



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

MONTHLY SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

JANUARY 2024

14 March 2024
Version 2.0

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

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Headline Data – January 2024

Child Protection & Welfare

- 7,592 referrals in January 2024, 1,098 (17%) more than December 2023 (6,494) and 269 (3%) fewer than January 2023 (7,861).
- 21,871 cases open to social work at the end of January 2024, 211 (1%) fewer than December 2023 (22,082) and 547 (2%) fewer than January 2023 (22,418). *Open cases include child protection and welfare cases including children in care.*
- 77% (16,837) of cases open to social work at the end of January 2024 had an allocated social worker.
- 5,034 cases awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of January 2024, 297 (6%) fewer than December 2023 (5,331) and 1,649 (25%) fewer than January 2023 (6,683).
- Six areas account for 70% (3,521) of cases awaiting allocation: Dublin South Central (1,121), Cork (707), Louth/Meath (495), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (451), Midwest (386) and Dublin North City (361).
- 8% (401) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of January 2024 were categorised as high priority, 47 (10%) fewer than December 2023 (448) and 79 (16%) fewer than January 2023 (480).

Children in Care

- 5,754 children in care at the end of January 2024. This figure includes 151 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP). *Data on SCSIP not included in figures for 2023.*
- 87% (5,031)* of all children in care (incl. SCSIP) are in foster care (3,572 general foster care, and 1,459 relative foster), 8% (477) are in residential care (464 general residential care and 13 special care) and 4% (245) are in “other” care placements. Placement type not available for the remaining case at the time of reporting.
- Across the 17 areas, 89.4% (5,008/5,603) of children in care at the end of January 2024 were in foster care.
- 882 (15%) children in care at the end of January 2024 were in placements with private providers.
- 81% (4,649) of children in care at the end of January 2024 had an allocated social worker. A total of 1,105 children were awaiting an allocated social worker.
- 77% (4,443) of children in care at the end of January 2024 had an up-to-date care plan. A total of 1,311 (23%) children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan.

**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)

- 952 children listed as “active” at the end of January 2024, 10 (1%) fewer than December 2023 (962).
- There were 102 (12%) more children “active” at the end of January 2024 than at the end of January 2023 (850).
- All children listed as “active” at the end of January 2024 had an allocated social worker.

Children’s Services Regulation

- 4,050 early years services on the register at the end of January 2024, six more than December 2023 (4,044) and 26 (<1%) more than January 2023 (4,024).
- 206 inspections of early years services done in January 2024, 92 (81%) more than December 2023 (114) and eight fewer than January 2023 (214).
- 2,438 children on the register for home education at the end of January 2024, nine fewer than December 2023 (2,447) and 443 (22%) more than January 2023 (1,995).
- 1,092 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of January 2024, eight fewer than December 2023 (1,100) and 321 (23%) fewer than January 2023 (1,413).

Tusla Education Support Services

- 912 referrals screened by senior educational welfare services in January 2024. This brings to 2,971 the number of referrals for the first five months of the academic year 2023-2024, 244 (9%) more than the same period in 2022-2023 (2,727).
- 2,814 referrals on a waiting list for educational welfare services at the end of January 2024, 89 (3%) more than December (2,725) and the third consecutive monthly increase.
- 379 new individual children worked with in January 2024. This brings to 1,774 the number of new individual children worked with for the first five months of the academic year 2023-2024, 194 (12%) more than the same period in 2022-2023 (1,580).

Child Protection and Welfare

Referrals¹

- **7,592 referrals** in January 2024, 1,098 (17%) more than December 2023 (6,494) and 269 (3%) fewer than January 2023 (7,861).

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 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

- **21,871 cases open to social work** at the end of January 2024, 211 (1%) fewer than December 2023 (22,082) and 547 (2%) fewer than January 2023 (22,418). *Open cases from September 2023 include cases awaiting categorisation. See note below.*

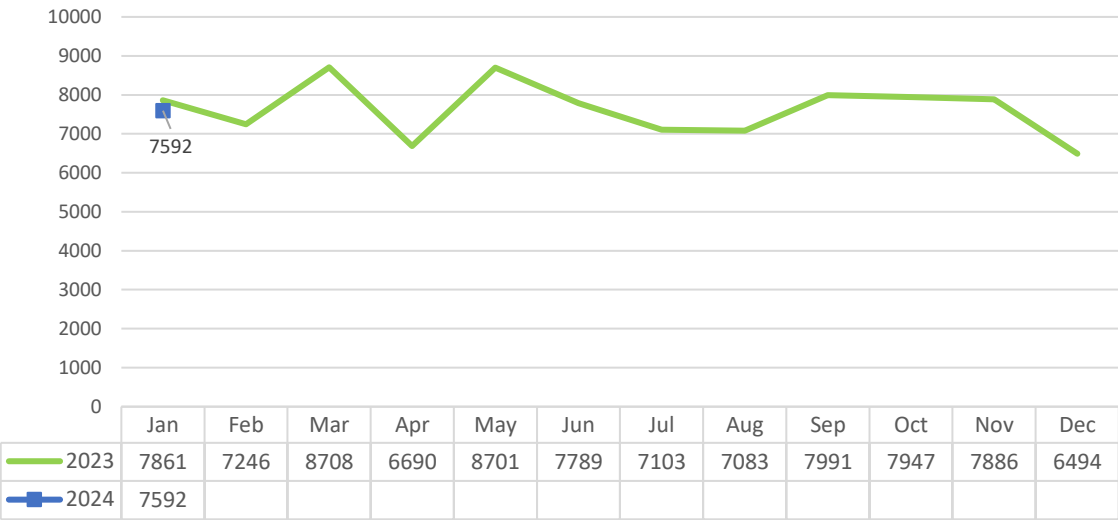
Notes:

- 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.*

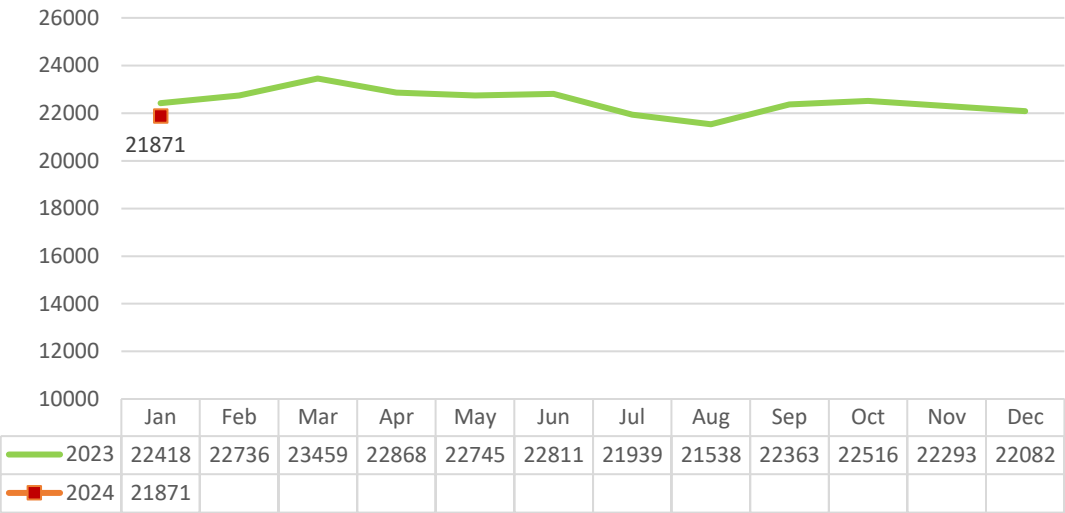
Allocated Cases

- **16,837 open cases were allocated** to a social worker at the end of January 2024, 86 (<1%%) more than December 2023 (16,751) and 1,102 (7%) more than January 2023 (15,735). *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 77% of open cases, up one percentage point from December 2023 (76%) and up seven percentage points from January 2023 (70%).

