



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

MONTHLY SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2025

20 November 2025
Version 2.0

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

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Headline Data – September 2025

Child Protection & Welfare

- **10,006 referrals** in September 2025, 2,580 (35%) more than August 2025 (7,426) and 1,778 (22%) more than August 2024 (8,228). This brings to **78,588** the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2025, 7,996 (11%) more than the same period in 2024 (70,592).
- **23,989 cases open to social work** at the end of September 2025, 1,012 (4%) more than August 2025 (22,977) and 3,128 (15%) more than September 2024 (20,861). *Open cases include child protection and welfare cases and children in care.*
- **80% (19,121) of cases** open to social work at the end of August 2025 had an **allocated case worker**. Of these, 82% (15,719) were allocated to a social worker and 18% (3,042) were allocated to a another professional. (Ref to note on Page 4).
- **4,868 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of September 2025, 367 (8%) more than August 2025 (4,501) and 589 (14%) more than September 2024 (4,279). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases.*
- Five areas account for account for 70% (3,407) of all cases awaiting allocation: Cork (999), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (812), Dublin South Central (809), Midlands (485) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (302).
- **5% (248) of cases awaiting allocation** at the end of September 2025 were categorised as **high priority**, 30 (14%) more than August 2025 (218) and 197 (44%) fewer than September 2024 (445).

Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

- **30 referrals assigned** to CASP Teams in September 2025. Brings to 362 the number of referrals assigned for the first nine months of 2025, 136 (27%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (498).
- **96% (378/395) of assessments open at the end of September 2025** were allocated to a social worker. The remaining 4% (17) were awaiting allocation with four fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of September 2025 than at the end of August 2025 (21).
- 155 (90%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of September 2025 (17) than at the end of September 2024 (172).

Children in Care

- **5,866 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of September 2025, 51** more than August 2025 (5,815) and 106 (2%) more than September 2024 (5,760). *Figure includes 139 children under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP).*
- 86.0% (5,046) of all children in care (17 Areas and SCSIP) are in foster care (3,544 general foster care, and 1,502 relative foster), 10.2% (598) are in residential care (584 general residential care and 14 special care) and 3.8% (222) are in “other” care placements.
- Across Tusla’s 17 areas **87.8% (5,028/5,727) of children in care are in foster care.**

Children in Care (contd.)

- **1,115 (19%) children in care at the end of September 2025 were in placements with private providers**, 31 (3%) more than August 2025 (1,084) and 138 (14%) more than September 2024 (977).
- **99% (5,784) of children in care at the end of September 2025 had an allocated case worker**. Of the 5,784 children allocated, 90% (5,200) were allocated to a social worker and 10% (584) were allocated to another professional.

Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)

- **1,131 children listed as ‘active’** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of September 2025, 34 (3%) more than August 2025 (1,097) and the third consecutive increase.
- There were 75 (7%) more children ‘active’ at the end of September 2025 than at the end September 2024 (1,056).
- It should be noted that a small number of large sibling groups can have a significant effect on numbers reported.
- 98% (1,105) of children ‘active’ had an allocated social worker, 26 children were awaiting allocation to a social worker. Eighteen of the 26 children were subsequently allocated to a social worker. The remaining eight cases are allocated to another professional.

Children’s Services Regulation

- **3,952 early years services (pre-schools) on the register at the end of September 2025**, nine more than August 2025 (3,943) and 90 (2%) fewer than September 2024 (4,042).
- **272 inspections** of early years services (pre-schools) in September 2025. This brings to 1,914 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2025, 218 (13%) more than the same period in 2024 (1,696).
- **2,610 children on the register** for home education at the end of September 2025, 12 more than August 2025 (2,598) and 285 (12%) more than Dec 2024 (2,325). Increasing trend continues.
- **294 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of September 2025**, 54 (23%) more than August 2025 (240), first increase after 12 consecutive decreases. There were 514 (64%) fewer children awaiting at the end of September 2025 than at the end of September 2024 (808).

Tusla Education Support Services

- **951 referrals for an educational welfare service in September 2025.**
- **9,049 cases open** to educational welfare services at the end of September 2025.
- 55% (4,937) of the cases were allocated with the remaining 45% (4,112) on a waiting list for allocation.
- 884 (27%) more cases on the waiting list than at the end of September 2024 (3,228)

Child Protection and Welfare

Referrals¹

- **10,006 referrals** in September 2025, 2,580 (35%) more than August 2025 (7,426) and 1,778 (22%) more than August 2024 (8,228).
- This brings to 78,588 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2025, 7,996 (11%) more than the same period in 2024 (70,592).

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

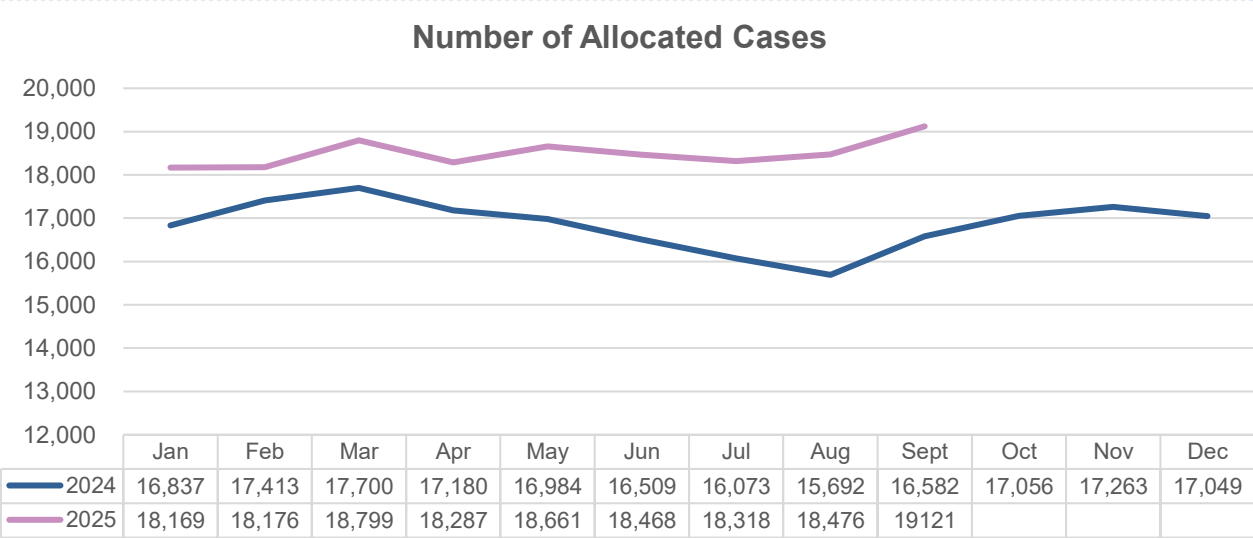
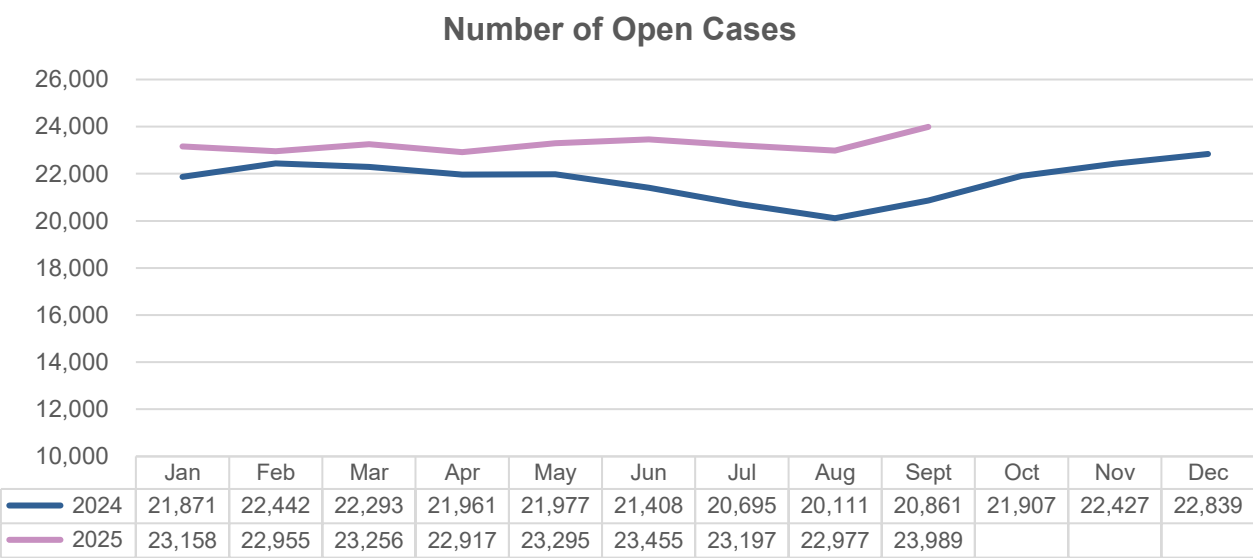
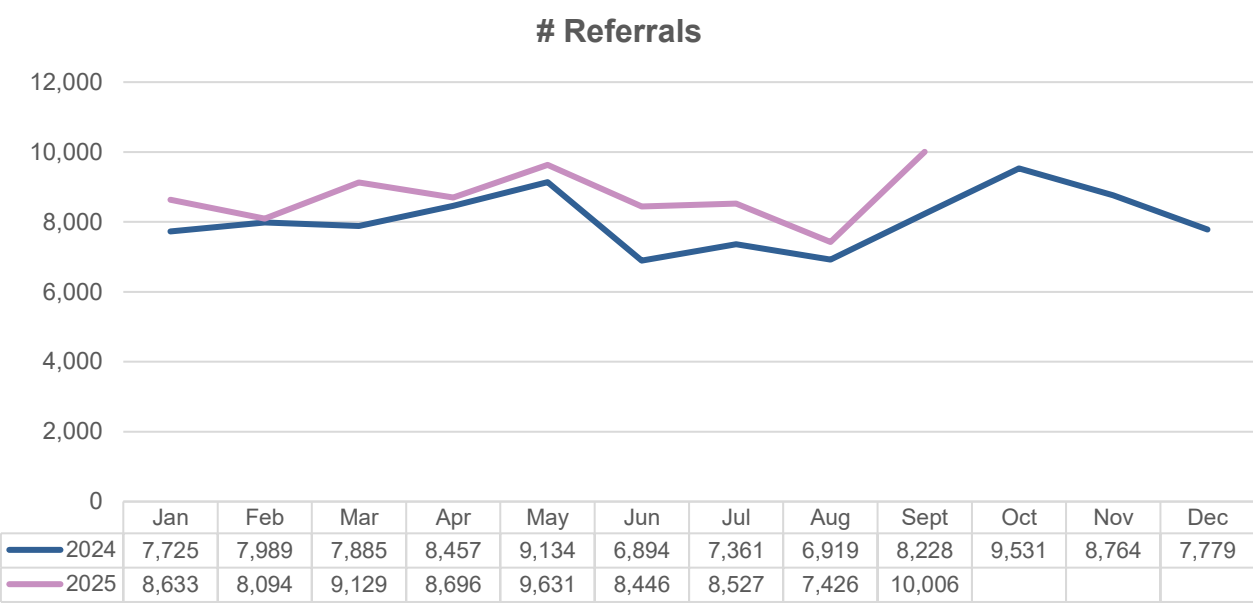
- **23,989 cases open to social work** at the end of September 2025, 1,012 (4%) more than August 2025 (22,977) and 3,128 (15%) more than September 2024 (20,861).
- 1) *Open cases include, all cases held on duty, allocated and unallocated child protection and welfare cases including children in care.*
 - 2) *The data presented on cases is based on the status of cases on the TCM at month end.*

Allocated Cases

- **19,121 open cases were allocated** to a case worker at the end of September 2025, 645 (3%) more than August 2025 (18,476) and 2,539 (15%) more than September 2024 (16,582).
- Allocated cases account for 80% of open cases, no change from August 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.

