



An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency

# MONTHLY SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

## OCTOBER 2025

5 December 2025  
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 2025

## Child Protection & Welfare

- **10,217 referrals** in October 2025, 211 (2%) more than September 2025 (10,006) and 686 (7%) more than October 2024 (9,531). Brings to 88,805 the number of referrals for the first ten months of 2025, 8,682 (11%) more than the same period in 2024 (80,123).
- **24,213 cases open to social work** at the end of October 2025, 224 (1%) more than September 2025 (23,989) and 2,306 (11%) more than October 2024 (21,907). *Open cases include child protection and welfare cases and children in care.*
- **80% (19,410) of cases** open to social work at the end of October 2025 had an **allocated case worker**. Of these, 81% (15,777) were allocated to a social worker and 19% (3,633) were allocated to a another professional. (Ref to note on Page 4).
- **4,803 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of October 2025, 65 (1%) fewer than September 2025 (4,868) and 48 (1%) fewer than October 2024 (4,851). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases.*
- Five areas account for account for 71% (3,405) of all cases awaiting allocation: Cork (1,024), Dublin South Central (875), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (819), Midlands (385) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (302).
- **5% (249) of cases awaiting allocation** at the end of October 2025 were categorised as **high priority**, one more than September 2025 (248) and 179 (42%) fewer than October 2024 (428).

## Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

- **39 referrals assigned** to CASP Teams in October 2025. Brings to 399 the number of referrals assigned for the first 10 months of 2025, 180 (31%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (579).
- **95% (376/394) of assessments open at the end of October 2025** were allocated to a social worker. The remaining 5% (18) were awaiting allocation with one more assessment awaiting allocation at the end of October 2025 than at the end of September 2025 (17).
- 155 (90%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of October 2025 (18) than at the end of October 2024 (173).

## Children in Care

- **5,866 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of October 2025, no change from September 2025** and 82 (1%) more than October 2024 (5,784). *Figure includes 142 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP)*
- 86.0% (5,042) of all children in care (17 Areas and SCSIP) are in foster care (3,541 general foster care, and 1,501 relative foster), 10.1% (594) are in residential care (578 general residential care and 16 special care) and 3.9% (230) are in “other” care placements.
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas **87.8% (5,025/5,724) of children in care are in foster care.**

## Children in Care (contd.)

- **1,115 (19%) children in care at the end of October 2025 were in placements with private providers**, no change from September 2025 and 127 (13%) more than October 2024 (988).
- **99% (5,785) of children in care at the end of October 2025 had an allocated case worker.** Of the 5,785 children allocated, 89% (5,139) were allocated to a social worker and 11% (646) were allocated to another professional.
- A total of 81 (1%) children were awaiting allocation, one fewer than September 2025 (82).

## Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

- **1,133 children listed as ‘active’** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of October 2025, two more than September 2025 (1,131) and the fourth consecutive increase.
- There were 97 (9%) more children ‘active’ at the end of October 2025 than at the end October 2024 (1,036).

*It should be noted that a small number of large sibling groups can have a significant effect on numbers reported.*

- 99% (1,117) of children ‘active’ had an allocated social worker, 16 children were awaiting allocation to a social worker. Seven of the 16 children were subsequently allocated to a social worker. The remaining nine cases are allocated to another professional.

## Children’s Services Regulation

- **3,957 early years services (pre-schools) on the register at the end of October 2025**, five more than September 2025 (3,952) and 87 (2%) fewer than October 2024 (4,044).
- **239 inspections** of early years services (pre-schools) in October 2025. This brings to 2,153 the number of inspections for the first 10 months of 2025, 213 (11%) more than the same period in 2024 (1,940).
- **2,620 children on the register** for home education at the end of October 2025, 10 (<1%) more than September 2025 (2,610) and 295 (13%) more than Dec 2024 (2,325). Increasing trend continues.
- **316 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of October 2025**, 22 (7%) more than September 2025 (294), second consecutive increase after 12 consecutive decreases. There were 410 (56%) fewer children awaiting at the end of October 2025 than at the end of October 2024 (726).

## Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,096 referrals** for an educational welfare service in October 2025. This brings to 2,047 the number of referrals for the first two months of the academic year 2025/26.
- **8,926 cases open** to educational welfare services at the end of October 2025, 123 (1%) fewer than September 2025 (9,049).
- **3,820 (43%) open cases on a waiting list for allocation**, 292 (7%) fewer than September 2025 (4,112).

# Child Protection and Welfare

## Referrals<sup>1</sup>

- **10,217 referrals** in October 2025, 211 (2%) more than September 2025 (10,006) and 686 (7%) more than October 2024 (9,531).
- This brings to 88,805 the number of referrals for the first ten months of 2025, 8,682 (11%) more than the same period in 2024 (80,123).

*It should be noted that the data presented for first six months of 2025 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for the remaining months 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

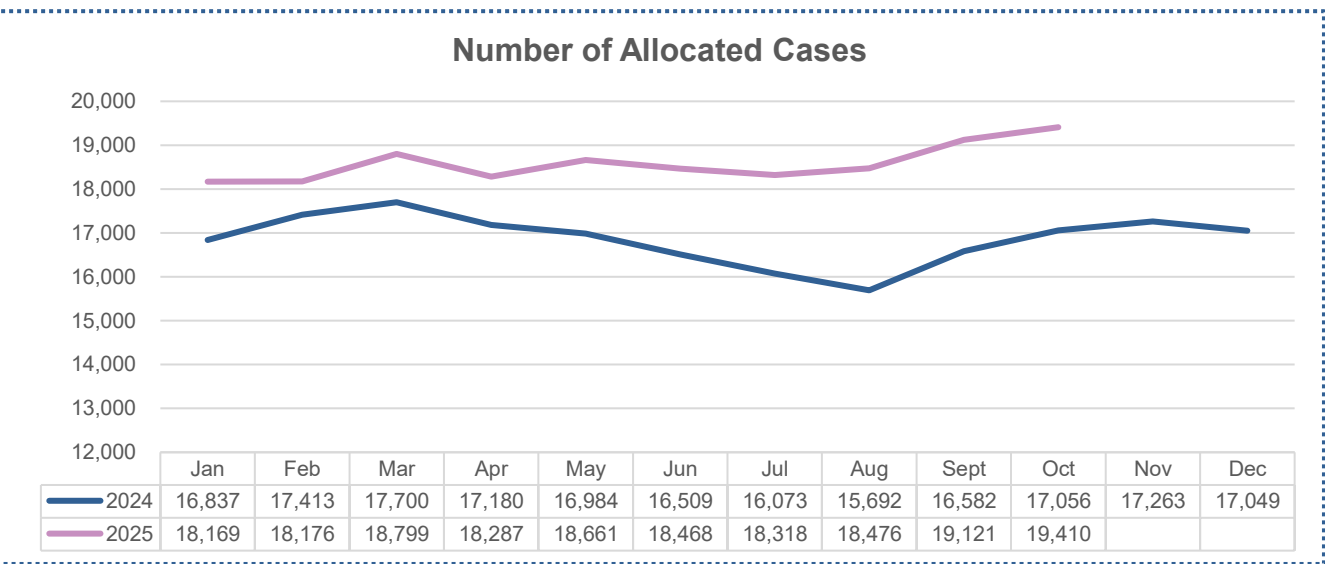
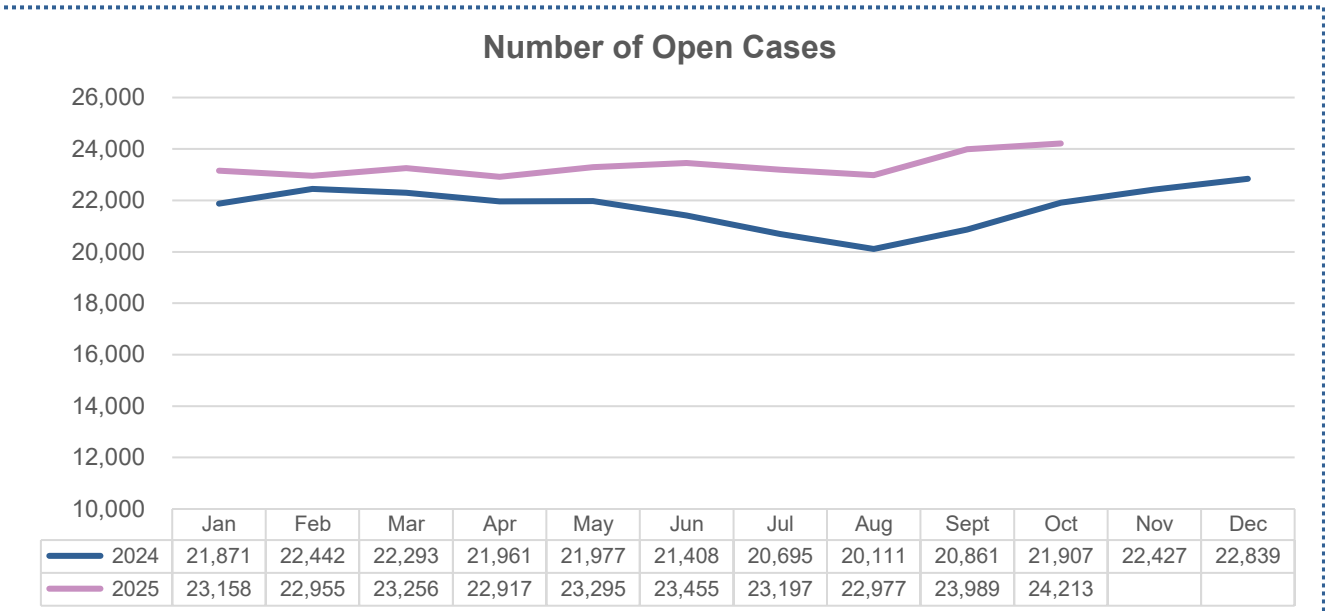
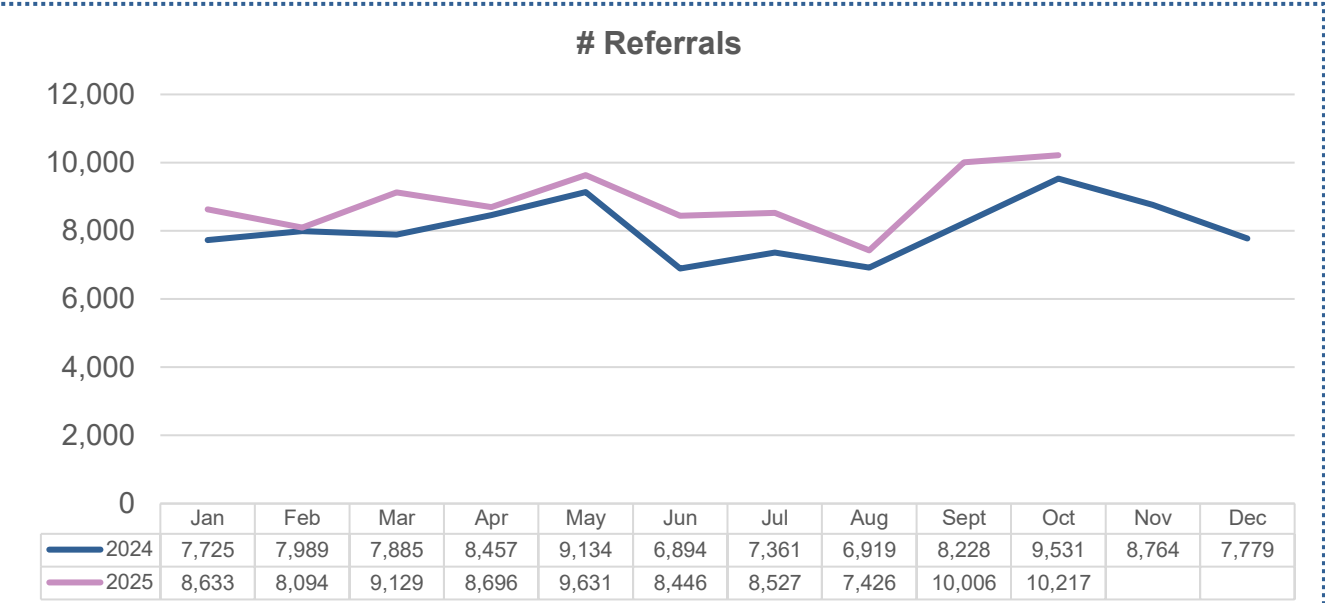
- **24,213 cases open to social work** at the end of October 2025, 224 (1%) more than September 2025 (23,989) and 2,306 (11%) more than October 2024 (21,907).
- 1) *Open cases include, all cases held on duty, allocated and unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care.*
  - 2) *The data presented on cases is based on the status of cases on the TCM at month end.*

