



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

MONTHLY SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024

22 March 2024
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 – February 2024

Child Protection & Welfare

- **7,885** referrals in February 2024, 293 (4%) more than January 2024 (7,592) and 639 (9%) more than February 2023 (7,246). This brings to 15,477 the number of referrals for the first two months of 2024, 370 (2%) more than the same period in 2023 (15,107).
- **22,442 cases open to social work** at the end of February 2024, 571 (3%) more than January 2024 (21,871) and 294 (1%) fewer than February 2023 (22,736). *Open cases include child protection and welfare cases including children in care.*
- **78% (17,413)** of cases open to social work at the end of February 2024 had an **allocated social worker**.
- **5,029 cases awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of February 2024**, five fewer than January 2024 (5,034) and 1,046 (17%) fewer February 2023 (6,075).
- Six areas account for 68% (3,443) of cases awaiting allocation: Dublin South Central (1,149) followed by Cork (658), Louth/Meath (573), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (359), Dublin North City (359) and Midwest (345).
- **8% (407)** of cases awaiting allocation at the end of February 2024 were categorised **as high priority**, 6 (1%) more than January 2024 (401) and 9 (2%) fewer than February 2023 (416).

Children in Care

- **5,765 children in care at the end of February 2024**, 11 more than at the end of January 2024 (5,754). *This figure includes 145 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP), down six from 151 at the end of January 2024.*
- 87% (5,039)* of all children in care are in foster care (3,574 general foster care, and 1,465 relative foster), 8% (488) are in residential care (475 general residential care and 13 special care) and 4% (238) are in “other” care placements.
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas 89.3% (5,016/5,620) of children in care are in foster care.
- **902 (16%)** of children in care at the end of February 2024 were in **placements with private providers**, 20 (2%) more than January 2024 (882).
- **82% (4,756)** of children in care at the end of February 2024 had an **allocated social worker**; 1,009 children were awaiting an allocated social worker, 96 (9%) fewer than January 2024 (1,105).
- **80% (4,626)** of children in care at the end of February 2024 had an **up-to-date care plan**; 1,138 children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 173 (13%) fewer than January 2024 (1,311). *Care plan status not available for one child.*

**Decrease from previous months in the overall percentage of children in care in foster care is due to the inclusion of SCSIP as the majority of these children are placed in residential care.*

Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

- **961 children listed as “active” at the end of February 2024**, 9 (<1%) more than January 2024 (952).
- There were 111 (13%) more children “active” at the end of February 2024 than at the end of February 2023 (850).
- All children listed as “active” at the end of February 2024 had an allocated social worker.

Children’s Services Regulation

- **4,049 early years services on the register at the end of February 2024**, one fewer than January 2024 (4,050) and three fewer than February 2023 (4,052).
- **180 inspections of early years services done in February 2024**. This brings to 386 the number of inspections for the first two months of 2024, 14 (4%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (400).
- **2,447 children on the register for home education at the end of February 2024**, 9 (<1%) more than January 2024 (2,438) and 404 (20%) more than February 2023 (2,043).
- **1,042 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of February 2024**, 50 (5%) fewer than January 2024 (1,092) and 367 (26%) fewer than February 2023 (1,409).

Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,078 referrals screened by senior educational welfare services in February 2024**. This brings to 4,049 the number of referrals for the first six months of the academic year 2023-2024, 637 (19%) more than the same period in 2022-2023 (3,412).
- **3,243 referrals on a waiting list for educational welfare services at the end of February 2024**, 429 (15%) more than January 2024 (2,814) and the fourth consecutive monthly increase.
- **383 new individual children worked with in February 2024**. This brings to 2,157 the number of new individual children worked with for the first six months of the academic year 2023-2024, 204 (10%) more than the same period in 2022-2023 (1,953).

Child Protection and Welfare

Referrals¹

- **7,885 referrals** in February 2024, 293 (4%) more than January 2024 (7,592) and 639 (9%) more than February 2023 (7,246).
- This brings to 15,477 the number of referrals for the first two months of 2024, 370 (2%) more than the same period in 2023 (15,107).

It should be noted that the data presented for January – September 2023 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for remainder of 2023 and 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

- **22,442 cases open to social work** at the end of February 2024, 571 (3%) more than January 2024 (21,871) and 294 (1%) fewer than February 2023 (22,736). *Open cases from September 2023 include cases awaiting categorisation. See note below.*

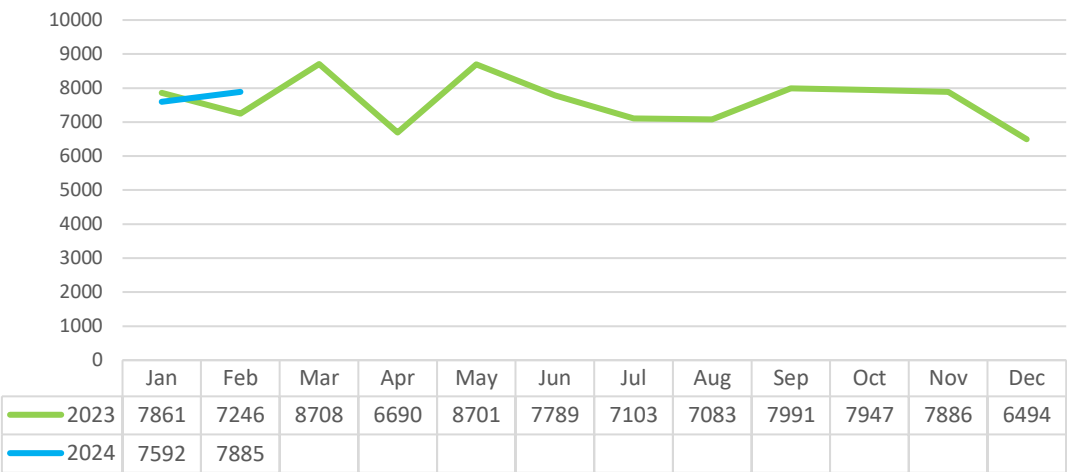
Notes:

- 1) *From September 2023, open cases (allocated/unallocated) include cases “awaiting categorisation” at month end. This is in addition to cases categorised as high, medium and low. The category “awaiting categorisation” was introduced this year to reflect better questions being asked at screening and awaiting information for slightly longer.*
- 2) *Open cases include, all cases held on duty, allocated and unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care.*
- 3) *The data presented on cases is based on the status of cases on the TCM at month end.*

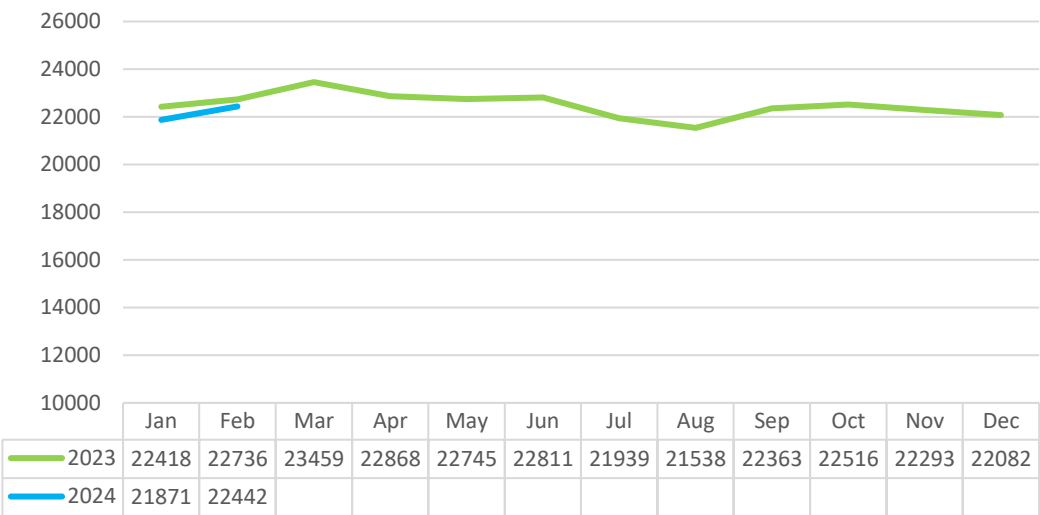
Allocated Cases

- **17,413 open cases were allocated** to a social worker at the end of February 2024, 576 (3%) more than January 2024 (16,837) and 752 (5%) more than February 2023 (16,661). *Note: comparison of data from September 2023 with previous months needs to be interpreted with caution due to the inclusion of cases awaiting categorisation from September 2023. Refer to notes above.*
- Allocated cases account for 78% of open cases, up one percentage point from January 2023 (77%) and up five percentage points from February 2023 (73%).

