



An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency

# MONTHLY SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

MARCH 2025

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Version 1.0

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

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# Headline Data – March 2025

## Child Protection & Welfare

- **9,023 referrals** in March 2025, 1,023 (13%) more than February 2025 (8,000) and 1,138 (14%) more than March 2024 (7,885). Brings to 25,556 the number of referrals for the first three months of 2025, 1,957 (8%) more than the same period in 2024 (23,599).
- **23,256 cases open to social work** at the end of March 2025, 301 (1%) more than February 2025 (22,955) and 963 (4%) more than March 2024 (22,293). *Open cases include child protection and welfare cases including children in care.*
- **81% (18,799) of cases** open to social work at the end of March 2025 had an **allocated worker**. Of these, 79% (14,904) were allocated to a social worker and 21% (3,895) were allocated to a another professional. . (Ref to note on Page 4).
- **4,457 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of March 2025, 322 (7%) fewer than February 2025 (4,779) and 136 (3%) fewer than March 2024 (4,593). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases.*
- Five areas account for 71% (3,161) of cases awaiting allocation: Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (881), Dublin South Central (601), Louth/Meath (562), Cork (562) and Midlands (555).
- **5% (243) of cases awaiting allocation** at the end of March 2025 were categorised as **high priority**, 34 (12%) fewer than February 2025 (277) and the fewest number for all months march 2024 – March 2025.

## Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

- **43 referrals assigned** to CASP Teams in March 2025. Brings to 143 the number of referrals assigned for the first three months of 2025, 8 (5%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (151).
- **91% (541 / 592) of assessments open** at the end of March 2025 were allocated to a social worker, down two percentage points from February 2025 (93%) and up 24 percentage points from March 2024 (67%). The remaining 9% (51) were awaiting allocation with three more assessments awaiting allocation at the end of March 2025 than at the end of February 2025 (48).
- 193 (79%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of March 2025 than at the end of March 2024 (244).

## Children in Care

- **5,783 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of March 2025**, 18 (<1) fewer than February 2025 (5,801). Figure includes 104 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP)
- 87% (5,041) of all children in care (17 Areas and SCSIP) are in foster care (3,543 general foster care, and 1,498 relative foster), 9.5% (552) are in residential care (538 general residential care and 14 special care) and 3.3% (190) are in “other” care placements.
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas **88.4% (5,021/5,679) of children in care are in foster care**.

## Children in Care (contd.)

- **1,038 (18%) children in care at the end of March 2025 were in placements with private providers**, 14 (1%) more than February 2025 (1,024) and 147 (16%) more than March 2024 (891).
- **98% (5,691) of children in care at the end of March 2025 had an allocated worker**. Of those allocated, 88% (5,021) were allocated to a social worker and 12% (670) were allocated to another professional.

## Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

- **1,096 children listed as ‘active’** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of March 2025, 35 (3%) more than February 2025 (1,061) and the highest number for the period January 2024 – March 2025.
- There were 89 (9%) more children ‘active’ at the end of March 2025 than at the end March 2024 (1,007).
- It should be noted that a small number of large sibling groups can have a significant effect on numbers reported.
- 99% (1,086) of children ‘active’ at the end of March 2025 had an allocated social worker; 10 children were awaiting allocation. Two of the children were allocated to another professional and the remaining eight were subsequently allocated.

## Children’s Services Regulation

- **3,975 early years services on the register at the end of March 2025**, one fewer than February 2025 (3,976).
- **212 inspections** of early years services in March 2025. This brings to 612 the number of inspections for the first three months of 2025, 60 (11%) more than the same period in 2024 (552)
- **2,499 children on the register** for home education at the end of March 2025, 79 (3%) more than February 2025 (2,420). Sixth consecutive increase.
- **470 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of March 2025**, 73 (13%) fewer than February 2025 (543) and 592 (56%) fewer than March 2024 (1,062).

## Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,263 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in March 2025. This brings to 6,265 the number of referrals for the first seven months of the academic year 2024 – 2025, some 1,215 (24%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (5,050).
- **4,627 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of March 2025, 938 (25%) more than February 2025 (3,689).
- 1,198 (35%) more referrals on a waiting list at the end of March 2025 than at the end of March 2024 (3,429).

# Child Protection and Welfare

## Referrals<sup>1</sup>

- **9,023 referrals** in March 2025, 1,023 (13%) more than February 2025 (8,000) and 1,138 (14%) more than March 2024 (7,885).
- This brings to 25,556 the number of referrals for the first three months of 2025, 1,957 (8%) more than the same period in 2024 (23,599).

*It should be noted that the data presented for 2024 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for 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

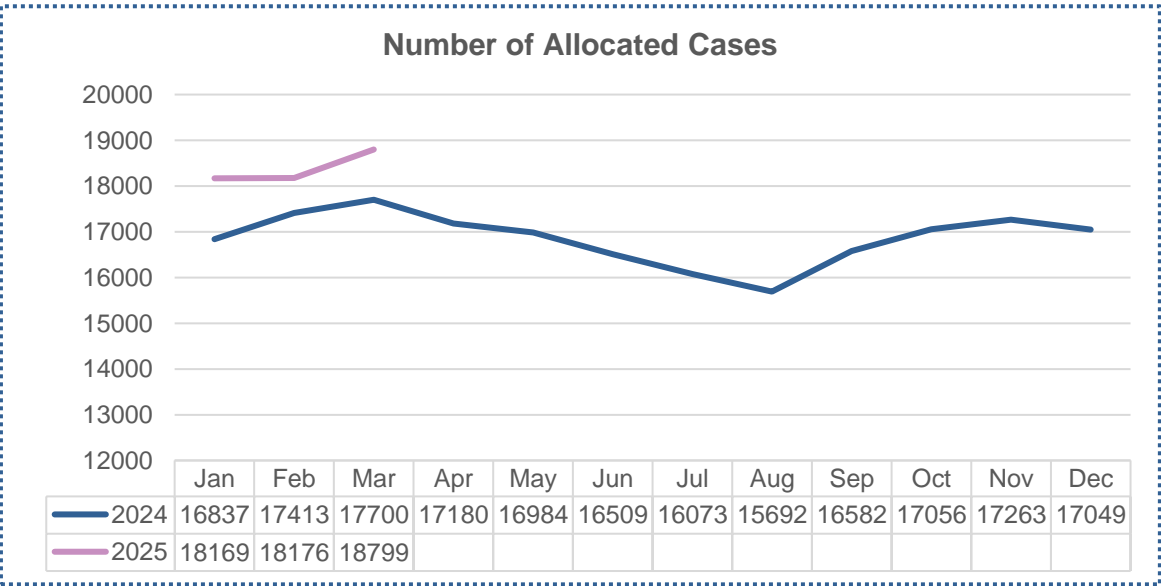
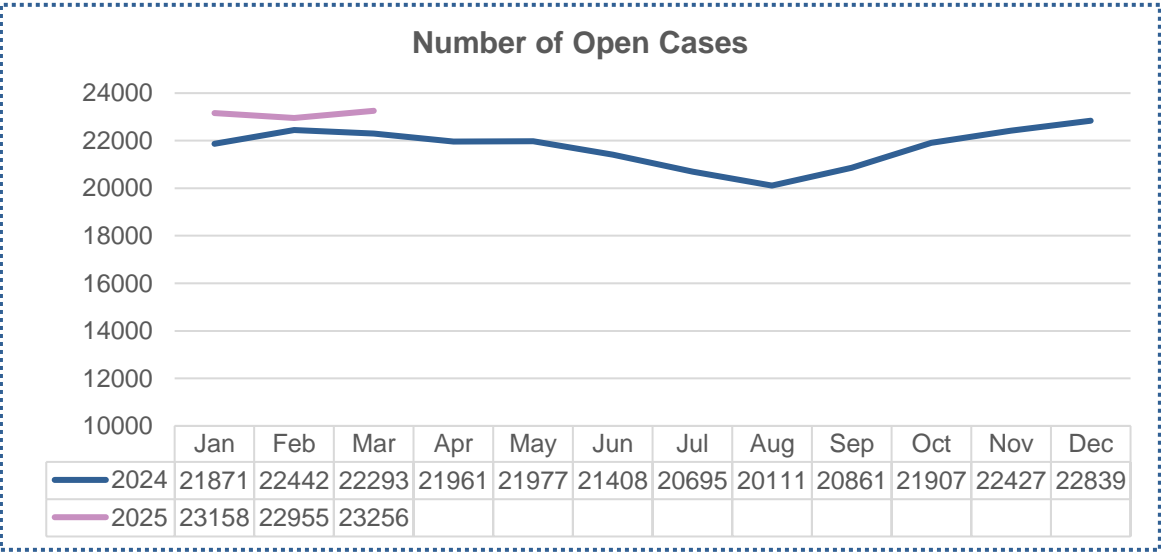
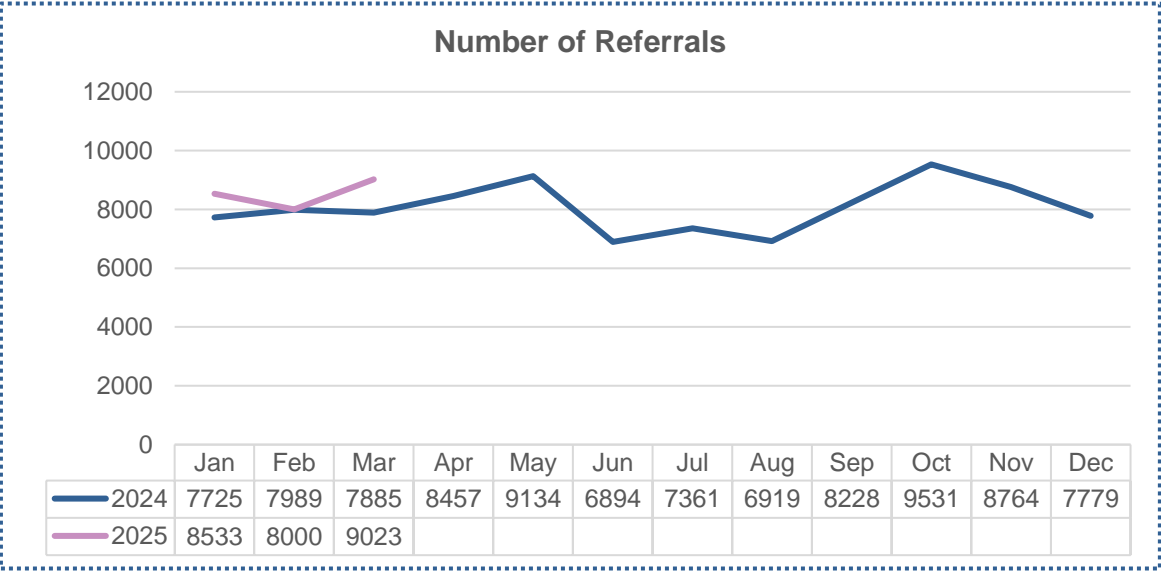
- **23,256 cases open to social work** at the end of March 2025, 301 (1%) more than February 2025 (22,955) and 963 (4%) more than March 2024 (22,293).
- 1) *Open cases include, all cases held on duty, allocated and unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care.*
  - 2) *The data presented on cases is based on the status of cases on the TCM at month end.*

## Allocated Cases

- **18,799 open cases were allocated** to a worker at the end of March 2025, 623 (3%) more than February 2025 (18,176).
- Allocated cases account for 81% 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.*

<sup>1</sup> 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 (18,799) at the end of March 2025, 79% (14,904) were allocated to a social worker and 21% (3,895) were allocated to a another professional.