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 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 (19,121) at the end of September 2025, 82% (15,719) were allocated to a social worker and 18% (3,402) were allocated to a another professional.

Breakdown of cases allocated by area and role of worker, September 2025

Area	Allocated Social Worker	Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	817	242	1,059
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	962	488	1,450
Dublin South Central	893	349	1,242
Midlands	1,099	274	1,373
Dublin North City	1,247	224	1,471
Dublin North	1,615	198	1,813
Louth/Meath	1,133	273	1,406
Cavan/Monaghan	517	181	698
Kerry	373	88	461
Cork	1985	203	2,188
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	433	248	681
Waterford/Wexford	973	267	1,240
Donegal	577	60	637
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	400	15	415
Mayo	354	12	366
Galway/Roscommon	1,307	49	1,356
Midwest	1,034	231	1,265
Total	15,719	3,402	19,121

Percentage breakdown of cases allocated by area and role of worker, September 2025

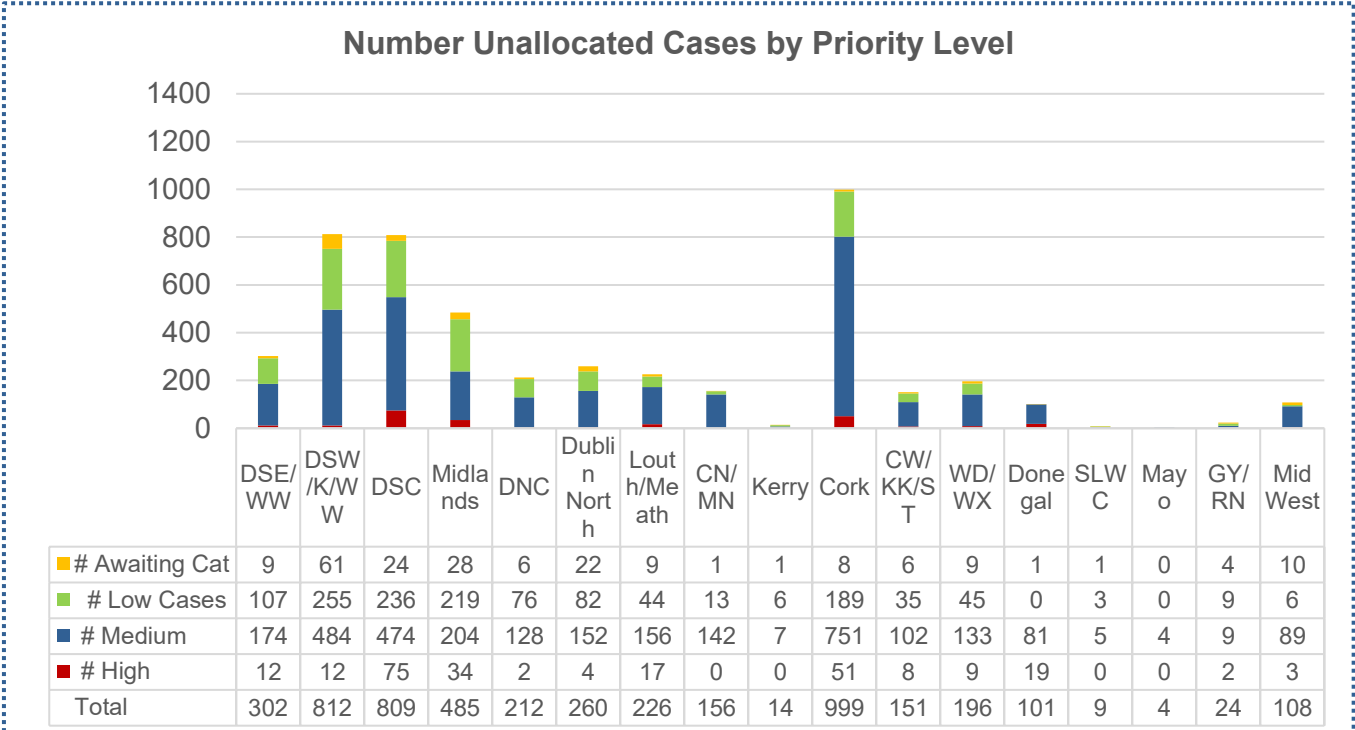
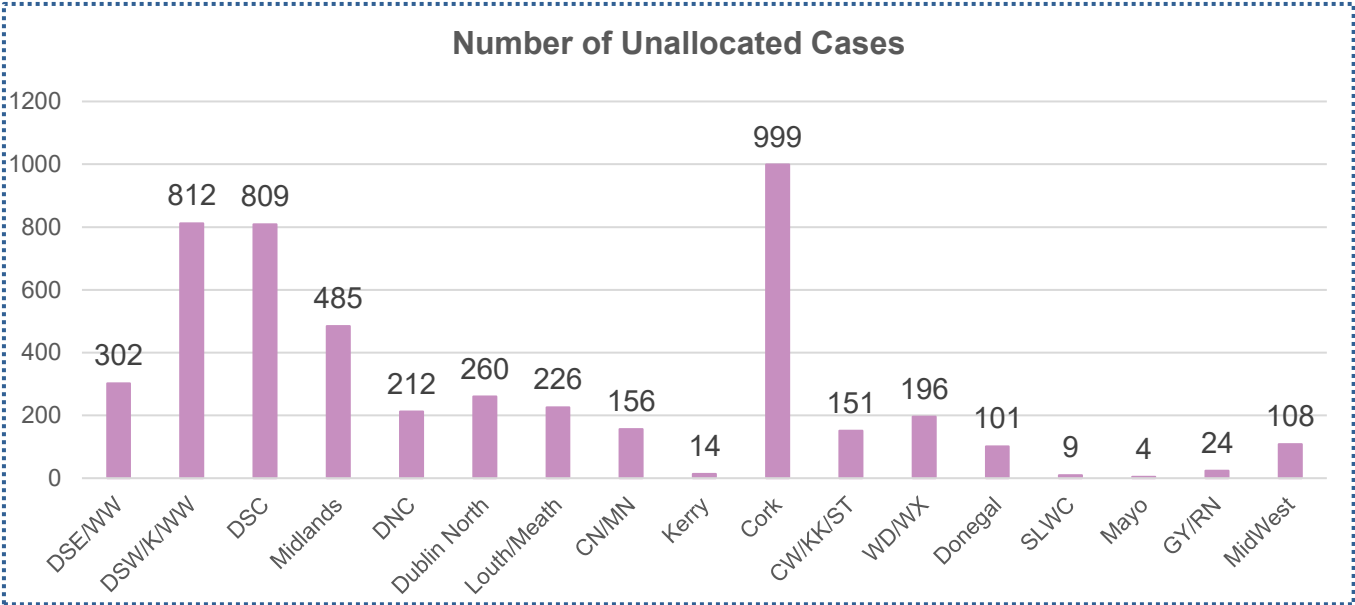
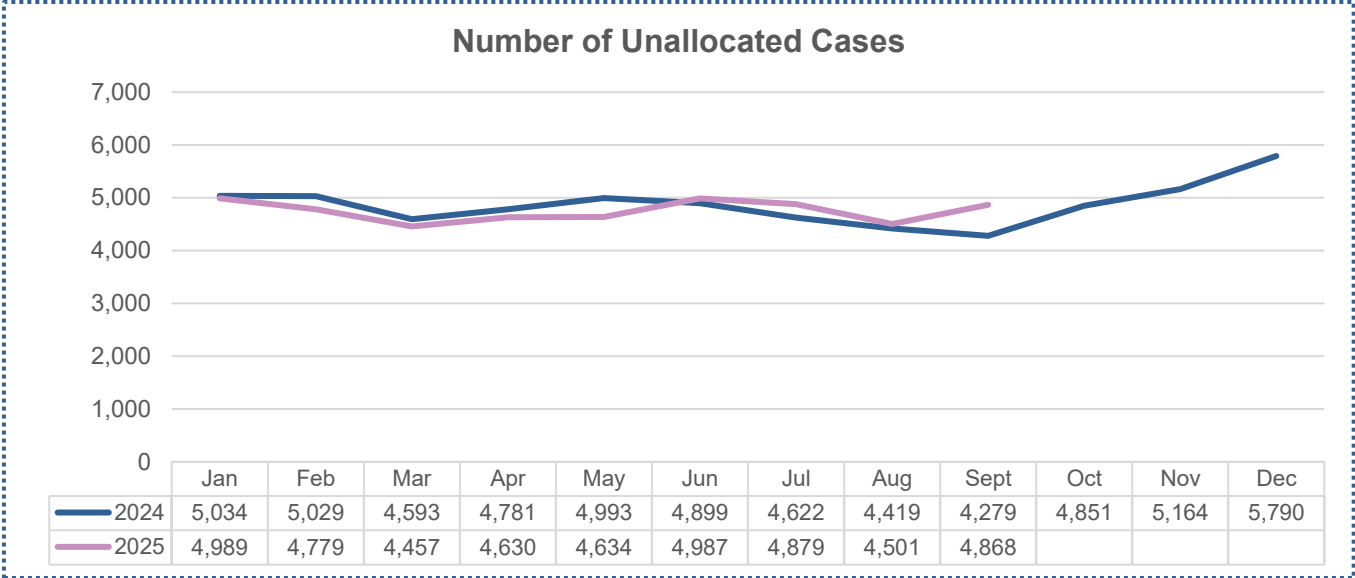
Area	% Allocated Social Worker	% Allocated Other Professional	Total
Dublin South East/Wicklow	77%	23%	100%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	66%	34%	100%
Dublin South Central	72%	28%	100%
Midlands	80%	20%	100%
Dublin North City	85%	15%	100%
Dublin North	89%	11%	100%
Louth/Meath	81%	19%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	74%	26%	100%
Kerry	81%	19%	100%
Cork	91%	9%	100%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	64%	36%	100%
Waterford/Wexford	78%	22%	100%
Donegal	91%	9%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	96%	4%	100%
Mayo	97%	3%	100%
Galway/Roscommon	96%	4%	100%
Midwest	82%	18%	100%
Total	82%	18%	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

- **4,868 cases awaiting allocation** at the end of September 2025, 367 (8%) more than August 2025 (4,501) and 589 (14%) more than September 2024 (4,279). *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 (23,989), no change from August 2025.
- **53% (2,557) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of September 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 (999) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (812), Dublin South Central (809), Midlands (485) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (302). These five areas account for 70% (3,407) of all cases awaiting allocation.
- **248 cases awaiting allocation at the end of September 2025 were categorised as high priority**, 30 (14%) more than August 2025 (218) and 197 (44%) fewer than September 2024 (445).
- High priority cases account for 5% of cases awaiting allocation.
- 64% (3,095) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 27% (1,325) were low priority while the remaining 4% (200) were awaiting categorisation.
- Highest number of high priority cases reported by Dublin South Central (75), Cork (51), Midlands (34), Donegal (19) and Louth/Meath (17). These five areas account for 79% (196) of all high priority cases awaiting.