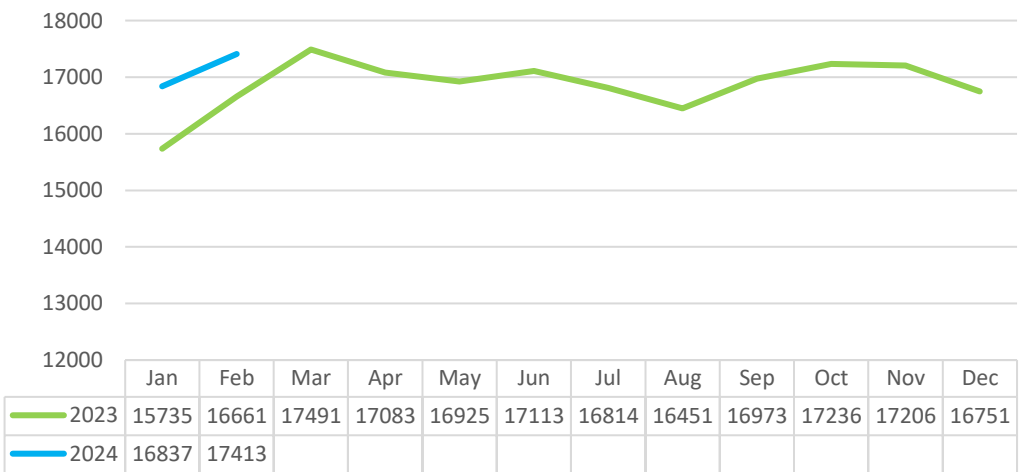
Referrals



Number of Open Cases



Number of Allocated Cases



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).

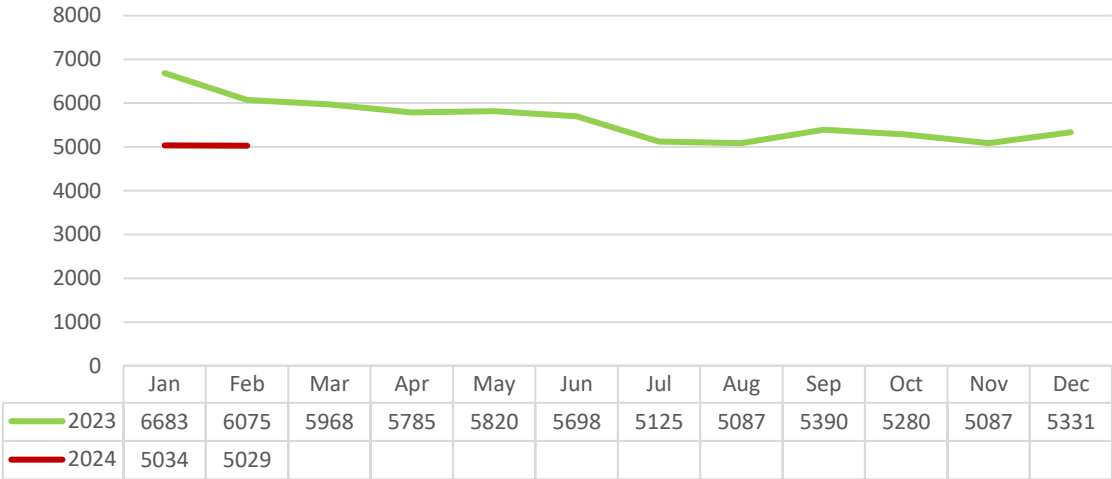
Child Protection & Welfare

Cases Awaiting Allocation of a Social Worker

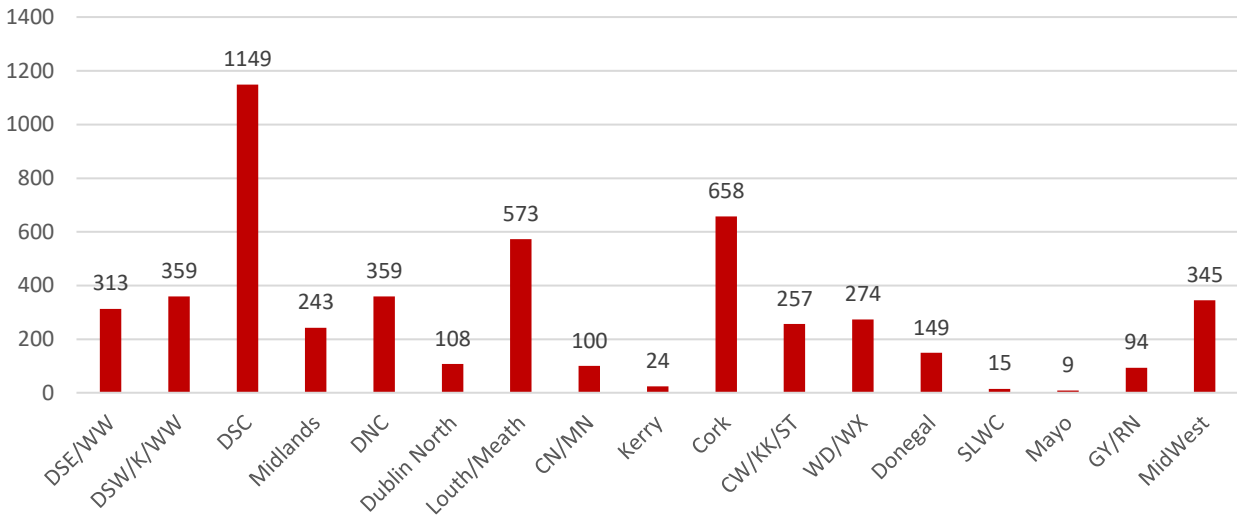
Cases awaiting allocation include cases held on duty, unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care

- **5,029 cases awaiting allocation of a social worker** at the end of February 2024, five fewer than January 2024 (5,034) and 1,046 (17%) fewer February 2023 (6,075). *Note: comparison of data from September 2023 with August 2023 and previous months needs to be interpreted with caution due to the inclusion of cases awaiting categorisation from September 2023. Refer to notes on previous page.*
- Cases awaiting allocation account for 22% of open cases (22,442), down one percentage point from January 2024 (23%).
- **64% (3,228) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of February 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 (1,149) followed by Cork (658), Louth/Meath (573), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (359), Dublin North City (359) and Midwest (345). These six areas account for 68% (3,443) of all cases awaiting allocation.
- **407 cases awaiting allocation at the end of February 2024 were categorised as high priority**, 6 (1%) more than January 2024 (401) and 9 (2%) fewer than February 2023 (416).
- High priority cases account for 8% of cases awaiting allocation.
- 53% (2,650) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 35% (1,762) were low priority while the remaining 4% (210) were awaiting categorisation.
- Highest number of high priority cases reported by Midwest (101) followed by Midlands (75), Dublin South Central (51), Galway/Roscommon (31), Louth/Meath (29) and Donegal (25). These six areas account for 77% (312) of all high priority cases awaiting.