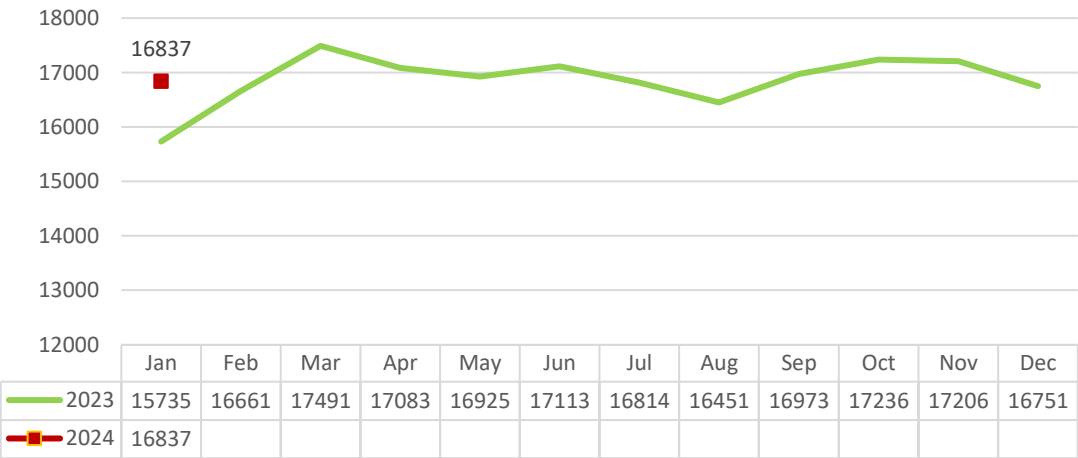
Referrals



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).

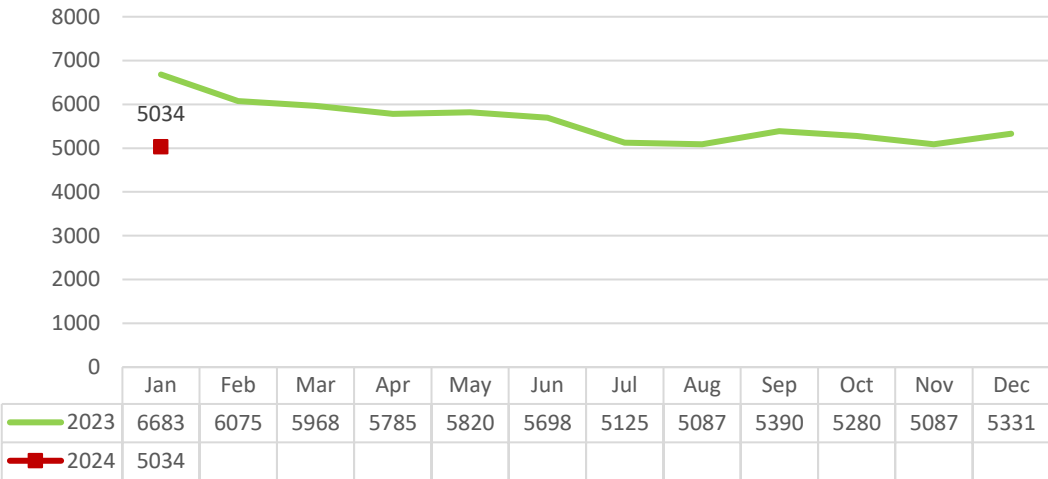
Child Protection & Welfare

Cases Awaiting Allocation of a Social Worker

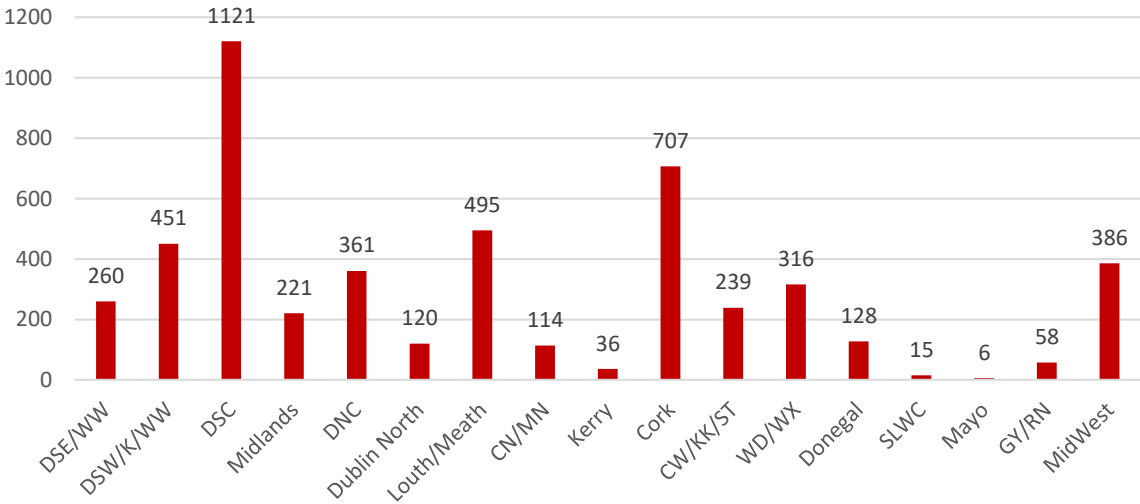
Cases awaiting allocation include cases held on duty, unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care

- **5,034 cases awaiting allocation of a social worker** at the end of January 2024, 297 (6%) fewer than December 2023 (5,331) and 1,649 (25%) fewer than January 2023 (6,683). *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 23% of open cases (21,871), down one percentage point from December 2023 (24%).
- **69% (3,463) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of January 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 (1,121) followed by Cork (707), Louth/Meath (495), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (451), Midwest (386) and Dublin North City (361). These six areas account for 70% (3,521) of all cases awaiting allocation.
- **401 cases awaiting allocation at the end of January 2024 were categorised as high priority**, 47 (10%) fewer than December 2023 (448) and 79 (16%) fewer than January 2023 (480).
- High priority cases account for 8% of cases awaiting allocation.
- 54% (2,700) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 35% (1,759) were low priority while the remaining 3% (174) were awaiting categorisation.
- Highest number of high priority cases reported by Midwest (97) followed by Louth/Meath (64), Midlands (61), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (32), Dublin South Central (28) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (27). These six areas account for 77% (309) of all high priority cases awaiting.