Child Protection & Welfare

Cases Awaiting Allocation

- 11 of the 17 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from August 2025.
- Largest increase reported by Dublin South Central (up 134) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 125) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 89).
- 6 of the 17 areas reported a decrease in cases awaiting allocation from August 2025.
- Largest decrease reported by Dublin North City (down 132) followed by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 46) and Midlands (down 37).
- Nationally 20% of open cases were awaiting allocation at the end of September 2025. Five areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 20%. Highest percentages reported by Dublin South Central (39%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (36%), Cork (31%), Midlands (26%) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (22%).
- 7 of the 17 areas had more cases awaiting allocation at the end of September 2025 than at the end of September 2024. Largest increases reported by Cork (up 601), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 274) and Dublin North (up 117). *Data needs to be interpreted in the context of the change to the reporting of allocated cases introduced in January 2025.*
- 9 of the 17 areas had fewer cases awaiting allocation at the end of September 2025 than at the end of September 2024. Largest decreases reported by Midwest (down 178), Dublin South Central (down 171) and Louth/Meath (down 143). The remaining area (Mayo) reported no change.

Area	Sep-24 # Unallocated	Sep-24 % Unallocated	Jul-25 # Unallocated	Aug-25 # Unallocated	Sep-25 # Unallocated	Sep-25 % Unallocated	Jul-Sep	Sep-25 v Sep-24	% Δ	Sep-25 v Aug-25	% Δ1
DSE/WW	198	19%	306	213	302	22%		104	53%	89	42%
DSW/K/WW	538	34%	862	687	812	36%		274	51%	125	18%
DSC	980	46%	699	675	809	39%		-171	-17%	134	20%
Midlands	422	25%	555	522	485	26%		63	15%	-37	-7%
DNC	229	14%	400	344	212	13%		-17	-7%	-132	-38%
Dublin North	143	8%	213	206	260	13%		117	82%	54	26%
Louth/Meath	369	23%	196	217	226	14%		-143	-39%	9	4%
CN/MN	110	16%	140	158	156	18%		46	42%	-2	-1%
Kerry	19	5%	8	5	14	3%		-5	-26%	9	180%
Cork	398	17%	993	934	999	31%		601	151%	65	7%
CW/KK/ST	240	33%	165	197	151	18%		-89	-37%	-46	-23%
WD/WX	205	16%	176	173	196	14%		-9	-4%	23	13%
Donegal	95	13%	41	51	101	14%		6	6%	50	98%
SLWC	18	6%	8	13	9	2%		-9	-50%	-4	-31%
Mayo	4	1%	2	1	4	1%		0	0%	3	300%
GY/RN	25	2%	20	28	24	2%		-1	-4%	-4	-14%
MidWest	286	22%	95	77	108	8%		-178	-62%	31	40%
TOTAL	4279	21%	4879	4501	4868	20%		589	14%	367	8%

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-25	Sep-25	Δ	Aug-25	Sep-25	Δ2	Aug-25	Sep-25	Δ3	Aug-25	Sep-25	Δ4
DSE/WW	308	468	160	1,176	1,361	185	963	1,059	96	213	302	89
DSW/K/WW	663	932	269	2,138	2,262	124	1,451	1,450	-1	687	812	125
DSC	553	715	162	1,905	2,051	146	1,230	1,242	12	675	809	134
Midlands	703	890	187	1,891	1,858	-33	1,369	1,373	4	522	485	-37
DNC	463	555	92	1,723	1,683	-40	1,379	1,471	92	344	212	-132
Dublin North	734	939	205	2,001	2,073	72	1,795	1,813	18	206	260	54
Louth/Meath	578	713	135	1,530	1,632	102	1,313	1,406	93	217	226	9
CN/MN	206	326	120	854	854	0	696	698	2	158	156	-2
Kerry	142	238	96	431	475	44	426	461	35	5	14	9
Cork	734	942	208	3,061	3,187	126	2,127	2,188	61	934	999	65
CW/KK/ST	463	571	108	960	832	-128	763	681	-82	197	151	-46
WD/WX	513	736	223	1,358	1,436	78	1,185	1,240	55	173	196	23
Donegal	249	383	134	668	738	70	617	637	20	51	101	50
SLWC	98	169	71	356	424	68	343	415	72	13	9	-4
Mayo	83	145	62	378	370	-8	377	366	-11	1	4	3
GY/RN	387	502	115	1,240	1,380	140	1,212	1,356	144	28	24	-4
MidWest	549	782	233	1,307	1,373	66	1,230	1,265	35	77	108	31
Total	7,426	10,006	2580	22,977	23,989	1,012	18,476	19,121	645	4,501	4,868	367

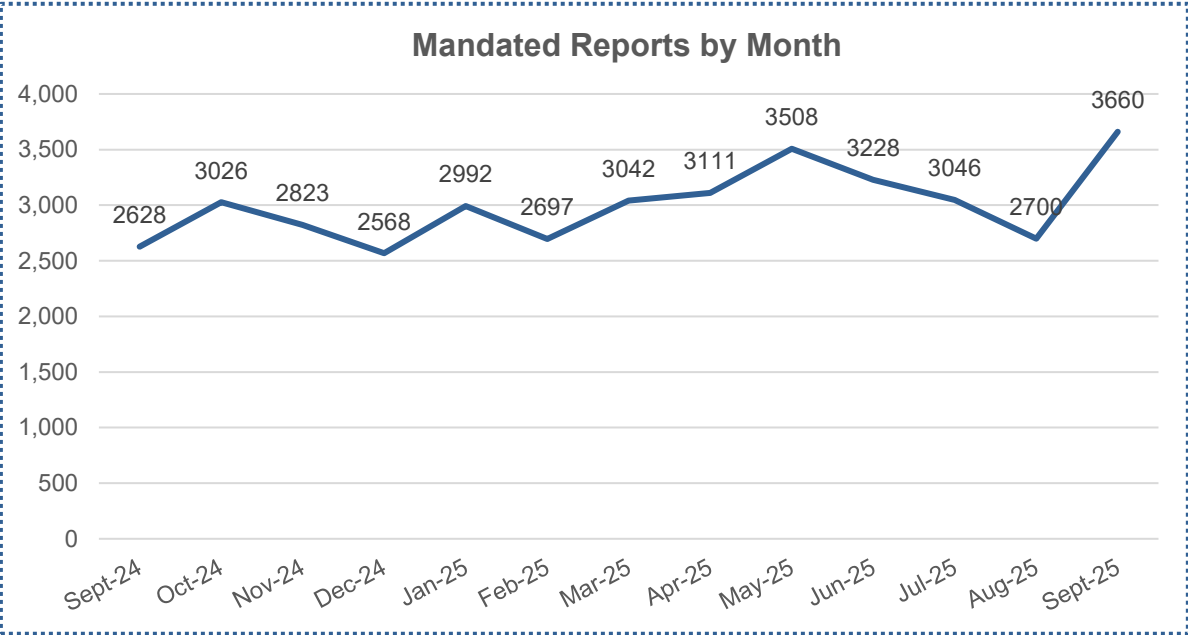
High Priority				Medium Priority			Low Priority			Awaiting Categorisation		
Area	Aug-25	Sep-25	Δ	Aug-25	Sep-25	Δ 2	Aug-25	Sep-25	Δ 3	Aug-25	Sep-25	Δ 4
DSE/WW	2	12	10	120	174	54	75	107	32	16	9	-7
DSW/K/WW	15	12	-3	469	484	15	186	255	69	17	61	44
DSC	64	75	11	427	474	47	169	236	67	15	24	9
Midlands	28	34	6	288	204	-84	199	219	20	7	28	21
DNC	13	2	-11	234	128	-106	96	76	-20	1	6	5
Dublin North	3	4	1	139	152	13	56	82	26	8	22	14
Louth/Meath	16	17	1	155	156	1	34	44	10	12	9	-3
CN/MN	1	0	-1	148	142	-6	8	13	5	1	1	0
Kerry	0	0	0	1	7	6	2	6	4	2	1	-1
Cork	34	51	17	720	751	31	169	189	20	11	8	-3
CW/KK/ST	20	8	-12	138	102	-36	37	35	-2	2	6	4
WD/WX	1	9	8	132	133	1	37	45	8	3	9	6
Donegal	12	19	7	32	81	49	0	0	0	7	1	-6
SLWC	0	0	0	9	5	-4	3	3	0	1	1	0
Mayo	0	0	0	1	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
GY/RN	5	2	-3	14	9	-5	3	9	6	6	4	-2
MidWest	4	3	-1	69	89	20	2	6	4	2	10	8
TOTAL	218	248	30	3,096	3,095	-1	1,076	1,325	249	111	200	89

Mandated Reports¹ – Child Protection & Welfare

- **3,660 mandated reports of abuse** received in September 2025. This brings to 27,984 the number of reports for the first nine months of 2025, 5,761 (26%) more than the same period in 2024 (22,223).

