Wexford	53	46	<b>47</b>	-6	1
Dublin South East/Wicklow	52	44	<b>44</b>	-8	0
Midwest	41	43	<b>44</b>	3	1
Kerry	33	35	<b>35</b>	2	0
Donegal	22	26	<b>25</b>	3	-1
CW/KK/ST	25	24	<b>24</b>	-1	0
Galway/Roscommon	16	17	<b>17</b>	1	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	14	12	<b>13</b>	-1	1
Cavan/Monaghan	9	9	<b>9</b>	0	0
Mayo	1	4	<b>4</b>	3	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>1,116</b>	<b>1,130</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>14</b>

# Children in Care

## Allocated Cases

Reflecting an ongoing changing environment and significant social work vacancies, Tusla has moved to a more multi-disciplinary way of working with children now allocated to social workers and other professional grades where necessary and appropriate to ensure they have the support of a key worker. All children continue to be overseen by social work management.

To improve transparency and ensure the data reported reflects our practice change, reports (from January 2025) now reflect where a child is allocated a social worker and where they are allocated to another professional. Other professionals include professionally qualified social care leaders, social care workers, family support workers, therapists etc.

- **98% (5,777) of children in care at the end of December 2025 had an allocated worker.**
- Of the 5,777 children allocated, 89% (5,165) were allocated to a social worker and 11% (612) were allocated to another professional.
- A total of 102 (2%) children were awaiting allocation, 13 (15%) more than November 2025 (89).
- 8 of the 17 areas report no cases awaiting allocation with a further six areas reporting fewer than 10 cases awaiting allocation.
- Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow reports the highest number of children awaiting allocation (33) followed by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (23), Louth/Meath (18) and Dublin South Central (10).

### Breakdown of allocation status by area and role of worker, December 2025. Ranked by % Allocated

Area	Allocated SW	% Allocated SW	Allocated OP	% Allocated OP	Total Allocated	% Allocated to Worker	Awaiting Allocation	% Awaiting Allocation	Total in Care
Dublin South East/Wicklow	184	96%	7	4%	191	100%	0	0%	191
Midlands	318	92%	27	8%	345	100%	0	0%	345
Dublin North City	462	91%	44	9%	506	100%	0	0%	506
Cavan/Monaghan	164	95%	9	5%	173	100%	0	0%	173
Kerry	162	94%	11	6%	173	100%	0	0%	173
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	188	58%	136	42%	324	100%	0	0%	324
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	122	100%	0	0%	122	100%	0	0%	122
Mayo	147	100%	0	0%	147	100%	0	0%	147
Mid West	382	76%	119	24%	501	100%	1	0.2%	502
Dublin North	385	92%	35	8%	420	100%	1	0.2%	421
Waterford/Wexford	326	85%	57	15%	383	99%	3	1%	386
Galway/Roscommon	357	98%	6	2%	363	99%	3	1%	366
Donegal	222	93%	18	8%	240	99%	2	1%	242
Cork	655	100%	0	0%	655	99%	8	1%	663
Dublin South Central	306	95%	16	5%	322	97%	10	3%	332
Louth/Meath	346	85%	63	15%	409	96%	18	4%	427
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	312	83%	64	17%	376	92%	33	8%	409
SCSIP	127	100%	0	0%	127	85%	23	15%	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,165</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>5,777</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>5,879</b>

