



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

MONTHLY SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

JANUARY 2025

11 March 2025
Version 1.0

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

Table of Contents

<u>Headline Data – January 2025</u>	3
<u>Child Protection & Welfare</u>	4
<u>Mandated Reports – Child Protection & Welfare</u>	9
<u>Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)</u>	11
<u>Children in Care</u>	13
<u>Child Protection Notification System</u>	17
<u>Children’s Services Regulation</u>	18
<u>Tusla Education Support Services</u>	19

Headline Data – January 2025

Child Protection & Welfare

- **8,533 referrals in January 2025**, 848 (11%) more than December 2024 (7,685) and 808 (10%) more than January 2024 (7,725).
- **23,158 cases open to social work** at the end of January 2025, 319 (1%) more than December 2024 (22,839) and 1,287 (6%) more than January 2024 (21,871). *Open cases include child protection and welfare cases including children in care.*
- **78% (18,169) of cases** open to social work at the end of January 2025 had an **allocated worker**. Of these, 80% (14,600) were allocated to social workers and 20% (3,569) were allocated to other professionals (Ref to note on Page 4).
- **4,989 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of January 2025, 801 (14%) fewer than December 2024 (5,790). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases.*
- Five areas account for 73% (3,657) of cases awaiting allocation: Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (828), Cork (761), Midlands (737), Dublin South Central (670) and Louth/Meath (661).
- **7% (328) of cases awaiting allocation** at the end of January 2025 were categorised as **high priority**, 195 (37%) fewer than December 2024 (523).

Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

- **56 referrals assigned to CASP Teams** in January 2025, two more than December 2024 (54) and 22 (28%) fewer than January 2024 (78).
- **93 assessments closed** in January 2025, 33 (55%) more than December 2024 (60) and 35 (60%) more than January 2024 (58).
- **668 assessments open** at the end of January 2025, 39 (6%) fewer than December 2024 (707) and 140 (17%) fewer than January 2024 (808).
- **75% (498/668) of assessments open** at the end of January 2025 were **allocated to a social worker**. Remaining 25% (170) were awaiting allocation with 11 (6%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of January 2025 than at the end of December 2024 (181).

Children in Care

- **5,801 children (0-17 years) in care** at the end of January 2025, 22 (<1%) fewer than December 2024 (5,823). Figure includes 109 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP).
- 87% (5,064) of all children in care (17 Areas and SCSIP) are in foster care (3,564 general foster care, and 1,500 relative foster), 9% (535) are in residential care (521 general residential care and 14 special care) and 3% (202) are in “other” care placements.
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas **89% (5,044/5,692) of children in care are in foster care**.

Children in Care (contd.)

- **1,011 (17%) children in care** at the end of December 2024 were in placements with **private providers**, four fewer than December 2024 (1,015) and 129 (15%) more than January 2024 (882).
- **98% (5,668) of children in care at the end of January 2025 had an allocated worker**. Of the these, 89% (5,044) were allocated to a social worker and 11% (624) were allocated to another professional. A total of 133 (2.3%) children were awaiting allocation.

Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

- 997 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of January 2025, 40 (4%) fewer than December 2024 (1,037)*, and the fewest number since February 2024 (961).
- It should be noted that a small number of large sibling groups can have a significant effect on numbers reported.
- There were 45 (5%) more children ‘active’ at the end of January 2025 than at the end January 2024 (952).
- All but two children ‘active’ at the end of January 2025 had an allocated social worker.

Children’s Services Regulation

- **4,036 early years services on the register at the end of January 2025**, nine fewer than December 2024 (4,045) and 14 fewer than January 2024 (4,050).
- **182 inspections** of early years services in January 2025.
- **2,359 children on the register** for home education at the end of January 2025, 34 (1%) more than December 2024 (2,325). Fourth consecutive increase.
- **584 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of January 2025**, 55 (9%) fewer than December 2024 (639) and 508 (47%) fewer than January 2024 (1,092).

Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,106 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in January 2025. This brings to 3,812 the number of referrals for the first five months of the academic year 2024 – 2025, some 841 (28%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (2,971).
- **4,004 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of January 2025, 276 (7%) more than December 2024 (3,728). Third consecutive increase.
- 1,190 (42%) more referrals on a waiting list at the end of January 2025 (4,004) than at the end of January 2024 (2,814).

Child Protection and Welfare

Referrals¹

- **8,533 referrals** in January 2025, 848 (11%) more than December 2024 (7,685) and 808 (10%) more than January 2024 (7,725).

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-January 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.

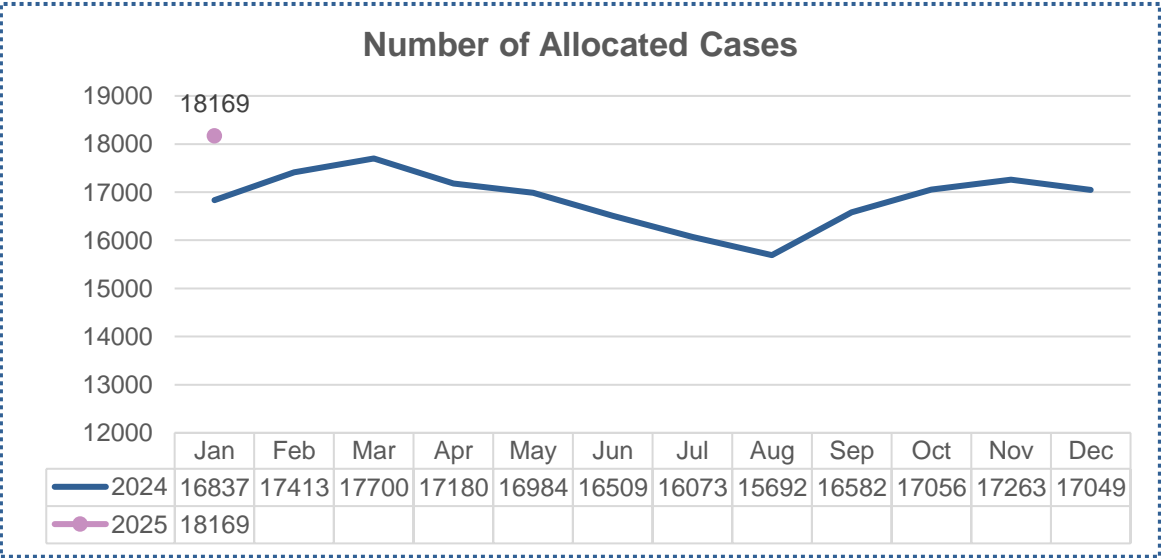
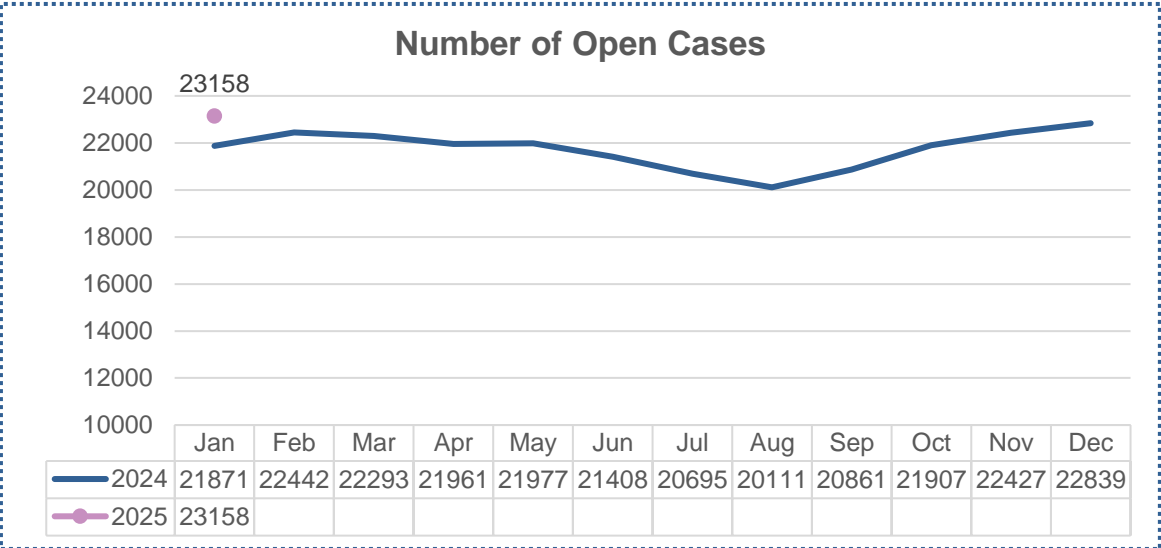
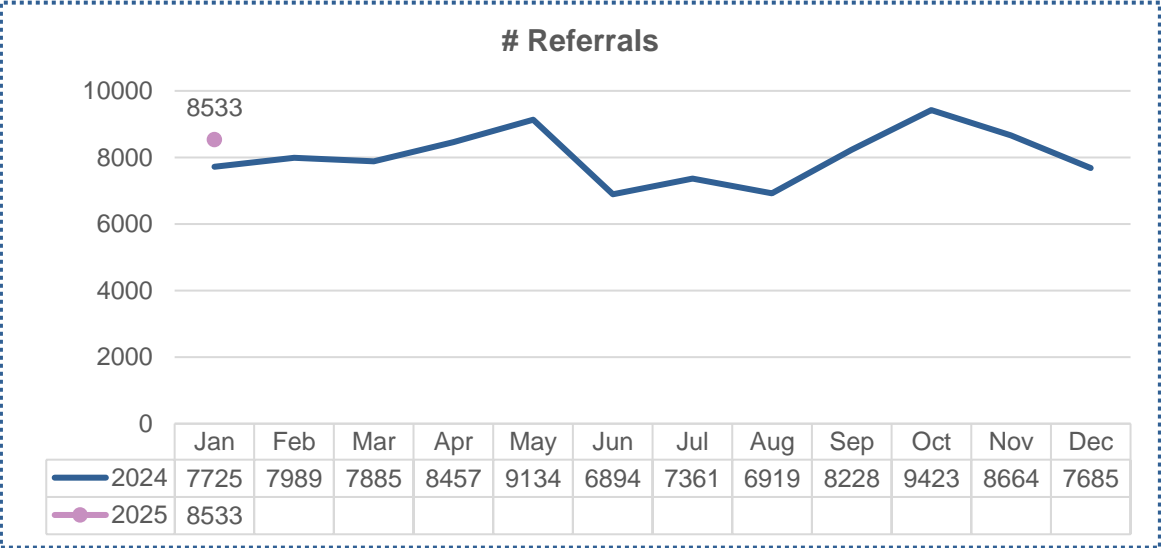
Open Cases

- **23,158 cases open to social work** at the end of January 2025, 319 (1%) more than December 2024 (22,839) and 1,287 (6%) more than January 2024 (21,871).
- 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

- **18,169 open cases were allocated** to a worker at the end of January 2025.
- Allocated cases account for 78% 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.