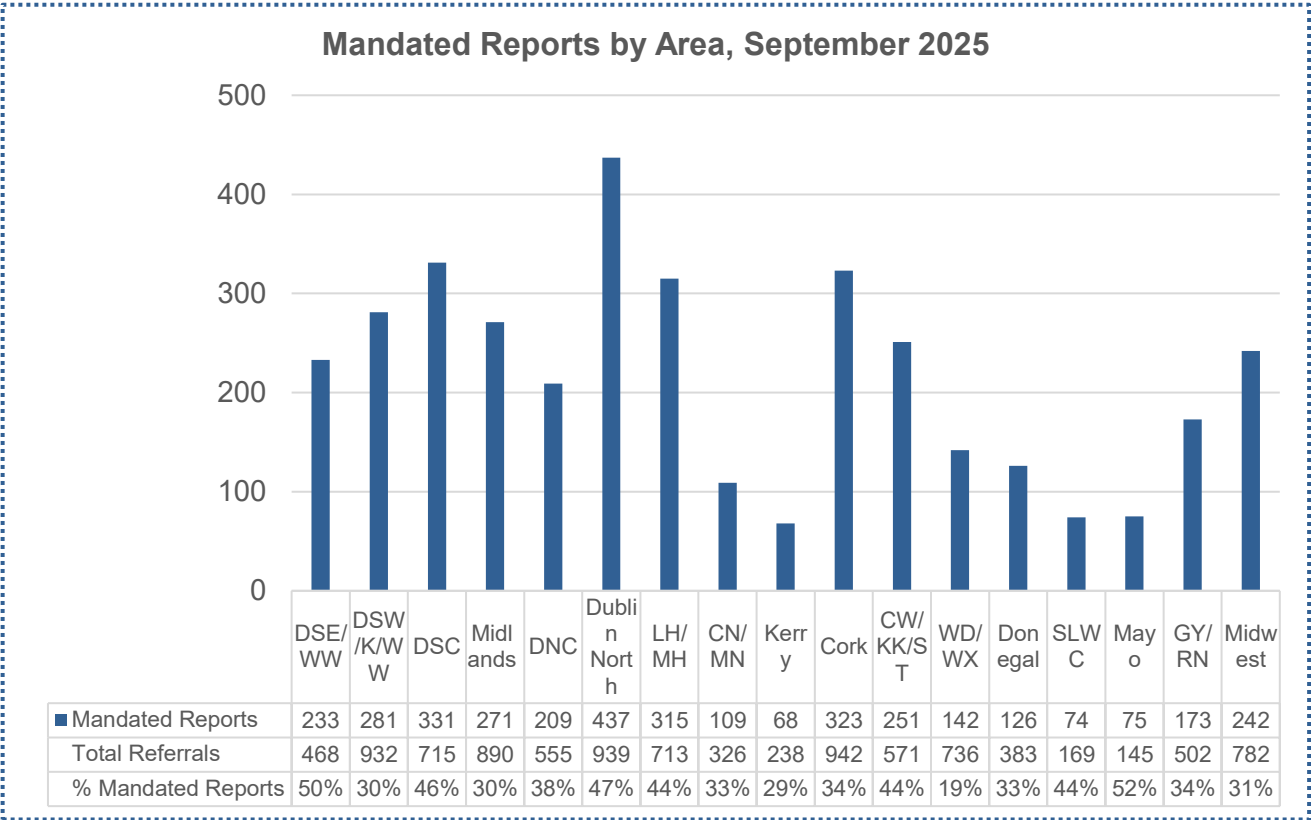
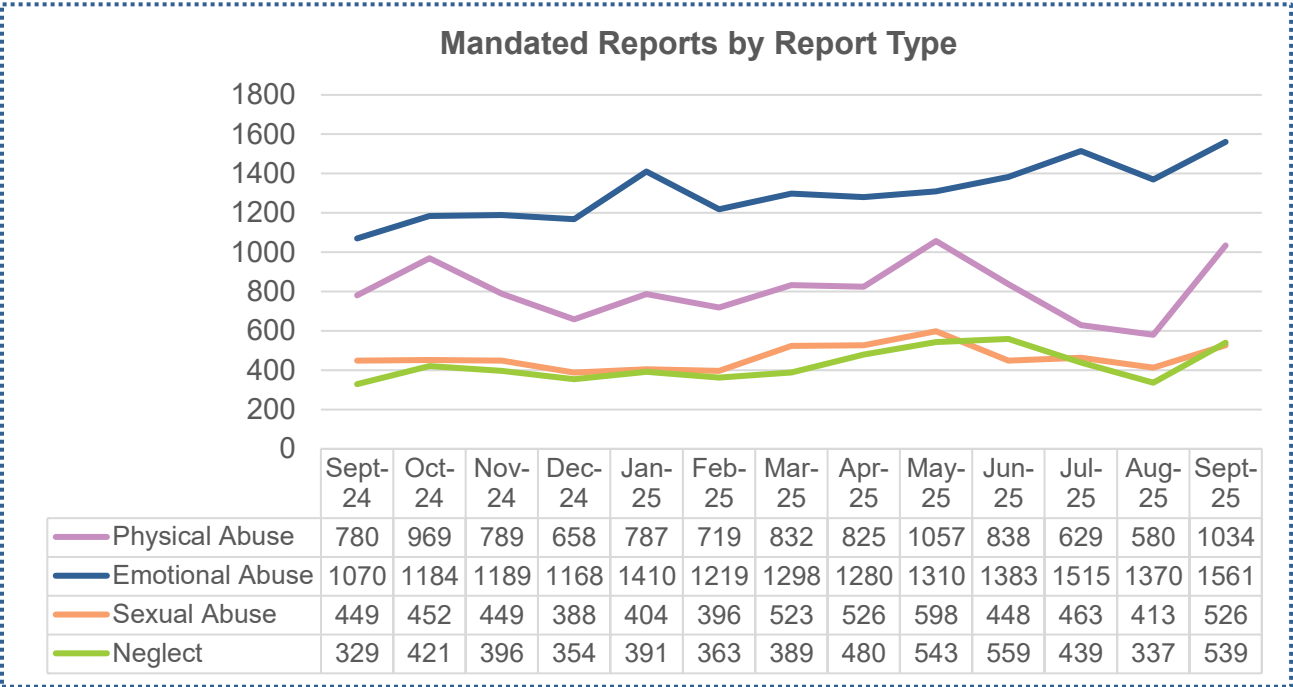
It should be noted that the data presented for the first six months of 2025 has been updated to reflect final validated figures for this period. Data for the remaining months is based on referrals logged on the Tusla Case Management (TCM) system at the time the data was extracted for reporting. Referrals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

- Mandated reports accounted for 37% (3,660) of all referrals received (10,006) in September 2025.



- The number of mandated reports for September 2025, by area ranged from 68 (Kerry) to 437 (Dublin North).
- As a percentage of referrals, the highest percentage (52%; 75/145) was reported by Mayo
- The lowest percentage (19%; 142/736) was reported by Waterford/Wexford

- Highest number of reports for September 2025 were for emotional abuse (1,561; 43%) followed by physical abuse (1,034; 28%), neglect (539; 15%) and sexual abuse (526; 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 September 2025 from An Garda Síochána (1,393; 38%) followed teachers (616; 17%), safeguarding officer (492; 13%), social workers (328; 9%), and social care workers (158; 4%). These five sources account for 82% (2,987) of reports for September 2025.
- Highest number of reports for 2025 YTD from An Garda Síochána (11,052; 40%) followed by safeguarding officer (3,616; 13%); teachers (3,549; 13%), social workers (2,783; 10%) and social care workers (1,544; 6%). These five sources account for 81% (22,544) of reports for received for the first nine months of 2025.

Source (Schedule 2 Children First 2015)	# Sep-25	% Total	# 2025 YTD	% Total
An Garda Síochána	1,393	38.1%	11,052	39.5%
Safeguarding officer	492	13.4%	3,616	12.9%
Teacher	616	16.8%	3,549	12.7%
Social worker	328	9.0%	2,783	9.9%
Social care worker	158	4.3%	1,544	5.5%
Medical practitioner	137	3.7%	867	3.1%
Domestic violence shelter manager	80	2.2%	792	2.8%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	102	2.8%	712	2.5%
Psychologist	81	2.2%	692	2.5%
Nurse or registered midwife	66	1.8%	596	2.1%
Youth worker holds a professional qualification..	65	1.8%	489	1.7%
Homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility manager	30	0.8%	245	0.9%
Asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision) centre manager	14	0.4%	153	0.5%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	9	0.2%	117	0.4%
Youth work service	7	0.2%	113	0.4%
Speech & language therapist	5	0.1%	88	0.3%
Probation officer	12	0.3%	86	0.3%
Guardian ad litem	8	0.2%	82	0.3%
Physiotherapist	11	0.3%	78	0.3%
Occupational therapist	13	0.4%	71	0.3%
Pre-school service	7	0.2%	69	0.2%
Addiction counsellor	8	0.2%	49	0.2%
Foster carer registered with the Agency.	6	0.2%	43	0.2%
EMT, paramedic and advanced paramedic	7	0.2%	38	0.1%
Not specified	*	*	34	0.1%
Language school or other recreational school	*	*	8	0.0%
Clergy member	0	0.0%	8	0.0%
Institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	*	*	*	*
Dentist	*	*	*	*
Total	3,660	100.0%	27,984	100.0%

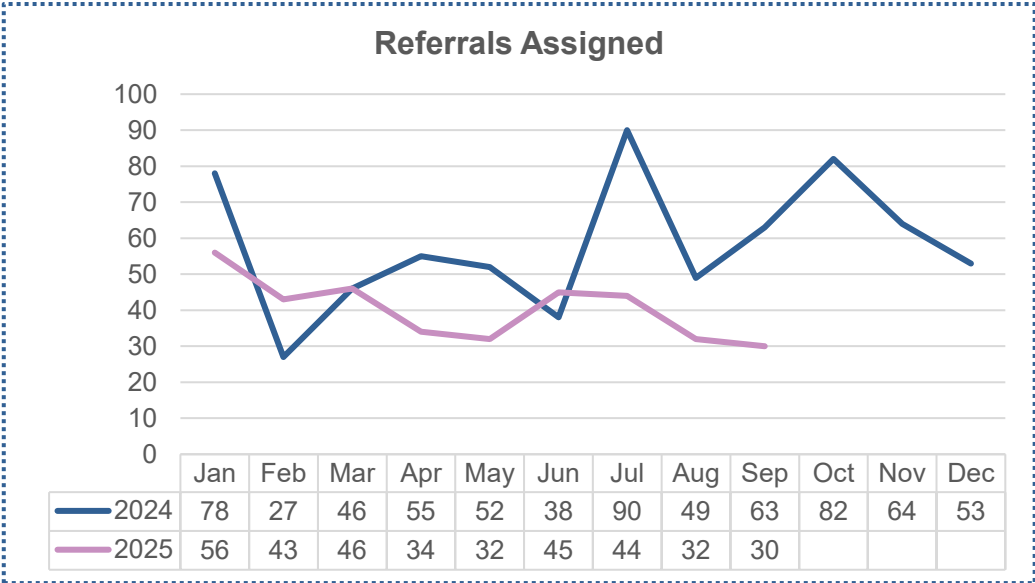
*Values suppressed for confidentiality reasons.

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.