Breakdown of cases allocated by area and role of worker, March 2025			
Area	Allocated Social Worker	Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	628	183	811
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	784	510	1,294
Dublin South Central	813	507	1,320
Midlands	1193	271	1,464
Dublin North City	1326	352	1,678
Dublin North	1485	271	1,756
Louth/Meath	927	386	1,313
Cavan/Monaghan	583	173	756
Kerry	328	94	422
Cork	2011	185	2,196
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	426	268	694
Waterford/Wexford	904	307	1,211
Donegal	579	54	633
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	285	20	305
Mayo	322	36	358
Galway/Roscommon	1,156	32	1,188
Midwest	1,154	246	1,400
Total	14,904	3,895	18,799

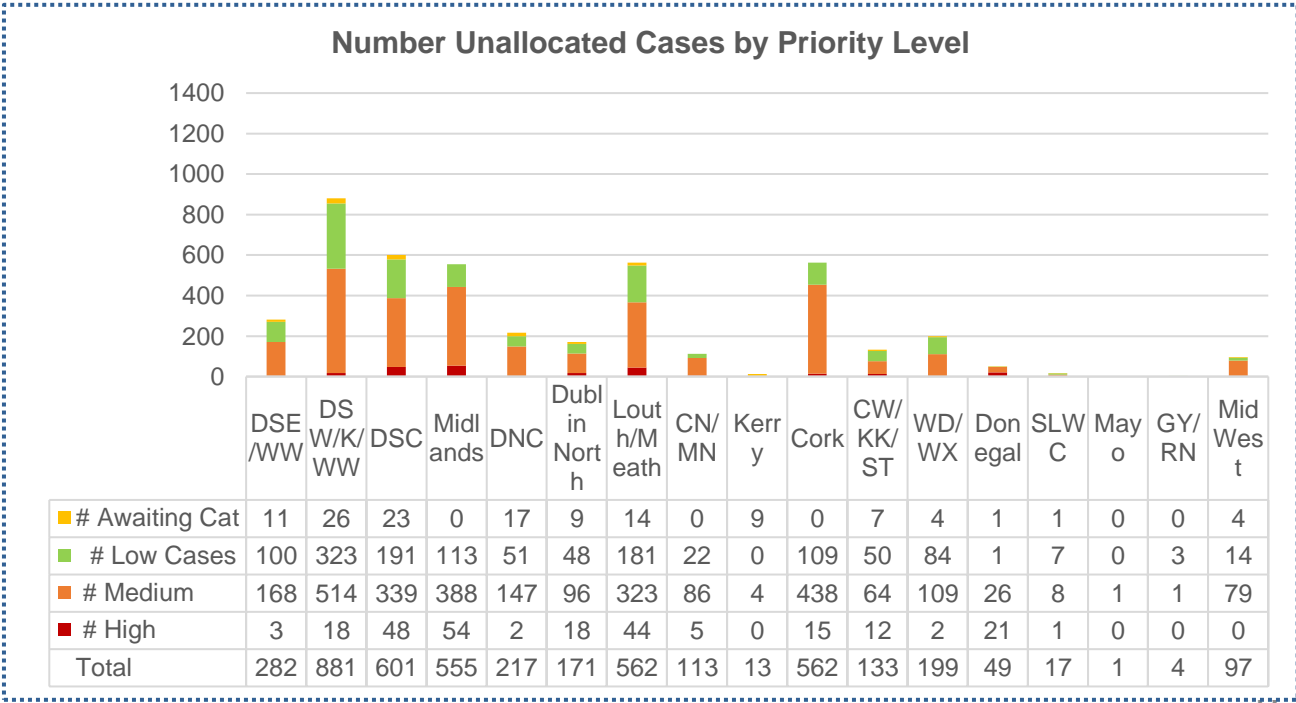
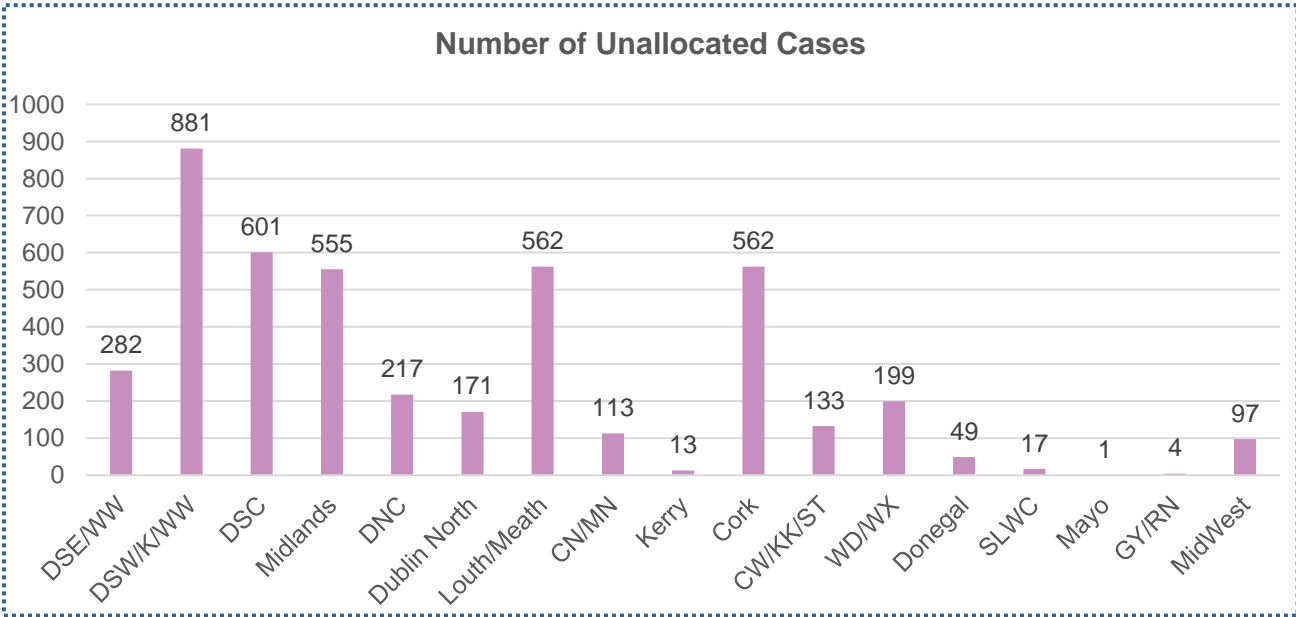
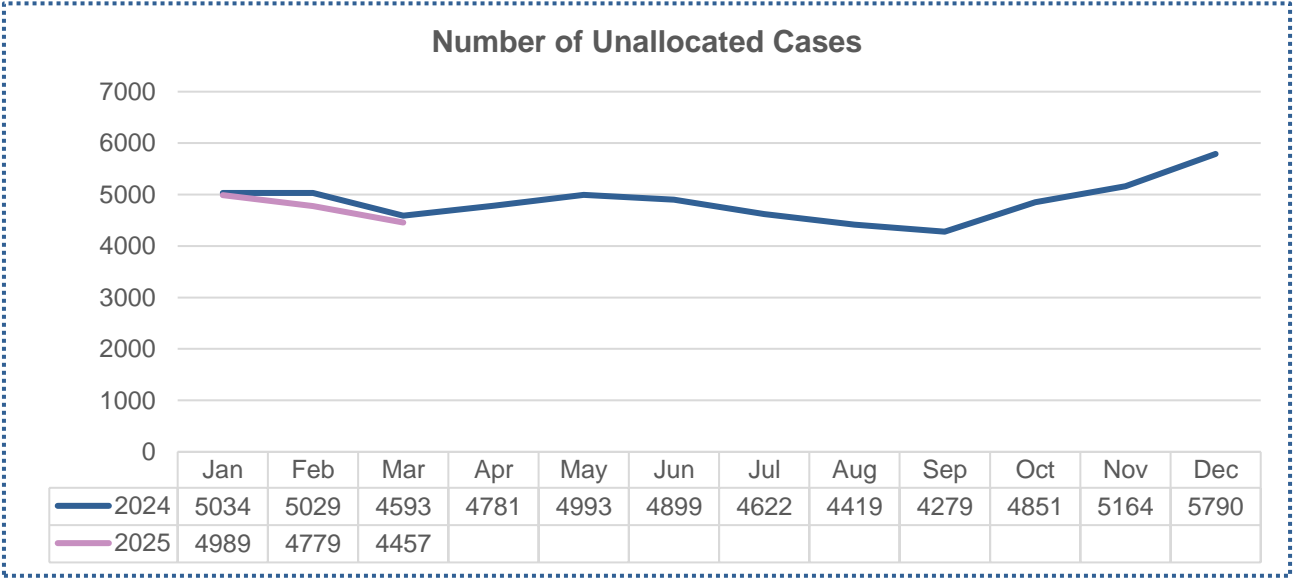
Percentage breakdown of cases allocated by area and role of worker, March 2025			
Area	% Allocated Social Worker	% Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	77%	23%	100%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	61%	39%	100%
Dublin South Central	62%	38%	100%
Midlands	81%	19%	100%
Dublin North City	79%	21%	100%
Dublin North	85%	15%	100%
Louth/Meath	71%	29%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	77%	23%	100%
Kerry	78%	22%	100%
Cork	92%	8%	100%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	61%	39%	100%
Waterford/Wexford	75%	25%	100%
Donegal	91%	9%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	93%	7%	100%
Mayo	90%	10%	100%
Galway/Roscommon	97%	3%	100%
Midwest	82%	18%	100%
Total	79%	21%	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

- **4,457 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of March 2025, 322 (7%) fewer than February 2025 (4,779) and 136 (3%) fewer than March 2024 (4,593). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases introduced in January 2025.*
- Cases awaiting allocation account for 19% of open cases (23,256), down two percentage points from February 2025 (21%).
- **59% (2,640) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of March 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 (881) followed by Dublin South Central (601), Louth/Meath (562), Cork (562) and Midlands (555). These five areas account for 71% (3,161) of all cases awaiting allocation.
- **243 cases awaiting allocation at the end of March 2025 were categorised as high priority**, 34 (12%) fewer than February 2025 (277) and the fewest number for all months March 2024 – March 2025.
- High priority cases account for 5% of cases awaiting allocation.
- 63% (2,791) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 29% (1,297) were low priority while the remaining 3% (126) were awaiting categorisation.
- Highest number of high priority cases reported by Midlands (54), Dublin South Central (48), Louth/Meath (44) and Donegal (21). These four areas account for 69% (167) of all high priority cases awaiting.





