



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

MONTHLY SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

MAY 2024

10 July 2024
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 – May 2024</u>	3
<u>Child Protection & Welfare</u>	4
<u>Mandated Reports – Child Protection & Welfare</u>	8
<u>Children in Care</u>	10
<u>Child Protection Notification System</u>	13
<u>Children’s Services Regulation</u>	14
<u>Tusla Education Support Services</u>	15

Headline Data – May 2024

Child Protection & Welfare

- **9,040 referrals in May 2024**, 665 (8%) more than April 2024 (8,375) and 339 (4%) more than May 2023 (8,701). This brings to 40,641 the number of referrals for the first five months of 2024, 1,435 (4%) more than the same period in 2023 (39,206).
- **21,977 cases open to social work at the end of May 2024**, 16 (<1%) more than April 2024 (21,961) and 768 (3%) fewer than May 2023 (22,745). Open cases include child protection and welfare cases including children in care.
- 77% (16,984) of cases open to social work at the end of April 2024 had an allocated worker, down from 78% at the end of April 2024. (Ref note on Page 4).
- **4,993 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of May 2024, 212 (4%) more than April 2024 (4,781). Second consecutive monthly increase. Cases awaiting allocation are down 827 (14%) from May 2023 (5,820).
- Six areas account for 65% (3,241) of cases awaiting allocation: Dublin South Central (1,196) followed by Louth/Meath (457), Cork (453), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (423), Dublin South East/Wicklow (350) and Midwest (344).
- **10% (505) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of May 2024 were categorised as high priority**, five more than April 2024 (500) and 16 (3%) more than May 2023 (489).

Children in Care

- **5,796 children in care at the end of April 2024, 15 (<1%) more than April 2024 (5,781)**. This figure includes 142 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP).
- **87.3% (5,062)* of all children in care are in foster care** (3,591 general foster care, and 1,471 relative foster), 8% (483) are in residential care (470 general residential care and 13 special care) and 4% (251) are in “other” care placements².
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas 89.1% (5,036/5,654) of children in care are in foster care.
- **931 (16%) children in care at the end of May 2024 were in placements with private providers**, 30 (3%) more than April 2024 (901).
- **82% (4,746) of children in care at the end of May 2024 had an allocated worker**. A total of 1,050 children were awaiting allocation, 13 (1%) fewer than April 2024 (1,063).
- **84% (4,854) of children in care at the end of May 2024 had an up-to-date care plan**. A total of 942 children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 98 (9%) fewer than April 2024 (1,040).

**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)

- **1,026 children listed as “active”** at the end of May 2024, 7 (1%) more than April 2024 (1,019) and the fourth consecutive monthly increase.
- There were 154 (18%) more children “active” at the end of May 2024 than at the end of May 2023 (872).
- All children listed as “active” at the end of May 2024 had an **allocated social worker**.

Children’s Services Regulation

- **4,051 early years services on the register at the end of May 2024**, two fewer than April 2024 (4,053) and 13 (<1%) fewer than May 2024 (4,064).
- **202 inspections** of early years services done in May 2024. This brings to 981 the number of inspections for the first five months of 2024, 62 (6%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (1,043).
- **2,494 children on the register for home education at the end of May 2024**, 22 (<1%) more than April 2024 (2,472) and 393 (19%) more than May 2023 (2,101).
- **926 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of May 2024**, 47 (5%) fewer than April 2024 (973) and 459 (33%) fewer than May 2023 (1,385).

Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,126 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in May 2024. This brings to 7,447 the number of referrals for the first nine months of the academic year 2023-2024, 1,678 (29%) more than the same period in 2022-2023 (5,769).
- **3,808 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of May 2024, 213 (5%) fewer than April 2024 (4,021) and the first decrease after six consecutive monthly increases.
- 14 more referrals on a waiting list at the end of May 2024 (3,808) compared to May 2023 (3,794).
- **400 new individual children worked with** in May 2024. This brings to 3,412 the number of new individual children worked with for the first nine months of the academic year 2023-2024, 565 (20%) more than the same period in 2022-2023 (2,847).

Child Protection and Welfare

Referrals¹

- **9,040 referrals** in May 2024, 665 (8%) more than April 2024 (8,375) and 339 (4%) more than May 2023 (8,701).
- This brings to 40,641 the number of referrals for the first five months of 2024, 1,435 (4%) more than the same period in 2023 (39,206).

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

- **21,977 cases open to social work** at the end of May 2024, 16 (<1%) more than April 2024 (21,961) and 768 (3%) fewer than May 2023 (22,745). *Open cases from September 2023 include cases awaiting categorisation. See note below.*

Notes:

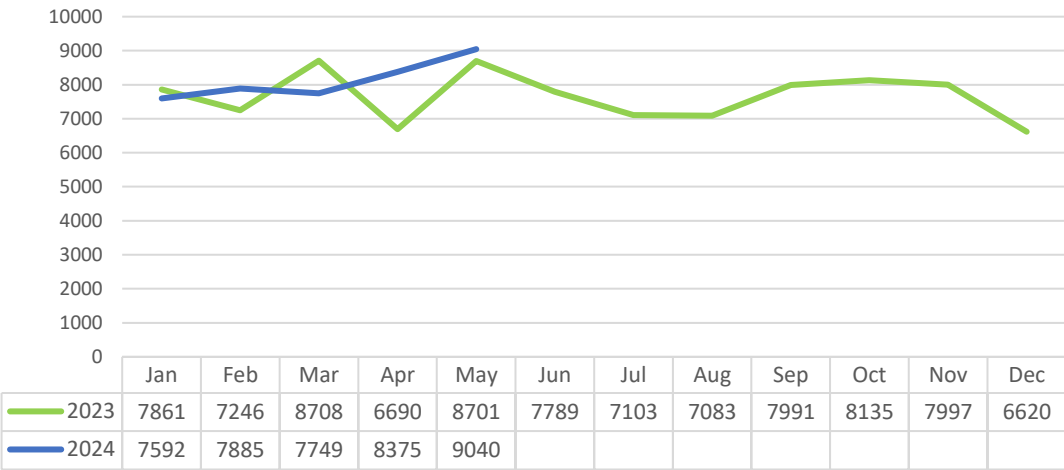
- 1) *From September 2023, open cases (allocated/unallocated) include cases “awaiting categorisation” at month end. This is in addition to cases categorised as high, medium and low. The category “awaiting categorisation” was introduced this year to reflect better questions being asked at screening and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

Allocated Cases

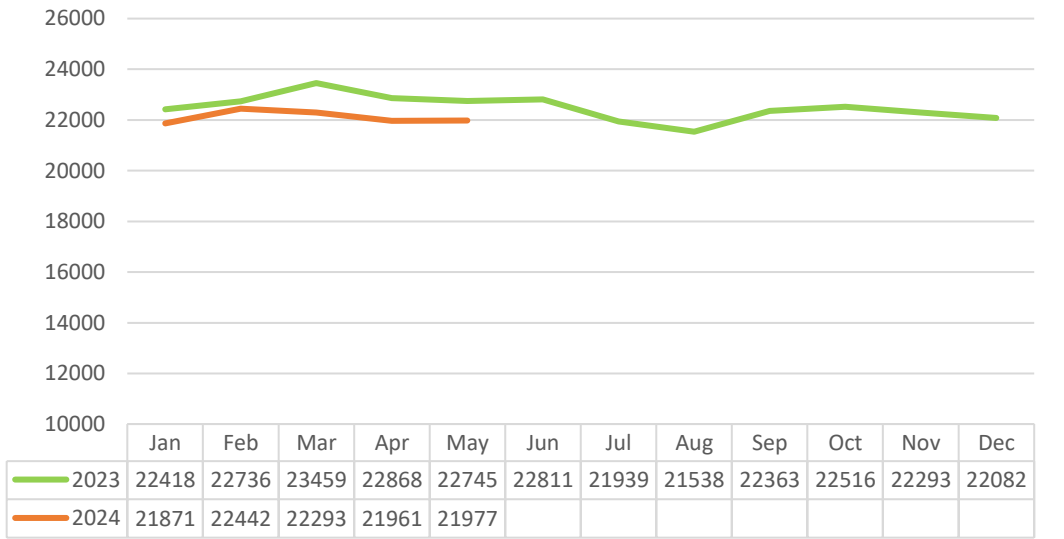
- **16,984 open cases were allocated** at the end of May 2024, 196 (1%) fewer than April 2024 (17,180) and 59 (<1%) more than May 2023 (16,925).
- Allocated cases account for 77% of open cases, down one percentage point from April 2024 (78%) and up three percentage points from May 2023 (74%).