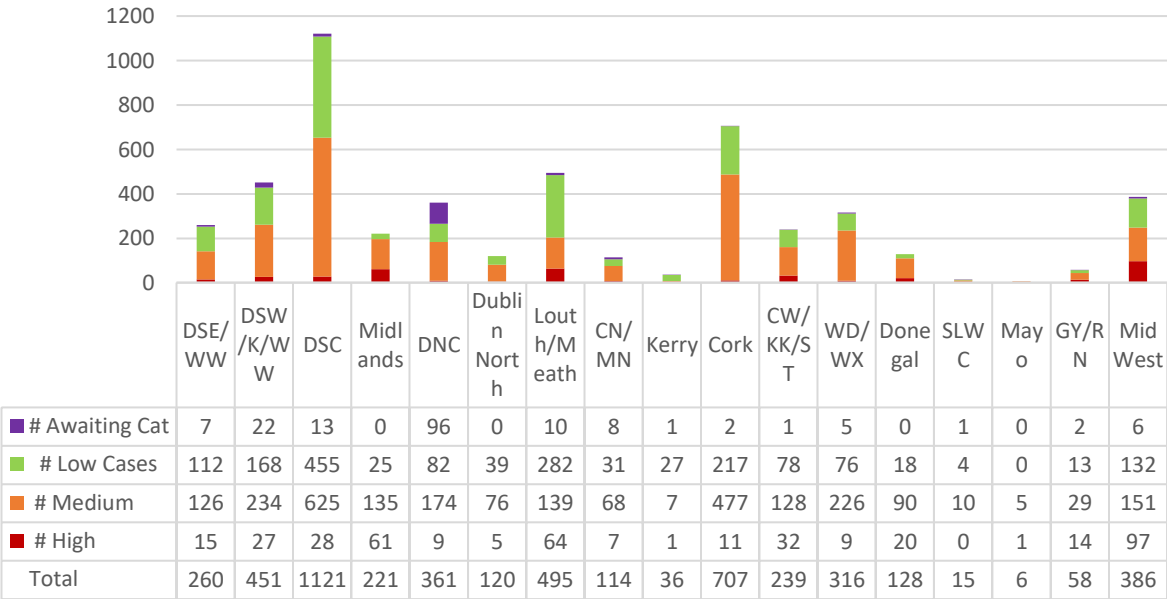
Number of Unallocated Cases



Number of Unallocated Cases





















Number Unallocated Cases by Priority Level



Child Protection & Welfare

Cases Awaiting Allocation

- 14/17 areas reported a decrease in unallocated cases from December 2023.
- Largest decreases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 98), Dublin North City (down 87), Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 59), Cork (down 39) and Waterford/Wexford (down 39).
- 3/17 areas reported an increase in unallocated cases from December 2023 as follows, Louth/Meath (up 94), Dublin South Central (up 54) and Galway/Roscommon (up 11).
- Nationally 23% of open cases were unallocated at the end of January 2024. Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 23%, Dublin South Central (53%), Louth/Meath (33%), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (29%), Midwest (29%), DSW/K/WW (28%), Cork (28%) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (26%).
- 14/17 areas had fewer cases awaiting allocation at the end of January 2024 than at the end of January 2023. Largest decreases reported by Waterford/Wexford (down 550), Dublin North (down 323), DSW/K/WW down (319) and Dublin North City (down 283).
- 3/17 areas reported an increase as follows, Midwest (up 205), Dublin South Central (up 202) and Louth/Meath (up 175).

Area	Jan-23 # Unallocated	Jan-23 % Unallocated	Nov-23 # Unallocated	Dec-23 # Unallocated	Jan-24 # Unallocated	Jan-24 % Unallocated	Nov - Jan	Jan-24 v Jan-23	% Δ	Jan-24 v Dec-23	% Δ1
DSE/WW	334	33%	238	319	260	26%		-74	-22%	-59	-18%
DSW/K/WW	770	42%	545	549	451	28%		-319	-41%	-98	-18%
DSC	919	55%	966	1067	1121	53%		202	22%	54	5%
Midlands	354	19%	237	252	221	12%		-133	-38%	-31	-12%
DNC	644	31%	359	448	361	20%		-283	-44%	-87	-19%
Dublin North	443	19%	163	148	120	6%		-323	-73%	-28	-19%
Louth/Meath	320	26%	366	401	495	33%		175	55%	94	23%
CN/MN	130	21%	162	142	114	17%		-16	-12%	-28	-20%
Kerry	109	20%	44	39	36	9%		-73	-67%	-3	-8%
Cork	756	29%	798	746	707	28%		-49	-6%	-39	-5%
CW/KK/ST	349	42%	278	243	239	29%		-110	-32%	-4	-2%
WD/WX	866	44%	319	355	316	22%		-550	-64%	-39	-11%
Donegal	279	34%	185	138	128	15%		-151	-54%	-10	-7%
SLWC	77	23%	43	33	15	5%		-62	-81%	-18	-55%
Mayo	39	10%	8	9	6	2%		-33	-85%	-3	-33%
GY/RN	113	12%	72	47	58	5%		-55	-49%	11	23%
MidWest	181	14%	304	395	386	29%		205	113%	-9	-2%
TOTAL	6683	30%	5087	5331	5034	23%		-1649	-25%	-297	-6%

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	Dec-23	Jan-24	Δ	Dec-23	Jan-24	Δ2	Dec-23	Jan-24	Δ3	Dec-23	Jan-24	Δ4
DSE/WW	282	293	11	1,039	993	-46	720	733	13	319	260	-59
DSW/K/WW	626	823	197	1,573	1,616	43	1,024	1,165	141	549	451	-98
DSC	557	617	60	2,208	2,097	-111	1,141	976	-165	1067	1,121	54
Midlands	654	759	105	1,919	1,863	-56	1,667	1,642	-25	252	221	-31
DNC	390	427	37	1,839	1,822	-17	1,391	1,461	70	448	361	-87
Dublin North	608	678	70	2,105	2,105	0	1,957	1,985	28	148	120	-28
Louth/Meath	422	550	128	1,432	1,500	68	1,031	1,005	-26	401	495	94
CN/MN	208	267	59	692	668	-24	550	554	4	142	114	-28
Kerry	154	197	43	385	383	-2	346	347	1	39	36	-3
Cork	675	668	-7	2,630	2,539	-91	1,884	1,832	-52	746	707	-39
CW/KK/ST	307	337	30	827	817	-10	584	578	-6	243	239	-4
WD/WX	429	580	151	1,438	1,435	-3	1,083	1,119	36	355	316	-39
Donegal	157	233	76	830	859	29	692	731	39	138	128	-10
SLWC	115	105	-10	334	328	-6	301	313	12	33	15	-18
Mayo	106	130	24	394	348	-46	385	342	-43	9	6	-3
GY/RN	291	350	59	1,062	1,151	89	1,015	1,093	78	47	58	11
MidWest	513	578	65	1,375	1,347	-28	980	961	-19	395	386	-9
Total	6,494	7,592	1098	22,082	21,871	-211	16,751	16,837	86	5,331	5,034	-297

