



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

MONTHLY SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2024

05 November 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 – September 2024

Child Protection & Welfare

- **8,156 referrals** in September 2024, 1,277 (19%) more than August 2024 (6,879) and 165 (2%) more than September 2023 (7,991). Brings to **70,413 the number of referrals for the first nine months** of 2024, 1,241 (2%) more than the same period in 2023 (69,172).
- **20,861 cases open to social work** at the end of September 2024, 750 (4%) more than August 2024 (20,111) and 1,502 (7%) fewer than September 2023 (22,363). *Open cases include child protection and welfare cases including children in care.*
- **79% (16,582) of cases open to social work at the end of September 2024 had an allocated worker**, up one percentage point from August 2024. (Ref note on Page 4).
- **4,279 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of September 2024, 140 (3%) fewer than August 2024 (4,419). Fourth consecutive monthly decrease. Cases awaiting allocation are down 1,111 (21%) from September 2023 (5,390).
- Six areas account for 70% (2,993) of cases awaiting allocation: Dublin South Central (980), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (538), Midlands (422), Cork (398), Louth/Meath (369) and Midwest (286).
- **10% (445) of cases awaiting allocation** at the end of September 2024 were **categorised as high priority**, 69 (13%) fewer than August 2024 (514) and 37 (8%) fewer than September 2023 (482).

Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

- **63 referrals assigned to CASP Teams in September 2024.** This brings to 508 the number of referrals assigned for the first nine months of 2024, 266 (34%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (774).
- **674 assessments open at the end of September 2024**, 12 (2%) fewer than August 2024 (698) and 75 (10%) fewer than September 2023 (749).
- **74% (502/674) of assessments open** at the end of September 2024 were **allocated to a social worker**, up two percentage points from August 2024 (72%).
- The remaining 26% (172) were awaiting allocation with 22 (11%) fewer cases awaiting at the end of September 2024 than at the end of August 2024 (194). Second consecutive monthly decrease. Some 106 (38%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of September 2024 than at the end of September 2023 (278).

Children in Care

- **5,760 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of September 2024**, one more than August 2024 (5,759). Figure includes 115 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP)
- **87.4% (5,035)** of all children in care (17 Areas and SCSIP) are in **foster care** (3,581 general foster care, and 1,454 relative foster), **8.7% (501) are in residential care** (486 general residential care and 15 special care) and **3.9% (224) are in “other” care placements**.

Children in Care (contd.)

- Across Tusla’s 17 areas 88.8% (5,012/5,645) of children in care are in foster care.
- **977 (17%) children** in care at the end of September 2024 were in placements **with private providers**, 14 (1%) more than August 2024 (963).
- **84% (4,836) of children** in care at the end of September 2024 had **an allocated worker** up two percentage point from August 2024 (82%). A total of 924 children were awaiting allocation, 85 (8%) fewer than August 2024 (1,009).
- **85% (4,908)** of children in care at the end of September 2024 had an **up-to-date care plan**, no change from August 2024. A total of 852 children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 14 (2%) more than August 2024 (838).

Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

- **1,056 children listed as “active”** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of September 2024, 4 (<1%) fewer than August 2024 (1,060), second consecutive monthly decrease.
- **226 inspections** of early years services in September 2024. This brings to 1,696 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2024, 92 (5%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (1,788).
- All children listed as “active” at the end of September 2024 had an **allocated social worker**.

Children’s Services Regulation

- **4,042 early years services on the register at the end of September 2024**, 14(<1%) more than August 2024 (4,028) and no change from September 2023 (4,042).
- **226 inspections** of early years services in September 2024. This brings to 1,696 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2024, 92 (5%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (1,788).
- **2,143 children on the register** for home education at the end of September 2024, 37 (2%) fewer than August 2024 (2,180).
- **808 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of September 2024**, 44 (5%) fewer than August 2024 (852) and 441 (35%) fewer than September 2023 (1,249).

Tusla Education Support Services

- **402 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in September 2024, 109 (37%) more than September 2023 (293).
- **3,228 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of September 2024, 281 (8%) fewer than August 2023 (3,509).
- 568 (21%) more referrals on a waiting list at the end of September 2024 (3,228) than at the end of September 2023 (2,660).
- **414 new individual children worked** with in September 2024, 89 (27%) more than September 2023 (325).

Child Protection and Welfare

Referrals¹

- **8,156 referrals** in September 2024, 1,277 (19%) more than August 2024 (6,879) and 165 (2%) more than September 2023 (7,991).
- This brings to 70,413 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2024, 1,241 (2%) more than the same period in 2023 (69,172).

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-Sep 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

- **20,861 cases open to social work** at the end of September 2024, 750 (4%) more than August 2024 (20,111) and 1,502 (7%) fewer than September 2023 (22,363).

Notes:

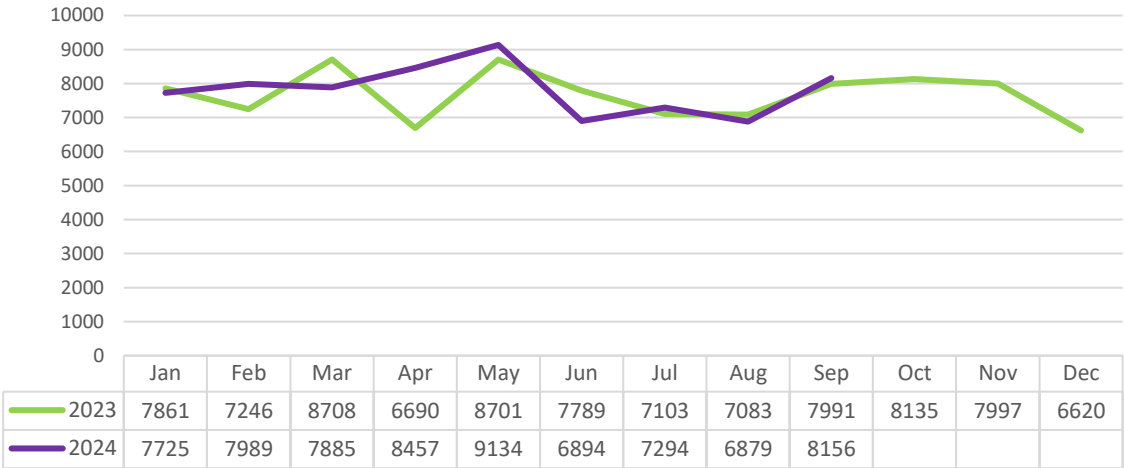
- 1) *From September 2023, open cases (allocated/unallocated) include cases “awaiting categorisation” at month end. This is in addition to cases categorised as high, medium and low. The category “awaiting categorisation” was introduced this year to reflect better questions being asked at screening and 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

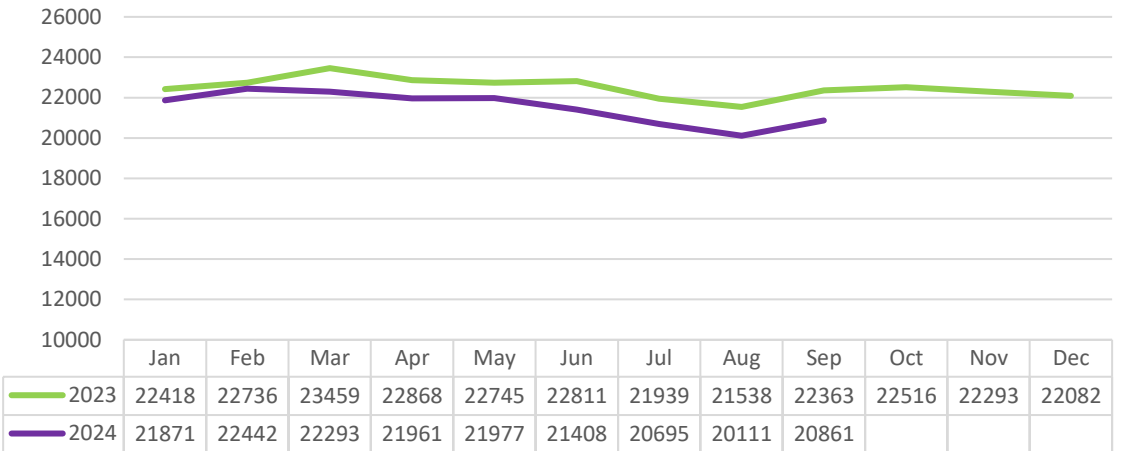
- **16,582 open cases were allocated** at the end of September 2024, 890 (6%) more than August 2024 (15,692) and 391 (2%) fewer than September 2023 (16,973).
- Allocated cases account for 79% of open cases, up one percentage point from August 2024 (78%).

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.

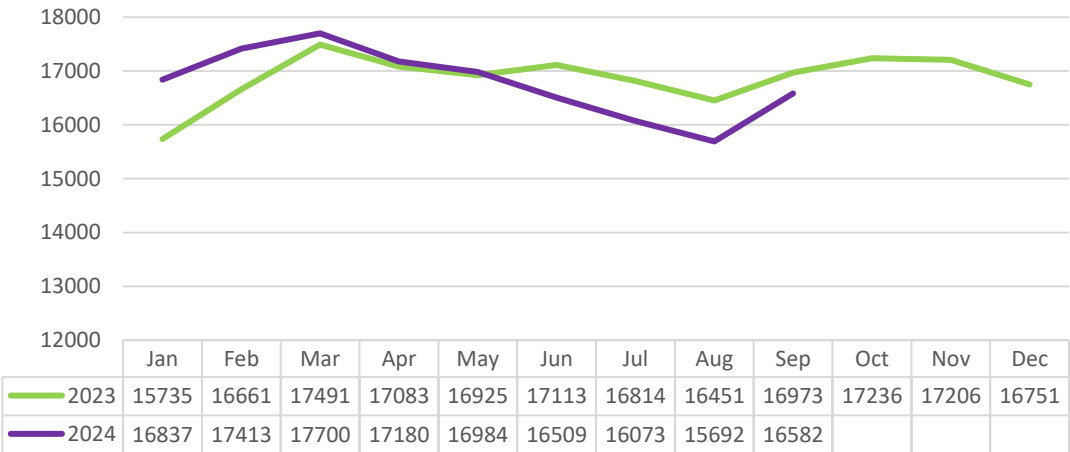
Referrals



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).

