



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

MONTHLY SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2025

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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 2025

Child Protection & Welfare

- **8,000 referrals** in February 2025. Brings to 16,533 the number of referrals for the first two months of 2025, 819 (5%) more than the same period in 2024 (15,714).
- **22,955 cases open to social work** at the end of February 2025, 203 (1%) fewer than January 2025 (23,158) and 513 (2%) more than February 2024 (22,442). *Open cases include child protection and welfare cases including children in care.*
- **79% (18,176) of cases** open to social work at the end of February 2025 had an **allocated worker**. Of these, 80% (14,472) were allocated to a social worker and 20% (3,704) were allocated to a another professional. (Ref to note on Page 4).
- **4,779 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of February 2025, 210 (4%) fewer than January 2025 (4,989) and 250 (5%) fewer than February 2024 (5,029). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases.*
- Five areas account for 73% (3,497) of cases awaiting allocation: Cork (779), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (756), Dublin South Central (710), Midlands (655) and Louth/Meath (597).
- **6% (277) of cases awaiting allocation** at the end of February 2025 were categorised as **high priority**, 51 (16%) fewer than January 2025 (328) and the fewest number for all months February 2024 – February 2025.

Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

- **44 referrals assigned to CASP Teams in February 2025**. Brings to 99 the number of referrals assigned for the first two months of 2025, 6 (6%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (105).
- **653 assessments open at the end of February 2025**, 15 (2%) fewer than January 2025 (668) and the fewest number for the period January 2024 – February 2025.
- **93% (605 / 653) of assessments open at the end of February 2025 were allocated** to a social worker, up 18 percentage points from January 2025 (75%) and 25 percentage points from February 2024 (68%). Remaining **7% (48) were awaiting allocation** with 122 (72%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of February 2025 than at the end of January 2025 (170).

Children in Care

- **5,801 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of February 2025**, no change from January 2025. Figure includes 99 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP).
- 87% (5,059) of all children in care (17 Areas and SCSIP) are in foster care (3,560 general foster care, and 1,499 relative foster), 9% (540) are in residential care (526 general residential care and 14 special care) and 3.5% (202) are in “other” care placements.
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas **88.4% (5,040/5,702) of children in care are in foster care**.

Children in Care (contd.)

- **1,024 (17%) children in care at the end of February 2025 were in placements with private providers**, 13 (1%) more than January 2025 (1,011) and 123 (14%) more than February 2024 (901).
- **98% (5,695) of children in care at the end of February 2025 had an allocated worker**. Of those allocated, 89% (5,053) were allocated to a social worker and 11% (642) were allocated to another professional.

Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

- **1,061 children listed as ‘active’** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of February 2025, 64 (6%) more than January 2025 (997) and the highest number since July 2024 (1,081).
- There were 100 (10%) more children ‘active’ at the end of February 2025 than at the end February 2024 (961).
- It should be noted that a small number of large sibling groups can have a significant effect on numbers reported.
- 99% (1,053) of children ‘active’ at the end of February 2025 had an allocated social worker; eight children were awaiting allocation of which five were subsequently allocated.

Children’s Services Regulation

- **3,976 early years services on the register at the end of February 2025**, 60 (1%) fewer than January 2025 (4,036) and 73 (2%) fewer than February 2024 (4,049). *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.*
- **218 inspections** of early years services in February 2025. This brings to 400 the number of inspections for the first two months of 2025, 14 (4%) more than the same period in 2024 (386).
- **2,420 children on the register** for home education at the end of February 2025, 61 (3%) more than January 2025 (2,359). Fifth consecutive increase.
- **543 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of February 2025**, 41 (7%) fewer than January 2025 (584) and 499 (48%) fewer than February 2024 (1,042).

Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,190 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in February 2025. This brings to 5,002 the number of referrals for the first six months of the academic year 2024 – 2025, some 953 (24%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (4,049).
- **3,689 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of February 2025, 315 (8%) fewer than January 2025 (4,004). First decrease after three consecutive increases.
- 446 (14%) more referrals on a waiting list at the end of February 2025 (3,689) than at the end of February 2024 (3,243).

Child Protection and Welfare

Referrals¹

- **8,000 referrals** in February 2025, 533 (6%) fewer than January 2025 (8,533) and 11 (<1%) more than February 2024 (7,989).
- This brings to 16,533 the number of referrals for the first two months of 2025, 819 (5%) more than the same period in 2024 (15,714).

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 2024-February 2025 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

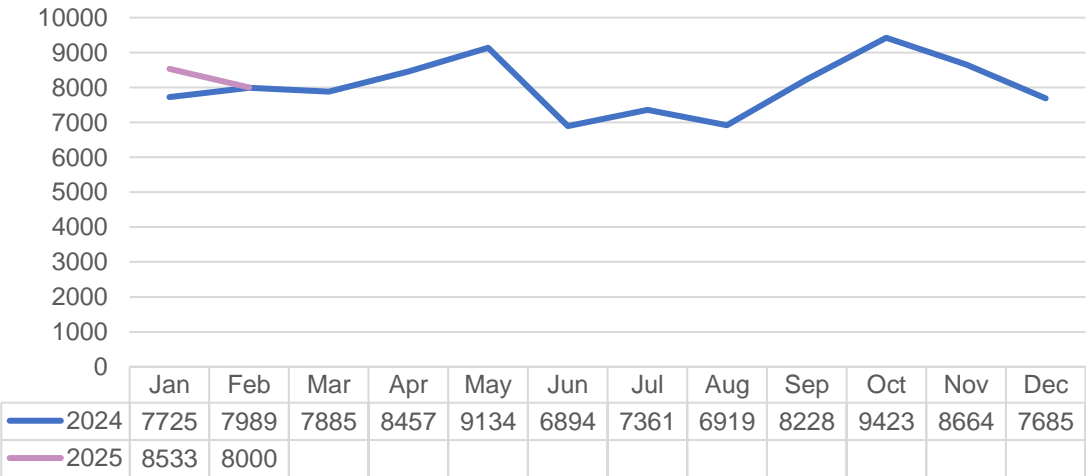
- **22,955 cases open to social work** at the end of February 2025, 203 (1%) fewer than January 2025 (23,158) and 513 (2%) more than February 2024 (22,442).
- 1) *Open cases include, all cases held on duty, allocated and unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care.*
 - 2) *The data presented on cases is based on the status of cases on the TCM at month end.*

Allocated Cases

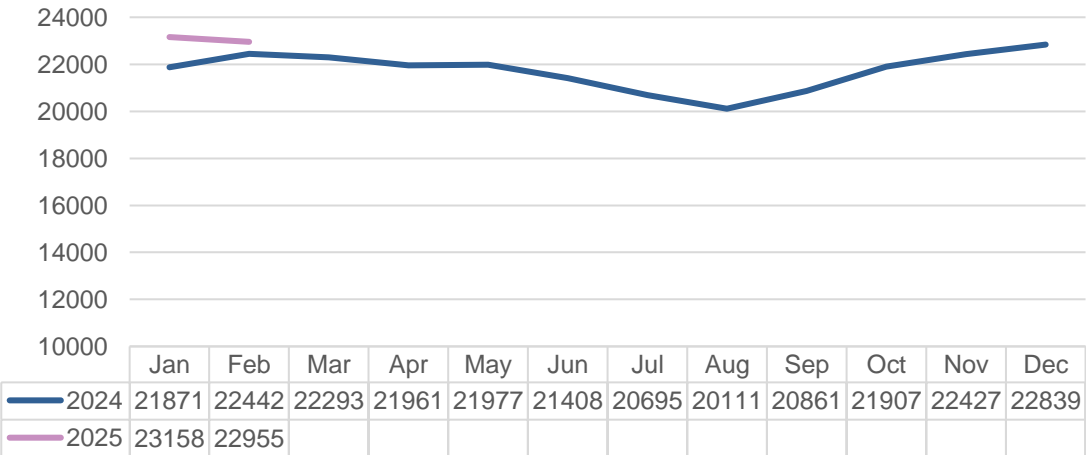
- **18,176 open cases were allocated** to a worker at the end of February 2025, 7 (<1%) more than January 2025 (18,169).
- Allocated cases account for 79% of open cases.

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.

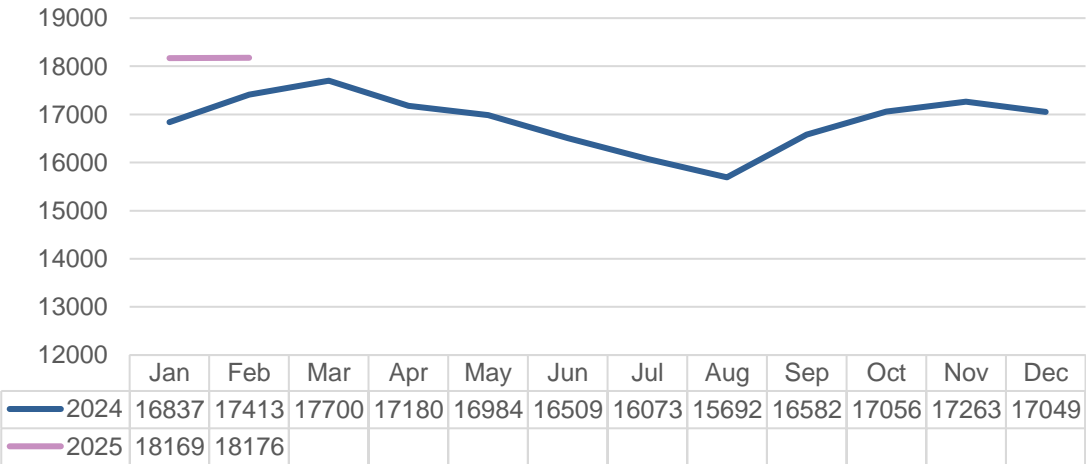
Referrals



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 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 (18,176) at the end of February 2025, 80% (14,472) were allocated to a social worker and 20% (3,704) were allocated to a another professional.

