



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

MONTHLY SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

MARCH 2024

14 May 2024
Version 1.0

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

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Headline Data – March 2024

Child Protection & Welfare

- **7,749 referrals in March 2024**, 136 (2%) fewer than February 2024 (7,885) and 959 (11%) fewer than March 2023 (8,708). This brings to 23,226 the number of referrals for the first three months of 2024, 589 (2%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (23,815).
- **22,293 cases open to social work at the end of March 2024**, 149 (<1%) fewer than February 2024 (22,442) and 1,166 (5%) fewer than March 2023 (23,459). Open cases include child protection and welfare cases including children in care.
- 79% (17,700) of cases open to social work at the end of March 2024 had an allocated social worker.
- **4,593 cases awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of March 2024**, 436 (9%) fewer than February 2024 (5,029) and the third consecutive monthly decrease.
- Five areas account for 62% (2,840) of cases awaiting allocation: Dublin South Central (1,040), Louth/Meath (624), Cork (494), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (364) and Midwest (318).
- **8% (369) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of March 2024 were categorised as high priority**, 38 (9%) fewer than February 2024 (407) and 32 (8%) fewer than March 2023 (401).

Children in Care

- **5,760 children in care at the end of March 2024**, five fewer than February 2024 (5,765). This figure includes 144 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP), down one from 145 at the end of February 2024.
- **87.5% (5,042)* of all children in care are in foster care** (3,571 general foster care, and 1,471 relative foster), 8% (472) are in residential care (457 general residential care and 15 special care) and 4% (246) are in “other” care placements².
- **Across Tusla’s 17 areas 89.3% (5,016/5,616) of children in care are in foster care.**
- **891 (15%) children in care at the end of March 2024 were in placements with private providers**, 11 (1%) fewer than February 2024 (902).
- **83% (4,777) of children in care at the end of March 2024 had an allocated social worker.** A total of 983 children were awaiting an allocated social worker, 26 (3%) fewer than February 2024 (1,009).
- **80% (4,627) of children in care at the end of March 2024 had an up-to-date care plan.** A total of 1,133 children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, five fewer than February 2024 (1,138).

**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)

- **1,007 children listed as “active” at the end of March 2024**, 46 (5%) more than February 2024 (961).
- There were 157 (18%) more children “active” at the end of March 2024 than at the end of March 2023 (850).
- **All children listed as “active” at the end of March 2024 had an allocated social worker.**

Children’s Services Regulation

- **4,049 early years services on the register at the end of March 2024**, no change from February 2024 and 13 (<1%) fewer than March 2023 (4,062).
- **166 inspections of early years services done in March 2024.** This brings to 552 the number of inspections for the first three months of 2024, 54 (9%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (606).
- **2,455 children on the register for home education at the end of March 2024**, 8 (<1%) more than February 2024 (2,447) and 395 (19%) more than March 2023 (2,060).
- **1,062 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of March 2024**, 20 (2%) more than February 2024 (1,042) and 375 (26%) fewer than March 2023 (1,437). First increase after six consecutive monthly decreases.

Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,001 referrals screened by senior educational welfare services in March 2024.** This brings to 5,050 the number of referrals for the first seven months of the academic year 2023-2024, 842 (20%) more than the same period in 2022-2023 (4,208).
- **3,429 referrals on a waiting list for educational welfare services at the end of March 2024**, 186 (6%) more than February 2024 (3,243) and the fifth consecutive monthly increase.
- **429 new individual children worked with in March 2024.** This brings to 2,586 the number of new individual children worked with for the first seven months of the academic year 2023-2024, 278 (12%) more than the same period in 2022-2023 (2,308).

Child Protection and Welfare

Referrals¹

- **7,749 referrals** in March 2024, 136 (2%) fewer than February 2024 (7,885) and 959 (11%) fewer than March 2023 (8,708).
- This brings to 23,226 the number of referrals for the first three months of 2024, 589 (2%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (23,815).

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

Open Cases

- **22,293 cases open to social work** at the end of March 2024, 149 (<1%) fewer than February 2024 (22,442) and 1,166 (5%) fewer than March 2023 (23,459). *Open cases from September 2023 include cases awaiting categorisation. See note below.*

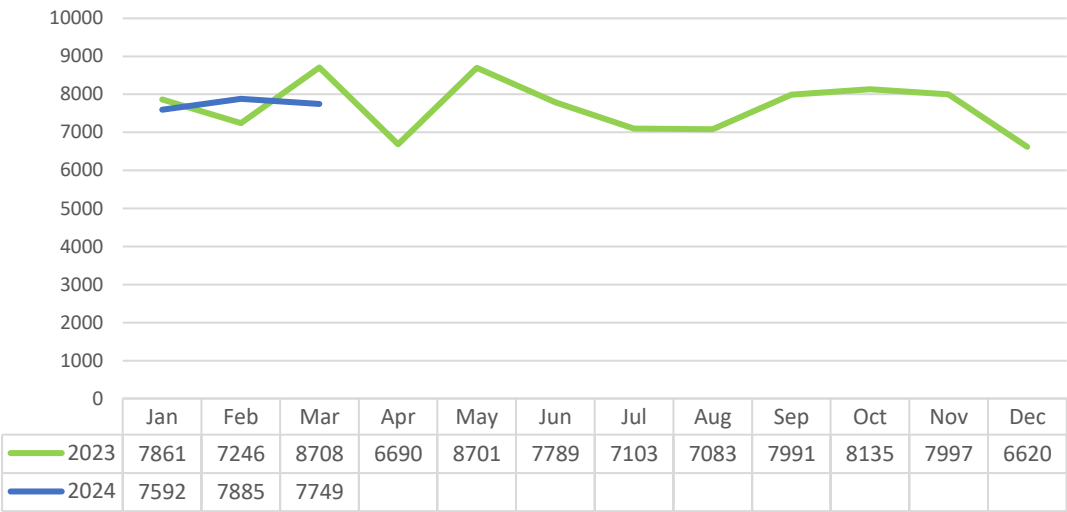
Notes:

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

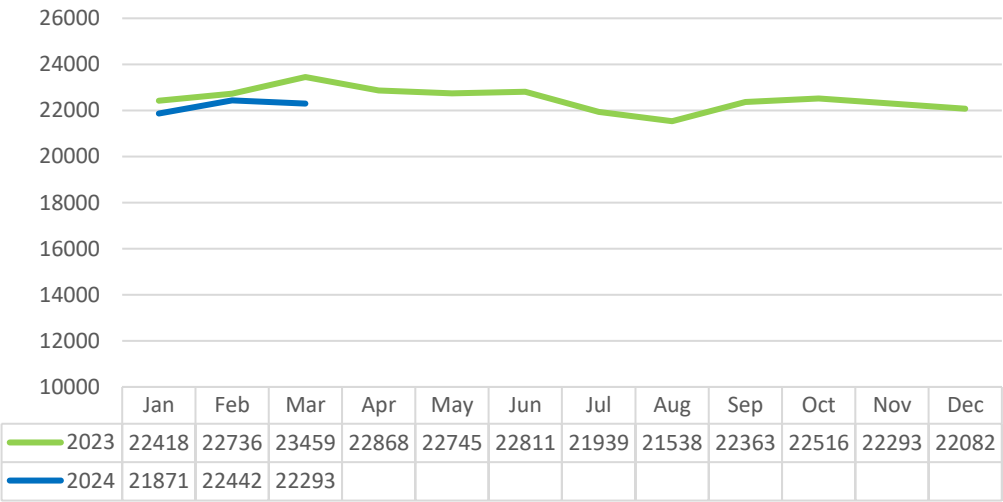
Allocated Cases

- **17,700 open cases were allocated** to a social worker at the end of March 2024, 287 (2%) more than February 2024 (17,413) and 209 (1%) more than March 2023 (17,491). *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 79% of open cases, up one percentage point from February 2023 (78%) and up four percentage points from March 2023 (75%).

