



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

MONTHLY SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

OCTOBER 2024

09 December 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 – October 2024

Child Protection & Welfare

- **9,423 referrals** in October 2024, 1,267 (16%) more than September 2024 (8,156) and 1,288 (16%) more than October 2023 (8,135). Brings to 79,836 the number of referrals for the first 10 months of 2024, 2,529 (3%) more than the same period in 2023 (77,307).
- **21,907 cases open to social work** at the end of October 2024, 1,046 (5%) more than September 2024 (20,861) and 609 (3%) fewer than October 2023 (22,516). *Open cases include child protection and welfare cases including children in care.*
- **78% (17,056) of cases open to social work at the end of October 2024 had an allocated worker**, down one percentage point from September 2024. (Ref note on Page 4).
- **4,851 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of October 2024, 572 (13%) more than September 2024 (4,279). First increase after four consecutive monthly decreases. Cases awaiting allocation are down 429 (8%) from October 2023 (5,280).
- Six areas account for 71% (3,424) of cases awaiting allocation: Dublin South Central (981), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (687), Midlands (567), Cork (466), Louth/Meath (405) and Midwest (318).
- **9% (428) of cases awaiting allocation** at the end of October 2024 were **categorised as high priority**, 17 (4%) fewer than September 2024 (445) and 56 (12%) fewer than October 2023 (484).

Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

- **88 referrals assigned to CASP Teams in October 2024.** This brings to 590 the number of referrals assigned for the first 10 months of 2024, 271 (31%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (861).
- **706 assessments open at the end of October 2024**, 32 (5%) more than September 2024 (674) and 75 (10%) fewer than October 2023 (781).
- **75% (533/706) of assessments open at the end of October 2024 were allocated** to a social worker, up one percentage point from September 2024 (74%), third consecutive monthly increase.
- The remaining **25% (173) were awaiting allocation** with one more case awaiting allocation at the end of October 2024 than at the end of September 2024 (172). Some 105 (38%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of October 2024 than at the end of October 2023 (278).

Children in Care

- **5,784 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of October 2024, 24 (<1%) more than September 2024 (5,760).** Figure includes 110 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP)
- **87.4% (5,056)** of all children in care (17 Areas and SCSIP) are in **foster care** (3,591 general foster care, and 1,465 relative foster), **8.8% (511) are in residential care** (497 general residential care and 14 special care) and **3.8% (217) are in “other” care placements.**

Children in Care (contd.)

- Across Tusla’s 17 areas 88.8% (5,036/5,674) of children in care are in foster care.
- **988 (17%) children in care at the end of October 2024 were in placements with private providers**, 11 (1%) more than September 2024 (977).
- **85% (4,909) of children in care at the end of October 2024 had an allocated worker.** A total of 875 children were awaiting allocation, 49 (5%) fewer than September 2024 (924).
- **85% (4,910) of children in care at the end of October 2024 had an up-to-date care plan**, no change from September 2024. A total of 874 children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 22 (3%) more than September 2024 (852).

Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

- **1,036 children listed as “active”** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of October 2024, 20 (2%) fewer than September 2024 (1,056), third consecutive monthly decrease.
- There were 61 (6%) more children “active” at the end of October 2024 than at the end of October 2023 (975).
- All children listed as “active” at the end of October 2024 had an **allocated social worker.**

Children’s Services Regulation

- **4,044 early years services on the register at the end of October 2024**, two more than September 2024 (4,042) and eight more than October 2023 (4,036).
- **244 inspections** of early years services in October 2024. This brings to 1,940 the number of inspections for the first ten months of 2024, 80 (4%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (2,020).
- **2,201 children on the register** for home education at the end of October 2024, 58 (3%) more than September 2024 (2,143).
- **726 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of October 2024**, 82 (10%) fewer than September 2024 (808) and 435 (37%) fewer than October 2023 (1,161).

Tusla Education Support Services

- **663 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in October 2024. Brings to 1,065 the number of referrals for the first two months of the academic year 2024 – 2025, some 258 (32%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (807).
- **3,218 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of October 2024, 10 fewer than September 2024 (3,228).

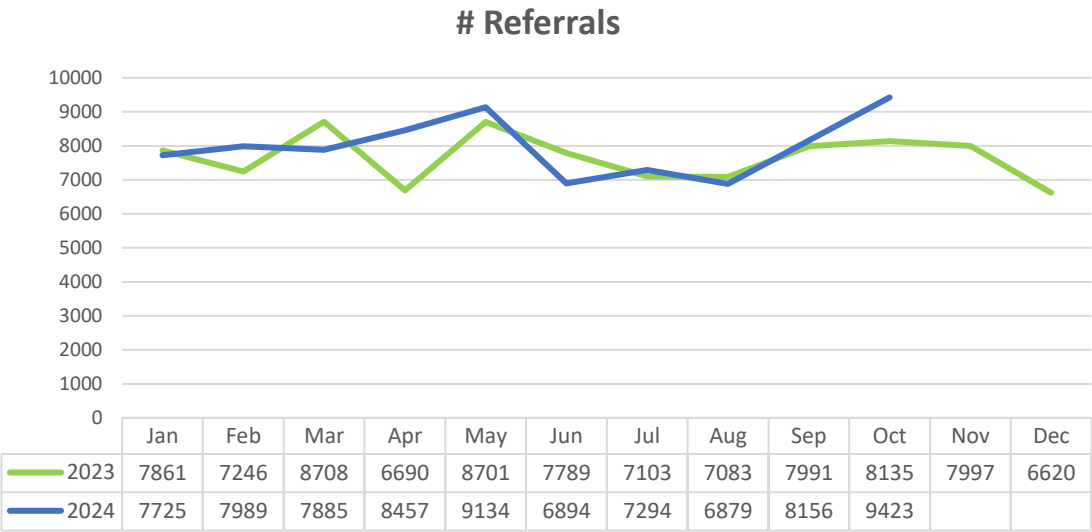
- 772 (32%) more referrals on a waiting list at the end of October 2024 (3,218) than at the end of October 2023 (2,446).

Child Protection and Welfare

Referrals¹

- **9,423 referrals** in October 2024, 1,267 (16%) more than September 2024 (8,156) and 1,288 (16%) more than October 2023 (8,135).
- This brings to 79,836 the number of referrals for the first 10 months of 2024, 2,529 (3%) more than the same period in 2023 (77,307).

It should be noted that the data presented for the first six months of 2024 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for Jul-Oct 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.

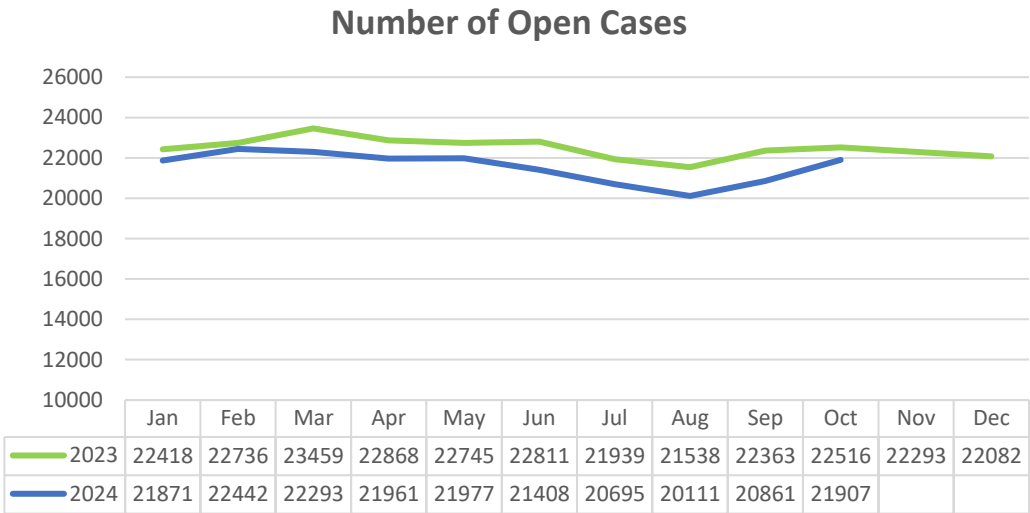


Open Cases

- **21,907 cases open to social work** at the end of October 2024, 1,046 (5%) more than September 2024 (20,861) and 609 (3%) fewer than October 2023 (22,516).

Notes:

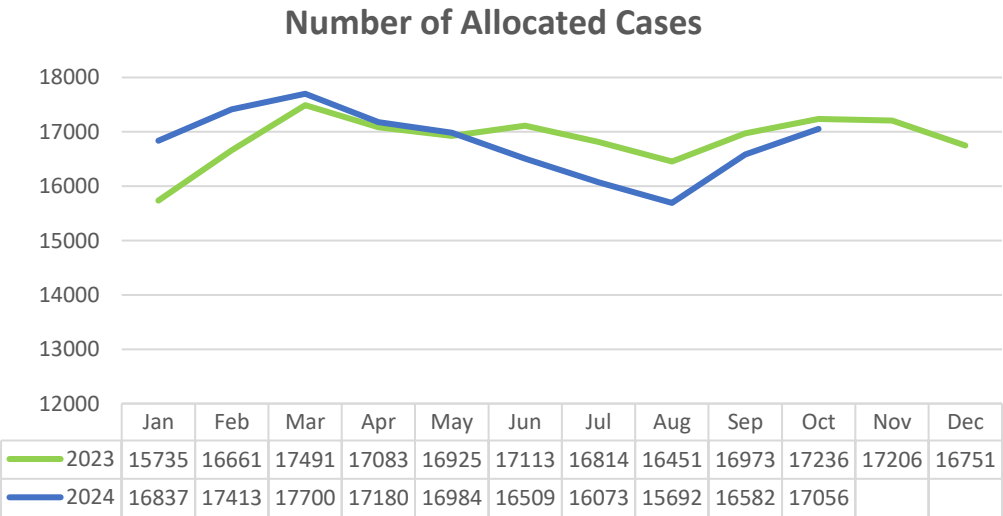
- 1) Open cases include, all cases held on duty, allocated and unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care.
- 2) The data presented on cases is based on the status of cases on the TCM at month end.



