



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 1 2024



Quality & Regulation Directorate

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1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

This report provides an update on the performance and activity of Tusla services at the end of Q1 2024. It is structured around key performance and activity measures included in the Agency's Business Plan. The data presented was provided by services and refers to the latest performance and activity information available at this time. **These data can change from data previously published due to the ongoing validation of data.**

The summary by service type set out below provides an overview of the Q1 2024 position regarding activity and performance.

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

REFERRALS (data on referrals reported quarterly in arrears)

- 22,752 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q4 2023. This brings to 91,924 the number of referrals for 2023, 9,069 (11%) more than 2022 (82,855).
- More than half of referrals for 2023 (59.5%; 54,721) were for welfare concerns, 38% (34,928) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 2.5% (2,275) of referrals.
- Most common source of referrals in 2023 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 33% (30,666) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by social workers (14%; 12,565), teachers (11%; 9,910) and safeguarding officers (9%; 8,199). Mandated persons accounted for 89% (82,020) of all sources.
- 55% (12,486/22,752) of referrals for Q4 2023 were closed following screening, 29% (6,572) of referrals for Q4 2023 progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (16%; 3,694) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.
- 53% (6,672) of referrals for Q4 2023 were closed following screening as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 35% (4,407) were closed to social work with no further action required, 7% (842) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 1% (148) were diverted to another agency.
- At the time the Q4 2023 data was extracted for reporting, 98% (6,460/6,572) of preliminary enquiries were completed.
- Of the preliminary enquiry completed, 45% (2,939) required no further action; 33% (2,119) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (294) of cases. Some 11% (710) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS.
- At the time the Q4 2023 data was extracted for reporting, 55% (1,158/2,119) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed.
- 51% (593) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 61% (362) required

no further action, 17.5% (104) were diverted to another agency for a service, 17% (103) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 4% (24) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.

- 30% (351) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 15% (176) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 3% (38) required admission to care.

SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA

- 22,293 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q1 2024, 211 (1%) more than Q4 2023 (22,082) and 1,166 (5%) fewer than Q1 2023 (23,459).
- 79% (17,700) of open cases were allocated to a social worker at the end of Q1 2024, up three percentage points from Q4 2023 (76%).
- 4,593 (21%) cases were awaiting allocation, 738 (14%) fewer than Q4 2023 (5,331) and 1,375 (23%) fewer than Q1 2023 (5,968).
- Five areas account for 62% (2,840) of cases awaiting allocation, Dublin South Central (1,040; 23%), Louth/Meath (624; 14%), Cork (494; 11%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (364; 8%) and Midwest (318; 7%).
- 70% (3,227) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2024 were “active” on a duty system.
- 8% (369) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2024 were categorised as high priority, 79 (18%) fewer than Q4 2023 (448) and 32 (8%) fewer than Q1 2023 (401).
- 55% (2,508) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 35% (1,607) were low priority while the remaining 2% (109) were awaiting categorisation.
- 60% (2,740/4,593) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2024 were waiting three months or less and of these 53% (1,439) were waiting less than one month.
- 55% (202/369) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2024 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 61% (123) were waiting less than one month.

CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

- 1,007 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of Q1 2024, 45 (5%) more than Q4 2023 (962) and the fifth consecutive increase.
- 157 (18%) more children “active” at the end of Q1 2024 than at the end of Q1 2023 (850).
- 82% (822/1,007) of children were listed as “active” for no longer than 12 months, down slightly from 83% (796/962) at the end of Q4 2023.
- 7% (72/1,007) of children were listed as “active” for > 18 months, down slightly from 8% (73/962) at the end of Q4 2023.
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q1 2024 had an allocated social worker.

ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

CHILDREN IN CARE

- 5,760 children in care at the end of Q1 2024. This figure includes 144 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP). Across the 17 Tusla areas there was one more child in care at the end of Q1 2024 than at the end of Q4 2023 (5,615).
- 87.5% (5,042) of children in care were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q1 2024 and 8.2% (472) were in a residential (general and special care) placement. The remaining 4.3% (246) of children were in “Other” care placements. “Other” includes at home under a care order, supported lodgings, detention centre, disability unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, not specified etc.
- Across the 17 Areas, 89% (5,016/5,616) were in foster care, 7.2% (405) were in residential care and the remaining 3.5% (195) were in “other” care placements.
- 891 (15%) children in care at the end of Q1 2024 were in placements with private providers. Across the 17 areas there were 8 (1%) more children in placements with private providers at the end of Q1 2024 (836) than at the end of Q4 2023 (828).
- 83% (4,777) of children in care at the end of Q1 2024 had an allocated social worker. A total of 983 (17%) children were awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of Q1 2024.
- 80% (4,627) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan. A total of 1,133 (20%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan.
- 97% (3,588/3,720) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023.
- 93% (884/950) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023.

AFTERCARE

- 128 referrals for an aftercare service in Q1 2024.
- 2,932 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2024, 28 (1%) more than Q4 2023 (2,904) and 29 (1%) fewer than Q1 2023 (2,961).
- 76% (1,673/2,207) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q1 2024 were in education/accredited training.
- 81% (2,388) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2024 had an aftercare plan, down two percentage point from Q4 2023 (83%). A total of 544 were awaiting a plan, 63 (13%) greater than Q4 2023 (481).
- 90% (2,035/2,265) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2021, no change from Q4 2023. A total of 230 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2024, eight more than Q4 2023 (222).
- 98% (269/274) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2024.

- 89% (1,766/1,991) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2024.

ADOPTION SERVICES

- 47 new children referred for adoption during Q1 2024. At least 216 new children referred for adoption in 2023. Data for Q1 and Q2 2023 incomplete.
- 44 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q1 2024. Of these, 20 (45%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 7 (16%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 17 (39%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

FOSTER CARERS

- 3,847 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q1 2024, seven (<1%) fewer than Q4 2023 (3,854) and 94 (2%) fewer than Q1 2023 (3,941).
- 56 Tusla foster carers (general & relative) and 14 private foster carers approved in Q1 2024.
- 15 applicants to be general foster carers awaiting assessment at the end of Q1 2024 with a further 13 applicants awaiting approval by the foster care committee.
- 61 applications for general foster care and 120 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q1 2024.
- 94% (2,072) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2024, up one percentage point from Q4 2023 (93%)
- 144 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 12 (8%) fewer than Q4 2023 (156).
- 95% (945) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023.
- 53 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023.
- 95% (180) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. A total of 10 carers were awaiting a link worker, three fewer than Q4 2023 (13). The 10 carers were reported across three areas.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- 4,049 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q1 2024, five more than Q4 2023 (4,044) and 13 (<1%) fewer than Q1 2023 (4,062).
- 552 inspections (all types) carried out in Q1 2024, 54 (9%) fewer than Q1 2023 (606). A total of 2,391 inspections carried out in 2023.
- 182 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q1 2024. A total of 855 incidents notified in 2023.

- 84 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q1 2024. A total of 490 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during 2023.
- 9 services were found to have closed in Q1 2024. A total of 115 services were found to have closed in 2023.

ALTERNATIVE CARE INSPECTION & MONITORING SERVICE

- 166 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q1 2024; 2 (1%) more than Q4 2023 (164).
- 48 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q1 2024.
- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023. Two non-statutory foster care services visited, and two monitoring visits conducted during Q1 2024.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

Home Education

- 2,455 children on the register for home education at the end of Q1 2024, eight more than Q4 2023 (2,447) and 395 (19%) more than Q1 2023 (2,060).
- 287 applications received for home education during Q1 2024, 39 (12%) fewer than Q4 2023 (326) and 65 (18%) fewer than Q1 2023 (352).
- 284 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q1 2024, 35 (11%) fewer than Q4 2023 (319) and 59 (26%) more than Q1 2023 (225).
- 1,062 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q1 2024, 38 (3%) fewer than Q4 2023 (1,100) and 375 (26%) fewer than Q1 2023 (1,437).