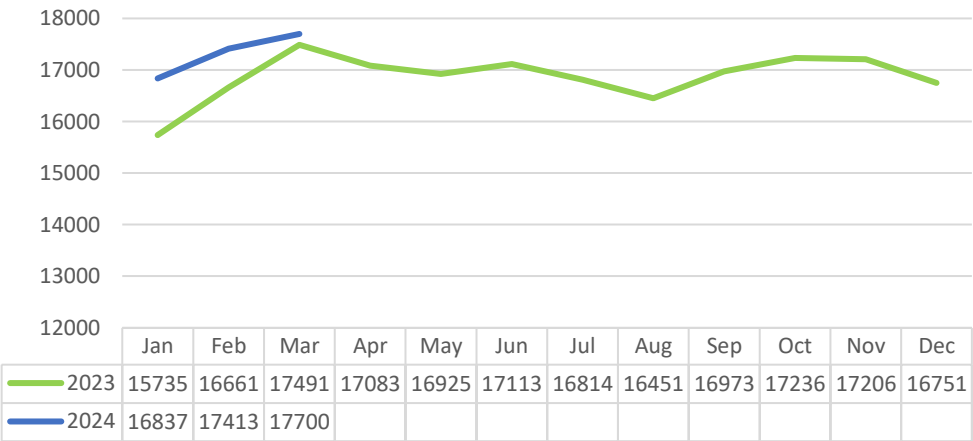
Referrals



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

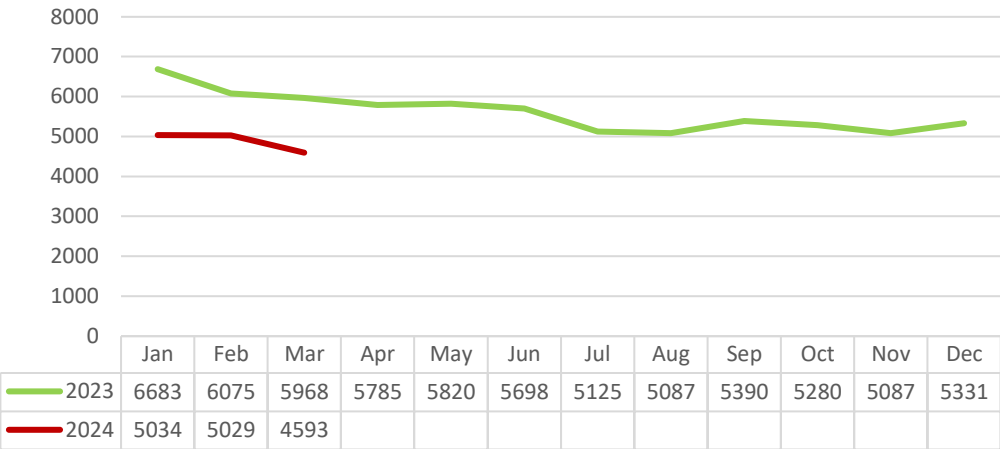
Cases awaiting allocation include cases held on duty, unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care

- **4,593 cases awaiting allocation of a social worker** at the end of March 2024, 436 (9%) fewer than February 2024 (5,029) and the third consecutive monthly decrease.
- Cases awaiting allocation are down 1,375 (23%) from March 2023 (5,968).

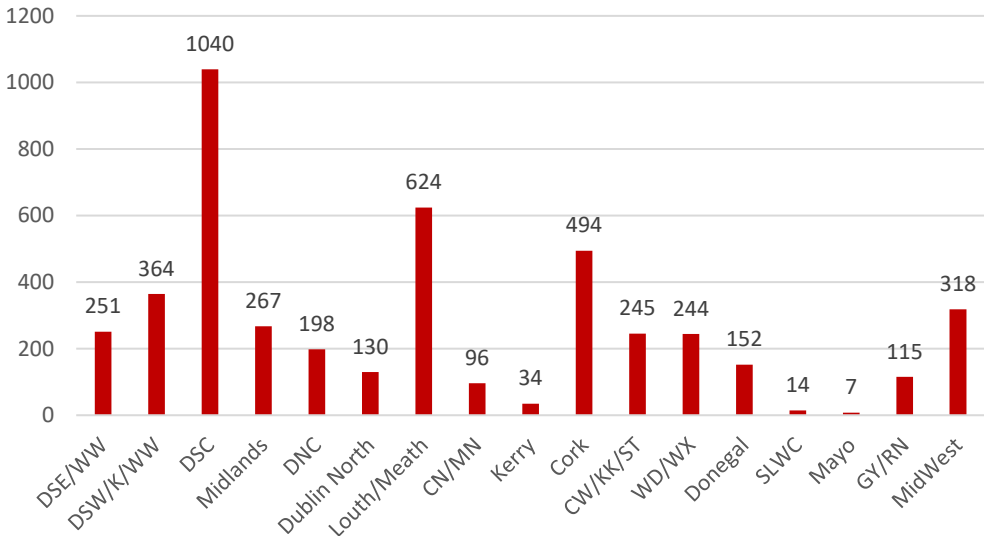
Note: comparison of data from September 2023 with August 2023 and previous months needs to be interpreted with caution due to the inclusion of cases awaiting categorisation from September 2023. Refer to notes on previous page.

- Cases awaiting allocation account for 21% of open cases (22,293), down one percentage point from February 2024 (22%).
- **70% (3,227) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of March 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 (1,040) followed by Louth/Meath (624), Cork (494), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (364) and Midwest (318). These five areas account for 62% (2,840) of all cases awaiting allocation.
- **369 cases awaiting allocation at the end of March 2024 were categorised as high priority**, 38 (9%) fewer than February 2024 (407) and 32 (8%) fewer than March 2023 (401).
- High priority cases account for 8% of cases awaiting allocation.
- 55% (2,508) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 35% (1,607) were low priority while the remaining 2% (109) were awaiting categorisation.
- Highest number of high priority cases reported by Midwest (84) followed by Midlands (81), Dublin South Central (39), Louth/Meath (35) and Galway/Roscommon (32). These five areas account for 73% (271) of all high priority cases awaiting.

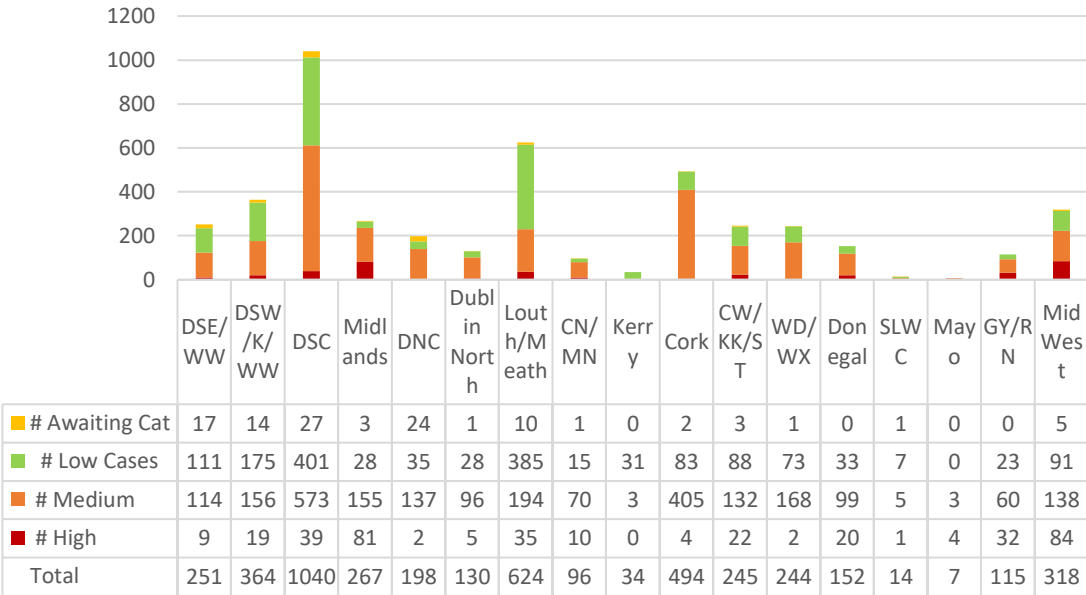
Number of Unallocated Cases



Number of Unallocated Cases



Number Unallocated Cases by Priority Level



Child Protection & Welfare

Cases Awaiting Allocation

- 10/17 areas reported a decrease in unallocated cases from February 2024.
- Largest decreases reported by Cork (down 164), Dublin North City (down 161) and Dublin South Central (down 109).
- 7/17 areas reported an increase in unallocated cases from February 2024. Largest increases reported by Louth/Meath (up 51), Midlands (up 24), Dublin North (up 22) and Galway/Roscommon (up 21).
- Nationally 21% of open cases were unallocated at the end of March 2024. Six areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 21%, Dublin South Central (43%), Louth/Meath (37%), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (33%), Midwest (23%), DSW/K/WW (23%) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (22%).
- 11/17 areas had fewer cases awaiting allocation at the end of March 2024 than at the end of March 2023. Largest decreases reported by Cork (down 417), Waterford/Wexford (down 372), Dublin North (down 359) and DSW/K/WW (down 248).
- 6/17 areas reported an increase as follows, Louth/Meath (up 300), Midwest (up 180), Galway/Roscommon (up 47), Dublin South Central (up 14), Cavan/Monaghan (up 14) and Mayo (up 1).