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 (18,169) at the end of January 2025, 80% (14,600) were allocated to a social worker and 20% (3,569) were allocated to a another professional.

Breakdown of cases allocated by area and role of worker, January 2025			
Area	Allocated Social Worker	Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	654	143	797
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	774	469	1,243
Dublin South Central	876	522	1,398
Midlands	1155	248	1,403
Dublin North City	1308	373	1,681
Dublin North	1516	222	1,738
Louth/Meath	893	317	1,210
Cavan/Monaghan	553	155	708
Kerry	293	76	369
Cork	1822	133	1955
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	392	260	652
Waterford/Wexford	930	218	1148
Donegal	635	50	685
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	296	14	310
Mayo	296	38	334
Galway/Roscommon	1063	89	1,152
Midwest	1144	242	1,386
Total	14,600	3,569	18,169

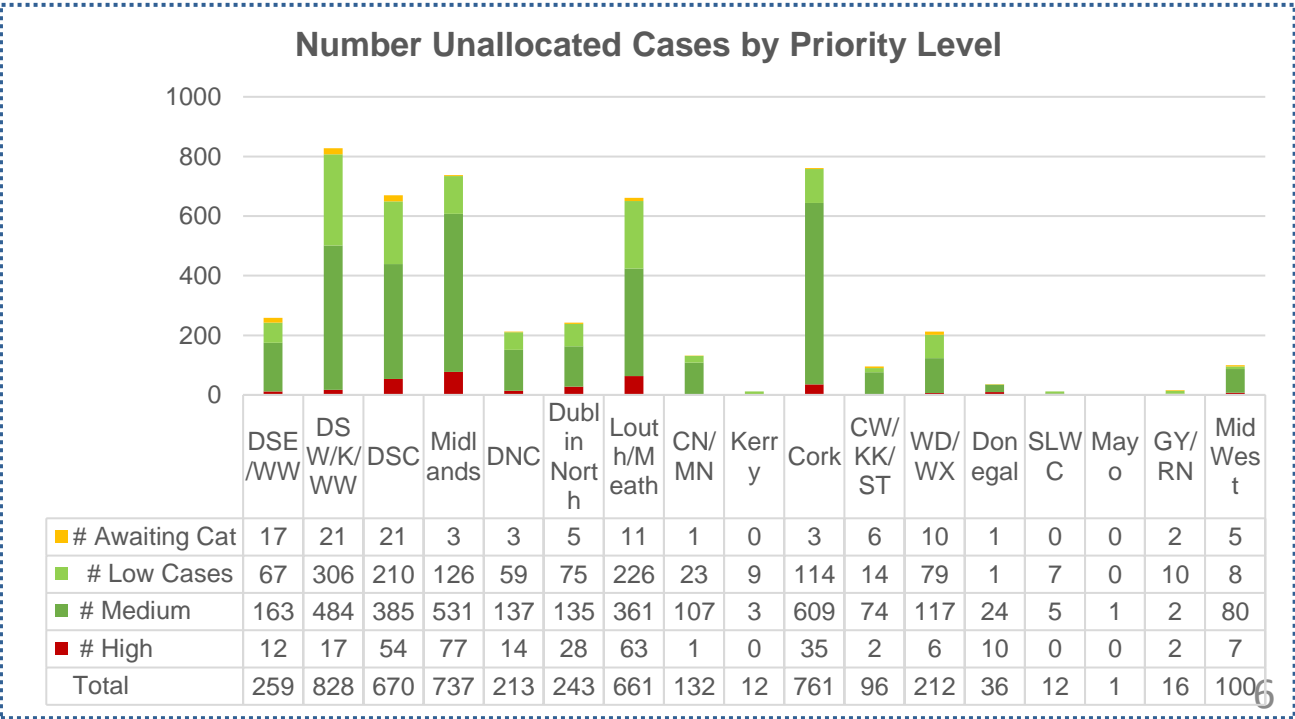
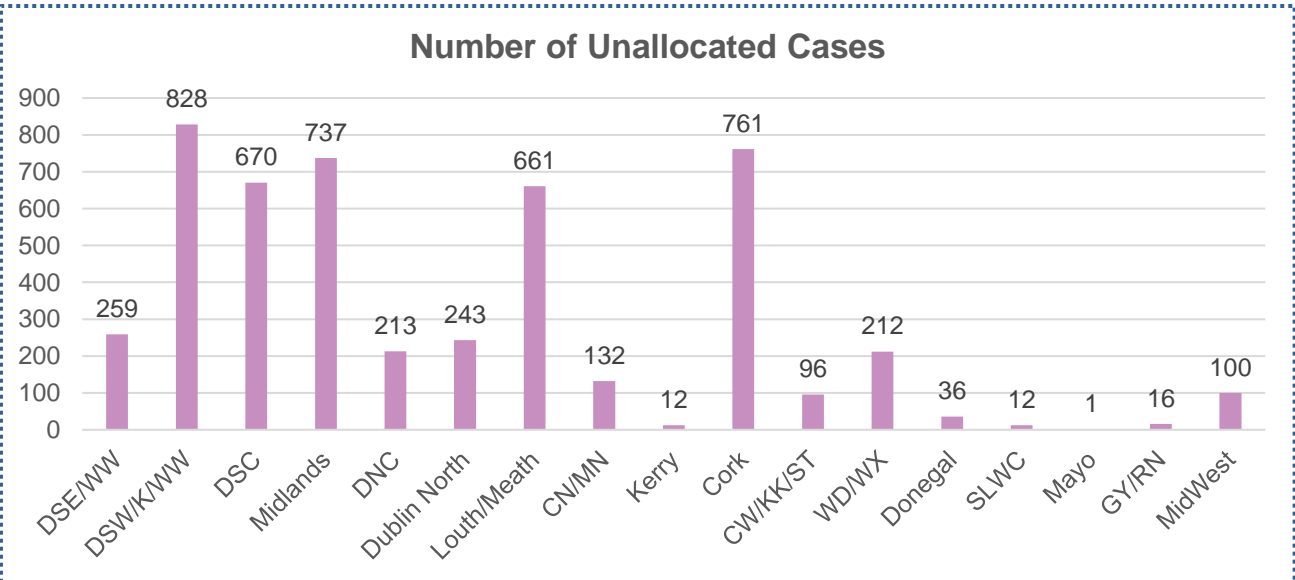
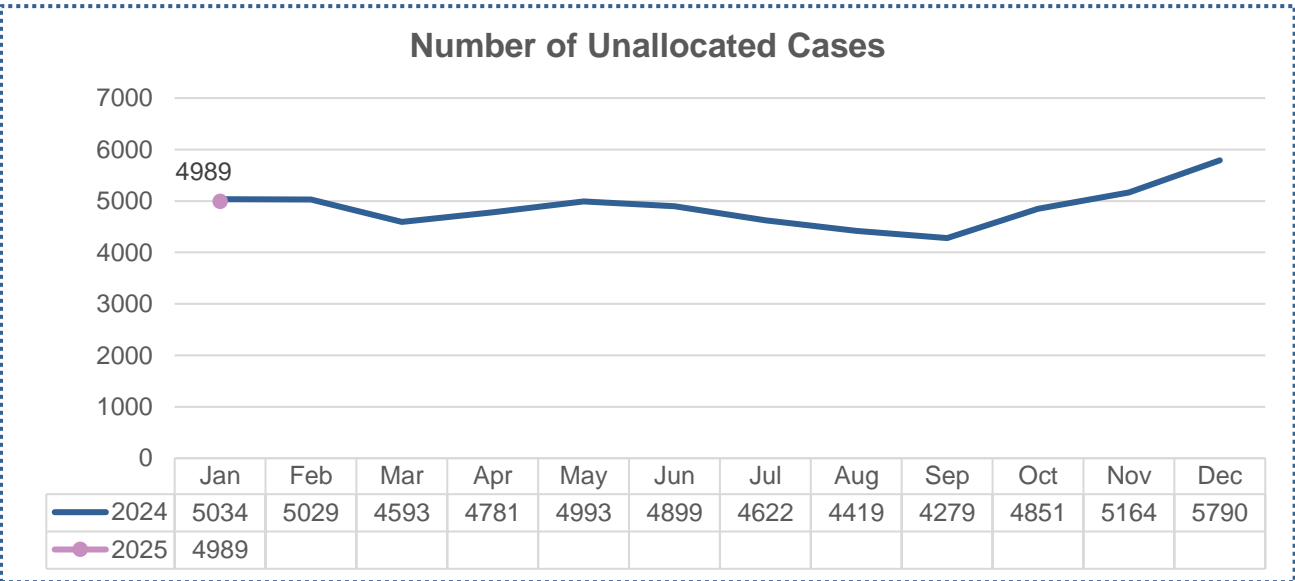
Percentage breakdown of cases allocated by area and role of worker, January 2025			
Area	% Allocated Social Worker	% Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	82%	18%	100%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	62%	38%	100%
Dublin South Central	63%	37%	100%
Midlands	82%	18%	100%
Dublin North City	78%	22%	100%
Dublin North	87%	13%	100%
Louth/Meath	74%	26%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	78%	22%	100%
Kerry	79%	21%	100%
Cork	93%	7%	100%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	60%	40%	100%
Waterford/Wexford	81%	19%	100%
Donegal	93%	7%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	95%	5%	100%
Mayo	89%	11%	100%
Galway/Roscommon	92%	8%	100%
Midwest	83%	17%	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



















- **4,989 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of January 2025, 801 (14%) fewer than December 2024 (5,790). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases.*
- Cases awaiting allocation account for 22% of open cases (23,158).
- **53% (2,661) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of January 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 Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (828), Cork (761), Midlands (737), Dublin South Central (670) and Louth/Meath (661). These five areas account for 73% (3,657) of all cases awaiting allocation.
- **328 cases awaiting allocation at the end of January 2025 were categorised as high priority**, 195 (37%) fewer than December 2024 (523).
- High priority cases account for 7% of cases awaiting allocation.
- 65% (3,218) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 27% (1,334) were low priority while the remaining 2% (109) were awaiting categorisation.
- Highest number of high priority cases reported by Midlands (77), Louth/Meath (63), Dublin South Central (54) Cork (35) and Dublin North (28). These five areas account for 78% (257) of all high priority cases awaiting.