These numbers of allocated cases reflect a changing environment in Tusla where allocation of cases to a social worker has become more difficult with reduced availability of social workers nationally. Many cases are now allocated to other professionals also reflecting the changing nature of social work teams. In many instances where cases are unallocated to a social worker there is a social care worker or leader allocated to the case.

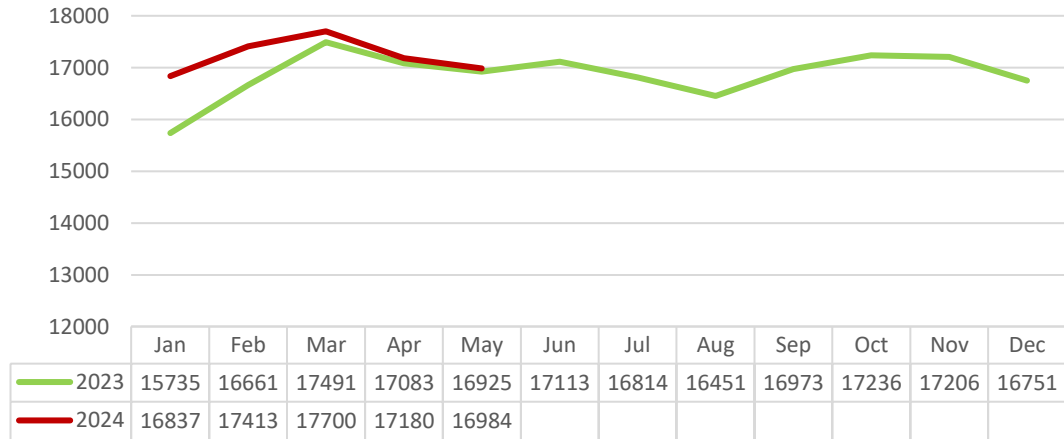
Referrals



Number of Open Cases



Number of Allocated Cases

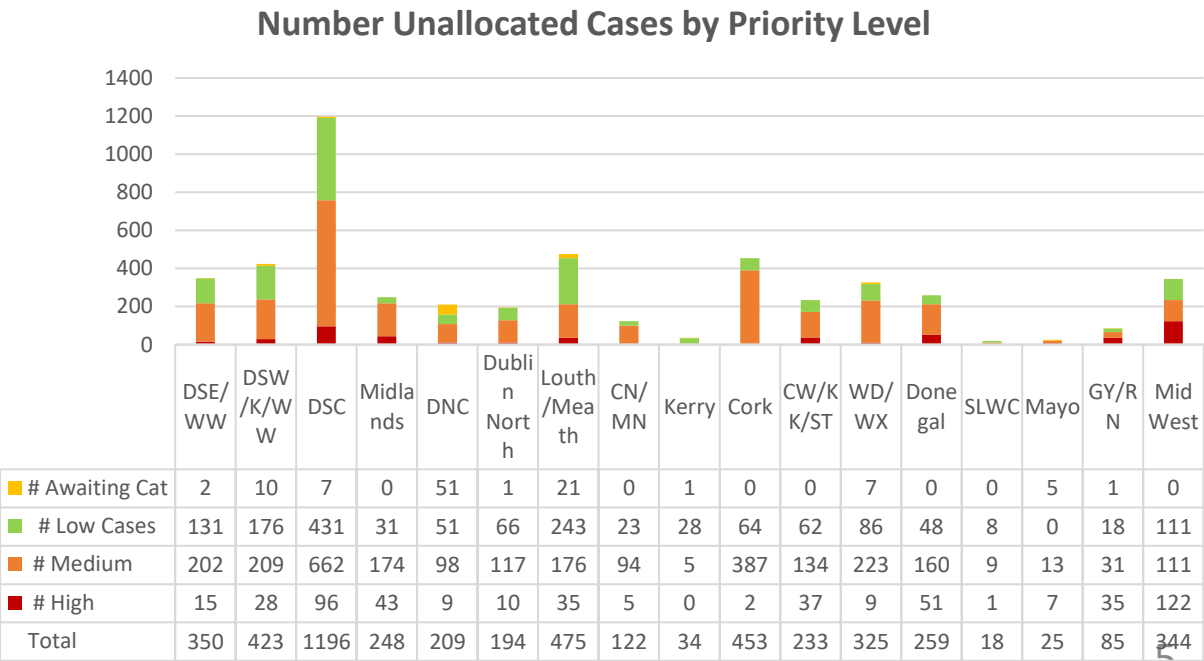
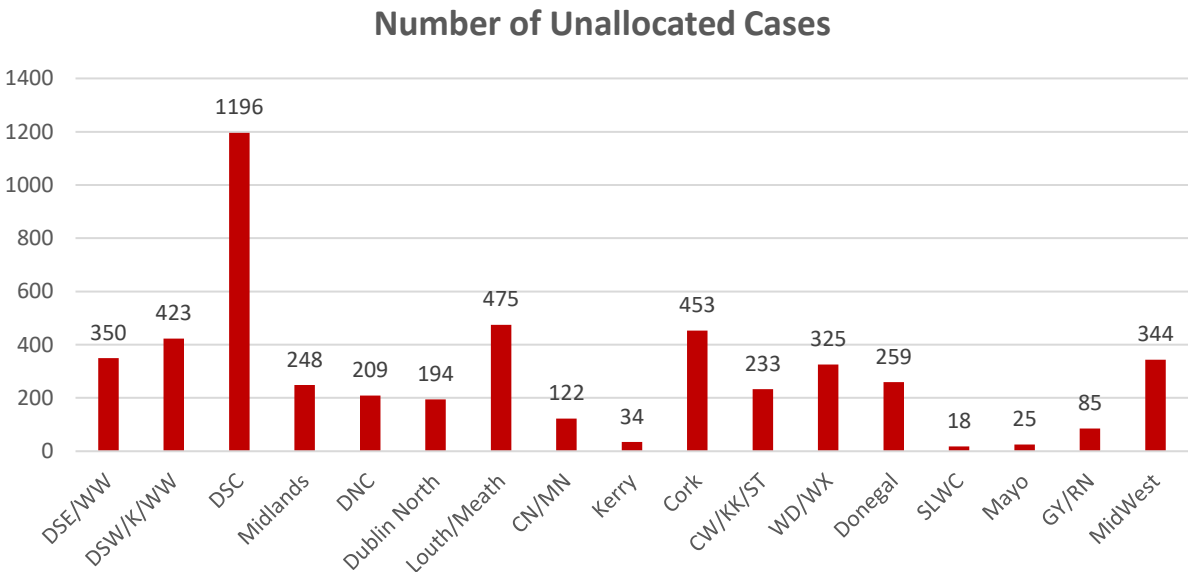
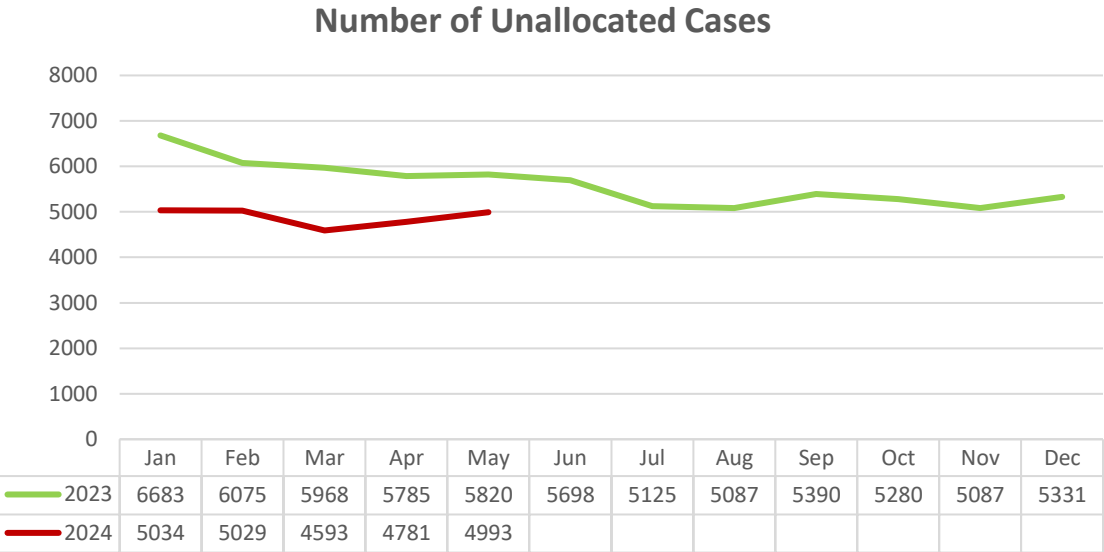