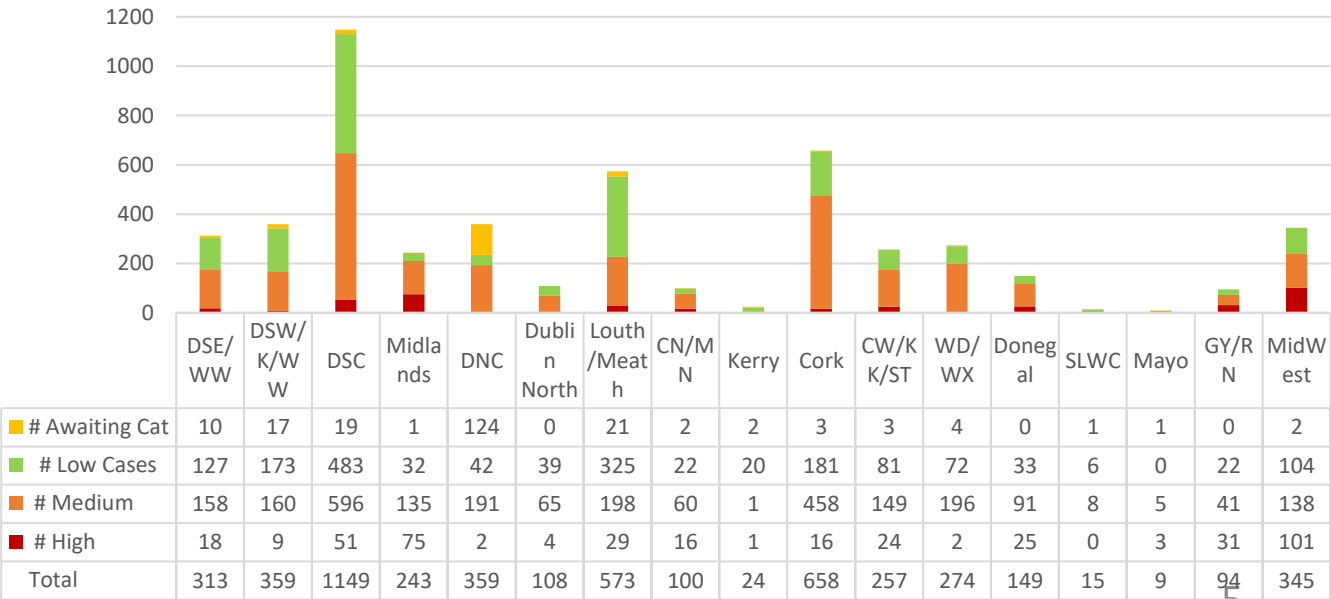
Number of Unallocated Cases



Number of Unallocated Cases














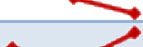




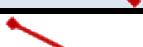

Number Unallocated Cases by Priority Level



Child Protection & Welfare

Cases Awaiting Allocation

- 8/17 areas reported a decrease in unallocated cases from January 2024.
- Largest decreases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 92), Cork (down 49), Waterford/Wexford (down 42) and Midwest (down 41).
- 8/17 areas reported an increase in unallocated cases from January 2024. Largest increases reported by Louth/Meath (up 78), Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 53), Galway/Roscommon (up 36) and Dublin South Central (up 28). The remaining area (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) reported no change.
- Nationally 22% of open cases were unallocated at the end of February 2024. Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 22%, Dublin South Central (50%), Louth/Meath (36%), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (33%), Dublin South East/Wicklow (29%), Cork (25%), Midwest (25%) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (23%).
- 13/17 areas had fewer cases awaiting allocation at the end of February 2024 than at the end of February 2023. Largest decreases reported by Waterford/Wexford (down 373), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 349), Dublin North (down 304) and Dublin North City (down 188).
- 4/17 areas reported an increase as follows, Louth/Meath (up 311), Dublin South Central (up 216), Midwest (up 212) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 6).

Area	Feb-23 # Unallocated	Feb-23 % Unallocated	Dec-23 # Unallocated	Jan-24 # Unallocated	Feb-24 # Unallocated	Feb-24 % Unallocated	Dec - Feb	Feb-24 v Feb-23	% Δ	Feb-24 v Jan-24	% Δ1
DSE/WW	307	31%	319	260	313	29%		6	2%	53	20%
DSW/K/WW	708	40%	549	451	359	23%		-349	-49%	-92	-20%
DSC	933	53%	1067	1121	1149	50%		216	23%	28	2%
Midlands	271	14%	252	221	243	13%		-28	-10%	22	10%
DNC	547	27%	448	361	359	20%		-188	-34%	-2	-1%
Dublin North	412	16%	148	120	108	5%		-304	-74%	-12	-10%
Louth/Meath	262	20%	401	495	573	36%		311	119%	78	16%
CN/MN	106	18%	142	114	100	14%		-6	-6%	-14	-12%
Kerry	108	21%	39	36	24	6%		-84	-78%	-12	-33%
Cork	754	28%	746	707	658	25%		-96	-13%	-49	-7%
CW/KK/ST	357	42%	243	239	257	33%		-100	-28%	18	8%
WD/WX	647	35%	355	316	274	20%		-373	-58%	-42	-13%
Donegal	297	36%	138	128	149	17%		-148	-50%	21	16%
SLWC	71	18%	33	15	15	5%		-56	-79%	0	0%
Mayo	31	8%	9	6	9	3%		-22	-71%	3	50%
GY/RN	131	12%	47	58	94	8%		-37	-28%	36	62%
MidWest	133	11%	395	386	345	25%		212	159%	-41	-11%
TOTAL	6075	27%	5331	5034	5029	22%		-1046	-17%	-5	-0.1%

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	Jan-24	Feb-24	Δ	Jan-24	Feb-24	Δ2	Jan-24	Feb-24	Δ3	Jan-24	Feb-24	Δ4
DSE/WW	293	333	40	993	1,080	87	733	767	34	260	313	53
DSW/K/WW	823	797	-26	1,616	1,576	-40	1,165	1,217	52	451	359	-92
DSC	617	736	119	2,097	2,276	179	976	1,127	151	1121	1,149	28
Midlands	759	830	71	1,863	1,892	29	1,642	1,649	7	221	243	22
DNC	427	389	-38	1,822	1,841	19	1,461	1,482	21	361	359	-2
Dublin North	678	786	108	2,105	2,238	133	1,985	2,130	145	120	108	-12
Louth/Meath	550	594	44	1,500	1,594	94	1,005	1,021	16	495	573	78
CN/MN	267	274	7	668	730	62	554	630	76	114	100	-14
Kerry	197	193	-4	383	376	-7	347	352	5	36	24	-12
Cork	668	688	20	2,539	2,583	44	1,832	1,925	93	707	658	-49
CW/KK/ST	337	370	33	817	772	-45	578	515	-63	239	257	18
WD/WX	580	544	-36	1,435	1,395	-40	1,119	1,121	2	316	274	-42
Donegal	233	244	11	859	863	4	731	714	-17	128	149	21
SLWC	105	124	19	328	333	5	313	318	5	15	15	0
Mayo	130	99	-31	348	344	-4	342	335	-7	6	9	3
GY/RN	350	311	-39	1,151	1,173	22	1,093	1,079	-14	58	94	36
MidWest	578	573	-5	1,347	1,376	29	961	1,031	70	386	345	-41
Total	7,592	7,885	293	21,871	22,442	571	16,837	17,413	576	5,034	5,029	-5