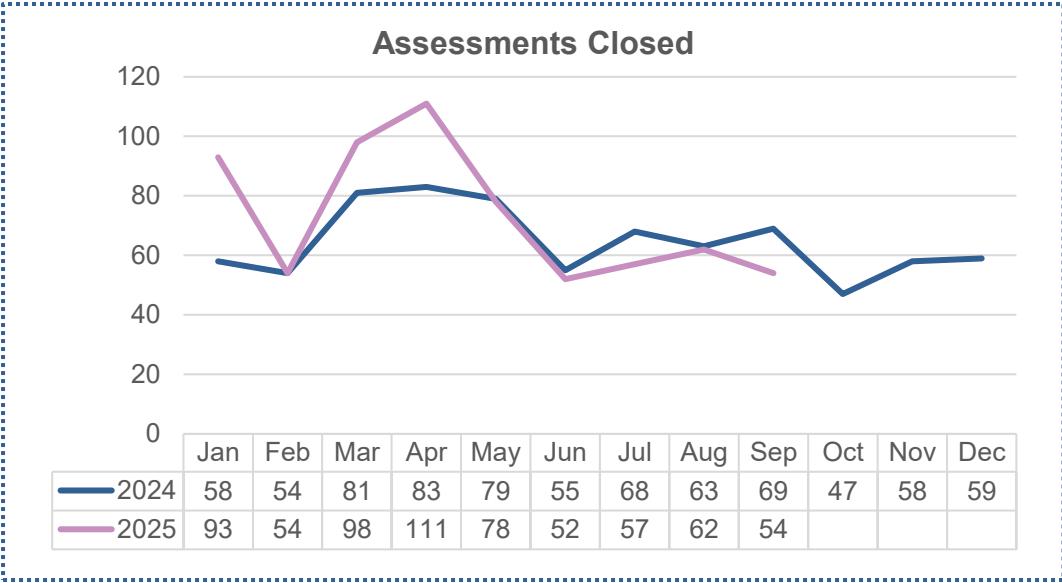
Referrals

- **30 referrals assigned** to CASP Teams in September 2025.
- This brings to 362 the number of referrals assigned for the first nine months of 2025, 136 (27%) fewer than the same period in 2024 (498).



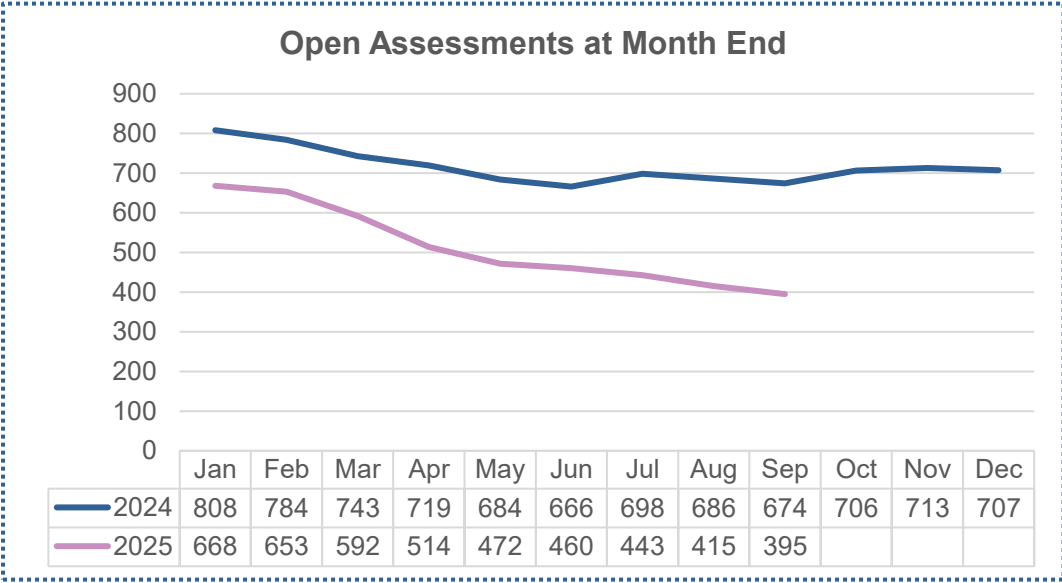
Assessments Closed

- **54 assessments closed** in September 2025.
- This brings to 659 the number of assessments closed for the first nine months of 2025, 49 (8%) more than the same period in 2024 (610).



Open Assessments

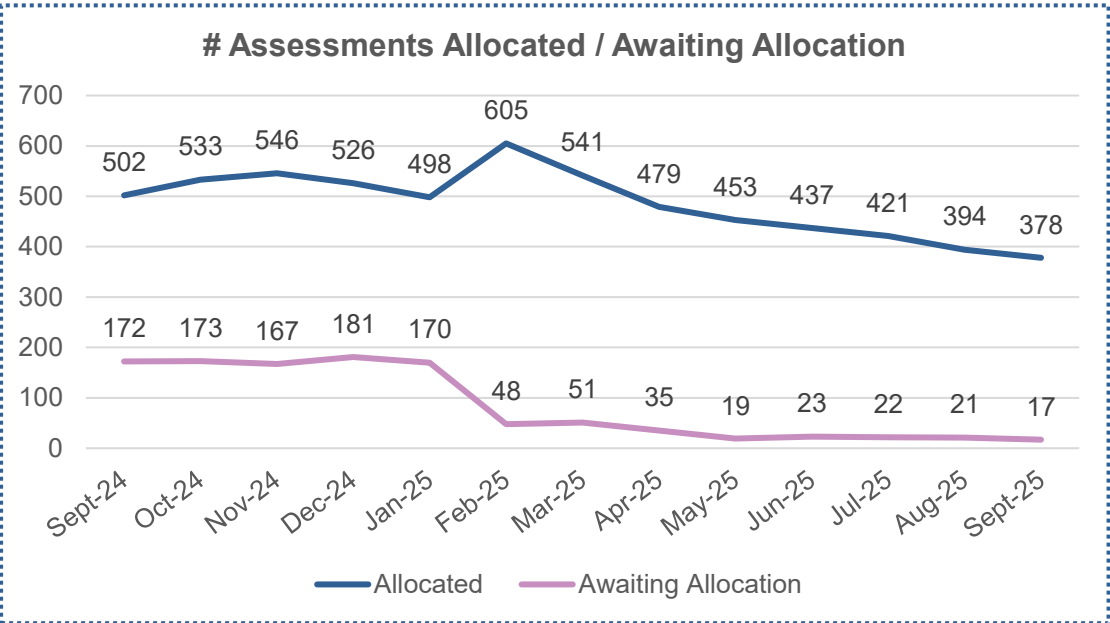
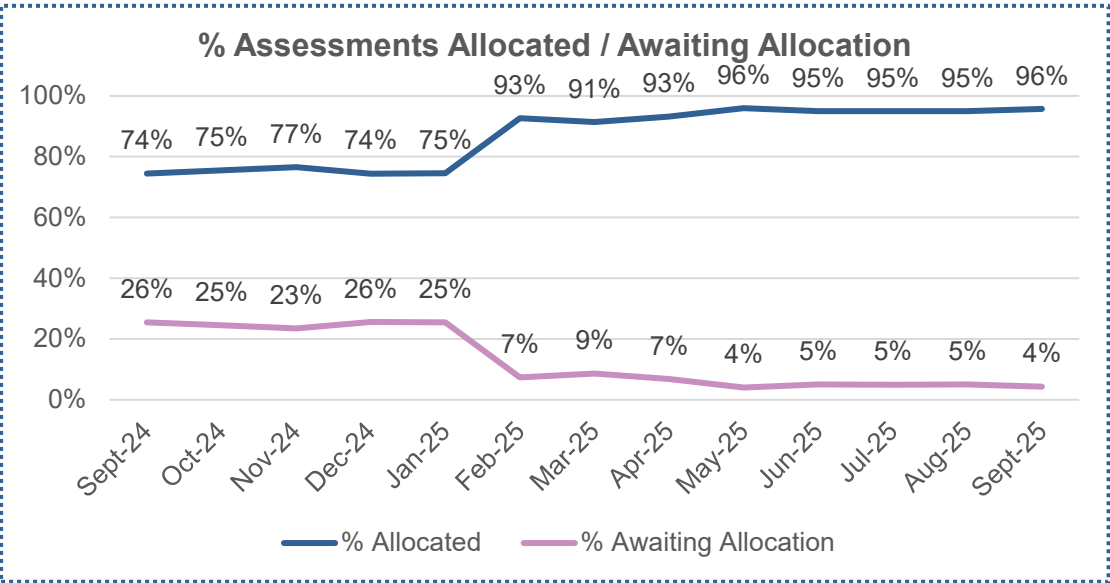
- **395 assessments open at the end of September 2025**, 20 (5%) fewer than August 2025 (415) and the fewest number for the period January 2024 – September 2025.
- There were 279 (41%) fewer assessments open at the end of September 2025 (395) than at the end of September 2024 (674).



Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP)

Allocation Status of Open Assessments

- **96% (378/395) of assessments open at the end of September 2025** were allocated to a social worker, up one percentage point from August 2025 (95%) and up 22 percentage points from September 2024 (74%).
- The remaining 4% (17) were awaiting allocation with four fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of September 2025 than at the end of August 2025 (21).
- 155 (90%) fewer assessments awaiting allocation at the end of September 2025 (17) than at the end of September 2024 (172).



Children in Care

- **5,866 children (0-17 years) in care at the end of September 2025, 51** more than August 2025 (5,815) and 106 (2%) more than September 2024 (5,760). Figure includes 139 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-24	Aug-25	Sep-25	Sep 25 v Sep 24	Sep-25 v Aug-25
17 Tusla Areas	5,645	5,710	5,727	+82	+17
SCSIP	115	105	139	+24	+34
Total	5,760	5,815	5,866	106	51

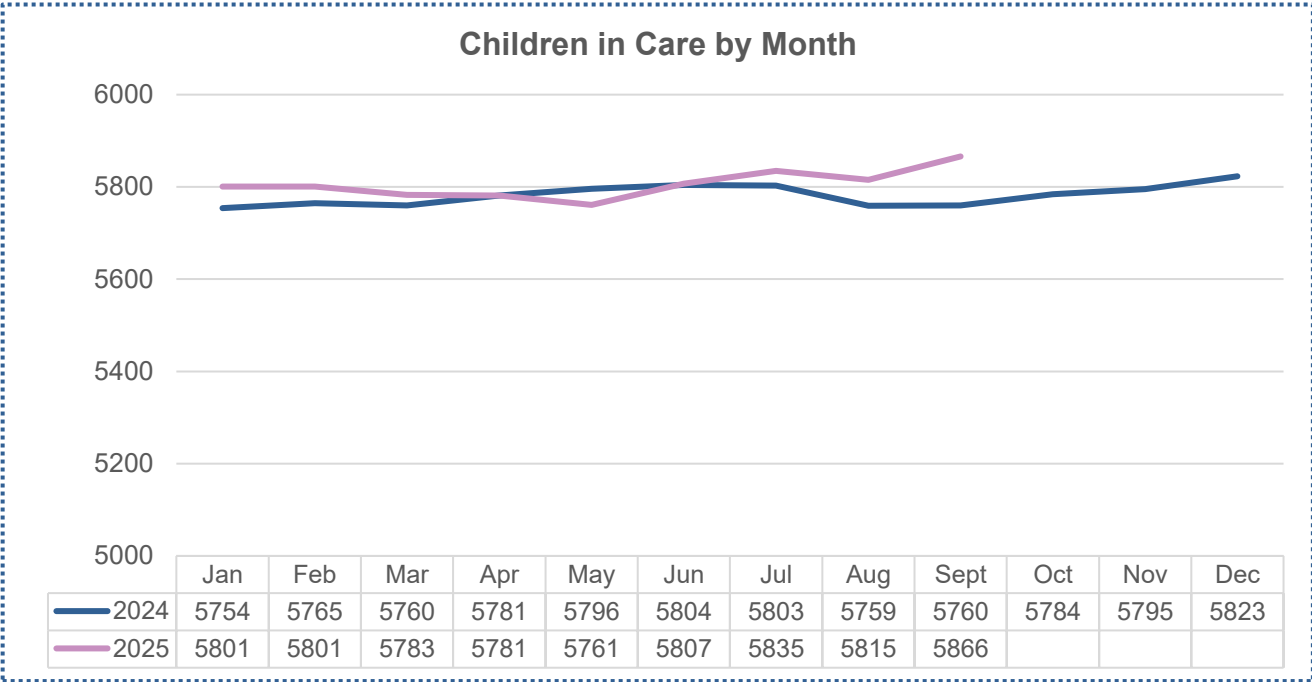
- **Breakdown of children in care by placement type as follows (Sep-25):**