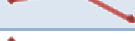
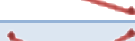












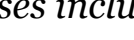



# Child Protection & Welfare

## Cases Awaiting Allocation

- 9 of the 17 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from February 2025.
- Largest decreases reported by Cork (down 217), Dublin South Central (down 109) and Midlands (down 100).
- 8 of the 17 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from February 2025. Largest increase reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 125) followed to a lesser extent by Dublin North City (up 31) and Midwest (up 26).

- Nationally 19% of open cases were awaiting allocation at the end of March 2025. Six areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 21%. Highest percentages reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (41%), Dublin South Central (31%), Louth/Meath (30%), Midlands (27%), Dublin South East/Wicklow (26%) and Cork (20%).
- 9 of the 17 areas had fewer cases awaiting allocation at the end of March 2025 than at the end of March 2024. Largest decreases reported by Dublin South Central (down 439), Midwest (down 221), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 112) and Galway/Roscommon (down 111). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases introduced in January 2025.*
- 8 of the 17 areas had more cases awaiting allocation at the end of March 2025 than at the end of March 2024. Largest increases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 517), and Midlands (up 288).

Area	Mar-24 # Unallocated	Mar-24 % Unallocated	Jan-25 # Unallocated	Feb-25 # Unallocated	Mar-25 # Unallocated	Mar-25 % Unallocated	Jan-Mar	Mar-25 v Mar-24	% Δ	Mar-25 v Feb-25	% Δ1
DSE/WW	251	22%	259	285	282	26%		31	12%	-3	-1%
DSW/K/WW	364	23%	828	756	881	41%		517	142%	125	17%
DSC	1,040	43%	670	710	601	31%		-439	-42%	-109	-15%
Midlands	267	14%	737	655	555	27%		288	108%	-100	-15%
DNC	198	11%	213	186	217	11%		19	10%	31	17%
Dublin North	130	6%	243	179	171	9%		41	32%	-8	-4%
Louth/Meath	624	37%	661	597	562	30%		-62	-10%	-35	-6%
CN/MN	96	14%	132	112	113	13%		17	18%	1	1%
Kerry	34	9%	12	5	13	3%		-21	-62%	8	160%
Cork	494	19%	761	779	562	20%		68	14%	-217	-28%
CW/KK/ST	245	33%	96	128	133	16%		-112	-46%	5	4%
WD/WX	244	19%	212	244	199	14%		-45	-18%	-45	-18%
Donegal	152	18%	36	48	49	7%		-103	-68%	1	2%
SLWC	14	4%	12	16	17	5%		3	21%	1	6%
Mayo	7	2%	1	3	1	0%		-6	-86%	-2	-67%
GY/RN	115	10%	16	5	4	0%		-111	-97%	-1	-20%
MidWest	318	23%	100	71	97	6%		-221	-69%	26	37%
TOTAL	4593	21%	4989	4779	4457	19%		-136	-3%	-322	-7%

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	Feb-25	Mar-25	Δ	Feb-25	Mar-25	Δ2	Feb-25	Mar-25	Δ3	Feb-25	Mar-25	Δ4
DSE/WW	349	353	4	1,037	1,093	56	752	811	59	285	282	-3
DSW/K/WW	763	872	109	1,984	2,175	191	1,228	1,294	66	756	881	125
DSC	693	670	-23	1,966	1,921	-45	1,256	1,320	64	710	601	-109
Midlands	845	914	69	2,133	2,019	-114	1,478	1,464	-14	655	555	-100
DNC	451	522	71	1,911	1,895	-16	1,725	1,678	-47	186	217	31
Dublin North	736	825	89	2,045	1,927	-118	1,866	1,756	-110	179	171	-8
Louth/Meath	615	767	152	1,830	1,875	45	1,233	1,313	80	597	562	-35
CN/MN	247	283	36	837	869	32	725	756	31	112	113	1
Kerry	148	232	84	391	435	44	386	422	36	5	13	8
Cork	687	733	46	2,691	2,758	67	1,912	2,196	284	779	562	-217
CW/KK/ST	366	521	155	796	827	31	668	694	26	128	133	5
WD/WX	608	669	61	1,406	1,410	4	1,162	1,211	49	244	199	-45
Donegal	203	232	29	714	682	-32	666	633	-33	48	49	1
SLWC	116	112	-4	326	322	-4	310	305	-5	16	17	1
Mayo	142	163	21	304	359	55	301	358	57	3	1	-2
GY/RN	389	427	38	1,121	1,192	71	1,116	1,188	72	5	4	-1
MidWest	642	728	86	1,463	1,497	34	1,392	1,400	8	71	97	26
Total	8,000	9,023	1023	22,955	23,256	301	18,176	18,799	623	4,779	4,457	-322

High Priority				Medium Priority			Low Priority			Awaiting Categorisation		
Area	Feb-25	Mar-25	Δ	Feb-25	Mar-25	Δ 2	Feb-25	Mar-25	Δ 3	Feb-25	Mar-25	Δ 4
DSE/WW	15	3	-12	165	168	3	94	100	6	11	11	0
DSW/K/WW	22	18	-4	461	514	53	255	323	68	18	26	8
DSC	52	48	-4	409	339	-70	224	191	-33	25	23	-2
Midlands	62	54	-8	386	388	2	202	113	-89	5	0	-5
DNC	11	2	-9	128	147	19	38	51	13	9	17	8
Dublin North	21	18	-3	84	96	12	68	48	-20	6	9	3
Louth/Meath	54	44	-10	365	323	-42	173	181	8	5	14	9
CN/MN	0	5	5	85	86	1	22	22	0	5	0	-5
Kerry	0	0	0	2	4	2	3	0	-3	0	9	9
Cork	19	15	-4	634	438	-196	123	109	-14	3	0	-3
CW/KK/ST	4	12	8	99	64	-35	24	50	26	1	7	6
WD/WX	2	2	0	146	109	-37	94	84	-10	2	4	2
Donegal	14	21	7	29	26	-3	4	1	-3	1	1	0
SLWC	0	1	1	12	8	-4	4	7	3	0	1	1
Mayo	0	0	0	3	1	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0
GY/RN	0	0	0	0	1	1	5	3	-2	0	0	0
MidWest	1	0	-1	57	79	22	6	14	8	7	4	-3
TOTAL	277	243	-34	3,065	2,791	-274	1,339	1,297	-42	98	126	28

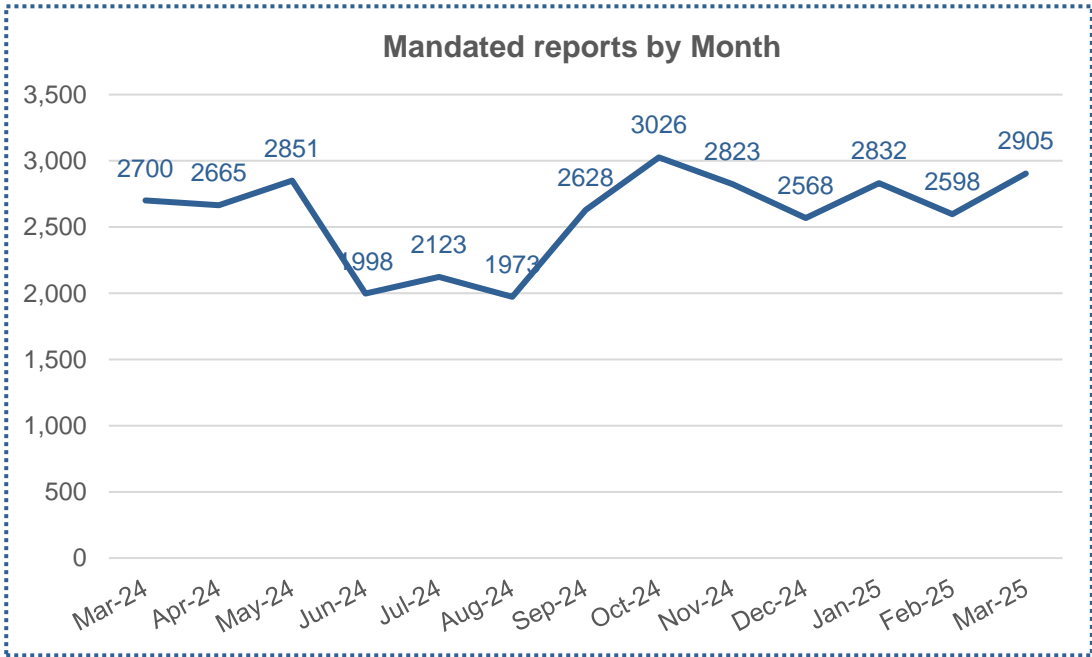


# Mandated Reports<sup>1</sup> – Child Protection & Welfare

- **2,905 mandated reports of abuse** received in March 2025. This brings to 8,335 the number of reports for the first three months of 2025, 350 (4%) more than the same period in 2024 (7,985).