Allocated Cases

- **17,056 open cases were allocated to a worker** at the end of October 2024, 474 (3%) more than September 2024 (16,582) and 180 (1%) fewer than October 2023 (17,236).
- Allocated cases account for 78% of open cases, down one percentage point from September 2024 (79%).

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.



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

- **4,851 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of October 2024, 572 (13%) more than September 2024 (4,279). First increase after four consecutive monthly decreases.

- Cases awaiting allocation are down 429 (8%) from October 2023 (5,280).

- Cases awaiting allocation account for 22% of open cases (21,907), up one percentage point from September 2024 (21%).

- **36% (1,723) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of October 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 (981) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (687), Midlands (567), Cork (466), Louth/Meath (405) and Midwest (318). These six areas account for 71% (3,424) of all cases awaiting allocation.

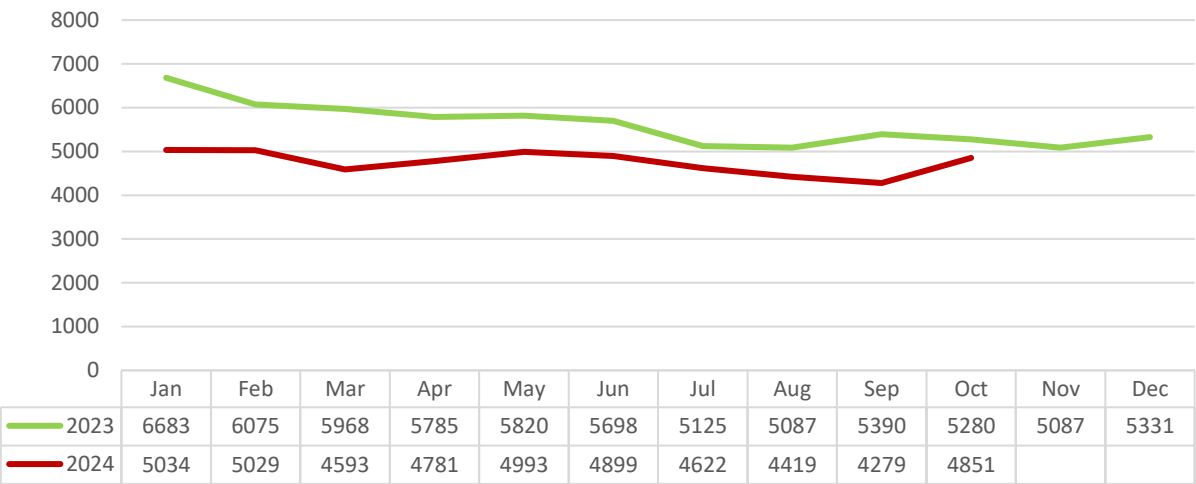
- **428 cases awaiting allocation at the end of October 2024 were categorised as high priority**, 17 (4%) fewer than September 2024 (445) and 56 (12%) fewer than October 2023 (484).

- High priority cases account for 9% of cases awaiting allocation.

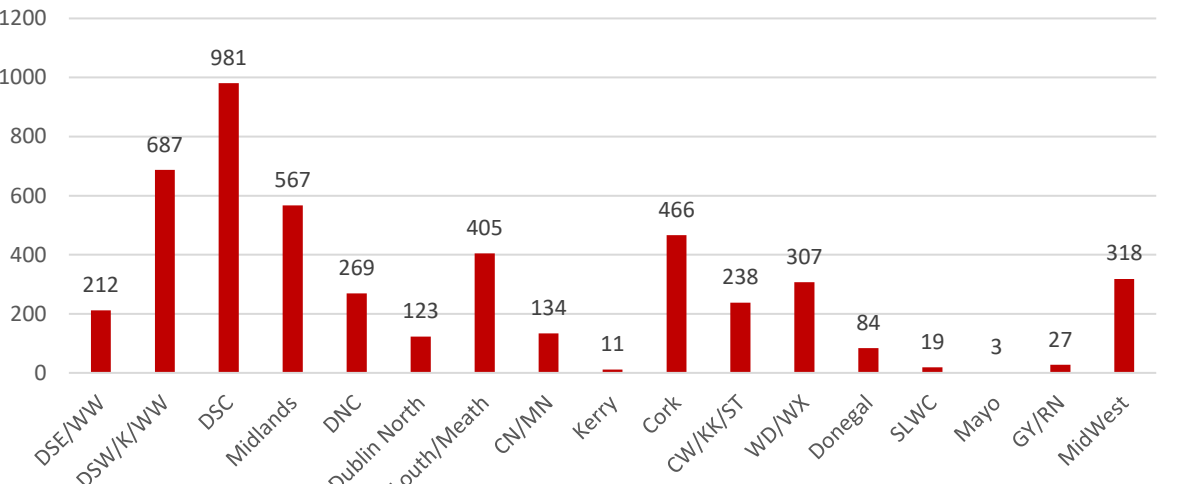
- 60% (2,914) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 29% (1,407) were low priority while the remaining 2% (102) were awaiting categorisation.

- Highest number of high priority cases reported by Midlands (88), Midwest (70), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (55), Donegal (44), Louth/Meath (42) and Dublin South Central (41). These six areas account for 79% (340) of all high priority cases awaiting.

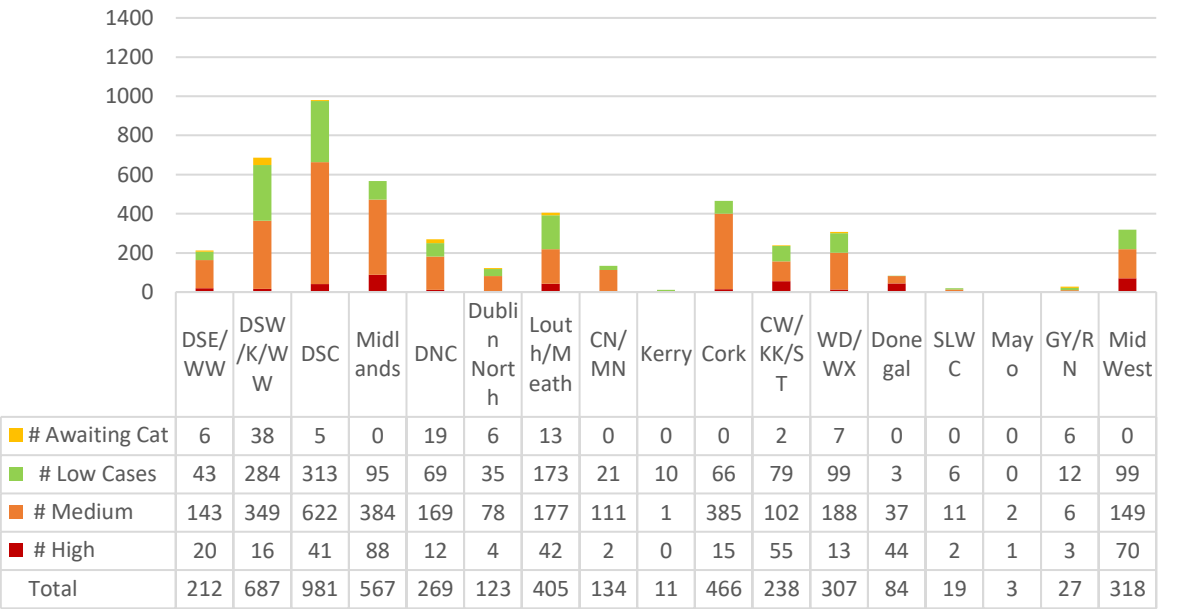
Number of Unallocated Cases



Number of Unallocated Cases









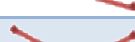





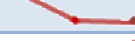
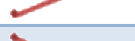





Number Unallocated Cases by Priority Level



Child Protection & Welfare

Cases Awaiting Allocation

- 5/17 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from September 2024.
- Largest decrease reported by Dublin North (down 20) followed by Donegal (down 11), Kerry (down 8), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 2) and Mayo (down 1).
- 12/17 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from September 2024. Largest increases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 149), Midlands (up 145) and Waterford/Wexford (up 102).
- Nationally 22% of open cases were awaiting allocation at the end of October 2024. Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 22%. Highest percentages reported by Dublin South Central (44%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (38%), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (31%), Midlands (30%), Louth/Meath (24%) and Midwest (23%).
- 13/17 areas had fewer cases awaiting allocation at the end of October 2024 than at the end of October 2023. Largest decreases reported by Cork (down 368), Donegal (down 124), Waterford / Wexford (down 119) and Dublin South Central (down 57).
- 4/17 areas had more cases awaiting allocation at the end of October 2024 than at the end of October 2023. Increases reported by Midlands (up 326), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 98), Midwest (up 29) and Dublin North City (up 8).