# Children in Care

## Care Plan

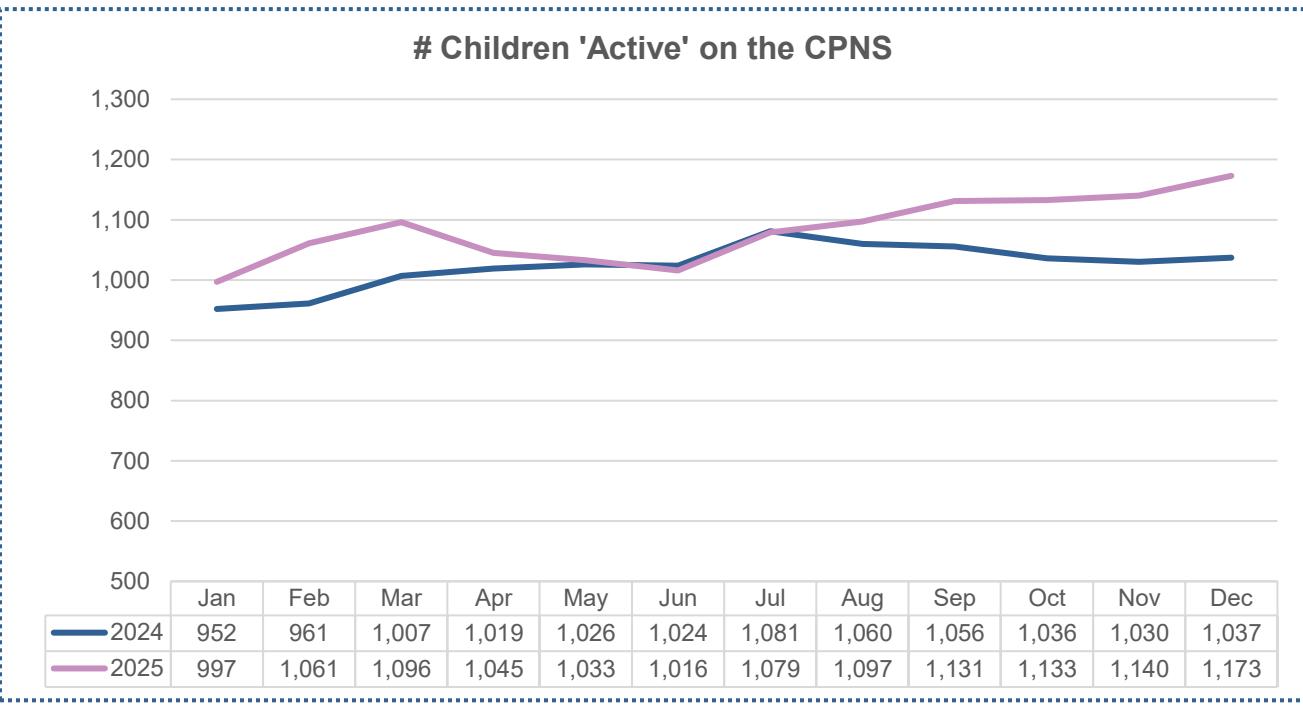
- **84% (4,924) of children in care at the end of December 2025 had an up-to-date care plan**, down one percentage point from November 2025 (85%).
- A total of 955 (16%) children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 85 (10%) more than November 2025 (870).
- Highest numbers awaiting an up-to-date care plan reported by Dublin North City (116; 23%); Midwest (98; 20%), Cork (91; 14%), Dublin North (87; 21%) and Dublin South Central (80; 24%).

Area breakdown of children in care with an up-to-date care plan– December 2025

Area	UTD Care Plan	Awaiting UTD Care Plan	Total in Care	% UTD Care Plan
Midlands	337	8	345	98%
Donegal	227	15	242	94%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	299	25	324	92%
Waterford/Wexford	353	33	386	91%
Cavan/Monaghan	152	21	173	88%
Cork	572	91	663	86%
Galway/Roscommon	310	56	366	85%
Kerry	143	30	173	83%
Mayo	121	26	147	82%
Louth/Meath	351	76	427	82%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	335	74	409	82%
Mid West	404	98	502	80%
Dublin North	334	87	421	79%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	96	26	122	79%
Dublin North City	390	116	506	77%
Dublin South Central	252	80	332	76%
SCSIP	112	38	150	75%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	136	55	191	71%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,924</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>5,879</b>	<b>84%</b>