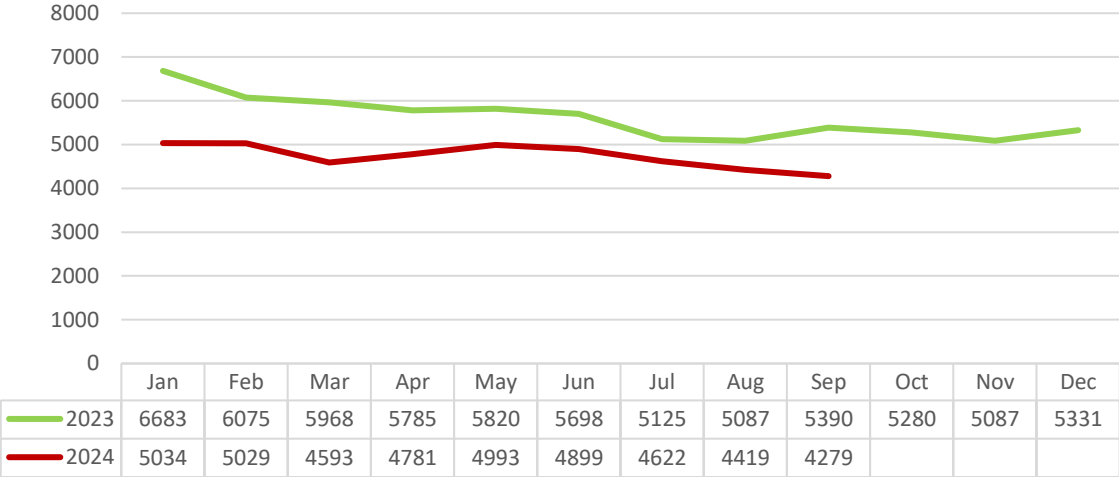
Child Protection & Welfare

Cases Awaiting Allocation

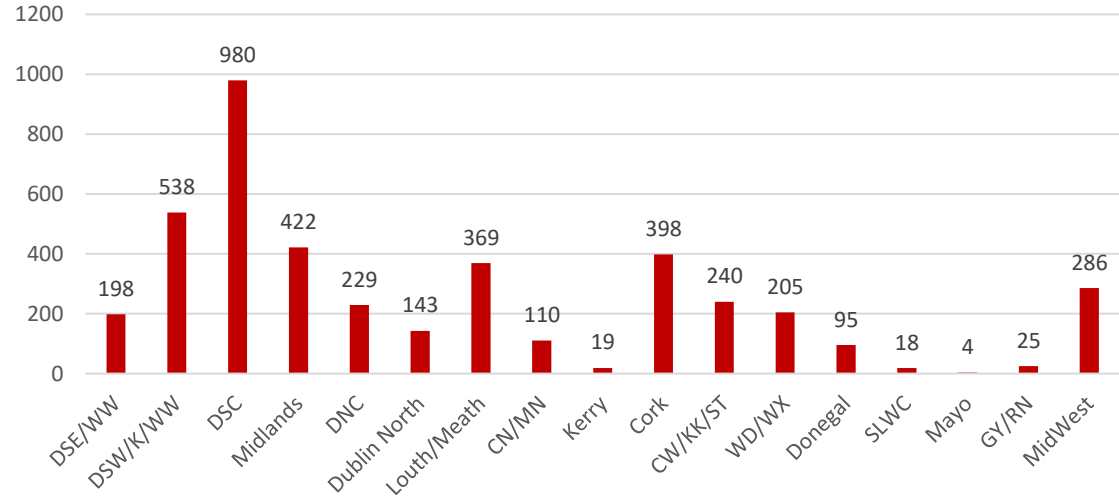
Cases awaiting allocation include cases held on duty, unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care

- **4,279 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of September 2024, 140 (3%) fewer than August 2024 (4,419). Fourth consecutive monthly decrease.
- Cases awaiting allocation are down 1,111 (21%) from September 2023 (5,390).
- Cases awaiting allocation account for 21% of open cases (20,861), down one percentage point from August 2024 (22%).
- **36% (1,523) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of September 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 (980) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (538), Midlands (422), Cork (398), Louth/Meath (369) and Midwest (286). These six areas account for 70% (2,993) of all cases awaiting allocation.
- **445 cases awaiting allocation at the end of September 2024 were categorised as high priority**, 69 (13%) fewer than August 2024 (514) and 37 (8%) fewer than September 2023 (482).
- High priority cases account for 10% of cases awaiting allocation.
- 58% (2,490) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 29% (1,236) were low priority while the remaining 3% (108) were awaiting categorisation.
- Highest number of high priority cases reported by Midwest (71), Midlands (67), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (65), Dublin South Central (62), Donegal (55) and Louth/Meath (48). These six areas account for 83% (368) of all high priority cases awaiting.

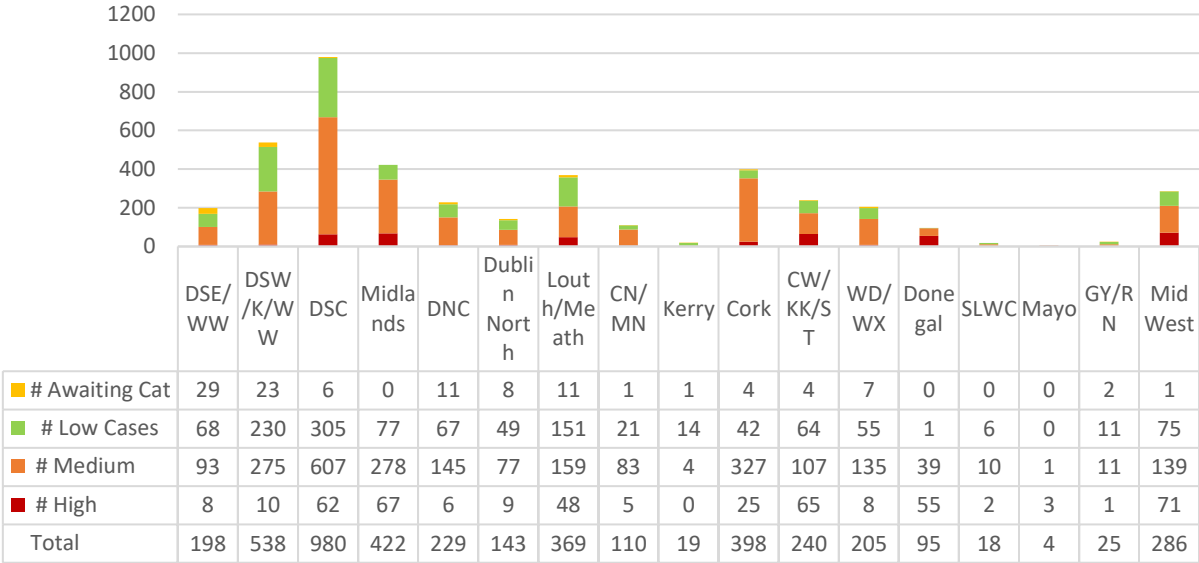
Number of Unallocated Cases



Number of Unallocated Cases














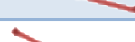


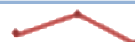

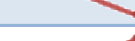


Number Unallocated Cases by Priority Level



Child Protection & Welfare

Cases Awaiting Allocation

- 11/17 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from August 2024.
- Largest decreases reported by Donegal (down 105), Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 103), Dublin South Central (down 90) and Louth/Meath (down 44).
- 6/17 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from August 2024. Largest increases reported by Midlands (up 164) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 107).
- Nationally 21% of open cases were awaiting allocation at the end of September 2024. Six areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 21%. Highest percentages reported by Dublin South Central (46%), Dublin South East/Wicklow (34%), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (33%), Midlands (25%), Louth/Meath (23%) and Midwest (22%).
- 14/17 areas had fewer cases awaiting allocation at the end of September 2024 than at the end of September 2023. Largest decreases reported by Cork (down 385), Waterford/Wexford (down 326) and Donegal (down 224).
- 3/17 areas had more cases awaiting allocation at the end of September 2024 than at the end of September 2023. Increases reported by Midlands (up 221), Louth/Meath (up 49) and Midwest (up 14).