Child Protection & Welfare

Cases Awaiting Allocation

- 11/17 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from December 2024. *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases.*
- Largest decreases reported by Dublin South Central (down 283) followed by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (216), Midwest (down 156) and Waterford/Wexford (down 121).
- 6/17 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from December 2024. Largest increases reported by Louth/Meath (up 87), Cork (up 79) and Dublin North (up 30).
- Nationally 22% of open cases were awaiting allocation at the end of January 2025. Six areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 22%. Highest percentages reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (40%), Louth/Meath (35%), Midlands (34%), Dublin South Central (32%), Cork (28%) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (25%).
- 11/17 areas had fewer cases awaiting allocation at the end of January 2025 than at the end of January 2024. Largest decreases reported by Dublin South Central (down 451), Midwest (down 286), Dublin North City (down 148) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (143).
- 6/17 areas had more cases awaiting allocation at the end of January 2025 than at the end of January 2024. Increases reported by Midlands (up 516), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 377), Louth/Meath (up 166) and Dublin North (up 123).

Area	Jan-24 # Unallocated	Jan-24 % Unallocated	Nov-24 # Unallocated	Dec-24 # Unallocated	Jan-25 # Unallocated	Jan-25 % Unallocated	Nov - Jan	Jan-25 v Jan-24	% Δ	Jan-25 v Dec-24	% Δ1
DSE/WW	260	26%	210	302	259	25%		-1	0%	-43	-14%
DSW/K/WW	451	28%	780	890	828	40%		377	84%	-62	-7%
DSC	1,121	53%	1030	953	670	32%		-451	-40%	-283	-30%
Midlands	221	12%	674	730	737	34%		516	233%	7	1%
DNC	361	20%	262	274	213	11%		-148	-41%	-61	-22%
Dublin North	120	6%	146	213	243	12%		123	103%	30	14%
Louth/Meath	495	33%	420	574	661	35%		166	34%	87	15%
CN/MN	114	17%	114	127	132	16%		18	16%	5	4%
Kerry	36	9%	18	16	12	3%		-24	-67%	-4	-25%
Cork	707	28%	580	682	761	28%		54	8%	79	12%
CW/KK/ST	239	29%	266	312	96	13%		-143	-60%	-216	-69%
WD/WX	316	22%	288	333	212	16%		-104	-33%	-121	-36%
Donegal	128	15%	78	73	36	5%		-92	-72%	-37	-51%
SLWC	15	5%	20	30	12	4%		-3	-20%	-18	-60%
Mayo	6	2%	0	0	1	0%		-5	-83%	1	#DIV/0!
GY/RN	58	5%	31	25	16	1%		-42	-72%	-9	-36%
MidWest	386	29%	247	256	100	7%		-286	-74%	-156	-61%
TOTAL	5034	23%	5164	5790	4989	22%		-45	-1%	-801	-14%

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

Child Protection & Welfare

Summary Tables

Area	Referrals Dec-24	Referrals Jan-25	Δ	Open Cases Dec-24	Open Cases Jan-25	Δ2	Allocated Cases Dec-24	Allocated Cases Jan-25	Δ3	Unallocated Cases Dec-24	Unallocated Cases Jan-25	Δ4
DSE/WW	289	379	90	1,103	1,056	-47	801	797	-4	302	259	-43
DSW/K/WW	704	776	72	2,028	2,071	43	1,138	1,243	105	890	828	-62
DSC	610	792	182	2,207	2,068	-139	1,254	1,398	144	953	670	-283
Midlands	805	798	-7	2,003	2,140	137	1,273	1,403	130	730	737	7
DNC	440	493	53	1,819	1,894	75	1,545	1,681	136	274	213	-61
Dublin North	674	810	136	1,966	1,981	15	1,753	1,738	-15	213	243	30
Louth/Meath	586	692	106	1,810	1,871	61	1,236	1,210	-26	574	661	87
CN/MN	256	227	-29	818	840	22	691	708	17	127	132	5
Kerry	173	187	14	394	381	-13	378	369	-9	16	12	-4
Cork	744	770	26	2,654	2,716	62	1,972	1,955	-17	682	761	79
CW/KK/ST	358	384	26	771	748	-23	459	652	193	312	96	-216
WD/WX	551	652	101	1,358	1,360	2	1,025	1,148	123	333	212	-121
Donegal	251	276	25	714	721	7	641	685	44	73	36	-37
SLWC	144	122	-22	318	322	4	288	310	22	30	12	-18
Mayo	99	138	39	298	335	37	298	334	36	0	1	1
GY/RN	380	367	-13	1,174	1,168	-6	1,149	1,152	3	25	16	-9
MidWest	621	670	49	1,404	1,486	82	1,148	1,386	238	256	100	-156
Total	7,685	8,533	848	22,839	23,158	319	17,049	18,169	1,120	5,790	4,989	-801

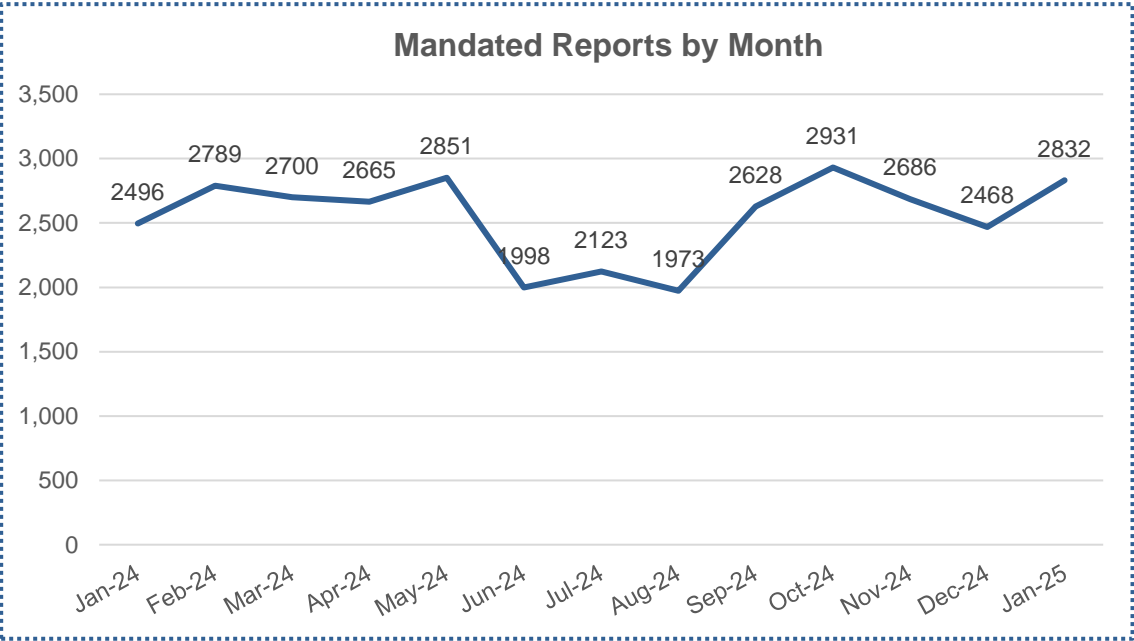
Area	High Priority Awaiting Dec-24	High Priority Awaiting Jan-25	Δ	Medium Priority Awaiting Dec-24	Medium Priority Awaiting Jan-25	Δ 2	Low Priority Awaiting Dec-24	Low Priority Awaiting Jan-25	Δ 3	Awaiting Categorisation Dec-24	Awaiting Categorisation Jan-25	Δ 4
DSE/WW	10	12	2	174	163	-11	108	67	-41	10	17	7
DSW/K/WW	16	17	1	477	484	7	373	306	-67	24	21	-3
DSC	72	54	-18	596	385	-211	283	210	-73	2	21	19
Midlands	90	77	-13	507	531	24	130	126	-4	3	3	0
DNC	23	14	-9	181	137	-44	65	59	-6	5	3	-2
Dublin North	38	28	-10	98	135	37	73	75	2	4	5	1
Louth/Meath	81	63	-18	269	361	92	216	226	10	8	11	3
CN/MN	2	1	-1	102	107	5	23	23	0	0	1	1
Kerry	0	0	0	2	3	1	11	9	-2	3	0	-3
Cork	22	35	13	548	609	61	107	114	7	5	3	-2
CW/KK/ST	59	2	-57	151	74	-77	101	14	-87	1	6	5
WD/WX	18	6	-12	198	117	-81	107	79	-28	10	10	0
Donegal	35	10	-25	35	24	-11	1	1	0	2	1	-1
SLWC	4	0	-4	20	5	-15	6	7	1	0	0	0
Mayo	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
GY/RN	10	2	-8	7	2	-5	8	10	2	0	2	2
MidWest	43	7	-36	154	80	-74	58	8	-50	1	5	4
TOTAL	523	328	-195	3,519	3,218	-301	1,670	1,334	-336	78	109	31

Mandated Reports¹ – Child Protection & Welfare

- 2,832 mandated reports of abuse received in January 2025, 364 (15%) more than December 2024 (2,468) and 336 (13%) more than January 2024 (2,496).