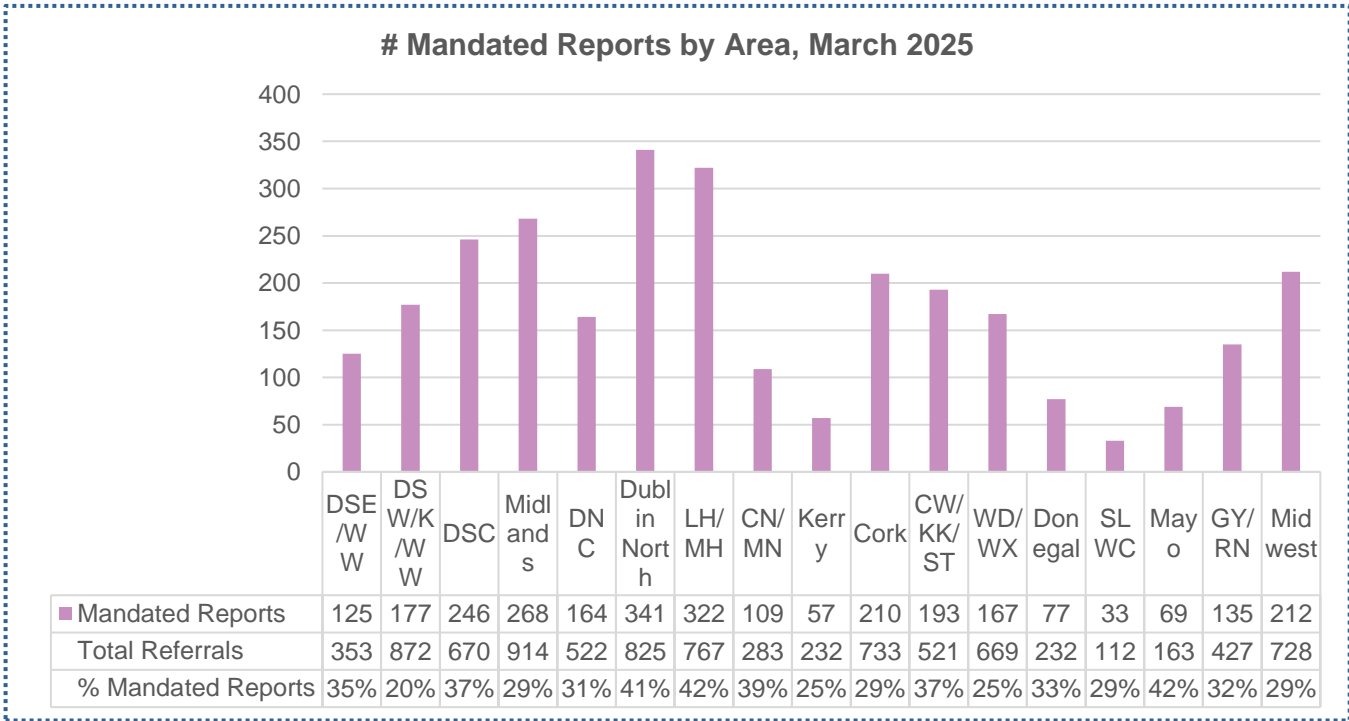
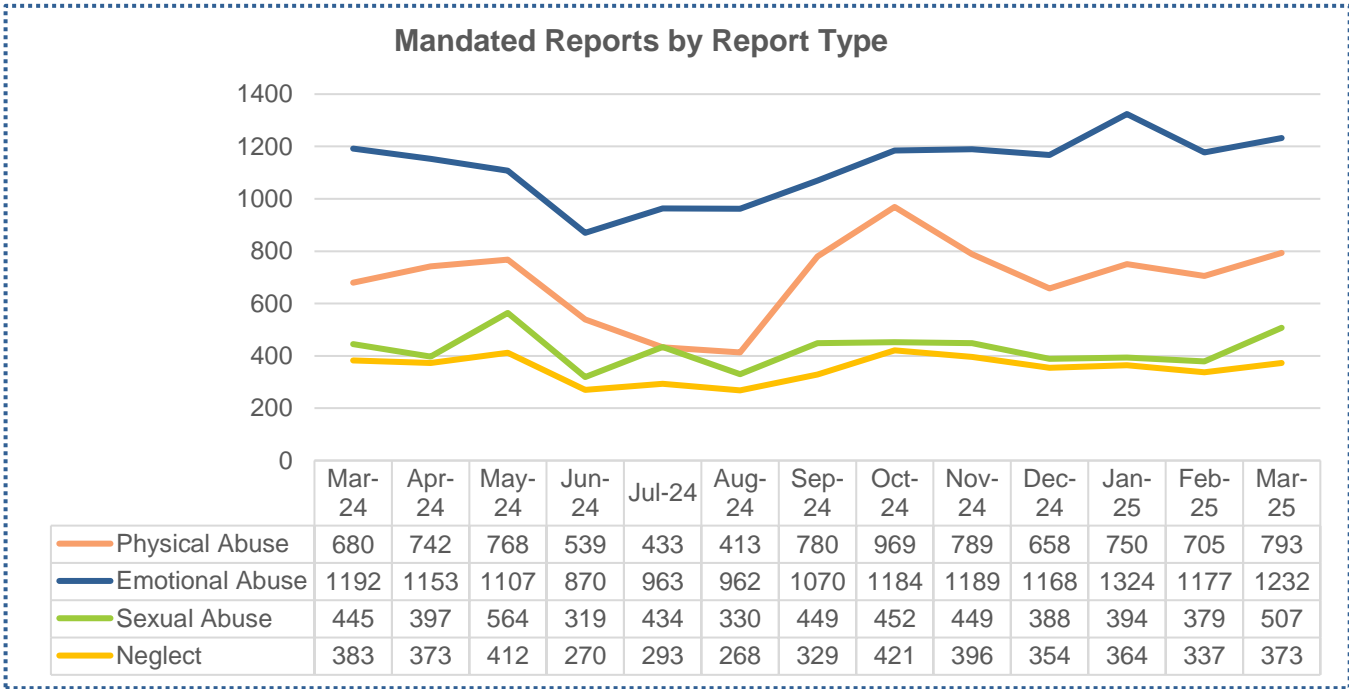
*It should be noted that the data presented for 2024 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for 2025 is based on referrals logged on the Tusla Case Management (TCM) system at the time the data was extracted for reporting. Referrals logged after the date the data was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

- Mandated reports accounted for 32% (2,905) of all referrals received (9,023) in March 2025.



- The number of mandated reports for March 2025, by area ranged from 33 (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 341 (Dublin North).
- As a percentage of referrals, the highest percentage (42%) was reported by Louth/Meath and Mayo.
- The lowest percentage (20%) was reported Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow .

- Highest number of reports for March 2025 were for emotional abuse (1,232; 42%) followed by physical abuse (793; 27%), sexual abuse (507; 17%) and neglect (373; 13%).



<sup>1</sup> 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 2025 from An Garda Síochána (1,124; 38.7%) followed by teachers (588; 20.2%), safeguarding officer (299; 10.3%); social workers (231; 8.0%) and social care workers (139; 4.8%). These five sources account for 82% (2,381) of reports for March 2025.
- Highest number of reports for 2025 YTD from An Garda Síochána (3,288; 39.4%) followed by teachers (1,400; 16.8%), safeguarding officer (946; 11.3%); social workers (782; 9.4%) and social care workers (405; 4.9%). These five sources account for 82% (6,821) of reports for received for the first three months of 2025.

Source (Schedule 2 Children First 2015)	# Mar-25	% Total	# 2025 YTD	% Total
An Garda Síochána Member	1124	38.7%	3288	39.4%
Teacher	588	20.2%	1400	16.8%
Safeguarding officer,	299	10.3%	946	11.3%
Social worker	231	8.0%	782	9.4%
Social care worker	139	4.8%	405	4.9%
Domestic violence shelter manager	88	3.0%	244	2.9%
Medical practitioner	71	2.4%	232	2.8%
Psychologist	62	2.1%	202	2.4%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	78	2.7%	190	2.3%
Nurse or registered midwife	50	1.7%	157	1.9%
Youth worker holds a professional qualification..	43	1.5%	135	1.6%
Homeless provision or emergency accommodation facilitymanager	22	0.8%	60	0.7%
Youth work service - person responsible for the care or management	16	0.6%	44	0.5%
Asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre manager	14	0.5%	42	0.5%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	20	0.7%	37	0.4%
Speech & language therapist	*	0.1%	27	0.3%
Physiotherapist	11	0.4%	24	0.3%
Occupational therapist	8	0.3%	24	0.3%
Probation officer	10	0.3%	24	0.3%
Guardian ad litem	5	0.2%	20	0.2%
EMT, paramedic and advanced paramedic	8	0.3%	15	0.2%
Addiction counsellor	0	0.0%	12	0.1%
Foster carer registered with the Agency.	5	0.2%	10	0.1%
Pre-school service	6	0.2%	9	0.1%
Institution where a child is detained by an order of a court (Director)	*	0.0%	*	0.0%
Clergy member	*	0.0%	*	0.0%
Language school or other recreational school where children reside	*	0.0%	*	0.0%
Registered dentist	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total	2,905	100.0%	8,335	100.0%

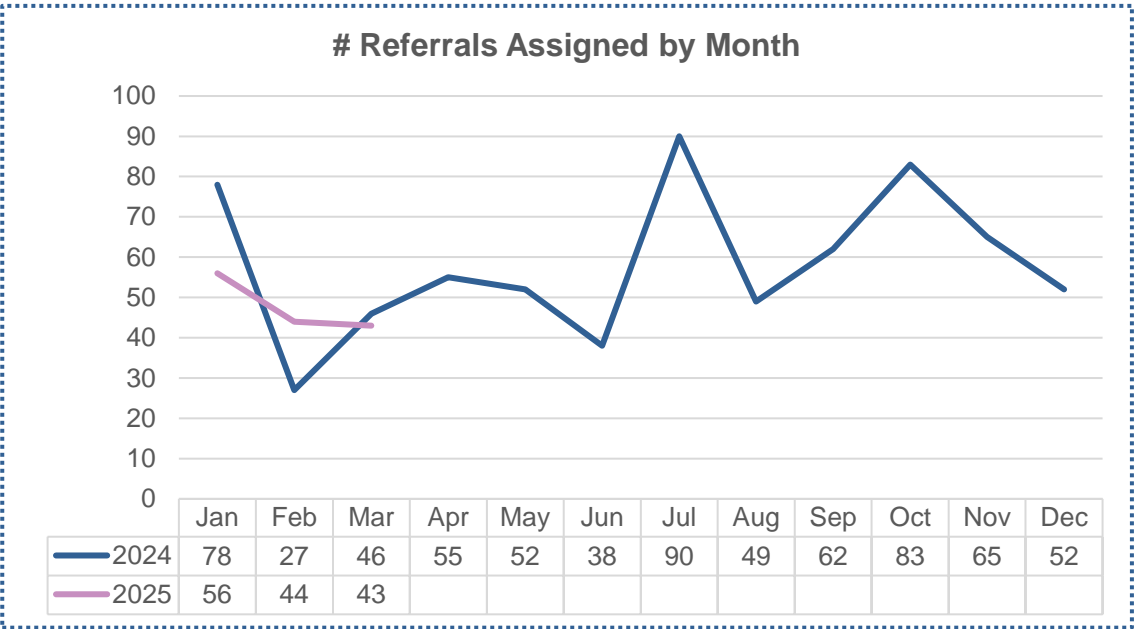
\*Values suppressed for confidentiality purposes.

# 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

- **43 referrals assigned** to CASP Teams in March 2025.
- This brings to 143 the number of referrals assigned for the first three months of 2025, 8 (5%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (151).