Independent Schools

- 60 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q1 2024, up two from Q4 2023 (58).
- 6,434 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q1 2024 with 4,733 of these children on the register.
- 14 schools due for assessment at the end of Q1 2024.

TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2023 – August 2024

- 5,050 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the seven months Sept – Mar 2024, 842 (20%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (4,208).
- 3,429 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of March 2024, 49 (1%) fewer than March 2023 (3,478).
- 2,586 new individual children worked with for the seven months Sep – Mar 2024, 278 (12%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (2,308).
- 491 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the seven months Sep – Mar, 129 (36%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (362). The SANs issued were in respect of 348 individual children, 95 (38%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (253).

- 61 summonses issued for the seven months Sep- Mar 2023, 4 (6%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (65). The summonses were in respect of 50 individual children, 6 (14%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (44).
- 193 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs for the seven months Sep-Mar 2024, 12 (7%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (181).

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

Family Support Services (data reported bi-annually, Q2 and Q4)

Family Support Services includes those services funded through a Service Arrangement with the Agency and those funded internally and delivered through the Agency. Data needs to be interpreted in the context of varying response rates.

- At least 19,792 children were in receipt of family support services at the end 2023. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years). Based on a response rate of 89%.
- At least 25,087 children referred to family support services during the last six months of 2023. This brings to 47,260 the number of children referred for 2023. This equates to about 4.0% of children (0-17 years).
- 64% (30,092) of children referred to family support services in 2023 received a service during 2023. The percentage who received a service ranged from 34% (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 96% (Mayo). Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 64%.

Meitheal (data reported bi-annually, Q2 and Q4)

- 1,163 Meitheal processes requested during the last six months of 2023. This brings to 2,492 the number of processes requested for 2023, 172 (7%) more than 2022 (2,320).
- The most common pathway for all requests received during 2023 was “Direct Access” accounting for 73% (1,820) of requests. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 20% (490) while “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for 7% (182) of requests.
- 84% (2,095/2,492) of Meitheal requests received during 2023 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- 1,725 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in 2023.
- 53% (911) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- 1,473 Meitheal processes were closed during 2023.
- 23% (334) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 36% (535) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 12% (177) were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3) and 29% (427) were closed post-delivery.
- 120 Child and Family Support Networks¹ (CFSN) operating at the end of 2023 with a further eight planned/pre planning stage.

PEOPLE & CHANGE

- 5,025 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2024, 6 (<1%) more than Q4 2023 (5,019) and 244 (5%) more than Q1 2023 (4,781).
- 169 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first three months of 2024, 60 (26%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (229).
- 101 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first three months of 2024, 19 (16%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (120). A further, 28 staff retired in the first three months of 2024, 7 (33%) more than the same period in 2023 (21).
- At the end of Q1 2024, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.7%, down from 7.5% at the end of Q4 2023 and up from 6.03% at the end of Q1 2023.
- e-learning training activity: 7,889 completions were achieved in Q1 2024
- Classroom training: 1,290 participants attended in Q1 2024.

FINANCE

- The outturn for the year to date (March YTD) is an overspend of €14.443 million (5%)
- The net expenditure is €282.790 million against a budget allocation of €268.346 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €1.365 million.
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €16.568 million.