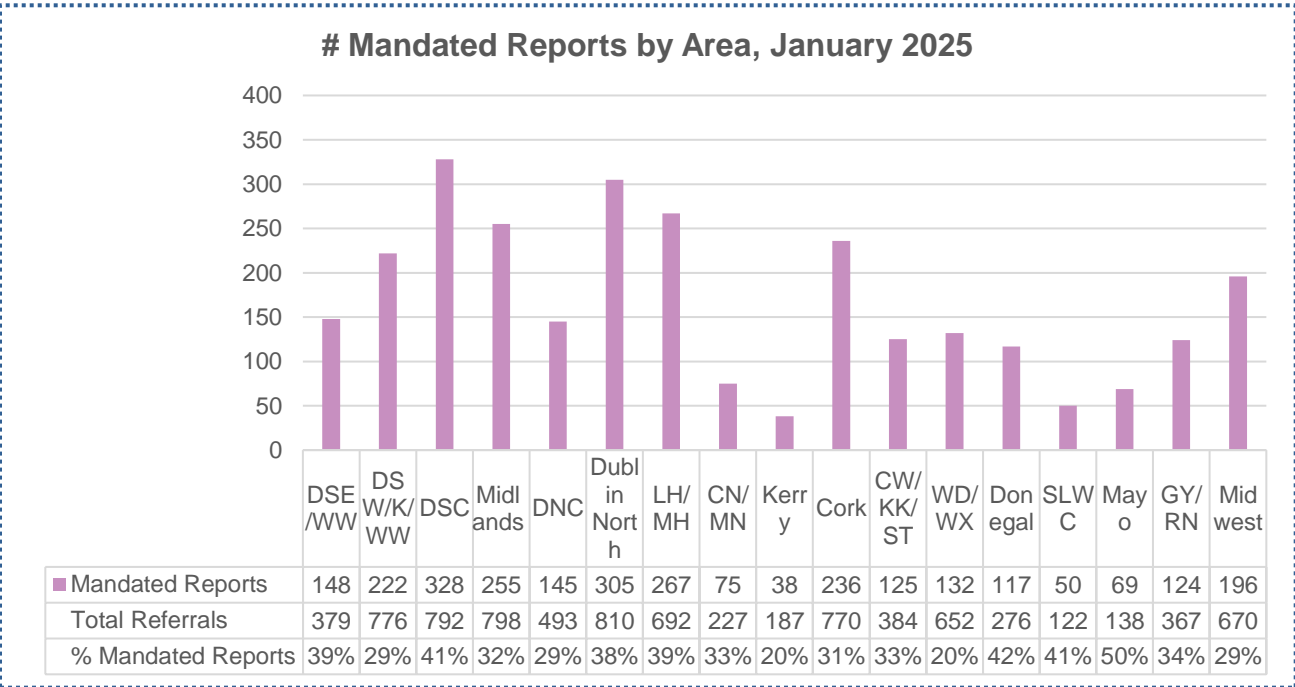
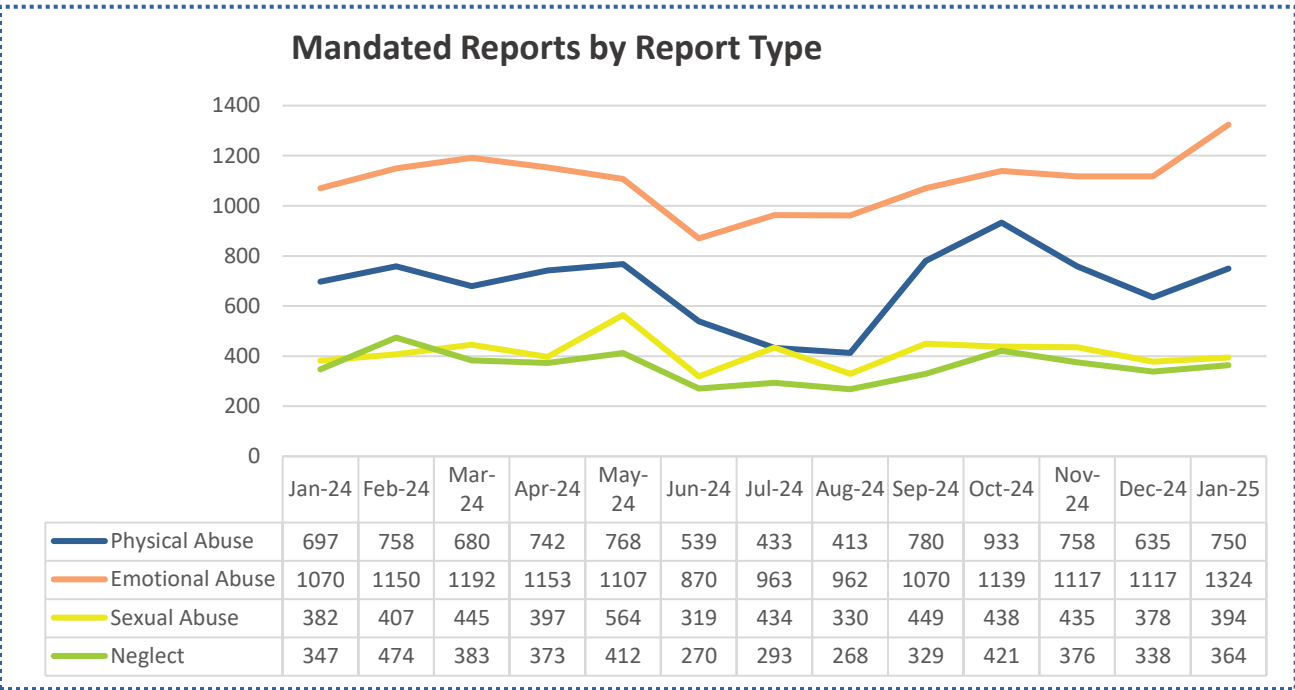
It should be noted that the data presented for the first nine months of 2024 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for Oct 2024-Jan-2025 is based on referrals logged on the Tusla Case Management (TCM) system at the time the data was extracted for reporting. Referrals logged after the date the data was extracted are not included, nor are figures updated until quarterly validation is complete.

- Mandated reports accounted for 33% (2,832) of all referrals received (8,533) in January 2025.



- The number of mandated reports for January 2025, by area ranged from 38 (Kerry) to 328 (Dublin South Central).
- As a percentage of referrals, the highest percentage (50%) was reported by Mayo.
- The lowest percentage (20%) was reported by Kerry and Waterford/Wexford.

- Highest number of reports for January 2025 were for emotional abuse (1,324; 47%) followed by physical abuse (750; 26%), sexual abuse (394; 14%) and neglect (364; 13%).



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 2025 from An Garda Síochána (1,172; 41.4%) followed by teachers (453; 16.0%), safeguarding officer (322; 11.4%); social workers (280; 9.9%) and social care workers (130; 4.6%). These five sources account for 83% (2,357) of reports for January 2025.

Source (Schedule 2 Children First 2015)	# 2024	% Total	Jan-25	% Total
An Garda Síochána Member	11,516	38.0%	1,172	41.4%
Teacher registered with the Teaching Council.	4,285	14.1%	453	16.0%
Safeguarding officer, child protection officer	4,065	13.4%	322	11.4%
Social worker	3,333	11.0%	280	9.9%
Social care worker	1,426	4.7%	130	4.6%
Domestic violence shelter manager	866	2.9%	83	2.9%
Medical practitioner (Registered)	1,027	3.4%	82	2.9%
Psychologist	674	2.2%	62	2.2%
Nurse or registered midwife (Registered)	630	2.1%	54	1.9%
Youth worker employed in a youth work service	531	1.8%	46	1.6%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	761	2.5%	43	1.5%
Asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre manager	96	0.3%	25	0.9%
Homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility manager	274	0.9%	17	0.6%
Speech & language therapist (Registered)	63	0.2%	10	0.4%
Occupational therapist (Registered)	68	0.2%	10	0.4%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	115	0.4%	8	0.3%
Youth work service - person responsible for the care or management	121	0.4%	8	0.3%
Probation officer	51	0.2%	6	0.2%
EMT, paramedic and advanced paramedic	32	0.1%	5	0.2%
Guardian ad litem	64	0.2%	5	0.2%
Physiotherapist (Registered)	54	0.2%	*	0.1%
Addiction counsellor	49	0.2%	*	0.1%
Pre-school service	101	0.3%	*	0.1%
Foster carer registered with the Agency.	51	0.2%	*	0.0%
Registered dentist	12	0.0%	0	0.0%
Language school or other recreational school manager	16	0.1%	0	0.0%
Clergy member	3	0.0%	0	0.0%
Institution where a child is detained by an order of a court (Director)	24	0.1%	0	0.0%
Total (include suppressed figures)	30,308	100.0%	2,832	100.0%

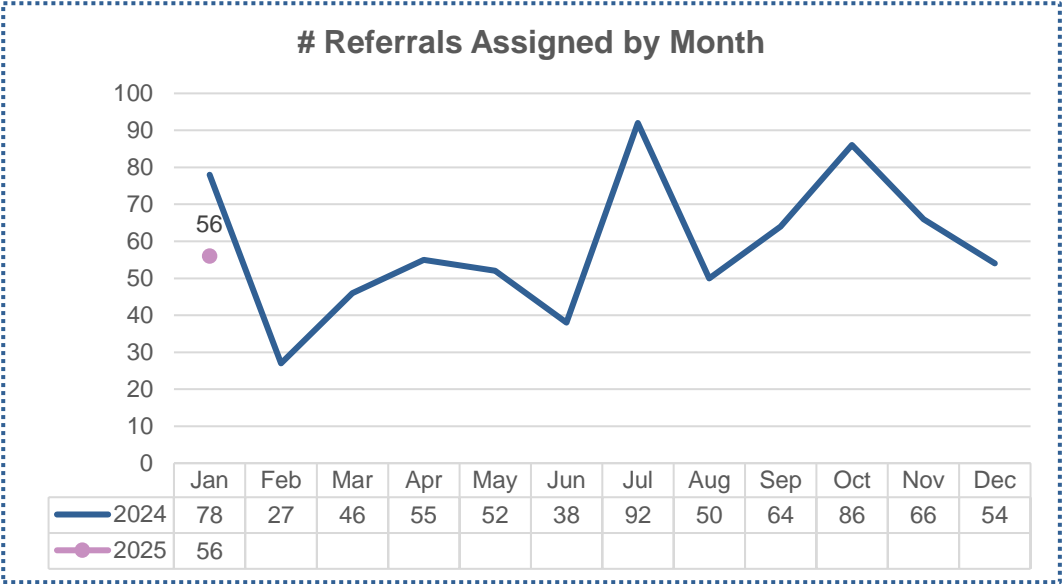
*Values suppressed for confidentiality purposes.

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

- 56 referrals assigned to CASP Teams in January 2025, two more than December 2024 (54) and 22 (28%) fewer than January 2024 (78).