Area	Oct-23 # Unallocated	Oct-23 % Unallocated	Aug-24 # Unallocated	Sep-24 # Unallocated	Oct-24 # Unallocated	Oct-24 % Unallocated	 Aug-Oct	Oct-24 v Oct-23	% Δ	Oct-24 v Sep-24	% Δ1
DSE/WW	227	20%	301	198	212	21%		-15	-7%	14	7%
DSW/K/WW	589	35%	431	538	687	38%		98	17%	149	28%
DSC	1,038	49%	1070	980	981	44%		-57	-5%	1	0%
Midlands	241	14%	258	422	567	30%		326	135%	145	34%
DNC	261	15%	235	229	269	16%		8	3%	40	17%
Dublin North	161	7%	165	143	123	7%		-38	-24%	-20	-14%
Louth/Meath	426	31%	413	369	405	24%		-21	-5%	36	10%
CN/MN	146	21%	131	110	134	19%		-12	-8%	24	22%
Kerry	47	12%	20	19	11	2%		-36	-77%	-8	-42%
Cork	834	30%	375	398	466	18%		-368	-44%	68	17%
CW/KK/ST	268	31%	226	240	238	31%		-30	-11%	-2	-1%
WD/WX	426	28%	224	205	307	23%		-119	-28%	102	50%
Donegal	208	24%	200	95	84	11%		-124	-60%	-11	-12%
SLWC	43	11%	15	18	19	6%		-24	-56%	1	6%
Mayo	8	2%	16	4	3	1%		-5	-63%	-1	-25%
GY/RN	68	6%	21	25	27	2%		-41	-60%	2	8%
MidWest	289	22%	318	286	318	23%		29	10%	32	11%
TOTAL	5280	23%	4419	4279	4851	22%		-429	-8%	572	13.4%

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	Sep-24	Oct-24	Δ	Sep-24	Oct-24	Δ2	Sep-24	Oct-24	Δ3	Sep-24	Oct-24	Δ4
DSE/WW	311	421	110	1,035	1,010	-25	837	798	-39	198	212	14
DSW/K/WW	784	913	129	1,598	1,818	220	1,060	1,131	71	538	687	149
DSC	570	720	150	2,148	2,231	83	1,168	1,250	82	980	981	1
Midlands	916	1003	87	1,675	1,869	194	1,253	1,302	49	422	567	145
DNC	417	506	89	1,615	1,724	109	1,386	1,455	69	229	269	40
Dublin North	809	980	171	1,760	1,800	40	1,617	1,677	60	143	123	-20
Louth/Meath	634	710	76	1,590	1,678	88	1,221	1,273	52	369	405	36
CN/MN	224	282	58	704	719	15	594	585	-9	110	134	24
Kerry	221	258	37	406	457	51	387	446	59	19	11	-8
Cork	674	897	223	2,358	2,538	180	1,960	2,072	112	398	466	68
CW/KK/ST	474	451	-23	735	773	38	495	535	40	240	238	-2
WD/WX	594	604	10	1,291	1,331	40	1,086	1,024	-62	205	307	102
Donegal	293	282	-11	757	736	-21	662	652	-10	95	84	-11
SLWC	137	141	4	289	300	11	271	281	10	18	19	1
Mayo	114	113	-1	358	366	8	354	363	9	4	3	-1
GY/RN	433	436	3	1,237	1,193	-44	1,212	1,166	-46	25	27	2
MidWest	551	706	155	1,305	1,364	59	1,019	1,046	27	286	318	32
Total	8,156	9,423	1267	20,861	21,907	1,046	16,582	17,056	474	4,279	4,851	572

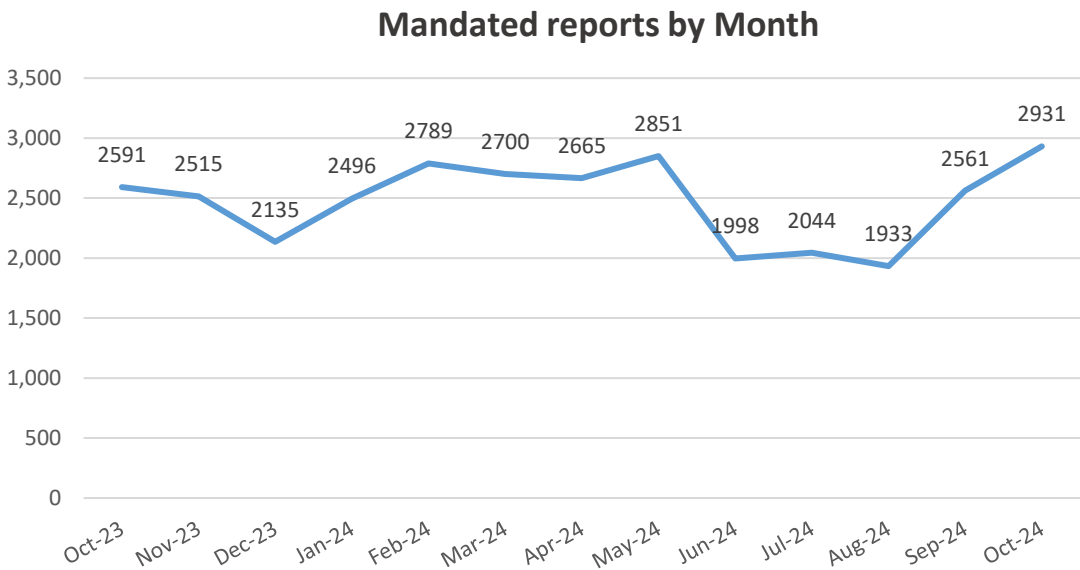
High Priority				Medium Priority			Low Priority			Awaiting Categorisation		
Area	Sep-24	Oct-24	Δ	Sep-24	Oct-24	Δ 2	Sep-24	Oct-24	Δ 3	Sep-24	Oct-24	Δ 4
DSE/WW	8	20	12	93	143	50	68	43	-25	29	6	-23
DSW/K/WW	10	16	6	275	349	74	230	284	54	23	38	15
DSC	62	41	-21	607	622	15	305	313	8	6	5	-1
Midlands	67	88	21	278	384	106	77	95	18	0	0	0
DNC	6	12	6	145	169	24	67	69	2	11	19	8
Dublin North	9	4	-5	77	78	1	49	35	-14	8	6	-2
Louth/Meath	48	42	-6	159	177	18	151	173	22	11	13	2
CN/MN	5	2	-3	83	111	28	21	21	0	1	0	-1
Kerry	0	0	0	4	1	-3	14	10	-4	1	0	-1
Cork	25	15	-10	327	385	58	42	66	24	4	0	-4
CW/KK/ST	65	55	-10	107	102	-5	64	79	15	4	2	-2
WD/WX	8	13	5	135	188	53	55	99	44	7	7	0
Donegal	55	44	-11	39	37	-2	1	3	2	0	0	0
SLWC	2	2	0	10	11	1	6	6	0	0	0	0
Mayo	3	1	-2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
GY/RN	1	3	2	11	6	-5	11	12	1	2	6	4
MidWest	71	70	-1	139	149	10	75	99	24	1	0	-1
TOTAL	445	428	-17	2,490	2,914	424	1,236	1,407	171	108	102	-6

Mandated Reports¹ – Child Protection & Welfare

- **2,931 mandated reports of abuse** received in October 2024, 370 (14%) more than September 2024 (2,561) and 340 (13%) more than October 2023 (2,591). This brings to 24,968 the number of reports for the first 10 months of 2024, 959 (4%) more than the same period in 2023 (24,009).

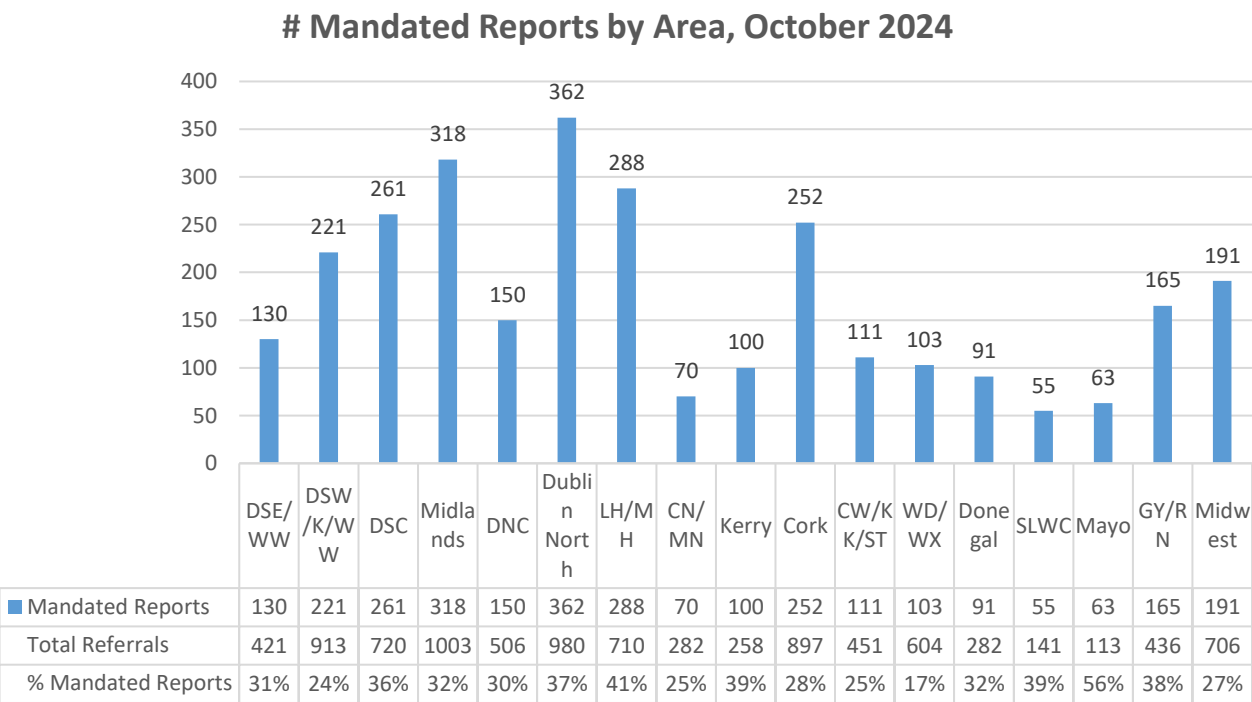
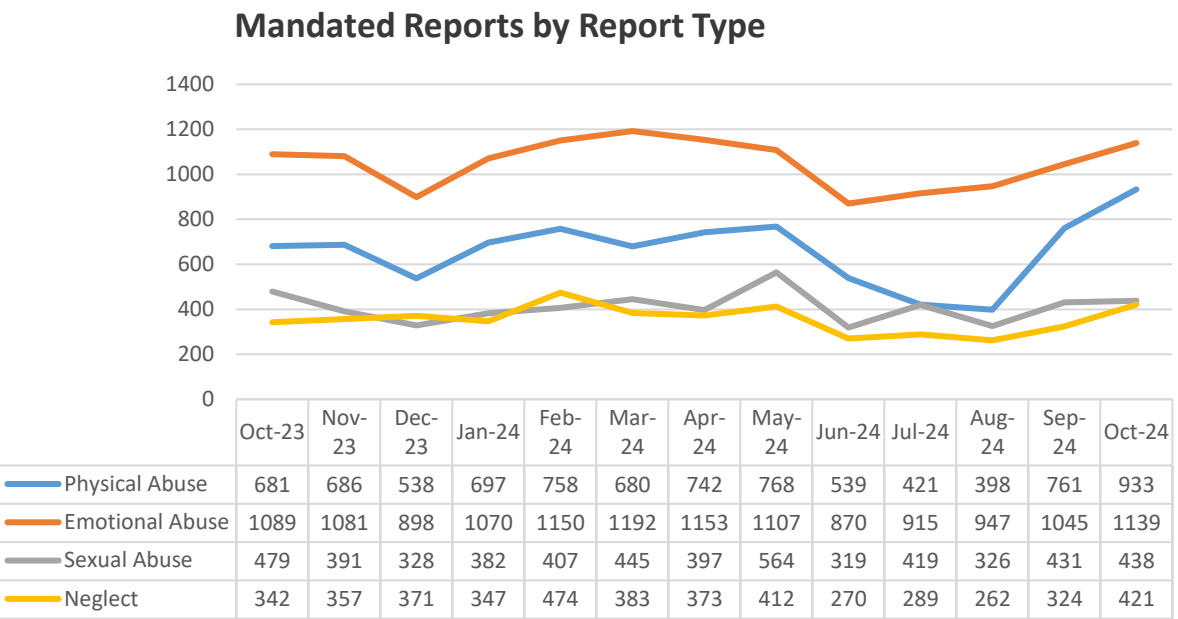
It should be noted that the data presented for the first six months of 2024 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for Jul-Oct 2024 is based on referrals logged on the Tusla Case Management (TCM) system at the time the data was extracted for reporting. Referrals logged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