Placement Type	17 areas	SCSIP	Total
Residential Care	490 (8.6%)	108 (77.7%)	598 (10.2%)
Foster Care	5,028 (87.8%)	18 (12.9%)	5,046 (86.0%)
Other*	209 (3.6%)	13 (9.4%)	222 (3.8%)
Total	5,727 (100%)	139 (100%)	5,866 (100.0%)

- Residential care (598) includes 14 children in special care and 584 in general residential care. Of the children in foster care (5,046), 70% (3,544) were in general foster care and 30% (1,502) were in relative foster care.
- Highest number of children in care reported by Cork (668) followed by Dublin North City (500) and Midwest (497).
- Fewest number reported Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan (112) followed by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (139) and Mayo (151).
- 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 (6.0) and Waterford/Wexford (5.7).
- Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.2) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.8).
- Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 4.7/1,000 children.

Notes:

1. The Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection has an additional **428 children accommodated under Section 5 Child Care Act 1991**.
2. ***Other care placements** includes children at home under a care order, in a detention centre, disability unit, mental health unit, drugs/alcohol rehabilitation unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, supported lodgings etc.



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

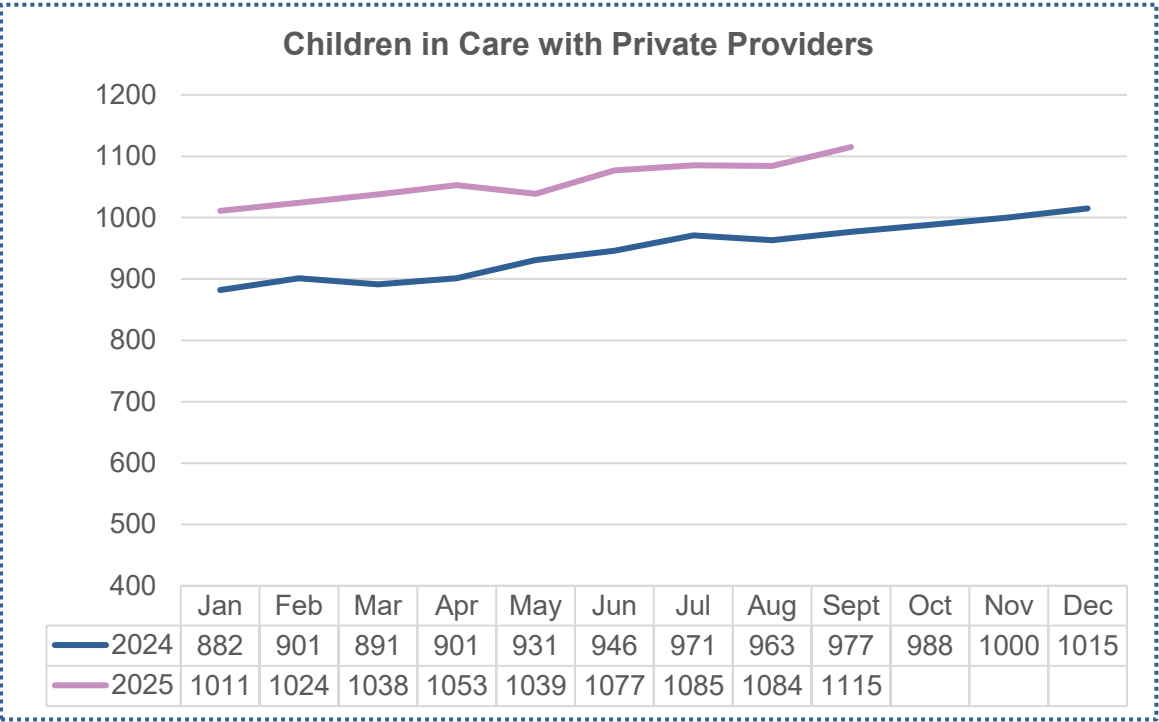
Area	Sep-24	Aug-25	Sep-25	Sep-25 v Sep-24	Sep-25 v Aug-25	Population	Rate/1,000
Dublin North City	460	495	500	40	5	48,909	10.2
Donegal	237	244	251	14	7	42,144	6.0
Waterford/Wexford	432	401	394	-38	-7	69,239	5.7
Midwest	498	503	497	-1	-6	96,764	5.1
CW/KK/ST	306	316	314	8	-2	62,366	5.0
Kerry	168	173	171	3	-2	34,994	4.9
Cork	667	658	668	1	10	136,786	4.9
Mayo	145	150	151	6	1	31,911	4.7
Cavan/Monaghan	162	169	175	13	6	37,336	4.7
Dublin South Central	327	326	327	0	1	70,259	4.7
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	115	115	112	-3	-3	24,312	4.6
Louth/Meath	419	425	425	6	0	96,531	4.4
Galway/Roscommon	340	360	360	20	0	81,799	4.4
Midlands	337	348	353	16	5	80,962	4.4
Dublin North	420	416	419	-1	3	104,281	4.0
DSW/K/WW	412	412	412	0	0	108,927	3.8
Dublin South East/Wicklow	200	199	198	-2	-1	91,047	2.2
Total Areas	5,645	5,710	5,727	82	17	1,218,567	4.7
SCSIP	115	105	139	24	34		
Total National	5,760	5,815	5,866	106	51		

Population: CSO Census 2022

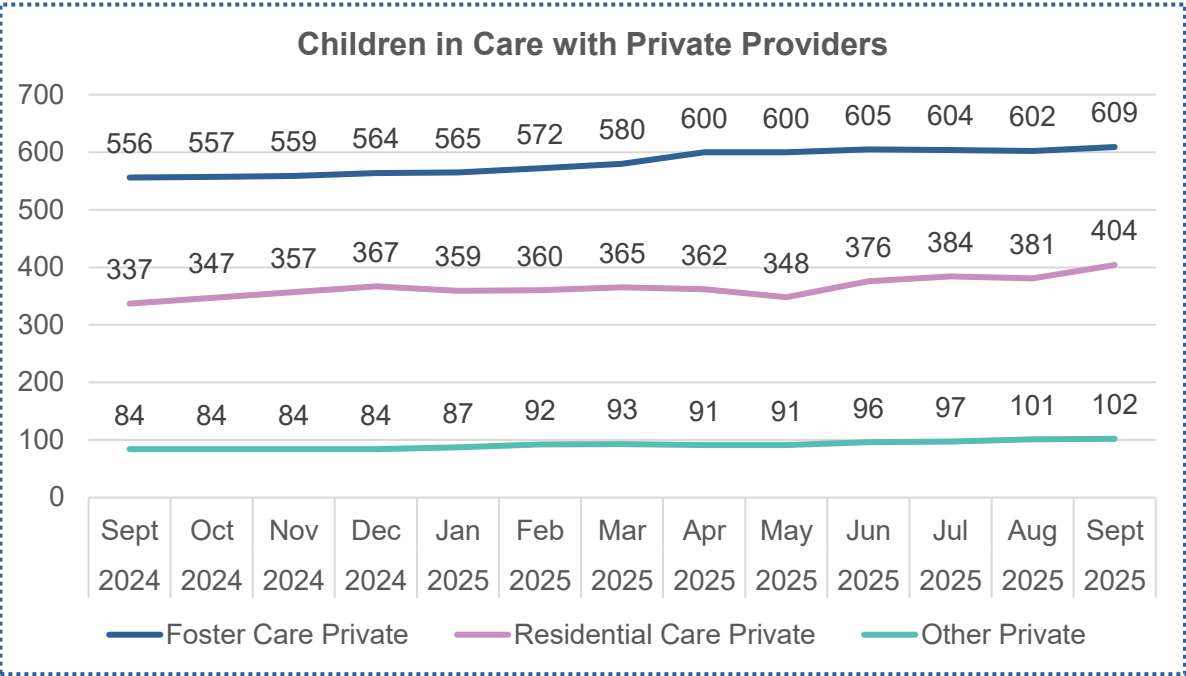
Children in Care

Private Providers

- 1,115 (19%) children in care at the end of September 2025 were in placements with private providers, 31 (3%) more than August 2025 (1,084) and 138 (14%) more than September 2024 (977).



- 609 (55%) children in placements with private providers were in **foster care**, seven more than August 2025 (602) and 53 (10%) more than September 2024 (556).
- 404 (36%) children were in **residential care**, 23 (6%) more than August 2025 (381) and 67 (20%) more than September 2024 (337).
- The remaining **102 (9%)** children were in “**Other**” **care placements**, **one** more than August 2025 (101) and 18 (21%) more than September 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 (152), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (125), Dublin North (124), Dublin South Central (118) and Midlands (107). These five areas account for 56% (626) of children in placements with private providers.



Children in Care with Private Providers

Children in Care (Private)	Sep-24	Aug-25	Sep-25	Sep-25 v Sep-24	Sep-25 v Aug-25
Dublin North City	123	147	152	29	5
DSW/K/WW	113	123	125	12	2
Dublin North	117	123	124	7	1
Dublin South Central	113	115	118	5	3
Midlands	83	106	107	24	1
SCSIP	63	81	102	39	21
Cork	57	67	67	10	0
Louth/Meath	53	54	54	1	0
Waterford/Wexford	51	54	49	-2	-5
Dublin South East/Wicklow	50	44	45	-5	1
Midwest	41	44	43	2	-1
Kerry	32	35	34	2	-1
Donegal	20	31	30	10	-1
CW/KK/ST	22	24	25	3	1
Galway/Roscommon	16	15	17	1	2
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	12	11	12	0	1
Cavan/Monaghan	8	7	8	0	1
Mayo	3	3	3	0	0
Total	977	1,084	1,115	138	31

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% (5,784) of children in care at the end of September 2025 had an allocated case worker.**
- Of the 5,784 children allocated, 90% (5,200) were allocated to a social worker and 10% (584) were allocated to another professional.
- A total of 82 (1%) children were awaiting allocation, 23 (22%) fewer than August 2025 (105).
- 7 of the 17 areas report no cases awaiting allocation with a further eight areas reporting fewer than 10 cases awaiting allocation.
- The remaining two areas, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow and Dublin South Central reported 28 and 15 cases awaiting respectively. The Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection reported 12 children awaiting.