# Child Protection Notification System

- **1,173 children listed as ‘active’** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of December 2025, 33 (3%) more than November 2025 (1,140) and the sixth consecutive increase.
- There were 136 (13%) more children ‘active’ at the end of December 2025 than at the end December 2024 (1,037).
- *It should be noted that a small number of large sibling groups can have a significant effect on numbers reported.*
- 98% (1,155) of children ‘active’ had an allocated social worker, 18 children were awaiting allocation to a social worker, of which 11 were allocated to another professional. Thirteen of the 18 children were subsequently allocated to a social worker.
- Highest numbers of children listed as ‘active’ at the end of December 2025, reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (159), Cork (124), Midwest (103), Midlands (98), Dublin North City (95) and Dublin North (94).
- Fewest numbers reported by Kerry (19), Mayo (21) and Donegal (27).
- The number of children ‘active’ equates to 9.6 children per 10,000 under 18 years.
- Highest rates reported by Dublin North City (19.4), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (14.8) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (14.6).
- Lowest rates reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (3.7), Waterford/Wexford (4.8) and Kerry (5.4)
- 10 of the 17 areas had more children listed as ‘active’ at the end of December 2025 than at the end of November 2025. Largest increases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 11), Dublin South Central (up 11), Midwest (up 10) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (up 10).
- 7 of the 17 areas reported fewer children ‘active’ with the largest decreases reported by Dublin North City (down 7), Waterford/Wexford (down 6), Dublin North (down 6) and Midlands (down 6).
- 10 of the 17 areas had more children ‘active’ at the end of December 2025 than at the end of December 2024. Largest increases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 51), Galway/Roscommon (up 30), Dublin North (up 28), Cork (up 26) and Cavan/Monaghan (22).
- 6 of the 17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Dublin North City (down 26), Midlands (down 17) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 17).
- The remaining area (Dublin South East/Wicklow) reported no change.