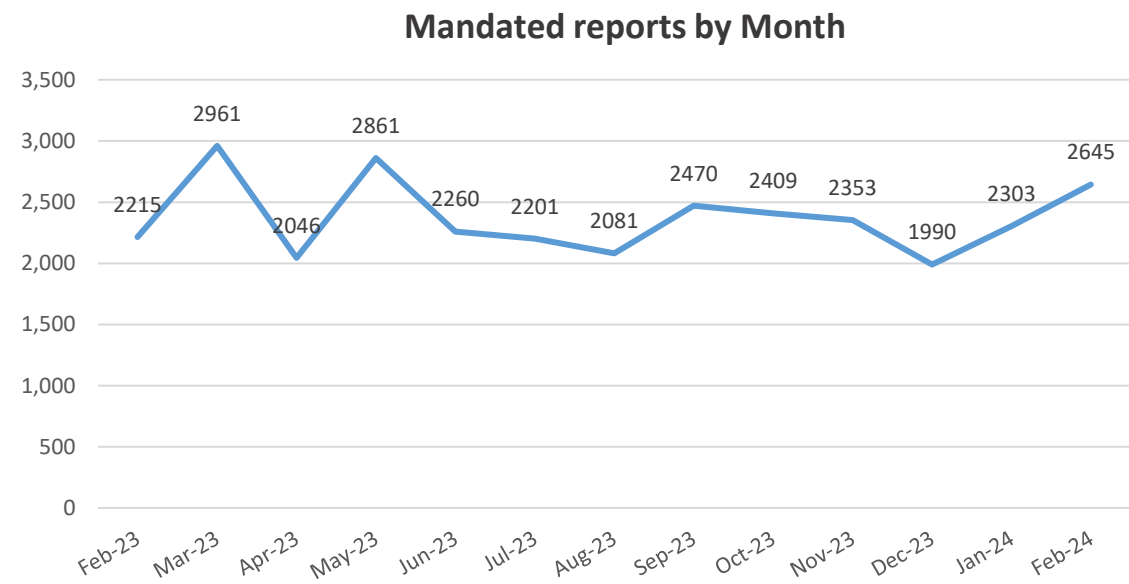
High Priority				Medium Priority			Low Priority			Awaiting Categorisation		
Area	Jan-24	Feb-24	Δ	Jan-24	Feb-24	Δ 2	Jan-24	Feb-24	Δ 3	Jan-24	Feb-24	Δ 4
DSE/WW	15	18	3	126	158	32	112	127	15	7	10	3
DSW/K/WW	27	9	-18	234	160	-74	168	173	5	22	17	-5
DSC	28	51	23	625	596	-29	455	483	28	13	19	6
Midlands	61	75	14	135	135	0	25	32	7	0	1	1
DNC	9	2	-7	174	191	17	82	42	-40	96	124	28
Dublin North	5	4	-1	76	65	-11	39	39	0	0	0	0
Louth/Meath	64	29	-35	139	198	59	282	325	43	10	21	11
CN/MN	7	16	9	68	60	-8	31	22	-9	8	2	-6
Kerry	1	1	0	7	1	-6	27	20	-7	1	2	1
Cork	11	16	5	477	458	-19	217	181	-36	2	3	1
CW/KK/ST	32	24	-8	128	149	21	78	81	3	1	3	2
WD/WX	9	2	-7	226	196	-30	76	72	-4	5	4	-1
Donegal	20	25	5	90	91	1	18	33	15	0	0	0
SLWC	0	0	0	10	8	-2	4	6	2	1	1	0
Mayo	1	3	2	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
GY/RN	14	31	17	29	41	12	13	22	9	2	0	-2
MidWest	97	101	4	151	138	-13	132	104	-28	6	2	-4
TOTAL	401	407	6	2,700	2,650	-50	1,759	1,762	3	174	210	36

Mandated Reports¹ – Child Protection & Welfare

- **2,645 mandated reports of abuse** received in February 2024, 342 (15%) more than January 2024 (2,303) and 430 (19%) more than February 2023 (2,215).

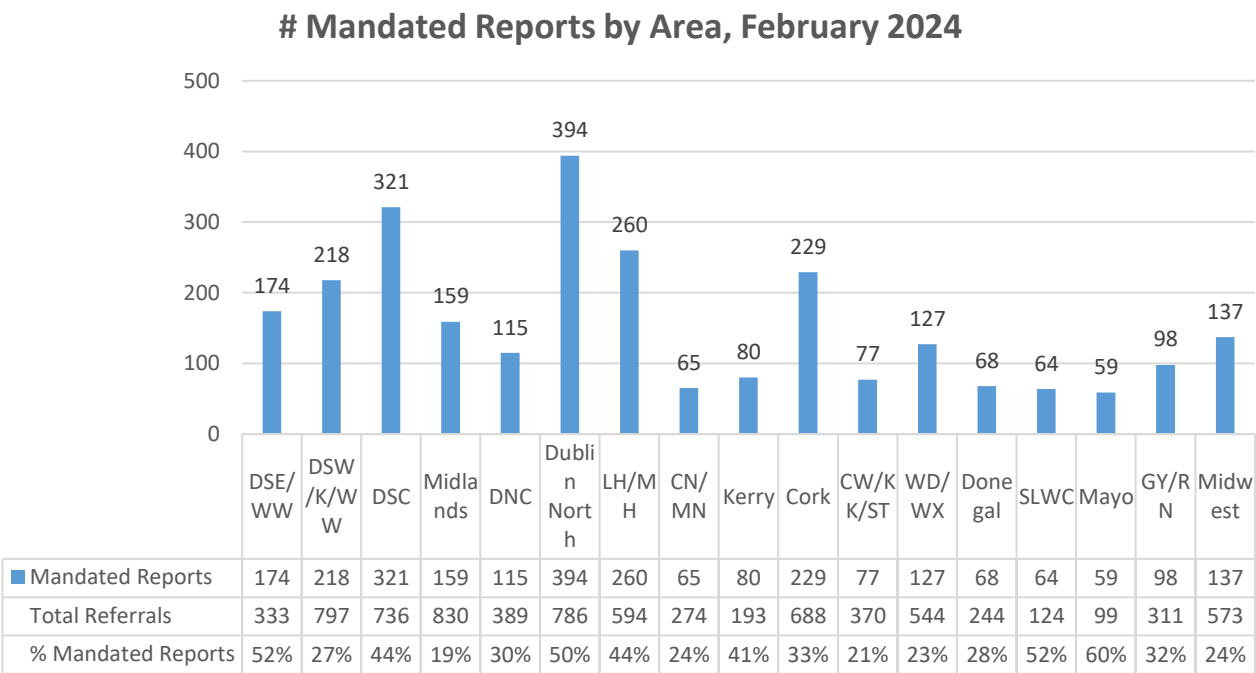
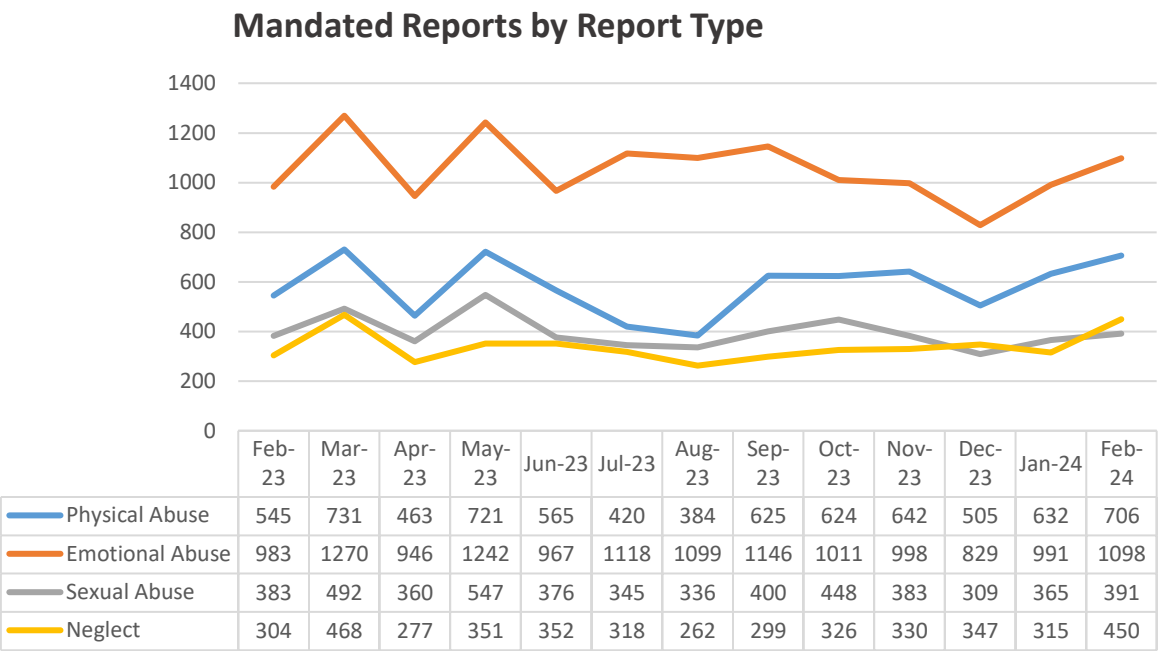
It should be noted that the data presented for Jan-Sep 2023 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for the remaining months of 2023 and 2024 is based on referrals logged on the Tusla Case Management (TCM) system at the time the data was extracted for reporting. Referrals logged after the date the data was extracted are not included, nor are figures updated until quarterly validation is complete.