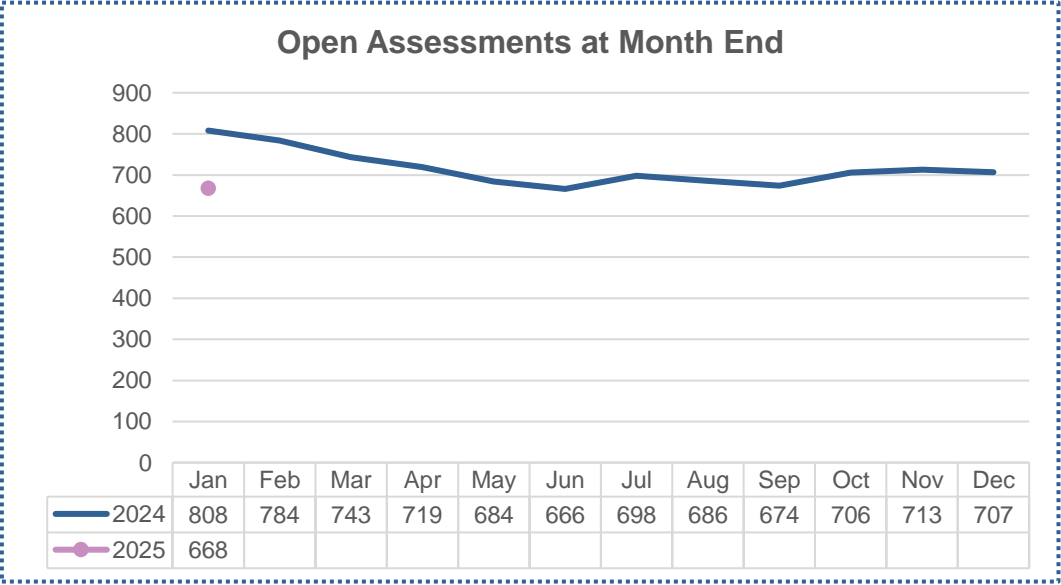
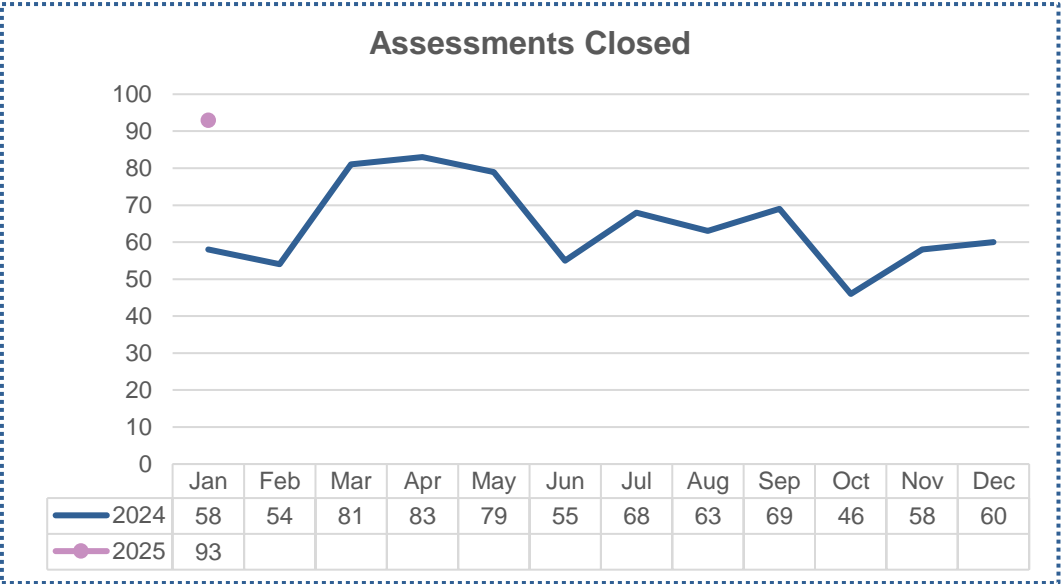


Open Assessments

- 668 assessments open at the end of January 2025, 39 (6%) fewer than December 2024 (707) and 140 (17%) fewer than January 2024 (808).

Assessments Closed

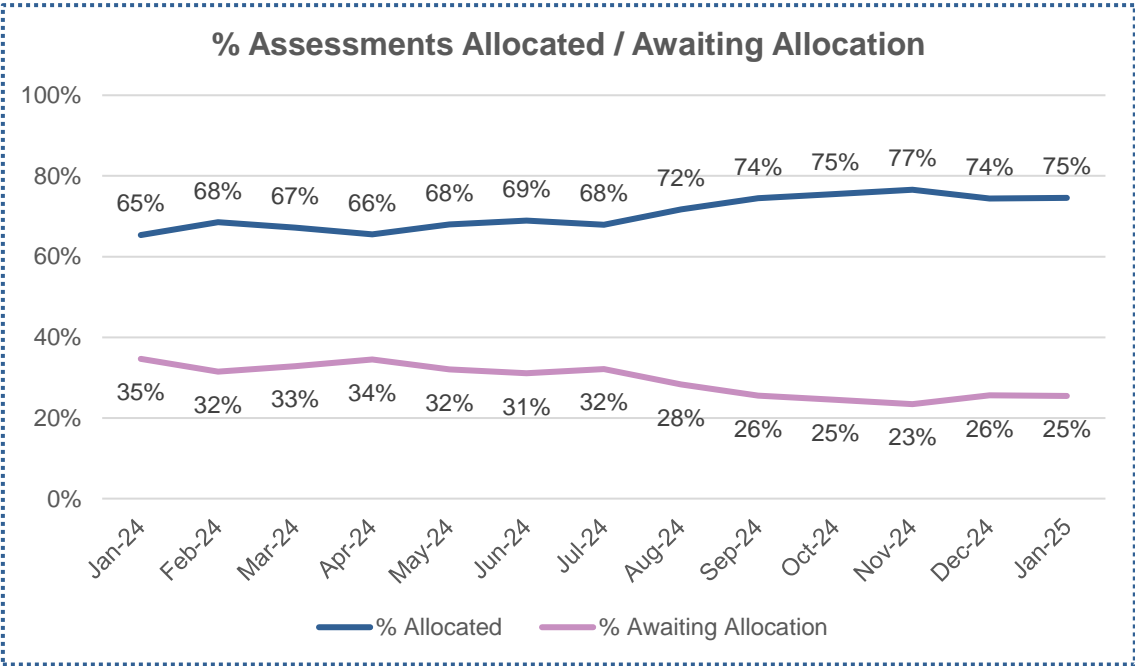
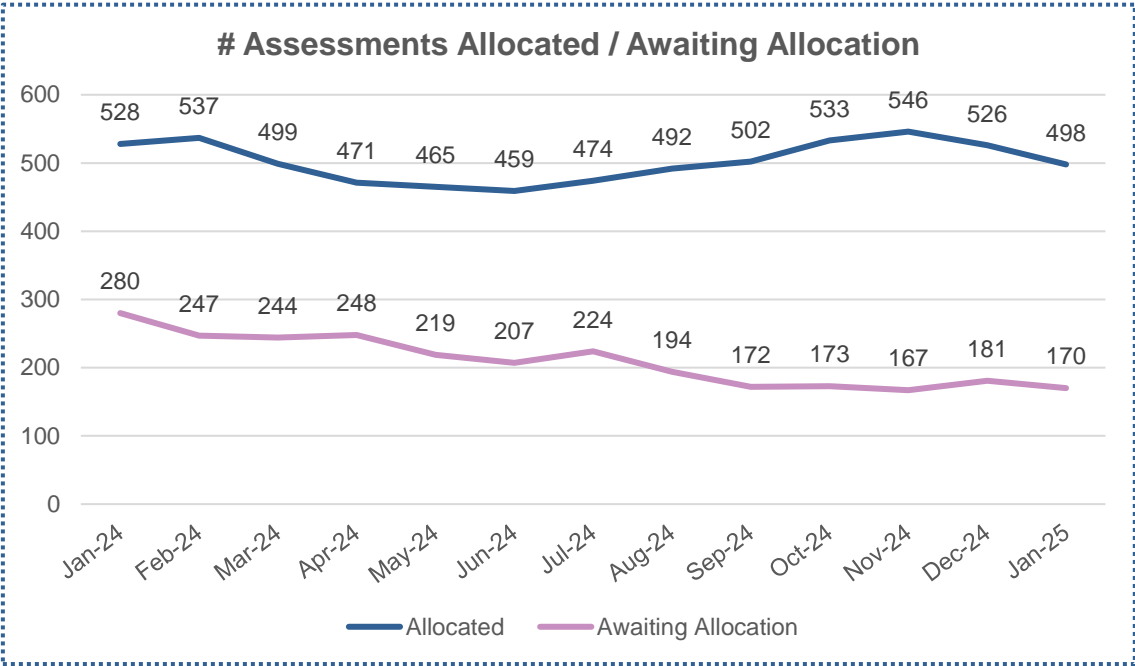
- 93 assessments closed in January 2025, 33 (55%) more than December 2024 (60) and 35 (60%) more than January 2024 (58).



Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

Allocation Status of Open Assessments

- 75% (498 / 668) of assessments open at the end of January 2025 were allocated to a social worker, up one percentage point from December 2024 (74%) and 10 percentage points from January 2024 (65%).
- The remaining 25% (170) were awaiting allocation with 11 (6%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of January 2025 than at the end of December 2024 (181).
- 110 (39%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of January 2025 than at the end of January 2024 (280).
- Slow but steady downward trend continues.