## Number and rate of children ‘active’ on the CPNS, by area (ranked by rate)

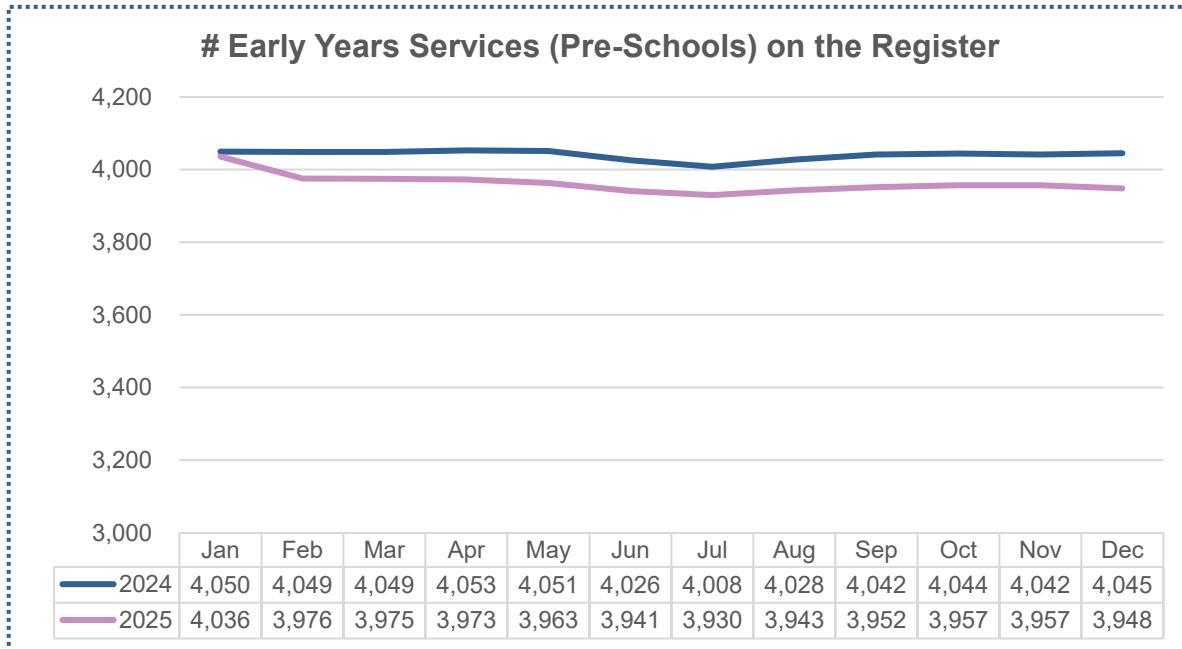
Area	Dec-24	Nov-25	Dec-25	Dec-25 v Dec-24	Dec-25 v Nov-25	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	121	102	<b>95</b>	-26	-7	48,909	<b>19.4</b>
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	27	34	<b>36</b>	9	2	24,312	<b>14.8</b>
DSW/K/WW	108	148	<b>159</b>	51	11	108,927	<b>14.6</b>
Dublin South Central	78	81	<b>92</b>	14	11	70,259	<b>13.1</b>
Midlands	115	104	<b>98</b>	-17	-6	80,962	<b>12.1</b>
Mid West	87	93	<b>103</b>	16	10	96,764	<b>10.6</b>
Galway / Roscommon	57	82	<b>87</b>	30	5	81,799	<b>10.6</b>
Cork	98	123	<b>124</b>	26	1	136,786	<b>9.1</b>
Dublin North	66	100	<b>94</b>	28	-6	104,281	<b>9.0</b>
Cavan / Monaghan	10	25	<b>32</b>	22	7	37,336	<b>8.6</b>
Louth / Meath	59	69	<b>74</b>	15	5	96,531	<b>7.7</b>
CW/K/ST	62	35	<b>45</b>	-17	10	62,366	<b>7.2</b>
Mayo	22	25	<b>21</b>	-1	-4	31,911	<b>6.6</b>
Donegal	36	24	<b>27</b>	-9	3	42,144	<b>6.4</b>
Kerry	25	21	<b>19</b>	-6	-2	34,994	<b>5.4</b>
Waterford / Wexford	32	39	<b>33</b>	1	-6	69,239	<b>4.8</b>
DSE/WW	34	35	<b>34</b>	0	-1	91,047	<b>3.7</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>1,140</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1,218,567</b>	<b>9.6</b>