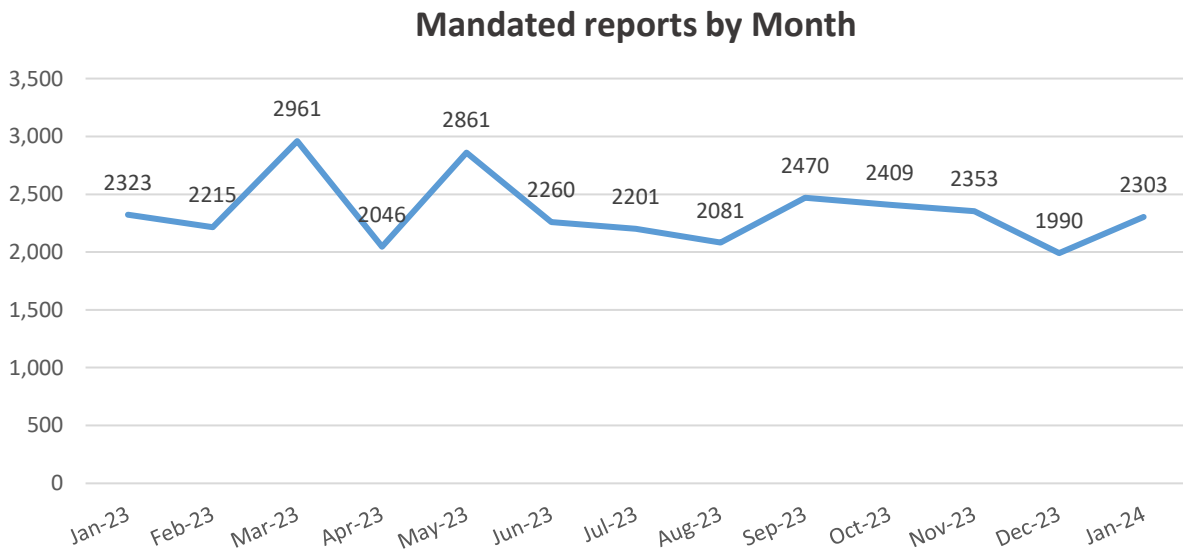
High Priority Awaiting				Medium Priority Awaiting			Low Priority Awaiting			Awaiting Categorisation		
Area	Dec-23	Jan-24	Δ	Dec-23	Jan-24	Δ 2	Dec-23	Jan-24	Δ 3	Dec-23	Jan-24	Δ 4
DSE/WW	33	15	-18	158	126	-32	116	112	-4	12	7	-5
DSW/K/WW	40	27	-13	286	234	-52	211	168	-43	12	22	10
DSC	62	28	-34	588	625	37	399	455	56	18	13	-5
Midlands	63	61	-2	143	135	-8	45	25	-20	1	0	-1
DNC	12	9	-3	260	174	-86	95	82	-13	81	96	15
Dublin North	14	5	-9	72	76	4	61	39	-22	1	0	-1
Louth/Meath	51	64	13	128	139	11	206	282	76	16	10	-6
CN/MN	1	7	6	96	68	-28	41	31	-10	4	8	4
Kerry	0	1	1	9	7	-2	29	27	-2	1	1	0
Cork	17	11	-6	508	477	-31	216	217	1	5	2	-3
CW/KK/ST	53	32	-21	120	128	8	67	78	11	3	1	-2
WD/WX	7	9	2	254	226	-28	89	76	-13	5	5	0
Donegal	12	20	8	107	90	-17	18	18	0	1	0	-1
SLWC	0	0	0	21	10	-11	12	4	-8	0	1	1
Mayo	1	1	0	8	5	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0
GY/RN	11	14	3	23	29	6	13	13	0	0	2	2
MidWest	71	97	26	209	151	-58	110	132	22	5	6	1
TOTAL	448	401	-47	2,990	2,700	-290	1,728	1,759	31	165	174	9

Mandated Reports¹ – Child Protection & Welfare

- **2,303 mandated reports of abuse** received in January 2024, 313 (16%) more than December 2023 (1,990) and 20 (<1%) fewer than January 2023 (2,323).

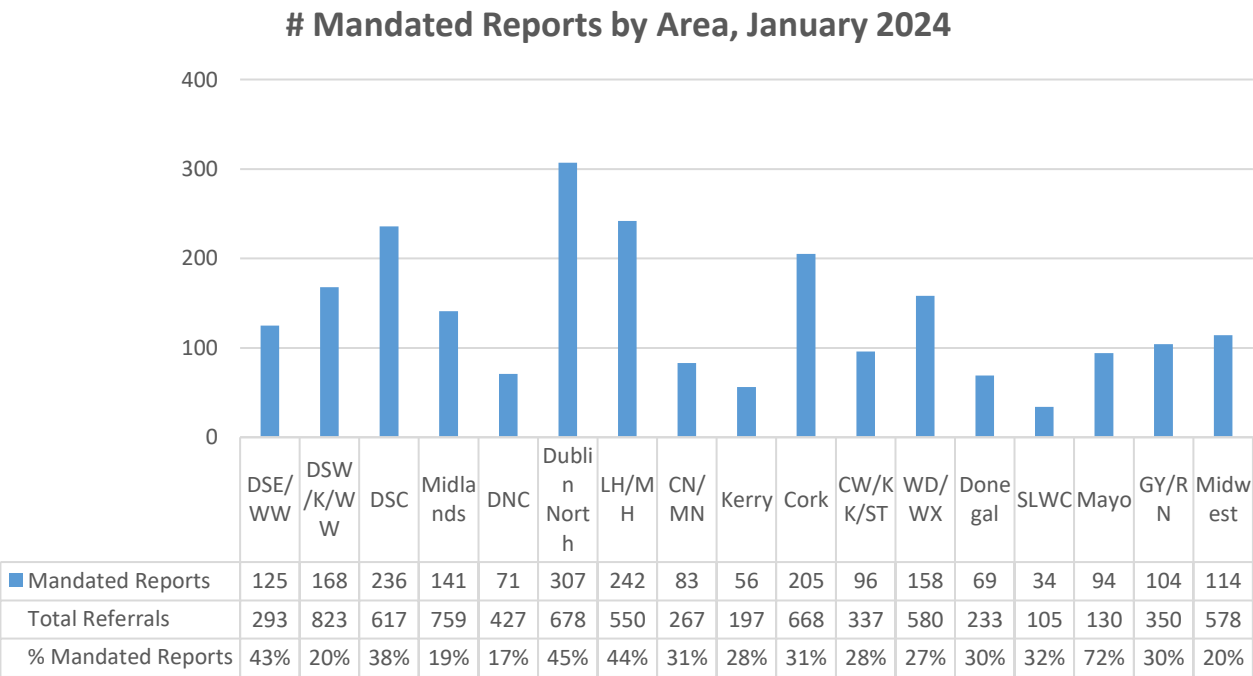
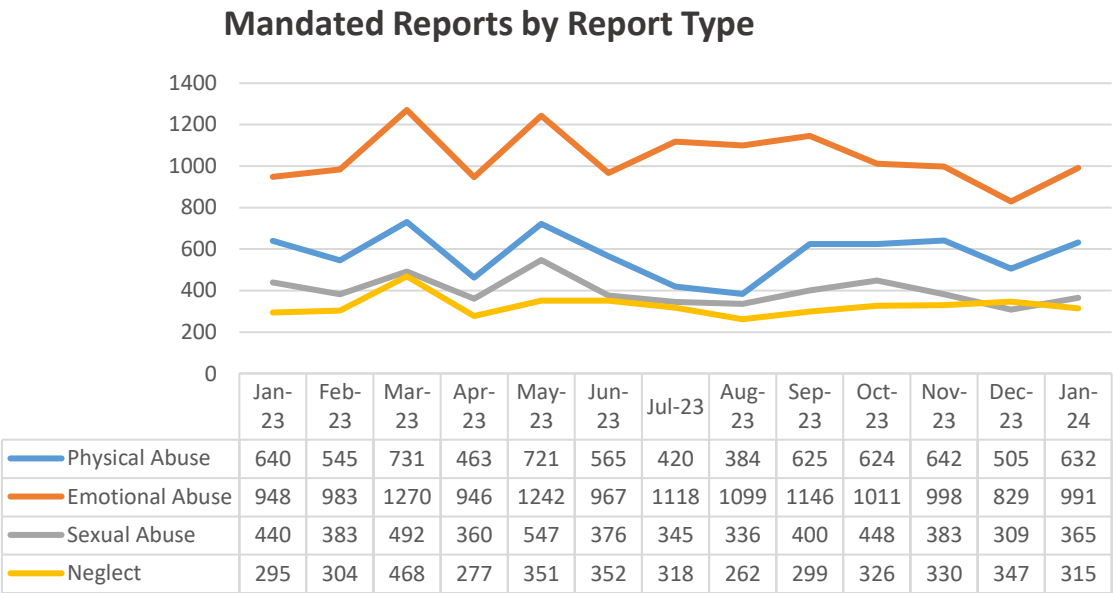
It should be noted that the data presented for Jan-Sep 2023 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for the remaining months of 2023 is based on referrals logged on the Tusla Case Management (TCM) system at the time the data was extracted for reporting. Referrals logged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

- Mandated reports accounted for 30% (2,303) of all referrals received (7,592) in January 2024.