Children in Care

- **5,801 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of January 2025**, 22 (<1%) fewer than December 2024 (5,823). Figure includes 109 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:**

	Jan-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Jan-25 v Jan-24	Jan-25 v Dec-24
17 Tusla Areas	5,603	5,705	5,692	89	-13
SCSIP	151	118	109	-42	-9
Total	5,754	5,823	5,801	+47	-22

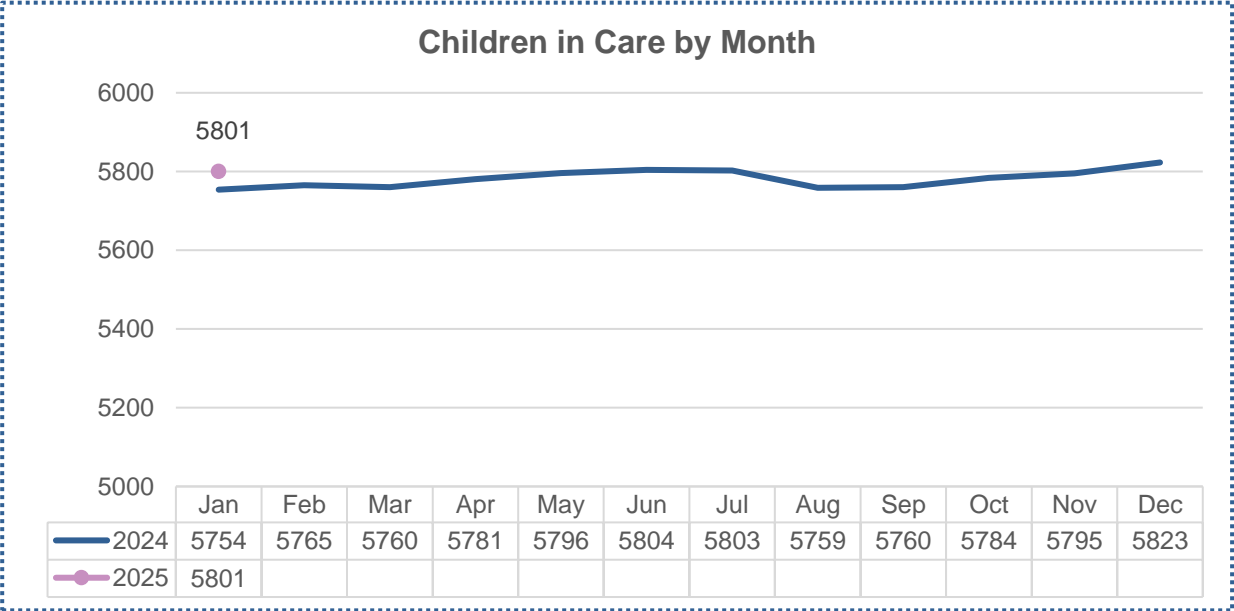
- **Breakdown of children in care by placement type as follows (Jan-25):**

Placement Type	17 areas	SCSIP	Total
Residential Care	458 (8%)	77 (71%)	535 (9%)
Foster Care	5,044 (89%)	20 (18%)	5,064 (87%)
Other*	190 (3%)	12 (11%)	202 (3%)
Total	5,692 (100%)	109 (100%)	5,801 (100%)

- Residential care (535) includes 14 children in special care. Of the children in foster care (5,064), 70% (3,564) were in general foster care and 30% (1,500) were in relative foster care.
- Highest number of children in care reported by Cork (664) followed by Midwest (507) and Dublin North City (463).
- Fewest number reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (109) and Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan (118).
- Across the 17 Areas the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 children was reported by Dublin North City (9.5) followed by Waterford/Wexford (6.2) and Donegal (5.6).
- Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.3) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.8).
- Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 4.7/1,000 children.

Notes:

1. The Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection has an additional **351 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)

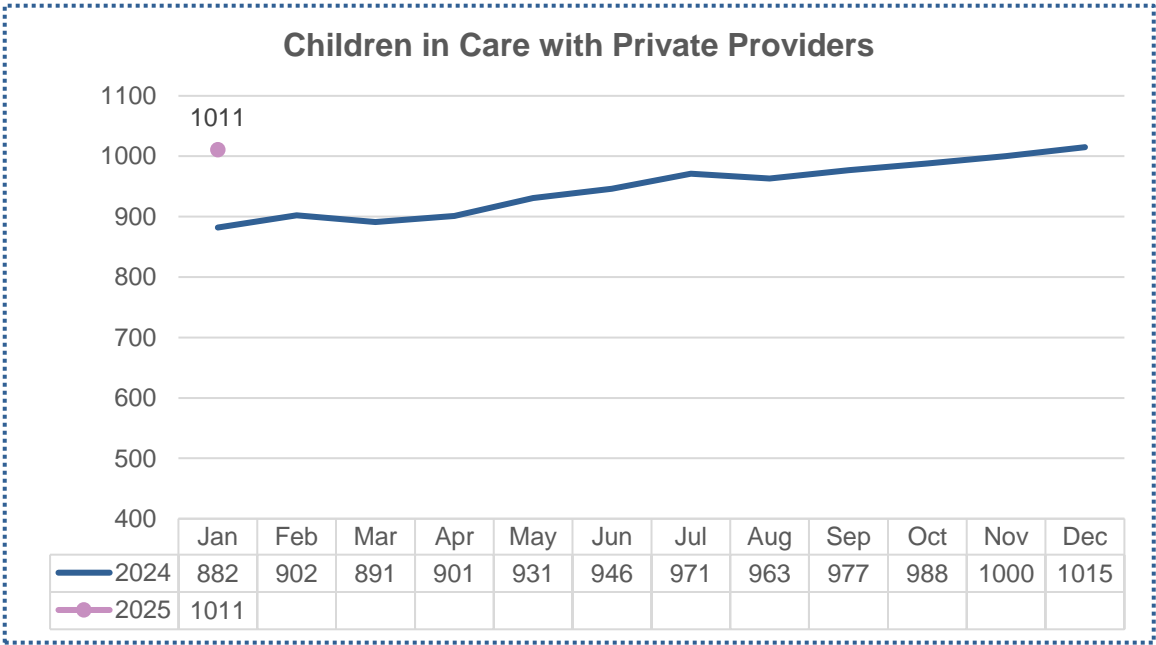
Area	Jan-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Jan-25 v Jan-24	Jan-25 v Dec-24	Population	Rate/1,000
Dublin North City	468	465	463	-5	-2	48,909	9.5
Waterford/Wexford	425	430	422	-3	-8	69,239	6.1
Donegal	210	236	239	29	3	42,144	5.7
Midwest	502	501	507	5	6	96,764	5.2
CW/KK/ST	316	308	311	-5	3	62,366	5.0
Kerry	162	174	174	12	0	34,994	5.0
Cork	696	667	664	-32	-3	136,786	4.9
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	108	119	118	10	-1	24,312	4.9
Dublin South Central	331	332	325	-6	-7	70,259	4.6
Mayo	140	146	145	5	-1	31,911	4.5
Cavan/Monaghan	155	167	165	10	-2	37,336	4.4
Midlands	328	346	350	22	4	80,962	4.3
Louth/Meath	415	418	417	2	-1	96,531	4.3
Galway/Roscommon	351	344	347	-4	3	81,799	4.2
Dublin North	398	424	424	26	0	104,281	4.1
DSW/K/WW	402	419	413	11	-6	108,927	3.8
Dublin South East/Wicklow	196	209	208	12	-1	91,047	2.3
Total Areas	5,603	5,705	5,692	89	-13	1,218,567	4.7
SCSIP	151	118	109	-42	-9		
Total National	5,754	5,823	5,801	47	-22		

Population: CSO Census 2022

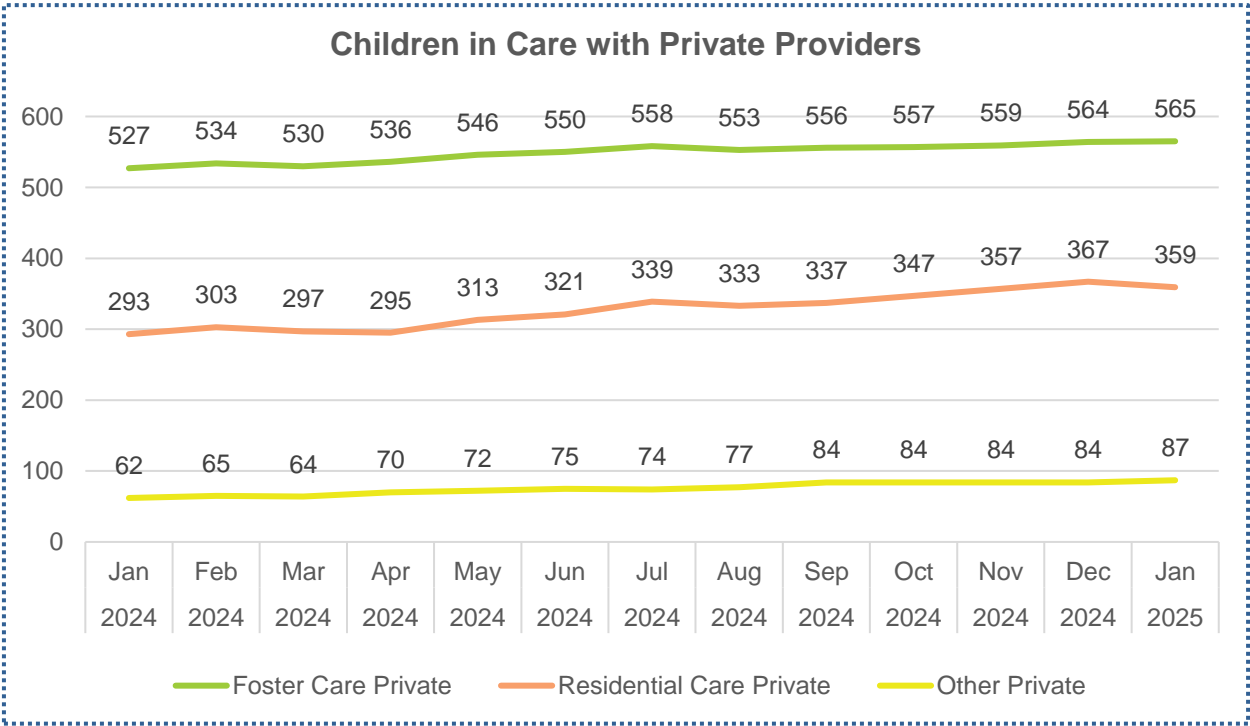
Children in Care

Private Providers

- 1,011 (17%) children in care at the end of January 2025 were in placements with private providers, four fewer than December 2024 (1,015) and 129 (15%) more than January 2024 (882).



- 565 (56%) children in placements with private providers were in **foster care**, one more than December 2024 (564) and 38 (7%) more than January 2024 (527).
- 359 (36%) children were in **residential care**, 8 (2%) fewer than December 2024 (367) and 66 (23%) more than January 2024 (293).
- The remaining **87 (9%)** children were in **“Other” care placements**, three more than December 2024 (84) and 25 (40%) 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 (131) followed by Dublin North (123), Dublin South Central (112), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (109), and Midlands (93). These five areas account for 56% (568) of children in placements with private providers.