Population 0-17 years – source CSO Census 2022

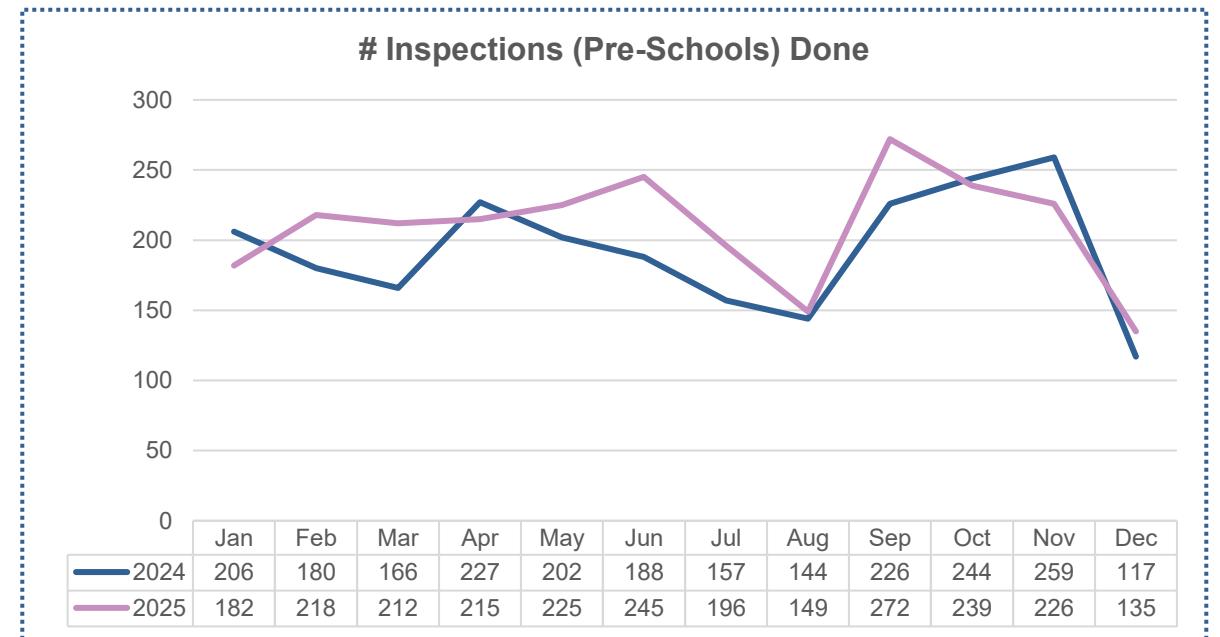
# Children's Services Regulation

## EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- **3,948 early years services (pre-schools) on the register at the end of December 2025**, 9 (<1%) fewer than November 2025 (3,957) and 97 (2%) fewer than December 2024 (4,045). *The reduction between January and February 2025 is partly explained by the transfer of a number of registered childminders from the Pre-School Register to the new Childminder Register of Services.*

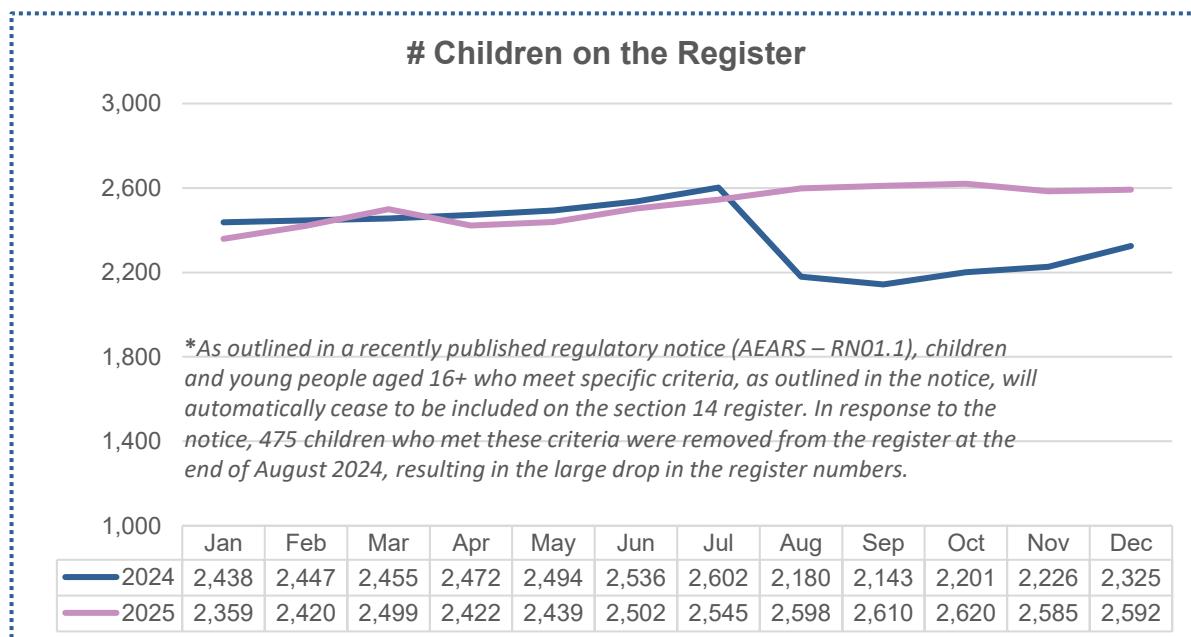


- **135 inspections** of early years services (pre-schools) in December 2025.
- This brings to 2,514 the number of inspections for 2025, 198 (9%) more than 2024 (2,316).