## Allocated Cases

- **19,410 open cases were allocated** to a case worker at the end of October 2025, 289 (2%) more than September 2025 (19,121) and 2,254 (14%) more than October 2024 (17,056).
- Allocated cases account for 80% of open cases, no change from September 2025.

*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 (19,410) at the end of October 2025, 81% (15,777) were allocated to a social worker and 19% (3,633) were allocated to a another professional.

Breakdown of cases allocated by area and role of worker, October 2025			
Area	Allocated Social Worker	Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	828	256	1,084
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	968	492	1,460
Dublin South Central	903	334	1,237
Midlands	1,084	258	1,342
Dublin North City	1,249	247	1,496
Dublin North	1,693	234	1,927
Louth/Meath	1,193	315	1,508
Cavan/Monaghan	521	177	698
Kerry	351	78	429
Cork	1,960	244	2,204
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	435	240	675
Waterford/Wexford	936	286	1,222
Donegal	540	75	615
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	449	7	456
Mayo	338	12	350
Galway/Roscommon	1,301	59	1,360
Midwest	1,028	319	1,347
Total	15,777	3,633	19,410

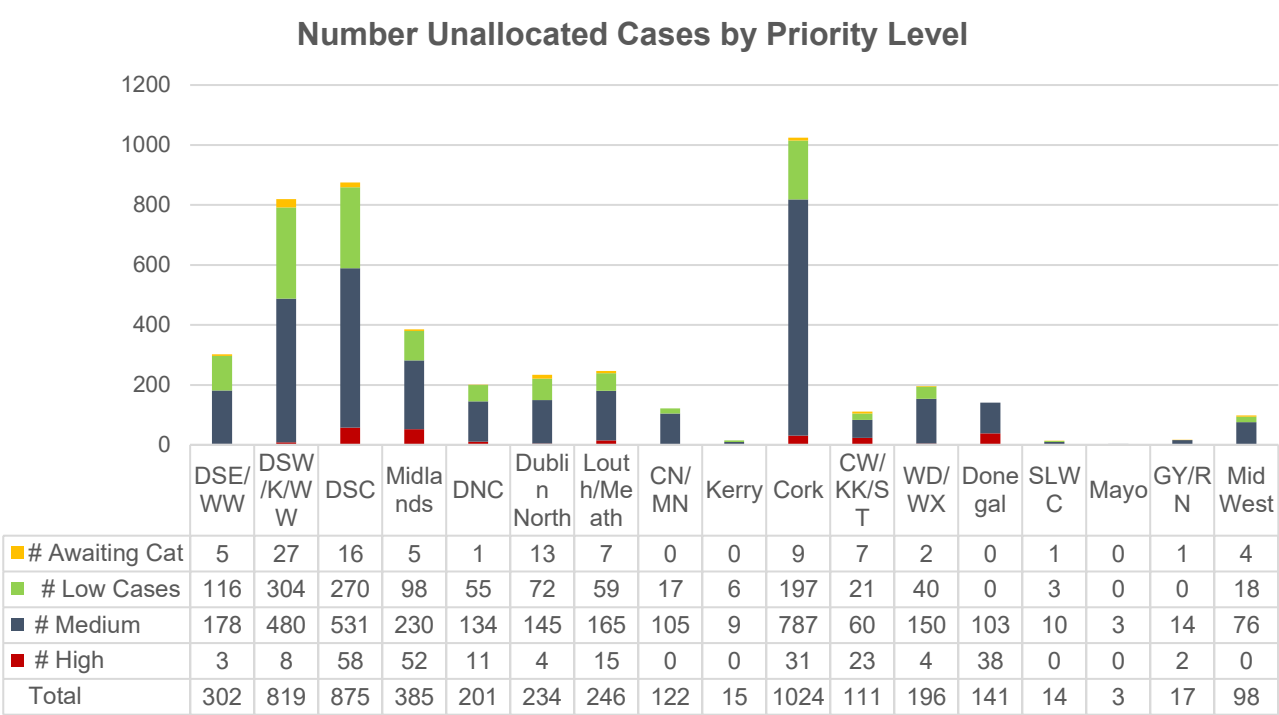
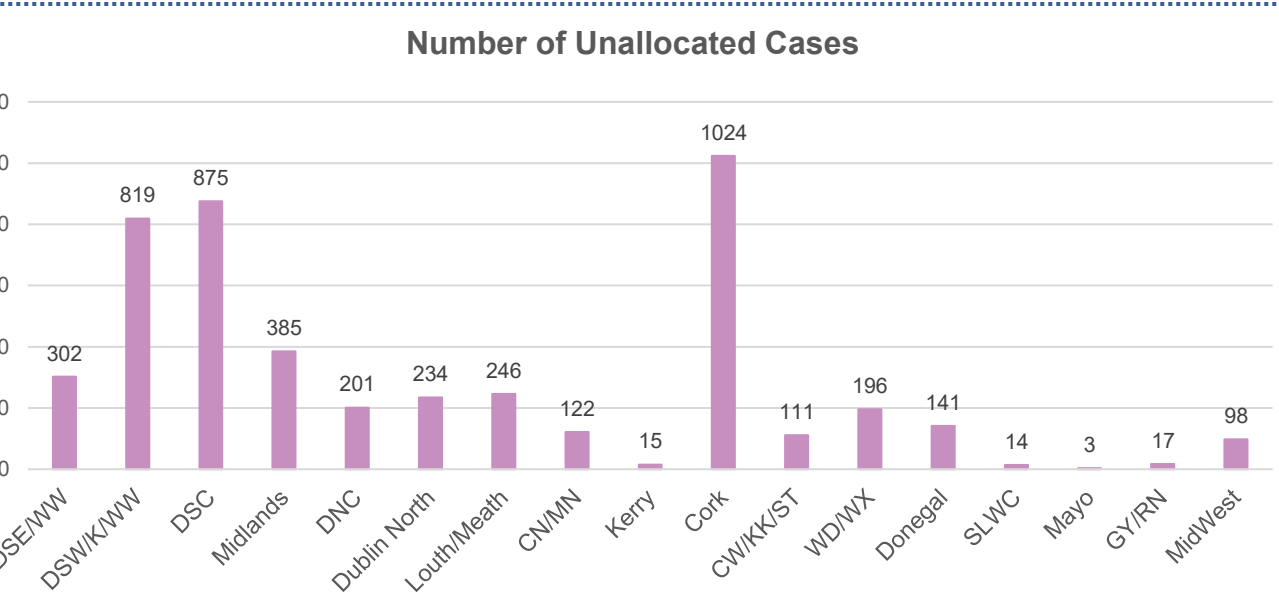
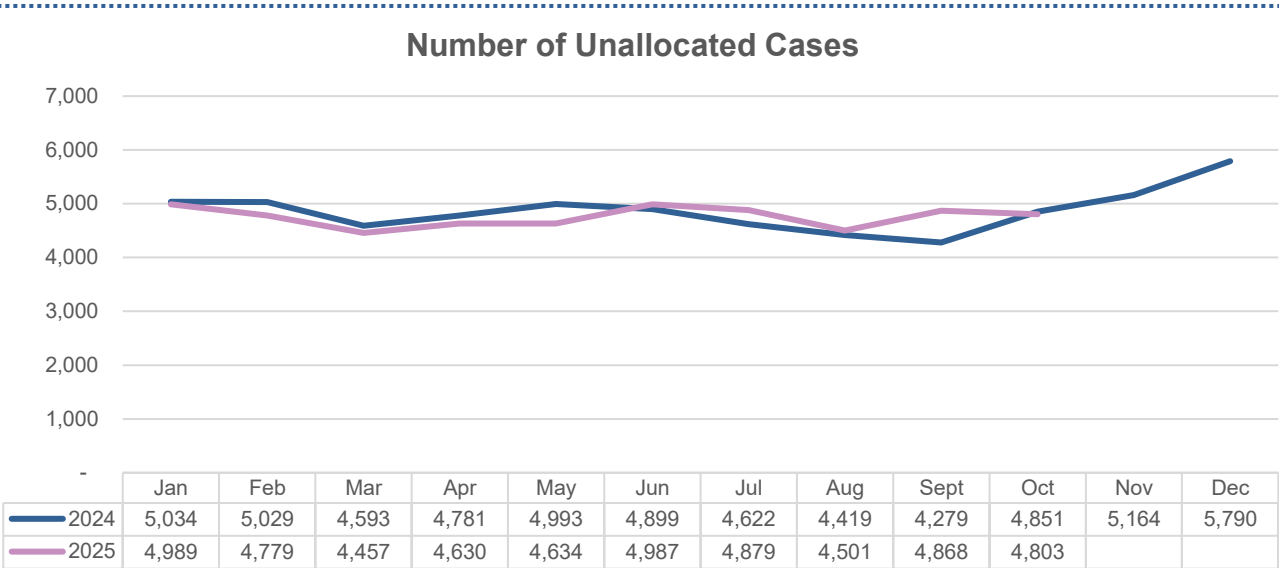
Percentage breakdown of cases allocated by area and role of worker, October 2025			
Area	% Allocated Social Worker	% Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	76%	24%	100%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	66%	34%	100%
Dublin South Central	73%	27%	100%
Midlands	81%	19%	100%
Dublin North City	83%	17%	100%
Dublin North	88%	12%	100%
Louth/Meath	79%	21%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	75%	25%	100%
Kerry	82%	18%	100%
Cork	89%	11%	100%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	64%	36%	100%
Waterford/Wexford	77%	23%	100%
Donegal	88%	12%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	98%	2%	100%
Mayo	97%	3%	100%
Galway/Roscommon	96%	4%	100%
Midwest	76%	24%	100%
Total	81%	19%	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

- **4,803 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of October 2025, 65 (1%) fewer than September 2025 (4,868) and 48 (1%) fewer than October 2024 (4,851). *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 20% of open cases (24,213), no change from September 2025.
- **51% (2,439) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of October 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 Cork (1,024) followed by Dublin South Central (875), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (819), Midlands (385) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (302). These five areas account for 71% (3,405) of all cases awaiting allocation.
- **249 cases awaiting allocation at the end of October 2025 were categorised as high priority**, one more than September 2025 (248) and 179 (42%) fewer than October 2024 (428).
- High priority cases account for 5% of cases awaiting allocation.
- 66% (3,180) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 27% (1,276) were low priority while the remaining 2% (98) were awaiting categorisation.
- Highest number of high priority cases reported by Dublin South Central (58), Midlands (52), Donegal (38), Cork (31) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (23). These five areas account for 81% (202) of all high priority cases awaiting.