- Mandated reports accounted for 31% (2,931) of all referrals received (9,423) in October 2024.



- The number of mandated reports for October 2024, by area ranged from 55 (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 362 (Dublin North).
- As a percentage of referrals, the highest percentage (56%) was reported by Mayo.
- The lowest percentage (17%) was reported by Waterford/Wexford.

- Highest number of reports for October 2024 were for emotional abuse (1,139; 39%) followed by physical abuse (933; 32%), sexual abuse (438; 15%) and neglect (421; 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 October 2024 from An Garda Síochána (993; 34%) followed by teachers (508; 17%), safeguarding officer (452; 15%); social workers (318; 11%), social care workers (153; 5%), medical practitioners (83; 3%) and managers of domestic violence shelters (79; 3%). These seven sources account for 88%% (2,586) of reports for October 2024.
- Highest number of reports for 2024 YTD from An Garda Síochána (9,464; 38%) followed by teachers (3,409; 14%), safeguarding officers (3,363; 13%), social workers (2,813; 11%), social care workers (1,182; 5%) and medical practitioners (858; 3%). These six sources account for 84% (21,089) of reports for 2024 YTD.

Source (Schedule 2 Children First 2015)	# Oct 2024	% Oct 2024	2024 YTD	% Total 2024
Medical practitioner (Registered)	83	2.8%	858	3.4%
Nurse or registered midwife (Registered)	57	1.9%	517	2.1%
Physiotherapist (Registered)	*	0.1%	47	0.2%
Speech & language therapist (Registered)	5	0.2%	38	0.2%
Occupational therapist (Registered)	8	0.3%	55	0.2%
Registered dentist	0	0.0%	*	0.0%
Psychologist	63	2.1%	571	2.3%
Social care worker	153	5.2%	1182	4.7%
Social worker	318	10.8%	2813	11.3%
EMT, paramedic and advanced paramedic	*	0.0%	20	0.1%
Probation officer	*	0.0%	35	0.1%
Teacher registered with the Teaching Council.	508	17.3%	3409	13.7%
An Garda Síochána Member	993	33.9%	9464	37.9%
Guardian ad litem	10	0.3%	55	0.2%
Domestic violence shelter manager	79	2.7%	749	3.0%
Homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility manager	29	1.0%	228	0.9%
Asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre manager	5	0.2%	72	0.3%
Addiction counsellor	5	0.2%	37	0.1%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	65	2.2%	624	2.5%
Language school or other recreational school where children reside	*	0.1%	14	0.1%
Clergy member	0	0.0%	*	0.0%
Institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	*	0.1%	22	0.1%
Safeguarding officer, child protection officer	452	15.4%	3363	13.5%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	11	0.4%	101	0.4%
Youth work service - person responsible	18	0.6%	106	0.4%
Youth worker employed in a youth work service	38	1.3%	447	1.8%
Foster carer registered with the Agency.	9	0.3%	41	0.2%
Pre-school service within the meaning of the Child Care Act	13	0.4%	86	0.3%
Total (includes suppressed values)	2,931	100.0%	24,968	100.0%

*Values suppressed for confidentiality purposes. Suppressed figures included in totals.

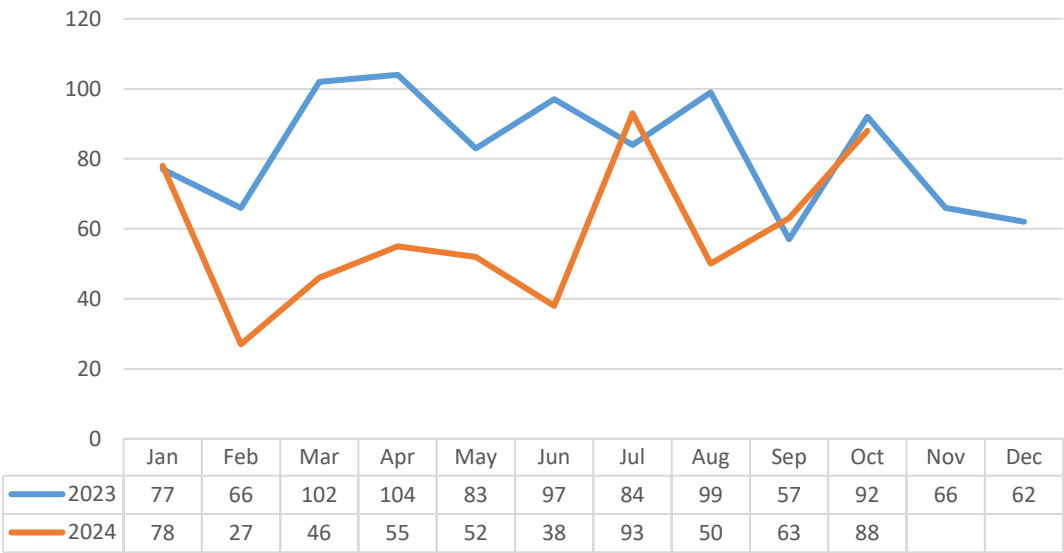
Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

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

- 88 referrals assigned to CASP Teams in October 2024. This brings to 590 the number of referrals assigned for the first 10 months of 2024, 271 (31%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (861).

Referrals Assigned by Month



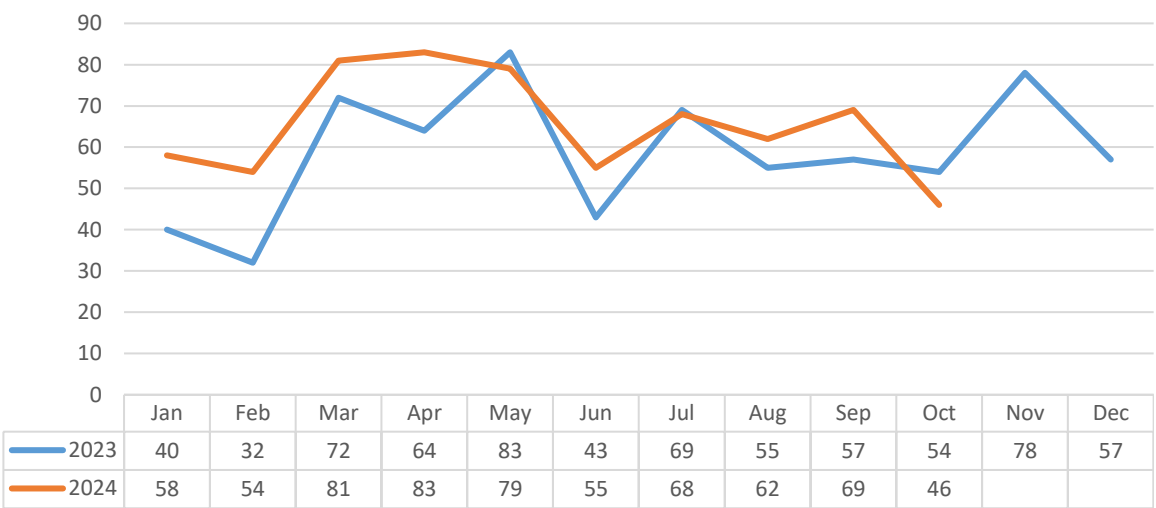
Open Assessments

- 706 assessments open at the end of October 2024, 32 (5%) more than September 2024 (674) and 75 (10%) fewer than October 2023 (781).