Breakdown of cases allocated by area and role of worker, February 2025

Area	Allocated Social Worker	Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	583	169	752
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	763	465	1,228
Dublin South Central	746	510	1,256
Midlands	1187	291	1,478
Dublin North City	1391	334	1,725
Dublin North	1567	299	1,866
Louth/Meath	906	327	1,233
Cavan/Monaghan	587	138	725
Kerry	298	88	386
Cork	1769	143	1,912
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	396	272	668
Waterford/Wexford	896	266	1,162
Donegal	620	46	666
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	284	26	310
Mayo	269	32	301
Galway/Roscommon	1074	42	1,116
Midwest	1136	256	1,392
Total	14,472	3,704	18,176

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

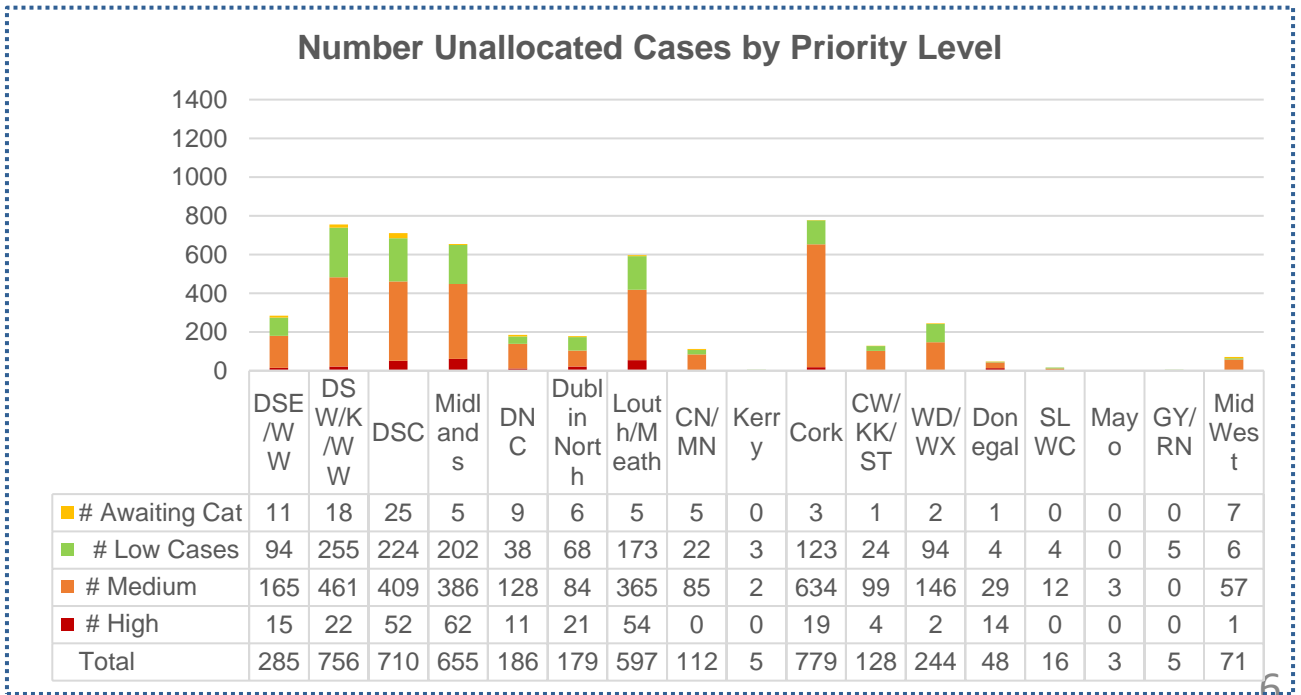
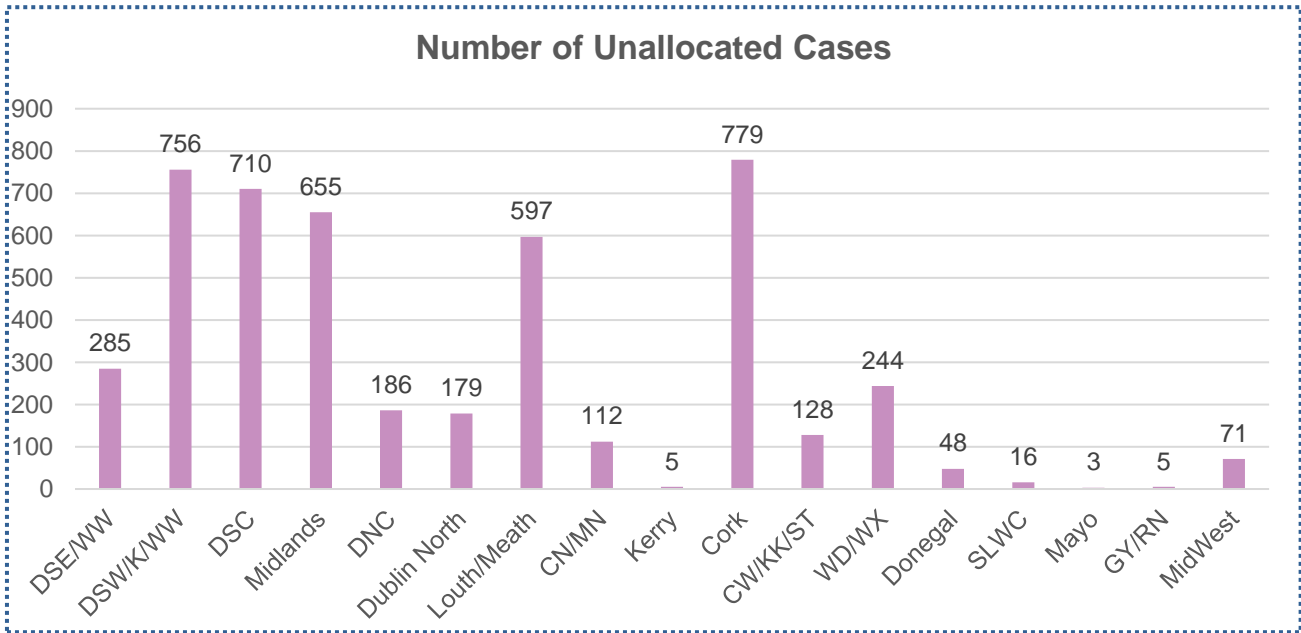
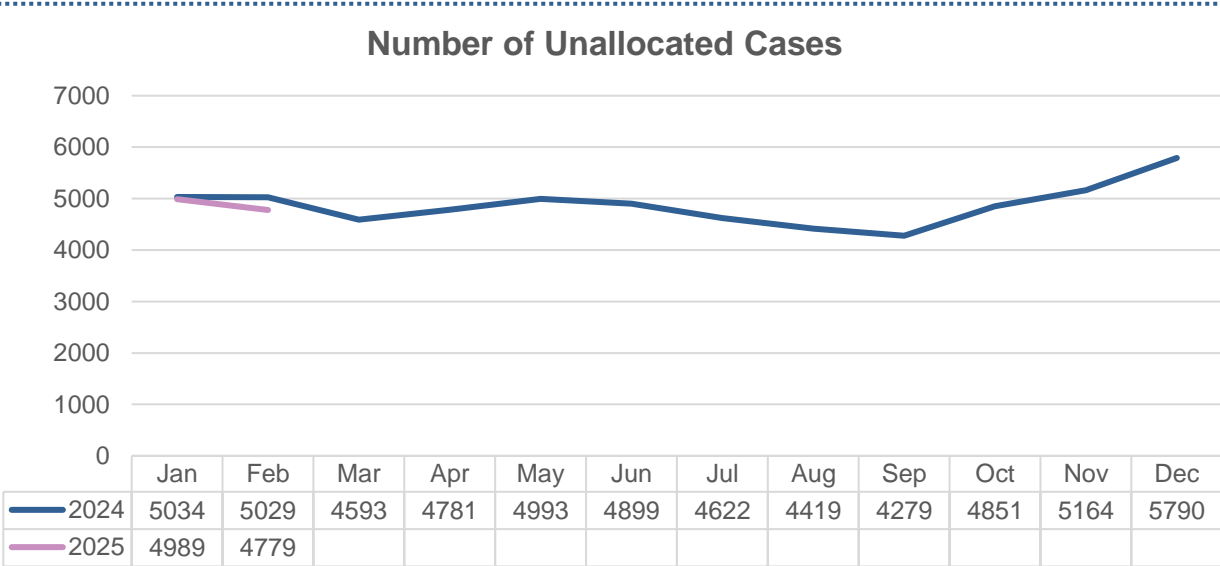
Area	% Allocated Social Worker	% Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	78%	22%	100%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	62%	38%	100%
Dublin South Central	59%	41%	100%
Midlands	80%	20%	100%
Dublin North City	81%	19%	100%
Dublin North	84%	16%	100%
Louth/Meath	73%	27%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	81%	19%	100%
Kerry	77%	23%	100%
Cork	93%	7%	100%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	59%	41%	100%
Waterford/Wexford	77%	23%	100%
Donegal	93%	7%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	92%	8%	100%
Mayo	89%	11%	100%
Galway/Roscommon	96%	4%	100%
Midwest	82%	18%	100%
Total	80%	20%	100%

Child Protection & Welfare

Cases Awaiting Allocation

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




















- **4,779 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of February 2025, 210 (4%) fewer than January 2025 (4,989) and 250 (5%) fewer than February 2024 (5,029). *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 21% of open cases (22,955), down one percentage point from January 2025 (22%).
- **52% (2,483) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of February 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 (779), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (756), Dublin South Central (710), Midlands (655) and Louth/Meath (597). These five areas account for 73% (3,497) of all cases awaiting allocation.
- **277 cases awaiting allocation at the end of February 2025 were categorised as high priority**, 51 (16%) fewer than January 2025 (328) and the fewest number for all months February 2024 – February 2025.
- High priority cases account for 6% of cases awaiting allocation.
- 64% (3,065) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 28% (1,339) were low priority while the remaining 2% (98) were awaiting categorisation.
- Highest number of high priority cases reported by Midlands (62), Louth/Meath (54), Dublin South Central (52), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (22) and Dublin North (21). These five areas account for 76% (211) of all high priority cases awaiting.



Child Protection & Welfare

Cases Awaiting Allocation

- 9 of the 17 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from January 2025.
- Largest decreases reported by Midlands (down 82), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 72), Louth/Meath (down 64) and Dublin North (down 64).
- 8 of the 17 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from January 2025. Largest increases reported by Dublin south Central (up 40), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (up 32) and Waterford/Wexford (up 32).
- Nationally 21% of open cases were awaiting allocation at the end of February 2025. Six areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 21%. Highest percentages reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (38%), Dublin South Central (36%), Louth/Meath (33%), Midlands (31%), Cork (29%) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (27%).
- 10 of the 17 areas had fewer cases awaiting allocation at the end of February 2025 than at the end of February 2024. Largest decreases reported by Dublin South Central (down 439), Midwest (down 274), Dublin North City (down 173) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (129). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases introduced in January 2025.*
- 7 of the 17 areas had more cases awaiting allocation at the end of February 2025 than at the end of February 2024. Largest increases reported by Midlands (up 412), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 397), Cork (up 121) and Dublin North (up 71).