# Child Protection & Welfare

## Cases Awaiting Allocation

- 7 of the 17 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from September 2025.
  - Largest increase reported by Dublin South Central (up 66) followed by Donegal (up 40), Cork (up 25) and Louth/Meath (up 20).
  - 8 of the 17 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from September 2025.
  - Largest decrease reported by Midlands (down 100) followed by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 40), Cavan/Monaghan (down 34) and Dublin North (down 26).
  - The remaining two areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow and Waterford/Wexford) reported no change.
- Nationally 20% of open cases were awaiting allocation at the end of October 2025. Five areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 20%. Highest percentages reported by Dublin South Central (41%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (36%), Cork (32%), Midlands (22%) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (22%).
  - 6 of the 17 areas had more cases awaiting allocation at the end of October 2025 than at the end of October 2024. Largest increases reported by Cork (up 558), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 132) and Dublin North (up 111). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases introduced in January 2025.*
  - 10 of the 17 areas had fewer cases awaiting allocation at the end of October 2025 than at the end of October 2024. Largest decreases reported by Midwest (down 220), Midlands (down 182) and Louth/Meath (down 159). The remaining area (Mayo) reported no change.

Area	Oct-24 # Unallocated	Oct-24 % Unallocated	Aug-25 # Unallocated	Sep-25 # Unallocated	Oct-25 # Unallocated	Oct-25 % Unallocated	Aug-Oct	Oct-25 v Oct-24	% Δ	Oct-25 v Sep-25	% Δ1
DSE/WW	212	21%	213	302	302	22%		90	42%	0	0%
DSW/K/WW	687	38%	687	812	819	36%		132	19%	7	1%
DSC	981	44%	675	809	875	41%		-106	-11%	66	8%
Midlands	567	30%	522	485	385	22%		-182	-32%	-100	-21%
DNC	269	16%	344	212	201	12%		-68	-25%	-11	-5%
Dublin North	123	7%	206	260	234	11%		111	90%	-26	-10%
Louth/Meath	405	24%	217	226	246	14%		-159	-39%	20	9%
CN/MN	134	19%	158	156	122	15%		-12	-9%	-34	-22%
Kerry	11	2%	5	14	15	3%		4	36%	1	7%
Cork	466	18%	934	999	1024	32%		558	120%	25	3%
CW/KK/ST	238	31%	197	151	111	14%		-127	-53%	-40	-26%
WD/WX	307	23%	173	196	196	14%		-111	-36%	0	0%
Donegal	84	11%	51	101	141	19%		57	68%	40	40%
SLWC	19	6%	13	9	14	3%		-5	-26%	5	56%
Mayo	3	1%	1	4	3	1%		0	0%	-1	-25%
GY/RN	27	2%	28	24	17	1%		-10	-37%	-7	-29%
MidWest	318	23%	77	108	98	7%		-220	-69%	-10	-9%
TOTAL	4851	22%	4501	4868	4803	20%		-48	-1%	-65	-1%

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

# Child Protection & Welfare

## Summary Tables

Area	Referrals Sep-25	Referrals Oct-25	Δ	Open Cases Sep-25	Open Cases Oct-25	Δ2	Allocated Cases Sep-25	Allocated Cases Oct-25	Δ3	Unallocat ed Cases Sep-25	Unallocated Cases Oct-25	Δ4
DSE/WW	468	450	-18	1,361	1,386	25	1,059	1,084	25	302	302	0
DSW/K/WW	932	1053	121	2,262	2,279	17	1,450	1,460	10	812	819	7
DSC	715	738	23	2,051	2,112	61	1,242	1,237	-5	809	875	66
Midlands	890	947	57	1,858	1,727	-131	1,373	1,342	-31	485	385	-100
DNC	555	647	92	1,683	1,697	14	1,471	1,496	25	212	201	-11
Dublin North	939	1035	96	2,073	2,161	88	1,813	1,927	114	260	234	-26
Louth/Meath	713	739	26	1,632	1,754	122	1,406	1,508	102	226	246	20
CN/MN	326	255	-71	854	820	-34	698	698	0	156	122	-34
Kerry	238	221	-17	475	444	-31	461	429	-32	14	15	1
Cork	942	913	-29	3,187	3,228	41	2,188	2,204	16	999	1024	25
CW/KK/ST	571	518	-53	832	786	-46	681	675	-6	151	111	-40
WD/WX	736	685	-51	1,436	1,418	-18	1,240	1,222	-18	196	196	0
Donegal	383	350	-33	738	756	18	637	615	-22	101	141	40
SLWC	169	209	40	424	470	46	415	456	41	9	14	5
Mayo	145	127	-18	370	353	-17	366	350	-16	4	3	-1
GY/RN	502	508	6	1,380	1,377	-3	1,356	1,360	4	24	17	-7
MidWest	782	822	40	1,373	1,445	72	1,265	1,347	82	108	98	-10
Total	10,006	10,217	211	23,989	24,213	224	19,121	19,410	289	4,868	4,803	-65

Area	High Priority Awaiting Sep-25	High Priority Awaiting Oct-25	Δ	Medium Priority Awaiting Sep-25	Medium Priority Awaiting Oct-25	Δ 2	Low Priority Awaiting Sep-25	Low Priority Awaiting Oct-25	Δ 3	Awaiting Categoris ation Sep-25	Awaiting Categorisation Oct-25	Δ 4
DSE/WW	12	3	-9	174	178	4	107	116	9	9	5	-4
DSW/K/WW	12	8	-4	484	480	-4	255	304	49	61	27	-34
DSC	75	58	-17	474	531	57	236	270	34	24	16	-8
Midlands	34	52	18	204	230	26	219	98	-121	28	5	-23
DNC	2	11	9	128	134	6	76	55	-21	6	1	-5
Dublin North	4	4	0	152	145	-7	82	72	-10	22	13	-9
Louth/Meath	17	15	-2	156	165	9	44	59	15	9	7	-2
CN/MN	0	0	0	142	105	-37	13	17	4	1	0	-1
Kerry	0	0	0	7	9	2	6	6	0	1	0	-1
Cork	51	31	-20	751	787	36	189	197	8	8	9	1
CW/KK/ST	8	23	15	102	60	-42	35	21	-14	6	7	1
WD/WX	9	4	-5	133	150	17	45	40	-5	9	2	-7
Donegal	19	38	19	81	103	22	0	0	0	1	0	-1
SLWC	0	0	0	5	10	5	3	3	0	1	1	0
Mayo	0	0	0	4	3	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0
GY/RN	2	2	0	9	14	5	9	0	-9	4	1	-3
MidWest	3	0	-3	89	76	-13	6	18	12	10	4	-6
TOTAL	248	249	1	3,095	3,180	85	1,325	1,276	-49	200	98	-102

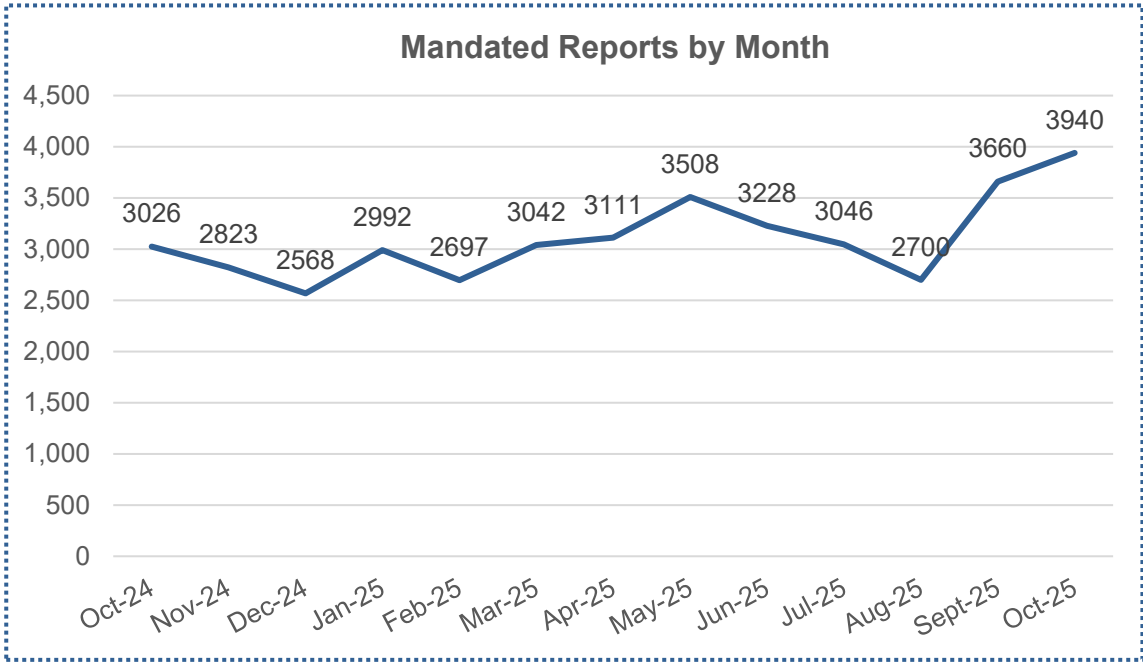


# Mandated Reports<sup>1</sup> – Child Protection & Welfare

- **3,940 mandated reports of abuse** received in October 2025. This brings to 31,924 the number of reports for the first 10 months of 2025, 6,675 (26%) more than the same period in 2024 (25,249).