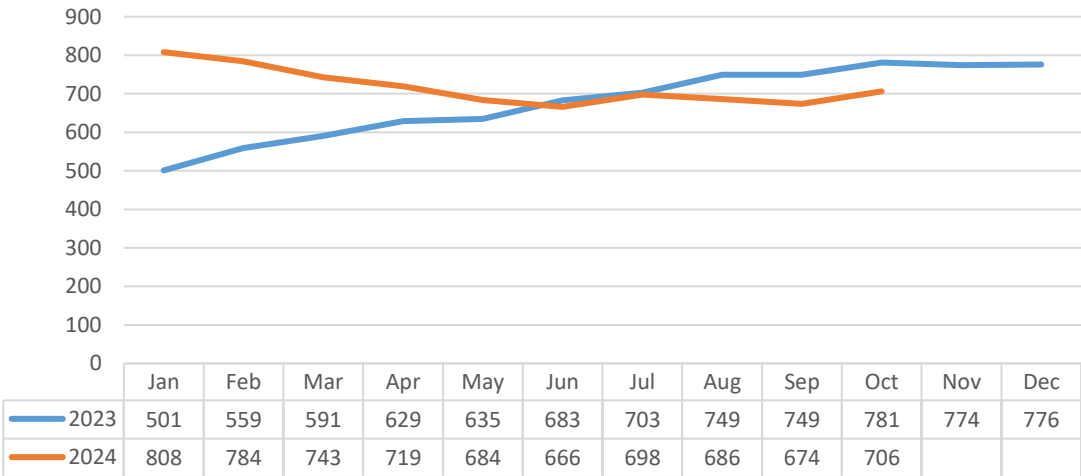
Assessments Closed

- 46 assessments closed in October 2024. This brings to 655 the number of assessments closed for the first 10 months of 2024, 86 (15%) more than the same period in 2023 (569).

Assessments Closed by Month



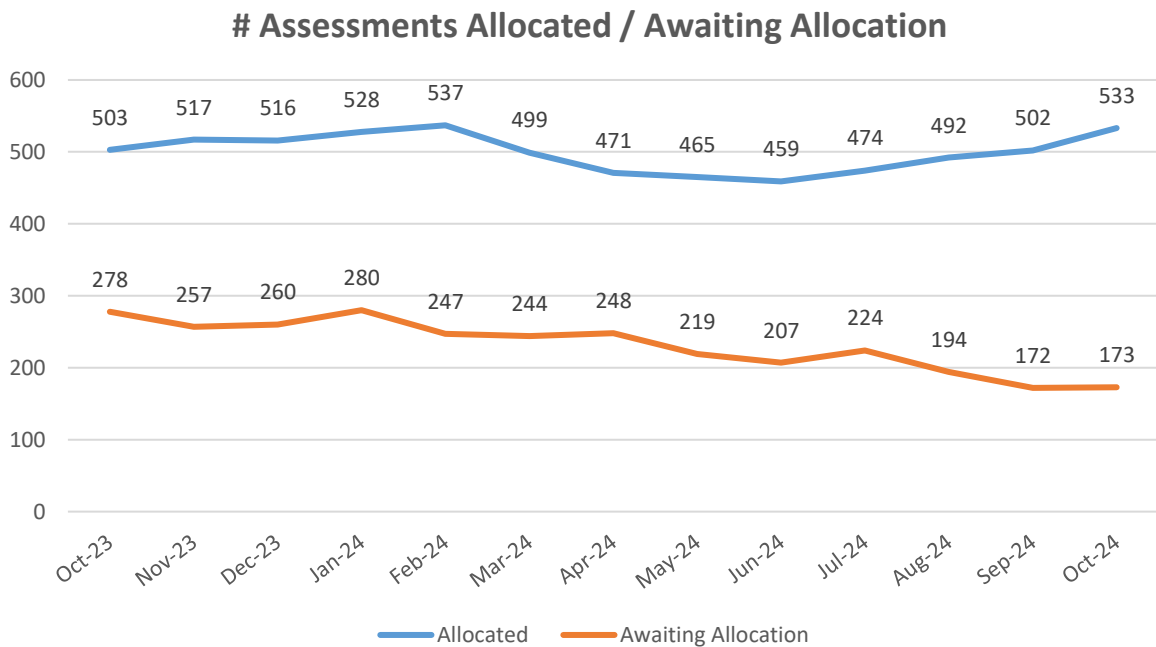
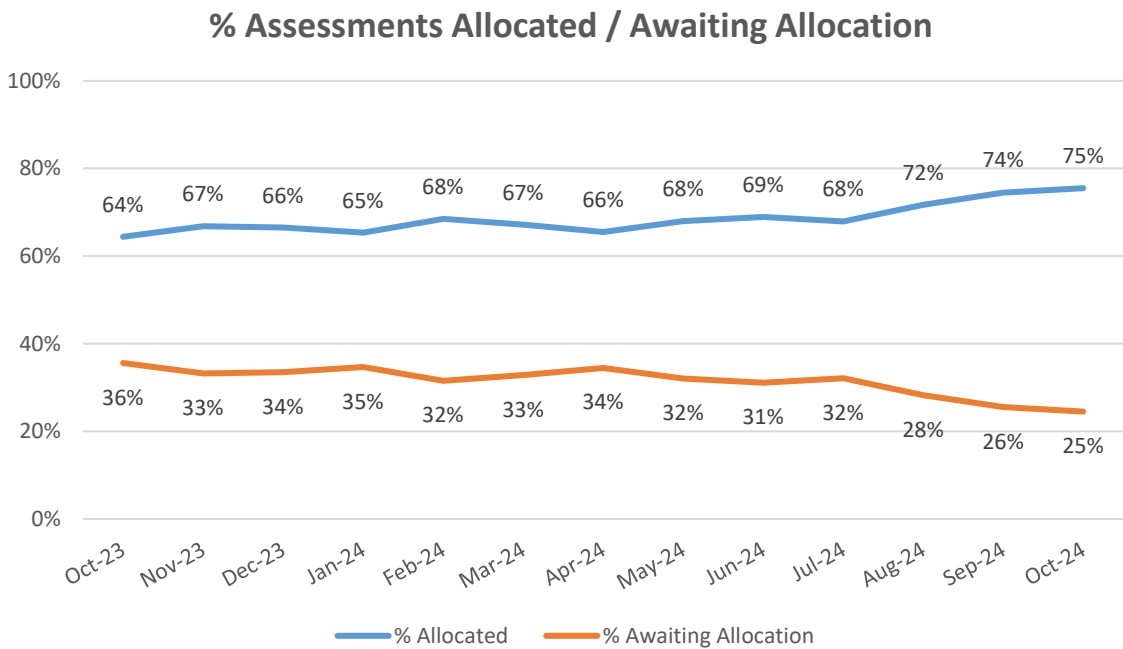
Open Assessments at Month End



Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

Allocation Status of Open Assessments

- 75% (533/706) of assessments open at the end of October 2024 were allocated to a social worker, up one percentage point from September 2024 (74%), third consecutive monthly increase.
- The remaining 25% (173) were awaiting allocation with one more case awaiting allocation at the end of October 2024 than at the end of September 2024 (172).
- 105 (38%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of October 2024 than at the end of October 2023 (278).



Children in Care

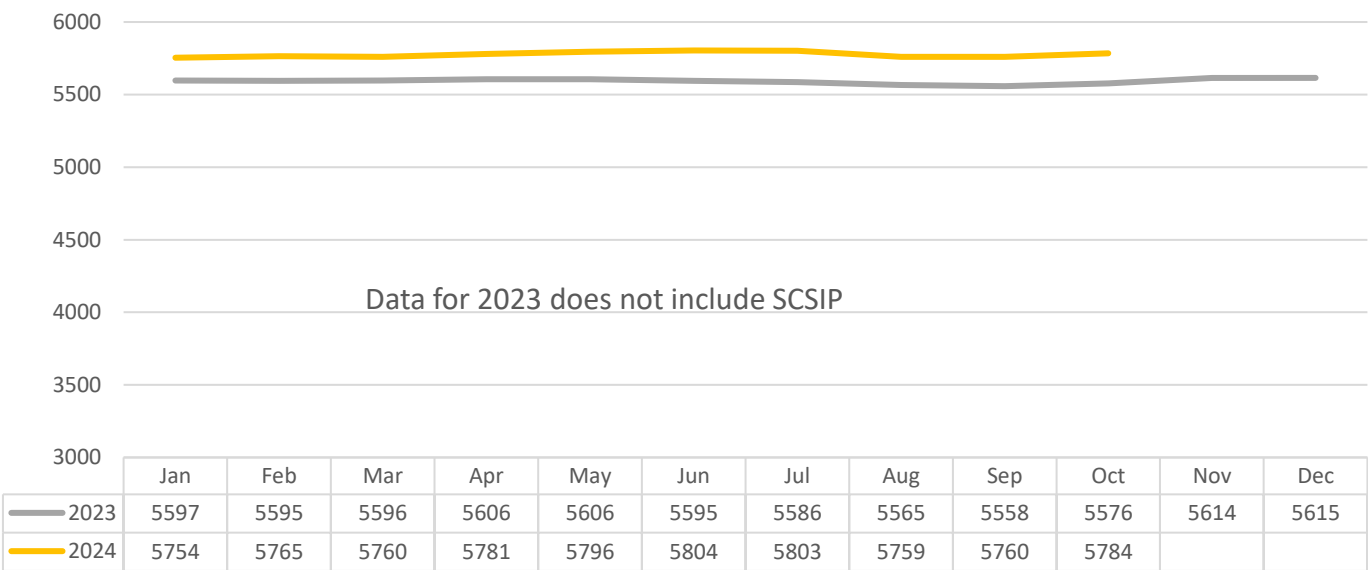
- 5,784 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of October 2024, 24 (<1%) more than September 2024 (5,760). Figure includes 110 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP)¹.