- Mandated reports accounted for 34% (2,645) of all referrals received (7,885) in January 2024.



- The number of mandated reports for February 2024, by area ranged from 59 (Mayo) to 394 (Dublin North).
- As a percentage of referrals, the highest percentage (60%) was reported by Mayo.
- The lowest percentages was reported by Midlands (19%).

- Highest number of reports for February 2024 were for emotional abuse (1,098; 42%) followed by physical abuse (706; 27%), neglect (450; 17%) and sexual abuse (391; 15%)



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 February 2024 from An Garda Síochána (948; 36%) followed by teachers (431; 16%), safeguarding officers (385; 15%); social workers (306; 12%), social care workers (123; 5%), and medical practitioners (91; 3%). These six sources account for 86% (2,284) of reports for February 2024.
- Highest number of reports for 2024 YTD from An Garda Síochána (1,848; 37%) followed by teachers (777; 16%), safeguarding officers (650; 13%), social workers (584; 12%), social care workers (223; 5%), medical practitioners (176; 4%) and psychotherapists (137; 3%). These six sources account for 89% (4,258) of reports for 2024 YTD.

Source (Schedule 2 Children First 2015)	# Feb 2024	% Feb 2024	Total 2024 YTD	% Total 2024
Medical practitioner (Registered)	91	3.4%	176	3.6%
Nurse or registered midwife (Registered)	49	1.9%	90	1.8%
Physiotherapist (Registered)	*	0.0%	*	0.1%
Speech & language therapist (Registered)	*	0.1%	5	0.1%
Occupational therapist (Registered)	5	0.2%	9	0.2%
Registered dentist	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Psychologist who practises as such and who is eligible for registration	43	1.6%	106	2.1%
Social care worker	123	4.7%	223	4.5%
Social worker who practises as such and who is eligible for registration	306	11.6%	584	11.8%
EMT, paramedic and advanced paramedic	*	0.2%	6	0.1%
Probation officer	*	0.1%	9	0.2%
Teacher registered with the Teaching Council.	431	16.3%	777	15.7%
An Garda Síochána Member	948	35.8%	1848	37.3%
Guardian ad litem	*	0.1%	8	0.2%
Domestic violence shelter manager	53	2.0%	111	2.2%
Homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility manager	26	1.0%	37	0.7%
Asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre manager	*	0.1%	8	0.2%
Addiction counsellor	*	0.2%	12	0.2%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	83	3.1%	137	2.8%
Language school or other recreational school where children reside	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Clergy member	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Institution where a child is detained by an order of a court (Director)	0	0.0%	*	0.02%
Safeguarding officer, child protection officer	385	14.6%	650	13.1%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	10	0.4%	16	0.3%
Youth work service - person responsible for the care or management	10	0.4%	19	0.4%
Youth worker employed in a youth work service	47	1.8%	91	1.8%
Foster carer registered with the Agency.	*	0.1%	*	0.1%
Pre-school service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act	13	0.5%	19	0.4%
Total (includes suppressed values)	2645	100.0%	4948	100.0%

*Values suppressed for confidentiality purposes

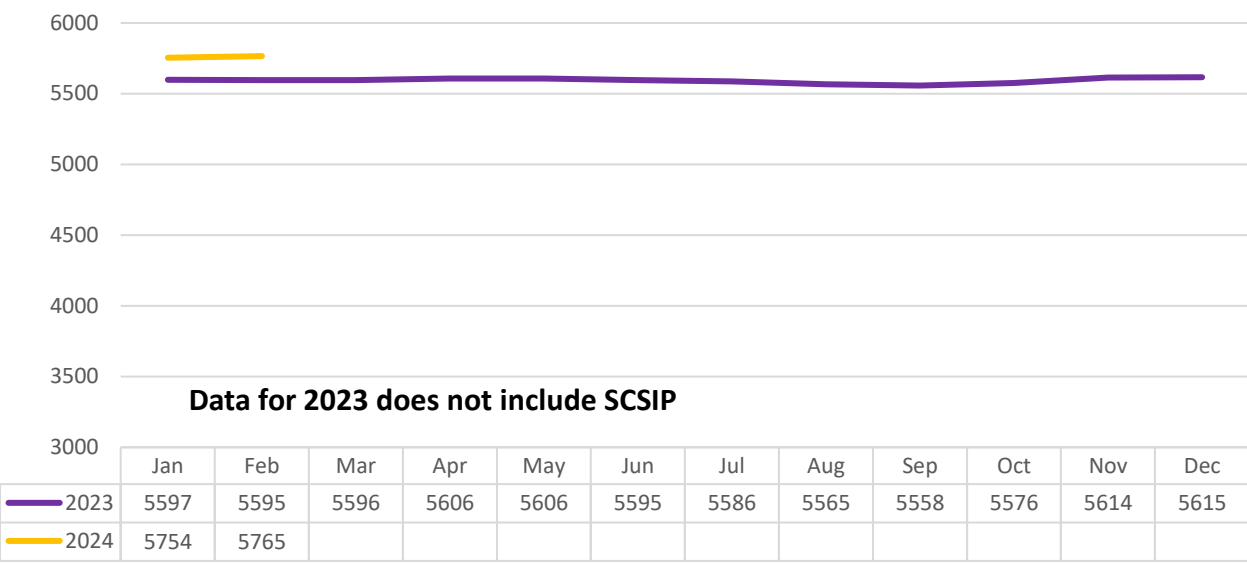
Children in Care

- **5,765 children in care at the end of February 2024, 11 more than January 2024 (5,754).**
- Of these, 5,620 were reported by Tusla’s 17 areas and 145 were reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP).
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas there was 17 more children in care at the end of February 2024 (5,620) than at the end of January 2024 (5,603) and 25 (<1%) more than at the end February 2023 (5,595).
- 87% (5,039)* of all children in care are in foster care (3,574 general foster care, and 1,465 relative foster), 8% (488) are in residential care (475 general residential care and 13 special care) and 4% (238) are in “other” care placements².
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas 89.3% (5,016/5,620) of children in care are in foster care.

**Decrease from previous months in the overall percentage of children in care in foster care is due to the inclusion of SCSIP; the majority of these children are placed in residential care.*

- Highest number of children in care reported by Cork (694) followed by Midwest (501) and Dublin North City (467).
- Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan (113) followed by the Mayo (139) and the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (145).
- Across the 17 Areas the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 children was reported by Dublin North City (9.4) followed by Waterford/Wexford (6.2) and Midwest (5.2).
- Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.3) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.6) and Dublin North (3.8).
- Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 4.6/1,000 children.