*It should be noted that the data presented for the first six months of 2025 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for the remaining months 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.*

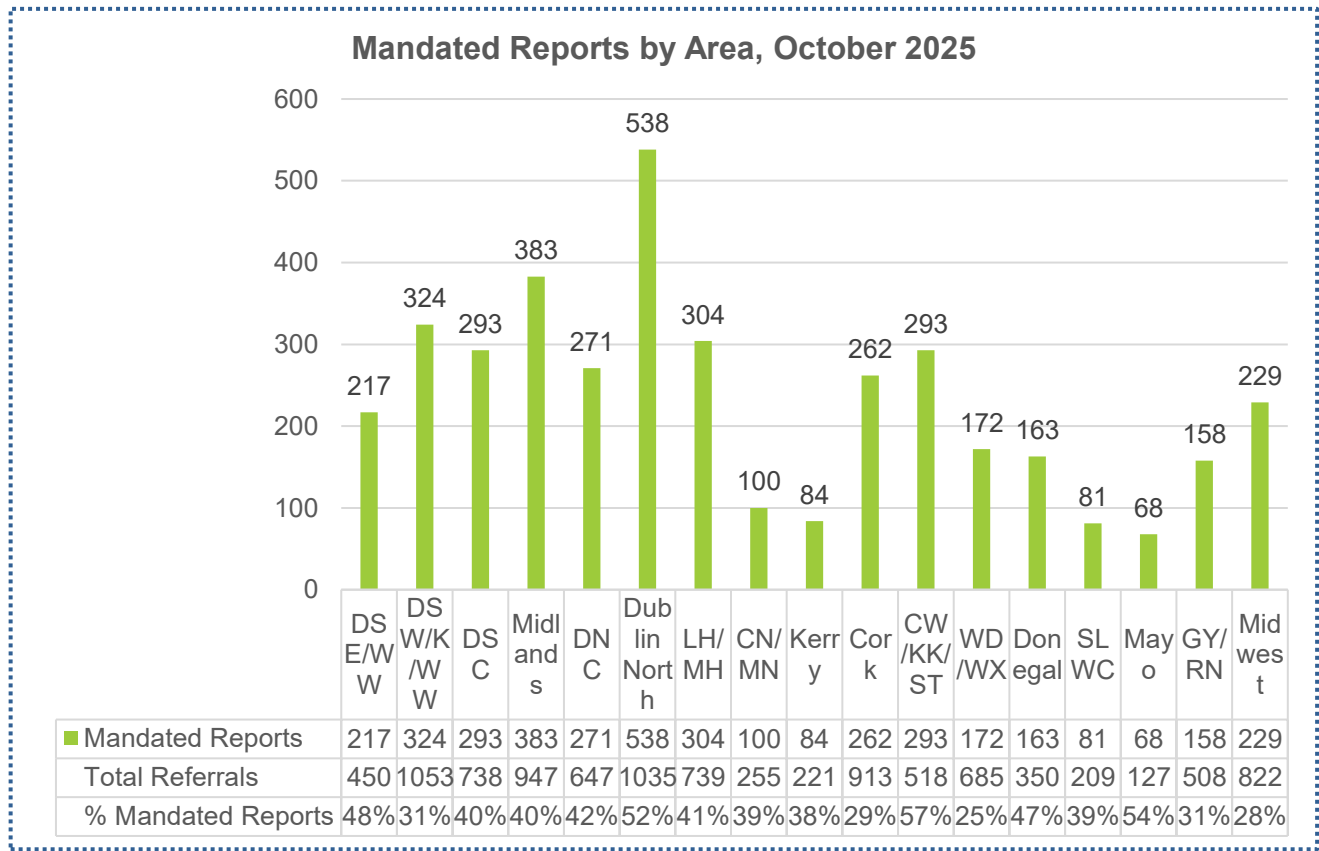
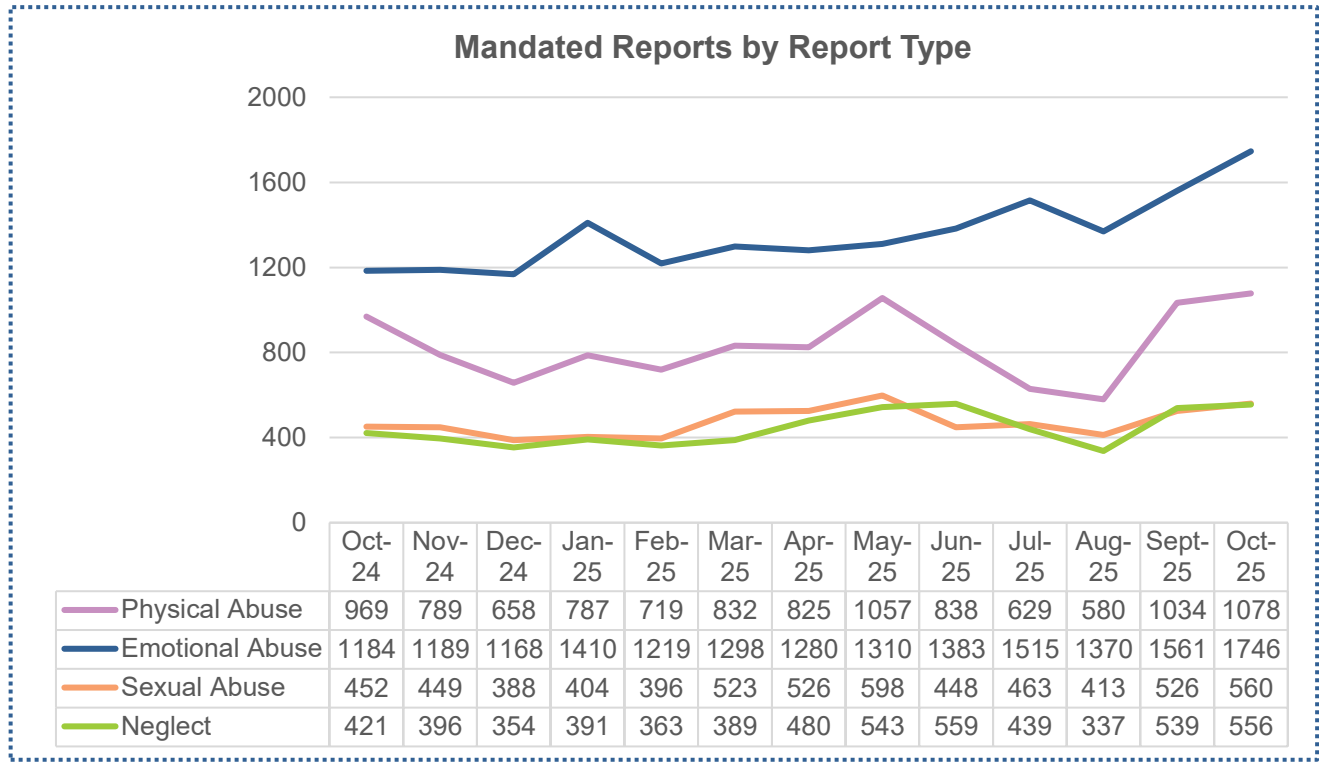
- Mandated reports accounted for 39% (3,940) of all referrals received (10,217) in October 2025.



- The number of mandated reports for October 2025, by area ranged from 68 (Mayo) to 538 (Dublin North).
- As a percentage of referrals, the highest percentage (57%; 293/518) was reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary
- The lowest percentage (25%; 172/685) was reported by Waterford/Wexford

<sup>1</sup> Mandated reports are included in the data on referrals (slide 4)

- Highest number of reports for October 2025 were for emotional abuse (1,746; 44%) followed by physical abuse (1,078; 27%), sexual abuse (560; 14%) and neglect (556; 14%).



# Mandated Reports – Child Protection & Welfare

## Source of Reports

- Highest number of reports for October 2025 from An Garda Síochána (1,560; 40%) followed teachers (761; 19%), safeguarding officer (426; 11%), social workers (332; 8%), and social care workers (178; 5%). These five sources account for 83% (3,257) of reports for October 2025.
- Highest number of reports for 2025 YTD from An Garda Síochána (12,612; 40%) followed teachers (4,310; 14%), safeguarding officer (4,042; 13%); social workers (3,115; 10%) and social care workers (1,722; 5%). These five sources account for 81% (25,801) of reports for received for the first 10 months of 2025.

Source (Schedule 2 Children First 2015)	# Oct-25	% Total	# 2025 YTD	% Total
An Garda Síochána Member	1,560	39.6%	12,612	39.5%
Teacher	761	19.3%	4,310	13.5%
Safeguarding officer,	426	10.8%	4,042	12.7%
Social worker	332	8.4%	3,115	9.8%
Social care worker	178	4.5%	1,722	5.4%
Medical practitioner	113	2.9%	980	3.1%
Domestic violence shelter manager	103	2.6%	895	2.8%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	81	2.1%	793	2.5%
Psychologist	87	2.2%	779	2.4%
Nurse or registered midwife	74	1.9%	670	2.1%
Youth worker holds a professional qualification..	62	1.6%	551	1.7%
Homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility/manager	30	0.8%	275	0.9%
Asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre manager	17	0.4%	170	0.5%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	14	0.4%	131	0.4%
Youth work service - person responsible for the care or management	16	0.4%	129	0.4%
Speech & language therapist	10	0.3%	98	0.3%
Probation officer	9	0.2%	95	0.3%
Guardian ad litem	10	0.3%	92	0.3%
Occupational therapist	16	0.4%	87	0.3%
Pre-school service	12	0.3%	81	0.3%
Physiotherapist	*	*	80	0.3%
Foster carer	11	0.3%	54	0.2%
Addiction counsellor	*	*	52	0.2%
EMT, paramedic and advanced paramedic	*	*	42	0.1%
Not specified	7	0.2%	41	0.1%
Language school or other recreational school where children reside	*	*	9	0.0%
Clergy member	0	0.0%	8	0.0%
Institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	0	0.0%	*	*
Dentist	*	*	*	*
Total	3,940	100.0%	31,924	100.0%

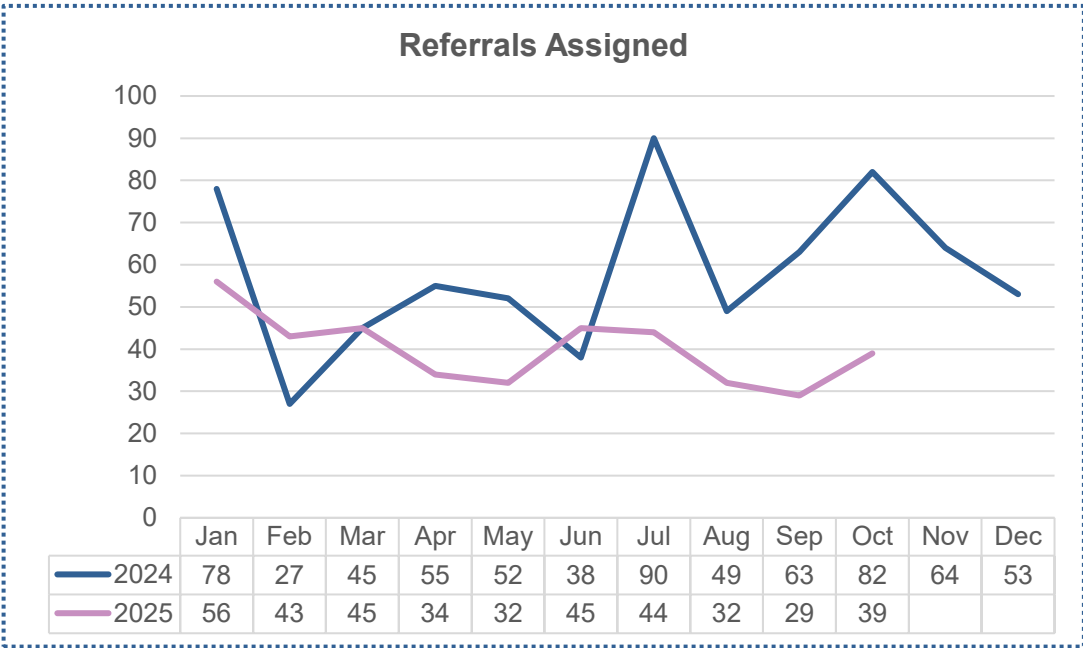
\*Values suppressed for confidentiality reasons.