Area	Sep-23 # Unallocated	Sep-23 % Unallocated	Jul-24 # Unallocated	Aug-24 # Unallocated	Sep-24 # Unallocated	Sep-24 % Unallocated	 Jul-Sep	Sep-24 v Sep-23	% Δ	Sep-24 v Aug-24	% Δ1
DSE/WW	227	22%	334	301	198	19%		-29	-13%	-103	-34%
DSW/K/WW	630	37%	432	431	538	34%		-92	-15%	107	25%
DSC	1,009	49%	1066	1070	980	46%		-29	-3%	-90	-8%
Midlands	201	11%	261	258	422	25%		221	110%	164	64%
DNC	285	17%	280	235	229	14%		-56	-20%	-6	-3%
Dublin North	227	10%	208	165	143	8%		-84	-37%	-22	-13%
Louth/Meath	320	25%	399	413	369	23%		49	15%	-44	-11%
CN/MN	126	18%	125	131	110	16%		-16	-13%	-21	-16%
Kerry	46	11%	21	20	19	5%		-27	-59%	-1	-5%
Cork	783	28%	416	375	398	17%		-385	-49%	23	6%
CW/KK/ST	282	30%	232	226	240	33%		-42	-15%	14	6%
WD/WX	531	34%	212	224	205	16%		-326	-61%	-19	-8%
Donegal	319	37%	232	200	95	13%		-224	-70%	-105	-53%
SLWC	56	16%	16	15	18	6%		-38	-68%	3	20%
Mayo	14	4%	18	16	4	1%		-10	-71%	-12	-75%
GY/RN	62	5%	22	21	25	2%		-37	-60%	4	19%
MidWest	272	21%	348	318	286	22%		14	5%	-32	-10%
TOTAL	5390	24%	4622	4419	4279	21%		-1111	-21%	-140	-3.2%

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	Aug-24	Sep-24	Δ	Aug-24	Sep-24	Δ2	Aug-24	Sep-24	Δ3	Aug-24	Sep-24	Δ4
DSE/WW	245	311	66	940	1,035	95	639	837	198	301	198	-103
DSW/K/WW	628	784	156	1,471	1,598	127	1,040	1,060	20	431	538	107
DSC	517	570	53	2,206	2,148	-58	1,136	1,168	32	1070	980	-90
Midlands	677	916	239	1,536	1,675	139	1,278	1,253	-25	258	422	164
DNC	368	417	49	1,578	1,615	37	1,343	1,386	43	235	229	-6
Dublin North	705	809	104	1,753	1,760	7	1,588	1,617	29	165	143	-22
Louth/Meath	551	634	83	1,535	1,590	55	1,122	1,221	99	413	369	-44
CN/MN	214	224	10	693	704	11	562	594	32	131	110	-21
Kerry	270	221	-49	379	406	27	359	387	28	20	19	-1
Cork	614	674	60	2,310	2,358	48	1,935	1,960	25	375	398	23
CW/KK/ST	332	474	142	655	735	80	429	495	66	226	240	14
WD/WX	514	594	80	1,253	1,291	38	1,029	1,086	57	224	205	-19
Donegal	235	293	58	831	757	-74	631	662	31	200	95	-105
SLWC	110	137	27	270	289	19	255	271	16	15	18	3
Mayo	72	114	42	329	358	29	313	354	41	16	4	-12
GY/RN	323	433	110	1,100	1,237	137	1,079	1,212	133	21	25	4
MidWest	504	551	47	1,272	1,305	33	954	1,019	65	318	286	-32
Total	6,879	8,156	1277	20,111	20,861	750	15,692	16,582	890	4,419	4,279	-140

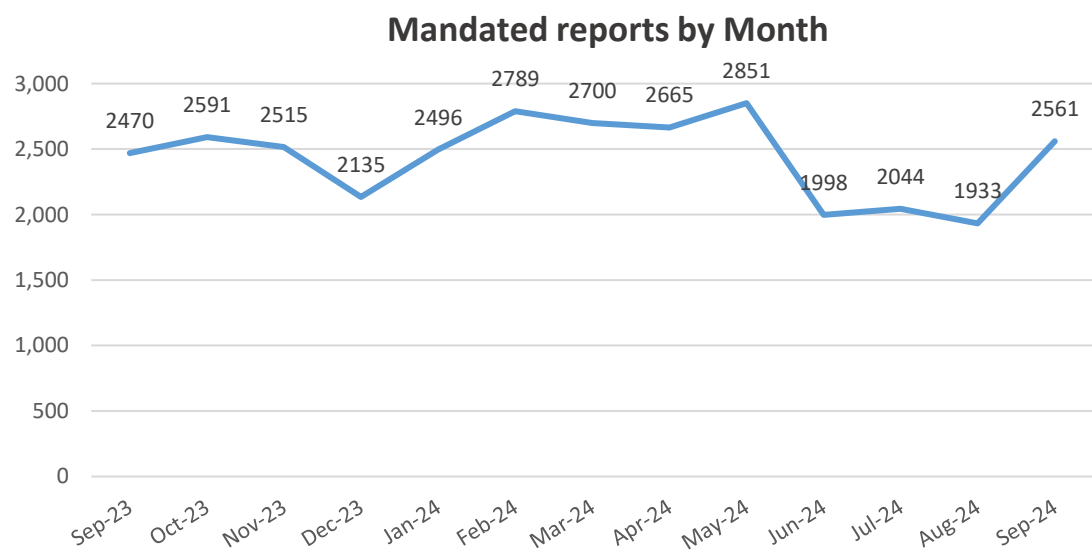
High Priority				Medium Priority			Low Priority			Awaiting Categorisation		
Area	Aug-24	Sep-24	Δ	Aug-24	Sep-24	Δ 2	Aug-24	Sep-24	Δ 3	Aug-24	Sep-24	Δ 4
DSE/WW	22	8	-14	171	93	-78	96	68	-28	12	29	17
DSW/K/WW	32	10	-22	174	275	101	206	230	24	19	23	4
DSC	64	62	-2	644	607	-37	359	305	-54	3	6	3
Midlands	54	67	13	175	278	103	29	77	48	0	0	0
DNC	22	6	-16	153	145	-8	51	67	16	9	11	2
Dublin North	9	9	0	100	77	-23	49	49	0	7	8	1
Louth/Meath	53	48	-5	181	159	-22	174	151	-23	5	11	6
CN/MN	8	5	-3	103	83	-20	16	21	5	4	1	-3
Kerry	3	0	-3	1	4	3	16	14	-2	0	1	1
Cork	17	25	8	319	327	8	39	42	3	0	4	4
CW/KK/ST	75	65	-10	101	107	6	50	64	14	0	4	4
WD/WX	3	8	5	164	135	-29	55	55	0	2	7	5
Donegal	47	55	8	112	39	-73	40	1	-39	1	0	-1
SLWC	2	2	0	7	10	3	6	6	0	0	0	0
Mayo	6	3	-3	10	1	-9	0	0	0	0	0	0
GY/RN	0	1	1	6	11	5	15	11	-4	0	2	2
MidWest	97	71	-26	125	139	14	95	75	-20	1	1	0
TOTAL	514	445	-69	2,546	2,490	-56	1,296	1,236	-60	63	108	45

Mandated Reports¹ – Child Protection & Welfare

- **2,561 mandated reports of abuse** received in September 2024, 628 (32%) more than August 2024 (1,933) and 91 (4%) more than September 2023 (2,470). This brings to 22,037 the number of reports for the first nine months of 2024, 619 (3%) more than the same period in 2023 (21,418).

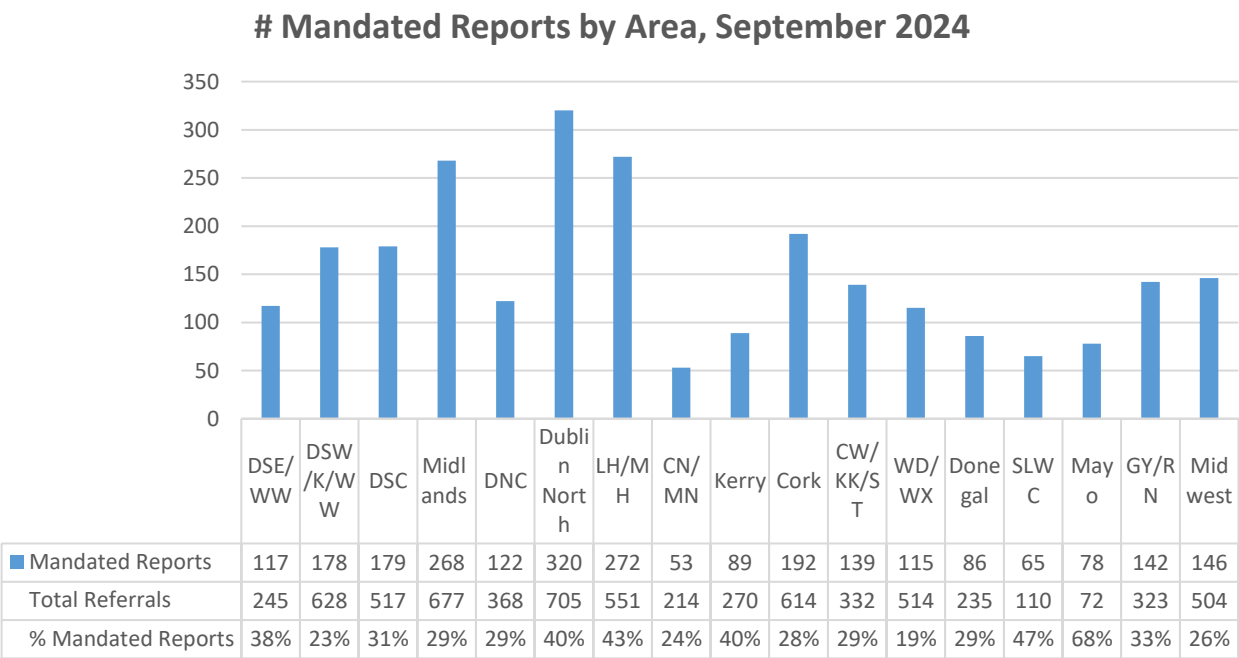
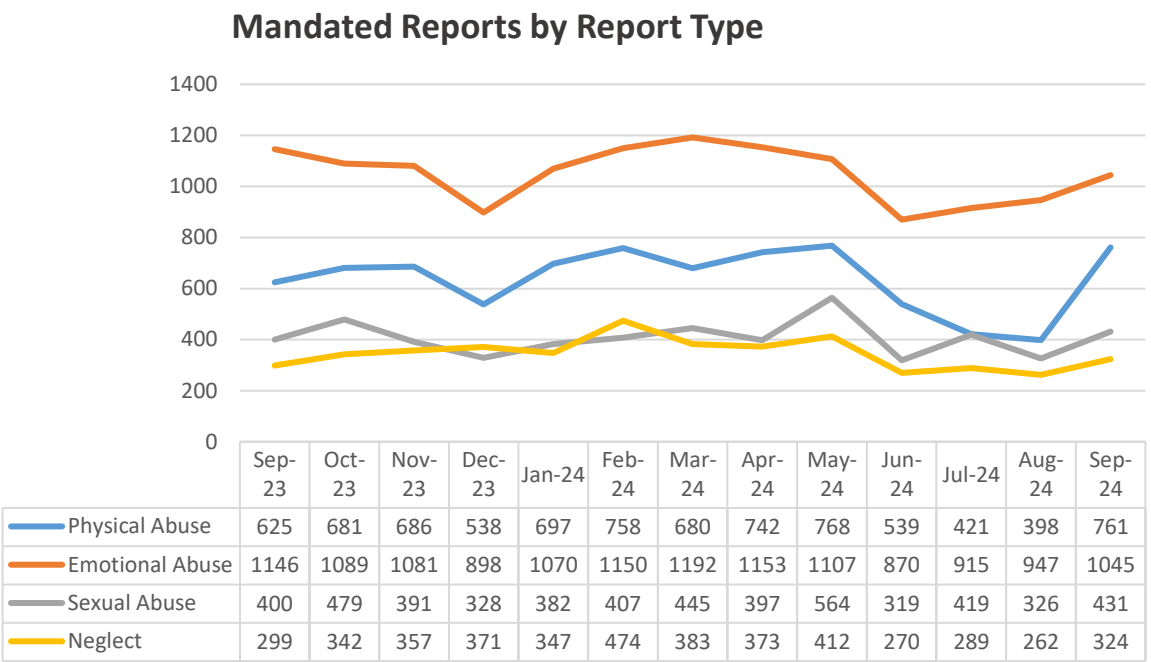
It should be noted that the data presented for the first six months of 2024 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for Jul-Sep 2024 is based on referrals logged on the Tusla Case Management (TCM) system at the time the data was extracted for reporting. Referrals logged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