Area	Feb-24 # Unallocated	Feb-24 % Unallocated	Dec-24 # Unallocated	Jan-25 # Unallocated	Feb-25 # Unallocated	Feb-25 % Unallocated		Feb-25 v Feb-24	% Δ	Feb-25 v Jan- 25	% Δ1
DSE/WW	313	29%	302	259	285	27%		-28	-9%	26	10%
DSW/K/WW	359	23%	890	828	756	38%		397	111%	-72	-9%
DSC	1,149	50%	953	670	710	36%		-439	-38%	40	6%
Midlands	243	13%	730	737	655	31%		412	170%	-82	-11%
DNC	359	20%	274	213	186	10%		-173	-48%	-27	-13%
Dublin North	108	5%	213	243	179	9%		71	66%	-64	-26%
Louth/Meath	573	36%	574	661	597	33%		24	4%	-64	-10%
CN/MN	100	14%	127	132	112	13%		12	12%	-20	-15%
Kerry	24	6%	16	12	5	1%		-19	-79%	-7	-58%
Cork	658	25%	682	761	779	29%		121	18%	18	2%
CW/KK/ST	257	33%	312	96	128	16%		-129	-50%	32	33%
WD/WX	274	20%	333	212	244	17%		-30	-11%	32	15%
Donegal	149	17%	73	36	48	7%		-101	-68%	12	33%
SLWC	15	5%	30	12	16	5%		1	7%	4	33%
Mayo	9	3%	0	1	3	1%		-6	-67%	2	200%
GY/RN	94	8%	25	16	5	0%		-89	-95%	-11	-69%
MidWest	345	25%	256	100	71	5%		-274	-79%	-29	-29%
TOTAL	5029	22%	5790	4989	4779	21%		-250	-5%	-210	-4%

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-25	Feb-25	Δ	Jan-25	Feb-25	Δ2	Jan-25	Feb-25	Δ3	Jan-25	Feb-25	Δ4	
DSE/WW	379	349	-30	1,056	1,037	-19	797	752	-45	259	285	26	
DSW/K/WW	776	763	-13	2,071	1,984	-87	1,243	1,228	-15	828	756	-72	
DSC	792	693	-99	2,068	1,966	-102	1,398	1,256	-142	670	710	40	
Midlands	798	845	47	2,140	2,133	-7	1,403	1,478	75	737	655	-82	
DNC	493	451	-42	1,894	1,911	17	1,681	1,725	44	213	186	-27	
Dublin North	810	736	-74	1,981	2,045	64	1,738	1,866	128	243	179	-64	
Louth/Meath	692	615	-77	1,871	1,830	-41	1,210	1,233	23	661	597	-64	
CN/MN	227	247	20	840	837	-3	708	725	17	132	112	-20	
Kerry	187	148	-39	381	391	10	369	386	17	12	5	-7	
Cork	770	687	-83	2,716	2,691	-25	1,955	1,912	-43	761	779	18	
CW/KK/ST	384	366	-18	748	796	48	652	668	16	96	128	32	
WD/WX	652	608	-44	1,360	1,406	46	1,148	1,162	14	212	244	32	
Donegal	276	203	-73	721	714	-7	685	666	-19	36	48	12	
SLWC	122	116	-6	322	326	4	310	310	0	12	16	4	
Mayo	138	142	4	335	304	-31	334	301	-33	1	3	2	
GY/RN	367	389	22	1,168	1,121	-47	1,152	1,116	-36	16	5	-11	
MidWest	670	642	-28	1,486	1,463	-23	1,386	1,392	6	100	71	-29	
Total	8,533	8,000	-533	23,158	22,955	-203	18,169	18,176	7	4,989	4,779	-210	

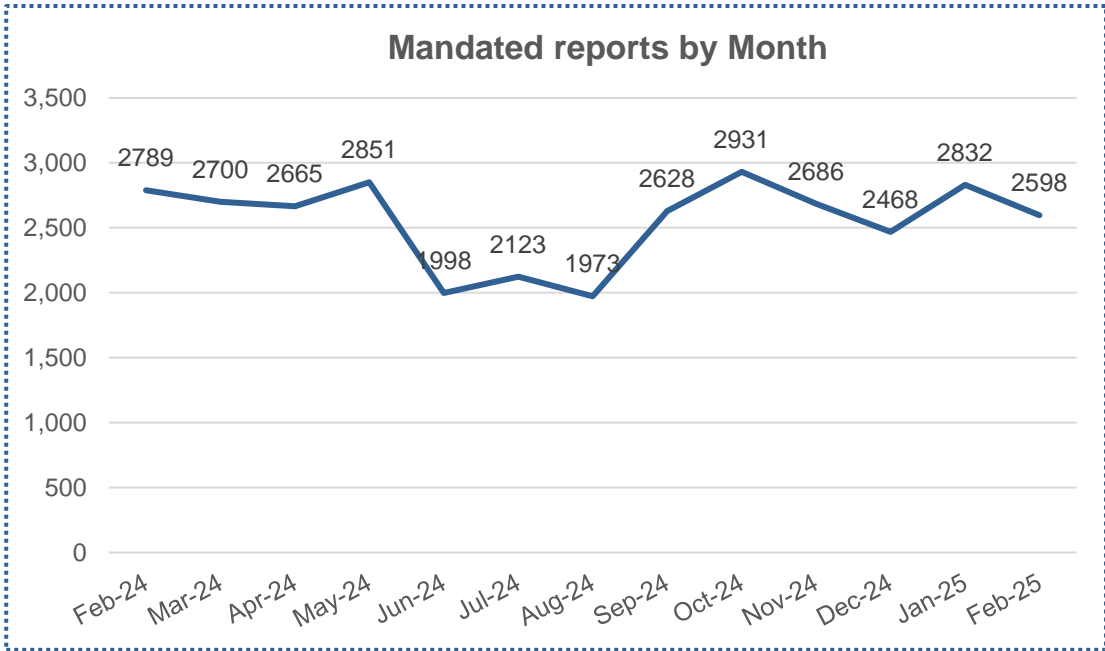
High Priority				Medium Priority			Low Priority			Awaiting			
Area	Awaiting Jan-25	Awaiting Feb-25	Δ	Awaiting Jan-25	Awaiting Feb-25	Δ 2	Awaiting Jan-25	Awaiting Feb-25	Δ 3	Categorisation Jan-25	Awaiting Categorisation Feb-25	Δ 4	
DSE/WW	12	15	3	163	165	2	67	94	27	17	11	-6	
DSW/K/WW	17	22	5	484	461	-23	306	255	-51	21	18	-3	
DSC	54	52	-2	385	409	24	210	224	14	21	25	4	
Midlands	77	62	-15	531	386	-145	126	202	76	3	5	2	
DNC	14	11	-3	137	128	-9	59	38	-21	3	9	6	
Dublin North	28	21	-7	135	84	-51	75	68	-7	5	6	1	
Louth/Meath	63	54	-9	361	365	4	226	173	-53	11	5	-6	
CN/MN	1	0	-1	107	85	-22	23	22	-1	1	5	4	
Kerry	0	0	0	3	2	-1	9	3	-6	0	0	0	
Cork	35	19	-16	609	634	25	114	123	9	3	3	0	
CW/KK/ST	2	4	2	74	99	25	14	24	10	6	1	-5	
WD/WX	6	2	-4	117	146	29	79	94	15	10	2	-8	
Donegal	10	14	4	24	29	5	1	4	3	1	1	0	
SLWC	0	0	0	5	12	7	7	4	-3	0	0	0	
Mayo	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
GY/RN	2	0	-2	2	0	-2	10	5	-5	2	0	-2	
MidWest	7	1	-6	80	57	-23	8	6	-2	5	7	2	
TOTAL	328	277	-51	3,218	3,065	-153	1,334	1,339	5	109	98	-11	

Mandated Reports¹ – Child Protection & Welfare

- **2,598 mandated reports of abuse** received in February 2025. This brings to 5,430 the number of reports for the first two months of 2025, 145 (3%) more than the same period in 2024 (5,285).

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 2024-Jan-2025 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.