# 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

- **39 referrals assigned** to CASP Teams in October 2025.
- This brings to 399 the number of referrals assigned for the first 10 months of 2025, 180 (31%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (579).

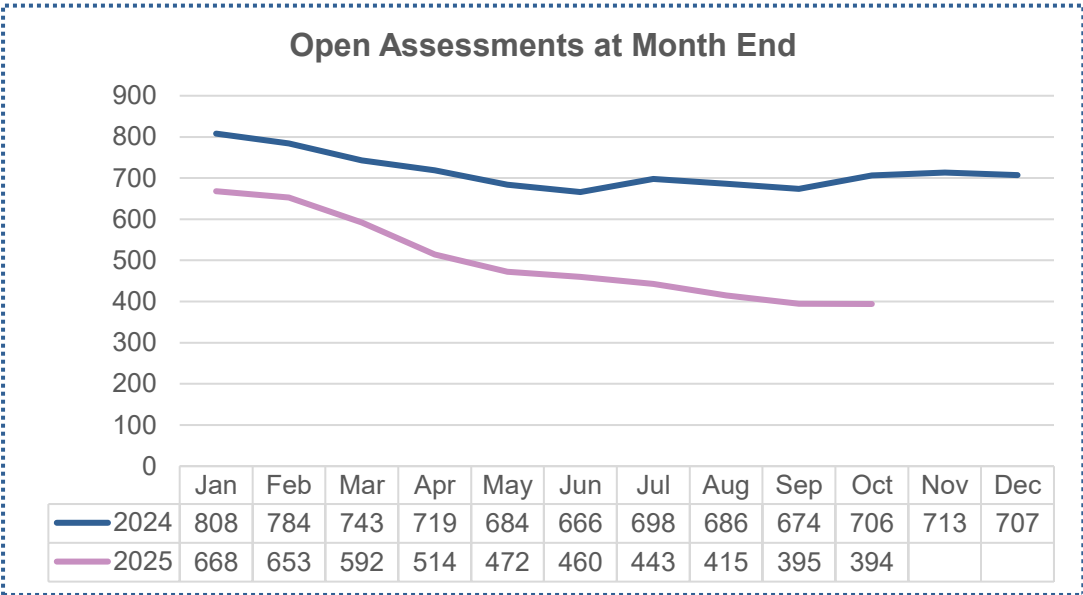
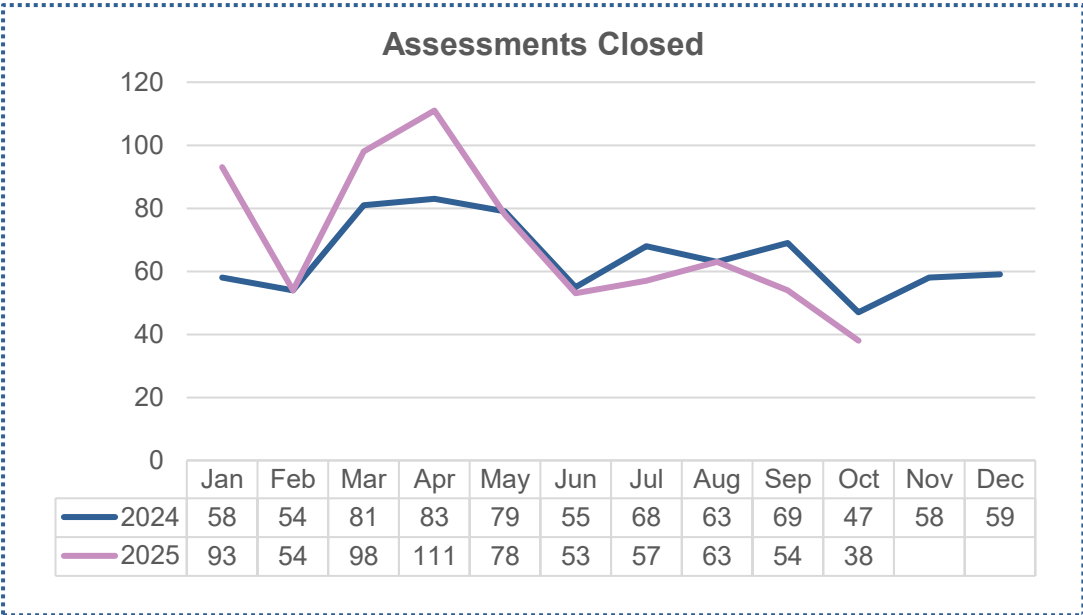


## Open Assessments

- **394 assessments open at the end of October 2025**, one fewer than September 2025 (395) and the fewest number for the period January 2024 – October 2025.
- There were 312 (44%) fewer assessments open at the end of October 2025 (394) than at the end of October 2024 (706).

## Assessments Closed

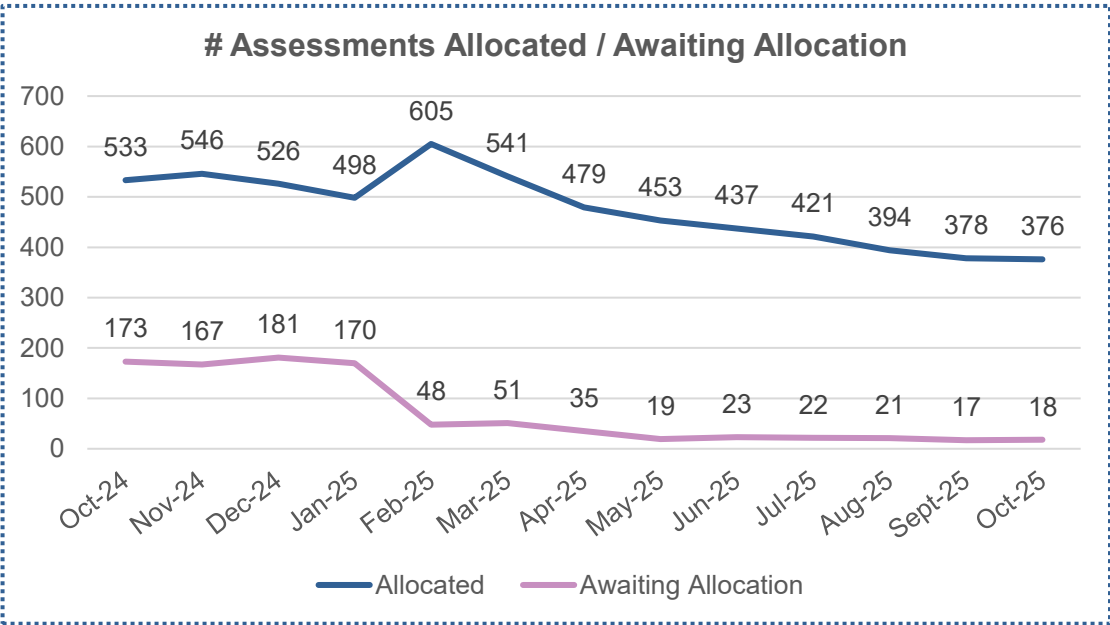
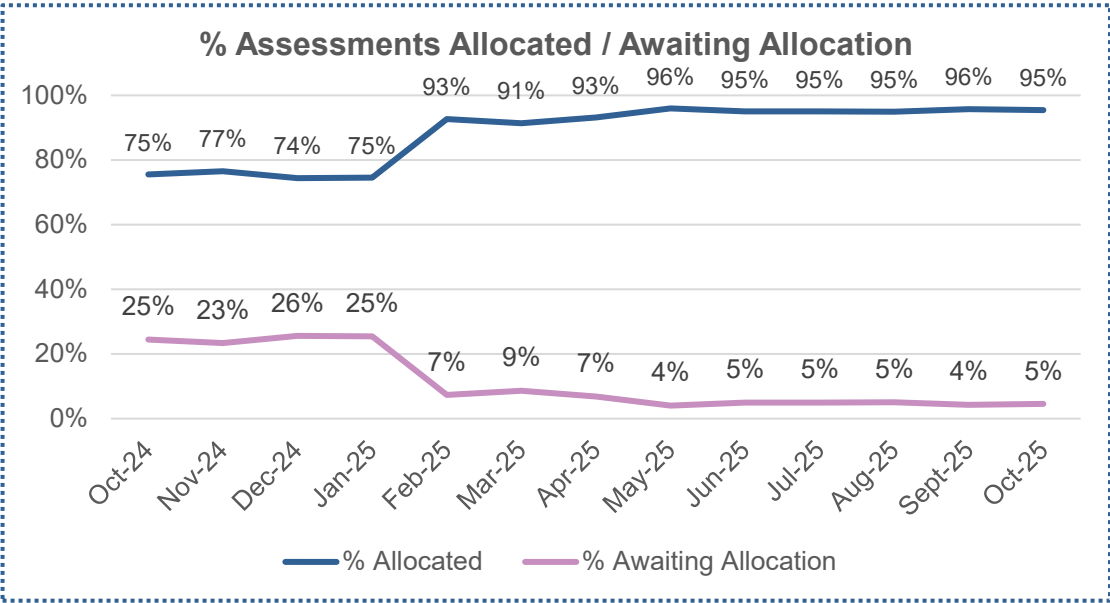
- **38 assessments closed** in October 2025.
- This brings to 699 the number of assessments closed for the first 10 months of 2025, 42 (6%) more than the same period in 2024 (657).



# Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

## Allocation Status of Open Assessments

- **95% (376/394) of assessments open at the end of October 2025** were allocated to a social worker, down one percentage point from September 2025 (96%) and up 20 percentage points from October 2024 (75%).
- The remaining 5% (18) were awaiting allocation with one more assessment awaiting allocation at the end of October 2025 than at the end of September 2025 (17).
- 155 (90%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of October 2025 (18) than at the end of October 2024 (173).