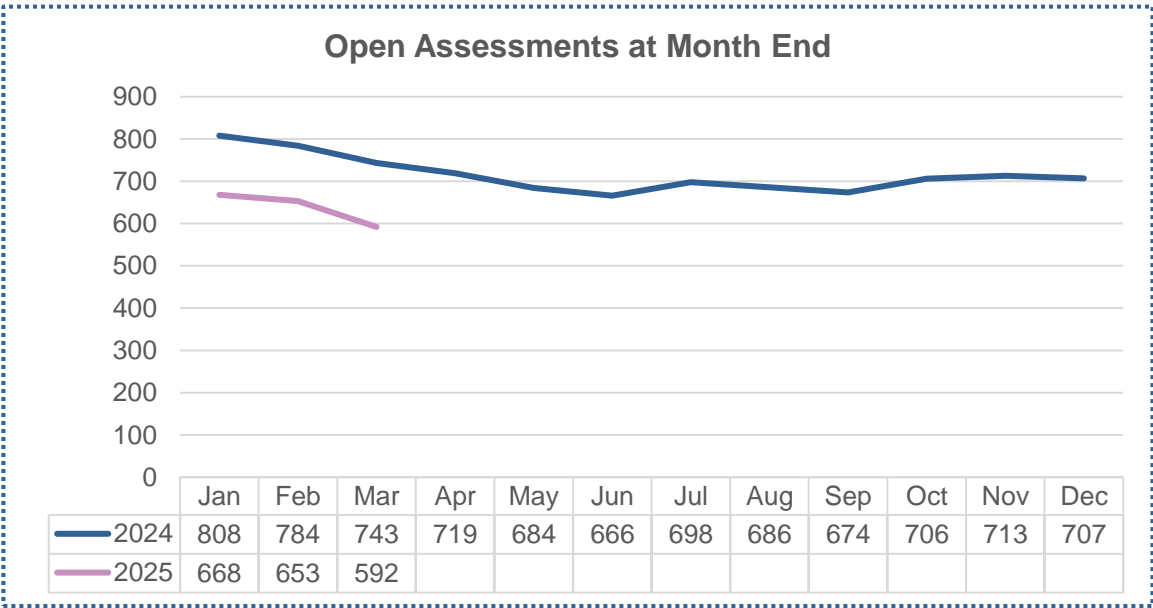
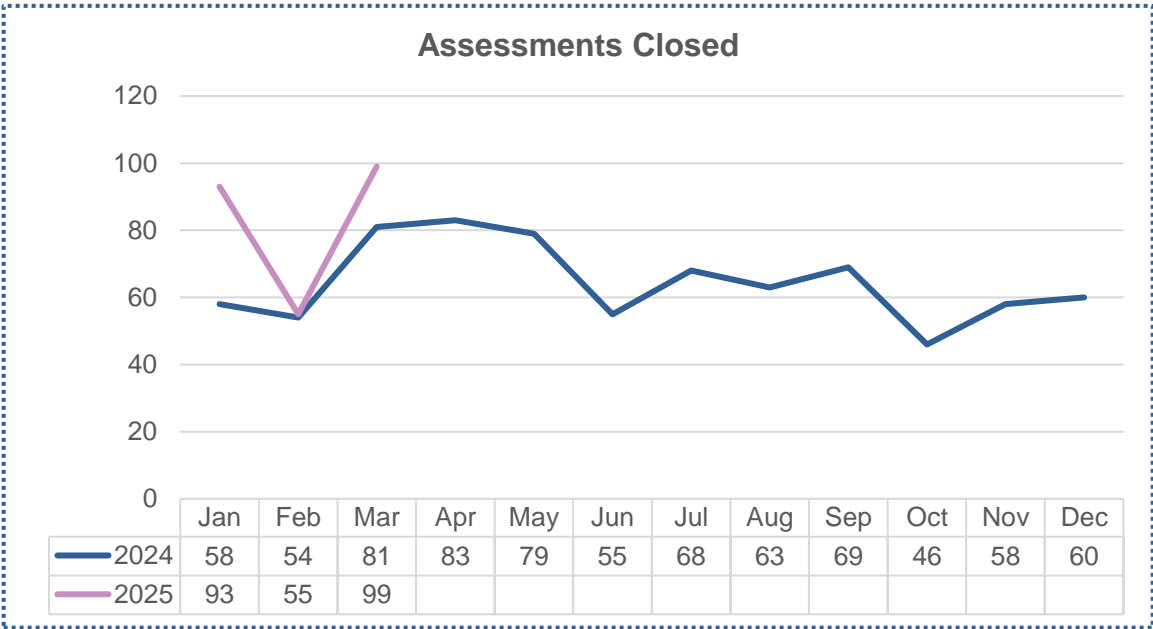


## Open Assessments

- **592 assessments open** at the end of March 2025, 61 (9%) fewer than February 2025 (653) and the fewest number for the period January 2024 – March 2025.
- There were 151 (20%) fewer assessments open at the end of March 2025 than at the March 2024 (743).

## Assessments Closed

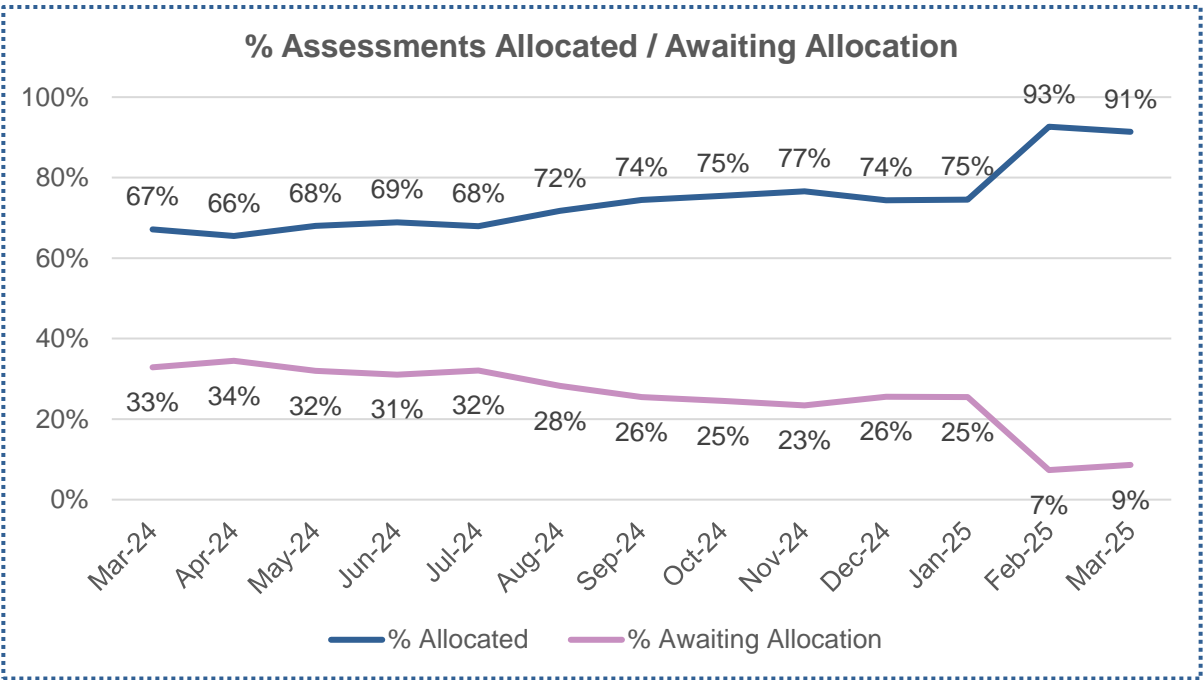
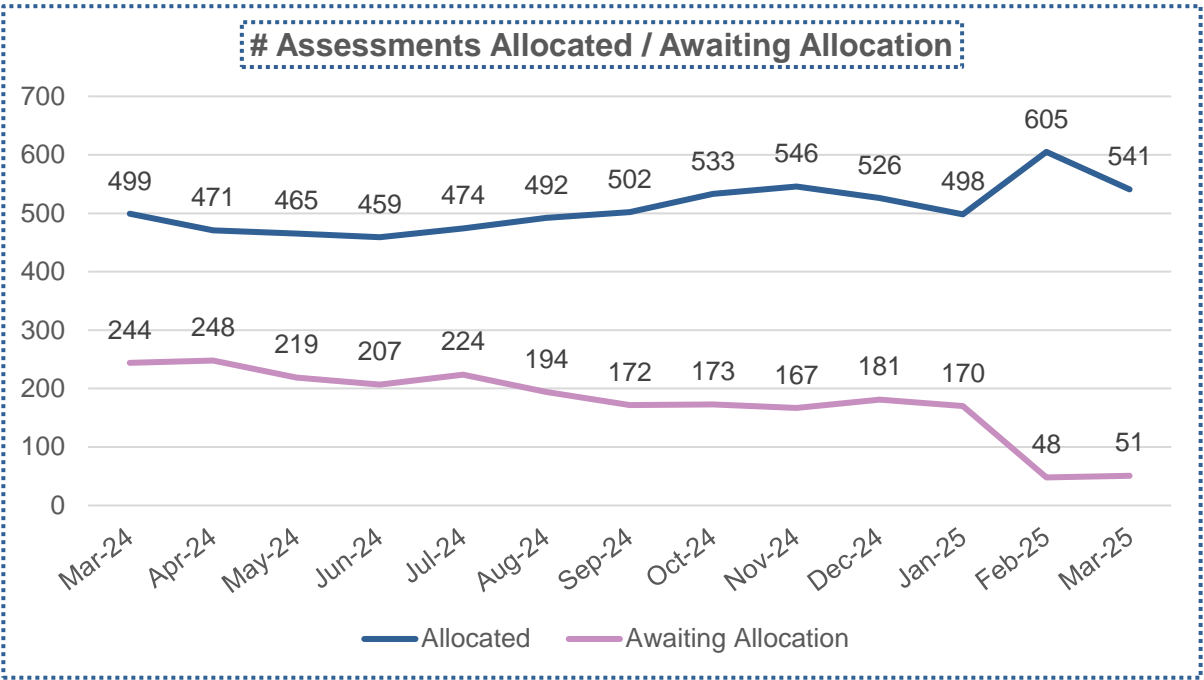
- **99 assessments closed** in March 2025.
- This brings to 247 the number of assessments closed for the first three months of 2025, 54 (28%) more than the same period in 2024 (193).



# Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

## Allocation Status of Open Assessments

- **91% (541 / 592) of assessments open** at the end of March 2025 were allocated to a social worker, down two percentage points from February 2025 (93%) and up 24 percentage points from March 2024 (67%).
- The remaining 9% (51) were awaiting allocation with three more assessments awaiting allocation at the end of March 2025 than at the end of February 2025 (48).
- 193 (79%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of March 2025 than at the end of March 2024 (244).



# Children in Care

- **5,783 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of March 2025**, 18 (<1) fewer than February 2025 (5,801). Figure includes 104 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP)<sup>1</sup>.