Area	Mar-23 # Unallocated	Mar-23 % Unallocated	Jan-24 # Unallocated	Feb-24 # Unallocated	Mar-24 # Unallocated	Mar-24 % Unallocated	Jan-Mar	Mar-24 v Mar-23	% Δ	Mar-24 v Feb-24	% Δ1
DSE/WW	274	28%	260	313	251	22%		-23	-8%	-62	-20%
DSW/K/WW	612	35%	451	359	364	23%		-248	-41%	5	1%
DSC	1,026	52%	1121	1149	1040	43%		14	1%	-109	-9%
Midlands	274	13%	221	243	267	14%		-7	-3%	24	10%
DNC	352	19%	361	359	198	11%		-154	-44%	-161	-45%
Dublin North	489	17%	120	108	130	6%		-359	-73%	22	20%
Louth/Meath	324	25%	495	573	624	37%		300	93%	51	9%
CN/MN	82	13%	114	100	96	14%		14	17%	-4	-4%
Kerry	69	16%	36	24	34	9%		-35	-51%	10	42%
Cork	911	32%	707	658	494	19%		-417	-46%	-164	-25%
CW/KK/ST	328	35%	239	257	245	33%		-83	-25%	-12	-5%
WD/WX	616	33%	316	274	244	19%		-372	-60%	-30	-11%
Donegal	327	39%	128	149	152	18%		-175	-54%	3	2%
SLWC	72	20%	15	15	14	4%		-58	-81%	-1	-7%
Mayo	6	2%	6	9	7	2%		1	17%	-2	-22%
GY/RN	68	6%	58	94	115	10%		47	69%	21	22%
MidWest	138	11%	386	345	318	23%		180	130%	-27	-8%
TOTAL	5968	25%	5034	5029	4593	21%		-1375	-23%	-436	-8.7%

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 Feb-24	Referrals Mar-24	Δ	Open Cases Feb-24	Open Cases Mar-24	Δ2	Allocated Cases Feb-24	Allocated Cases Mar-24	Δ3	Unallocated Cases Feb-24	Unallocated Cases Mar-24	Δ4
DSE/WW	333	274	-59	1,080	1,119	39	767	868	101	313	251	-62
DSW/K/WW	797	745	-52	1,576	1,568	-8	1,217	1,204	-13	359	364	5
DSC	736	739	3	2,276	2,397	121	1,127	1,357	230	1149	1,040	-109
Midlands	830	710	-120	1,892	1,969	77	1,649	1,702	53	243	267	24
DNC	389	442	53	1,841	1,735	-106	1,482	1,537	55	359	198	-161
Dublin North	786	687	-99	2,238	2,087	-151	2,130	1,957	-173	108	130	22
Louth/Meath	594	638	44	1,594	1,703	109	1,021	1,079	58	573	624	51
CN/MN	274	226	-48	730	704	-26	630	608	-22	100	96	-4
Kerry	193	169	-24	376	382	6	352	348	-4	24	34	10
Cork	688	836	148	2,583	2,538	-45	1,925	2,044	119	658	494	-164
CW/KK/ST	370	345	-25	772	738	-34	515	493	-22	257	245	-12
WD/WX	544	479	-65	1,395	1,298	-97	1,121	1,054	-67	274	244	-30
Donegal	244	222	-22	863	850	-13	714	698	-16	149	152	3
SLWC	124	135	11	333	346	13	318	332	14	15	14	-1
Mayo	99	146	47	344	371	27	335	364	29	9	7	-2
GY/RN	311	343	32	1,173	1,127	-46	1,079	1,012	-67	94	115	21
MidWest	573	613	40	1,376	1,361	-15	1,031	1,043	12	345	318	-27
Total	7,885	7,749	-136	22,442	22,293	-149	17,413	17,700	287	5,029	4,593	-436

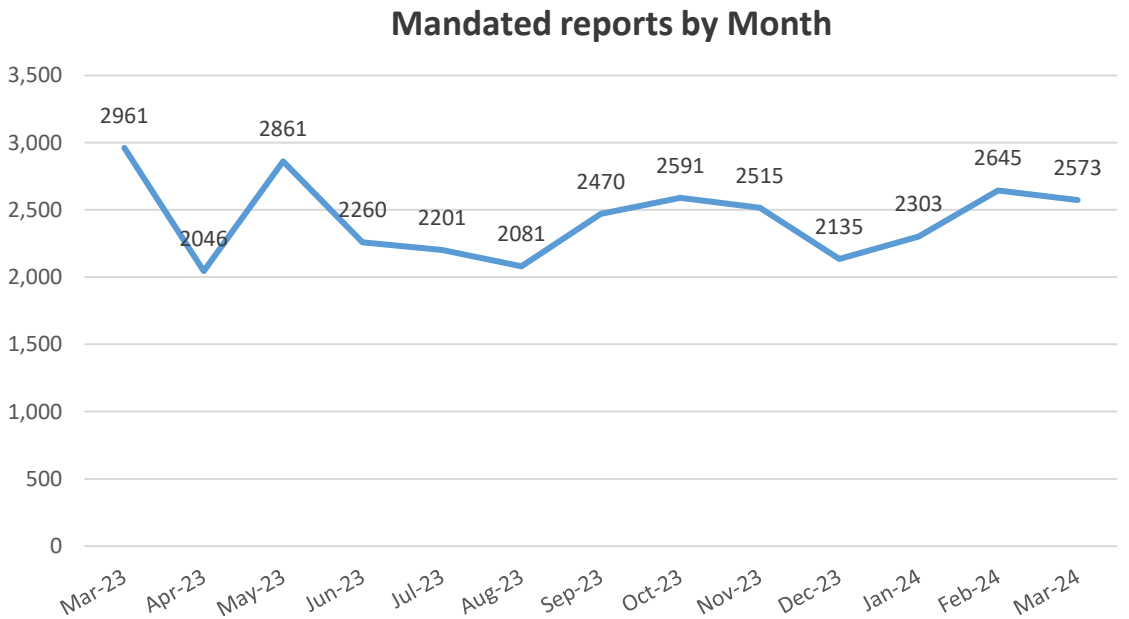
Area	High Priority Awaiting Feb-24	High Priority Awaiting Mar-24	Δ	Medium Priority Awaiting Feb-24	Medium Priority Awaiting Mar-24	Δ 2	Low Priority Awaiting Feb-24	Low Priority Awaiting Mar-24	Δ 3	Awaiting Categorisat ion Feb-24	Awaiting Categorisation Mar-24	Δ 4
DSE/WW	18	9	-9	158	114	-44	127	111	-16	10	17	7
DSW/K/WW	9	19	10	160	156	-4	173	175	2	17	14	-3
DSC	51	39	-12	596	573	-23	483	401	-82	19	27	8
Midlands	75	81	6	135	155	20	32	28	-4	1	3	2
DNC	2	2	0	191	137	-54	42	35	-7	124	24	-100
Dublin North	4	5	1	65	96	31	39	28	-11	0	1	1
Louth/Meath	29	35	6	198	194	-4	325	385	60	21	10	-11
CN/MN	16	10	-6	60	70	10	22	15	-7	2	1	-1
Kerry	1	0	-1	1	3	2	20	31	11	2	0	-2
Cork	16	4	-12	458	405	-53	181	83	-98	3	2	-1
CW/KK/ST	24	22	-2	149	132	-17	81	88	7	3	3	0
WD/WX	2	2	0	196	168	-28	72	73	1	4	1	-3
Donegal	25	20	-5	91	99	8	33	33	0	0	0	0
SLWC	0	1	1	8	5	-3	6	7	1	1	1	0
Mayo	3	4	1	5	3	-2	0	0	0	1	0	-1
GY/RN	31	32	1	41	60	19	22	23	1	0	0	0
MidWest	101	84	-17	138	138	0	104	91	-13	2	5	3
TOTAL	407	369	-38	2,650	2,508	-142	1,762	1,607	-155	210	109	-101

Mandated Reports¹ – Child Protection & Welfare

- **2,573 mandated reports of abuse** received in March 2024, 72 (3%) fewer than February 2024 (2,645) and 388 (13%) fewer than March 2023 (2,961). This brings to 7,521 the number of reports for the first three months of 2024, 22 (<1%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (7,499).