Children in Care by Month



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

Area	Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Feb-24 v Feb-23	Feb-24 v Jan-24	Population	Rate/1,000
Dublin North City	473	468	467	-6	-1	49,682	9.4
Waterford/Wexford	405	425	429	24	4	69,239	6.2
Midwest	524	502	501	-23	-1	96,764	5.2
Cork	700	696	694	-6	-2	136,786	5.1
CW/KK/ST	301	316	315	14	-1	62,366	5.1
Donegal	218	210	211	-7	1	42,144	5.0
Kerry	153	162	163	10	1	34,994	4.7
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	115	108	113	-2	5	24,312	4.6
Dublin South Central	353	331	324	-29	-7	70,259	4.6
Mayo	139	140	139	0	-1	31,911	4.4
Cavan/Monaghan	154	155	162	8	7	37,336	4.3
Galway/Roscommon	349	351	354	5	3	81,799	4.3
Louth/Meath	417	415	415	-2	0	96,531	4.3
Midlands	324	328	330	6	2	80,962	4.1
Dublin North	365	398	398	33	0	103,508	3.8
DSW/K/WW	399	402	397	-2	-5	108,927	3.6
Dublin South East/Wicklow	206	196	208	2	12	91,047	2.3
Total Areas	5,595	5,603	5,620	25	17		
SCSIP	NA	151	145	-	-6	-	-
National Total	5,597	5,754	5,765	-	11	1,218,567	4.6

Population: CSO Census 2022

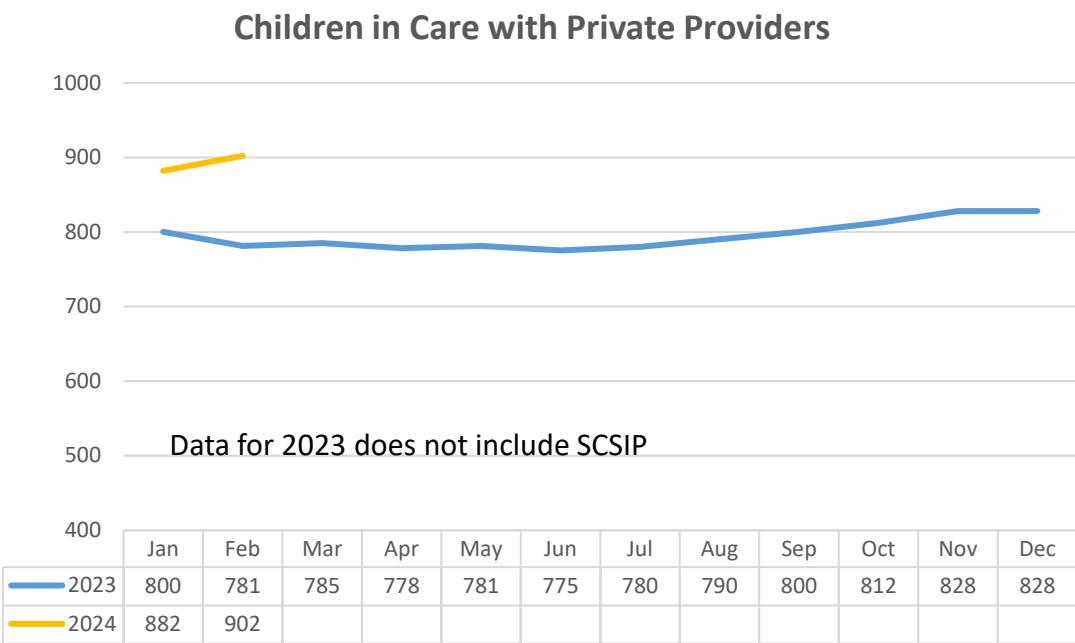
Notes:

1. The Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection has an additional **182 children accommodated under Section 5 Child Care Act 1991**. Legal status not available for one child at the time of writing.

2. “Other” Care Placements includes children at home under a care order, in a detention centre, a disability unit, mental health unit, drugs/alcohol rehabilitation unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, supported lodgings

Children in Care

- **902 (16%) children in care at the end of February 2024 were in placements with private providers**, 20 (2%) more than January 2024 (882).

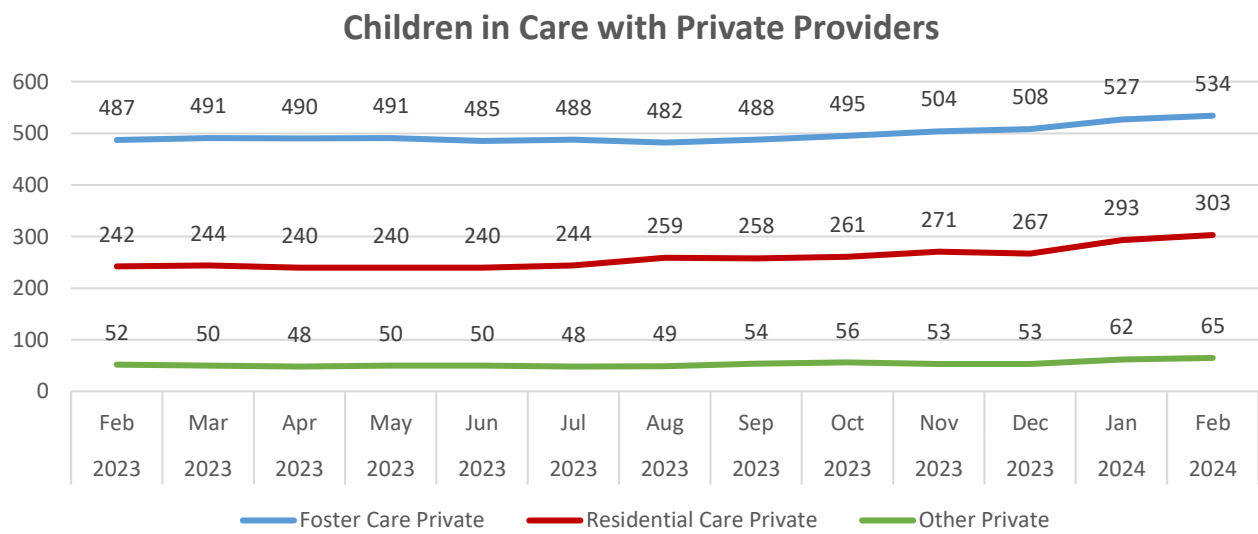


- **534 (59%) children in placements with private providers were in foster care**, 7 (1%) more than January 2024 (527).
- 303 (34%) children were in **residential care**, 10 (3%) more than January 2024 (293).
- The remaining 65 (7%) children were in **“Other” care placements**, 3 (5%) more than January 2024 (62). “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 (113) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (108), Dublin South Central (105), Dublin North (98) and Midlands (71). These five areas account for 55% (495) of children in placements with private providers,

Children in Care with Private Providers

Children in Care (Private)	Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Feb-24 v Feb-23	Feb-24 v Jan-24
Dublin North City	98	110	113	15	3
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	105	106	108	3	2
Dublin South Central	100	102	105	5	3
Dublin North	93	96	98	5	2
Midlands	62	70	71	9	1
Cork	62	60	57	-5	-3
Waterford / Wexford	41	47	53	12	6
Dublin South east / Wicklow	42	53	52	10	-1
SCSIP	NA	49	52	-	3
Louth/Meath	48	49	47	-1	-2
Midwest	37	37	38	1	1
Kerry	22	29	31	9	2
Donegal	20	22	23	3	1
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	15	19	21	6	2
Galway/Roscommon	16	15	15	-1	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	10	12	12	2	0
Cavan/Monaghan	8	5	5	-3	0
Mayo	2	1	1	-1	0
Total	781	882	902	-	20



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

Children in Care

- **82% (4,756) of children in care at the end of February 2024 had an allocated social worker.**
- A total of 1,009 children were awaiting an allocated social worker, 96 (9%) fewer than January 2024 (1,105).
- Highest number awaiting reported by Midwest (219; 44%) followed by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (194; 62%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (127; 32%), Dublin South Central (95; 29%), Louth/Meath (65; 16%) and Midlands (63; 19%). These six areas account for 76% (763) of all cases awaiting allocation.

- **80% (4,626) of children in care at the end of February 2024 had an up-to-date care plan.**
- A total of 1,138 children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 173 (13%) fewer than January 2024 (1,311). *Care plan status not available for one child (SCSIP) at the time of writing.*
- Highest numbers awaiting an up-to-date care plan reported by Cork (137; 20%), Dublin North City (132; 28%), Midwest (127; 25%), Louth/Meath (120; 29%) and Midlands (109; 33%).

Note:
Tusla has moved to reporting on children in care with an up-to-date care plan and not just children having a care plan, hence this data is not comparable with data previously reported. An up-to-date care plan is a care plan that has been updated following a statutory child in care review.