- **Breakdown of children in care by Tusla’s 17 areas and SCSIP as follows:**

	Mar-24	Feb-25	Mar-25	Mar-25 v Mar-2024	Mar-25 v Feb-25
17 Tusla Areas	5,616	5,702	<b>5,679</b>	+63	-23
SCSIP	144	99	<b>104</b>	-40	+5
Total	<b>5,760</b>	<b>5,801</b>	<b>5,783</b>	<b>+23</b>	<b>-18</b>

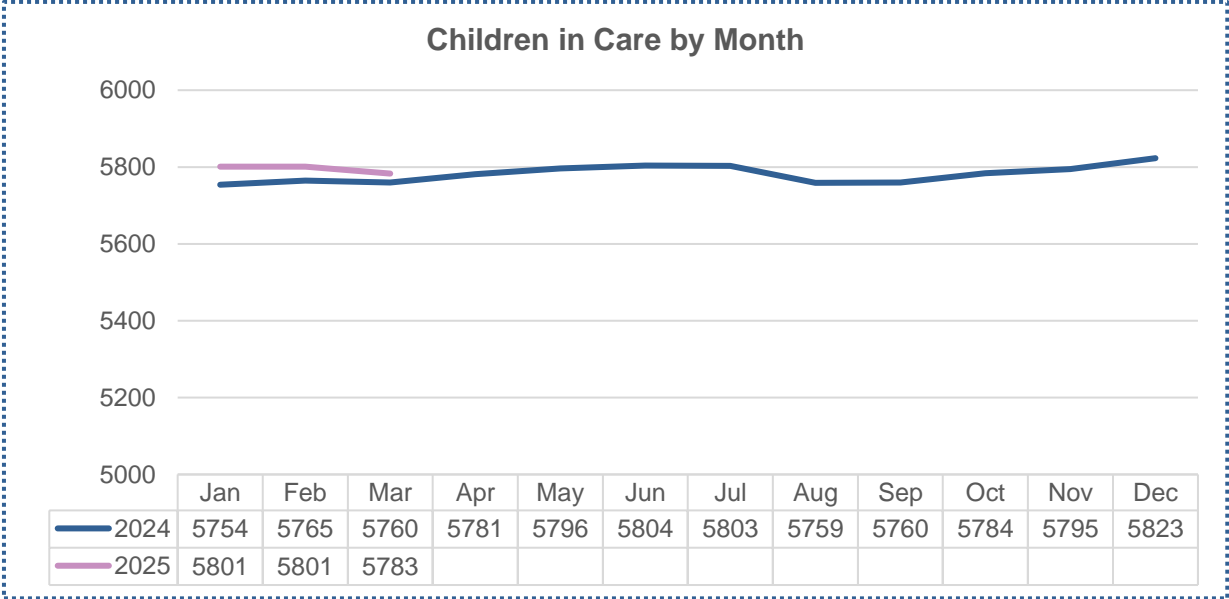
- **Breakdown of children in care by placement type as follows (Mar-25):**

Placement Type	17 areas	SCSIP	Total
Residential Care	474 (8.3%)	78 (75%)	<b>552 (9.5%)</b>
Foster Care	5,021 (88.4%)	20 (19.2%)	<b>5,041 (87.2%)</b>
Other*	184 (3.2%)	6 (5.8%)	<b>190 (3.3%)</b>
Total	5,679 (100%)	104 (100%)	5,783 (100%)

- Residential care (552) includes 14 children in special care. Of the children in foster care (5,041), 70% (3,543) were in general foster care and 30% (1,498) were in relative foster care.
- Highest number of children in care reported by Cork (656) followed by Midwest (497) and Dublin North City (466).
- Fewest number reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (104) and Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan (119).
- Across the 17 Areas the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 children was reported by Dublin North City (9.5) followed by Waterford/Wexford (6.0) and Donegal (5.8).
- Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.2) 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 **364 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)

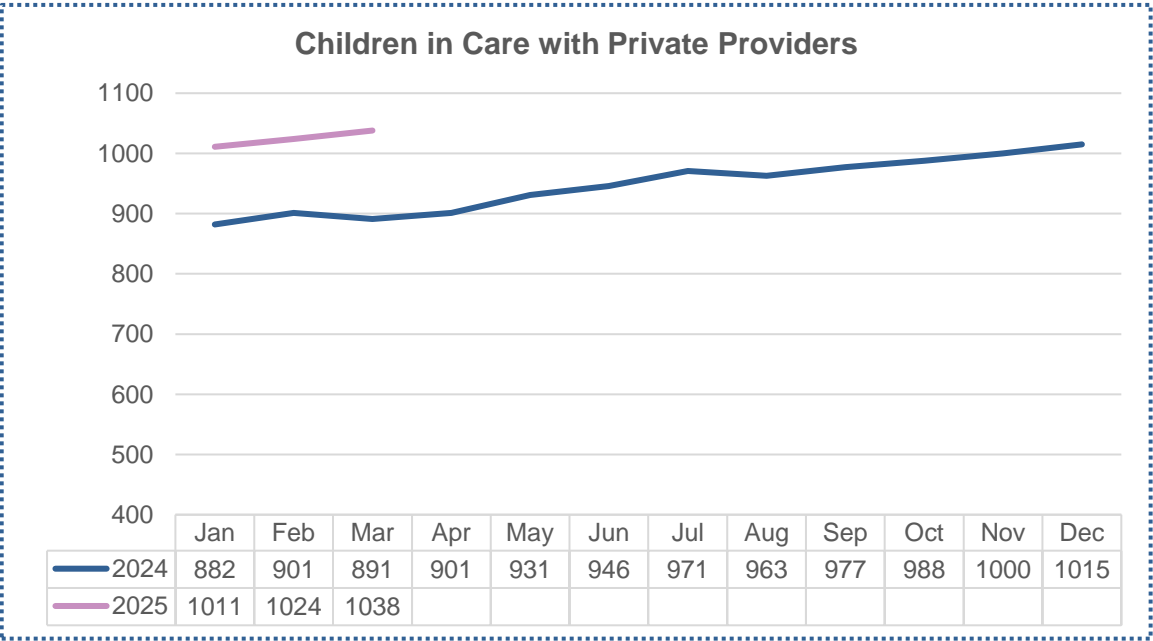
Area	Mar-24	Feb-25	Mar-25	Mar-25 v Mar-24	Mar-25 v Feb-25	Population	Rate/1,000
Dublin North City	470	465	<b>466</b>	-4	1	48,909	<b>9.5</b>
Waterford/Wexford	425	421	<b>412</b>	-13	-9	69,239	<b>6.0</b>
Donegal	217	239	<b>246</b>	29	7	42,144	<b>5.8</b>
Midwest	492	501	<b>497</b>	5	-4	96,764	<b>5.1</b>
CW/KK/ST	313	313	<b>314</b>	1	1	62,366	<b>5.0</b>
Kerry	163	172	<b>173</b>	10	1	34,994	<b>4.9</b>
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	112	119	<b>119</b>	7	0	24,312	<b>4.9</b>
Cork	690	662	<b>656</b>	-34	-6	136,786	<b>4.8</b>
Dublin South Central	326	333	<b>334</b>	8	1	70,259	<b>4.8</b>
Mayo	143	145	<b>146</b>	3	1	31,911	<b>4.6</b>
Cavan/Monaghan	159	165	<b>165</b>	6	0	37,336	<b>4.4</b>
Midlands	331	351	<b>356</b>	25	5	80,962	<b>4.4</b>
Louth/Meath	413	425	<b>420</b>	7	-5	96,531	<b>4.4</b>
Galway/Roscommon	354	353	<b>345</b>	-9	-8	81,799	<b>4.2</b>
Dublin North	401	420	<b>416</b>	15	-4	104,281	<b>4.0</b>
DSW/K/WW	397	413	<b>412</b>	15	-1	108,927	<b>3.8</b>
Dublin South East/Wicklow	210	205	<b>202</b>	-8	-3	91,047	<b>2.2</b>
Total Areas	<b>5,616</b>	<b>5,702</b>	<b>5,679</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>-23</b>	<b>1,218,567</b>	<b>4.7</b>
SCSIP	<b>144</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>104</b>	-40	5		
Total National	<b>5,760</b>	<b>5,801</b>	<b>5,783</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-18</b>		

Population: CSO Census 2022

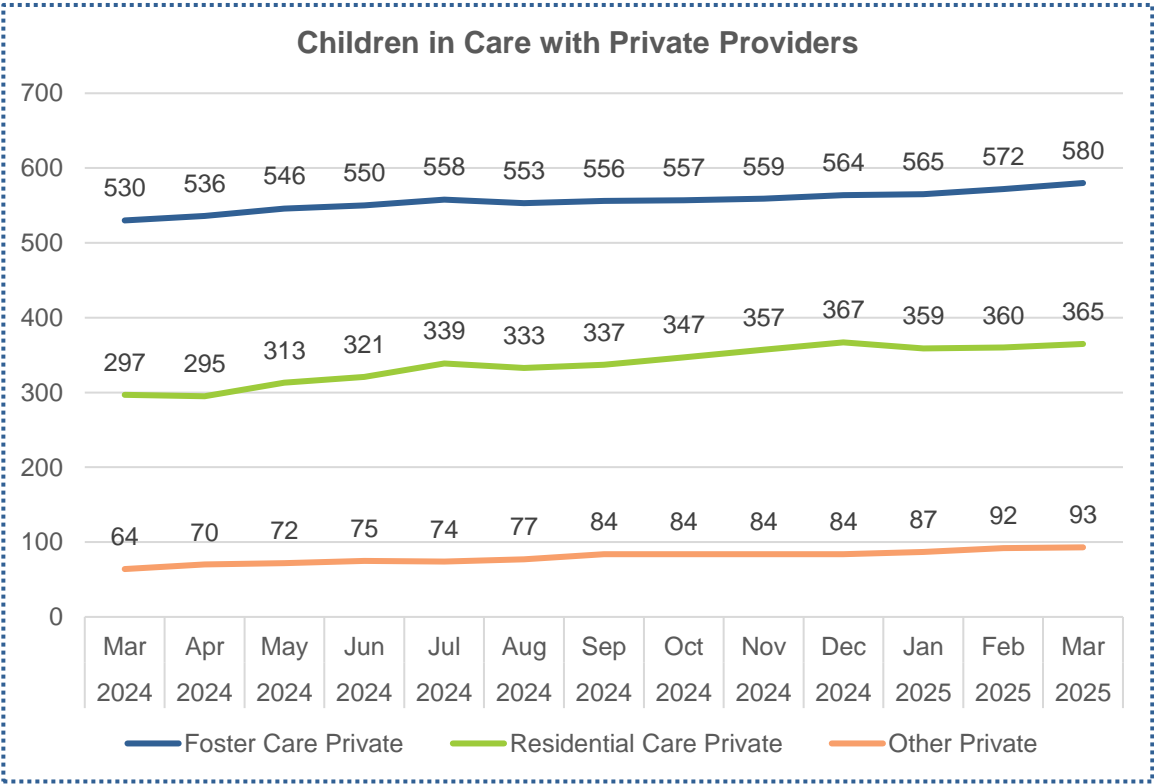
# Children in Care

## Private Providers

- 1,038 (18%) children in care at the end of March 2025 were in placements with private providers, 14 (1%) more than February 2025 (1,024) and 147 (16%) more than March 2024 (891).



- 580 (56%) children in placements with private providers were in **foster care**, 8 (1%) more than February 2025 (572) and 50 (9%) more than March 2024 (530).
- 365 (35%) children were in **residential care**, five more than February 2025 (360) and 68 (23%) more than March 2024 (297).
- The remaining **93 (9%)** children were in **“Other” care placements**, one more than February 2025 (92) and 29 (45%) more than March 2024 (64). *“Other” care placements include, disability units, mental health units, drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres etc.*
- Highest number of children in placements with private providers reported by Dublin North City (138) followed by Dublin North (122), Dublin South Central (118), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (112), and Midlands (97). These five areas account for 57% (587) of children in placements with private providers.