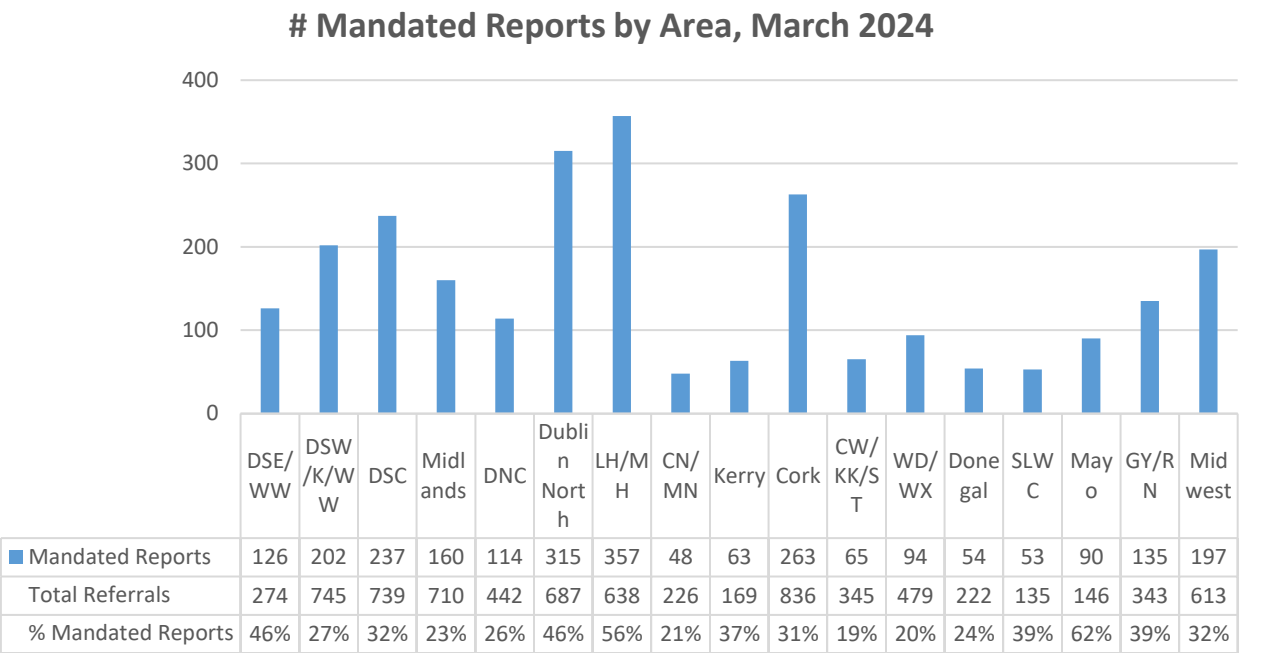
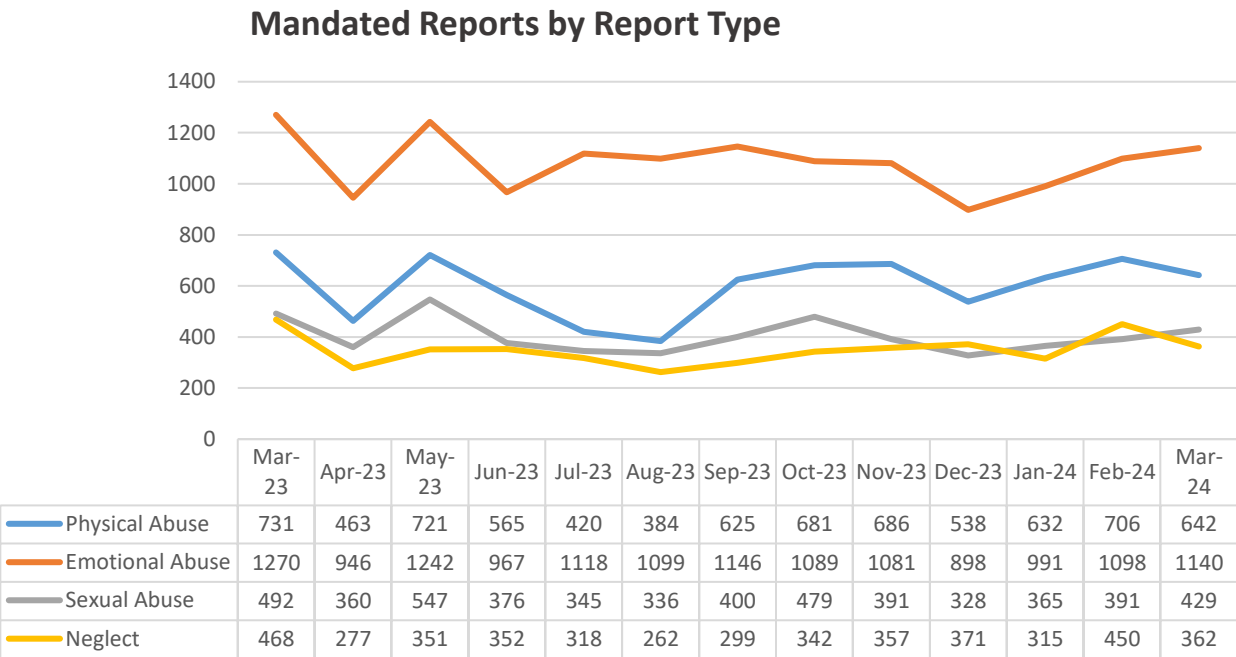
It should be noted that the data presented for 2023 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for 2024 is based on referrals logged on the Tusla Case Management (TCM) system at the time the data was extracted for reporting. Referrals logged after the date the data was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

- Mandated reports accounted for 33% (2,573) of all referrals received (7,749) in March 2024.



- The number of mandated reports for March 2024, by area ranged from 48 (Cavan/Monaghan) to 357 (Louth/Meath).
- As a percentage of referrals, the highest percentage (62%) was reported by Mayo.
- The lowest percentage was reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (19%).

- Highest number of reports for March 2024 were for emotional abuse (1,140; 44%) followed by physical abuse (642; 25%), sexual abuse (429; 17%) and neglect (362; 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 March 2024 from An Garda Síochána (974; 38%) followed by teachers (411; 16%), social workers (304; 12%), safeguarding officers (296; 12%); social care workers (111; 4%), and medical practitioners (90; 4%). These six sources account for 85%% (2,186) of reports for March 2024.
- Highest number of reports for 2024 YTD from An Garda Síochána (2,822; 38%) followed by teachers (1,188; 16%), safeguarding officers (946; 13%), social workers (888; 12%), social care workers (334; 4%), medical practitioners (266; 4%) and psychotherapists (99; 3%). These seven sources account for 88% (6,643) of reports for 2024 YTD.