	Oct-23	Sep-24	Oct-24	Oct-24 v Oct-23	Oct-24 v Sep-24
17 Tusla Areas	5,576	5,645	5,674	+98	+29
SCSIP	NA	115	110	NA	-5
Total	5,576	5,760	5,784	-	+24

Placement Type	17 areas	SCSIP	Total
Residential Care	440 (7.8%)	71 (64.5%)	511 (8.8%)
Foster Care	5,036 (88.8%)	20 (18.2%)	5,056 (87.4%)
Other*	198 (3.5%)	19 (17.3%)	217 (3.8%)
Total	5,674 (100%)	110 (100%)	5,784 (100%)

- Residential care (511) includes 14 children in special care. Of the children in foster care (5,056), 71% (3,591) were in general foster care and 29% (1,465) were in relative foster care.
- Highest number of children in care reported by Cork (661) followed by Midwest (496) and Dublin North City (465).
- Fewest number reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (110) and Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan (117).
- Across the 17 Areas the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 children was reported by Dublin North City (9.5) followed by Waterford/Wexford (6.2) and Donegal (5.6).
- Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.3) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.8).
- Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 4.7/1,000 children.

Children in Care by Month



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

Area	Oct-23	Sep-24	Oct-24	Oct-24 v Oct-23	Oct-24 v Sep-24	Population	Rate/1,000
Dublin North City	455	460	465	10	5	48,909	9.5
Waterford/Wexford	423	432	431	8	-1	69,239	6.2
Donegal	215	237	235	20	-2	42,144	5.6
Midwest	513	498	496	-17	-2	96,764	5.1
CW/KK/ST	316	306	305	-11	-1	62,366	4.9
Cork	705	667	661	-44	-6	136,786	4.8
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	111	115	117	6	2	24,312	4.8
Kerry	163	168	168	5	0	34,994	4.8
Dublin South Central	340	327	331	-9	4	70,259	4.7
Mayo	142	145	145	3	0	31,911	4.5
Cavan/Monaghan	154	162	167	13	5	37,336	4.5
Louth/Meath	395	419	423	28	4	96,531	4.4
Galway/Roscommon	353	340	349	-4	9	81,799	4.3
Midlands	321	337	340	19	3	80,962	4.2
Dublin North	383	420	415	32	-5	104,281	4.0
DSW/K/WW	391	412	419	28	7	108,927	3.8
Dublin South East/Wicklow	196	200	207	11	7	91,047	2.3
Total Areas	5,576	5,645	5,674	98	29	1,218,567	4.7
SCSIP	NA	115	110		-5		
Total National	5,576	5,760	5,784		24		

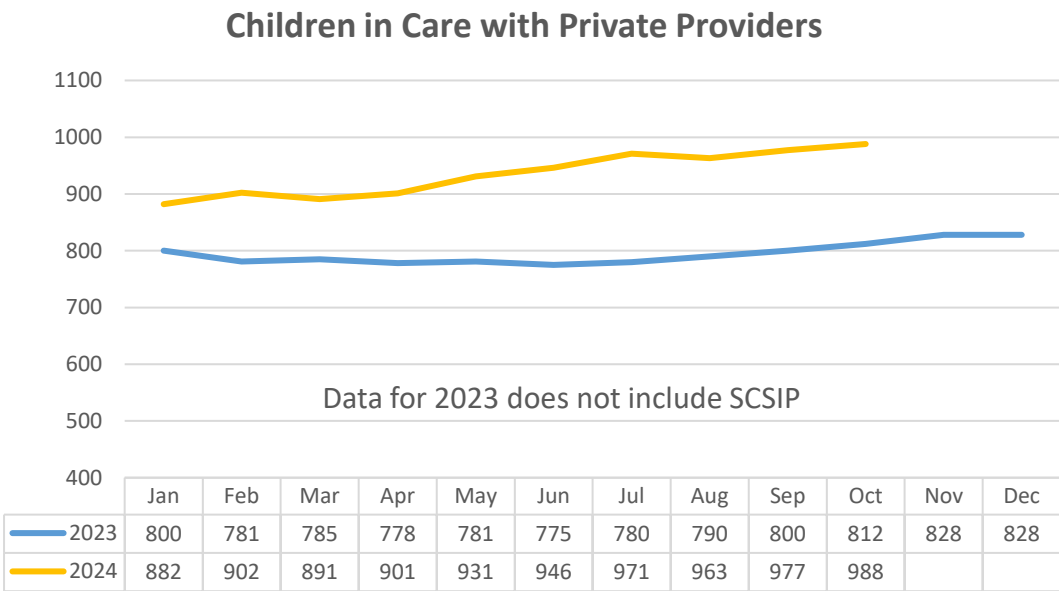
Population: CSO Census 2022

Notes:

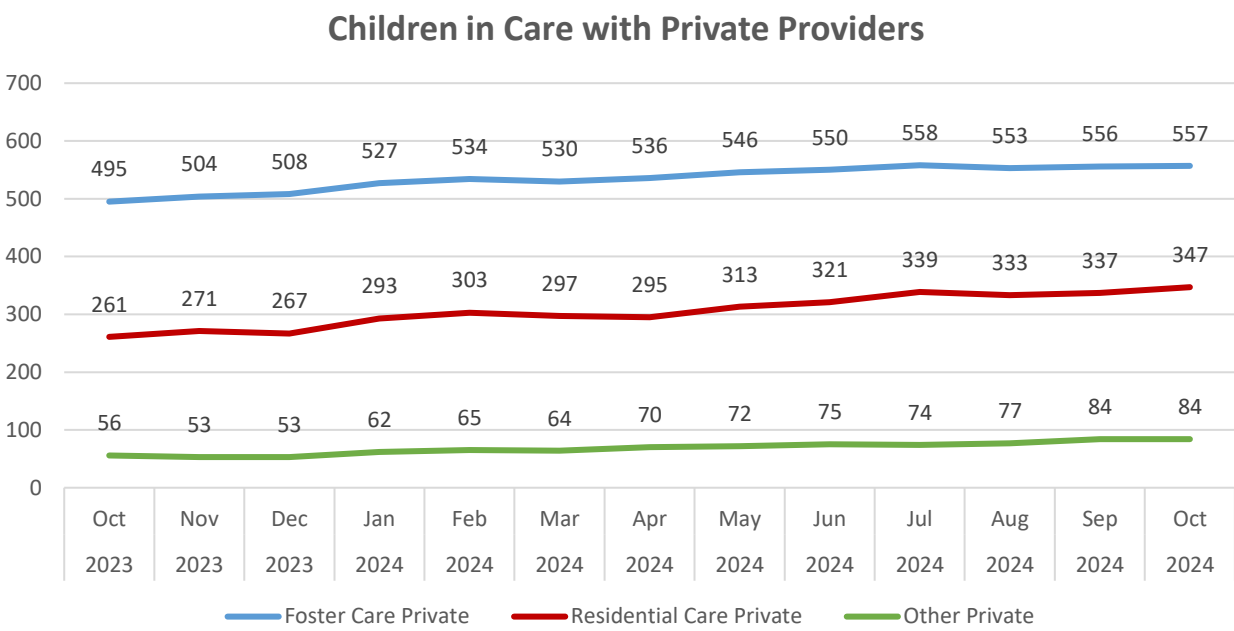
- The Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection has an additional 306 children accommodated under Section 5 Child Care Act 1991.
- *Other care placements includes children at home under a care order, in a detention centre, disability unit, mental health unit, drugs/alcohol rehabilitation unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, supported lodgings etc.

Children in Care

- 988 (17%) children in care at the end of October 2024 were in placements with private providers, 11 (1%) more than September 2024 (977).



- 557 (56%) children in placements with private providers were in **foster care**, one more than September 2024 (556).
- 347 (35%) children were in **residential care**, 10 (3%) more than September 2024 (337).
- The remaining **84 (9%)** children were in “**Other**” **care placements**, no change from September 2024. “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 (123) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (120), Dublin South Central (116), Dublin North (115) and Midlands (83). These five areas account for 56% (557) of children in placements with private providers.



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

Children in Care with Private Providers

Children in Care (Private)	Oct-23	Sep-24	Oct-24	Oct-24 v Sep-24	Oct-24 v Oct-23
Dublin North City	102	123	123	0	21
DSW/K/WW	104	113	120	7	16
Dublin South Central	106	113	116	3	10
Dublin North	96	117	115	-2	19
Midlands	61	83	83	0	22
SCSIP	NA	63	62	-1	-
Cork	61	57	55	-2	-6
Dublin South East/Wicklow	49	50	54	4	5
Louth/Meath	44	53	54	1	10
Waterford/Wexford	47	51	50	-1	3
Midwest	32	41	41	0	9
Kerry	30	32	33	1	3
CW/KK/ST	22	22	22	0	0
Donegal	23	20	21	1	-2
Galway/Roscommon	15	16	18	2	3
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	12	12	12	0	0
Cavan/Monaghan	6	8	8	0	2
Mayo	2	3	1	-2	-1
Total	812	977	988	11	-

*Data for October 2023 does not include data for the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.

Children in Care

- **85% (4,909) of children in care at the end of October 2024 had an allocated worker** with three areas reporting 100% (Donegal, Mayo and Galway/Roscommon), up one percentage point from September 2024 (84%).

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 875 children were awaiting allocation, 49 (5%) fewer than September 2024 (924).
- Highest number awaiting allocation reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (183; 60%) followed by Midwest (167; 34%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (126; 30%), Dublin South Central (72; 22%) and Waterford/Wexford (70; 16%). These five areas account for 71% (618) of all cases awaiting allocation.

- **85% (4,910) of children in care at the end of October 2024 had an up-to-date care plan, no change from September 2024.**
- A total of 874 children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 22 (3%) more than September 2024 (852).
- Highest numbers awaiting an up-to-date care plan reported by Dublin North City (103; 22%), Midwest (102; 21%), Dublin South Central (100; 30%), Cork (92; 14%) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (91; 22%).