### Children in Care with Private Providers

Children in Care (Private)	Mar-24	Feb-25	Mar-25	Mar-25 v Mar-24	Mar-25 v Feb-25
Dublin North City	112	133	138	26	5
Dublin North	98	123	122	24	-1
Dublin South Central	107	114	118	11	4
DSW/K/WW	107	112	112	5	0
Midlands	70	97	97	27	0
SCSIP	55	62	67	12	5
Cork	58	57	60	2	3
Louth/Meath	47	57	52	5	-5
Waterford/Wexford	47	51	51	4	0
Dublin South East/Wicklow	52	50	50	-2	0
Midwest	34	41	40	6	-1
Kerry	32	33	32	0	-1
Donegal	21	25	28	7	3
CW/KK/ST	22	27	27	5	0
Galway/Roscommon	12	18	19	7	1
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	11	15	15	4	0
Cavan/Monaghan	5	8	8	3	0
Mayo	1	1	2	1	1
Total	891	1,024	1,038	147	14



# 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% (5,691) of children in care at the end of March 2025 had an allocated worker.**
- Of the 5,691 children allocated, 88% (5,021) were allocated to a social worker and 12% (670) were allocated to another professional.
- A total of 92 (2%) children were awaiting allocation, 14 (13%) fewer than February 2025 (106).
- 11 of the 17 areas report no cases awaiting allocation with a further three areas and the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection reporting fewer than 10 cases awaiting allocation.
- The remaining three areas account for 89% (82) of cases awaiting allocation, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (19), Dublin South Central (27) and Louth/Meath (36).

### Breakdown of allocation status by area and role of worker, March 2025. Ranked by % Allocated

Area	Allocated SW	% Allocated SW	Allocated OP	% Allocated OP	Total Allocated	% Allocated	Awaiting Allocation	% Awaiting Allocation	Total
Midlands	347	97.5%	9	2.5%	356	100.0%	0	0%	356
Dublin North City	428	91.8%	38	8.2%	466	100.0%	0	0%	466
Dublin North	378	90.9%	38	9.1%	416	100.0%	0	0%	416
Cavan/Monaghan	163	98.8%	2	1.2%	165	100.0%	0	0%	165
Kerry	167	96.5%	6	3.5%	173	100.0%	0	0%	173
Cork	656	100.0%	0	0.0%	656	100.0%	0	0%	656
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	157	50.0%	157	50.0%	314	100.0%	0	0%	314
Donegal	246	100.0%	0	0.0%	246	100.0%	0	0%	246
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	114	95.8%	5	4.2%	119	100.0%	0	0%	119
Mayo	145	99.3%	1	0.7%	146	100.0%	0	0%	146
Galway/Roscommon	341	98.8%	4	1.2%	345	100.0%	0	0%	345
Dublin South East/Wicklow	196	97.5%	5	2.5%	201	99.5%	1	0%	202
Waterford/Wexford	346	84.6%	63	15.4%	409	99.3%	3	1%	412
Mid West	351	71.2%	142	28.8%	493	99.2%	4	1%	497
SCSIP	102	100.0%	0	0.0%	102	98.1%	2	2%	104
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	292	74.3%	101	25.7%	393	95.4%	19	5%	412
Dublin South Central	243	79.2%	64	20.8%	307	91.9%	27	8%	334
Louth/Meath	349	90.9%	35	9.1%	384	91.4%	36	9%	420
Total	5,021	88.2%	670	11.8%	5,691	98.4%	92	2%	5783

# Children in Care

## Care Plan

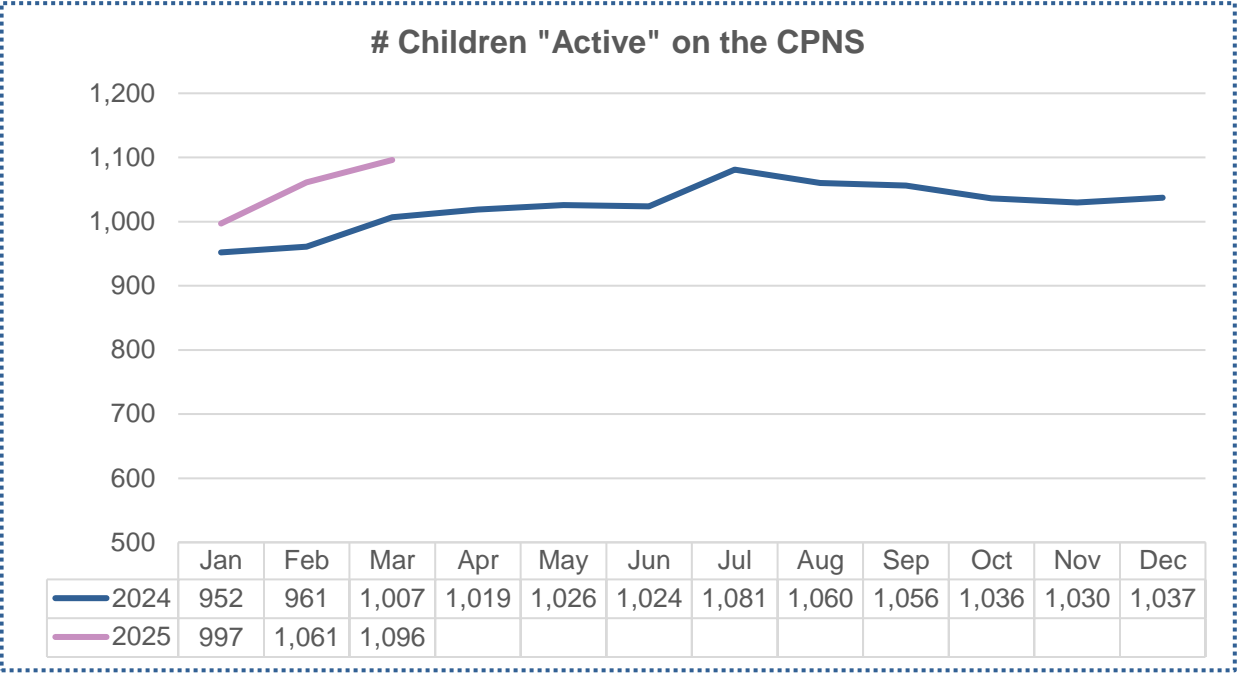
- **83% (4,817) of children in care at the end of March 2025 had an up-to-date care plan**, down one percentage point from February 2025 (84%).
- A total of 966 (17%) children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 58 (6%) more than February 2025 (908).
- Highest numbers awaiting an up-to-date care plan reported by Dublin South Central (128; 38%), Dublin North City (127; 27%), Midwest (112; 23%) and Louth/Meath (108; 26%).

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

Area	UTD Care Plan	Awaiting UTD Care Plan	Total	% UTD Care Plan
Dublin South East/Wicklow	154	48	202	76%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	352	60	412	85%
Dublin South Central	206	128	334	62%
Midlands	350	6	356	98%
Dublin North City	339	127	466	73%
Dublin North	344	72	416	83%
Louth/Meath	312	108	420	74%
Cavan/Monaghan	136	29	165	82%
Kerry	150	23	173	87%
Cork	587	69	656	89%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	296	18	314	94%
Waterford/Wexford	380	32	412	92%
Donegal	229	17	246	93%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	100	19	119	84%
Mayo	130	16	146	89%
Galway/Roscommon	298	47	345	86%
Midwest	385	112	497	77%
SCSIP	69	35	104	66%
Total	4,817	966	5,783	83%

# Child Protection Notification System

- **1,096 children listed as ‘active’** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of March 2025, 35 (3%) more than February 2025 (1,061) and the highest number for the period January 2024 – March 2025.
- There were 89 (9%) more children ‘active’ at the end of March 2025 than at the end March 2024 (1,007).
- It should be noted that a small number of large sibling groups can have a significant effect on numbers reported.
- 99% (1,086) of children ‘active’ at the end of March 2025 had an allocated social worker; 10 children were awaiting allocation. Two of the children were allocated to another professional and the remaining eight were subsequently allocated.
- Highest numbers of children listed as ‘active’ at the end of March 2025, reported by Dublin North City (128), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (126), Cork (119) and Midlands (118).
- Fewest numbers reported by Cavan/Monaghan (18) and Kerry (18).
- The number of children ‘active’ equates to 9 children per 10,000 under 18 years.
- Highest rates reported by Dublin North City (26.2), Midlands (14.6) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (13.2)
- Lowest rates reported Dublin South East/Wicklow (3.7) and Cavan/Monaghan (4.8).
- 10 of the 17 areas had more children listed as ‘active’ at the end of March 2025 than at the end of February 2025. Largest increases reported by Galway/Roscommon (up 12) followed by Cork (up 10) and Cavan/Monaghan (up 8).
- 6 of the 17 areas reported fewer children ‘active’ with the largest decrease reported by Louth/Meath (down 10), Midwest (down 4) and Donegal (down 3).
- The remaining area (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow) reported no change.
- 10 of the 17 areas had more children active at the end of March 2025 than at the end of March 2024. Largest increases reported by Midlands (up 48), Dublin North City (up 45) and Dublin South Central (up 31),
- 7 of the 17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Midwest (down 41), Donegal (down 32) and Dublin North (down 16).