Source (Schedule 2 Children First 2015)	# Mar 2024	% Mar 2024	Total 2024 YTD	% Total 2024
Medical practitioner (Registered)	90	3.5%	266	3.5%
Nurse or registered midwife (Registered)	54	2.1%	144	1.9%
Physiotherapist (Registered)	*	0.2%	7	0.1%
Speech & language therapist (Registered)	*	0.2%	9	0.1%
Occupational therapist (Registered)	*	0.1%	12	0.2%
Registered dentist	*	0.0%	*	0.0%
Psychologist who practises as such and who is eligible for registration	58	2.3%	164	2.2%
Social care worker	111	4.3%	334	4.4%
Social worker who practises as such and who is eligible for registration	304	11.8%	888	11.8%
EMT, paramedic and advanced paramedic	0	0.0%	6	0.1%
Probation officer	*	0.1%	12	0.2%
Teacher registered with the Teaching Council.	411	16.0%	1188	15.8%
An Garda Síochána Member	974	37.9%	2822	37.5%
Guardian ad litem	*	0.2%	12	0.2%
Domestic violence shelter manager	56	2.2%	167	2.2%
Homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility manager	25	1.0%	62	0.8%
Asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre manager	7	0.3%	15	0.2%
Addiction counsellor	*	0.1%	15	0.2%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	62	2.4%	199	2.6%
Language school or other recreational school where children reside	*	0.1%	*	0.0%
Clergy member	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Institution where a child is detained by an order of a court (Director)	*	0.1%	*	0.0%
Safeguarding officer, child protection officer	296	11.5%	946	12.6%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	10	0.4%	26	0.3%
Youth work service - person responsible for the care or management	20	0.8%	39	0.5%
Youth worker employed in a youth work service	54	2.1%	145	1.9%
Foster carer registered with the Agency.	*	0.2%	7	0.1%
Pre-school service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act	11	0.4%	30	0.4%
Total (includes suppressed values)	2,573	100.0%	7,521	100.0%

*Values suppressed for confidentiality purposes

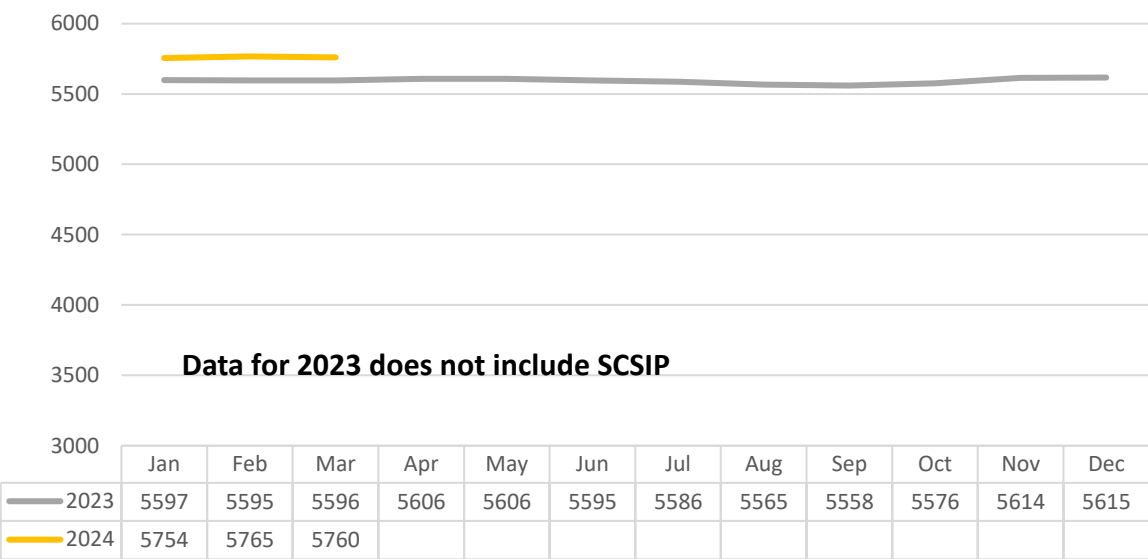
Children in Care

- **5,760 children in care at the end of March 2024, five fewer than February 2024 (5,765).**
- Of these, 5,616 were reported by Tusla’s 17 areas and 144 were reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP).
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas there were four fewer children in care at the end of March 2024 (5,616) than at the end of February 2024 (5,620) and 20 (<1%) more than at the end March 2023 (5,596).
- 87.5% (5,042)* of all children in care are in foster care (3,571 general foster care, and 1,471 relative foster), 8% (472) are in residential care (457 general residential care and 15 special care) and 4% (246) are in “other” care placements².
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas 89.3% (5,016/5,616) of children in care are in foster care.

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

- Highest number of children in care reported by Cork (690) followed by Midwest (492) and Dublin North City (470).
- Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan (112) followed by Mayo (143) and the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (144).
- 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).
- Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.3) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.6) and Dublin North (3.9).
- Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 4.6/1,000 children.

Children in Care by Month



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

Area	Mar-23	Feb-24	Mar-24	Mar-24 v Mar-23	Mar-24 v Feb-24	Population	Rate/1,000
Dublin North City	471	467	470	-1	3	49,682	9.5
Waterford/Wexford	404	429	425	21	-4	69,239	6.1
Donegal	221	211	217	-4	6	42,144	5.1
Midwest	519	501	492	-27	-9	96,764	5.1
Cork	700	694	690	-10	-4	136,786	5.0
CW/KK/ST	301	315	313	12	-2	62,366	5.0
Kerry	151	163	163	12	0	34,994	4.7
Dublin South Central	355	324	326	-29	2	70,259	4.6
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	116	113	112	-4	-1	24,312	4.6
Mayo	140	139	143	3	4	31,911	4.5
Galway/Roscommon	353	354	354	1	0	81,799	4.3
Louth/Meath	415	415	413	-2	-2	96,531	4.3
Cavan/Monaghan	154	162	159	5	-3	37,336	4.3
Midlands	323	330	331	8	1	80,962	4.1
Dublin North	365	398	401	36	3	103,508	3.9
DSW/K/WW	401	397	397	-4	0	108,927	3.6
Dublin South East/Wicklow	207	208	210	3	2	91,047	2.3
Total Areas	5,596	5,620	5,616	20	-4	1,218,567	4.6
SCSIP	NA	145	144	-	-1	-	-
National Total	5,596	5,765	5,760	-	-5	1,218,567	4.6

Population: CSO Census 2022

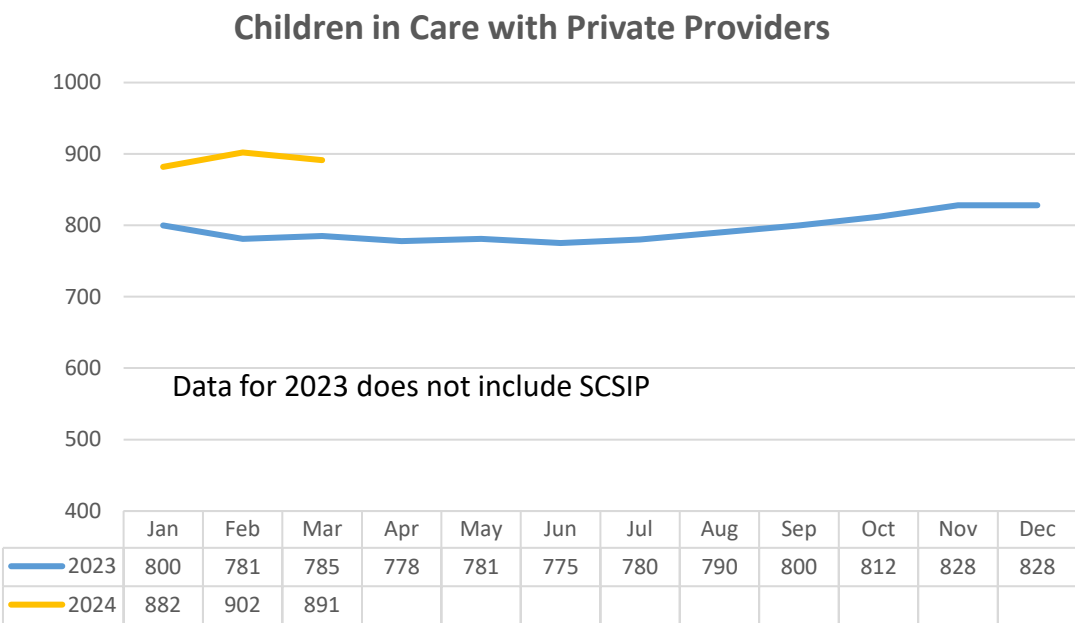
Notes:

1. The Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection has an additional **201 children accommodated under Section 5 Child Care Act 1991**. Age not available for one young person being accommodated under Section 5. Legal status and placement type not available for one child at the time of writing.