Children in Care with Private Providers

Children in Care (Private)	Jan-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Jan-25 v Jan-24	Jan-25 v Dec-24
Dublin North City	110	129	131	21	2
Dublin North	96	122	123	27	1
Dublin South Central	102	113	112	10	-1
DSW/K/WW	106	118	109	3	-9
Midlands	70	87	93	23	6
SCSIP	49	72	65	16	-7
Louth/Meath	49	53	57	8	4
Cork	60	55	56	-4	1
Dublin South East/Wicklow	53	52	52	-1	0
Waterford/Wexford	47	53	51	4	-2
Midwest	37	41	42	5	1
Kerry	29	33	33	4	0
CW/KK/ST	19	25	26	7	1
Donegal	22	22	22	0	0
Galway/Roscommon	15	16	16	1	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	12	14	14	2	0
Cavan/Monaghan	5	9	8	3	-1
Mayo	1	1	1	0	0
Total	882	1015	1011	129	-4

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% (5,668) of children in care at the end of January 2025 had an allocated worker.**
- Of the 5,668 children allocated, 89% (5,044) were allocated to a social worker and 11% (624) were allocated to another professional.
- A total of 133 (2.3%) children were awaiting allocation, 687 (84%) fewer than December 2024 (820). *Comparison needs to be interpreted in the context of the practice change described above.*
- 7 of the 17 areas report no cases awaiting allocation with a further seven areas and the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection reporting fewer than 10 cases awaiting allocation.
- The remaining three areas account for 85% (113) of cases awaiting allocation, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (44), Louth/Meath (43) and Dublin South Central (26).

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

Area	Allocated SW	% Allocated SW	Allocated OP	% Allocated OP	Total Allocated	% Allocated	Awaiting Allocation	% Awaiting Allocation	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	207	99.5%	1	0.5%	208	100%	0	0.0%	208
DSW/K/WW	279	75.6%	90	24.4%	369	89%	44	10.7%	413
Dublin South Central	241	80.6%	58	19.4%	299	92%	26	8.0%	325
Midlands	341	97.7%	8	2.3%	349	100%	1	0.3%	350
Dublin North City	417	90.3%	45	9.7%	462	100%	1	0.2%	463
Dublin North	391	92.9%	30	7.1%	421	99%	3	0.7%	424
Louth/Meath	345	92.2%	29	7.8%	374	90%	43	10.3%	417
Cavan/Monaghan	163	98.8%	2	1.2%	165	100%	0	0.0%	165
Kerry	168	96.6%	6	3.4%	174	100%	0	0.0%	174
Cork	662	99.8%	1	0.2%	663	100%	1	0.2%	664
CW/K/ST	152	48.9%	159	51.1%	311	100%	0	0.0%	311
Waterford/Wexford	386	92.3%	32	7.7%	418	99%	4	0.9%	422
Donegal	239	100.0%	0	0.0%	239	100%	0	0.0%	239
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	117	99.2%	1	0.8%	118	100%	0	0.0%	118
Mayo	143	99.3%	1	0.7%	144	99%	1	0.7%	145
Galway/Roscommon	335	98.0%	7	2.0%	342	99%	5	1.4%	347
Mid West	353	69.6%	154	30.4%	507	100%	0	0.0%	507
SCSIP	105	100.0%	0	0.0%	105	96%	4	3.7%	109
Total	5,044	89.0%	624	11.0%	5,668	98%	133	2.3%	5,801

Children in Care

Care Plan

- 85% (4,910) of children in care at the end of January 2025 had an up-to-date care plan, up two percentage point from December 2024 (83%).
- A total of 891 children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 88 (9%) fewer than December 2024 (979).
- Highest numbers awaiting an up-to-date care plan reported by Dublin South Central (107; 33%), Louth/Meath (105; 25%), Dublin North City (103; 22%) and Midwest (96; 19%).

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

Area	UTD Care Plan	Awaiting UTD Care Plan	Total	% UTD Care Plan
Dublin South East/Wicklow	155	53	208	75%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	349	64	413	85%
Dublin South Central	218	107	325	67%
Midlands	339	11	350	97%
Dublin North City	360	103	463	78%
Dublin North	349	75	424	82%
Louth/Meath	312	105	417	75%
Cavan/Monaghan	141	24	165	85%
Kerry	141	33	174	81%
Cork	602	62	664	91%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	299	12	311	96%
Waterford/Wexford	402	20	422	95%
Donegal	222	17	239	93%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	102	16	118	86%
Mayo	136	9	145	94%
Galway/Roscommon	297	50	347	86%
Midwest	411	96	507	81%
SCSIP	75	34	109	69%
Total	4,910	891	5,801	85%

Child Protection Notification System

- **997 children listed as ‘active’** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of January 2025, 40 (4%) fewer than December 2024 (1,037)*, and the fewest number since February 2024 (961).
- It should be noted that a small number of large sibling groups can have a significant effect on numbers reported.
- There were 45 (5%) more children ‘active’ at the end of January 2025 than at the end January 2024 (952).
- All but two children ‘active’ at the end of January 2025 had an allocated social worker.

• Highest numbers of children listed as ‘active’ at the end of January 2025, reported by Dublin North City (118), Midlands (117) and Cork (113).

• Fewest numbers reported by Cavan/Monaghan (9) and Kerry (19).

• The number of children ‘active’ equates to about 8 children per 10,000 under 18 years.

• Highest rates reported by Dublin North City (24.1), Midlands (14.5) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (10.7)

• Lowest rates reported by Cavan/Monaghan (2.4) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (3.7)

• 4/17 areas had more children listed as ‘active’ at the end of January 2025 than in December 2024. Largest increase reported by Cork (up 15) followed by Mayo (5).

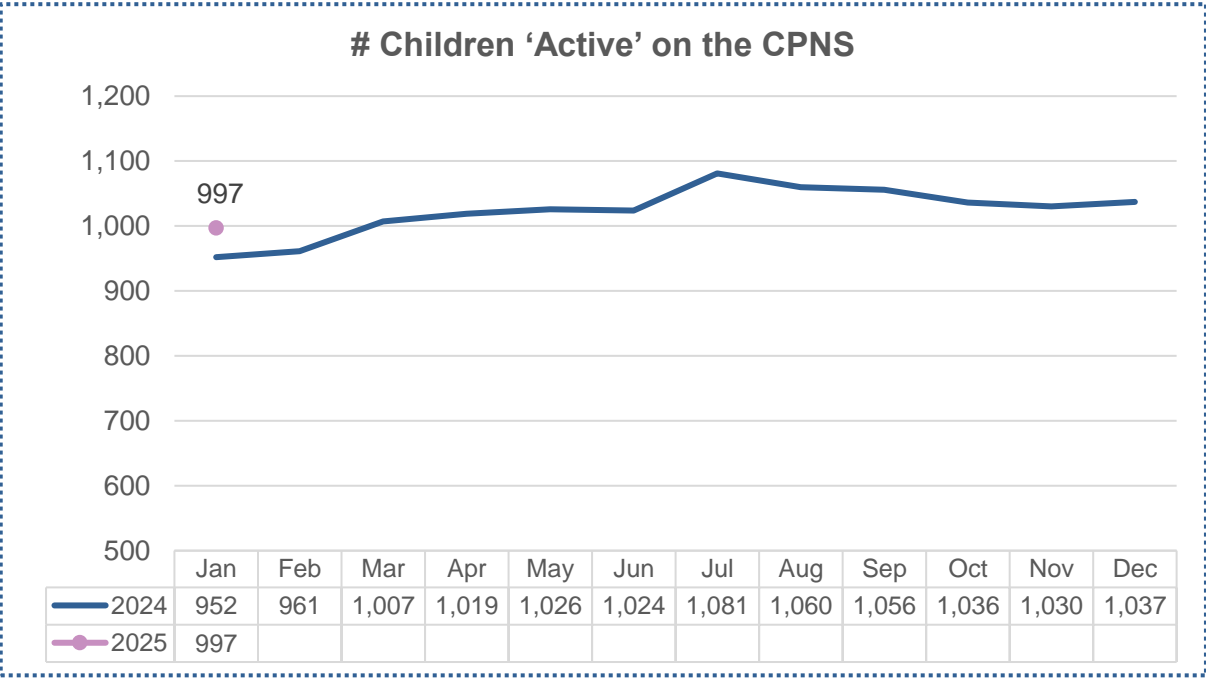
• 11/17 areas reported fewer children ‘active’ with the largest decreases reported by Midwest (down 14), Louth/Meath (down 8), Galway/Roscommon (down 8) and Dublin South Central (down 8).

• The remaining two areas (Dublin North and Dublin South East/Wicklow) reported no change.

• 8/17 areas had more children active at the end of January 2025 than at the end of January 2024. Largest increases reported by Midlands (up 58), Dublin North City (up 27) and Dublin South Central (up 23).

• 9/17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Dublin North (down 27), Donegal (down 24), Cavan/Monaghan (down 10) and Cork (down 10).