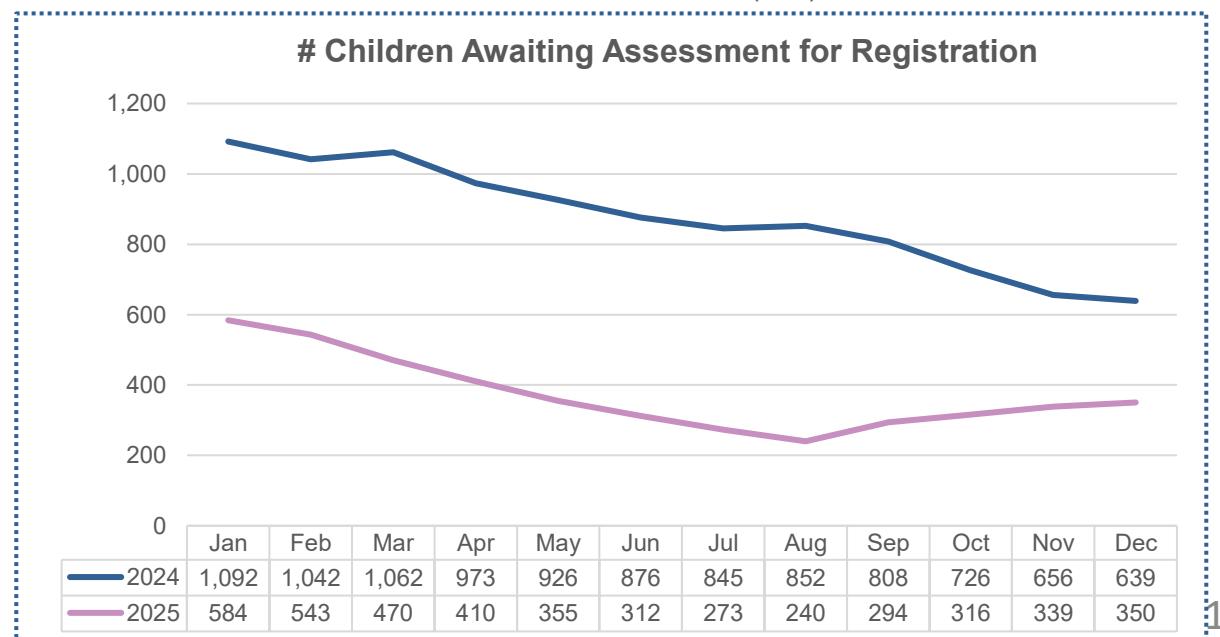


## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

- **2,592 children on the register** for home education at the end of December 2025, 7 (<1%) more than November 2025 (2,585), and 267 (11%) more than December 2024 (2,325).



- **350 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of December 2025**, 11 (3%) more than November 2025 (339), fourth consecutive increase after 12 consecutive decreases. There were 289 (45%) fewer children awaiting at the end of December 2025 than at the end of December 2024 (639).



# Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,051 referrals** for an educational welfare service in December 2025.
- This brings to 4,342 the number of referrals for the first four months of the academic year 2025/26.

*Note: the number of referrals for the academic year 2025/26 is not comparable with previous academic years due to the following: (1) change in metric definition from referrals screened to all referrals received; (2) introduction of a new team ('Children Missing in Education Team') and (3) launch of the Tusla Attendance Campaign in September 2025.*

- **9,079 cases open** to educational welfare services at the end of December 2025, 86 (1%) more than November 2025 (8,993).
- **57% (5,186) of open cases were allocated**, down from 59% (5,261) at the end of November 2025.
- **43% (3,893) of open cases were on a waiting list for allocation**, up from 41% (3,732) at the end of November 2025.
- 161 (4%) more cases on the waiting list at the end of December 2025 than at the end of November 2025 (3,732), and 165 (4%) more than December 2024 (3,728).