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

Children in Care

- 891 (15%) children in care at the end of March 2024 were in placements with private providers, 11 (1%) fewer than February 2024 (902).

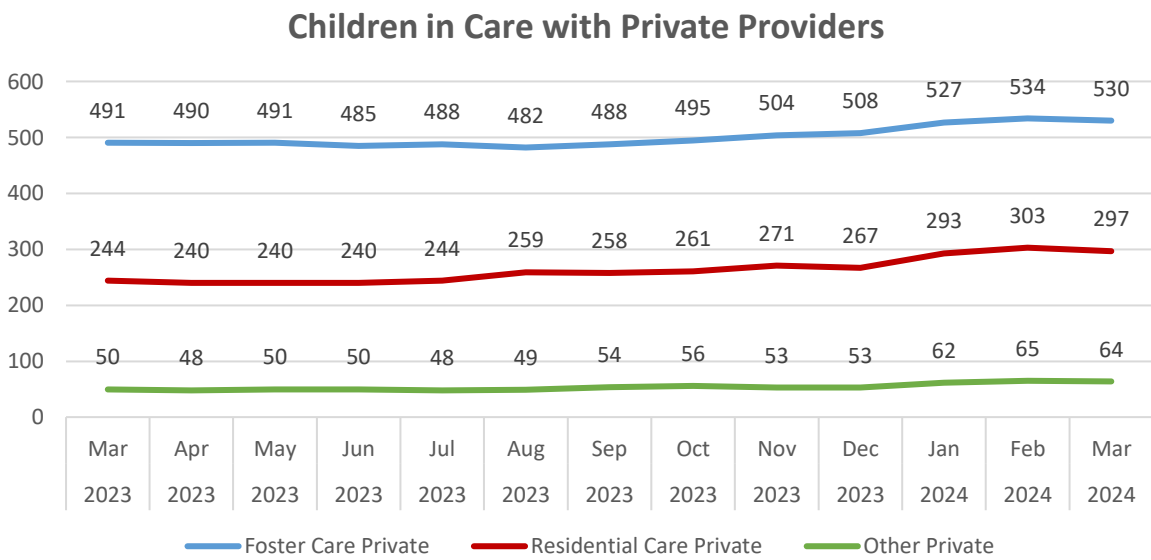


- 530 (59%) children in placements with private providers were in foster care, 4 (<1%) fewer than February 2024 (534).
- 297 (33%) children were in residential care, 6 (2%) fewer than February 2024 (303).
- The remaining 64 (7%) children were in “Other” care placements, 1 (<1%) fewer than February 2024 (65). “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 (112) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (107), Dublin South Central (107), Dublin North (98) and Midlands (70). These five areas account for 55% (494) of children in placements with private providers,

Children in Care with Private Providers

Children in Care (Private)	Mar-23	Feb-24	Mar-24	Mar-24 v Mar-23	Mar-24 v Feb-24
Dublin North City	97	113	112	15	-1
DSW/K/WW	108	108	107	-1	-1
Dublin South Central	102	105	107	5	2
Dublin North	93	98	98	5	0
Midlands	59	71	70	11	-1
Cork	60	57	58	-2	1
SCSIP	NA	52	55		3
Dublin South East/Wicklow	44	52	52	8	0
Louth/Meath	47	47	47	0	0
Waterford/Wexford	40	53	47	7	-6
Midwest	36	38	34	-2	-4
Kerry	22	31	32	10	1
CW/KK/ST	16	21	22	6	1
Donegal	22	23	21	-1	-2
Galway/Roscommon	19	15	12	-7	-3
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	10	12	11	1	-1
Cavan/Monaghan	8	5	5	-3	0
Mayo	2	1	1	-1	0
Total	785	902	891	-	-11



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

Children in Care

- **83% (4,777) of children in care at the end of March 2024 had an allocated social worker.**
- A total of 983 children were awaiting an allocated social worker, 26 (3%) fewer than February 2024 (1,009).
- Highest number awaiting reported by Midwest (199; 40%) followed by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (190; 61%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (136; 34%), Dublin South Central (99; 30%) and the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (66; 46%), Midlands (64; 19%) and Louth/Meath (63; 15%). These seven services account for 83% (817) of all cases awaiting allocation.

- **80% (4,627) of children in care at the end of March 2024 had an up-to-date care plan.**
- A total of 1,133 children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, five fewer than February 2024 (1,138).
- Highest numbers awaiting an up-to-date care plan reported by Dublin North City (143; 30%), Midwest (142; 29%), Cork (117; 17%) and Midlands (102; 31%).

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 –March 2024

Area	Allocated	Awaiting Allocation	Total	% Allocated
Dublin South East/Wicklow	209	1	210	100%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	261	136	397	66%
Dublin South Central	227	99	326	70%
Midlands	267	64	331	81%
Dublin North City	470	0	470	100%
Dublin North	378	23	401	94%
Louth/Meath	350	63	413	85%
Cavan/Monaghan	138	21	159	87%
Kerry	145	18	163	89%
Cork	672	18	690	97%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	123	190	313	39%
Waterford/Wexford	383	42	425	90%
Donegal	217	0	217	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	104	8	112	93%
Mayo	143	0	143	100%
Galway/Roscommon	319	35	354	90%
Midwest	293	199	492	60%
SCSIP	78	66	144	54%
Total	4,777	983	5,760	83%

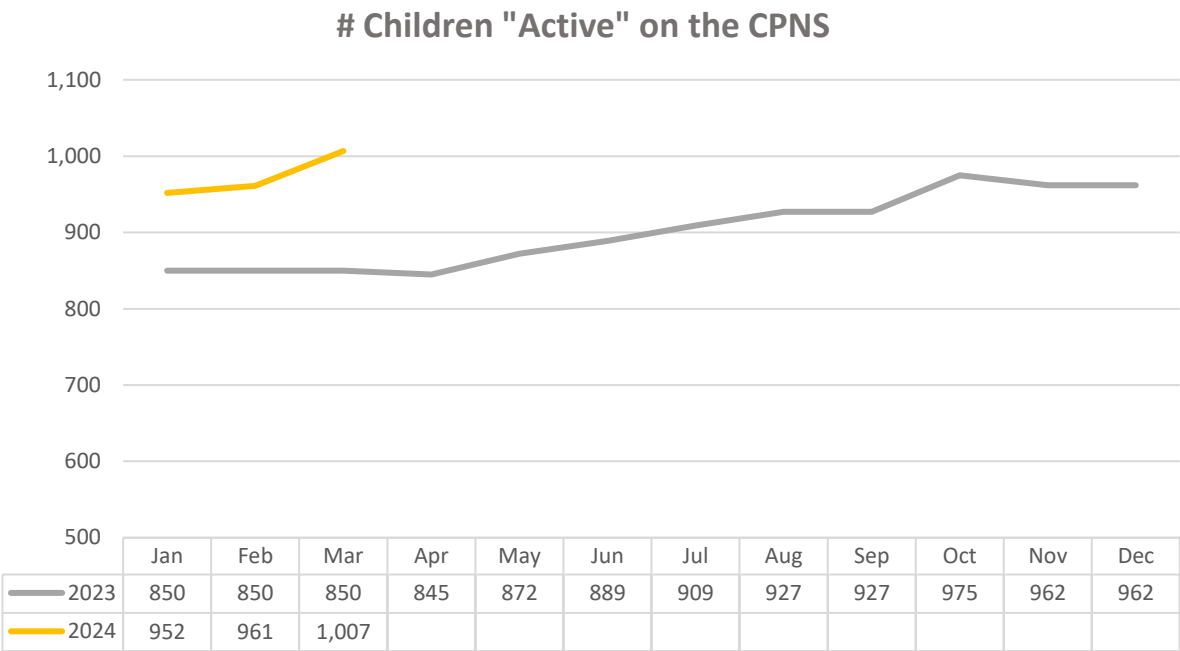
Area breakdown of children in care with an up-to-date care plan– March 2024