- The number of mandated reports for January 2024, by area ranged from 34 (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 307 (Dublin North).
- As a percentage of referrals, the highest percentage (72%) was reported by Mayo.
- The lowest percentages were reported by Dublin North City (17%).

- Highest number of reports for January 2024 were for emotional abuse (991; 43%) followed by physical abuse (632; 27%), sexual abuse (365; 16%) and neglect (315; 14%).



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

Mandated Reports – Child Protection & Welfare

Source of Reports

- Highest number of reports for January 2024 from An Garda Síochána (900; 39%) followed by teachers (346; 15%), social workers (278; 12%), safeguarding officers (265; 12%); social care workers (100; 4%), and medical practitioners (85; 4%). These six sources account for 86% (1,974) of reports for December 2023.
- Highest number of reports for 2023 from An Garda Síochána (11,257; 40%) followed by teachers (4,163; 15%), social workers (3,231; 12%), safeguarding officers (2,905; 10%), social care workers (1,311; 5%), medical practitioners (1,039; 4%) and psychotherapists (821; 3%). These seven sources account for 88% (24,727) of reports for 2023.

Source (Schedule 2 Children First 2015)	# Jan 2024	% Jan 2024	Total 2023	% Total 2023
Medical practitioner (Registered)	85	3.7%	1,039	3.7%
Nurse or registered midwife (Registered)	41	1.8%	552	2.0%
Physiotherapist (Registered)	*	0.1%	69	0.2%
Speech & language therapist (Registered)	*	0.1%	52	0.2%
Occupational therapist (Registered)	*	0.2%	85	0.3%
Registered dentist	0	0.0%	11	0.0%
Psychologist who practises as such and who is eligible for registration	63	2.7%	635	2.3%
Social care worker	100	4.3%	1,311	4.7%
Social worker who practises as such and who is eligible for registration	278	12.1%	3,231	11.5%
EMT, paramedic and advanced paramedic	*	0.1%	40	0.1%
Probation officer	6	0.3%	71	0.3%
Teacher registered with the Teaching Council.	346	15.0%	4,163	14.8%
An Garda Síochána Member	900	39.1%	11,257	40.0%
Guardian ad litem	5	0.2%	46	0.2%
Domestic violence shelter manager	58	2.5%	620	2.2%
Homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility manager	11	0.5%	225	0.8%
Asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre manager	5	0.2%	98	0.3%
Addiction counsellor	8	0.3%	47	0.2%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	54	2.3%	821	2.9%
Language school or other recreational school where children reside	0	0.0%	11	0.0%
Clergy member	0	0.0%	5	0.0%
Institution where a child is detained by an order of a court (Director)	*	0.0%	20	0.1%
Safeguarding officer, child protection officer	265	11.5%	2,905	10.3%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	6	0.3%	107	0.4%
Youth work service - person responsible for the care or management	9	0.4%	202	0.7%
Youth worker employed in a youth work service	44	1.9%	415	1.5%
Foster carer registered with the Agency.	*	0.0%	25	0.1%
Pre-school service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act 1991.	6	0.3%	107	0.4%
Total (includes suppressed values)	2,303	100.0%	28,170	100.0%

*Values suppressed for confidentiality purposes

Children in Care

- **5,754 children in care at the end of January 2024.** This figure includes children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection¹ – data from this service not included in figures for 2023.
- 5,603 children in care across Tusla’s 17 areas and 151 children in care under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP) at the end of January 2024.
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas there was 12 fewer children in care at the end of January 2024 (5,603) than at the end of December 2023 (5,615) and 6 (<1%) more than at the end January 2023 (5,597).
- 87% (5,031)* of all children in care are in foster care (3,572 general foster care, and 1,459 relative foster), 8% (477) are in residential care (464 general residential care and 13 special care) and 4% (245) are in “other” care placements². Placement type not available for the remaining case at the time of reporting.
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas 89.4% (5,008/5,603) of children in care at the end of January 2024 were in foster care.

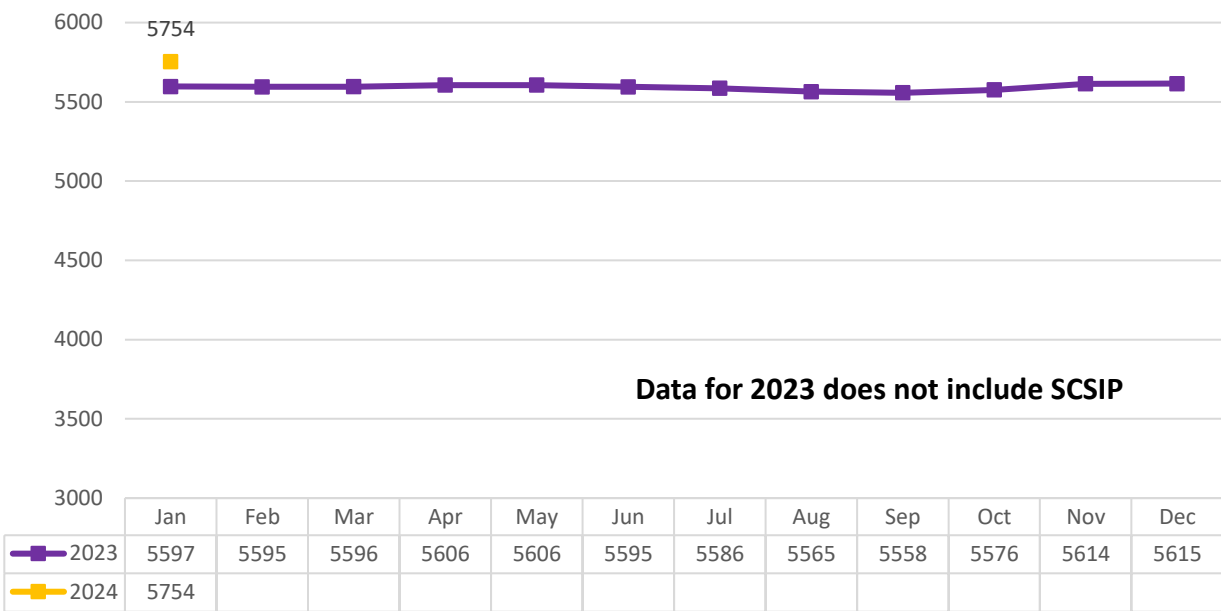
**Decrease from previous months in the overall percentage of children in care in foster care is due to the inclusion of SCSIP; the majority of these children are placed in residential care.*

- Highest number of children in care reported by Cork (696) followed by Midwest (502) and Dublin North City (468).
- Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan (108) followed by the Mayo (140) and the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (151).
- 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 (6.1). Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.2) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.7).
- Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 4.6/1,000 children.