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

Area	Allocated	Awaiting Allocation	Total	% Allocated
Dublin South East/Wicklow	204	4	208	98%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	270	127	397	68%
Dublin South Central	229	95	324	71%
Midlands	267	63	330	81%
Dublin North City	467	0	467	100%
Dublin North	376	22	398	94%
Louth/Meath	350	65	415	84%
Cavan/Monaghan	142	20	162	88%
Kerry	143	20	163	88%
Cork	661	33	694	95%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	121	194	315	38%
Waterford/Wexford	385	44	429	90%
Donegal	211	0	211	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	105	8	113	93%
Mayo	139	0	139	100%
Galway/Roscommon	320	34	354	90%
Midwest	282	219	501	56%
SCSIP	84	61	145	58%
Total	4,756	1,009	5,765	82%

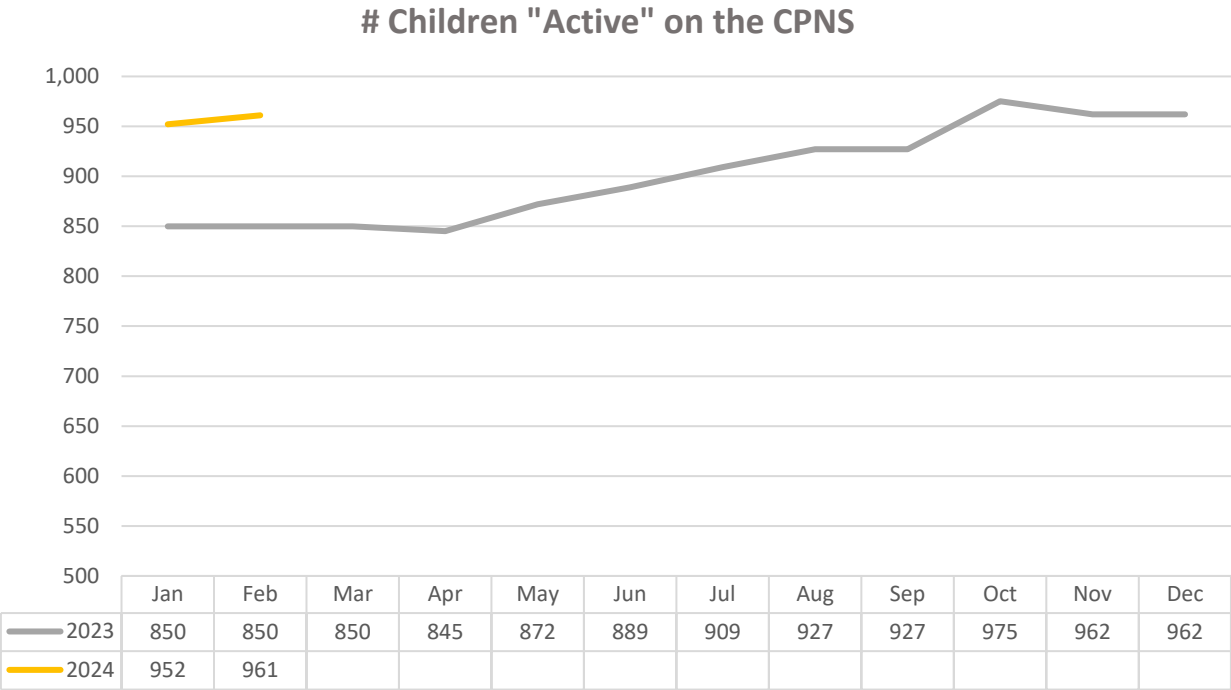
Area breakdown of children in care with an up-to-date care plan– February 2024

Area	UTD Care Plan	Awaiting UTD Care Plan	Total	% UTD Care Plan
Dublin South East/Wicklow	166	42	208	80%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	341	56	397	86%
Dublin South Central	259	65	324	80%
Midlands	221	109	330	67%
Dublin North City	335	132	467	72%
Dublin North	335	63	398	84%
Louth/Meath	295	120	415	71%
Cavan/Monaghan	140	22	162	86%
Kerry	130	33	163	80%
Cork	557	137	694	80%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	298	17	315	95%
Waterford/Wexford	381	48	429	89%
Donegal	190	21	211	90%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	109	4	113	96%
Mayo	127	12	139	91%
Galway/Roscommon	292	62	354	82%
Midwest	374	127	501	75%
SCSIP*	76	68	145	52%
Total	4,626	1,138	5,765	80%

*Care plan status not available for one child (SCSIP) at the time of writing

Child Protection Notification System

- **961 children listed as “active”** at the end of February 2024, 9 (<1%) more than January 2024 (952).
- There were 111 (13%) more children “active” at the end of February 2024 than at the end of February 2023 (850).
- All children listed as “active” at the end of February 2024 had an **allocated social worker**.
- Highest number of children listed as “active” at the end of February 2024 was reported by Cork (117) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (100) and Dublin North City (91).
- Fewest number listed as “active” reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (13) followed by Cavan/Monaghan (17) and Kerry (19).
- Highest rate per 10,000 population under 18 years reported by Dublin North City (18.3) followed by Donegal (14.0).
- Lowest rate per 10,000 population under 18 years reported by Cavan/Monaghan (4.6) followed by Dublin South East/Wicklow (4.7), Galway/Roscommon (5.3) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (5.3).
- Eight areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national rate of 7.9/10,000
- 9/17 areas had more children listed as “active” at the end of February 2024 than at the end of January 2024. Largest increases reported by Midwest (up 15), Midlands (up 9) and Galway/Roscommon (up 6).
- 6/17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Dublin North (down 7), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 7), Kerry (down 6) and Cork (down 6). Two areas (Dublin North City and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow) reported no change.
- 9/17 areas had more children active at the end of February 2024 than at the end of February 2023. Largest increases reported by Louth/Meath (up 31), Cork (up 27), Galway/Roscommon (up 24), Donegal (up 24) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 22).
- 7/17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Cavan/Monaghan (down 14), Dublin South Central (down 9), Kerry (down 5), Dublin North (down 4) and Waterford/Wexford (down 4). One area (Dublin South East/Wicklow) reported no change.



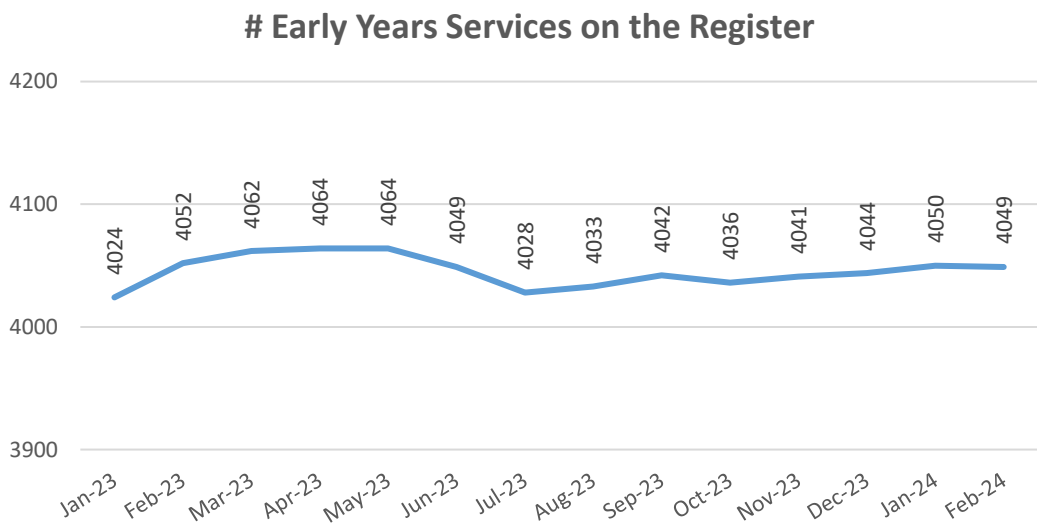
Number and rate of children “active” on the CPNS, by area (ranked by rate)