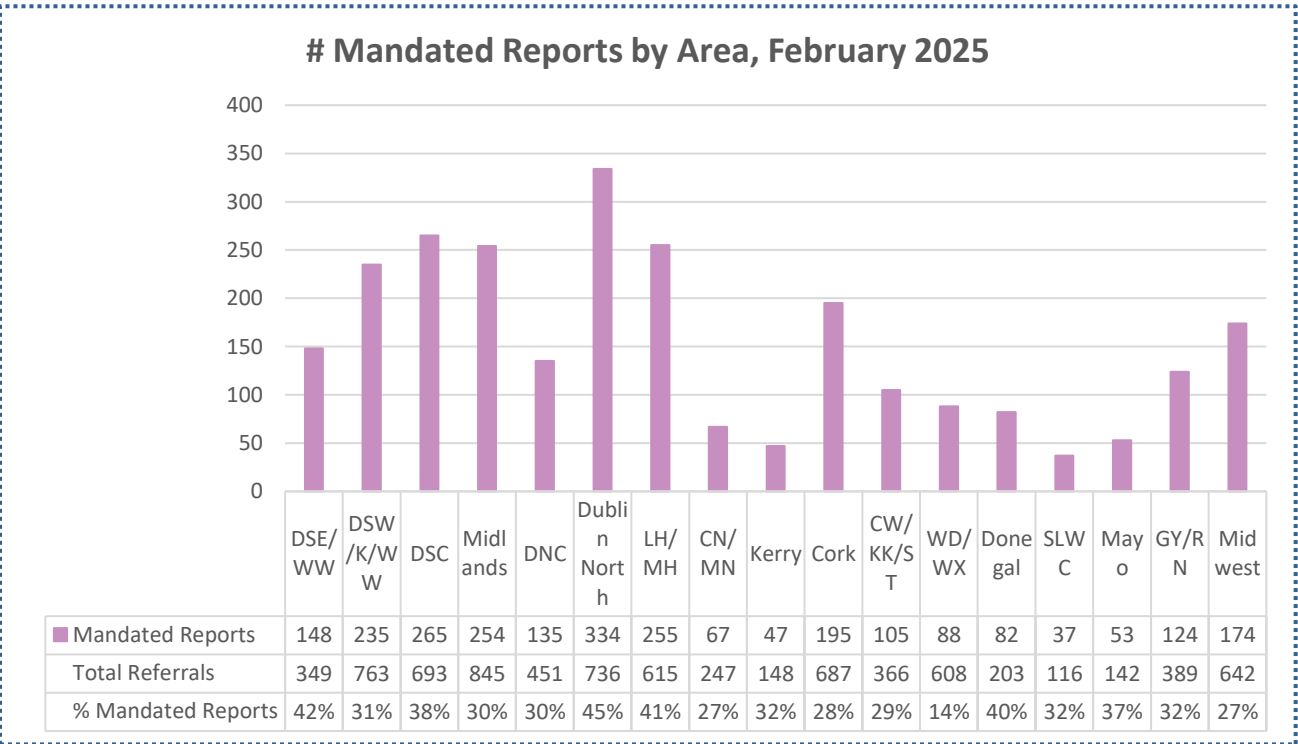
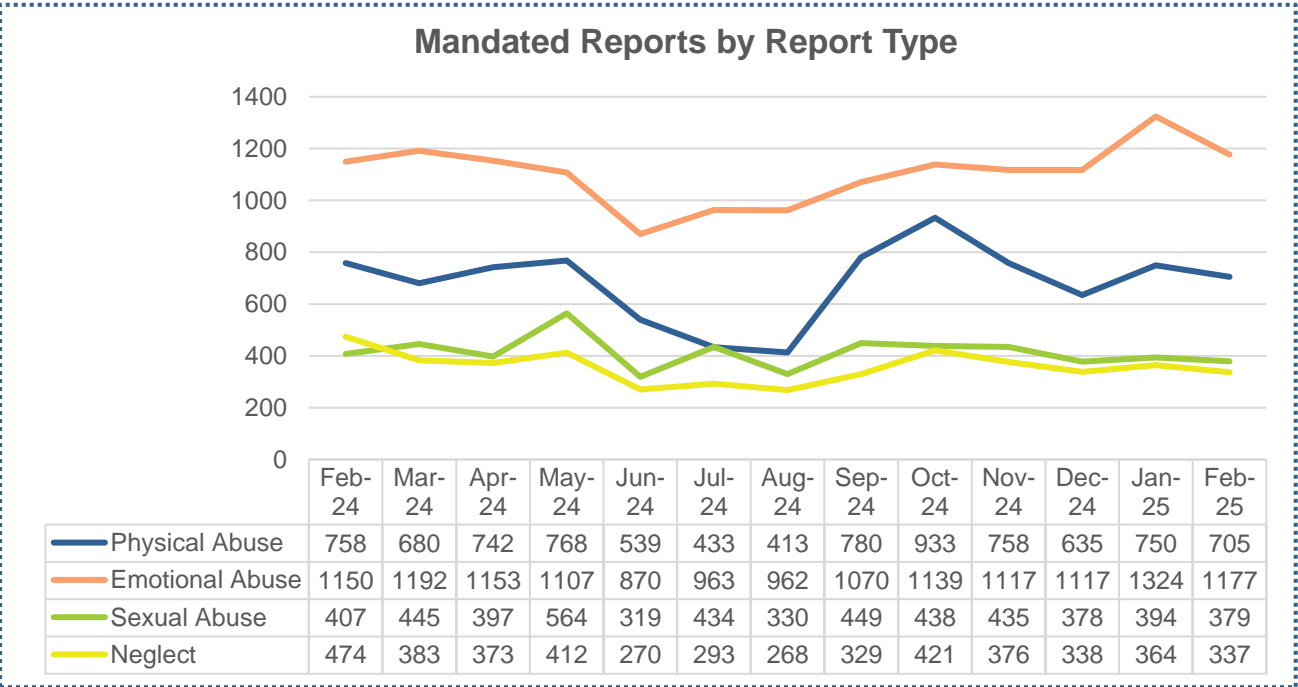
- Mandated reports accounted for 32% (2,598) of all referrals received (8,000) in February 2025.



- The number of mandated reports for February 2025, by area ranged from 37 (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 334 (Dublin North).
- As a percentage of referrals, the highest percentage (45%) was reported by Dublin North.
- The lowest percentage (14%) was reported Waterford/Wexford.

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

- Highest number of reports for February 2025 were for emotional abuse (1,177; 45%) followed by physical abuse (705; 27%), sexual abuse (379; 15%) and neglect (337; 13%).



Mandated Reports – Child Protection & Welfare

Source of Reports

- Highest number of reports for February 2025 from An Garda Síochána (992; 38.2%) followed by teachers (359; 13.8%), safeguarding officer (325; 12.5%); social workers (271; 10.4%) and social care workers (136; 5.2%). These five sources account for 80% (2,083) of reports for February 2025.
- Highest number of reports for 2025 YTD from An Garda Síochána (2,164; 39.9%) followed by teachers (812; 15.0%), safeguarding officer (647; 11.9%); social workers (551; 10.1%) and social care workers (266; 4.9%). These five sources account for 82% (4,440) of reports for received for the first two months of 2025.

Source (Schedule 2 Children First 2015)	# Feb-25	% Total	# 2025 YTD	% Total
An Garda Síochána Member	992	38.2%	2164	39.9%
Teacher registered with the Teaching Council.	359	13.8%	812	15.0%
Safeguarding officer	325	12.5%	647	11.9%
Social worker	271	10.4%	551	10.1%
Social care worker	136	5.2%	266	4.9%
Medical practitioner	79	3.0%	161	3.0%
Domestic violence shelter manager	73	2.8%	156	2.9%
Psychologist	78	3.0%	140	2.6%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	69	2.7%	112	2.1%
Nurse or registered midwife	53	2.0%	107	2.0%
Youth worker holds a professional qualification..	46	1.8%	92	1.7%
Homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility manager	21	0.8%	38	0.7%
Asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre manager	*	0.1%	28	0.5%
Youth work service - person responsible for the care or management	20	0.8%	28	0.5%
Speech & language therapist	13	0.5%	23	0.4%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	9	0.3%	17	0.3%
Occupational therapist	6	0.2%	16	0.3%
Guardian ad litem	10	0.4%	15	0.3%
Probation officer	8	0.3%	14	0.3%
Physiotherapist	9	0.3%	13	0.2%
Addiction counsellor	8	0.3%	12	0.2%
EMT, paramedic and advanced paramedic	*	0.1%	7	0.1%
Foster carer registered with the Agency.	*	0.2%	5	0.1%
Pre-school service	*	0.0%	*	0.1%
Institution where a child is detained by an order of a court (Director)	*	0.1%	*	0.0%
Clergy member	*	0.0%	*	0.0%
Registered dentist	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Language school or other recreational school where children reside	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	2,598	100.0%	5,430	100.0%

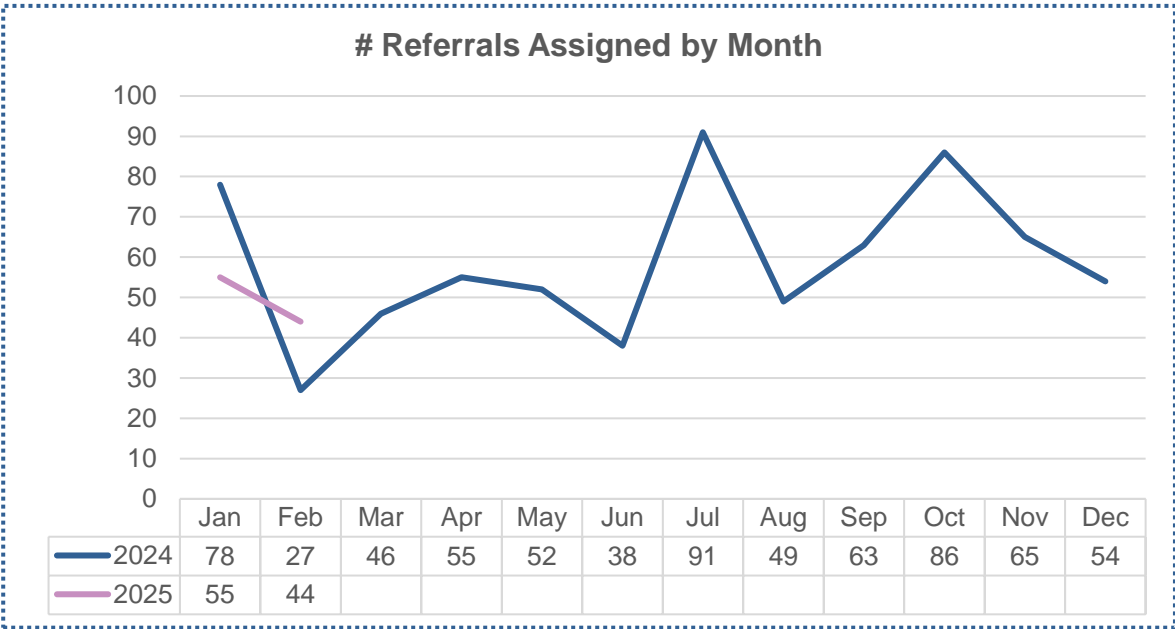
*Values suppressed for confidentiality purposes.

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

- 44 referrals assigned to CASP Teams in February 2025.
- This brings to 99 the number of referrals assigned for the first two months of 2025, 6 (6%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (105).