Notes:

1. The Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection has an additional 173 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, a disability unit, mental health unit, drugs/alcohol rehabilitation unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, supported lodgings

Children in Care by Month



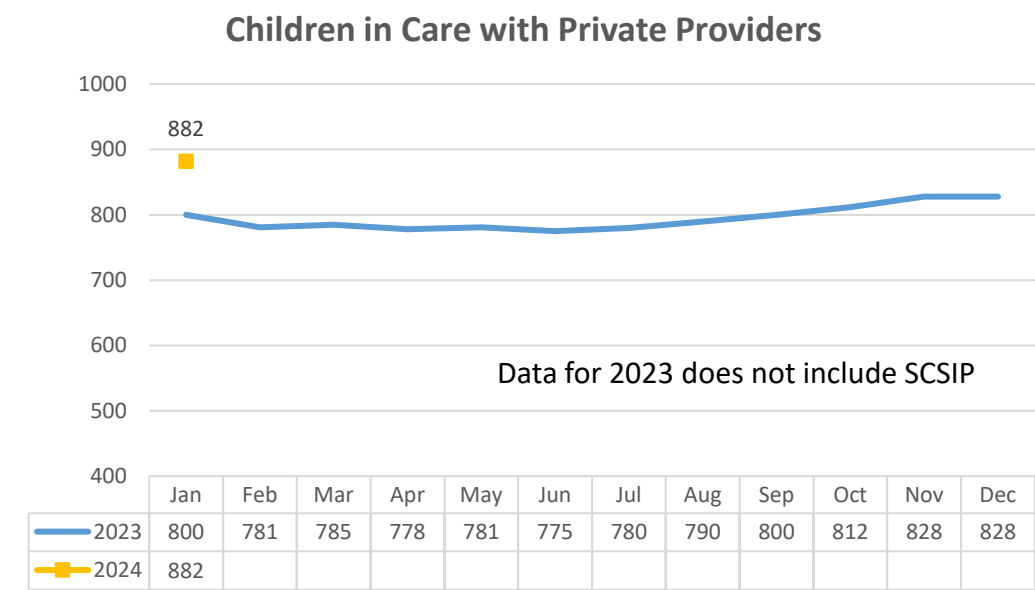
Rate of Children in Care / 1,000 population 0-17 years (ranked by rate/1,000)

Area	Jan-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Jan-24 v Jan-23	Jan-24 v Dec-23	Population	Rate/1,000
Dublin North City	465	460	468	3	8	49,682	9.4
Waterford/Wexford	412	427	425	13	-2	69,239	6.1
Midwest	532	504	502	-30	-2	96,764	5.2
Cork	698	705	696	-2	-9	136,786	5.1
CW/KK/ST	300	319	316	16	-3	62,366	5.1
Donegal	217	213	210	-7	-3	42,144	5.0
Dublin South Central	356	335	331	-25	-4	70,259	4.7
Kerry	157	165	162	5	-3	34,994	4.6
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	109	108	108	-1	0	24,312	4.4
Mayo	138	141	140	2	-1	31,911	4.4
Louth/Meath	411	428	415	4	-13	96,531	4.3
Galway/Roscommon	349	356	351	2	-5	81,799	4.3
Cavan/Monaghan	149	157	155	6	-2	37,336	4.2
Midlands	322	322	328	6	6	80,962	4.1
Dublin North	368	388	398	30	10	103,508	3.8
DSW/K/WW	409	393	402	-7	9	108,927	3.7
Dublin South East/Wicklow	205	194	196	-9	2	91,047	2.2
Total Areas	5,597	5,615	5,603	6	-12	-	-
SCSIP	NA	NA	151	-	-	-	-
National Total	5,597	5,615	5,754	-	-	1,218,567	4.6

Population: CSO Census 2022

Children in Care

- **882 (15%) children in care at the end of January 2024 were in placements with private providers.** *This figure includes 49 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection – data from this service not included in figures for 2023.*
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas there were 5 (<1%) more children in care with private providers at the end of January 2024 (833) than at the end of December 2023 (828).

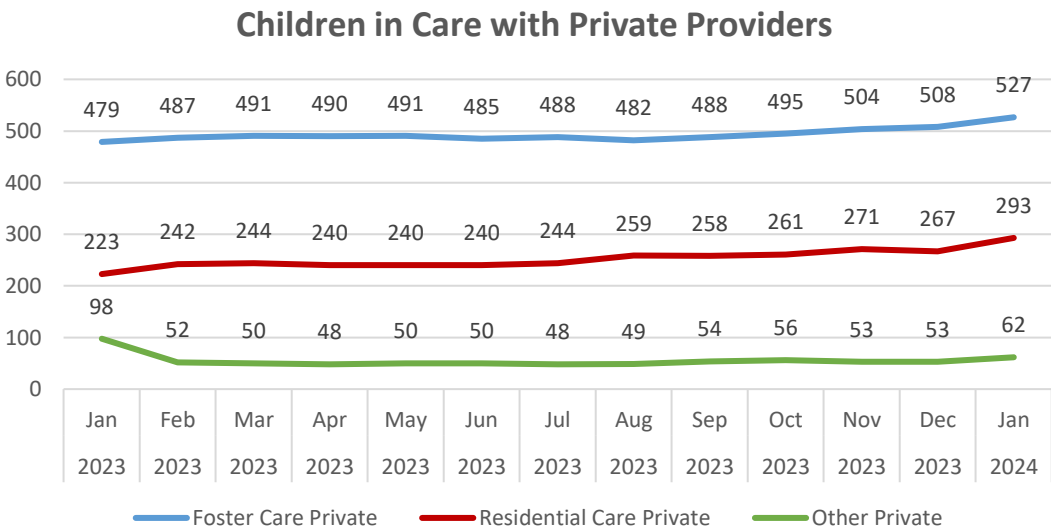


- 527 (60%) children in placements with private providers were in **foster care**.
- 293 (33%) children were in **residential care**
- The remaining 62 (7%) children were in **“Other” care placements**. “Other” care placements include, disability units, mental health units, drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres etc.

- Highest number of children in placements with private providers reported by Dublin North City (110) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (106), Dublin South Central (102) and Dublin North (96). These four areas account for 47% (414) of children in placements with private providers,

Children in Care with Private Providers

Children in Care (Private)	Jan-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Jan-24 v Jan-23	Jan-24 v Dec-23
Dublin North City	102	102	110	8	8
DSW/K/WW	116	106	106	-10	0
Dublin South Central	101	107	102	1	-5
Dublin North	97	97	96	-1	-1
Midlands	67	65	70	3	5
Cork	61	63	60	-1	-3
Dublin South East/Wicklow	47	50	53	6	3
Louth/Meath	41	50	49	8	-1
SCSIP	-	-	49	-	-
Waterford/Wexford	24	45	47	23	2
Midwest	39	36	37	-2	1
Kerry	27	29	29	2	0
Donegal	23	22	22	-1	0
CW/KK/ST	15	21	19	4	-2
Galway/Roscommon	17	16	15	-2	-1
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	14	12	12	-2	0
Cavan/Monaghan	7	6	5	-2	-1
Mayo	2	1	1	-1	0
Total	800	828	882	-	-



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

Children in Care

- **81% (4,649) of children in care at the end of January 2024 had an allocated social worker.** *Note this figure includes data for the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection – data from this service not included in figures for 2023.*
 - A total of 1,105 children were awaiting an allocated social worker.
 - Highest number awaiting reported by Midwest (226; 45%) followed by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (198; 63%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (137; 34%), Louth/Meath (107; 26%), Dublin South Central (93; 28%) and SCSIP (82; 54%). These six areas account for 76% (843) of all cases awaiting allocation.
-
- **77% (4,443) of children in care at the end of January 2024 had an up-to-date care plan.** *Note this figure includes data from the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection – data from this service not included in figures for 2023.*
 - A total of 1,311 (23%) children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan.
 - Highest numbers awaiting an up-to-date care plan reported by Dublin North City (142; 30%), Cork (138; 20%), Louth/Meath (132; 32%) and Midwest (119; 24%)