2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

Key Facts

- 22,752 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q4 2023. This brings to 91,924 the number of referrals for 2023, 9,069 (11%) more than 2022 (82,855).
- More than half of referrals for 2023 (59.5%; 54,721) were for welfare concerns, 38% (34,928) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 2.5% (2,275) of referrals.
- Most common source of referrals in 2023 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 33% (30,666) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by social workers (14%; 12,565), teachers (11%; 9,910) and safeguarding officers (9%; 8,199). Mandated persons accounted for 89% (82,020) of all sources.
- 55% (12,486/22,752) of referrals for Q4 2023 were closed following screening, 29% (6,572) of referrals for Q4 2023 progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (16%; 3,694) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.
- 53% (6,672) of referrals for Q4 2023 were closed following screening as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 35% (4,407) were closed to social work with no further action required, 7% (842) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 1% (148) were diverted to another agency.
- At the time the Q4 2023 data was extracted for reporting, 98% (6,460/6,572) of preliminary enquiries were completed.
- Of the preliminary enquiry completed, 45% (2,939) required no further action; 33% (2,119) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (294) of cases. Some 11% (710) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS.
- At the time the Q4 2023 data was extracted for reporting, 55% (1,158/2,119) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed.
- 51% (593) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 61% (362) required no further action, 17.5% (104) were diverted to another agency for a service, 17% (103) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 4% (24) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- 30% (351) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 15% (176) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 3% (38) required admission to care.

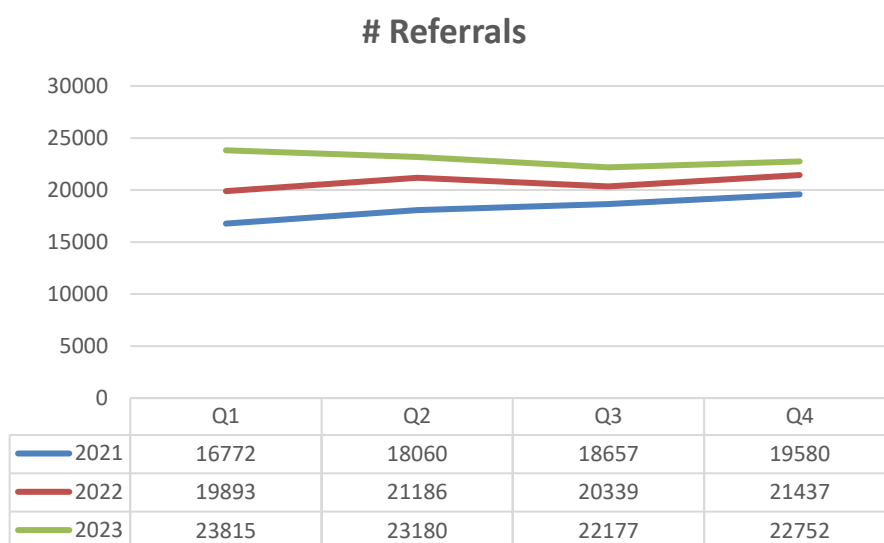
KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- 2.1 Referrals (child welfare and child abuse)
- 2.2 Social Work Activity Data
- 2.3 Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
- 2.4 Crisis Intervention Service / Out of Hours Service

2.1 REFERRALS (CHILD WELFARE AND CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT)

Number of Referrals

- 22,752 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q4 2023¹. This brings to 91,924 the number of referrals for 2023, 9,069 (11%) more than 2022 (82,855).



- More than half of referrals for 2023 (59.5%; 54,721) were for welfare concerns, 38% (34,928) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 2.5% (2,275) of referrals (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1: Percentage of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Total 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Total 2023
Welfare	55.6%	56.7%	60.4%	60.9%	60.2%	59.5%
Emotional abuse	15.6%	16.0%	17.3%	19.0%	17.0%	17.3%
Neglect	4.9%	5.5%	5.7%	5.4%	6.0%	5.6%
Physical abuse	8.8%	9.4%	9.0%	8.1%	9.9%	9.1%
Sexual abuse	6.3%	6.1%	6.3%	5.5%	5.9%	5.9%
Not recorded	8.7%	6.3%	1.4%	1.1%	1.0%	2.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

¹ Data on referrals are reported quarterly in arrears.