¹ Referrals include referrals meeting the eligibility criteria for child protection and welfare services, multiple reports of the same concern and referrals not meeting the eligibility criteria for child protection and welfare services. Referrals not meeting the eligibility criteria for child protection 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

- Cases awaiting allocation include cases held on duty, unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care*
- **4,993 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of May 2024, 212 (4%) more than April 2024 (4,781). Second consecutive monthly increase.
 - Cases awaiting allocation are down 827 (14%) from May 2023 (5,820).
 - Cases awaiting allocation account for 23% of open cases (21,977), up one percentage point from April 2024 (22%).
 - **36% (1,778) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of May 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 (1,196) followed by Louth/Meath (457), Cork (453), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (423), Dublin South East/Wicklow (350) and Midwest (344). These six areas account for 65% (3,241) of all cases awaiting allocation.
 - **505 cases awaiting allocation at the end of May 2024 were categorised as high priority**, five more than April 2024 (500) and 16 (3%) more than May 2023 (489).
 - High priority cases account for 10% of cases awaiting allocation.
 - 56% (2,805) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 32% (1,577) were low priority while the remaining 2% (106) were awaiting categorisation.
 - Highest number of high priority cases reported by Midwest (122) followed by Dublin South Central (96), Donegal (51) and Midlands (43). These four areas account for 62% (312) of all high priority cases awaiting.



Child Protection & Welfare

Cases Awaiting Allocation

- 7/17 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from April 2024.
- Largest decreases reported by Louth/Meath (down 52), Midlands (down 50) and Cavan/Monaghan (down 20).
- 10/17 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from April 2024. Largest increases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 72), Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 64) and Dublin North (up 51).
- Nationally 23% of open cases were awaiting allocation at the end of May 2024. Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 23%, Dublin South Central (49%), Dublin South East/Wicklow (33%), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (32%), Donegal (29%), Louth/Meath (28%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (28%), Midwest (25%) and Waterford/Wexford (23%).
- 9/17 areas had fewer cases awaiting allocation at the end of May 2024 than at the end of May 2023. Largest decreases reported by Waterford/Wexford (down 414), Cork (down 290), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 262) and Dublin North (down 154).
- 8/17 areas had more cases awaiting allocation at the end of May 2024 than at the end of May 2023. Largest increases reported by Louth/Meath (up 190), Dublin South Central (up 162) and Midwest (113).

Area	May-23 # Unallocated	May-23 % Unallocated	Mar-24 # Unallocated	Apr-24 # Unallocated	May-24 # Unallocated	May-24 % Unallocated	Mar-May	May-24 v May-23	% Δ	May-24 v Apr-24	% Δ1
DSE/WW	269	27%	251	286	350	33%		81	30%	64	22%
DSW/K/WW	685	39%	364	351	423	28%		-262	-38%	72	21%
DSC	1,034	53%	1040	1156	1196	49%		162	16%	40	3%
Midlands	196	10%	267	298	248	14%		52	27%	-50	-17%
DNC	299	18%	198	168	209	13%		-90	-30%	41	24%
Dublin North	348	13%	130	143	194	10%		-154	-44%	51	36%
Louth/Meath	285	22%	624	527	475	28%		190	67%	-52	-10%
CN/MN	89	14%	96	142	122	15%		33	37%	-20	-14%
Kerry	39	11%	34	36	34	8%		-5	-13%	-2	-6%
Cork	743	27%	494	462	453	19%		-290	-39%	-9	-2%
CW/KK/ST	328	36%	245	228	233	32%		-95	-29%	5	2%
WD/WX	739	42%	244	284	325	23%		-414	-56%	41	14%
Donegal	353	42%	152	228	259	29%		-94	-27%	31	14%
SLWC	116	32%	14	16	18	6%		-98	-84%	2	13%
Mayo	9	2%	7	29	25	7%		16	178%	-4	-14%
GY/RN	57	5%	115	96	85	6%		28	49%	-11	-11%
MidWest	231	19%	318	331	344	25%		113	49%	13	4%
TOTAL	5820	26%	4593	4781	4993	23%		-827	-14%	212	4.4%

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

Child Protection & Welfare

Summary Tables

Area				Open Cases			Allocated Cases			Unallocated Cases		
				Apr-24	May-24	Δ2	Apr-24	May-24	Δ3	Apr-24	May-24	Δ4
Referrals				Referrals			Open Cases			Unallocated Cases		
				Apr-24	May-24	Δ	Apr-24	May-24	Δ3	Apr-24	May-24	Δ4
DSE/WW				310	330	20	1,006	1,063	57	720	713	-7
DSW/K/WW				850	772	-78	1,575	1,520	-55	1,224	1,097	-127
DSC				646	774	128	2,349	2,432	83	1,193	1,236	43
Midlands				917	954	37	1,913	1,791	-122	1,615	1,543	-72
DNC				488	416	-72	1,653	1,631	-22	1,485	1,422	-63
Dublin North				800	894	94	2,026	1,904	-122	1,883	1,710	-173
Louth/Meath				757	709	-48	1,655	1,679	24	1,128	1,204	76
CN/MN				235	275	40	748	814	66	606	692	86
Kerry				161	271	110	376	402	26	340	368	28
Cork				738	871	133	2,389	2,392	3	1,927	1,939	12
CW/KK/ST				373	365	-8	730	717	-13	502	484	-18
WD/WX				592	671	79	1,349	1,413	64	1,065	1,088	23
Donegal				244	314	70	887	880	-7	659	621	-38
SLWC				117	158	41	305	288	-17	289	270	-19
Mayo				148	111	-37	385	380	-5	356	355	-1
GY/RN				406	481	75	1,252	1,310	58	1,156	1,225	69
MidWest				593	674	81	1,363	1,361	-2	1,032	1,017	-15
Total				8,375	9,040	665	21,961	21,977	16	17,180	16,984	-196

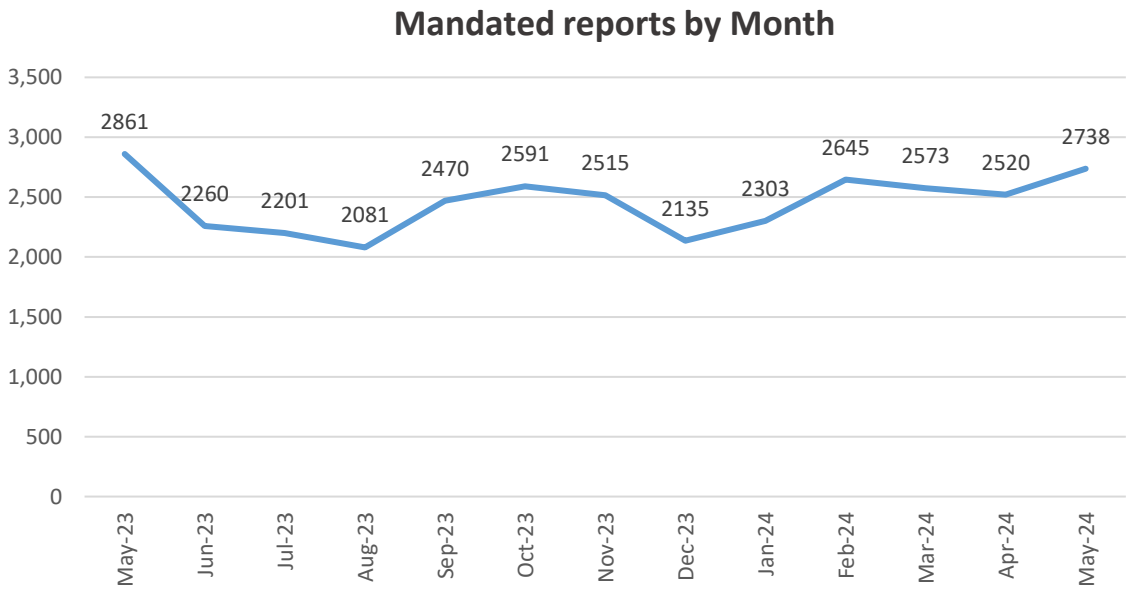
Area				Medium Priority			Low Priority			Awaiting Categorisation		
				Apr-24	May-24	Δ 2	Apr-24	May-24	Δ 3	Apr-24	May-24	Δ 4
High Priority				High Priority			Low Priority			Awaiting Categorisation		
				Apr-24	May-24	Δ	Apr-24	May-24	Δ 3	Apr-24	May-24	Δ 4
DSE/WW				16	15	-1	138	202	64	125	131	6
DSW/K/WW				21	28	7	164	209	45	150	176	26
DSC				72	96	24	607	662	55	467	431	-36
Midlands				124	43	-81	126	174	48	46	31	-15
DNC				3	9	6	105	98	-7	35	51	16
Dublin North				9	10	1	92	117	25	39	66	27
Louth/Meath				30	35	5	196	176	-20	284	243	-41
CN/MN				1	5	4	96	94	-2	16	23	7
Kerry				0	0	0	4	5	1	28	28	0
Cork				11	2	-9	363	387	24	85	64	-21
CW/KK/ST				31	37	6	138	134	-4	58	62	4
WD/WX				0	9	9	187	223	36	90	86	-4
Donegal				39	51	12	142	160	18	46	48	2
SLWC				1	1	0	6	9	3	7	8	1
Mayo				19	7	-12	10	13	3	0	0	0
GY/RN				29	35	6	45	31	-14	22	18	-4
MidWest				94	122	28	136	111	-25	97	111	14
TOTAL				500	505	5	2,555	2,805	250	1,595	1,577	-18