Area breakdown of children in care with an allocated worker –October 2024

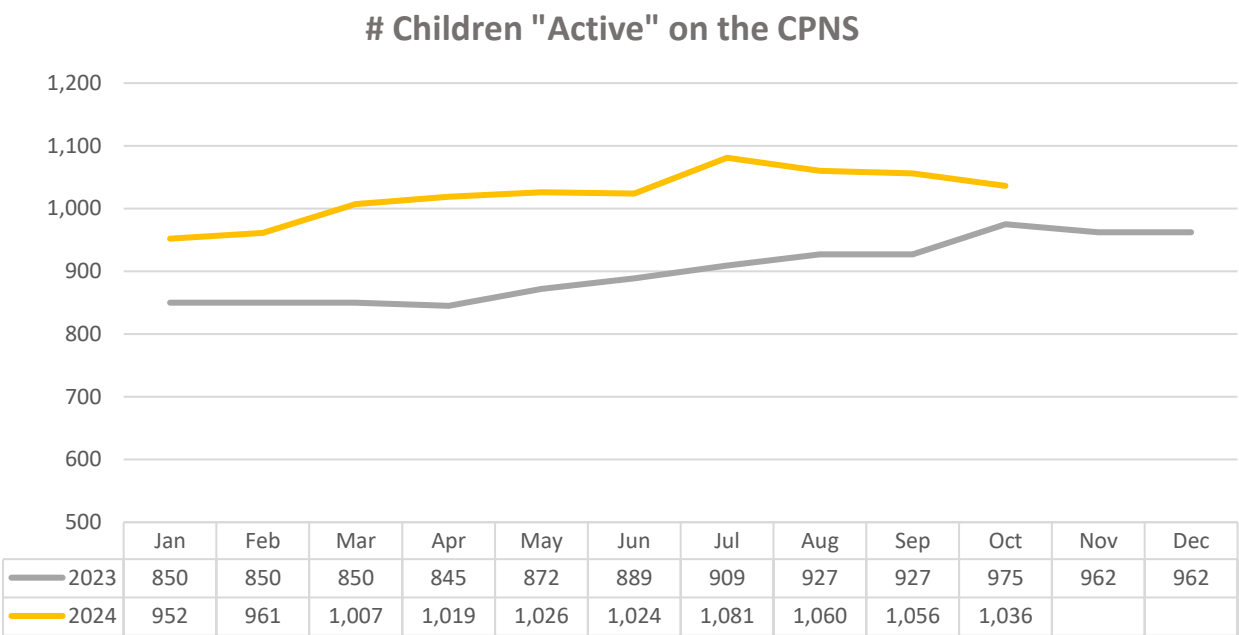
Area	Allocated	Awaiting Allocation	Total	% Allocated
Dublin South East/Wicklow	206	1	207	99.5%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	293	126	419	70%
Dublin South Central	259	72	331	78%
Midlands	281	59	340	83%
Dublin North City	426	39	465	92%
Dublin North	387	28	415	93%
Louth/Meath	357	66	423	84%
Cavan/Monaghan	147	20	167	88%
Kerry	157	11	168	93%
Cork	650	11	661	98%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	122	183	305	40%
Waterford/Wexford	361	70	431	84%
Donegal	235	0	235	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	105	12	117	90%
Mayo	145	0	145	100%
Galway/Roscommon	349	0	349	100%
Midwest	329	167	496	66%
SCSIP	100	10	110	91%
Total	4,909	875	5,784	85%

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

Area	UTD Care Plan	Awaiting UTD Care Plan	Total	% UTD Care Plan
Dublin South East/Wicklow	180	27	207	82%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	328	91	419	84%
Dublin South Central	231	100	331	68%
Midlands	336	4	340	97%
Dublin North City	362	103	465	76%
Dublin North	347	68	415	84%
Louth/Meath	341	82	423	82%
Cavan/Monaghan	153	14	167	91%
Kerry	141	27	168	88%
Cork	569	92	661	86%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	289	16	305	96%
Waterford/Wexford	401	30	431	91%
Donegal	207	28	235	91%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	104	13	117	89%
Mayo	134	11	145	91%
Galway/Roscommon	319	30	349	93%
Midwest	394	102	496	81%
SCSIP	74	36	110	68%
Total	4,910	874	5,784	85%

Child Protection Notification System

- **1,036 children listed as “active”** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of October 2024, 20 (2%) fewer than September 2024 (1,056), third consecutive monthly decrease.
- There were 61 (6%) more children “active” at the end of October 2024 than at the end of October 2023 (975).
- All children listed as “active” at the end of October 2024 had an **allocated social worker**.
- Highest number of children listed as “active” at the end of October 2024 was reported by Midlands (114) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (113), Midwest (111) and Dublin North City (107).
- Fewest number listed as “active” reported by Mayo (17) followed by Cavan/Monaghan (20) and Kerry (22).
- The number of children “active” equates to about 9 children per 10,000 under 18 years.
- Highest rate per 10,000 population under 18 years reported by Dublin North City (21.9) followed by Midlands (14.1) and Dublin South Central (13.2).
- Lowest rates reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (3.1) and Waterford/Wexford (4.5)
- Seven areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national rate of 8.5/10,000
- 6/17 areas had more children listed as “active” at the end of October 2024 than at the end of September 2024. Largest increases reported by Dublin South Central (up 20), Galway/Roscommon (up 7) and Midlands (up 6).
- 9/17 areas reported a decrease with the largest decreases reported by Midwest (down 23) and Donegal (down 14). Two areas (Cavan/Monaghan and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) reported no change.
- 8/17 areas had more children active at the end of October 2024 than at the end of October 2023. Largest increases reported by Dublin South Central (up 53), Midlands (up 49) and Galway/Roscommon (up 35).
- 8/17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Dublin North (down 45), Donegal (down 39) and Kerry (down 20). The remaining area Dublin South West/Kildare West Wicklow reported no change.



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

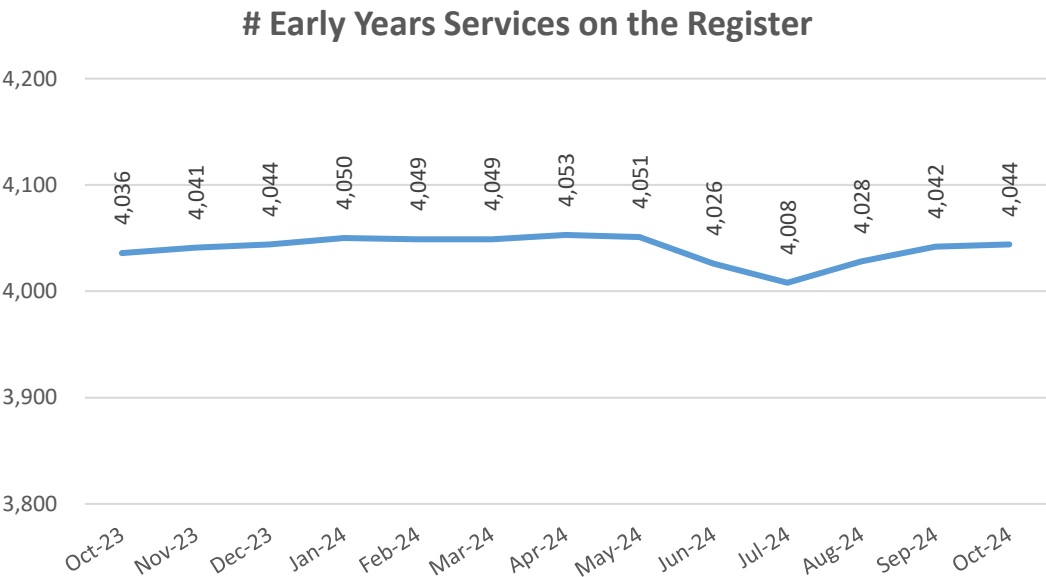
Area	Oct-23	Sep-24	Oct-24	Oct-24 v Oct-23	Oct-24 v Sep-24	Pop	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	81	110	107	26	-3	48,909	21.9
Midlands	65	108	114	49	6	80,962	14.1
Dublin South Central	40	73	93	53	20	70,259	13.2
Mid West	84	134	111	27	-23	96,764	11.5
DSW/K/WW	113	114	113	0	-1	108,927	10.4
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	28	24	24	-4	0	24,312	9.9
Carlow / Kilkenny / South Tipperary	40	54	59	19	5	62,366	9.5
Galway / Roscommon	30	58	65	35	7	81,799	7.9
Cork	111	100	94	-17	-6	136,786	6.9
Kerry	42	23	22	-20	-1	34,994	6.3
Louth / Meath	53	64	58	5	-6	96,531	6.0
Donegal	64	39	25	-39	-14	42,144	5.9
Cavan / Monaghan	15	20	20	5	0	37,336	5.4
Mayo	20	23	17	-3	-6	31,911	5.3
Dublin North	100	61	55	-45	-6	104,281	5.3
Waterford / Wexford	46	27	31	-15	4	69,239	4.5
Dublin South East / Wicklow	43	24	28	-15	4	91,047	3.1
Total	975	1,056	1,036	61	-20	1,218,567	8.5

Population – source CSO Census 2022

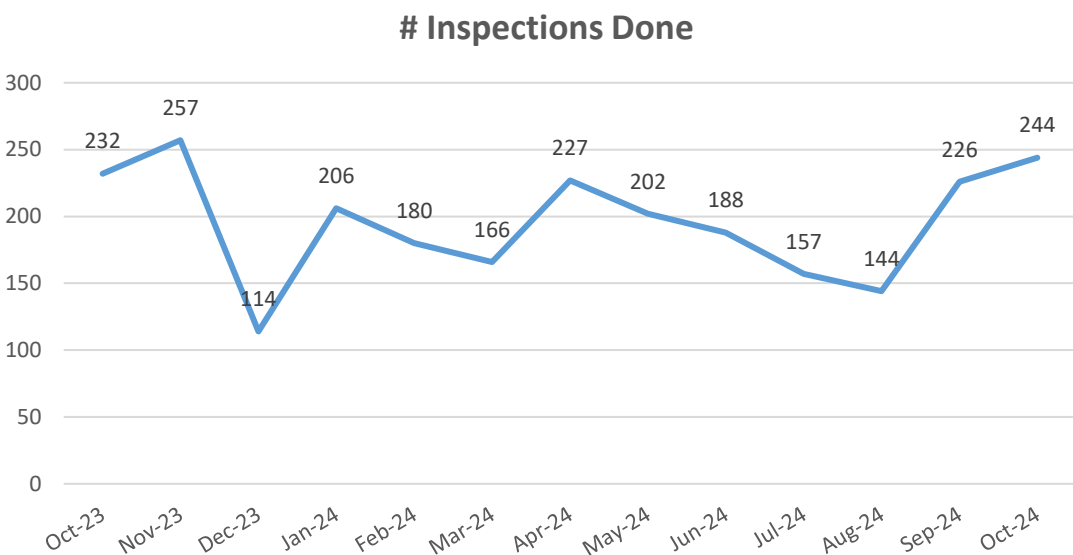
Children’s Services Regulation

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- **4,044 early years services on the register at the end of October 2024**, two more than September 2024 (4,042) and eight more than October 2023 (4,036).