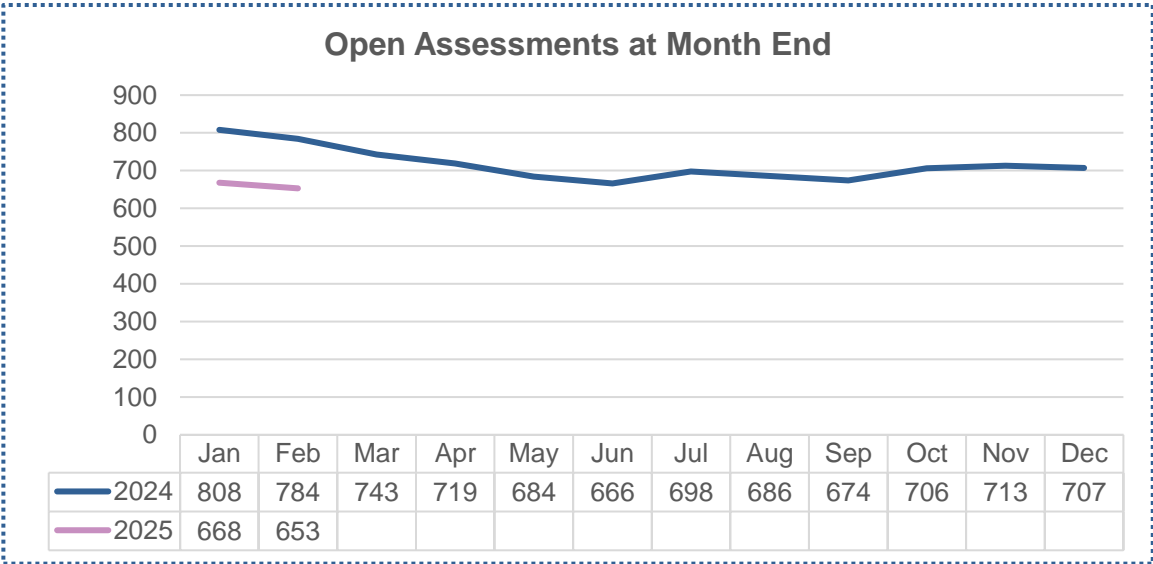
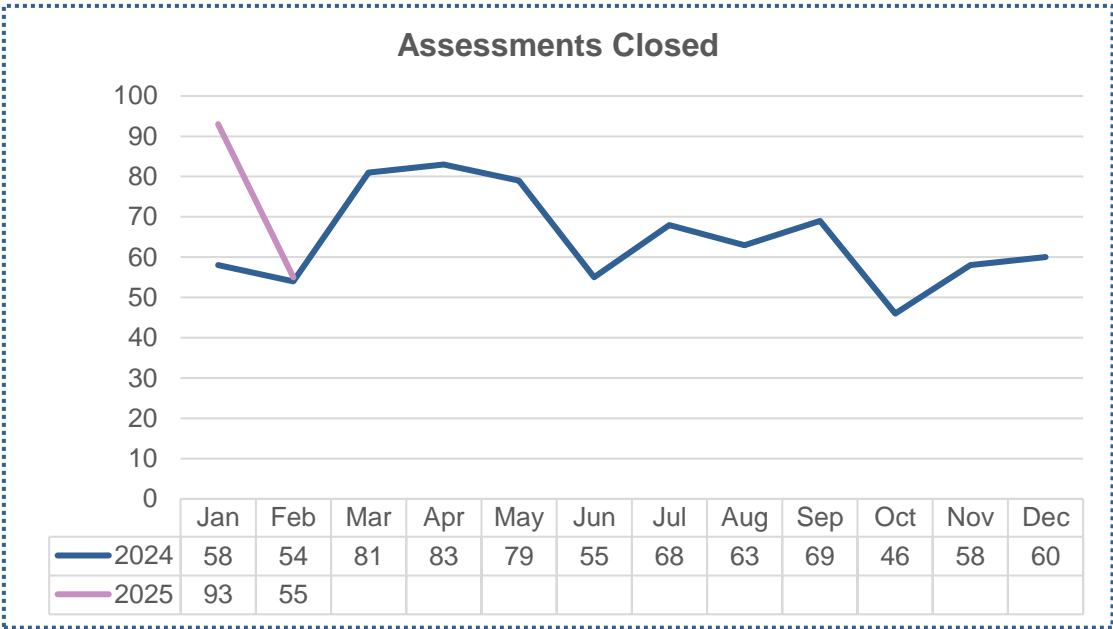


Open Assessments

- 653 assessments open at the end of February 2025, 15 (2%) fewer than January 2025 (668) and the fewest number for the period January 2024 – February 2025.
- There were 131 (17%) fewer assessments open at the end of February 2025 than at the February 2024 (784).

Assessments Closed

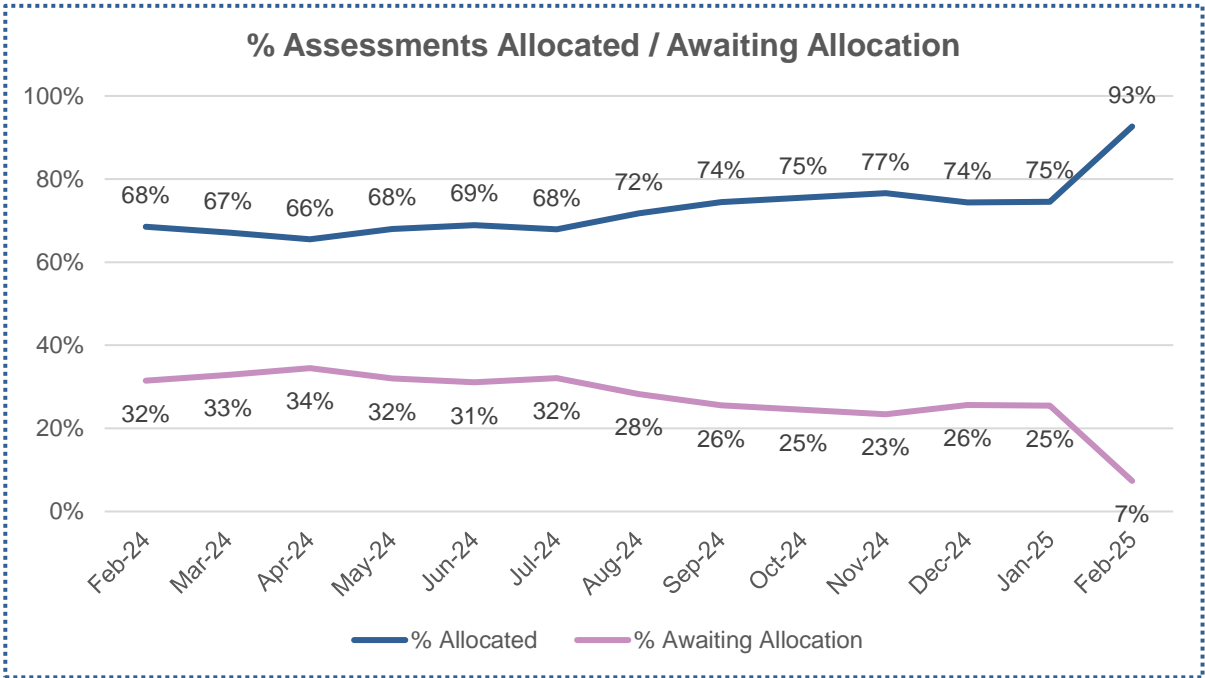
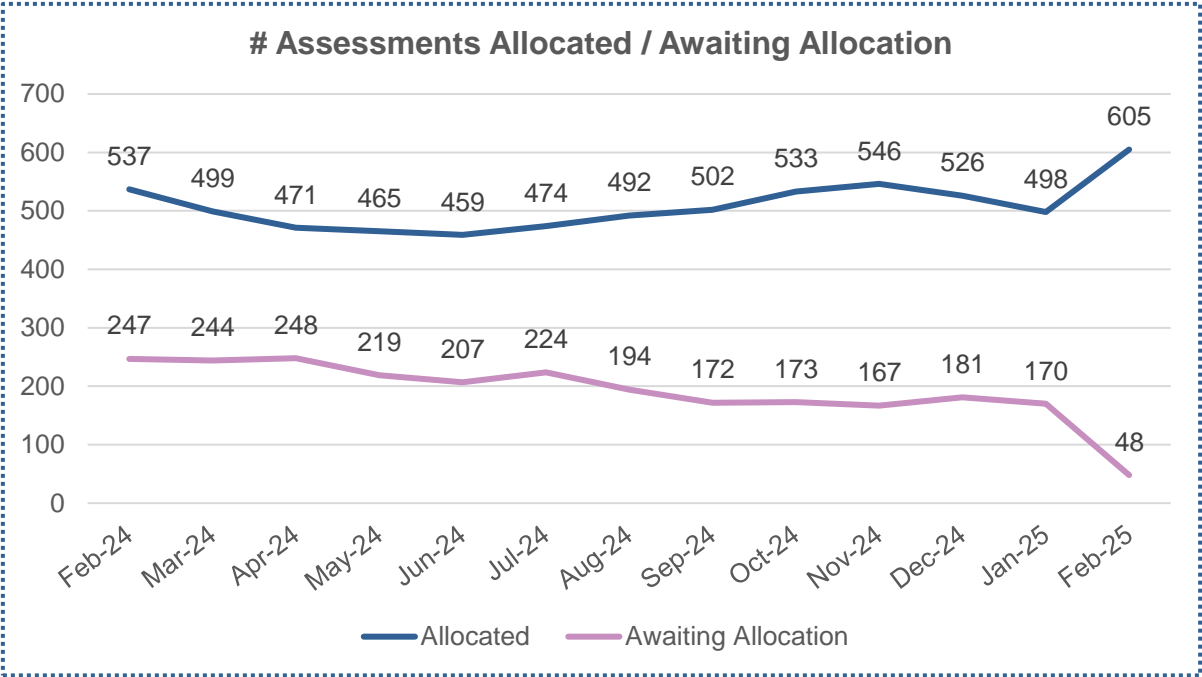
- 55 assessments closed in February 2025.
- This brings to 148 the number of assessments closed for the first two months of 2025, 36 (32%) more than the same period in 2024 (112).



Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

Allocation Status of Open Assessments

- 93% (605 / 653) of assessments open at the end of February 2025 were allocated to a social worker, up 18 percentage points from January 2025 (75%) and 25 percentage points from February 2024 (68%).
- The remaining 7% (48) were awaiting allocation with 122 (72%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of February 2025 than at the end of January 2025 (170).
- 199 (81%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of February 2025 than at the end of February 2024 (247).
- Downward trend continues.