- Mandated reports accounted for 31% (2,561) of all referrals received (8,156) in September 2024.



- The number of mandated reports for September 2024, by area ranged from 53 (Cavan/Monaghan) to 320 (Dublin North).
- As a percentage of referrals, the highest percentage (68%) was reported by Mayo.
- The lowest percentage (19%) was reported by Waterford/Wexford.

- Highest number of reports for September 2024 were for emotional abuse (1,045; 41%) followed by physical abuse (761; 30%), sexual abuse (431; 17%) and neglect (324; 13%).



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 September 2024 from An Garda Síochána (955; 37%) followed teachers (443; 17%), safeguarding officer (313; 12%); social workers (259; 10%), social care workers (115; 5%), medical practitioners (83; 3%) and managers of domestic violence shelters (74; 3%) and These seven sources account for 88%% (2,242) of reports for September 2024.
- Highest number of reports for 2024 YTD from An Garda Síochána (8,471; 38% followed by safeguarding officers (2,911; 13%), teachers (2,901; 13%), social workers (2,495; 11%), social care workers (1,029; 5%) and medical practitioners (775; 4%). These six sources account for 84% (18,582) of reports for 2024 YTD.

Source (Schedule 2 Children First 2015)	# Sept 2024	% Sept 2024	Total 2024 YTD	% Total 2024
Medical practitioner (Registered)	83	3.2%	775	4%
Nurse or registered midwife (Registered)	48	1.9%	460	2%
Physiotherapist (Registered)	6	0.2%	45	0%
Speech & language therapist (Registered)	8	0.3%	33	0%
Occupational therapist (Registered)	7	0.3%	47	0%
Registered dentist	*	0.0%	11	0%
Psychologist who practises as such and who is eligible for registration	54	2.1%	508	2%
Social care worker	115	4.5%	1029	5%
Social worker who practises as such and who is eligible for registration	259	10.1%	2495	11%
EMT, paramedic and advanced paramedic	*	0.1%	19	0%
Probation officer	10	0.4%	34	0%
Teacher registered with the Teaching Council.	443	17.3%	2901	13%
An Garda Síochána Member	955	37.3%	8471	38%
Guardian ad litem	*	0.1%	45	0%
Domestic violence shelter manager	74	2.9%	670	3%
Homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility manager	13	0.5%	199	1%
Asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre manager	10	0.4%	67	0%
Addiction counsellor	5	0.2%	32	0%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	56	2.2%	559	3%
Language school or other recreational school where children reside	*	0.1%	*	0%
Clergy member	0	0.0%	*	0%
Institution where a child is detained by an order of a court (Director)	*	0.1%	20	0%
Safeguarding officer, child protection officer	313	12.2%	2911	13%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	13	0.5%	90	0%
Youth work service - person responsible for the care or management	12	0.5%	88	0%
Youth worker employed in a youth work service	52	2.0%	409	2%
Foster carer registered with the Agency.	9	0.4%	32	0%
Pre-school service within the meaning of Part VIIA of the Child Care Act	*	0.2%	73	0%
Total (includes suppressed values)	2,561	100.0%	22,037	100%

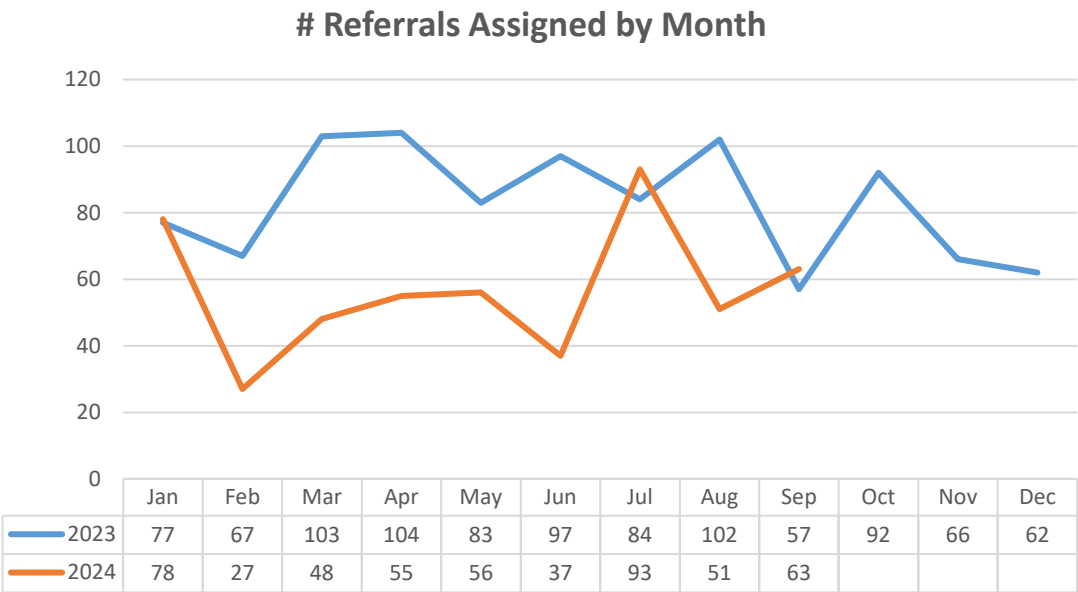
*Values suppressed for confidentiality purposes. Suppressed figures included in totals.

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.

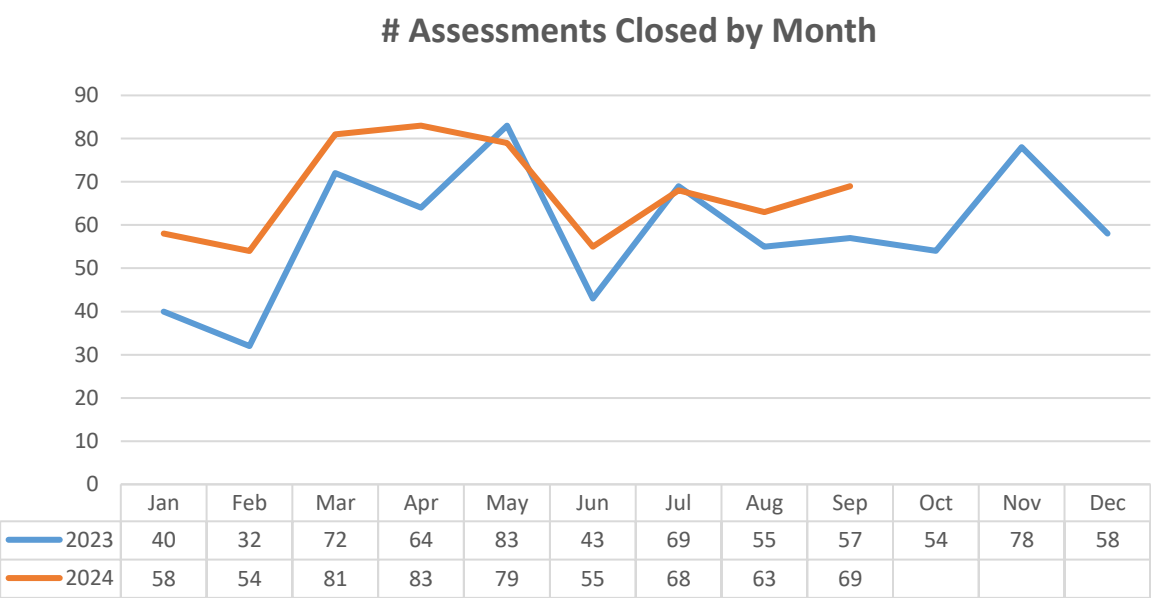
Referrals

- 63 referrals assigned to CASP Teams in September 2024. This brings to 508 the number of referrals assigned for the first nine months of 2024, 266 (34%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (774).