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



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

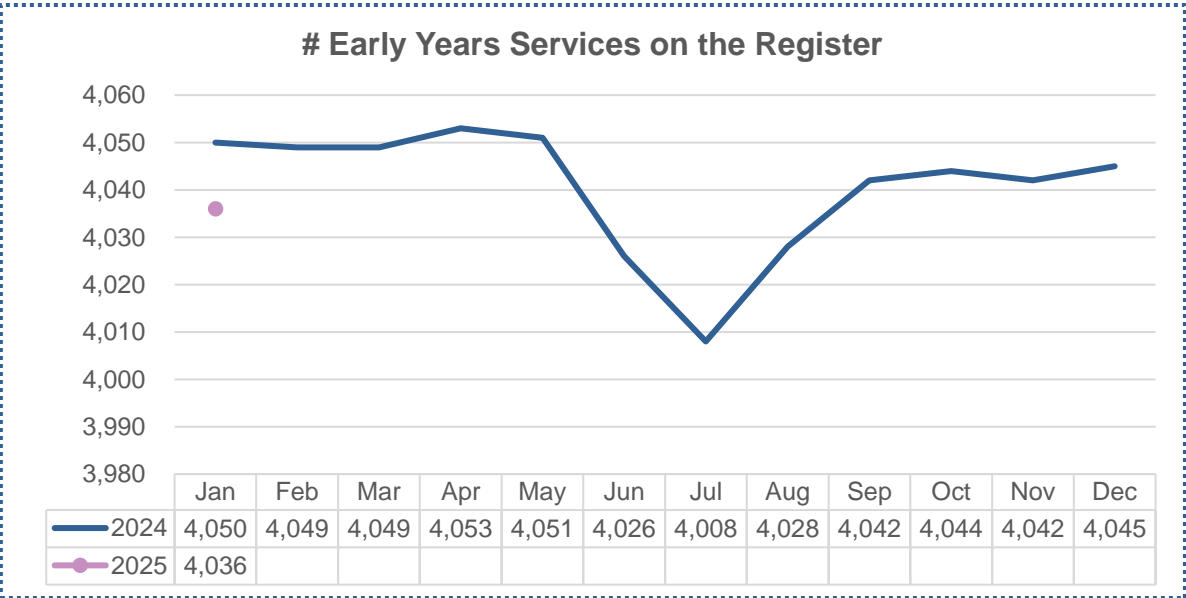
Area	Jan-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Jan-25 v Jan-24	Jan-25 v Dec-24	Child Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	91	121	118	27	-3	48,909	24.1
Midlands	59	115	117	58	2	80,962	14.5
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	17	27	26	9	-1	24,312	10.7
DSW/K/WW	100	108	109	9	1	108,927	10.0
Dublin South Central	47	78	70	23	-8	70,259	10.0
CW/K/ST	62	62	55	-7	-7	62,366	8.8
Mayo	19	22	27	8	5	31,911	8.5
Cork	123	98	113	-10	15	136,786	8.3
Donegal	58	36	34	-24	-2	42,144	8.1
Mid West	68	87	73	5	-14	96,764	7.5
Dublin North	93	66	66	-27	0	104,281	6.3
Galway / Roscommon	37	57	49	12	-8	81,799	6.0
Kerry	25	25	19	-6	-6	34,994	5.4
Louth / Meath	57	59	51	-6	-8	96,531	5.3
Waterford / Wexford	36	32	27	-9	-5	69,239	3.9
Dublin South East / Wicklow	41	34	34	-7	0	91,047	3.7
Cavan / Monaghan	19	10	9	-10	-1	37,336	2.4
Total	952	1,037	997	45	-40	1,218,567	8.2

Population – source CSO Census 2022

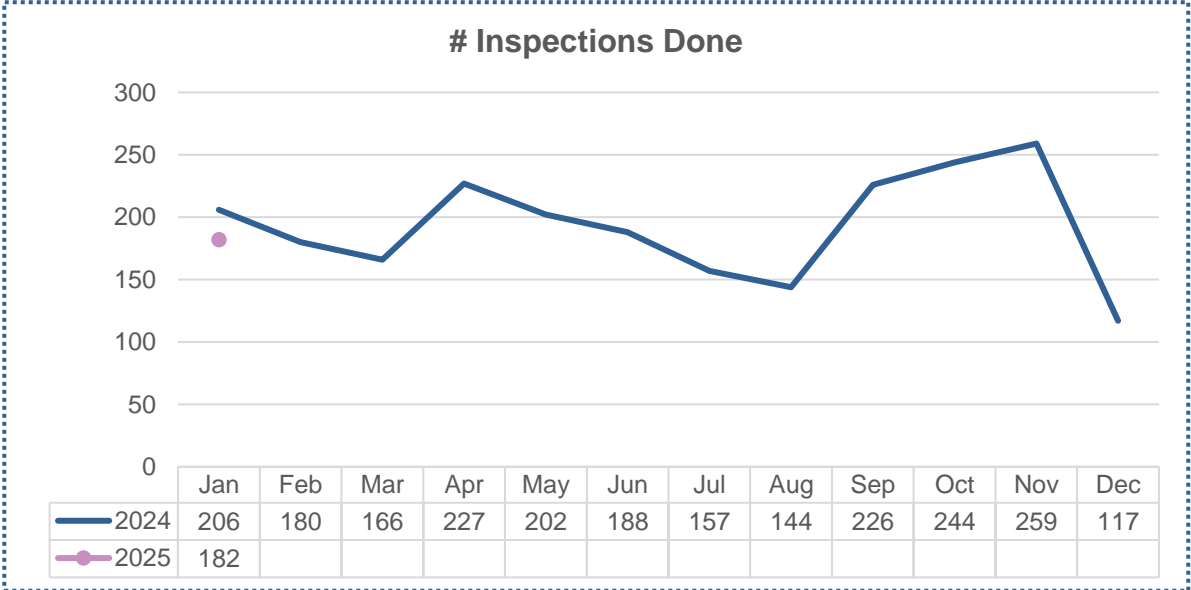
Children’s Services Regulation

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- **4,036 early years services on the register at the end of January 2025**, nine fewer than December 2024 (4,045) and 14 fewer than January 2024 (4,050).

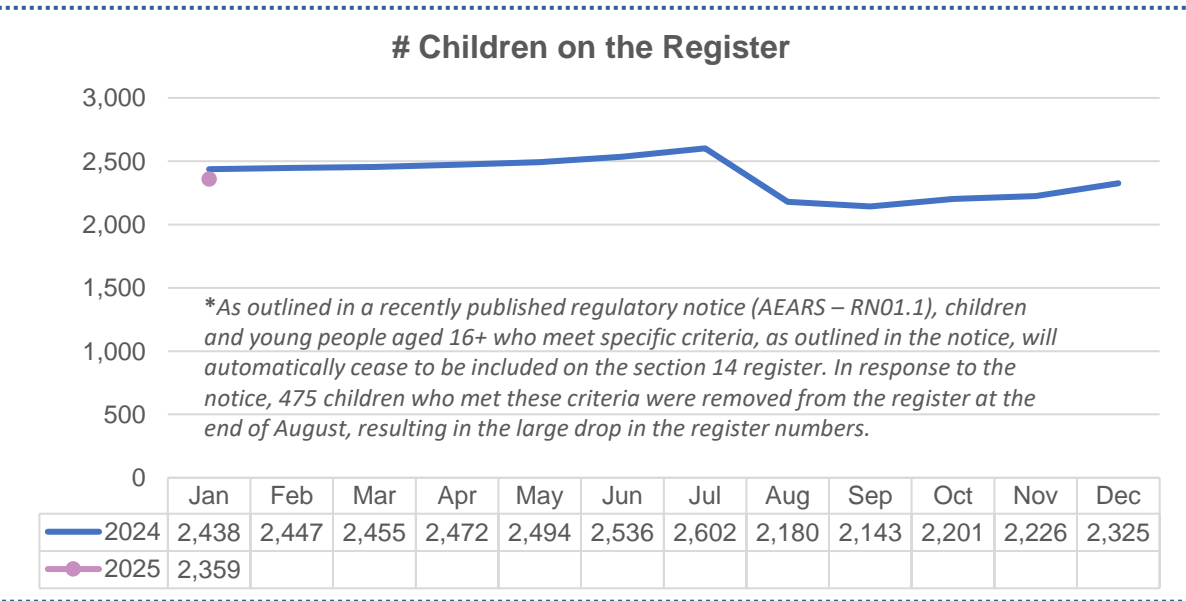


- **182 inspections** of early years services in January 2025.

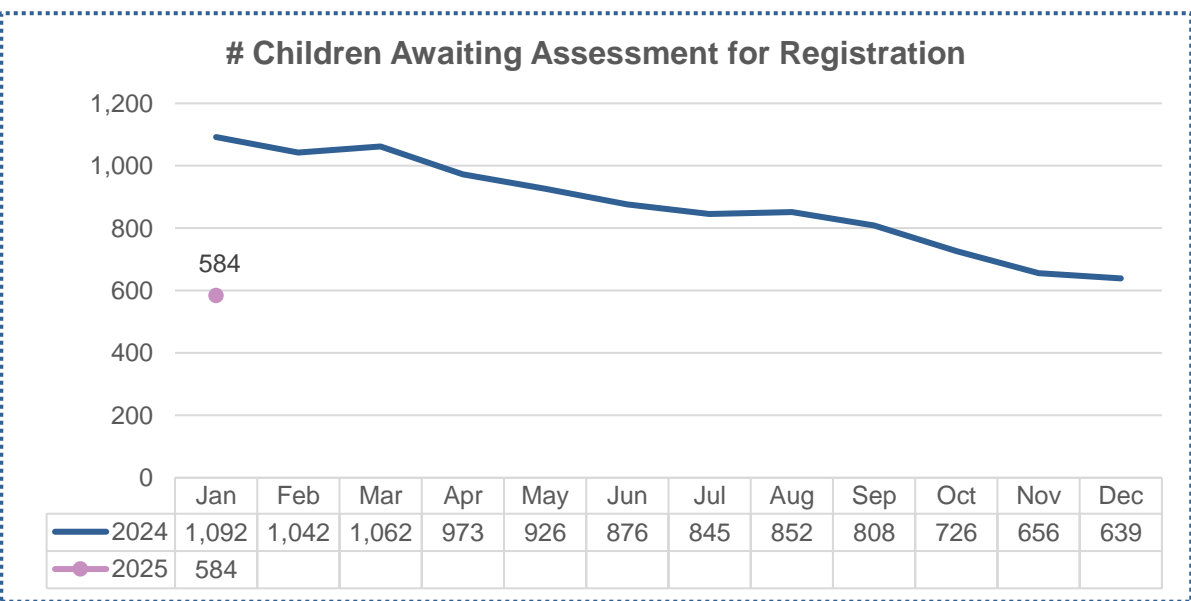


ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

- **2,359 children on the register** for home education at the end of January 2025, 34 (1%) more than December 2024 (2,325). Fourth consecutive increase.



- **584 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of January 2025**, 55 (9%) fewer than December 2024 (639) and 508 (47%) fewer than January 2024 (1,092).



Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,106 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in January 2025. This brings to 3,812 the number of referrals for the first five months of the academic year 2024 – 2025, some 841 (28%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (2,971).

- **4,004 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of January 2025, 276 (7%) more than December 2024 (3,728). Third consecutive increase.
- 1,190 (42%) more referrals on a waiting list at the end of January 2025 (4,004) than at the end of January 2024 (2,814).

- **430 new individual children worked** with in January 2025. This brings to 1,900 the number of new individual children worked with in the first five months of the academic year 2024-2025, some 126 (7%) more than the previous academic year (1,774).