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 –January 2024

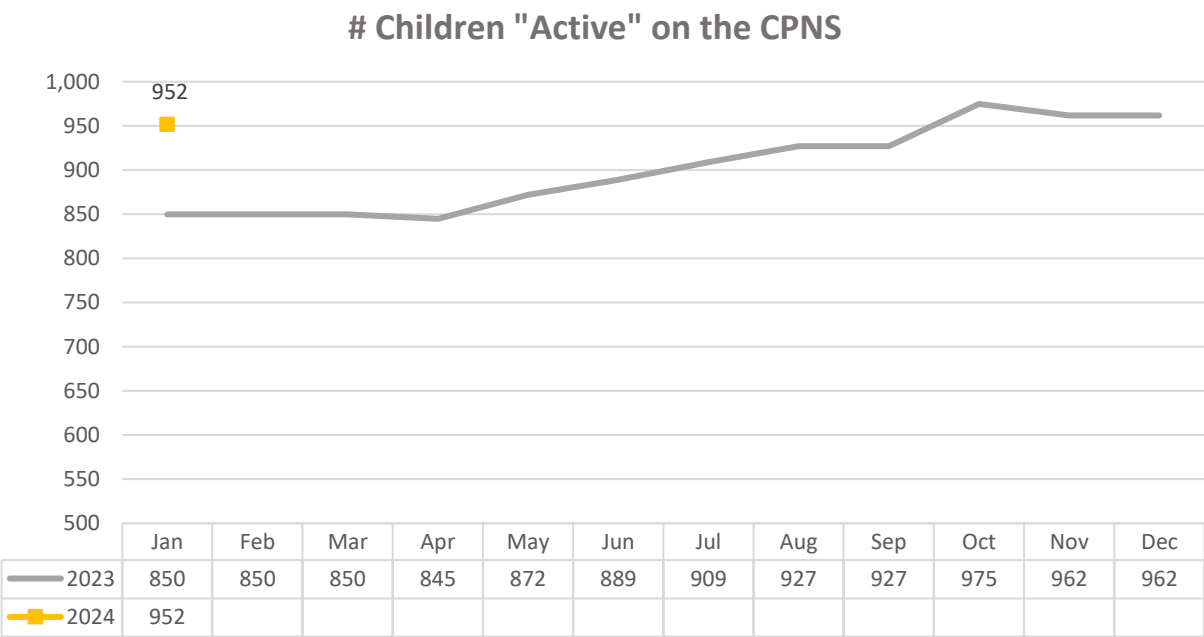
Area	Allocated	Awaiting Allocation	Total	% Allocated
Dublin South East/Wicklow	195	1	196	99%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	265	137	402	66%
Dublin South Central	238	93	331	72%
Midlands	264	64	328	80%
Dublin North City	467	1	468	99.8%
Dublin North	373	25	398	94%
Louth/Meath	308	107	415	74%
Cavan/Monaghan	130	25	155	84%
Kerry	143	19	162	88%
Cork	648	48	696	93%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	118	198	316	37%
Waterford/Wexford	380	45	425	89%
Donegal	210	0	210	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	99	9	108	92%
Mayo	140	0	140	100%
Galway/Roscommon	326	25	351	93%
Midwest	276	226	502	55%
SCSIP	69	82	151	46%
Total	4,649	1,105	5,754	81%

Area breakdown of children in care with an up-to-date care plan– December 2023

Area	UTD Care Plan	Awaiting UTD Care Plan	Total	% UTD Care Plan
Dublin South East/Wicklow	162	34	196	83%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	309	93	402	77%
Dublin South Central	233	98	331	70%
Midlands	230	98	328	70%
Dublin North City	326	142	468	70%
Dublin North	341	57	398	86%
Louth/Meath	283	132	415	68%
Cavan/Monaghan	117	38	155	75%
Kerry	118	44	162	73%
Cork	558	138	696	80%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	291	25	316	92%
Waterford/Wexford	329	96	425	77%
Donegal	193	17	210	92%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	92	16	108	85%
Mayo	129	11	140	92%
Galway/Roscommon	287	64	351	82%
Midwest	383	119	502	76%
SCSIP	62	89	151	41%
Total	4,443	1,311	5,754	77%

Child Protection Notification System

- **952 children listed as “active”** at the end of January 2024, 10 (1%) fewer than December 2023 (962).
- There were 102 (12%) more children “active” at the end of January 2024 than at the end of January 2023 (850).
- All children listed as “active” at the end of January 2024 had an **allocated social worker**.
- Highest number of children listed as “active” at the end of January 2024 was reported by Cork (123) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (100) and Dublin North (93).
- Fewest number listed as “active” reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (17) followed by Cavan/Monaghan (19) and Mayo (19).
- Highest rate per 10,000 population under 18 years reported by Dublin North City (18.3) followed by Donegal (13.8).
- Lowest rate per 10,000 population under 18 years reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (4.5) and Galway/Roscommon (4.5) followed by Cavan/Monaghan (5.1).
- Six areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national rate of 7.8/10,000
- 7/17 areas had more children listed as “active” at the end of January 2024 than at the end of December 2023. Largest increases reported by Cavan/Monaghan (up 10), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (up 9), Cork (up 7) and Galway/Roscommon (up 6).
- 8/17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Dublin North (down 17), Donegal (down 12) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (down 9). The remaining two areas (Kerry and Louth/Meath) reported no change.
- 11/17 areas had more children active at the end of January 2024 than at the end of January 2023. Largest increases reported by Louth/Meath (up 27), Donegal (up 26), Cork (up 21) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 21).
- 5/17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Dublin South Central (down 15), Waterford/Wexford (down 11) and Cavan/Monaghan (down 11).



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

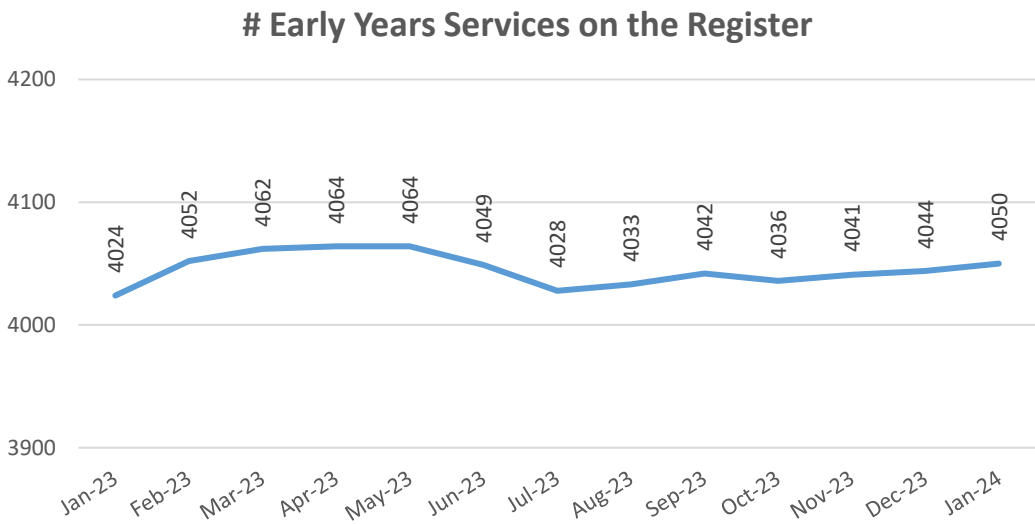
Area	Jan-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Jan-24 v Jan-23	Jan-23 v Dec-23	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	86	87	91	5	4	49,682	18.3
Donegal	32	70	58	26	-12	42,144	13.8
Carlow / Kilkenny / South Tipperary	55	53	62	7	9	62,366	9.9
DSW/K/WW	79	102	100	21	-2	108,927	9.2
Cork	102	116	123	21	7	136,786	9.0
Dublin North	86	110	93	7	-17	103,508	9.0
Midlands	66	60	59	-7	-1	80,962	7.3
Kerry	19	25	25	6	0	34,994	7.1
Mid West	75	72	68	-7	-4	96,764	7.0
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	17	26	17	0	-9	24,312	7.0
Dublin South Central	62	45	47	-15	2	70,259	6.7
Mayo	12	20	19	7	-1	31,911	6.0
Louth / Meath	30	57	57	27	0	96,531	5.9
Waterford / Wexford	47	33	36	-11	3	69,239	5.2
Cavan / Monaghan	30	9	19	-11	10	37,336	5.1
Galway / Roscommon	20	31	37	17	6	81,799	4.5
Dublin South East / Wicklow	32	46	41	9	-5	91,047	4.5
Total	850	962	952	102	-10	1,218,567	7.8