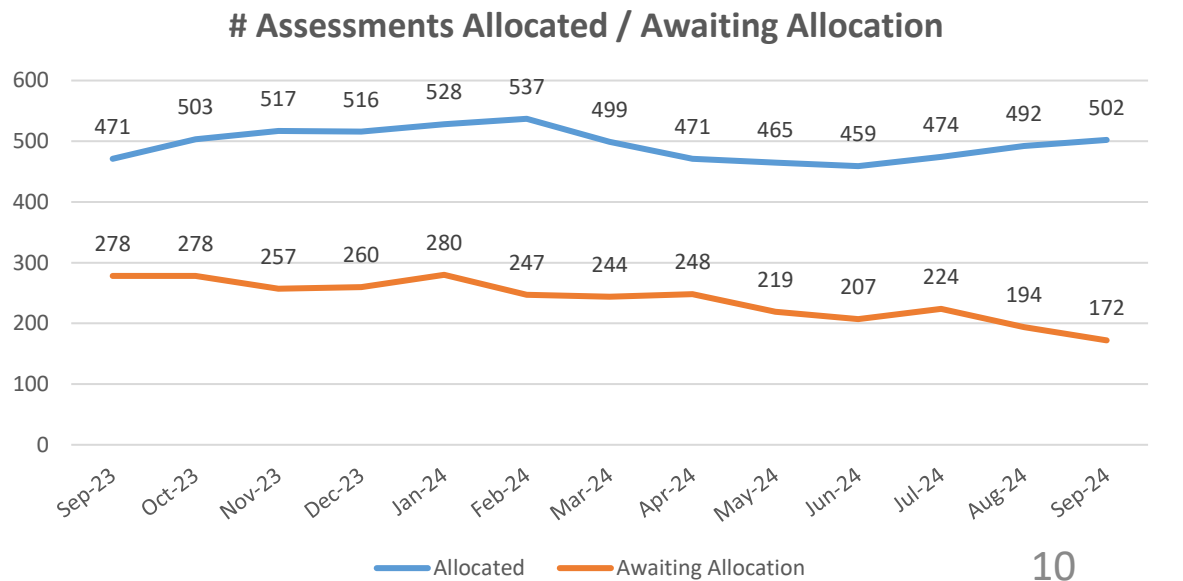
Assessments Closed

- 69 assessments closed in September 2024. This brings to 610 the number of assessments closed for the first nine months of 2024, 95 (18%) more than the same period in 2023 (515).



Open Assessments

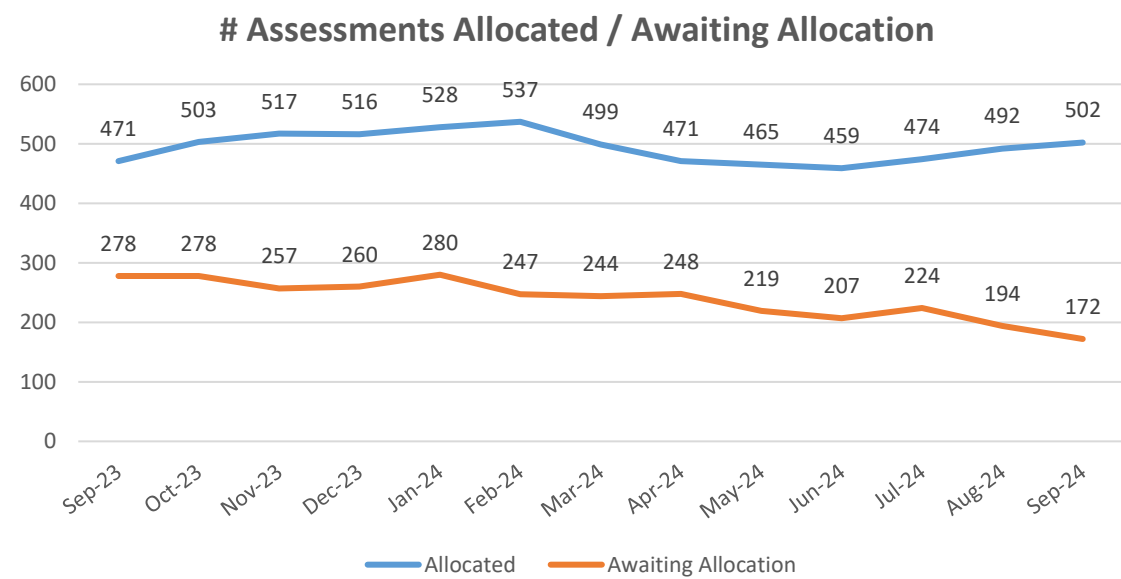
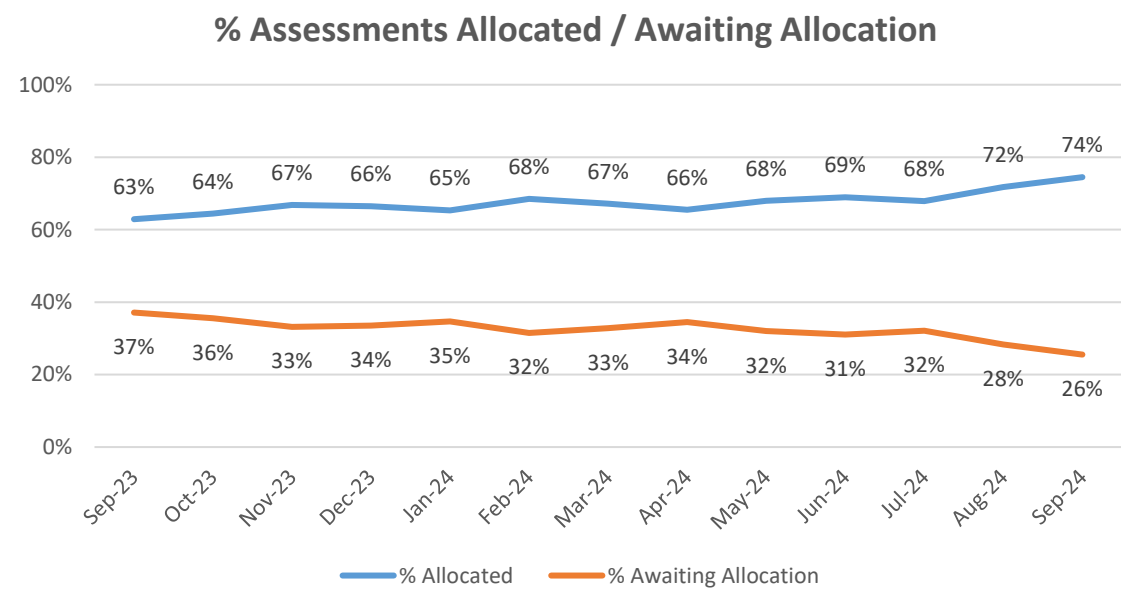
- 674 assessments open at the end of September 2024, 12 (2%) fewer than August 2024 (698) and 75 (10%) fewer than September 2023 (749).



Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

Allocation Status of Open Assessments

- 74% (502/674) of assessments open at the end of September 2024 were allocated to a social worker, up two percentage points from August 2024 (72%).
- The remaining 26% (172) were awaiting allocation with 22 (11%) fewer cases awaiting at the end of September 2024 than at the end of August 2024 (194). Second consecutive monthly decrease.
- 106 (38%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of September 2024 than at the end of September 2023 (278).



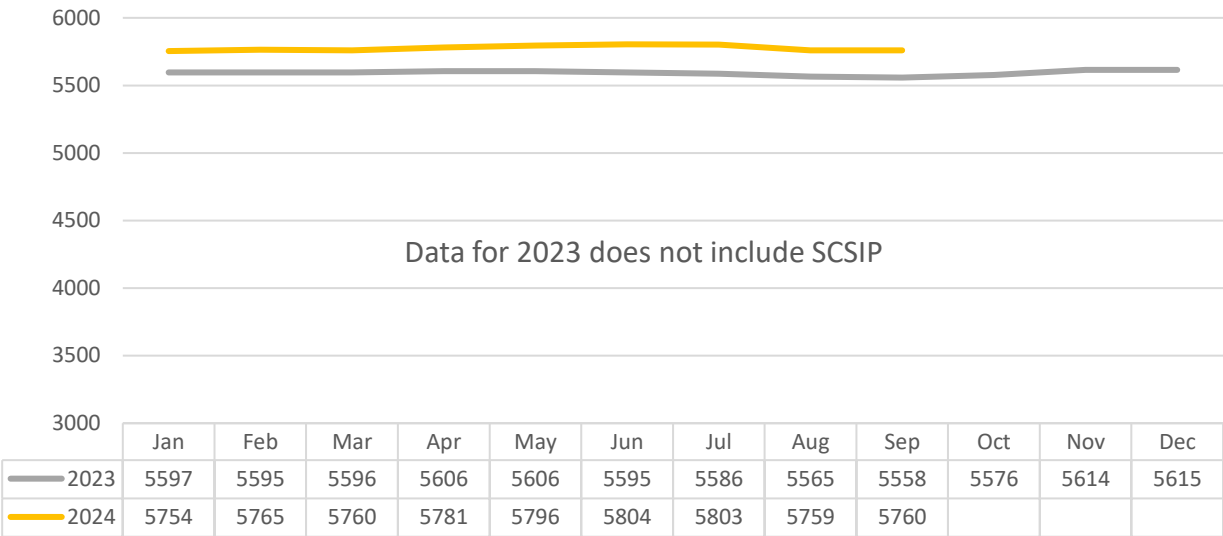
Children in Care

- **5,760 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of September 2024, one more than August 2024 (5,759).** Figure includes 115 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP)¹.
- Breakdown of children in care by Tusla’s 17 areas and SCSIP as follows:

	Sep-23	Aug-24	Sep-24	Sep-24 v Sep-23	Sep-24 v Aug-24
17 Areas	5,558	5,644	5,645	+87	+1
SCSIP	NA	115	115	NA	0
Total	5,558	5,759	5,760	-	+1
- Breakdown of children in care by placement type as follows (Sept 2024):

Placement Type	17 areas	SCSIP	Total
Residential Care	429 (7.6%)	72 (62.6%)	501 (8.7%)
Foster Care	5,012 (88.8%)	23 (20.0%)	5,035 (87.4%)
Other*	204 (3.6%)	20 (17.4%)	224 (3.9%)
Total	5,645 (100%)	115 (100%)	5,760 (100%)
- Residential care includes 15 children in special care. Of the children in foster care (5,035), 71% (3,581) were in general foster care and 29% (1,454) were in relative foster care.
- Highest number of children in care reported by Cork (667) followed by Midwest (498) and Dublin North City (460).
- Fewest number reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (115) and Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan (115).
- Across the 17 Areas the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 children was reported by Dublin North City (9.4) followed by Waterford/Wexford (6.2).
- Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.2) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.8).
- Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 4.6/1,000 children.