Mandated Reports¹ – Child Protection & Welfare

- **2,738 mandated reports of abuse** received in May 2024, 218 (9%) more than April 2024 (2,520) and 123 (4%) fewer than May 2024 (2,861). This brings to 12,779 the number of reports for the first five months of 2024, 373 (3%) more than the same period in 2023 (9,545).

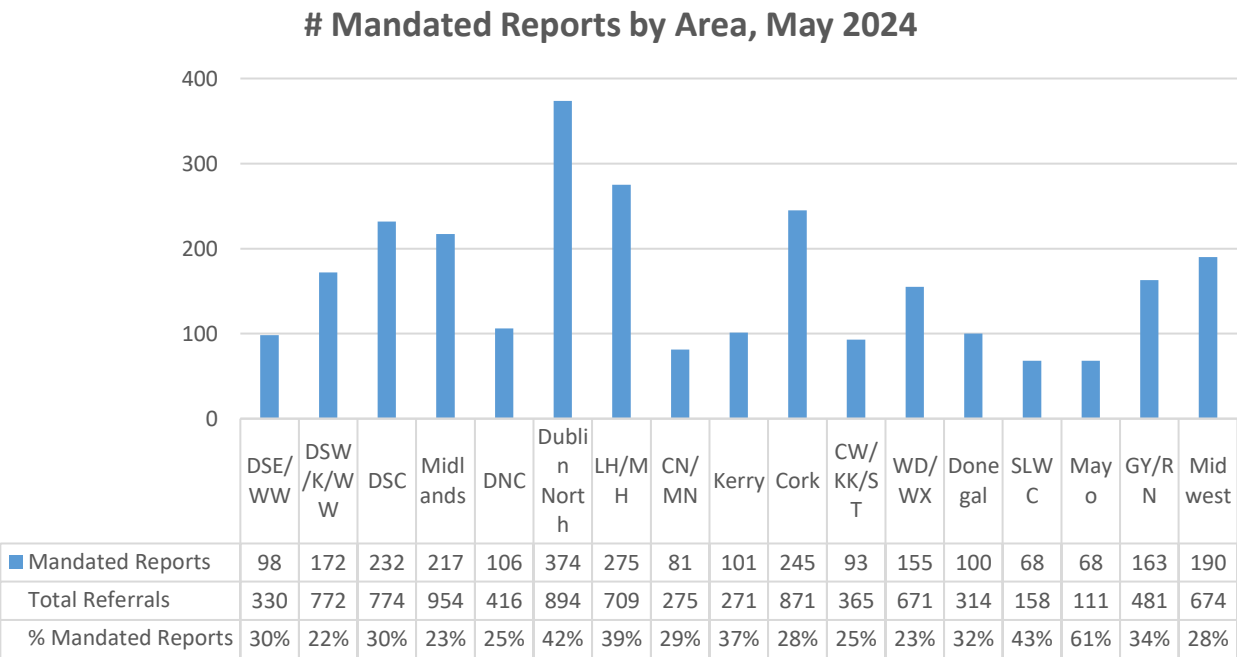
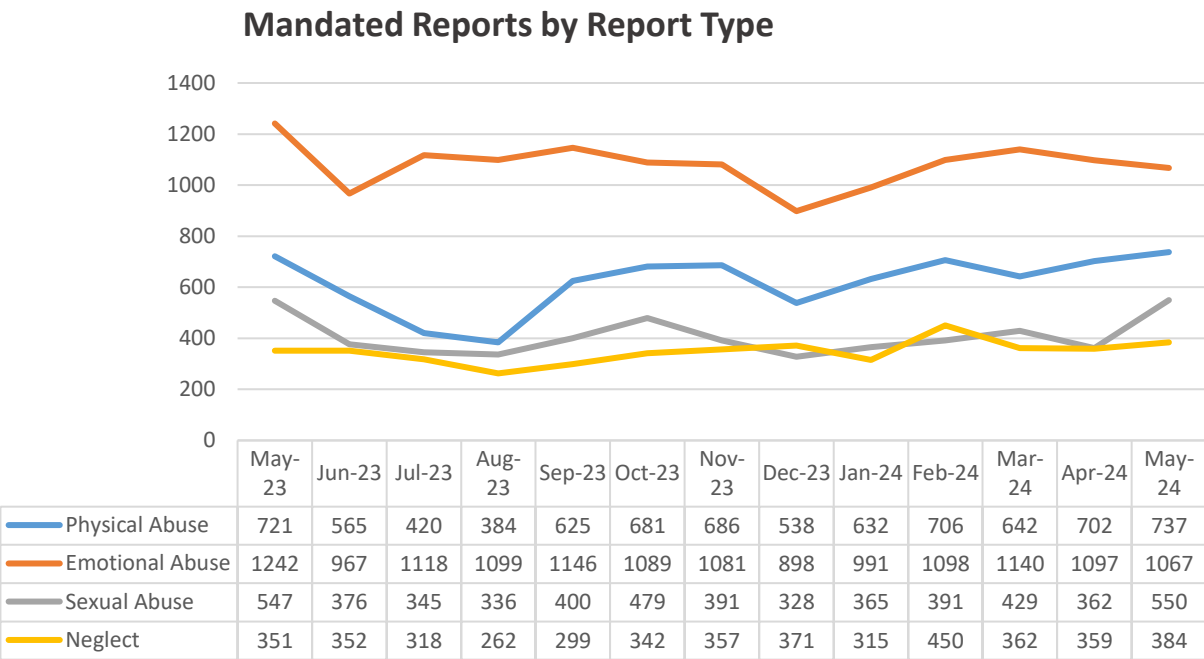
It should be noted that the data presented for 2023 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for 2024 is based on referrals logged on the Tusla Case Management (TCM) system at the time the data was extracted for reporting. Referrals logged after the date the data was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

- Mandated reports accounted for 30% (2,738) of all referrals received (9,040) in April 2024.



- The number of mandated reports for May 2024, by area ranged from 68 (Mayo & Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 374 (Dublin North).
- As a percentage of referrals, the highest percentage (61%) was reported by Mayo.
- The lowest percentage was reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (22%).

- Highest number of reports for May 2024 were for emotional abuse (1,067; 39%) followed by physical abuse (737; 27%), sexual abuse (550; 20%) and neglect (384; 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 May 2024 from An Garda Síochána (886; 32%) followed by teachers (456; 17%), safeguarding officers (395; 14%); social workers (319; 12%) and social care workers (145; 5%). These five sources account for 80%% (2,201) of reports for April 2024.
- Highest number of reports for 2024 YTD from An Garda Síochána (4,756; 37%) followed by teachers (2,014; 16%), safeguarding officers (1,647; 13%), social workers (1,428; 11%), social care workers (600; 5%) and medical practitioners (447; 3%). These six sources account for 85% (10,892) of reports for 2024 YTD.