Children in Care

- **5,801 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of February 2025**, no change from January 2025. Figure includes 99 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:**

	Feb-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Feb-25 v Feb 2024	Feb-25 v Jan-25
17 Tusla Areas	5,620	5,692	5,702	82	10
SCSIP	145	109	99	-46	-10
Total	5,765	5,801	5,801	+36	0

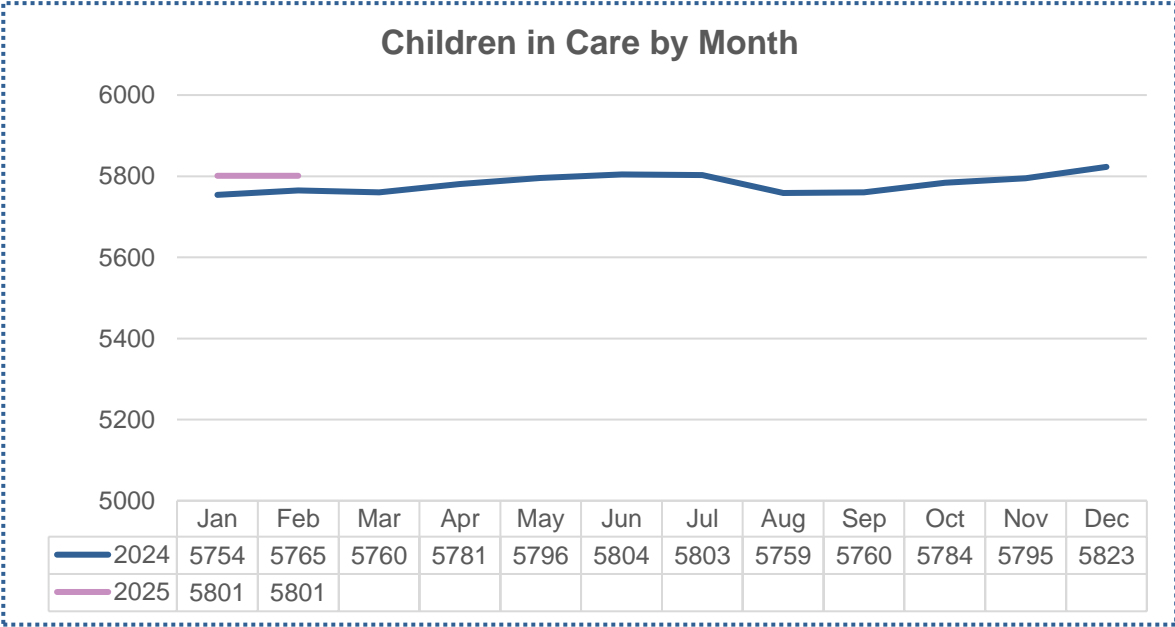
- **Breakdown of children in care by placement type as follows (Feb-25):**

Placement Type	17 areas	SCSIP	Total
Residential Care	465 (8.2%)	75 (75.8%)	540 (9.3%)
Foster Care	5,040 (88.4%)	19 (19.2%)	5,059 (87.2%)
Other*	197 (3.5%)	5 (5.1%)	202 (3.5%)
Total	5,702 (100%)	99 (100%)	5,801 (100%)

- Residential care (540) includes 14 children in special care. Of the children in foster care (5,059), 70% (3,560) were in general foster care and 30% (1,499) were in relative foster care.
- Highest number of children in care reported by Cork (662) followed by Midwest (501) and Dublin North City (465).
- Fewest number reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (99) 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 (6.1) and Donegal (5.7).
- 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.

Notes:

1. The Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection has an additional **358 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)

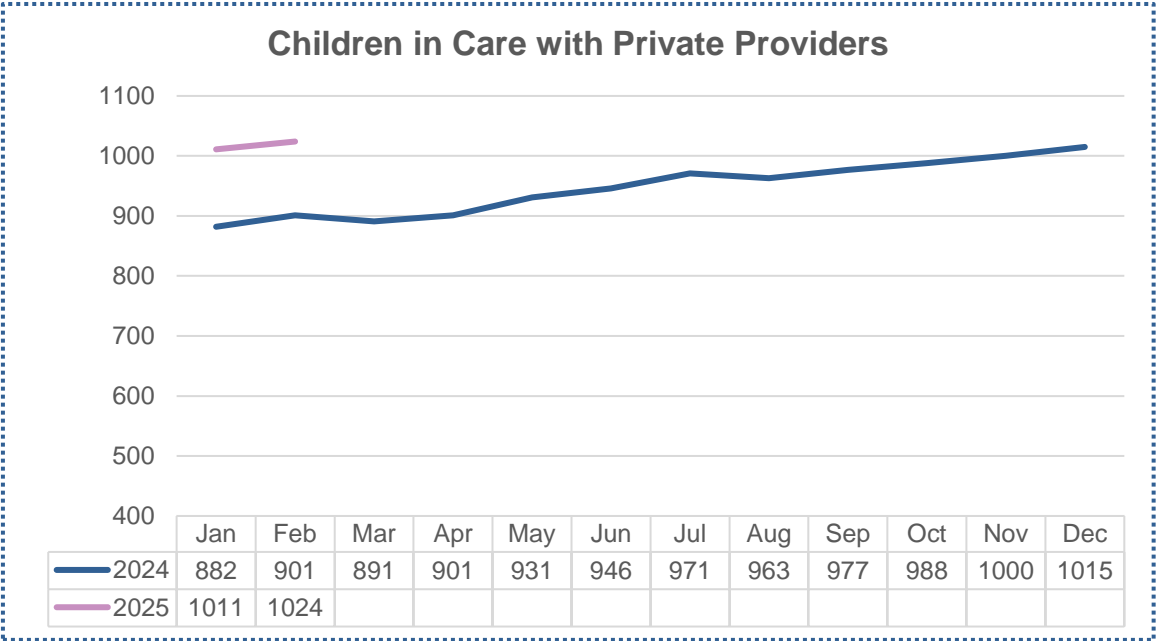
Area	Feb-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Feb-25 v Feb-24	Feb-25 v Jan-25	Population	Rate/1,000
Dublin North City	467	463	465	-2	2	48,909	9.5
Waterford/Wexford	429	422	421	-8	-1	69,239	6.1
Donegal	211	239	239	28	0	42,144	5.7
Midwest	501	507	501	0	-6	96,764	5.2
CW/KK/ST	315	311	313	-2	2	62,366	5.0
Kerry	163	174	172	9	-2	34,994	4.9
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	113	118	119	6	1	24,312	4.9
Cork	694	664	662	-32	-2	136,786	4.8
Dublin South Central	324	325	333	9	8	70,259	4.7
Mayo	139	145	145	6	0	31,911	4.5
Cavan/Monaghan	162	165	165	3	0	37,336	4.4
Louth/Meath	415	417	425	10	8	96,531	4.4
Midlands	330	350	351	21	1	80,962	4.3
Galway/Roscommon	354	347	353	-1	6	81,799	4.3
Dublin North	398	424	420	22	-4	104,281	4.0
DSW/K/WW	397	413	413	16	0	108,927	3.8
Dublin South East/Wicklow	208	208	205	-3	-3	91,047	2.3
Total Areas	5,620	5,692	5,702	82	10	1,218,567	4.7
SCSIP	145	109	99	-46	-10		
Total National	5,765	5,801	5,801	36	0		

Population: CSO Census 2022

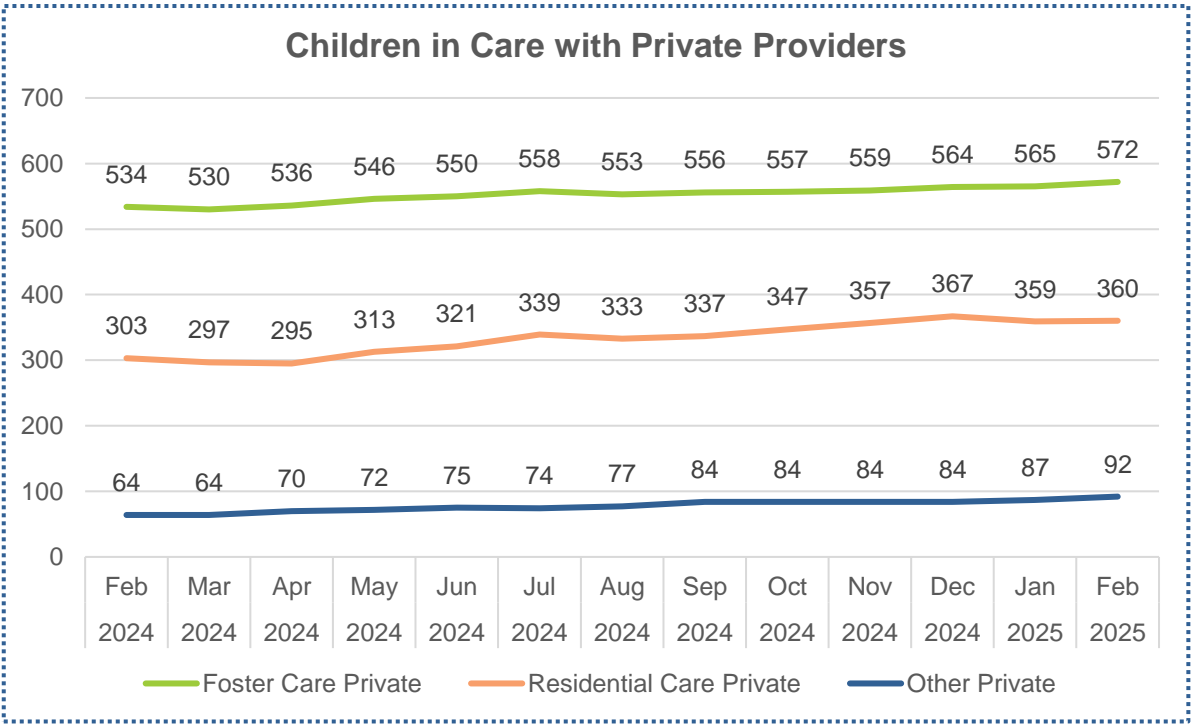
Children in Care

Private Providers

- 1,024 (17%) children in care at the end of February 2025 were in placements with private providers, 13 (1%) more than January 2025 (1,011) and 123 (14%) more than February 2024 (901).



- 572 (56%) children in placements with private providers were in **foster care**, 7 (1%) more than January 2025 (565) and 38 (7%) more than February 2024 (534).
- 360 (35%) children were in **residential care**, one more than January 2025 (359) and 57 (19%) more than February 2024 (303).
- The remaining **92 (9%)** children were in **“Other” care placements**, 5 (6%) more than January 2025 (87) and 28 (44%) more than February 2024 (64). *“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 (133) followed by Dublin North (123), Dublin South Central (114), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (112), and Midlands (97). These five areas account for 57% (579) of children in placements with private providers.