Area	UTD Care Plan	Awaiting UTD Care Plan	Total	% UTD Care Plan
Dublin South East/Wicklow	169	41	210	80%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	331	66	397	83%
Dublin South Central	239	87	326	73%
Midlands	229	102	331	69%
Dublin North City	327	143	470	70%
Dublin North	348	53	401	87%
Louth/Meath	316	97	413	77%
Cavan/Monaghan	141	18	159	89%
Kerry	123	40	163	75%
Cork	573	117	690	83%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	300	13	313	96%
Waterford/Wexford	395	30	425	93%
Donegal	201	16	217	93%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	100	12	112	89%
Mayo	131	12	143	92%
Galway/Roscommon	283	71	354	80%
Midwest	350	142	492	71%
SCSIP*	71	73	144	49%
Total	4,627	1,133	5,760	80%

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

Child Protection Notification System

- **1,007 children listed as “active”** at the end of March 2024, 46 (5%) more than February 2024 (961).
- There were 157 (18%) more children “active” at the end of March 2024 than at the end of March 2023 (850).
- All children listed as “active” at the end of March 2024 had an **allocated social worker**.
- Highest number of children listed as “active” at the end of March 2024 was reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (119) followed by Midwest (118) and Cork (108).
- Fewest number listed as “active” reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (13) followed by Kerry (17), Cavan/Monaghan (21) and Mayo (21).
- Highest rate per 10,000 population under 18 years reported by Dublin North City (16.7) followed by Donegal (14.9) and Midwest (12.2).
- Lowest rate per 10,000 population under 18 years reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (4.2) followed by Kerry (4.9) and Waterford/Wexford (5.2).
- Seven areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national rate of 8.3/10,000
- 10/17 areas had more children listed as “active” at the end of March 2024 than at the end of February 2024. Largest increases reported by Midwest (up 35) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (19).
- 6/17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Dublin South Central (down 9) Cork (down 9) and Dublin North City (down 8). The remaining area (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) reported no change.
- 11/17 areas had more children active at the end of March 2024 than at the end of March 2023. Largest increases reported by Midwest (up 52), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 36), Louth/Meath (up 36), Donegal (up 26) and Galway/Roscommon (up 26).
- 6/17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Dublin South Central (down 29), Waterford/Wexford (down 13) and Dublin North City (down 11).



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

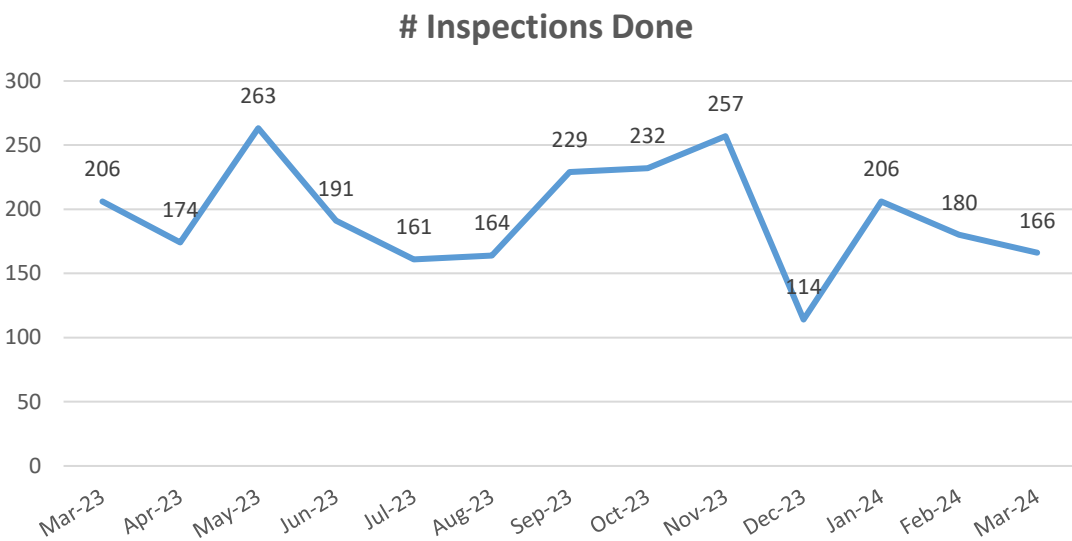
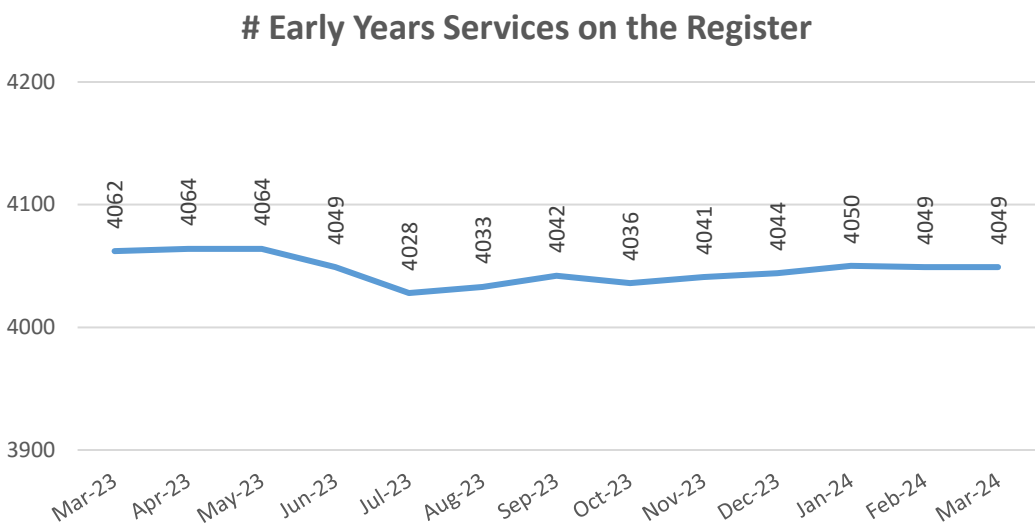
Area	Mar-23	Feb-24	Mar-24	Mar-24 v Mar-23	Mar-24 v Feb-24	Population	Rate / 10,000
Dublin North City	94	91	83	-11	-8.0	49,682	16.7
Donegal	37	59	63	26	4.0	42,144	14.9
Mid West	66	83	118	52	35.0	96,764	12.2
DSW/K/WW	83	100	119	36	19.0	108,927	10.9
CW/K/ST	56	55	63	7	8.0	62,366	10.1
Midlands	61	68	70	9	2.0	80,962	8.6
Dublin North	86	86	87	1	1.0	103,508	8.4
Cork	89	117	108	19	-9.0	136,786	7.9
Louth / Meath	28	60	64	36	4.0	96,531	6.6
Mayo	15	20	21	6	1.0	31,911	6.6
Dublin South Central	69	49	40	-29	-9.0	70,259	5.7
Cavan / Monaghan	27	17	21	-6	4.0	37,336	5.6
Galway / Roscommon	20	43	46	26	3.0	81,799	5.6
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	7	13	13	6	0.0	24,312	5.3
Waterford / Wexford	49	38	36	-13	-2.0	69,239	5.2
Kerry	20	19	17	-3	-2.0	34,994	4.9
Dublin South East / Wicklow	43	43	38	-5	-5.0	91,047	4.2
Total	850	961	1,007	157	46.0	1,218,567	8.3