Source (Schedule 2 Children First 2015)	# May 2024	% May 2024	Total 2024 YTD	% Total 2024
Medical practitioner (Registered)	98	3.6%	447	3.5%
Nurse or registered midwife (Registered)	44	1.6%	244	1.9%
Physiotherapist (Registered)	7	0.3%	20	0.2%
Speech & language therapist (Registered)	*	0.1%	14	0.1%
Occupational therapist (Registered)	8	0.3%	26	0.2%
Registered dentist	0	0.0%	*	0.0%
Psychologist who practises as such and who is eligible for registration	66	2.4%	278	2.2%
Social care worker	145	5.3%	600	4.7%
Social worker who practises as such and who is eligible for registration	319	11.7%	1428	11.2%
EMT, paramedic and advanced paramedic	*	0.1%	11	0.1%
Probation officer	*	0.0%	17	0.1%
Teacher registered with the Teaching Council.	456	16.7%	2014	15.8%
An Garda Síochána Member	886	32.4%	4756	37.2%
Guardian ad litem	6	0.2%	21	0.2%
Domestic violence shelter manager	102	3.7%	353	2.8%
Homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility manager	21	0.8%	107	0.8%
Asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre manager	5	0.2%	24	0.2%
Addiction counsellor	*	0.0%	20	0.2%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	77	2.8%	326	2.6%
Language school or other recreational school where children reside	*	0.0%	*	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%	9	0.1%
Safeguarding officer, child protection officer	395	14.4%	1647	12.9%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	10	0.4%	48	0.4%
Youth work service - person responsible for the care or management	8	0.3%	53	0.4%
Youth worker employed in a youth work service	53	1.9%	242	1.9%
Foster carer registered with the Agency.	5	0.2%	14	0.1%
Pre-school service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act	16	0.6%	56	0.4%
Total (includes suppressed values)	2,738	100.0%	12,779	100.0%

*Values suppressed for confidentiality purposes

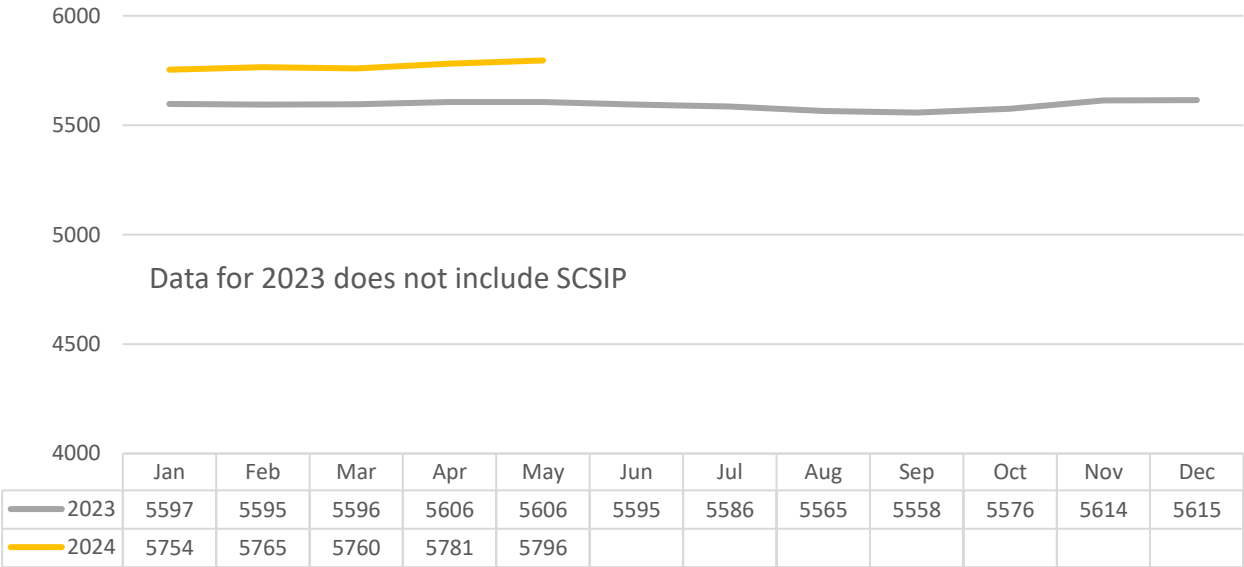
Children in Care

- **5,796 children in care at the end of April 2024, 15 (<1%) more than April 2024 (5,781).**
- Of these, 5,654 were reported by Tusla’s 17 areas and 142 were reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP).
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas there were eight (<1%) more children in care at the end of May 2024 (5,654) than at the end of April 2024 (5,646) and 48 (<1%) more than at the end May 2023 (5,606).
- 87.3% (5,062)* of all children in care are in foster care (3,591 general foster care, and 1,471 relative foster), 8% (483) are in residential care (470 general residential care and 13 special care) and 4% (251) are in “other” care placements².
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas 89.1% (5,036/5,654) 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 (682) followed by Midwest (506) and Dublin North City (474).
- Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan (113) followed by Mayo (141) and the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (142).
- 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).
- Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.3) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.7) and Dublin North (4.0).
- 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	May-23	Apr-24	May-24	Apr-24 v Apr-23	Apr-24 v Mar-24	Population	Rate/1,000
Dublin North City	473	474	474	1	0	49,682	9.5
Waterford/Wexford	403	426	427	24	1	69,239	6.2
Midwest	514	494	506	-8	12	96,764	5.2
Donegal	213	219	216	3	-3	42,144	5.1
Cork	704	692	682	-22	-10	136,786	5.0
CW/KK/ST	310	312	310	0	-2	62,366	5.0
Dublin South Central	357	333	331	-26	-2	70,259	4.7
Kerry	151	163	164	13	1	34,994	4.7
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	121	112	113	-8	1	24,312	4.6
Mayo	146	144	141	-5	-3	31,911	4.4
Cavan/Monaghan	155	162	164	9	2	37,336	4.4
Louth/Meath	413	416	423	10	7	96,531	4.4
Galway/Roscommon	361	354	351	-10	-3	81,799	4.3
Midlands	321	332	334	13	2	80,962	4.1
Dublin North	366	412	410	44	-2	103,508	4.0
DSW/K/WW	395	395	398	3	3	108,927	3.7
Dublin South East/Wicklow	203	206	210	7	4	91,047	2.3
Total Areas	5,606	5,646	5,654	48	8	1,218,567	4.6
SCSIP	NA	135	142	-	-	-	-
Total National	5,606	5,781	5,796	NA	15	-	-

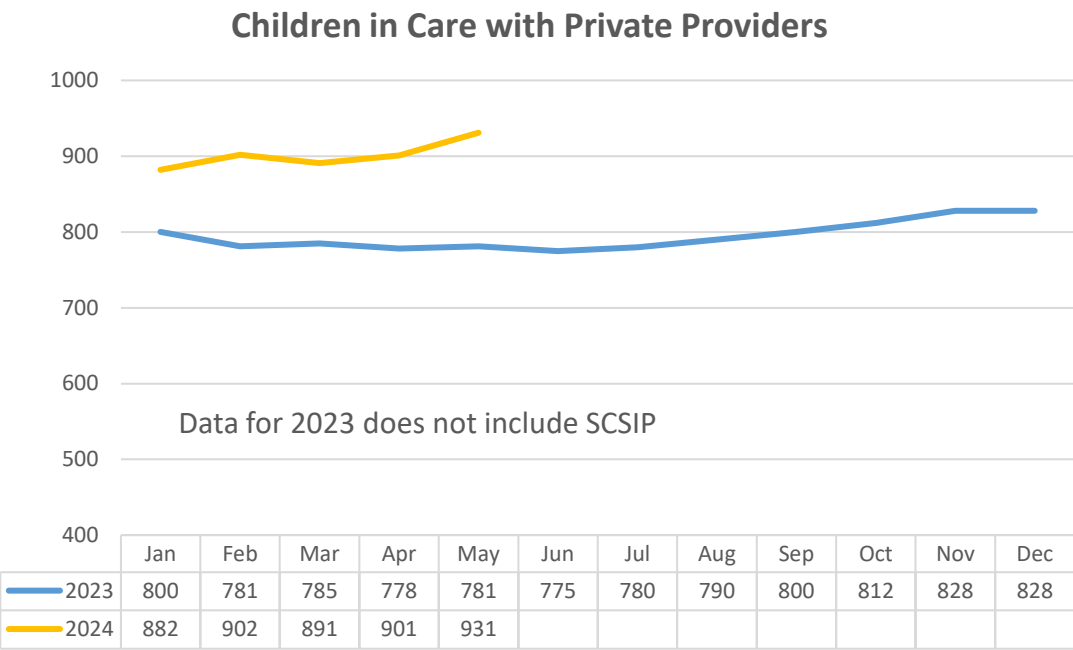
Population: CSO Census 2022

Notes:

1. The Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection has an additional **234 children accommodated under Section 5 Child Care Act 1991.**
2. “Other” Care Placements includes children at home under a care order, in a detention centre, a disability unit, mental health unit, drugs/alcohol rehabilitation unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, supported lodgings

Children in Care

- **931 (16%) children in care at the end of May 2024 were in placements with private providers**, 30 (3%) more than April 2024 (901).