Breakdown of allocation status by area and role of worker, September 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
Midlands	320	91%	33	9%	353	100%	0	0%	353
Dublin North City	462	92%	38	8%	500	100%	0	0%	500
Cavan/Monaghan	166	95%	9	5%	175	100%	0	0%	175
Kerry	163	95%	8	5%	171	100%	0	0%	171
Donegal	251	100%	0	0%	251	100%	0	0%	251
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	107	96%	5	4%	112	100%	0	0%	112
Mayo	151	100%	0	0%	151	100%	0	0%	151
Midwest	383	77%	113	23%	496	100%	1	0.2%	497
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	159	51%	154	49%	313	100%	1	0.3%	314
Dublin North	390	94%	27	6%	417	100%	2	0.5%	419
Louth/Meath	368	87%	54	13%	422	99%	3	1%	425
Cork	661	100%	2	0.3%	663	99%	5	1%	668
Waterford/Wexford	357	91%	34	9%	391	99%	3	1%	394
Galway/Roscommon	352	99%	5	1%	357	99%	3	1%	360
Dublin South East/Wicklow	173	92%	16	8%	189	95%	9	5%	198
Dublin South Central	291	93%	21	7%	312	95%	15	5%	327
DSW/K/WW	319	83%	65	17%	384	93%	28	7%	412
SCSIP	127	100%	0	0%	127	91%	12	9%	139
Total	5,200	90%	584	10%	5,784	99%	82	1%	5,866

Children in Care

Care Plan

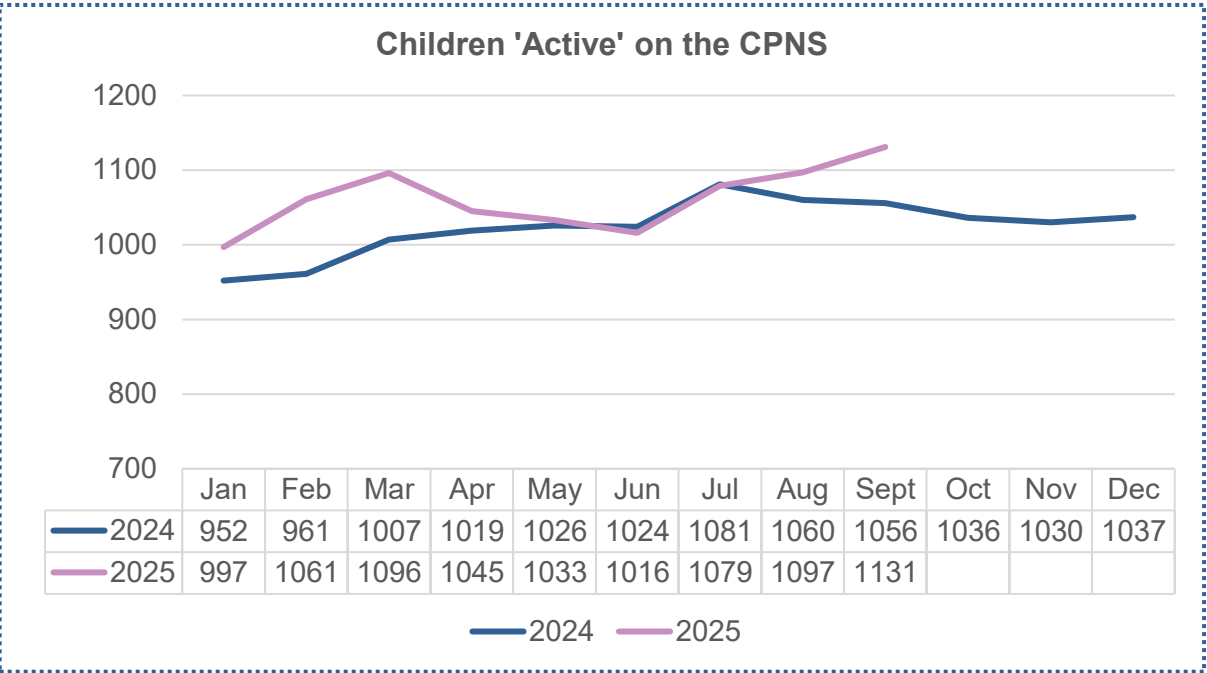
- **83% (4,867) of children in care at the end of September 2025 had an up-to-date care plan**, no change from August 2025.
- A total of 999 (17%) children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 18 (2%) fewer than August 2025 (1,017).
- Highest numbers awaiting an up-to-date care plan reported by Dublin North City (160; 32%); Cork (114; 17%), Dublin North (96; 23%) and Dublin South Central (82; 25%)

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

Area	UTD Care Plan	Awaiting UTD Care Plan	Total	% UTD Care Plan
Midlands	345	8	353	98%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	297	17	314	95%
Donegal	236	15	251	94%
Waterford/Wexford	364	30	394	92%
Midwest	429	68	497	86%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	96	16	112	86%
Louth/Meath	358	67	425	84%
Cork	554	114	668	83%
DSW/K/WW	339	73	412	82%
Mayo	123	28	151	81%
Cavan/Monaghan	142	33	175	81%
Galway/Roscommon	286	74	360	79%
Kerry	132	39	171	77%
Dublin North	323	96	419	77%
SCSIP	107	32	139	77%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	151	47	198	76%
Dublin South Central	245	82	327	75%
Dublin North City	340	160	500	68%
Total	4,867	999	5,866	83%

Child Protection Notification System

- **1,131 children listed as ‘active’** on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of September 2025, 34 (3%) more than August 2025 (1,097) and the third consecutive increase.
- There were 75 (7%) more children ‘active’ at the end of September 2025 than at the end September 2024 (1,056).
- It should be noted that a small number of large sibling groups can have a significant effect on numbers reported.
- 98% (1,105) of children ‘active’ had an allocated social worker, 26 children were awaiting allocation to a social worker. Eighteen of the 26 children were subsequently allocated to a social worker. The remaining eight cases are allocated to another professional.
- Highest numbers of children listed as ‘active’ at the end of September 2025, reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (138), Cork (128) and Dublin North City (103).
- Fewest numbers reported by Cavan/Monaghan (23), Mayo (24) and Kerry (25).
- The number of children ‘active’ equates to 9 children per 10,000 under 18 years.
- Highest rates reported by Dublin North City (21.1), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (19.3) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (12.7).
- Lowest rates reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (4.2) and Waterford/Wexford (5.5).
- 10 of the 17 areas had more children listed as ‘active’ at the end of September 2025 than at the end of August 2025. Largest increases reported by Dublin North (up 22) and Louth/Meath (up 14).
- 7 of the 17 areas reported fewer children ‘active’ with the largest decreases reported by Cork (down 12) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 7).
- 11 of the 17 areas had more children active at the end of September 2025 than at the end of September 2024. Largest increases reported by Dublin North (up 33), Galway/Roscommon (up 29) and Cork (up 28).
- 6 of the 17 areas reported a decrease. Largest decreases reported by Midwest (down 48), Midlands (down 13) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 12).



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

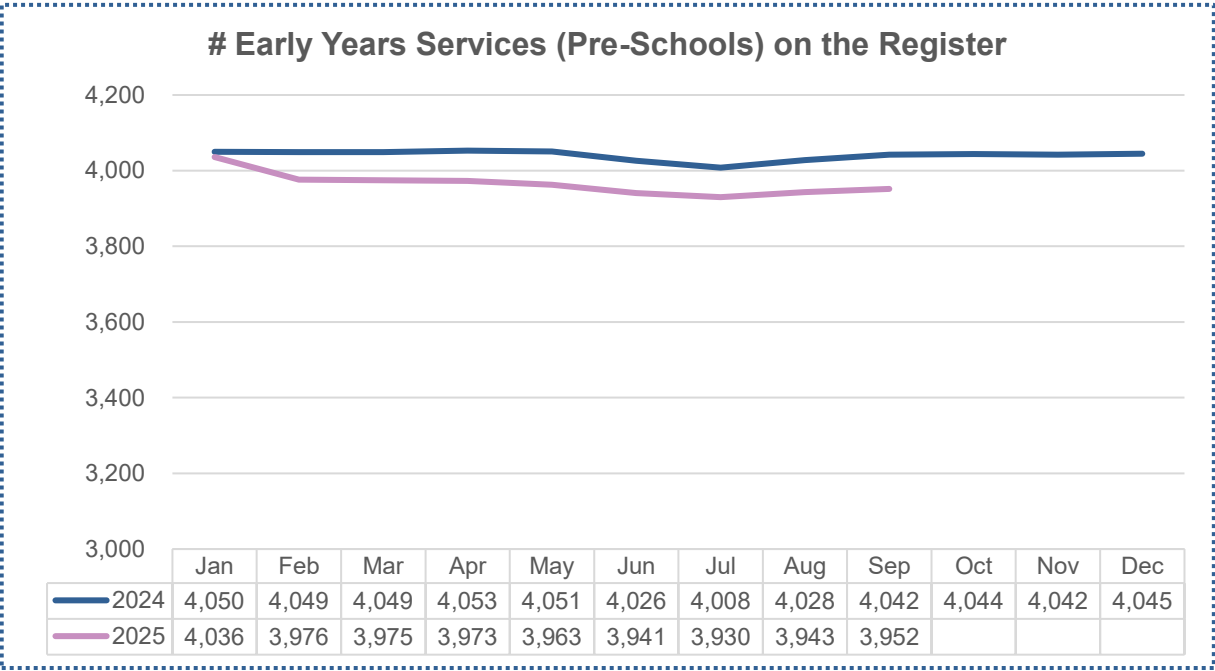
Area	Sept-24	Aug-25	Sep-25	Sep-25 v Sept-24	Sep-25 v Aug-25	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	110	106	103	-7	-3	48,909	21.1
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	24	40	47	23	7	24,312	19.3
DSW/K/WW	114	133	138	24	5	108,927	12.7
Midlands	108	96	95	-13	-1	80,962	11.7
Dublin South Central	73	73	78	5	5	70,259	11.1
Galway / Roscommon	58	90	87	29	-3	81,799	10.6
Cork	100	140	128	28	-12	136,786	9.4
Dublin North	61	72	94	33	22	104,281	9.0
Mid West	134	89	86	-48	-3	96,764	8.9
Mayo	23	22	24	1	2	31,911	7.5
Donegal	39	36	31	-8	-5	42,144	7.4
Kerry	23	21	25	2	4	34,994	7.1
CW/K/ST	54	36	42	-12	6	62,366	6.7
Cavan / Monaghan	20	22	23	3	1	37,336	6.2
Louth / Meath	64	40	54	-10	14	96,531	5.6
Waterford / Wexford	27	36	38	11	2	69,239	5.5
DSE/WW	24	45	38	14	-7	91,047	4.2
Total	1,056	1,097	1,131	75	34	1,218,567	9.3