Children in Care by Month



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

Area	Sep-23	Aug-24	Sep-24	Sep-24 v Sep-23	Sep-24 v Aug-24	Population	Rate/1,000
Dublin North City	463	464	460	-3	-4	48,909*	9.4
Waterford/Wexford	416	429	432	16	3	69,239	6.2
Donegal	214	233	237	23	4	42,144	5.6
Midwest	501	499	498	-3	-1	96,764	5.1
CW/KK/ST	308	306	306	-2	0	62,366	4.9
Cork	707	677	667	-40	-10	136,786	4.9
Kerry	153	167	168	15	1	34,994	4.8
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	114	116	115	1	-1	24,312	4.7
Dublin South Central	345	325	327	-18	2	70,259	4.7
Mayo	144	144	145	1	1	31,911	4.5
Louth/Meath	399	425	419	20	-6	96,531	4.3
Cavan/Monaghan	152	161	162	10	1	37,336	4.3
Midlands	316	330	337	21	7	80,962	4.2
Galway/Roscommon	362	342	340	-22	-2	81,799	4.2
Dublin North	380	423	420	40	-3	104,281*	4.0
DSW/K/WW	394	400	412	18	12	108,927	3.8
Dublin South East/Wicklow	190	203	200	10	-3	91,047	2.2
Total Areas	5,558	5,644	5,645	87	1	1,218,567	4.6
SCSIP	NA	115	115		0		
Total National	5,558	5,759	5,760		1		

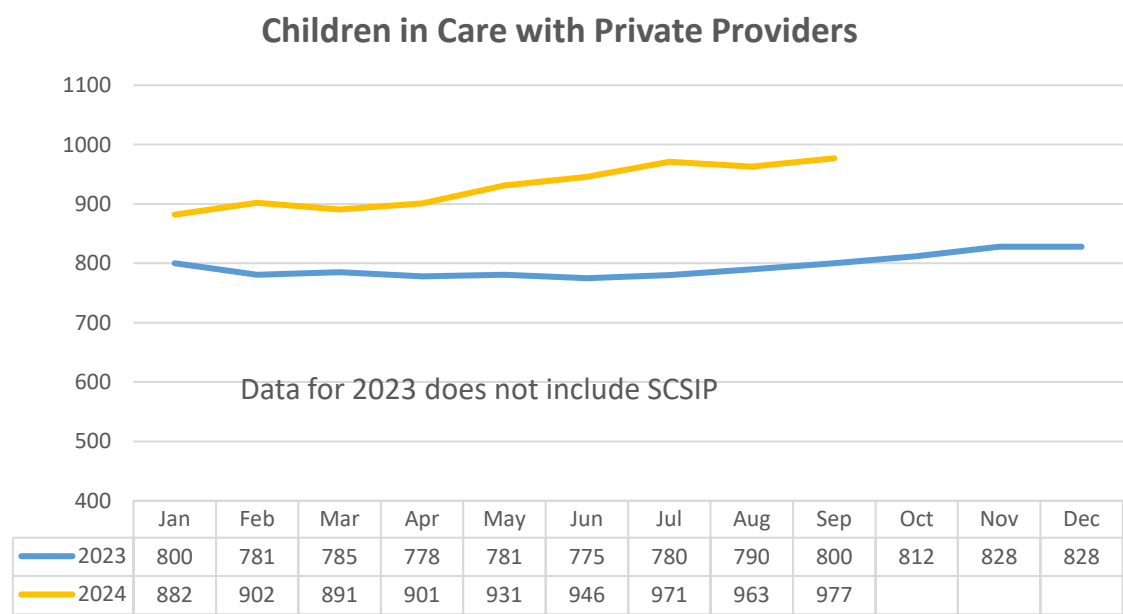
Population: CSO Census 2022 *Amended from previously reported

Notes:

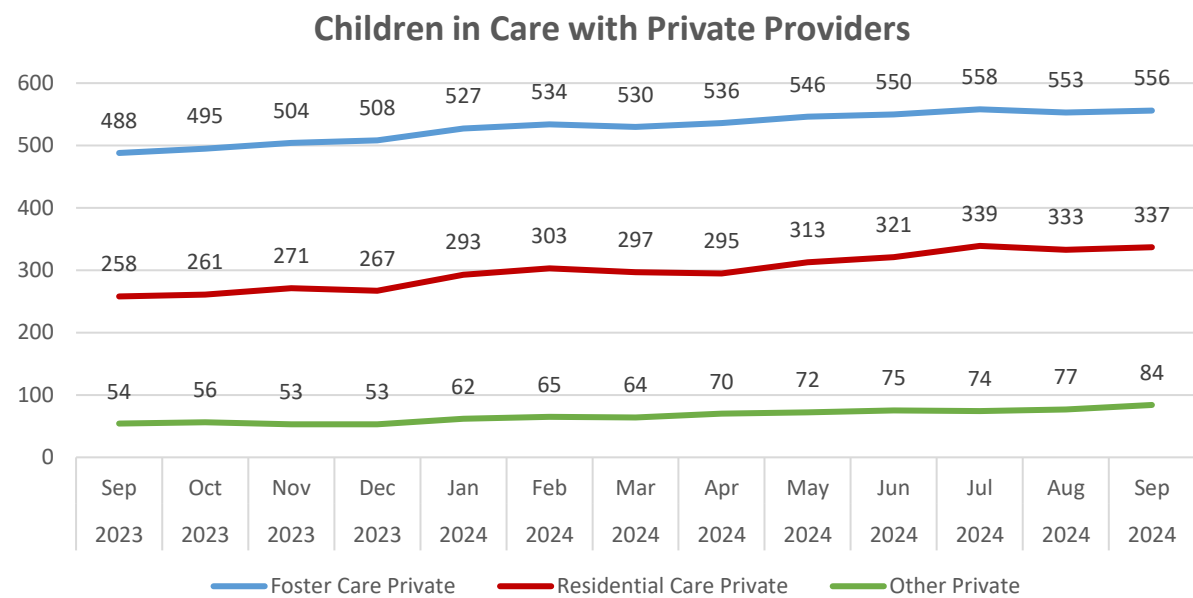
1. The Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection has an additional **293 children accommodated under Section 5 Child Care Act 1991**.
2. ***Other care placements** includes children at home under a care order, in a detention centre, disability unit, mental health unit, drugs/alcohol rehabilitation unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, supported lodgings etc.

Children in Care

- 977 (17%) children in care at the end of September 2024 were in placements with private providers, 14 (1%) more than August 2024 (963).



- 556 (57%) children in placements with private providers were in **foster care**, 3 (<1%) more than August 2024 (553).
- 337 (34%) children were in **residential care**, 4 (<1%) more than August 2024 (333).
- The remaining 84 (9%) children were in “**Other**” care placements, 7 (9%) more than August 2024 (77). “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 North (117), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (113), Dublin South Central (113) and Midlands (83). These five areas account for 56% (549) 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)	Sep-23	Sep-24	Sep-24	Sep-24 v Aug-24	Sep-24 v Sep-23
Dublin North City	107	122	123	1	16
Dublin North	97	116	117	1	20
DSW/K/WW	108	111	113	2	5
Dublin South Central	103	109	113	4	10
Midlands	57	84	83	-1	26
SCSIP	NA	59	63	4	NA
Cork	61	59	57	-2	-4
Louth/Meath	43	52	53	1	10
Waterford/Wexford	44	49	51	2	7
Dublin South East/Wicklow	47	50	50	0	3
Midwest	33	40	41	1	8
Kerry	23	33	32	-1	9
CW/KK/ST	22	22	22	0	0
Donegal	21	18	20	2	-1
Galway/Roscommon	15	16	16	0	1
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	11	12	12	0	1
Cavan/Monaghan	6	8	8	0	2
Mayo	2	3	3	0	1
Total	800	963	977	14	-

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

Children in Care

- **84% (4,836) of children in care at the end of September 2024 had an allocated worker with three areas reporting 100% (Donegal, Mayo and Galway/Roscommon), up two percentage point from August 2024 (82%).**

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 924 children were awaiting allocation, 85 (8%) fewer than August 2024 (1,009).
- Highest number awaiting allocation reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (191; 62%) followed by Midwest (184; 37%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (131; 32%), Dublin South Central (74; 23%) and Louth/Meath (74; 18%). These five services account for 71% (654) of all cases awaiting allocation.

- **85% (4,908) of children in care at the end of September 2024 had an up-to-date care plan, no change from August 2024.**

- A total of 852 children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 14 (2%) more than August 2024 (838).
- Highest numbers awaiting an up-to-date care plan reported by Dublin North City (111; 24%), Dublin South Central (106; 32%), Midwest (95; 19%) and Cork (94; 14%).