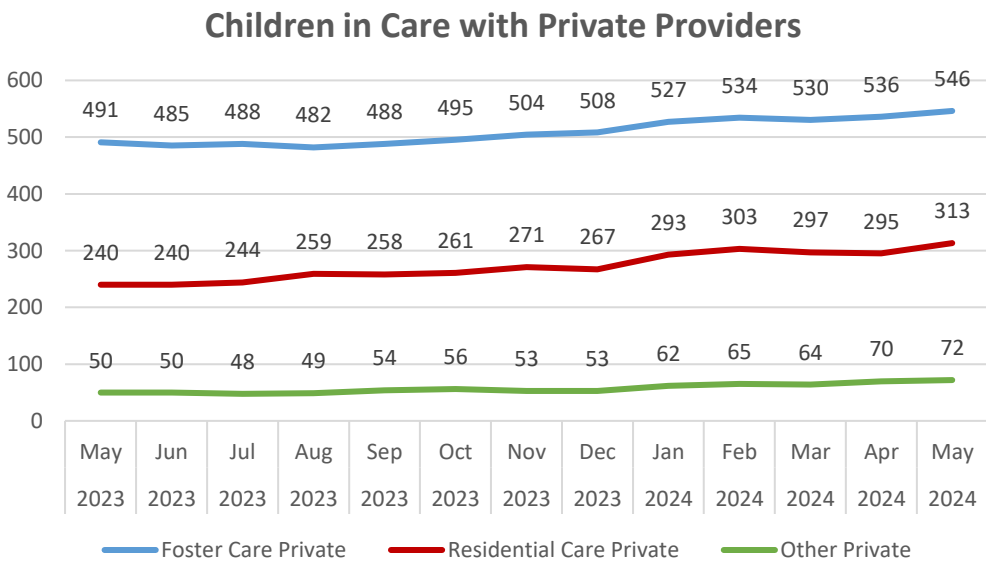


- **546 (59%) children in placements with private providers were in foster care**, 10 (2%) more than April 2024 (536).
- 313 (34%) children were in **residential care**, 18 (6%) more than April 2024 (295).
- The remaining 72 (8%) children were in **“Other” care placements**, 2 (3%) more than April 2024 (70). “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 (121) followed by Dublin South Central (109), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (108), Dublin North (104) and Midlands (77). These five areas account for 56% (519) of children in placements with private providers,

Children in Care with Private Providers

Children in Care (Private)	May-23	Apr-24	May-24	May-24 v May-23	May-24 v Apr-24
Dublin North City	95	115	121	26	6
Dublin South Central	105	108	109	4	1
DSW/K/WW	108	106	108	0	2
Dublin North	94	102	104	10	2
Midlands	58	75	77	19	2
Cork	63	59	59	-4	0
SCSIP	NA	48	58	NA	10
Dublin South East/Wicklow	44	53	52	8	-1
Louth/Meath	43	48	49	6	1
Waterford/Wexford	42	46	47	5	1
Midwest	34	36	41	7	5
Kerry	20	32	32	12	0
CW/KK/ST	19	21	21	2	0
Donegal	19	21	20	1	-1
Galway/Roscommon	18	13	13	-5	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	10	12	12	2	0
Cavan/Monaghan	6	5	7	1	2
Mayo	3	1	1	-2	0
Total	781	901	931	-	30



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

Children in Care

- **82% (4,746) of children in care at the end of May 2024 had an allocated worker.**
- *These numbers of allocated cases reflect a changing environment in Tusla where allocation of cases to a social worker has become more difficult with reduced availability of social workers nationally. Many cases are now allocated to other professionals also reflecting the changing nature of social work teams. In many instances where cases are unallocated to a social worker there is a social care worker or leader allocated to the case.*
- A total of 1,050 children were awaiting allocation, 13 (1%) fewer than April 2024 (1,063).
- Highest number awaiting allocation reported by Midwest (221; 44%) followed by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (193; 62%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (162; 41%), Dublin South Central (99; 30%) and the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (68; 48%). These five services account for 71% (743) of all cases awaiting allocation.
- **84% (4,854) of children in care at the end of May 2024 had an up-to-date care plan.**
- A total of 942 children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 98 (9%) fewer than April 2024 (1,040).
- Highest numbers awaiting an up-to-date care plan reported by Dublin North City (150; 32%), Midwest (95; 19%), Cork (94; 14%), Dublin South Central (85; 26%) and Louth/Meath (85; 20%).

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 worker –May 2024

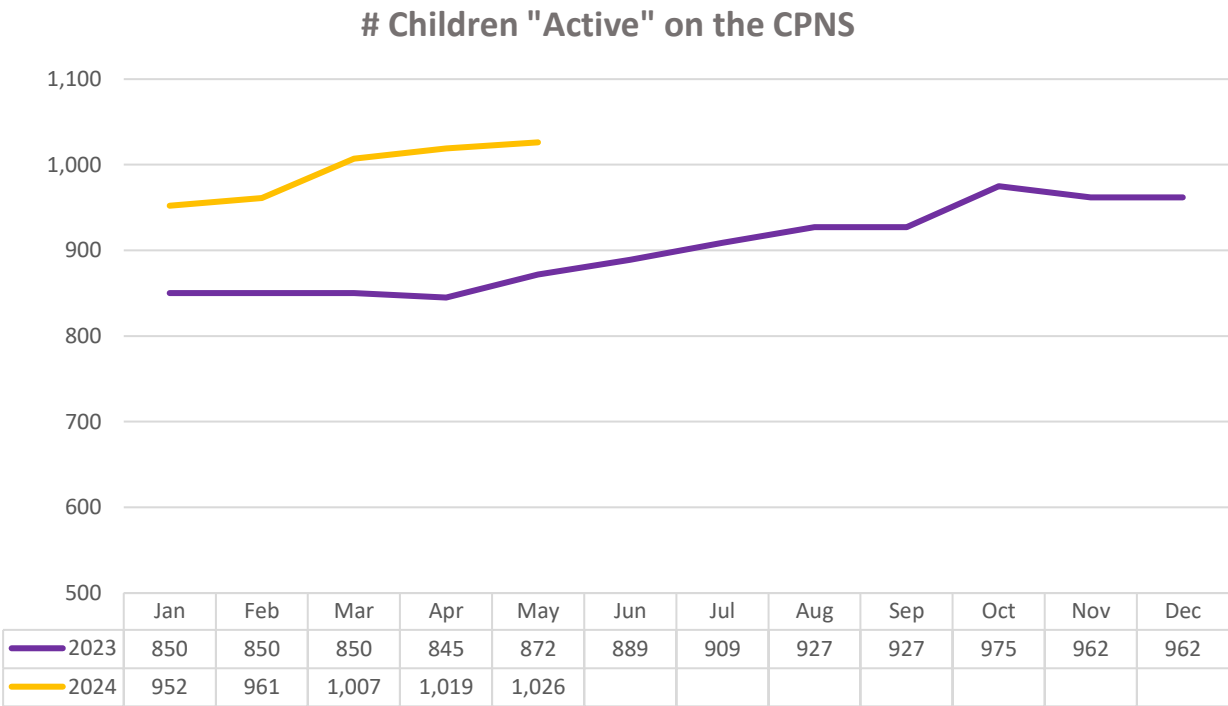
Area	Allocated	Awaiting Allocation	Total	% Allocated
Dublin South East/Wicklow	188	22	210	90%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	236	162	398	59%
Dublin South Central	232	99	331	70%
Midlands	277	57	334	83%
Dublin North City	474	0	474	100%
Dublin North	381	29	410	93%
Louth/Meath	365	58	423	86%
Cavan/Monaghan	143	21	164	87%
Kerry	137	27	164	84%
Cork	662	20	682	97%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	117	193	310	38%
Waterford/Wexford	369	58	427	86%
Donegal	216	0	216	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	98	15	113	87%
Mayo	141	0	141	100%
Galway/Roscommon	351	0	351	100%
Midwest	285	221	506	56%
SCSIP	74	68	142	52%
Total	4,746	1,050	5,796	82%