Population – source CSO Census 2022

Children’s Services Regulation

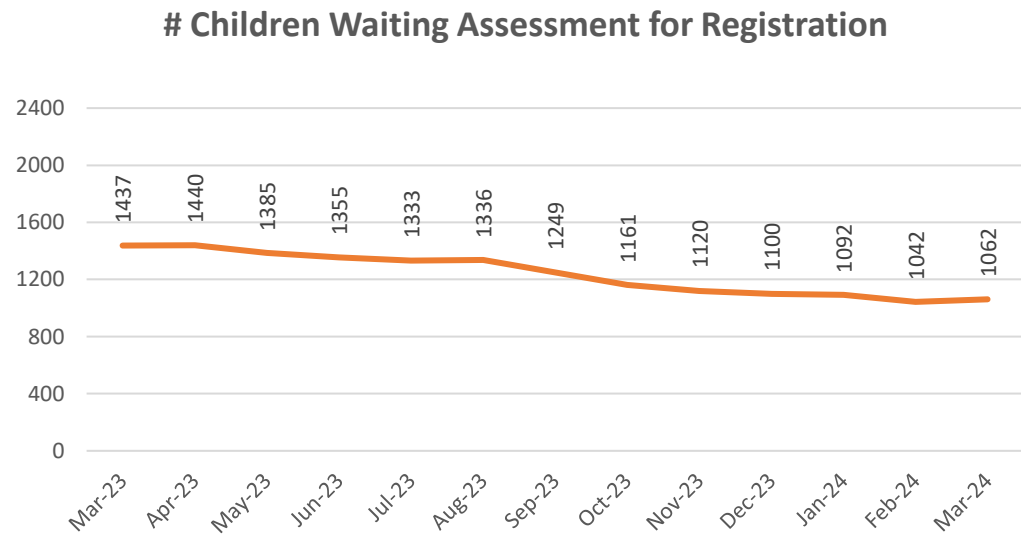
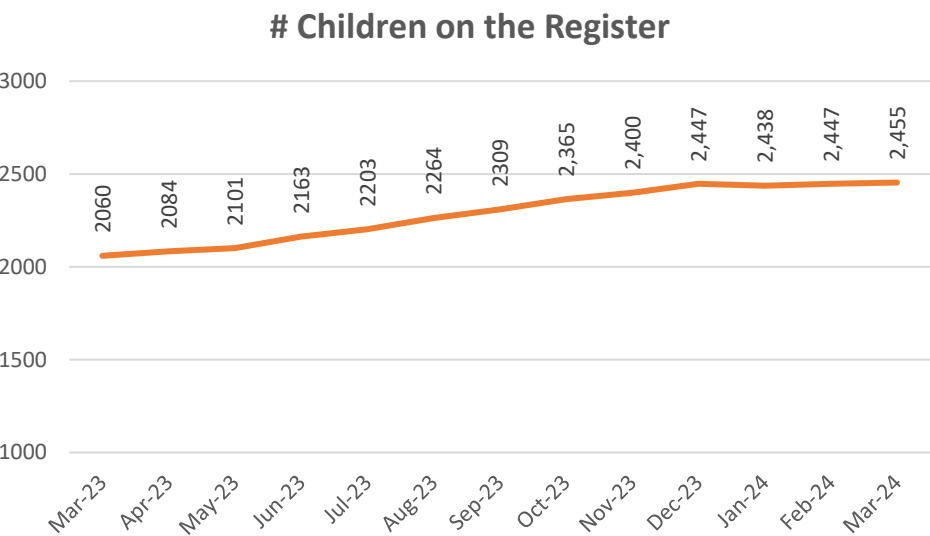
EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- **4,049 early years services on the register at the end of March 2024**, no change from February 2024 and 13 (<1%) fewer than March 2023 (4,062).
- **166 inspections** of early years services done in March 2024. This brings to 552 the number of inspections for the first three months of 2024, 54 (9%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (606).



ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

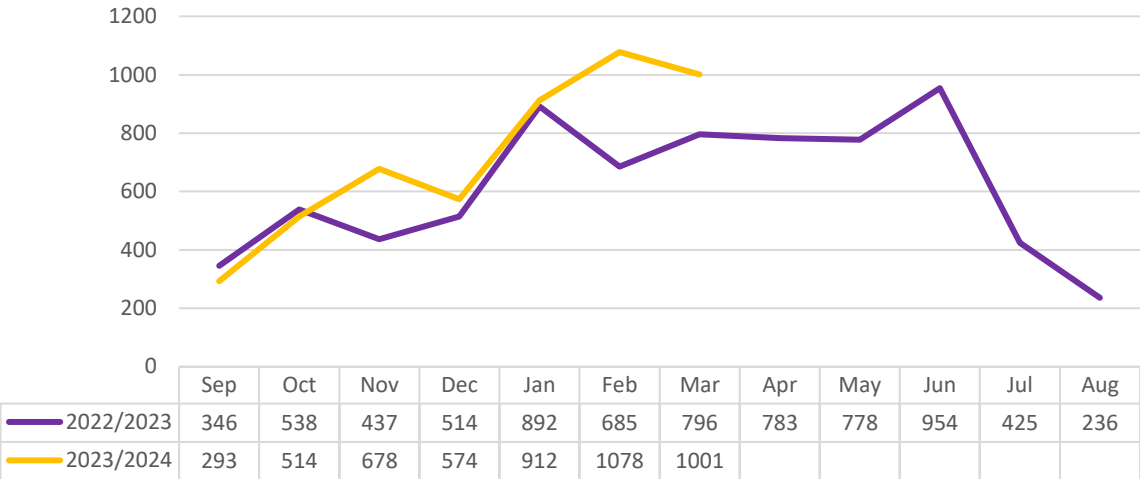
- **2,455 children on the register for home education at the end of March 2024**, 8 (<1%) more than February 2024 (2,447) and 395 (19%) more than March 2023 (2,060).
- **1,062 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of March 2024**, 20 (2%) more than February 2024 (1,042) and 375 (26%) fewer than March 2023 (1,437). First increase after six consecutive monthly decreases.



Tusla Education Support Services

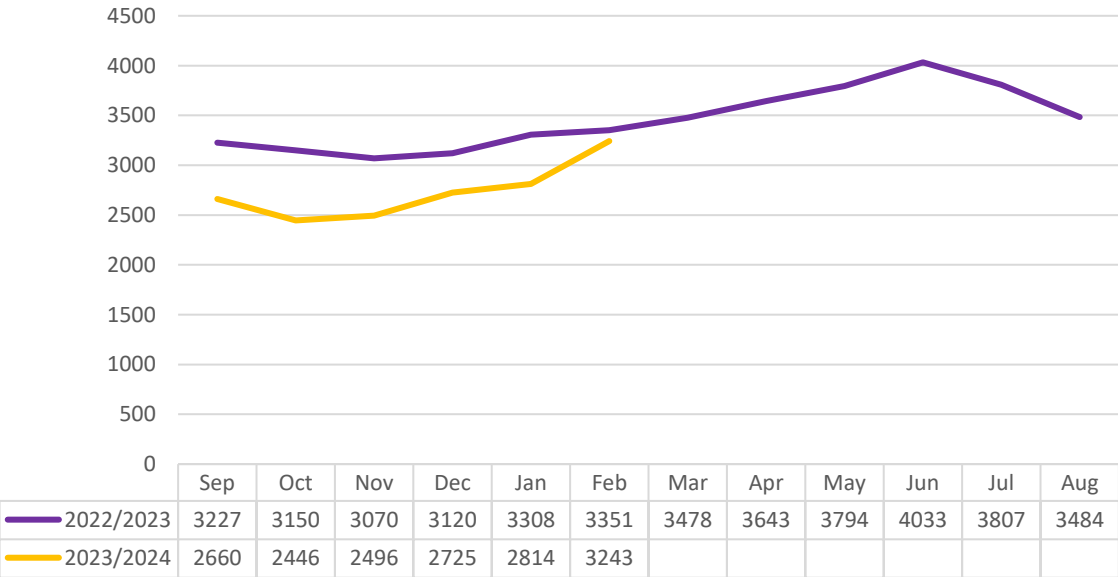
- **1,001 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in March 2024. This brings to 5,050 the number of referrals for the first seven months of the academic year 2023-2024, 842 (20%) more than the same period in 2022-2023 (4,208).

Referrals for Educational Welfare Service



- **3,429 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of March 2024, 186 (6%) more than February 2024 (3,243) and the fifth consecutive monthly increase.

Referrals on a Waiting List at Month End



- **429 new individual children worked with** in March 2024. This brings to 2,586 the number of new individual children worked with for the first seven months of the academic year 2023-2024, 278 (12%) more than the same period in 2022-2023 (2,308).

Number of New Individual Children Worked with in the Month