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 –September 2024

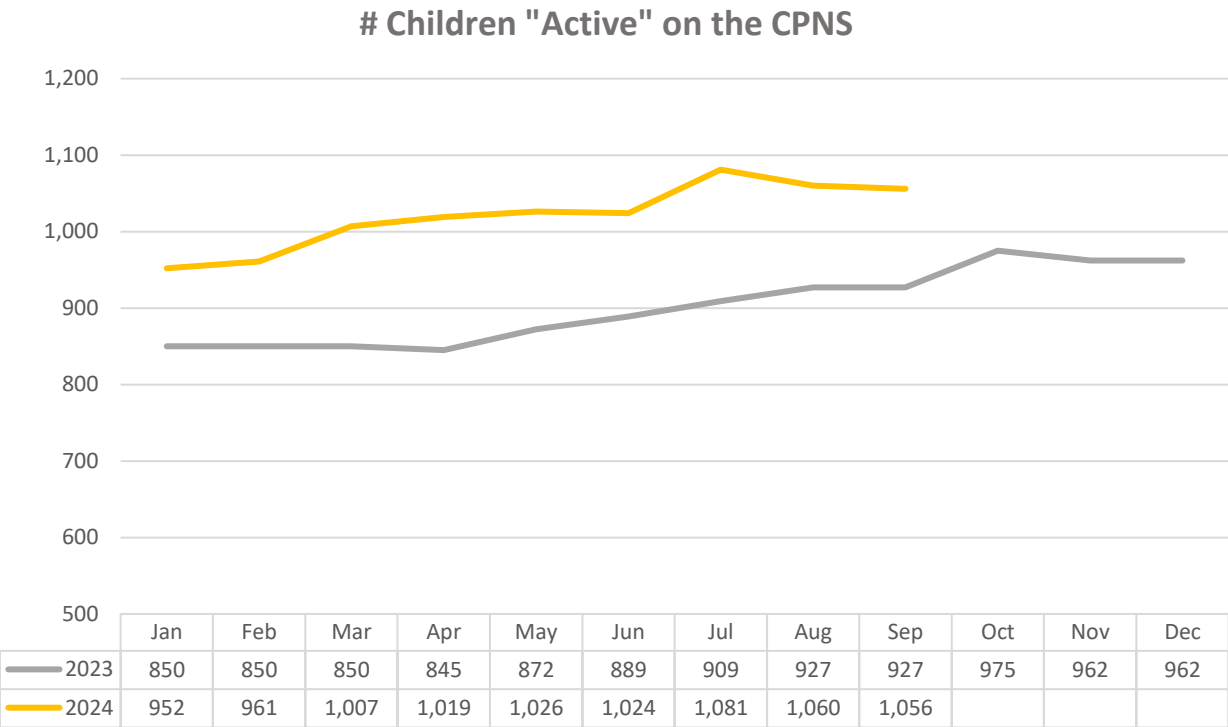
Area	Allocated	Awaiting Allocation	Total	% Allocated
Dublin South East/Wicklow	198	2	200	99%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	281	131	412	68%
Dublin South Central	253	74	327	77%
Midlands	271	66	337	80%
Dublin North City	423	37	460	92%
Dublin North	373	47	420	89%
Louth/Meath	345	74	419	82%
Cavan/Monaghan	139	23	162	86%
Kerry	156	12	168	93%
Cork	657	10	667	99%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	115	191	306	38%
Waterford/Wexford	381	51	432	88%
Donegal	237	0	237	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	102	13	115	89%
Mayo	145	0	145	100%
Galway/Roscommon	340	0	340	100%
Midwest	314	184	498	63%
SCSIP	106	9	115	92%
Total	4,836	924	5,760	84%

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

Area	UTD Care Plan	Awaiting UTD Care Plan	Total	% UTD Care Plan
Dublin South East/Wicklow	164	36	200	82%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	346	66	412	84%
Dublin South Central	221	106	327	68%
Midlands	327	10	337	97%
Dublin North City	349	111	460	76%
Dublin North	354	66	420	84%
Louth/Meath	344	75	419	82%
Cavan/Monaghan	147	15	162	91%
Kerry	148	20	168	88%
Cork	573	94	667	86%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	294	12	306	96%
Waterford/Wexford	395	37	432	91%
Donegal	215	22	237	91%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	102	13	115	89%
Mayo	132	13	145	91%
Galway/Roscommon	316	24	340	93%
Midwest	403	95	498	81%
SCSIP	78	37	115	68%
Total	4,908	852	5,760	85%

Child Protection Notification System

- **1,056 children listed as “active”** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of September 2024, 4 (<1%) fewer than August 2024 (1,060), second consecutive monthly decrease.
- There were 129 (14%) more children “active” at the end of September 2024 than at the end of September 2023 (927).
- All children listed as “active” at the end of September 2024 had an **allocated social worker**.
- Highest number of children listed as “active” at the end of September 2024 was reported by Midwest (134) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (114), Dublin North City (110) and Midlands (108).
- Fewest number listed as “active” reported by Cavan/Monaghan (20) followed by Kerry (23) and Mayo (23).
- 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 (22.5) followed by Midwest (13.8) and Midlands (13.3)
- Lowest rates reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.6), Waterford/Wexford (3.9) and Cavan/Monaghan (5.4).
- Eight areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national rate of 8.7/10,000
- 8/17 areas had more children listed as “active” at the end of September 2024 than at the end of August 2024. Largest increases reported by Galway/Roscommon (up 12), Midlands (up 11) and Dublin North (up 7).
- 9/17 areas reported a decrease with the largest decreases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 12), Midwest (down 8) and Cork (down 7).
- 9/17 areas had more children active at the end of September 2024 than at the end of September 2023. Largest increases reported by Midwest (up 74), Midlands (up 48) and Dublin North City (up 31).
- 7/17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Dublin North (down 33), Waterford/Wexford (down 28), Kerry (down 20) and Donegal (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)

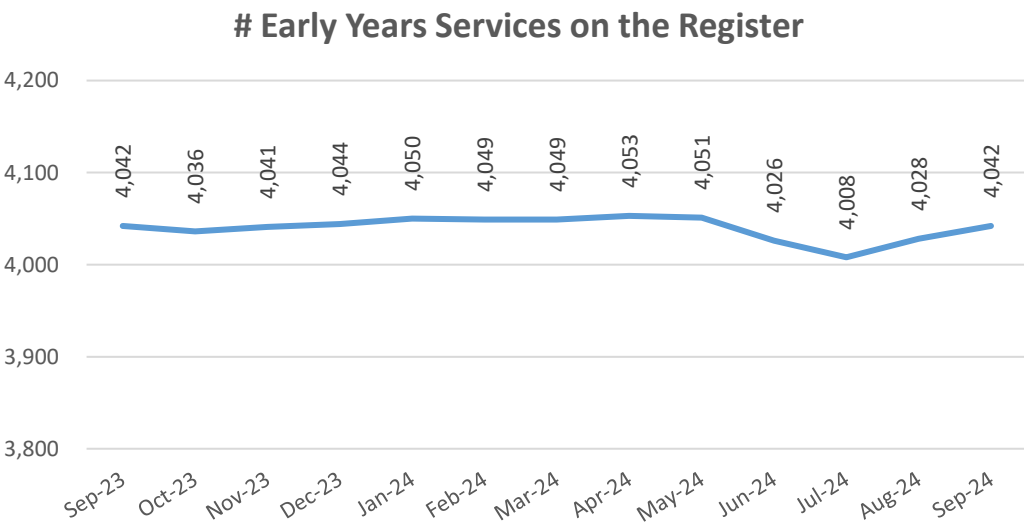
Area	Sep-23	Aug-24	Sep-24	Sep-24 v Sep-23	Sep-24 v Aug-24	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	79	105	110	31	5	48,909*	22.5
Mid West	60	142	134	74	-8	96,764	13.8
Midlands	60	97	108	48	11	80,962	13.3
Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow	114	126	114	0	-12	108,927	10.5
Dublin South Central	47	72	73	26	1	70,259	10.4
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	31	21	24	-7	3	24,312	9.9
Donegal	59	40	39	-20	-1	42,144	9.3
Carlow / Kilkenny / South Tipperary	46	58	54	8	-4	62,366	8.7
Cork	102	107	100	-2	-7	136,786	7.3
Mayo	15	20	23	8	3	31,911	7.2
Galway / Roscommon	34	46	58	24	12	81,799	7.1
Louth / Meath	41	69	64	23	-5	96,531	6.6
Kerry	43	27	23	-20	-4	34,994	6.6
Dublin North	94	54	61	-33	7	104,281*	5.8
Cavan / Monaghan	13	21	20	7	-1	37,336	5.4
Waterford / Wexford	55	26	27	-28	1	69,239	3.9
Dublin South East / Wicklow	34	29	24	-10	-5	91,047	2.6
Total	927	1,060	1,056	129	-4	1,218,567	8.7

Population – source CSO Census 2022 *Amended from previously reported

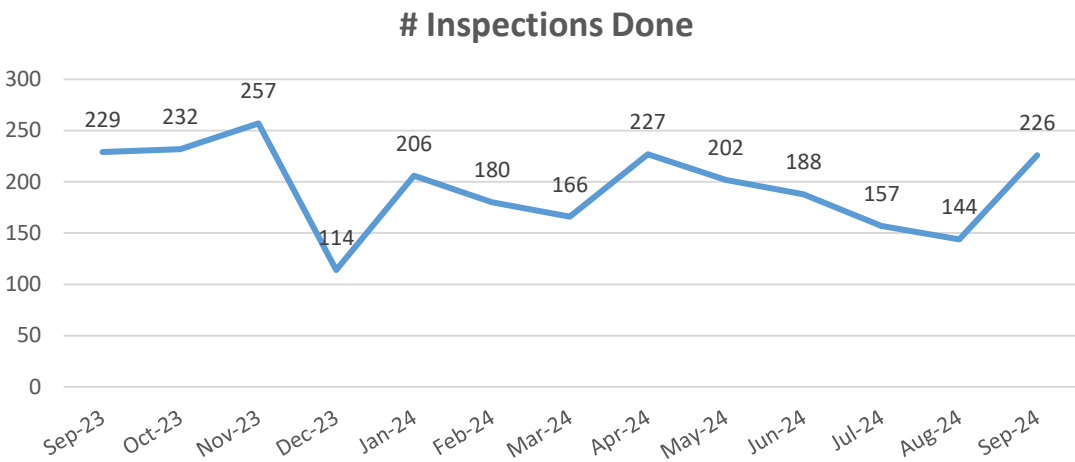
Children’s Services Regulation

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- **4,042 early years services on the register at the end of September 2024**, 14(<1%) more than August 2024 (4,028) and no change from September 2023 (4,042).