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

Area	UTD Care Plan	Awaiting UTD Care Plan	Total	% UTD Care Plan
Dublin South East/Wicklow	174	36	210	83%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	344	54	398	86%
Dublin South Central	246	85	331	74%
Midlands	330	4	334	99%
Dublin North City	324	150	474	68%
Dublin North	351	59	410	86%
Louth/Meath	338	85	423	80%
Cavan/Monaghan	138	26	164	84%
Kerry	131	33	164	80%
Cork	588	94	682	86%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	298	12	310	96%
Waterford/Wexford	403	24	427	94%
Donegal	198	18	216	92%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	94	19	113	83%
Mayo	127	14	141	90%
Galway/Roscommon	286	65	351	81%
Midwest	411	95	506	81%
SCSIP*	73	69	142	51%
Total	4,854	942	5,796	84%

Child Protection Notification System

- **1,026 children listed as “active”** at the end of May 2024, 7 (1%) more than April 2024 (1,019) and the fourth consecutive monthly increase.
- There were 154 (18%) more children “active” at the end of May 2024 than at the end of May 2023 (872).
- All children listed as “active” at the end of May 2024 had an **allocated social worker**.
- Highest number of children listed as “active” at the end of May 2024 was reported by Midwest (135) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (121), Cork (107) and Dublin North City (106).
- Fewest number listed as “active” reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (13) followed by Mayo (16), Dublin South East/Wicklow (20) and Kerry (20).
- The number of children “active” equates to about 8 children per 10,000 under 18 years.
- Highest rate per 10,000 population under 18 years reported by Dublin North City (21.3) followed by Midwest (14.0), Donegal (11.2) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (11.1).
- Lowest rates reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.2), Mayo (5.0) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (5.3) .
- Five areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national rate of 8.4/10,000
- 8/17 areas had more children listed as “active” at the end of May 2024 than at the end of April 2024. Largest increases reported by Midwest (up 14) and Dublin South Central (up 12).
- 9/17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 15) and Donegal (down 11).
- 10/17 areas had more children active at the end of May 2024 than at the end of May 2023. Largest increases reported by Midwest (up 72), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 34) and Louth/Meath (up 30).
- 7/17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 19), Waterford/Wexford (down 16) and Donegal (down 10).



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

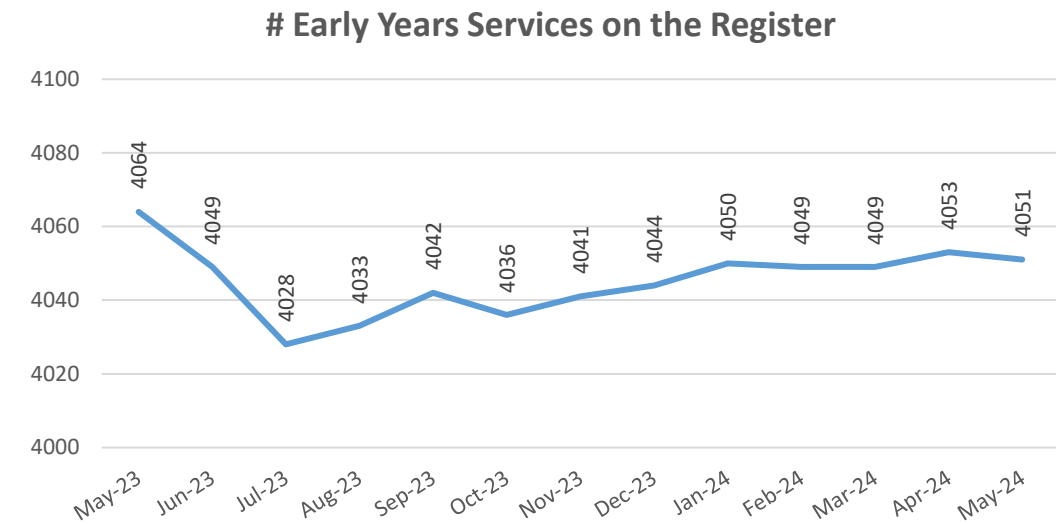
Area	May-23	Apr-24	May-24	May-24 v May-23	May-24 v Apr-24	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	96	100	106	10	6	49,682	21.3
Mid West	63	121	135	72	14	96,764	14.0
Donegal	57	58	47	-10	-11	42,144	11.2
DSW/K/WW	87	117	121	34	4	108,927	11.1
Carlow / Kilkenny / South Tipperary	51	63	66	15	3	62,366	10.6
Dublin South Central	67	46	58	-9	12	70,259	8.3
Midlands	61	64	66	5	2	80,962	8.2
Cork	87	108	107	20	-1	136,786	7.8
Dublin North	79	81	80	1	-1	103,508	7.7
Louth / Meath	34	63	64	30	1	96,531	6.6
Cavan / Monaghan	23	23	22	-1	-1	37,336	5.9
Kerry	24	19	20	-4	1	34,994	5.7
Waterford / Wexford	55	42	39	-16	-3	69,239	5.6
Galway / Roscommon	25	47	46	21	-1	81,799	5.6
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	4	15	13	9	-2	24,312	5.3
Mayo	20	17	16	-4	-1	31,911	5.0
Dublin South East / Wicklow	39	35	20	-19	-15	91,047	2.2
Total	872	1,019	1,026	154	7.0	1,218,567	8.4

Population – source CSO Census 2022

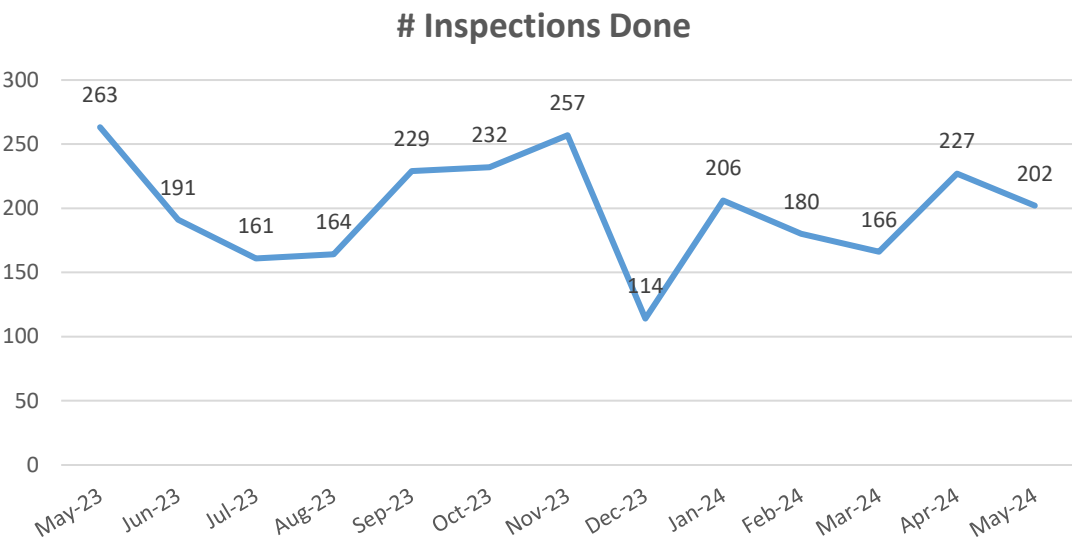
Children’s Services Regulation

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- **4,051 early years services on the register at the end of May 2024**, two fewer than April 2024 (4,053) and 13 (<1%) fewer than May 2023 (4,064).