Table 2: Number of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Total 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Total 2023
Welfare	46,031	13,509	14,007	13,513	13,692	54,721
Emotional abuse	12,964	3,818	4,001	4,215	3,874	15,908
Neglect	4,068	1,309	1,313	1,196	1,360	5,178
Physical abuse	7,324	2,239	2,088	1,793	2,255	8,375
Sexual abuse	5,240	1,451	1,455	1,214	1,347	5,467
Not recorded	7,228	1,489	316	246	224	2,275
Total	82,855	23,815	23,180	22,177	22,752	91,924

Referrals by Area

- The number of referrals for 2023 equates to about 75 referrals per 1,000 population under 18 years. *Note, the actual number of children referred is likely to be fewer as more than one referral can be received in relation to a child.* The rate of referrals ranges from about 40 per 1,000 (Dublin South East/Wicklow) to 110 per 1,000 (Midlands and Dublin North City). Eight areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average of 75/1,000.
- The highest number of referrals for 2023 was reported by Dublin North (9,341) followed by Midlands (8,889), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (8,873) and Cork (8,333). The fewest number was reported by Mayo (1,320) followed by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (1,517) and Donegal (2,572). A breakdown of referrals by area is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Breakdown of referrals by area

Area	Total 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Total 2023	Pop	Rate / 1000 2023
Dublin South Central	6,117	1,772	1,575	1,637	1,911	6,895	70,259	98.1
DSE/WW	3,257	946	886	870	925	3,627	91,047	39.8
DSW/K/WW	7,919	2,269	2,052	2,256	2,296	8,873	108,927	81.5
Midlands	8,274	2,122	2,421	2,104	2,242	8,889	80,962	109.8
Dublin North City	5,071	1,427	1,326	1,349	1,344	5,446	49,682	109.6
Dublin North	7,290	2,690	2,216	2,230	2,205	9,341	103,508	90.2
Louth / Meath	6,414	1,859	1,784	1,804	1,814	7,261	96,531	75.2
Cavan / Monaghan	2,343	619	733	644	723	2,719	37,336	72.8
Cork	7,869	2,054	2,169	1,894	2,216	8,333	136,786	60.9
Kerry	2,334	706	704	728	566	2,704	34,994	77.3
CW/K/ST	3,883	1,124	1,139	957	1,141	4,361	62,366	69.9
Waterford/Wexford	6,130	1,761	1,684	1,492	1,457	6,394	69,239	92.3
Mid West	6,354	1,797	1,973	1,718	1,632	7,120	96,764	73.6
Galway/Roscommon	4,263	1,314	1,198	1,030	1,010	4,552	81,799	55.6
Mayo	1,562	323	353	326	318	1,320	31,911	41.4
Donegal	2,298	663	592	720	597	2,572	42,144	61.0
SLWC	1,477	369	375	418	355	1,517	24,312	62.4
Total	82,855	23,815	23,180	22,177	22,752	91,924	1,218,567	75.4

Population (0-17 years) based on Census 2022

Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals in 2023 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 33% (30,666) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by social workers (14%; 12,565), teachers (11%; 9,910) and safeguarding officers (9%; 8,199). Mandated persons accounted for 89% (82,020) of all sources. The source of all referrals is presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Source of Referrals (ranked by # referrals 2023)

Source	2023	% Total
Member of An Garda Síochána	30,666	33.4%
Social worker	12,565	13.7%
Teacher	9,910	10.8%
A safeguarding officer,	8,199	8.9%
Social care worker	4,262	4.6%
Anonymous	3,834	4.2%
Medical Practitioner	3,133	3.4%
Parent / Guardian	2,502	2.7%
Registered Nurse/midwife	2,155	2.3%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	1,866	2.0%
Psychotherapist	1,707	1.9%
Psychologist	1,617	1.8%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	1,331	1.4%
Not specified	1,131	1.2%
Other Family Member	1,062	1.2%
Youth worker	1,039	1.1%
Mandated person – not specified	778	0.8%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	575	0.6%
Courts 1 (Child Care Act Section 20)	422	0.5%
Member of the Public	379	0.4%
Probation Officer	335	0.4%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	281	0.3%
Manager of asylum seeker accommodation	278	0.3%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	273	0.3%
Other	261	0.3%
Occupational therapist	203	0.2%
An Addiction counsellor	189	0.2%
Physiotherapist	157	0.2%
Self	151	0.2%
Speech and Language therapist	151	0.2%
Emergency medical technician	95	0.1%
Guardian Ad Litem	92	0.1%
Courts (Other Court Request)	81	0.1%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	51	0.1%
International Social Services	50	0.1%
Director of institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	50	0.1%