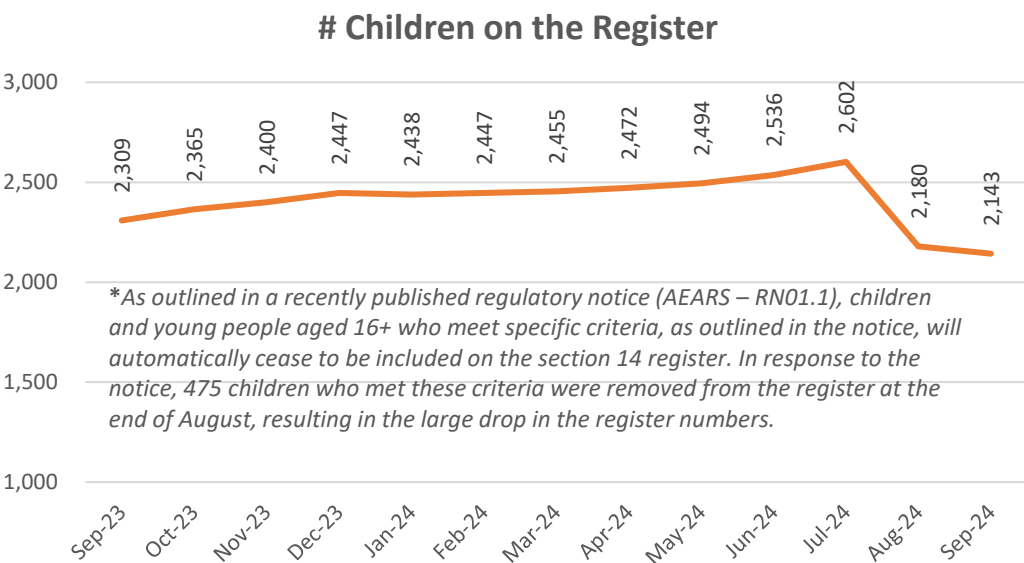


- **226 inspections** of early years services in September 2024. This brings to 1,696 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2024, 92 (5%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (1,788).

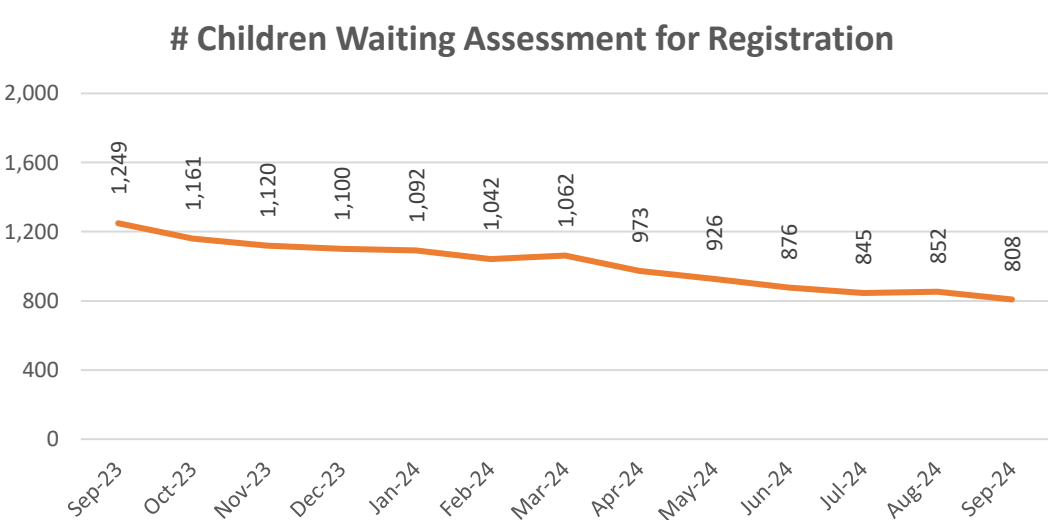


ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

- **2,143* children on the register** for home education at the end of September 2024, 37 (2%) fewer than August 2024 (2,180).

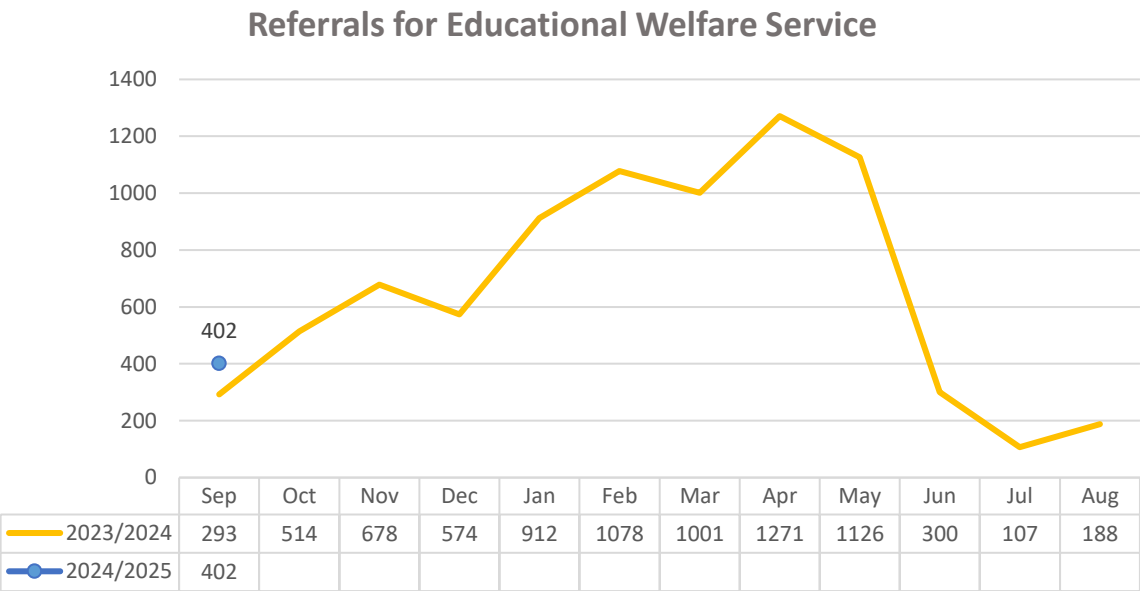


- **808 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of September 2024**, 44 (5%) fewer than August 2024 (852) and 441 (35%) fewer than September 2023 (1,249).

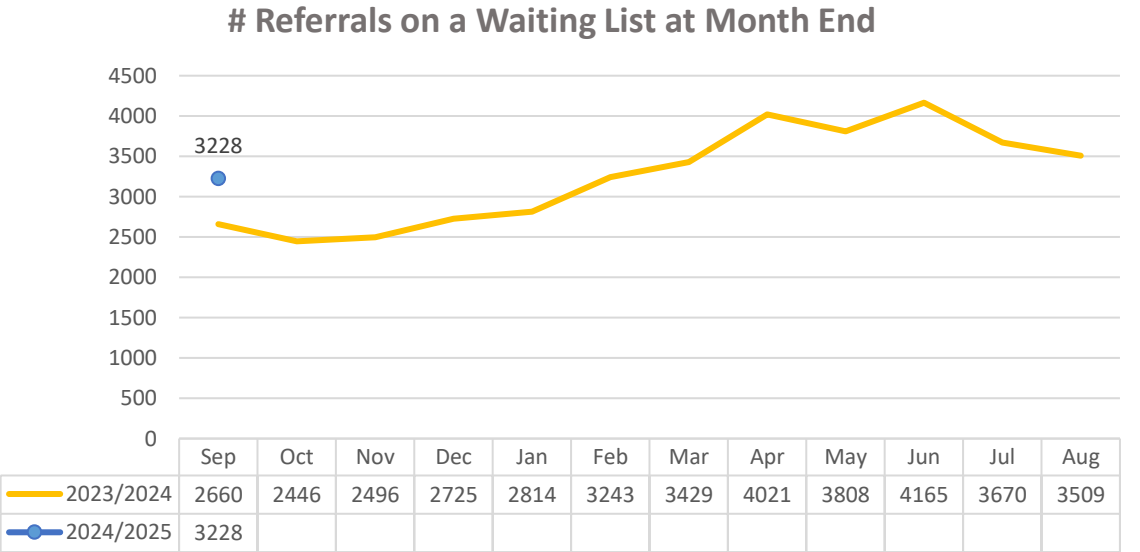


Tusla Education Support Services

- **402 referrals screened** by senior educational welfare services in September 2024, 109 (37%) more than September 2023 (293).



- **3,228 referrals on a waiting list** for educational welfare services at the end of September 2024, 281 (8%) fewer than August 2023 (3,509).
- 568 (21%) more referrals on a waiting list at the end of September 2024 (3,228) than at the end of September 2023 (2,660).



- **414 new individual children worked** with in September 2024, 89 (27%) more than September 2023 (325).