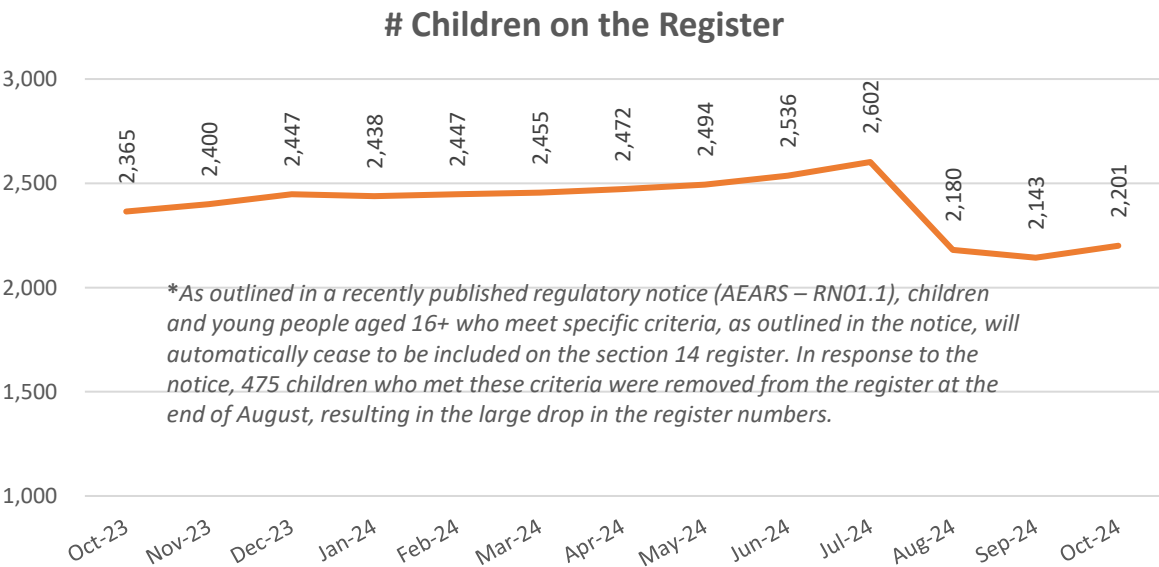


- **244 inspections** of early years services in October 2024. This brings to 1,940 the number of inspections for the first ten months of 2024, 80 (4%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (2,020).

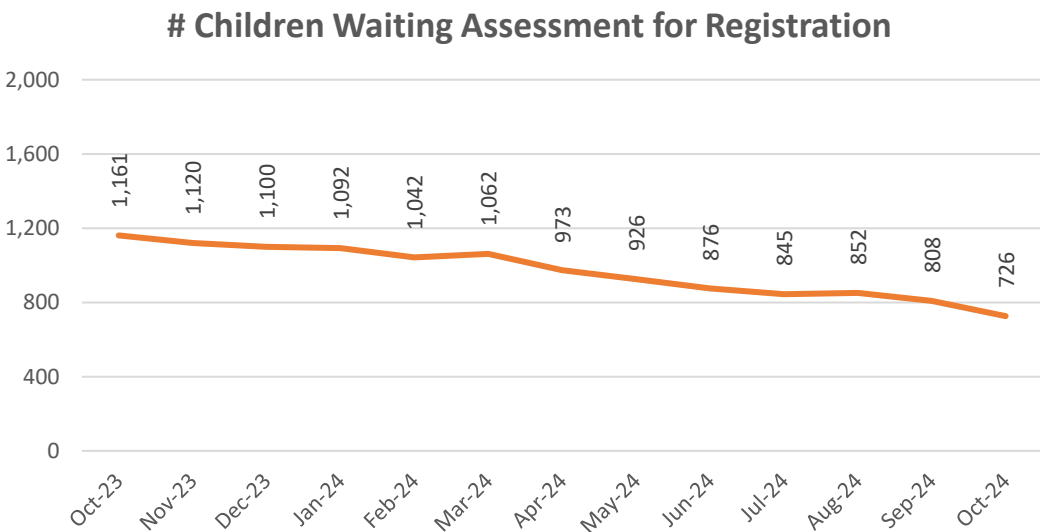


ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

- **2,201 children on the register** for home education at the end of October 2024, 58 (3%) more than September 2024 (2,143).



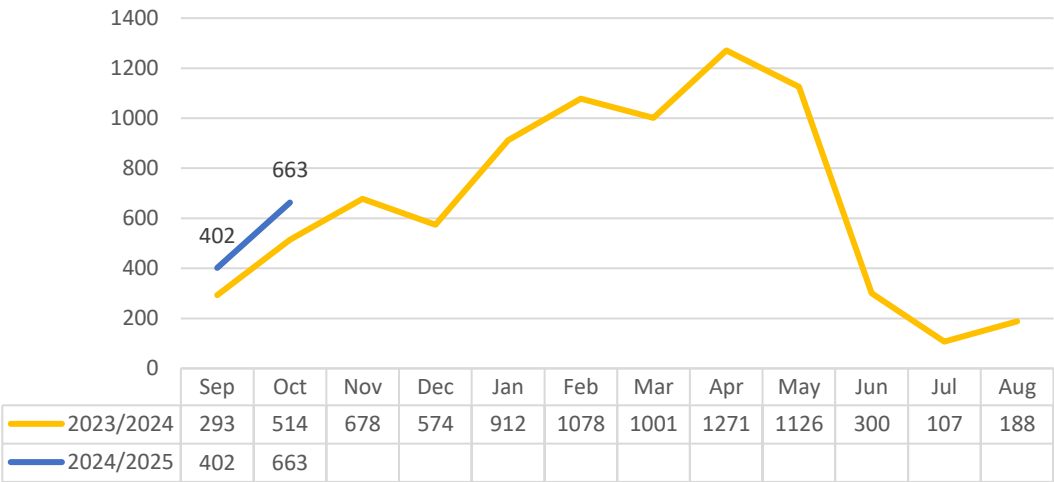
- **726 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of October 2024**, 82 (10%) fewer than September 2024 (808) and 435 (37%) fewer than October 2023 (1,161).



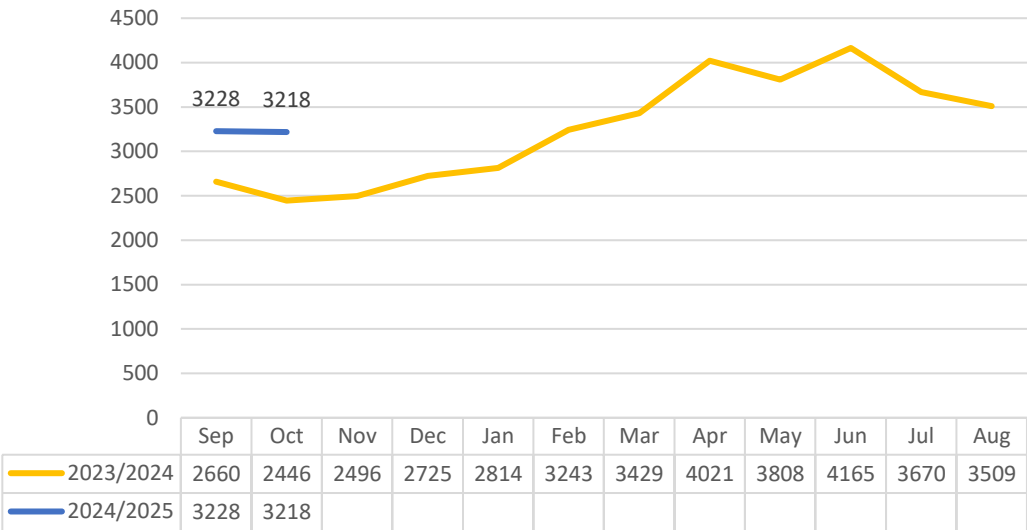
Tusla Education Support Services

- **663 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in October 2024. This brings to 1,065 the number of referrals for the first two months of the academic year 2024 – 2025, some 258 (32%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (807).
- **3,218 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of October 2024, 10 fewer than September 2024 (3,228).
- 772 (32%) more referrals on a waiting list at the end of October 2024 (3,218) than at the end of October 2023 (2,446).
- **404 new individual children worked** with in October 2024. This brings to 818 the number of new individual children worked with in the first two months of the academic year 2024-2025, some 92 (13%) more than the previous academic year (726).

Referrals for Educational Welfare Service



Referrals on a Waiting List at Month End



Number of New Individual Children Worked with in the Month