Population – source CSO Census 2022

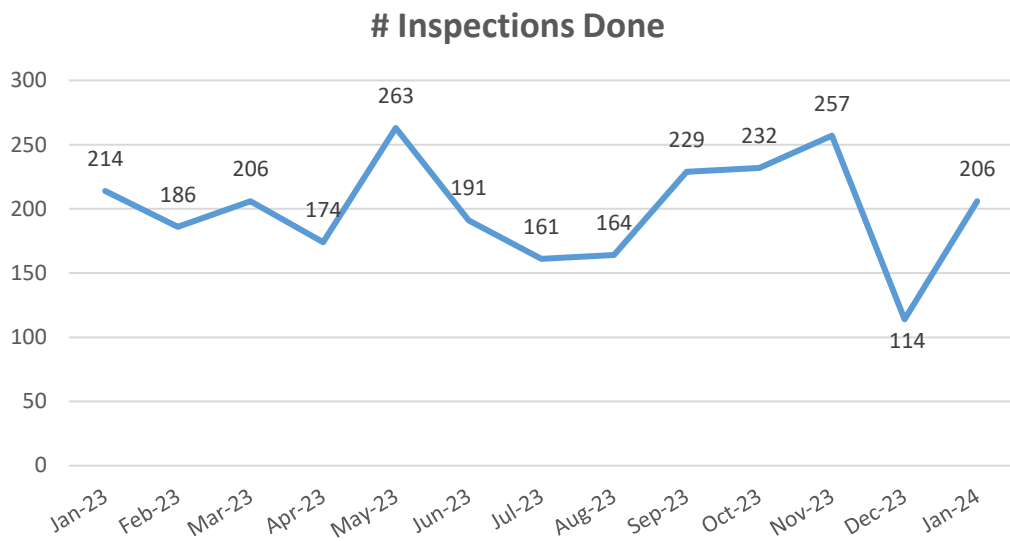
Children’s Services Regulation

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- **4,050 early years services on the register at the end of January 2024**, six more than December 2023 (4,044) and 26 (<1%) more than January 2023 (4,024).

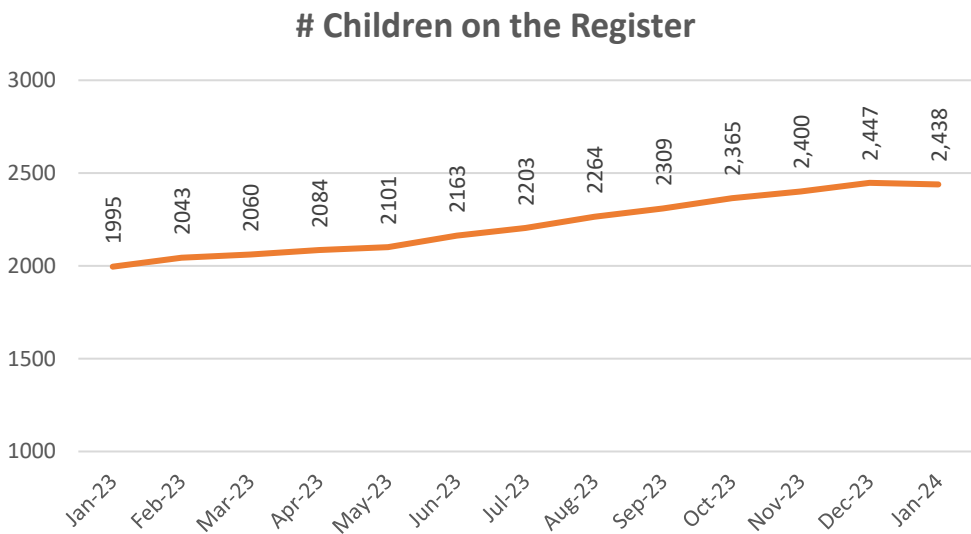


- **206 inspections** of early years services done in January 2024, 92 (81%) more than December 2023 (114) and eight fewer than January 2023 (214).

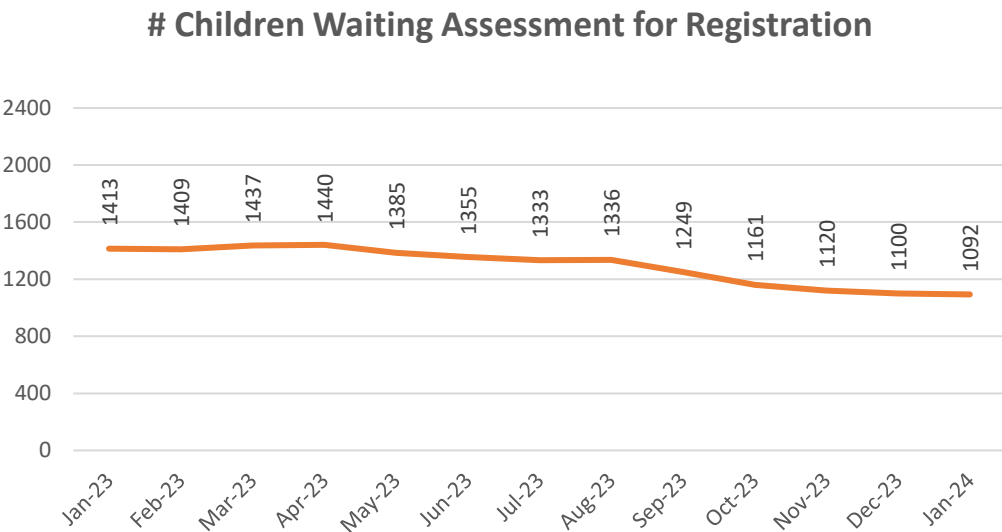


ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

- **2,438 children on the register for home education at the end of January 2024**, nine fewer than December 2023 (2,447) and 443 (22%) more than January 2023 (1,995).



- **1,092 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of January 2024**, eight fewer than December 2023 (1,100) and 321 (23%) fewer than January 2023 (1,413).



Tusla Education Support Services

- **912 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in January 2024. This brings to 2,971 the number of referrals for the first five months of the academic year 2023-2024, 244 (9%) more than the same period in 2022-2023 (2,727).

- **2,814 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of January 2024, 89 (3%) more than December (2,725) and the third consecutive monthly increase.

- **379 new individual children worked** with in January 2024. This brings to 1,774 the number of new individual children worked with for the first five months of the academic year 2023-2024, 194 (12%) more than the same period in 2022-2023 (1,580).