Children in Care with Private Providers

Children in Care (Private)	Feb-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Feb-25 v Feb-24	Feb-25 v Jan-25
Dublin North City	113	131	133	20	2
Dublin North	98	123	123	25	0
Dublin South Central	105	112	114	9	2
DSW/K/WW	108	109	112	4	3
Midlands	71	93	97	26	4
SCSIP	52	65	62	10	-3
Louth/Meath	47	57	57	10	0
Cork	57	56	57	0	1
Waterford/Wexford	53	51	51	-2	0
Dublin South East/Wicklow	51	52	50	-1	-2
Midwest	38	42	41	3	-1
Kerry	31	33	33	2	0
CW/KK/ST	21	26	27	6	1
Donegal	23	22	25	2	3
Galway/Roscommon	15	16	18	3	2
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	12	14	15	3	1
Cavan/Monaghan	5	8	8	3	0
Mayo	1	1	1	0	0
Total	901	1,011	1,024	123	13

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% (5,695) of children in care at the end of February 2025 had an allocated worker.**
- Of the 5,695 children allocated, 89% (5,053) were allocated to a social worker and 11% (642) were allocated to another professional.
- A total of 106 (2%) children were awaiting allocation, 27 (20%) fewer than January 2025 (133).
- 8 of the 17 areas report no cases awaiting allocation with a further six areas and the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection reporting fewer than 10 cases awaiting allocation.
- The remaining three areas account for 85% (90) of cases awaiting allocation, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (26), Dublin South Central (28) and Louth/Meath (38).

Breakdown of allocation status by area and role of worker, February 2025

Area	Allocated SW	% Allocated SW	Allocated OP	% Allocated OP	Total Allocated	% Allocated	Awaiting Allocation	% Awaiting Allocation	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	202	98.5%	3	1.5%	205	100.0%	0	0.0%	205
DSW/K/WW	290	74.9%	97	25.1%	387	93.7%	26	6.3%	413
Dublin South Central	240	78.7%	65	21.3%	305	91.6%	28	8.4%	333
Midlands	342	97.4%	9	2.6%	351	100.0%	0	0.0%	351
Dublin North City	425	91.4%	40	8.6%	465	100.0%	0	0.0%	465
Dublin North	376	90.8%	38	9.2%	414	98.6%	6	1.4%	420
Louth/Meath	363	93.3%	26	6.7%	389	91.5%	36	8.5%	425
Cavan/Monaghan	163	98.8%	2	1.2%	165	100.0%	0	0.0%	165
Kerry	166	96.5%	6	3.5%	172	100.0%	0	0.0%	172
Cork	661	100.0%	0	0.0%	661	99.8%	1	0.2%	662
CW/K/ST	157	50.2%	156	49.8%	313	100.0%	0	0.0%	313
Waterford/Wexford	388	92.4%	32	7.6%	420	99.8%	1	0.2%	421
Donegal	236	99.6%	1	0.4%	237	99.2%	2	0.8%	239
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	118	99.2%	1	0.8%	119	100.0%	0	0.0%	119
Mayo	144	100.0%	0	0.0%	144	99.3%	1	0.7%	145
Galway/Roscommon	347	98.3%	6	1.7%	353	100.0%	0	0.0%	353
Mid West	339	67.9%	160	32.1%	499	99.6%	2	0.4%	501
SCSIP	96	100.0%	0	0.0%	96	97.0%	3	3.0%	99
Total	5,053	88.7%	642	11.3%	5,695	98.2%	106	1.8%	5,801

Children in Care

Care Plan

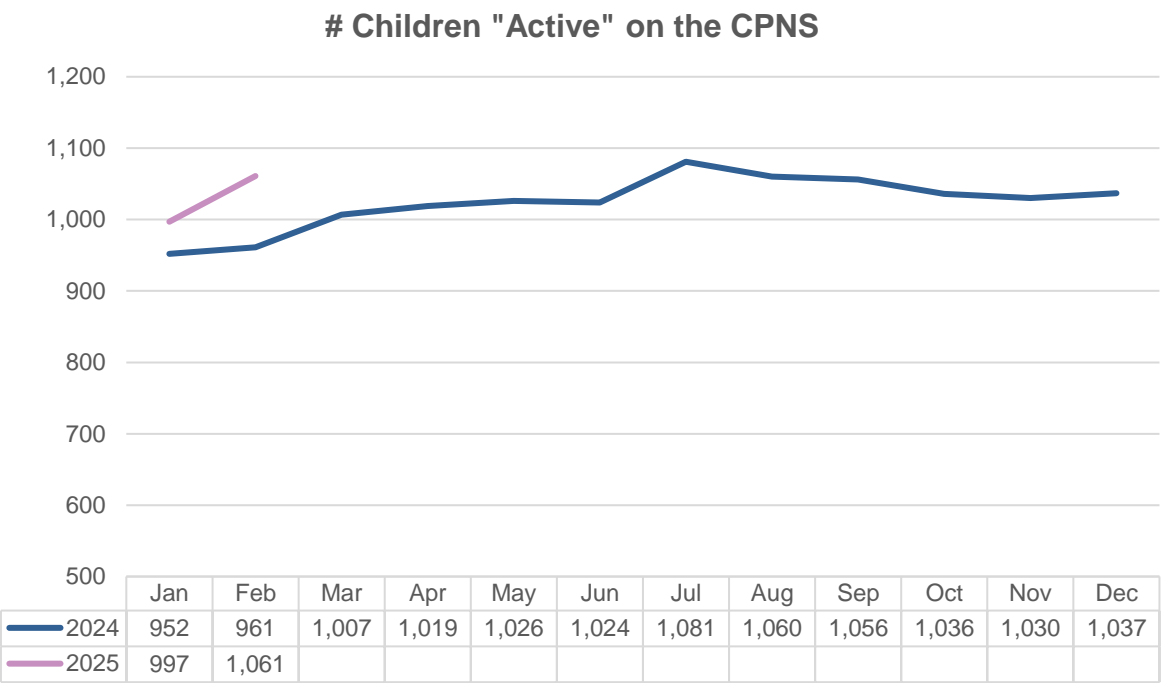
- **84% (4,893) of children in care at the end of February 2025 had an up-to-date care plan**, down one percentage point from January 2025 (85%).
- A total of 908 (16%) children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 17 (2%) more than January 2025 (891).
- Highest numbers awaiting an up-to-date care plan reported by Dublin North City (122; 26%), Louth/Meath (118; 28%), Dublin South Central (107; 32%) and Midwest (98; 20%).

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

Area	UTD Care Plan	Awaiting UTD Care Plan	Total	% UTD Care Plan
Dublin South East/Wicklow	156	49	205	76%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	352	61	413	85%
Dublin South Central	226	107	333	68%
Midlands	345	6	351	98%
Dublin North City	343	122	465	74%
Dublin North	353	67	420	84%
Louth/Meath	307	118	425	72%
Cavan/Monaghan	132	33	165	80%
Kerry	152	20	172	88%
Cork	590	72	662	89%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	301	12	313	96%
Waterford/Wexford	400	21	421	95%
Donegal	223	16	239	93%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	97	22	119	82%
Mayo	136	9	145	94%
Galway/Roscommon	306	47	353	87%
Midwest	403	98	501	80%
SCSIP	71	28	99	72%
Total	4,893	908	5,801	84%

Child Protection Notification System

- **1,061 children listed as ‘active’** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of February 2025, 64 (6%) more than January 2025 (997) and the highest number since July 2024 (1,081).
- There were 100 (10%) more children ‘active’ at the end of February 2025 than at the end February 2024 (961).
- It should be noted that a small number of large sibling groups can have a significant effect on numbers reported.
- 99% (1,053) of children ‘active’ at the end of February 2025 had an allocated social worker; eight children were awaiting allocation of which five were subsequently allocated.
- Highest numbers of children listed as ‘active’ at the end of February 2025, reported by Dublin North City (130), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (121), Midlands (120) and Cork (109)
- Fewest numbers reported by Cavan/Monaghan (10) and Kerry (20).
- The number of children ‘active’ equates to about 9 children per 10,000 under 18 years.
- Highest rates reported by Dublin North City (26.6), Midlands (14.8) and Dublin South West/Kildare/Wicklow (11.1)
- Lowest rates reported by Cavan/Monaghan (2.7) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (3.7)
- 10 of the 17 areas had more children listed as ‘active’ at the end of February 2025 than at the end of January 2025. Largest increases reported by Louth/Meath (up 14), Galway/Roscommon (up 14), Dublin North City (12) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (12).
- 3 of the 17 areas reported fewer children ‘active’ with the largest decrease reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 6) followed by Cork (down 4) and Dublin South Central (down 3).
- The remaining four areas (Dublin North, Donegal, Dublin South East/Wicklow and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) reported no change.
- 9 of the 17 areas had more children active at the end of February 2025 than at the end of February 2024. Largest increases reported by Midlands (up 52), Dublin North City (up 39) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 21)
- 8 of the 17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Donegal (down 25) and Dublin North (down 20).



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

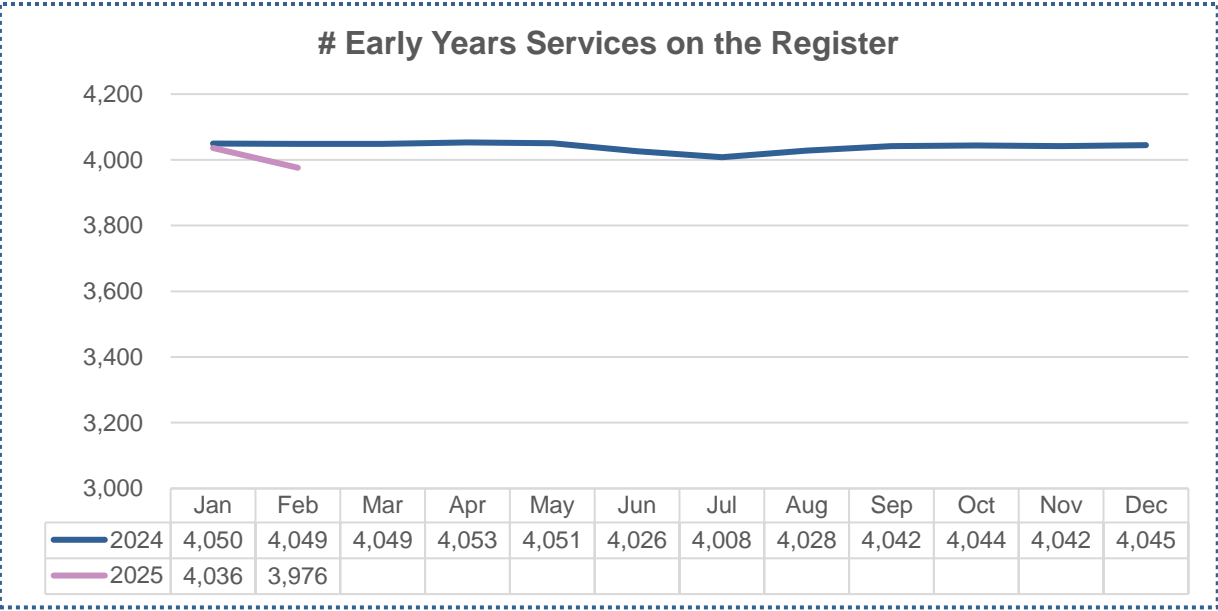
Area	Feb-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Feb-25 v Feb-24	Feb-25 v Jan-25	Pop	Rate / 10,000
Dublin North City	91	118	130	39	12	48,909	26.6
Midlands	68	117	120	52	3	80,962	14.8
DSW/K/WW	100	109	121	21	12	108,927	11.1
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	13	26	26	13	0	24,312	10.7
Dublin South Central	49	70	67	18	-3	70,259	9.5
Mayo	20	27	29	9	2	31,911	9.1
Mid West	83	73	81	-2	8	96,764	8.4
Donegal	59	34	34	-25	0	42,144	8.1
Cork	117	113	109	-8	-4	136,786	8.0
CW/K/ST	55	55	49	-6	-6	62,366	7.9
Galway / Roscommon	43	49	63	20	14	81,799	7.7
Louth / Meath	60	51	65	5	14	96,531	6.7
Dublin North	86	66	66	-20	0	104,281	6.3
Kerry	19	19	20	1	1	34,994	5.7
Waterford / Wexford	38	27	37	-1	10	69,239	5.3
Dublin South East / Wicklow	43	34	34	-9	0	91,047	3.7
Cavan / Monaghan	17	9	10	-7	1	37,336	2.7
Total	961	997	1061	100	64	1,218,567	8.7