Population 0-17 years – source CSO Census 2022

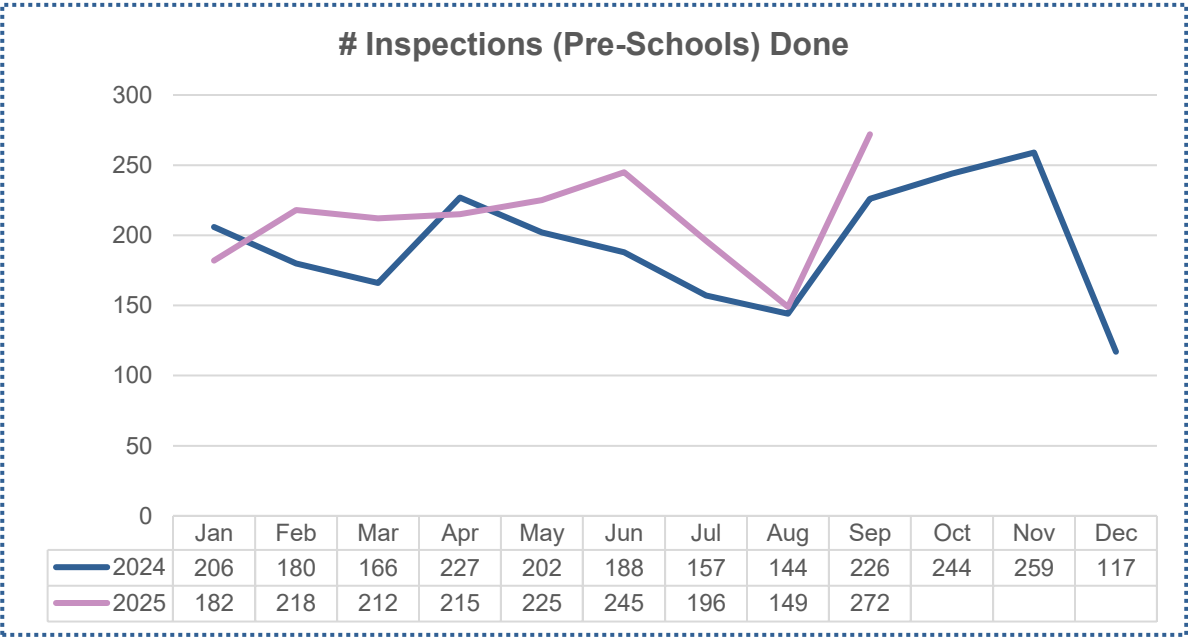
Children’s Services Regulation

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- **3,952 early years services (pre-schools) on the register at the end of September 2025**, nine more than August 2025 (3,943) and 90 (2%) fewer than September 2024 (4,042). *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.*

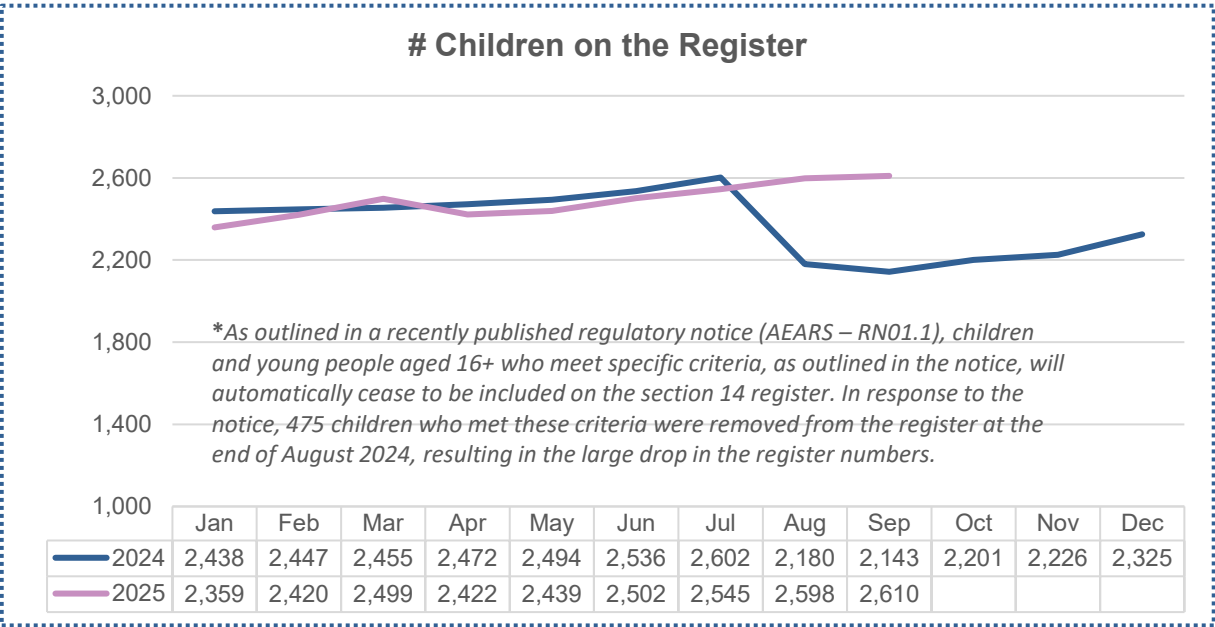


- **272 inspections** of early years services (pre-schools) in September 2025.
- This brings to 1,914 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2025, 218 (13%) more than the same period in 2024 (1,696).

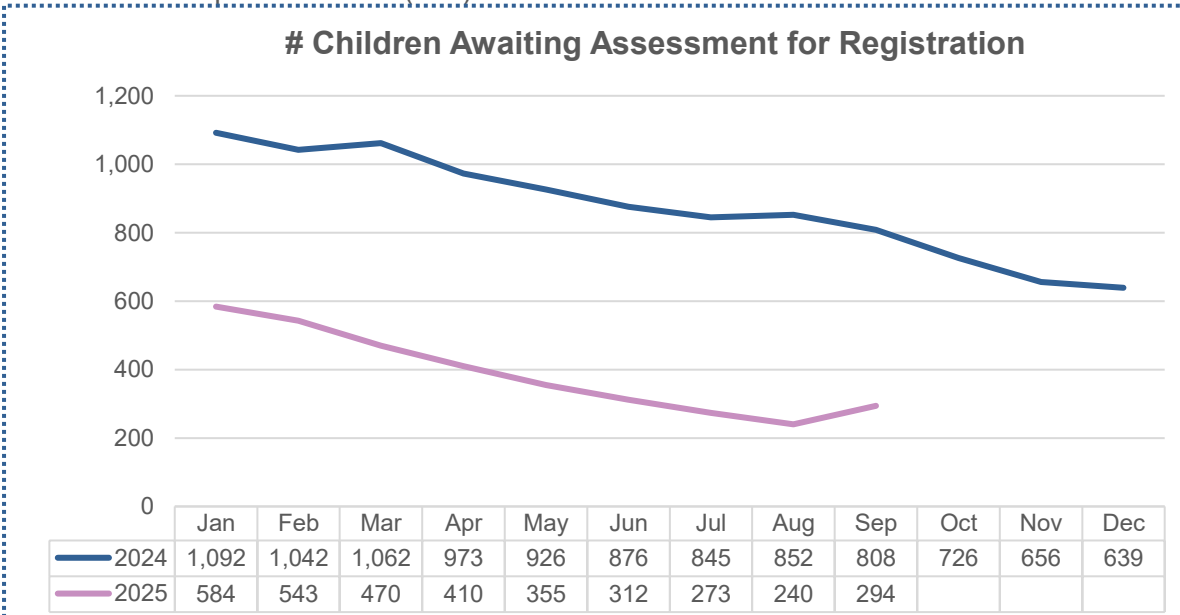


ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

- **2,610 children on the register** for home education at the end of September 2025, 12 (<1%) more than August 2025 (2,598) and 285 (12%) more than Dec 2024 (2,325). Increasing trend continues.



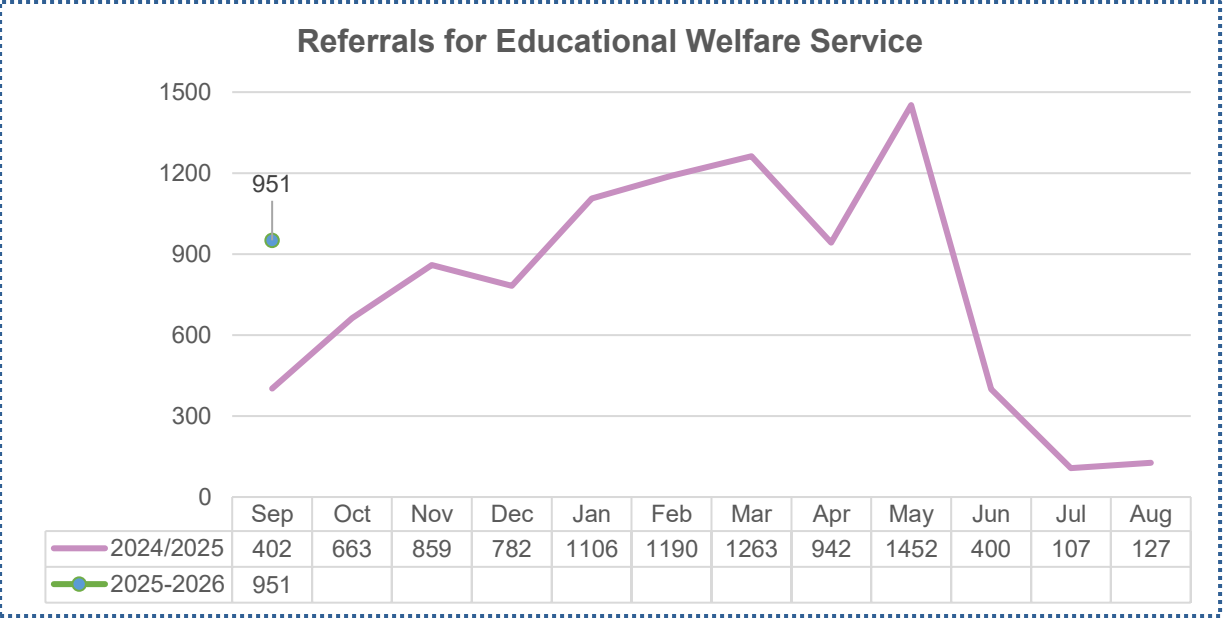
- **294 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of September 2025**, 54 (23%) more than August 2025 (240), first increase after 12 consecutive decreases. There were 514 (64%) fewer children awaiting at the end of September 2025 than at the end of September 2024 (808).



Tusla Education Support Services

- **951 referrals for an educational welfare service in September 2025.**

Note: the number of referrals for September 2025 is not comparable with previous months 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.



- **9,049 cases open** to educational welfare services at the end of September 2025.
- 55% (4,937) of the cases were allocated with the remaining 45% (4,112) on a waiting list for allocation.
- 884 (27%) more cases on the waiting list than at the end of September 2024 (3,228)