# Children in Care

- 5,866 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of October 2025, no change from September 2025 and 82 (1%) more than October 2024 (5,784). Figure includes 142 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:

	Oct-24	Sep-25	Oct-25	Oct 25 v Oct 24	Oct-25 v Sep-25
17 Tusla Areas	5,674	5,727	5,724	+50	-3
SCSIP	110	139	142	+32	+3
Total	5,784	5,866	5,866	+82	0

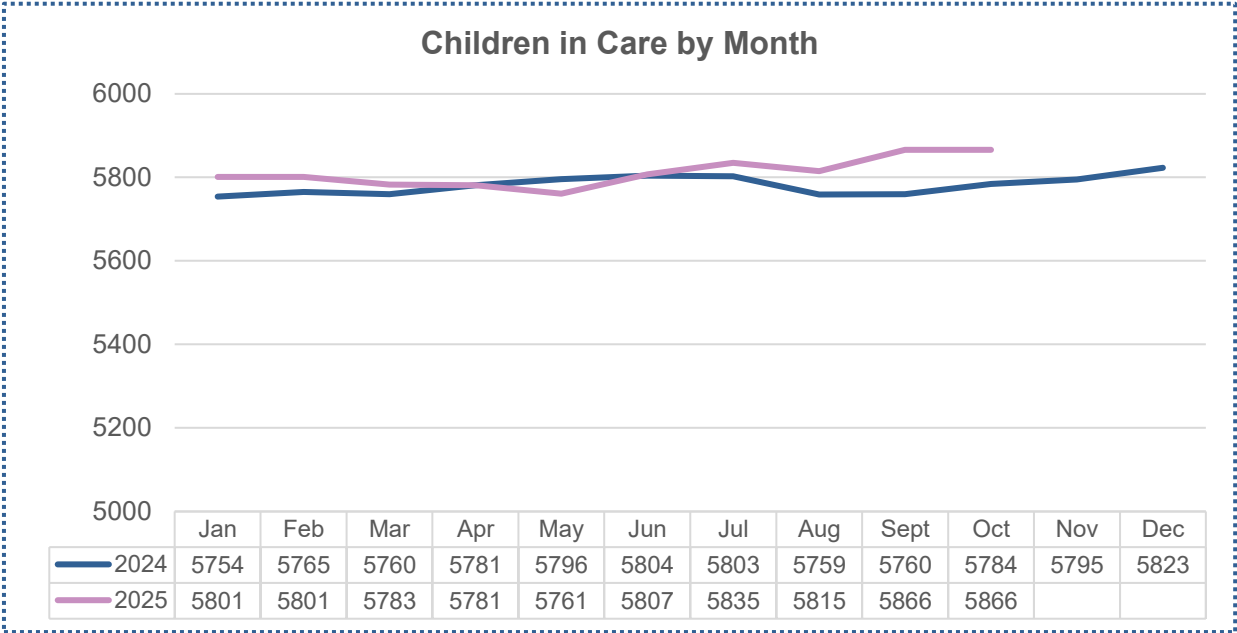
- Breakdown of children in care by placement type as follows (Oct-25):

Placement Type	17 areas	SCSIP	Total
Residential Care	482 (8.4%)	112 (78.9%)	594 (10.1%)
Foster Care	5,025 (87.8%)	17 (12.0%)	5,042 (86.0%)
Other*	217 (3.8%)	13 (9.2%)	230 (3.9%)
Total	5,724 (100%)	142 (100%)	5,866 (100.0%)

- Residential care (594) includes 16 children in special care and 578 in general residential care. Of the children in foster care (5,042), 70% (3,541) were in general foster care and 30% (1,501) were in relative foster care.
- Highest number of children in care reported by Cork (663) followed by Midwest (505) and Dublin North City (500).
- Fewest number reported Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan (118) followed by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (142) and Mayo (147).
- Across the 17 Areas the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 children was reported by Dublin North City (10.2) followed by Donegal (5.9) and Waterford/Wexford (5.5).
- Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.2) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.7).
- Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 4.7/1,000 children.

Notes:

- The Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection has an additional **423 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.



## Rate of children in care / 1,000 child population 0-17 years (ranked by rate/1,000)

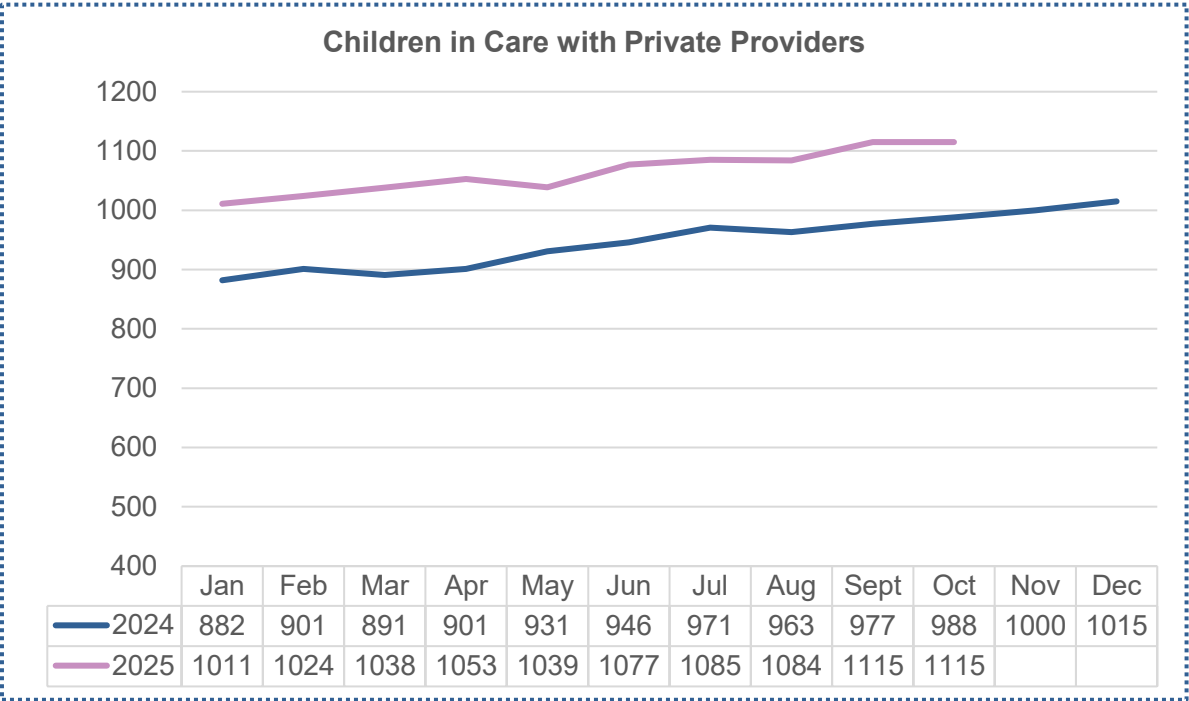
Area	Oct-24	Sept-25	Oct-25	Oct-25 v Oct-24	Oct-25 v Sep-25	Population	Rate/1,000
Dublin North City	465	500	500	35	0	48,909	10.2
Donegal	235	251	248	13	-3	42,144	5.9
Waterford/Wexford	431	394	383	-48	-11	69,239	5.5
Midwest	496	497	505	9	8	96,764	5.2
CW/KK/ST	305	314	315	10	1	62,366	5.1
Kerry	168	171	171	3	0	34,994	4.9
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	117	112	118	1	6	24,312	4.9
Cork	661	668	663	2	-5	136,786	4.8
Cavan/Monaghan	167	175	178	11	3	37,336	4.8
Dublin South Central	331	327	327	-4	0	70,259	4.7
Mayo	145	151	147	2	-4	31,911	4.6
Galway/Roscommon	349	360	367	18	7	81,799	4.5
Louth/Meath	423	425	429	6	4	96,531	4.4
Midlands	340	353	352	12	-1	80,962	4.3
Dublin North	415	419	420	5	1	104,281	4.0
DSW/K/WW	419	412	402	-17	-10	108,927	3.7
Dublin South East/Wicklow	207	198	199	-8	1	91,047	2.2
Total Areas	5,674	5,727	5,724	50	-3	1,218,567	4.7
SCSIP	110	139	142	32	3		
Total National	5,784	5,866	5,866	82	0		

Population: CSO Census 2022

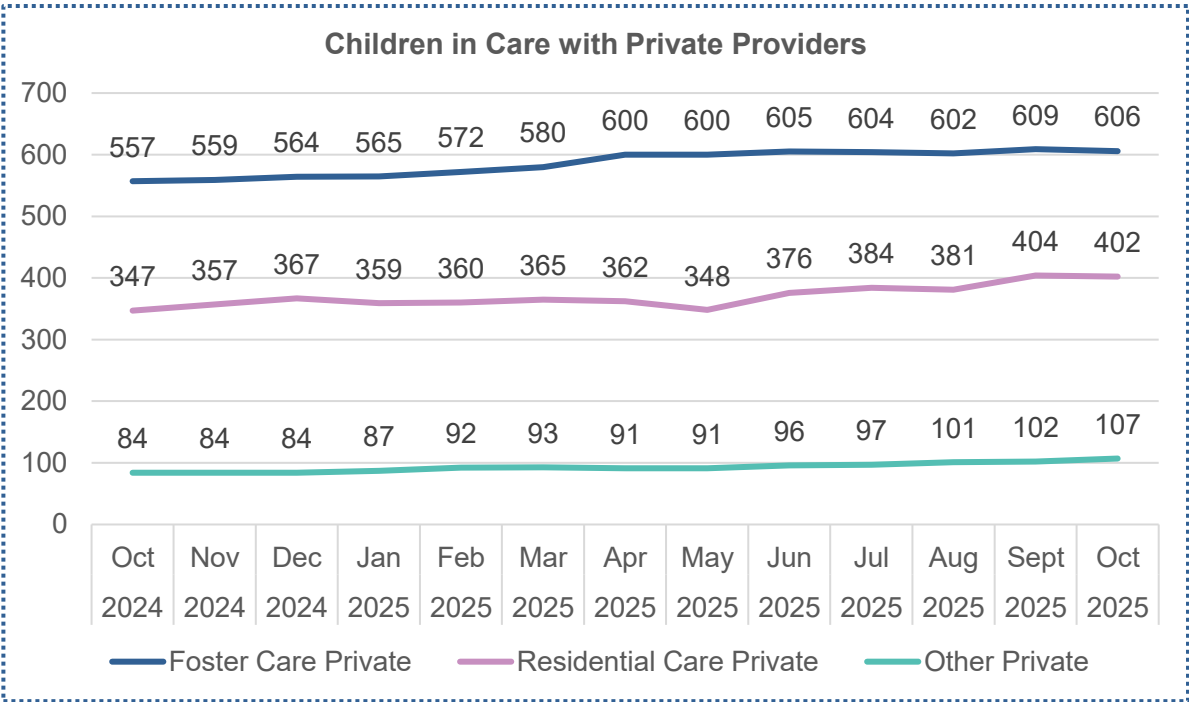
# Children in Care

## Private Providers

- 1,115 (19%) children in care at the end of October 2025 were in placements with private providers, no change from September 2025 and 127 (13%) more than October 2024 (988).