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

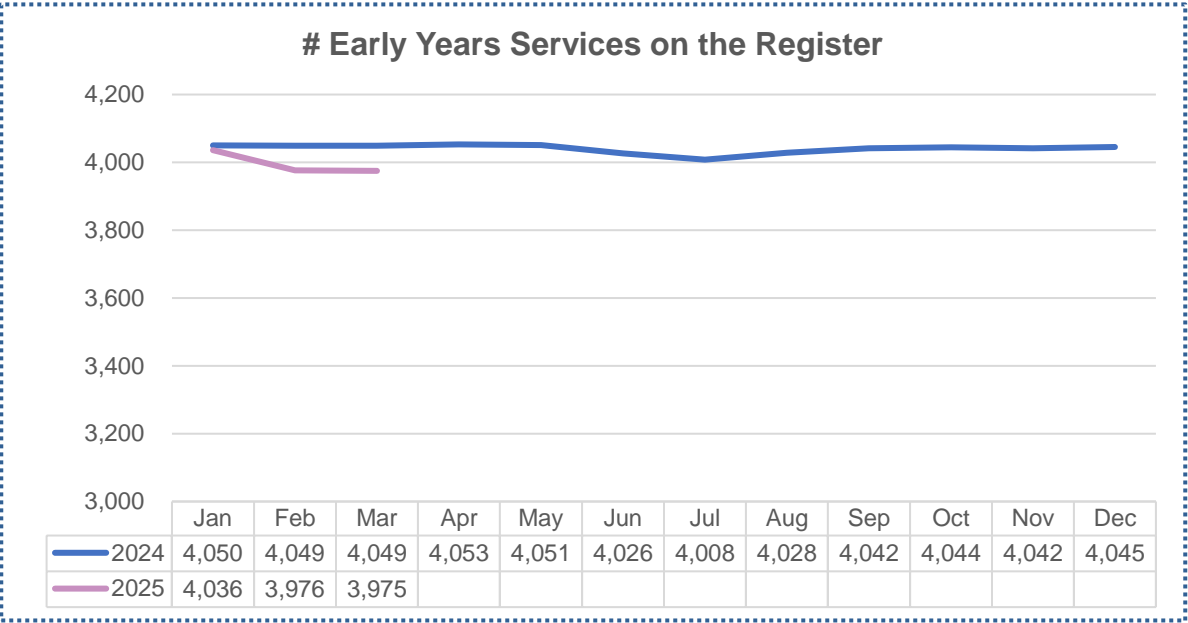
Area	Mar-24	Feb-25	Mar-25	Mar-25 v Mar-24	Mar-25 v Feb-25	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	83	130	128	45	-2	48,909	26.2
Midlands	70	120	118	48	-2	80,962	14.6
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	13	26	32	19	6	24,312	13.2
DSW/K/WW	119	121	126	7	5	108,927	11.6
Mayo	21	29	33	12	4	31,911	10.3
Dublin South Central	40	67	71	31	4	70,259	10.1
Galway / Roscommon	46	63	75	29	12	81,799	9.2
Cork	108	109	119	11	10	136,786	8.7
CW/K/ST	63	49	51	-12	2	62,366	8.2
Mid West	118	81	77	-41	-4	96,764	8.0
Donegal	63	34	31	-32	-3	42,144	7.4
Dublin North	87	66	71	-16	5	104,281	6.8
Louth / Meath	64	65	55	-9	-10	96,531	5.7
Waterford / Wexford	36	37	39	3	2	69,239	5.6
Kerry	17	20	18	1	-2	34,994	5.1
Cavan / Monaghan	21	10	18	-3	8	37,336	4.8
Dublin South East / Wicklow	38	34	34	-4	0	91,047	3.7
Total	1,007	1,061	1,096	89	35	1,218,567	9.0

Population 0-17 years – source CSO Census 2022

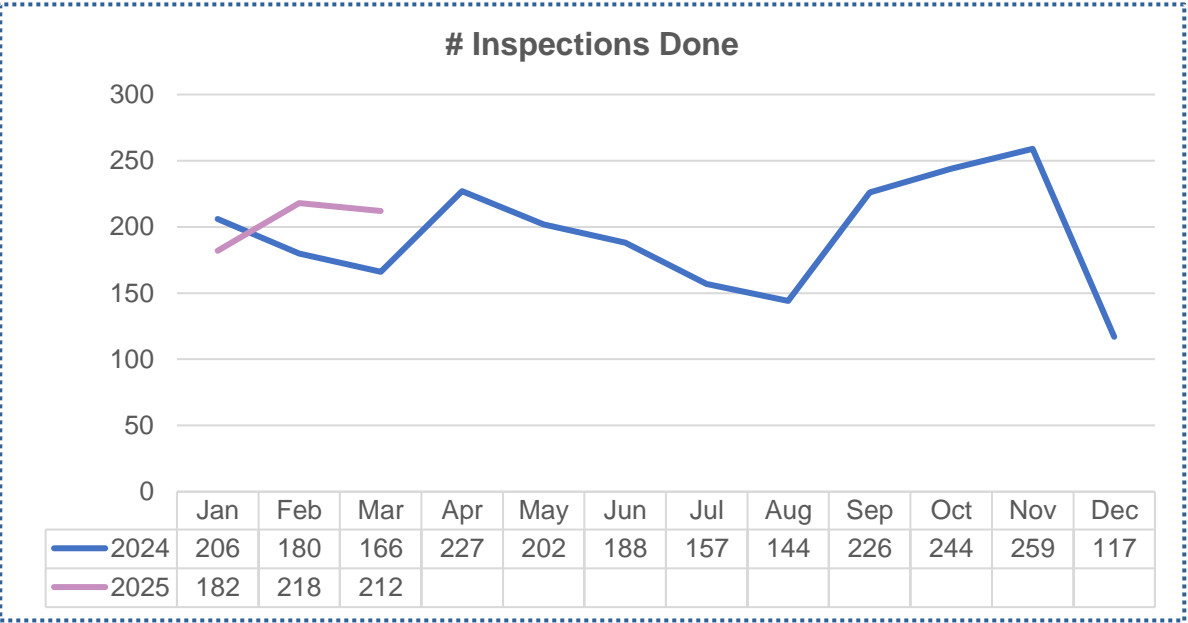
# Children’s Services Regulation

## EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- **3,975 early years services on the register at the end of March 2025**, one fewer than February 2025 (3,976) and 74 (2%) fewer than March 2024 (4,049). *The reduction between January and February 2025 is partly explained by the transfer of a number of registered childminders from the Pre-School Register to the new Childminder Register of Services.*

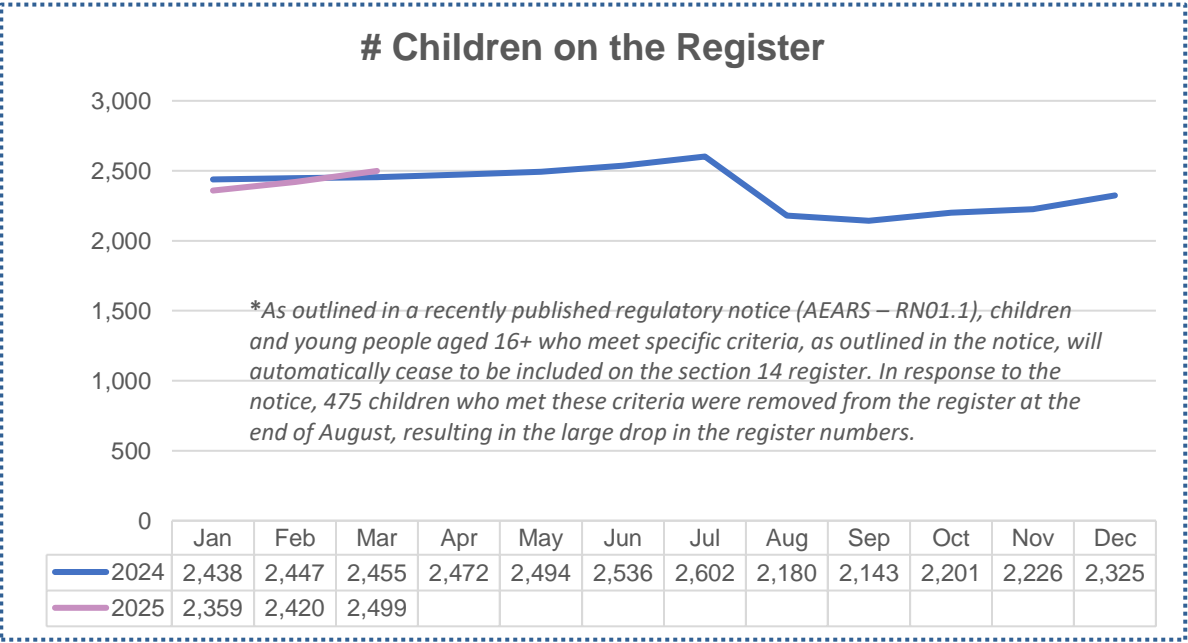


- **212 inspections** of early years services in March 2025.
- This brings to 612 the number of inspections for the first three months of 2025, 60 (11%) more than the same period in 2024 (552)

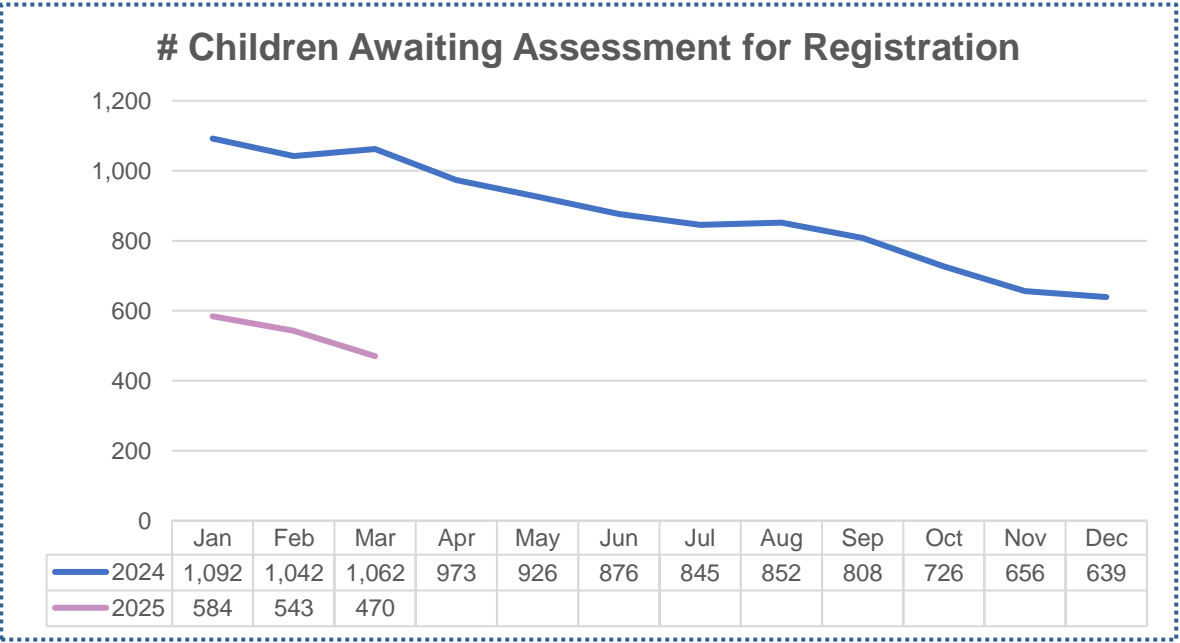


## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

- **2,499 children on the register** for home education at the end of March 2025, 79 (3%) more than February 2025 (2,420). Sixth consecutive increase.



- **470 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of March 2025**, 73 (13%) fewer than February 2025 (543) and 592 (56%) fewer than March 2024 (1,062).



# Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,263 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in March 2025. This brings to 6,265 the number of referrals for the first seven months of the academic year 2024 – 2025, some 1,215 (24%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (5,050).

- **4,627 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of March 2025, 938 (25%) more than February 2025 (3,689).
- 1,198 (35%) more referrals on a waiting list at the end of March 2025 than at the end of March 2024 (3,429).

- **464 new individual children worked** with in March 2025. This brings to 2,761 the number of new individual children worked with in the first seven months of the academic year 2024-2025, some 175 (7%) more than the previous academic year (2,586).