Area	Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Feb-24 v Feb-23	Feb-24 v Jan-24	Population	Rate/10,000
Carlow / Kilkenny / South Tipperary	57	62	55	-2	-7	62,366	8.8
Cavan / Monaghan	31	19	17	-14	-2	37,336	4.6
Cork	90	123	117	27	-6	136,786	8.6
Donegal	35	58	59	24	1	42,144	14.0
Dublin North	90	93	86	-4	-7	103,508	8.3
Dublin North City	93	91	91	-2	0	49,682	18.3
Dublin South Central	58	47	49	-9	2	70,259	7.0
Dublin South East / Wicklow	43	41	43	0	2	91,047	4.7
Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow	78	100	100	22	0	108,927	9.2
Galway / Roscommon	19	37	43	24	6	81,799	5.3
Kerry	24	25	19	-5	-6	34,994	5.4
Louth / Meath	29	57	60	31	3	96,531	6.2
Mayo	14	19	20	6	1	31,911	6.3
Mid West	70	68	83	13	15	96,764	8.6
Midlands	66	59	68	2	9	80,962	8.4
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	11	17	13	2	-4	24,312	5.3
Waterford / Wexford	42	36	38	-4	2	69,239	5.5
Total	850	952	961	111	9	1218567	7.9

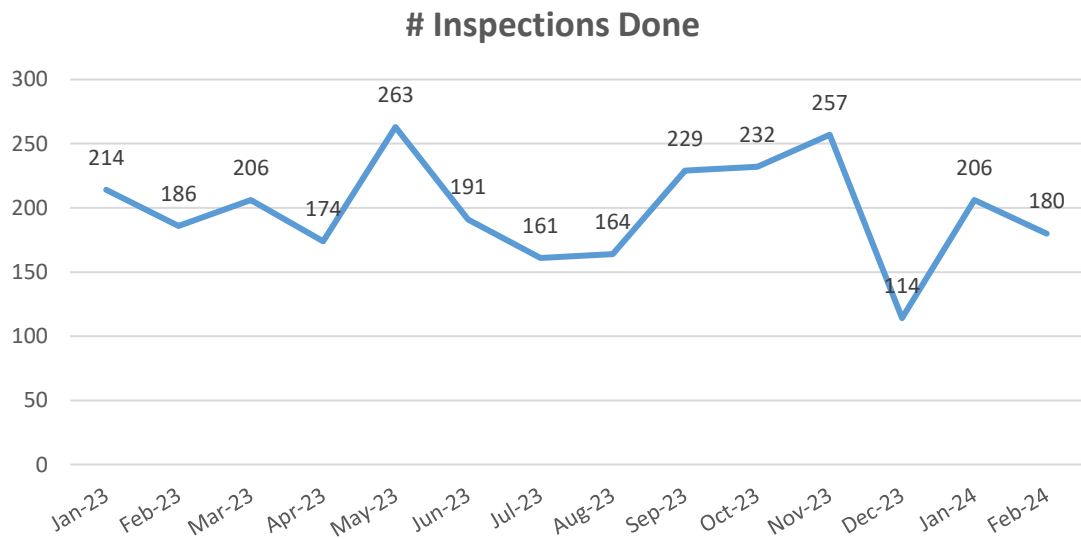
Children’s Services Regulation

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- **4,049 early years services on the register at the end of February 2024**, one fewer than January 2024 (4,050) and three fewer than February 2023 (4,052).

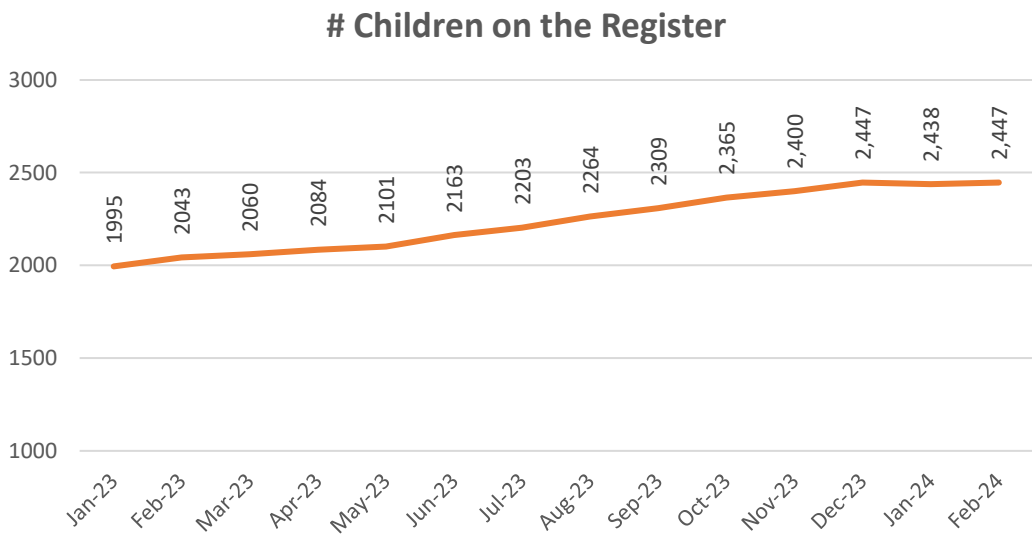


- **180 inspections** of early years services done in February 2024. This brings to 386 the number of inspections for the first two months of 2024, 14 (4%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (400).

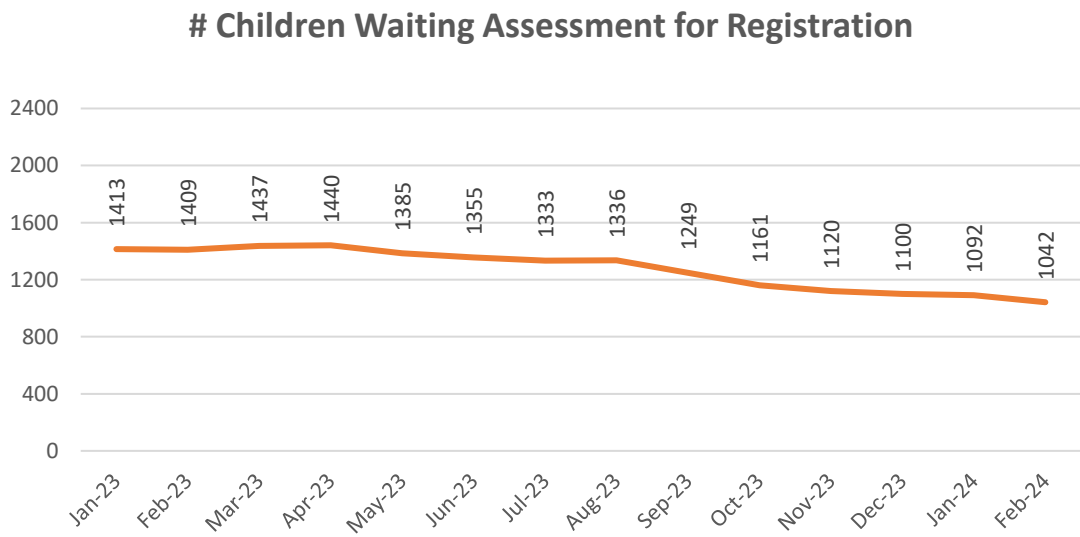


ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

- **2,447 children on the register for home education at the end of February 2024**, 9 (<1%) more than January 2024 (2,438) and 404 (20%) more than February 2023 (2,043).



- **1,042 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of February 2024**, 50 (5%) fewer than January 2024 (1,092) and 367 (26%) fewer than February 2023 (1,409).



Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,078 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in February 2024. This brings to 4,049 the number of referrals for the first six months of the academic year 2023-2024, 637 (19%) more than the same period in 2022-2023 (3,412).

- **3,243 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of February 2024, 429 (15%) more than January 2024 (2,814) and the fourth consecutive monthly increase.

- **383 new individual children worked** with in February 2024. This brings to 2,157 the number of new individual children worked with for the first six months of the academic year 2023-2024, 204 (10%) more than the same period in 2022-2023 (1,953).