- 606 (54%) children in placements with private providers were in **foster care**, three fewer than September 2025 (609) and 49 (9%) more than October 2024 (557).
- 402 (36%) children were in **residential care**, two fewer than September 2025 (404) and 55 (16%) more than October 2024 (347).
- The remaining **107 (10%)** children were in **“Other” care placements**, **five** more than September 2025 (102) and 23 (27%) more than October 2024 (84). *“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 (157), Dublin North (123), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (121), Dublin South Central (117) and SCSIP (105). These five account for 56% (623) of children in placements with private providers.



### Children in Care with Private Providers

	Oct-24	Sep-25	Oct-25	Oct-25 v Oct-24	Oct-25 v Sep-25
Children in Care (Private)					
Dublin North City	123	152	157	34	5
Dublin North	115	124	123	8	-1
DSW/K/WW	120	125	121	1	-4
Dublin South Central	116	118	117	1	-1
SCSIP	62	102	105	43	3
Midlands	83	107	104	21	-3
Cork	55	67	67	12	0
Louth/Meath	54	54	54	0	0
Waterford/Wexford	50	49	48	-2	-1
Dublin South East/Wicklow	54	45	45	-9	0
Midwest	41	43	44	3	1
Kerry	33	34	35	2	1
Donegal	21	30	29	8	-1
CW/KK/ST	22	25	23	1	-2
Galway/Roscommon	18	17	18	0	1
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	12	12	13	1	1
Cavan/Monaghan	8	8	9	1	1
Mayo	1	3	3	2	0
Total	988	1,115	1,115	127	0



# 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.

- **99% (5,785) of children in care at the end of October 2025 had an allocated case worker.**
- Of the 5,785 children allocated, 89% (5,139) were allocated to a social worker and 11% (646) were allocated to another professional.
- A total of 81 (1%) children were awaiting allocation, one fewer than September 2025 (82).
- 5 of the 17 areas report no cases awaiting allocation with a further nine areas reporting fewer than 10 cases awaiting allocation.
- The remaining three areas, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow, Dublin South Central and Dublin North City reported 26, 12 and 11 cases awaiting respectively. The Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection reported eight children awaiting.

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

Area	Allocated SW	% Allocated SW	Allocated OP	% Allocated OP	Total Allocated	% Allocated to Case Worker	Awaiting Allocation	% Awaiting Allocation	Total in Care
Dublin South East/Wicklow	187	94%	12	6%	199	100%	0	0%	199
Cavan/Monaghan	173	97%	5	3%	178	100%	0	0%	178
Donegal	232	94%	16	6%	248	100%	0	0%	248
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	117	99%	1	1%	118	100%	0	0%	118
Mayo	147	100%	0	0%	147	100%	0	0%	147
Waterford/Wexford	335	88%	47	12%	382	100%	1	0%	383
Cork	660	100%	1	0%	661	100%	2	0%	663
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	162	52%	152	48%	314	100%	1	0%	315
Dublin North	383	92%	35	8%	418	100%	2	0%	420
Galway/Roscommon	360	99%	5	1%	365	99%	2	1%	367
Kerry	162	95%	8	5%	170	99%	1	1%	171
Mid West	341	68%	160	32%	501	99%	4	1%	505
Midlands	320	92%	29	8%	349	99%	3	1%	352
Louth/Meath	369	88%	52	12%	421	98%	8	2%	429
Dublin North City	449	92%	40	8%	489	98%	11	2%	500
Dublin South Central	297	94%	18	6%	315	96%	12	4%	327
SCSIP	134	100%	0	0%	134	94%	8	6%	142
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	311	83%	65	17%	376	94%	26	6%	402
Total	5,139	89%	646	11%	5,785	99%	81	1%	5866

# Children in Care

## Care Plan

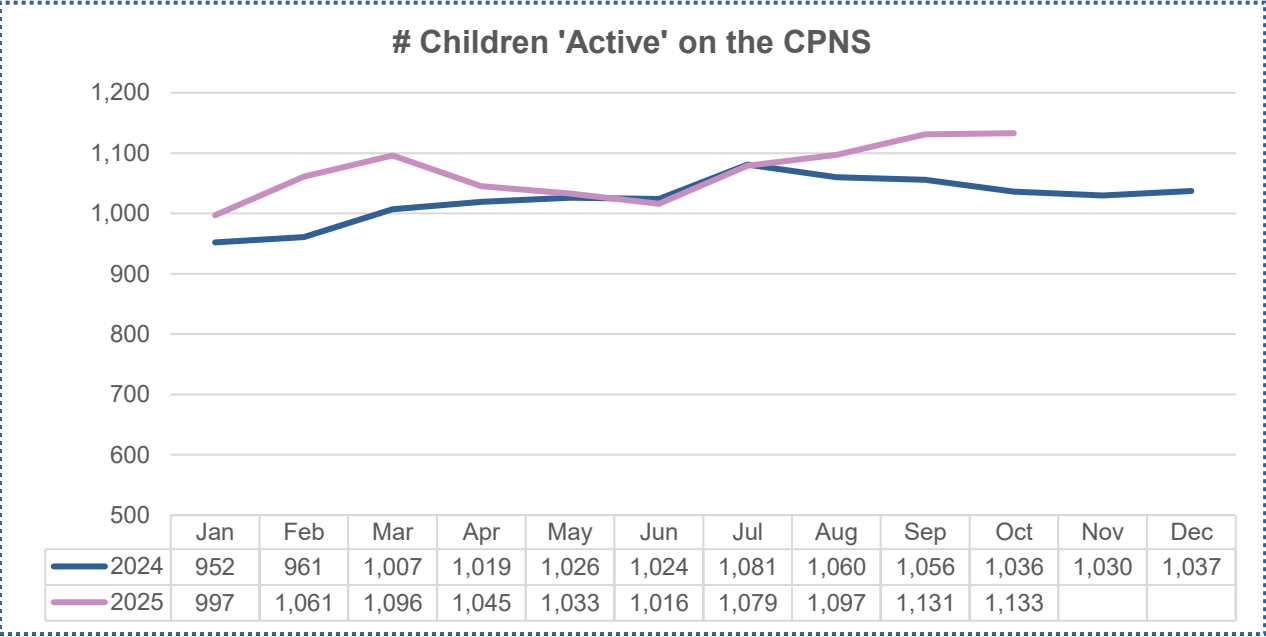
- **84% (4,953) of children in care at the end of October 2025 had an up-to-date care plan**, up one percentage point from September 2025 (83%).
- A total of 913 (16%) children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 86 (9%) fewer than September 2025 (999).
- Highest numbers awaiting an up-to-date care plan reported by Dublin North City (143; 29%); Cork (97; 15%), Dublin North (87; 21%) and Midwest (78; 15%).

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

Area	UTD Care Plan	Awaiting UTD Care Plan	Total	% UTD Care Plan
Midlands	343	9	352	<b>97%</b>
Donegal	236	12	248	<b>95%</b>
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	295	20	315	<b>94%</b>
Waterford/Wexford	357	26	383	<b>93%</b>
Mayo	128	19	147	<b>87%</b>
Louth/Meath	372	57	429	<b>87%</b>
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	102	16	118	<b>86%</b>
Cork	566	97	663	<b>85%</b>
Cavan/Monaghan	151	27	178	<b>85%</b>
Mid West	427	78	505	<b>85%</b>
Dublin South Central	268	59	327	<b>82%</b>
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	329	73	402	<b>82%</b>
Galway/Roscommon	295	72	367	<b>80%</b>
SCSIP	114	28	142	<b>80%</b>
Dublin North	333	87	420	<b>79%</b>
Kerry	135	36	171	<b>79%</b>
Dublin South East/Wicklow	145	54	199	<b>73%</b>
Dublin North City	357	143	500	<b>71%</b>
Grand Total	4,953	913	5,866	<b>84%</b>

# Child Protection Notification System

- **1,133 children listed as ‘active’** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of October 2025, two more than September 2025 (1,131) and the fourth consecutive increase.
- There were 97 (9%) more children ‘active’ at the end of October 2025 than at the end October 2024 (1,036).
- *It should be noted that a small number of large sibling groups can have a significant effect on numbers reported.*
- 99% (1,117) of children ‘active’ had an allocated social worker, 16 children were awaiting allocation to a social worker. Seven of the 16 children were subsequently allocated to a social worker. The remaining nine cases are allocated to another professional.
- Highest numbers of children listed as ‘active’ at the end of October 2025, reported by Cork (136), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (134), Dublin North City (104) and Dublin North (100).
- Fewest numbers reported by Donegal (23), Kerry (26), Cavan/Monaghan (27), and Mayo (27).
- The number of children ‘active’ equates to 9 children per 10,000 under 18 years.
- Highest rates reported by Dublin North City (21.3), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (18.9) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (12.3).
- Lowest rates reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (3.8) and Donegal (5.5).
- 9 of the 17 areas had more children listed as ‘active’ at the end of October 2025 than at the end of September 2025. Largest increases reported by Cork (up 8), Dublin North (up 6) and Waterford/Wexford (up 5).
- 8 of the 17 areas reported fewer children ‘active’ with the largest decreases reported by Donegal (down 8), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 6) and Galway/Roscommon (down 5).
- 10 of the 17 areas had more children active at the end of October 2025 than at the end of October 2024. Largest increases reported by Dublin North (up 45), Cork (up 42) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (up 22).
- 6 of the 17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Midwest (down 27), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 23) and Midlands (down 18).
- The remaining area (Louth/Meath) reported no change.