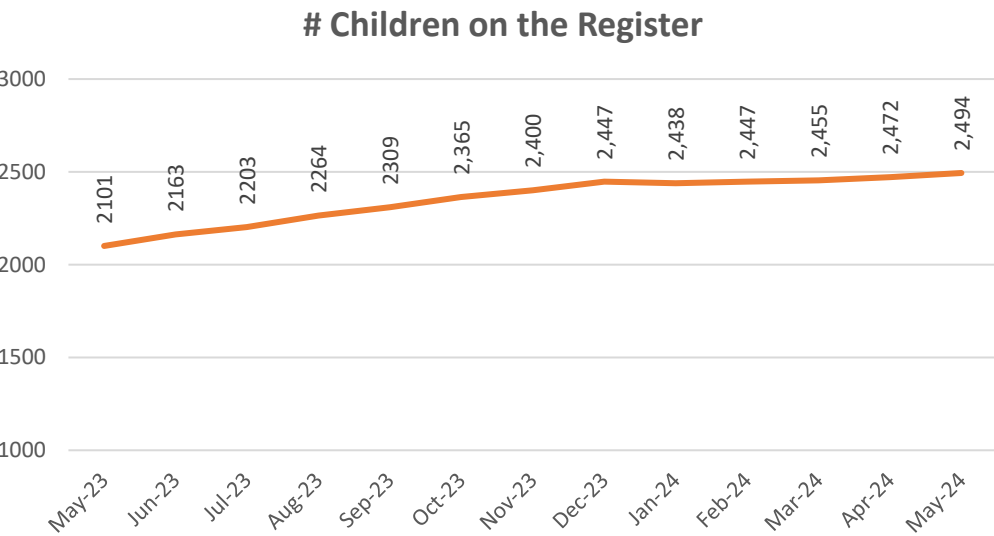


- **202 inspections** of early years services done in May 2024. This brings to 981 the number of inspections for the first five months of 2024, 62 (6%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (1,043).

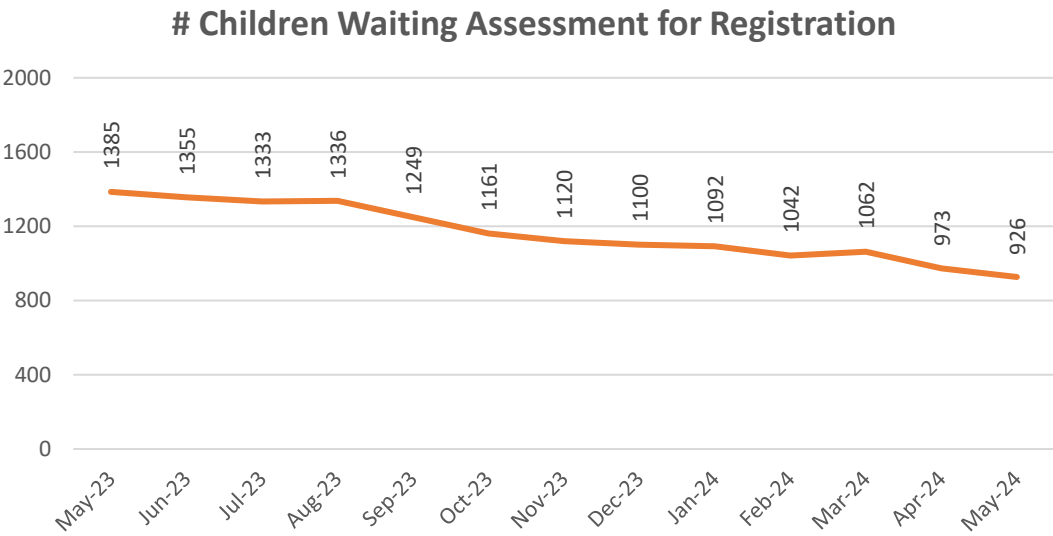


ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

- **2,494 children on the register for home education at the end of May 2024**, 22 (<1%) more than April 2024 (2,472) and 393 (19%) more than May 2023 (2,101).

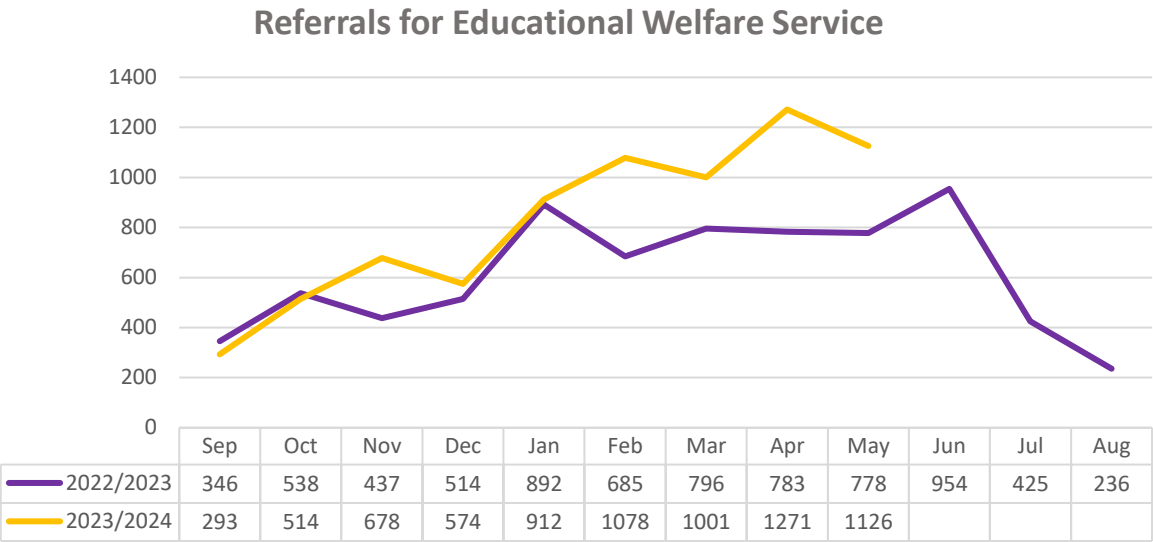


- **926 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of May 2024**, 47 (5%) fewer than April 2024 (973) and 459 (33%) fewer than May 2023 (1,385).

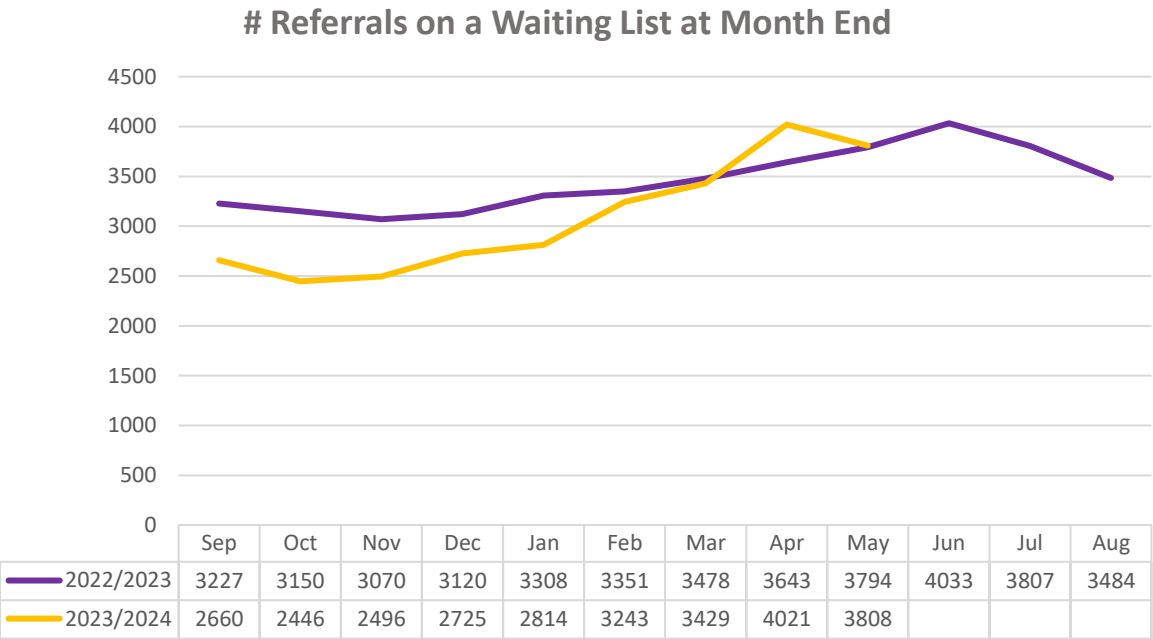


Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,126 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in May 2024. This brings to 7,447 the number of referrals for the first nine months of the academic year 2023-2024, 1,678 (29%) more than the same period in 2022-2023 (5,769).



- **3,808 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of May 2024, 213 (5%) fewer than April 2024 (4,021) and the first decrease after six consecutive monthly increases.
- 14 more referrals on a waiting list at the end of May 2024 (3,808) compared to May 2023 (3,794).



- **400 new individual children worked with** in May 2024. This brings to 3,412 the number of new individual children worked with for the first nine months of the academic year 2023-2024, 565 (20%) more than the same period in 2022-2023 (2,847).