Population 0-17 years – source CSO Census 2022

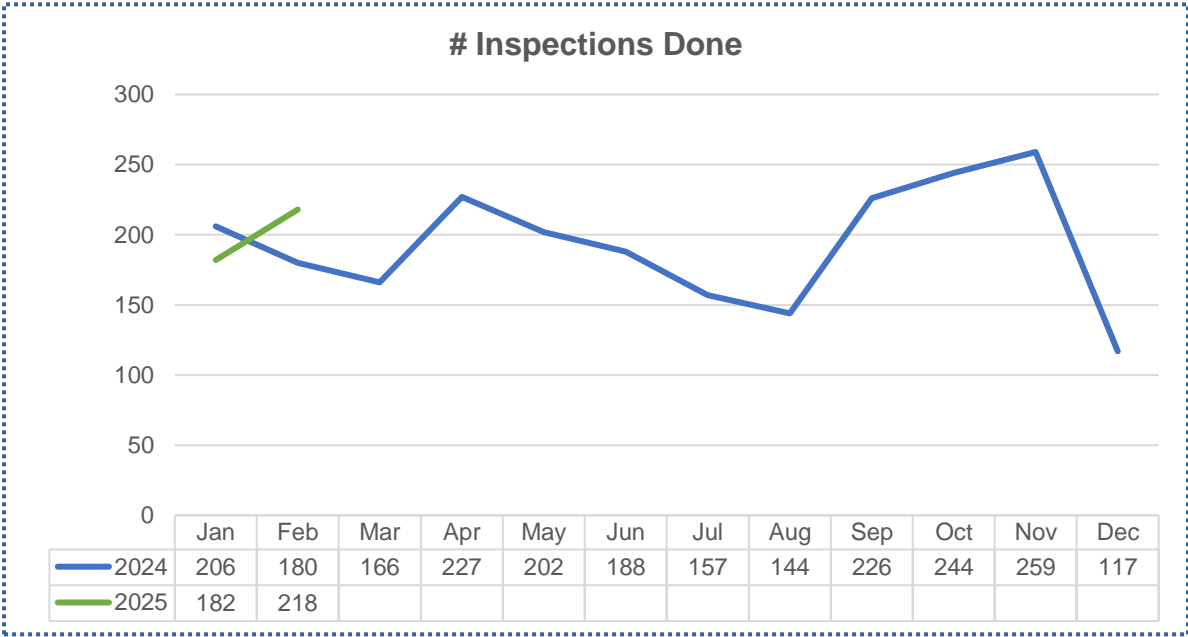
Children’s Services Regulation

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- **3,976 early years services on the register at the end of February 2025**, 60 (1%) fewer than January 2025 (4,036) and 73 (2%) fewer than February 2024 (4,049). *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.*

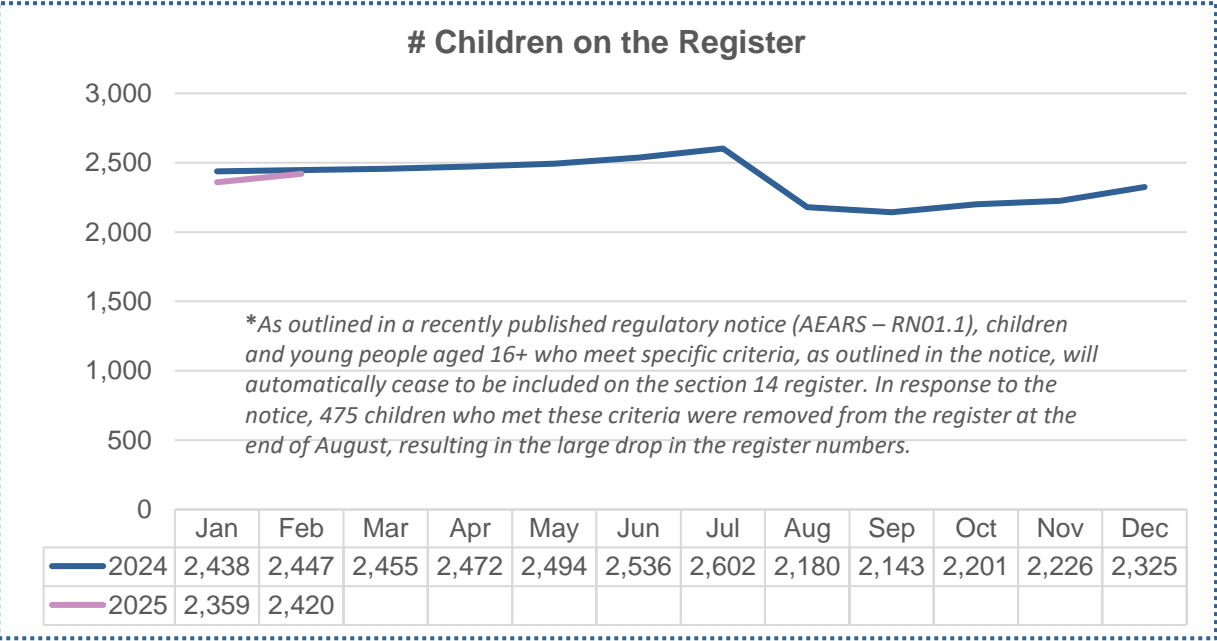


- **218 inspections** of early years services in February 2025.
- This brings to 400 the number of inspections for the first two months of 2025, 14 (4%) more than the same period in 2024 (386)

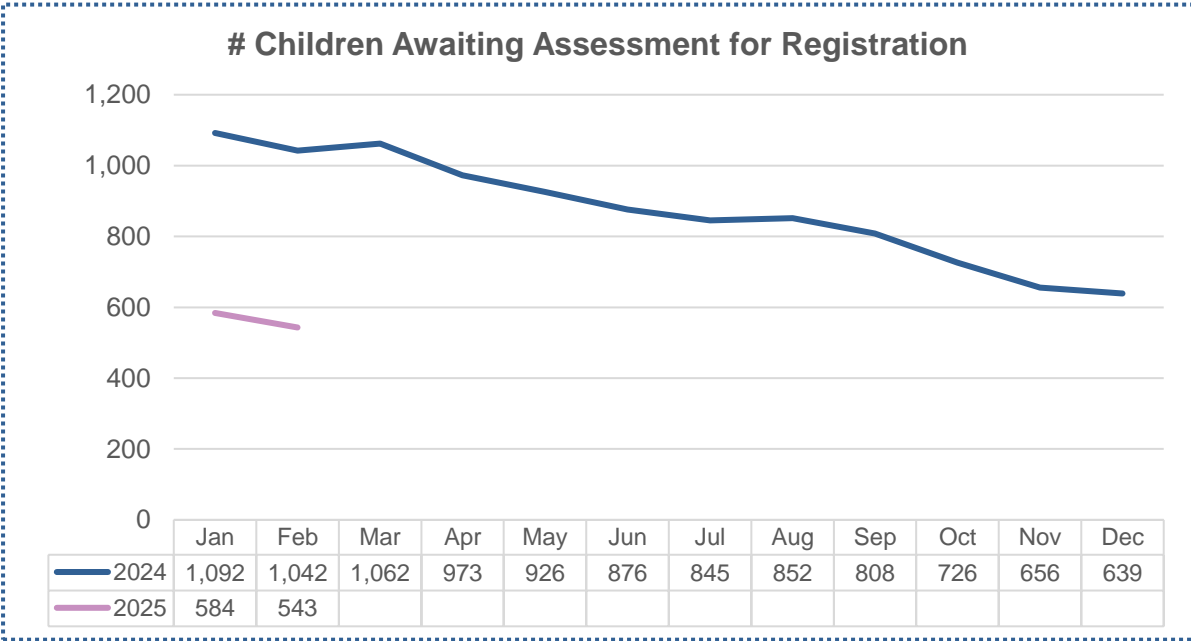


ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

- **2,420 children on the register** for home education at the end of February 2025, 61 (3%) more than January 2025 (2,359). Fifth consecutive increase.



- **543 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of February 2025**, 41 (7%) fewer than January 2025 (584) and 499 (48%) fewer than February 2024 (1,042).



Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,190 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in February 2025. This brings to 5,002 the number of referrals for the first six months of the academic year 2024 – 2025, some 953 (24%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (4,049).

- **3,689 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of February 2025, 315 (8%) fewer than January 2025 (4,004). First decrease after three consecutive increases.
- 446 (14%) more referrals on a waiting list at the end of February 2025 (3,689) than at the end of February 2024 (3,243).

- **397 new individual children worked** with in February 2025. This brings to 2,297 the number of new individual children worked with in the first six months of the academic year 2024-2025, some 140 (6%) more than the previous academic year (2,157).