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

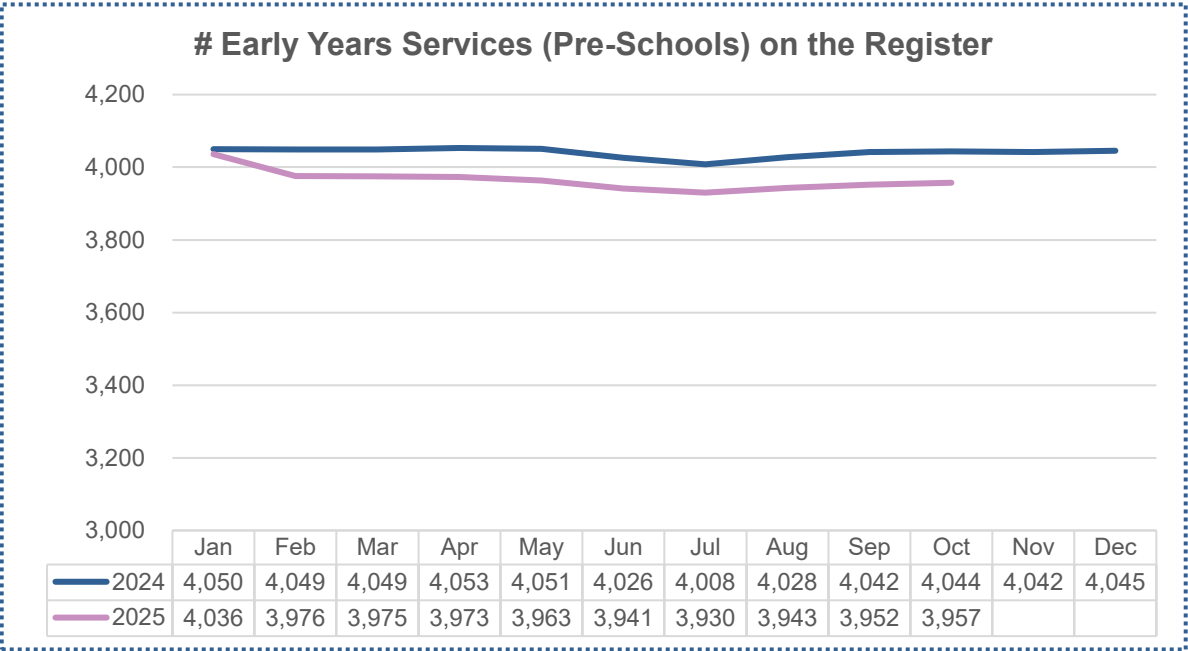
Area	Oct-24	Sept-25	Oct-25	Oct-25 v Oct-24	Oct-25 v Sep-25	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	107	103	104	-3	1	48,909	21.3
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	24	47	46	22	-1	24,312	18.9
DSW/K/WW	113	138	134	21	-4	108,927	12.3
Midlands	114	95	96	-18	1	80,962	11.9
Dublin South Central	93	78	76	-17	-2	70,259	10.8
Galway / Roscommon	65	87	82	17	-5	81,799	10.0
Cork	94	128	136	42	8	136,786	9.9
Dublin North	55	94	100	45	6	104,281	9.6
Mid West	111	86	84	-27	-2	96,764	8.7
Mayo	17	24	27	10	3	31,911	8.5
Kerry	22	25	26	4	1	34,994	7.4
Cavan / Monaghan	20	23	27	7	4	37,336	7.2
Waterford / Wexford	31	38	43	12	5	69,239	6.2
Louth / Meath	58	54	58	0	4	96,531	6.0
CW/K/ST	59	42	36	-23	-6	62,366	5.8
Donegal	25	31	23	-2	-8	42,144	5.5
Dublin South East / Wicklow	28	38	35	7	-3	91,047	3.8
Total	1,036	1,131	1,133	97	2	1,218,567	9.3

Population 0-17 years – source CSO Census 2022

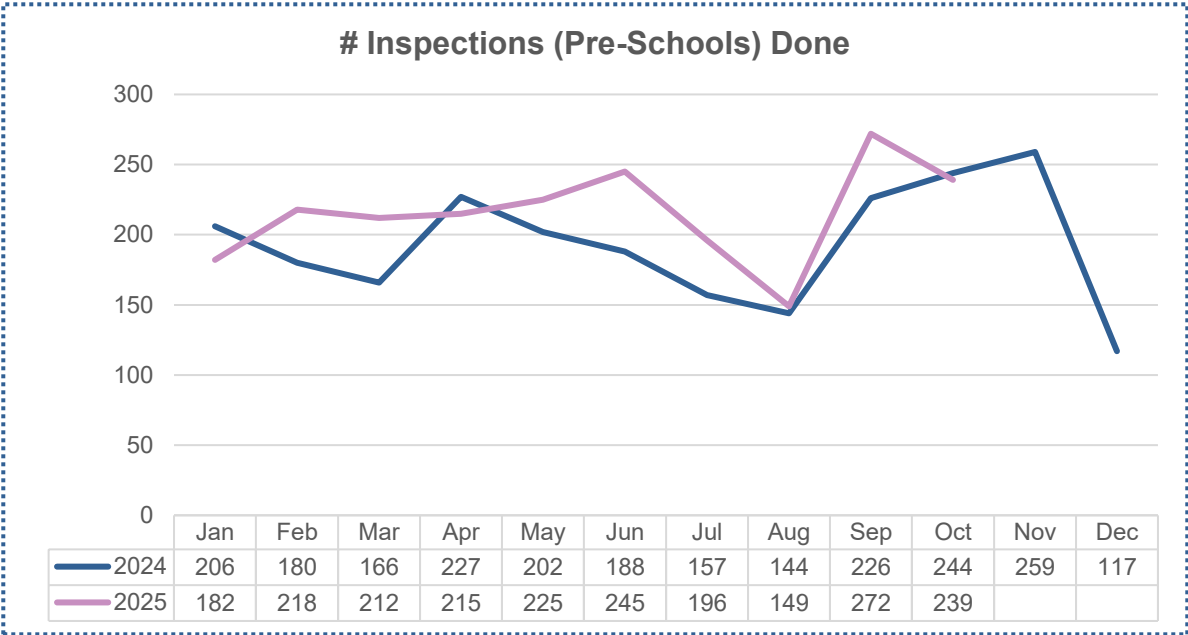
# Children’s Services Regulation

## EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- **3,957 early years services (pre-schools) on the register at the end of October 2025**, five more than September 2025 (3,952) and 87 (2%) fewer than October 2024 (4,044). *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.*

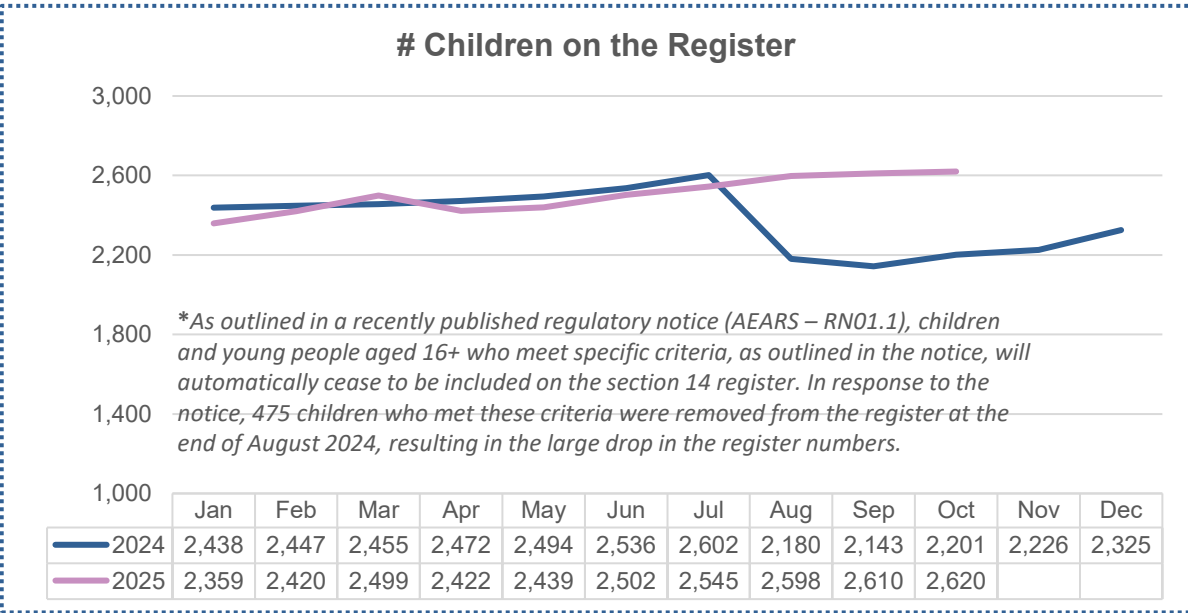


- **239 inspections** of early years services (pre-schools) in October 2025.
- This brings to 2,153 the number of inspections for the first 10 months of 2025, 213 (11%) more than the same period in 2024 (1,940).

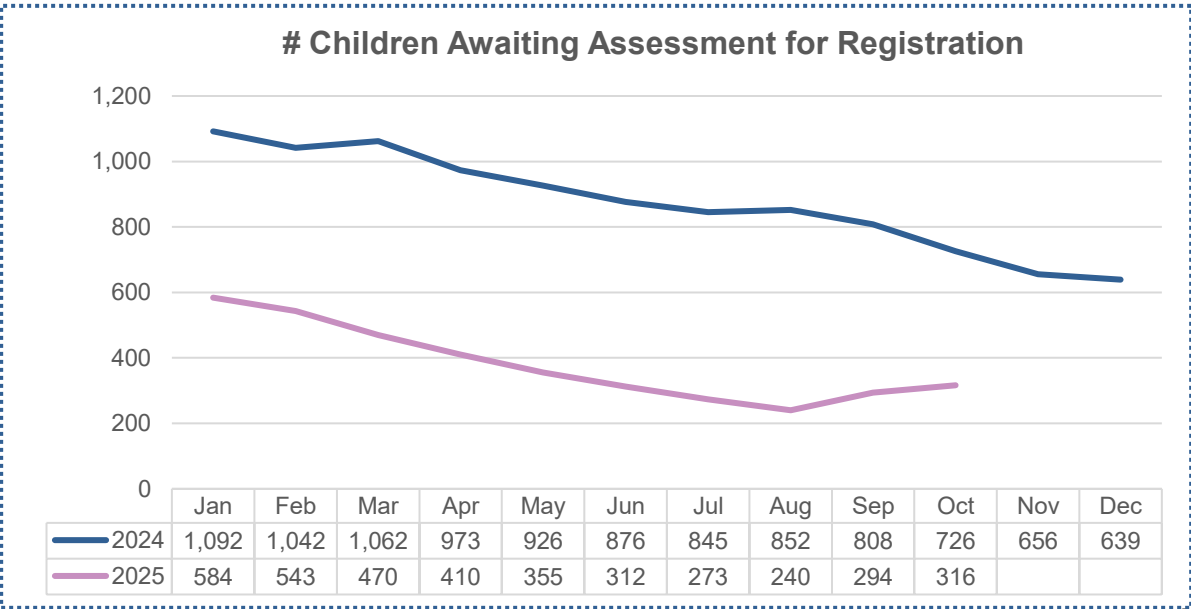


## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

- **2,620 children on the register** for home education at the end of October 2025, 10 (<1%) more than September 2025 (2,610) and 295 (13%) more than Dec 2024 (2,325). Increasing trend continues.



- **316 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of October 2025**, 22 (7%) more than September 2025 (294), second consecutive increase after 12 consecutive decreases. There were 410 (56%) fewer children awaiting at the end of October 2025 than at the end of October 2024 (726).



# Tusla Education Support Services

- **1,096 referrals** for an educational welfare service in October 2025.
- This brings to 2,047 the number of referrals for the first two months of the academic year 2025/26.

*Note: the number of referrals for the academic year 2025/26 is not comparable with previous academic years due to the following: (1) change in metric definition from referrals screened to all referrals received; (2) introduction of a new team ('Children Missing in Education Team') and (3) launch of the Tusla Attendance Campaign in September 2025.*

- **8,926 cases open** to educational welfare services at the end of October 2025, 123 (1%) fewer than September 2025 (9,049).
- **57% (5,106) of open cases were allocated**, up from 55% at the end of September 2025.
- **43% (3,820) of open cases were on a waiting list for allocation**, down from 45% at the end of September 2025.
- 292 (7%) fewer cases on the waiting list at the end of October 2025 than at the end of September 2025 (4,112), but 602 (19%) more than October 2024 (3,218).