Immigration Services	29	<0.1%
Manager of a language/recreational school - children reside	25	<0.1%
Member of the Clergy	21	<0.1%
Dentist	*	<0.1%
Courts 2 (Child Care Act Section 47)	*	<0.1%
Total	91,924	100.0%

*Suppressed for confidentiality reasons. Suppressed figures included in totals,

Mandated Reports

- 31% (28,659/91,924) of all referrals for 2023 were mandated reports.
- A breakdown of mandated reports by primary report type is presented in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Mandated reports by primary report type

Primary Report Type	2023 YTD	% Total
Physical Abuse	6,999	24%
Emotional Abuse	12,787	45%
Sexual Abuse	4,877	17%
Neglect	3,996	14%
Total	28,659	100%

- A breakdown of mandated reports by area is presented in Table 6 below. The number of mandated reports for 2023 ranges from 440 (2%) (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 4,220 (15%) (Dublin North).

Table 6: Mandated reports by area

Area	2023 YTD	% Total
Dublin South Central	2,084	7.3%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	1,565	5.5%
DSW/K/WW	2,223	7.8%
Midlands	2,019	7.0%
Dublin North City	1,409	4.9%
Dublin North	4,220	14.7%
Louth/Meath	2,972	10.4%
Cavan/Monaghan	763	2.7%
Cork	2,589	9.0%
Kerry	809	2.8%
CW/K/ST	1,399	4.9%
Waterford/Wexford	1,397	4.9%
Mid West	1,976	6.9%
Galway/Roscommon	1,445	5.0%
Mayo	656	2.3%
Donegal	693	2.4%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	440	1.5%
Total	28,659	100.0%

- A breakdown of source of mandated reports is presented in Table 7 below. The most common source of reports for 2023 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 40% (11,424) of all mandated reports, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (15%; 4,260), social workers (11%; 3,263) and safeguarding officers (10%; 2,967).

Table 7: Source of mandated reports (ranked by number of reports 2023)

Source	2023	% Total
Member of An Garda Síochána	11,424	39.9%
Teacher	4,260	14.9%
Social worker	3,263	11.4%
A safeguarding officer,	2,967	10.4%
Social care worker	1,334	4.7%
Medical Practitioner	1,053	3.7%
Psychotherapist	834	2.9%
Psychologist	658	2.3%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	646	2.3%
Registered Nurse/midwife	559	2.0%
Youth worker	421	1.5%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	228	0.8%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	204	0.7%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	107	0.4%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	107	0.4%
Manager of asylum seeker accommodation	100	0.3%
Occupational therapist	85	0.3%
Probation Officer	73	0.3%
Physiotherapist	73	0.3%
Speech and Language therapist	53	0.2%
Guardian Ad Litem	48	0.2%
An Addiction counsellor	47	0.2%
Emergency medical technician	40	0.1%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	27	0.1%
Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	21	0.1%
Dentist	11	<0.1%
Manager of a language/recreational school children reside away from home	11	<0.1%
Member of the Clergy	5	<0.1%
Total	28,659	100%

*Figure suppressed for data confidentiality reasons. Suppressed figures included in the totals.

Screening

- 55% (12,486/22,752) of referrals for Q4 2023 were closed following screening (Table 8).
- 29% (6,572) of referrals for Q4 2023 progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (16%; 3,694) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.

Table 8: Referrals closed following screening

Area	% Referrals closed Q4 2023
Dublin South Central	55%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	50%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	58%
Midlands	54%
Dublin North City	53%
Dublin North	63%
Louth/Meath	47%
Cavan/Monaghan	54%
Cork	60%
Kerry	37%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	63%
Waterford/Wexford	59%
Mid West	59%
Galway/Roscommon	33%
Mayo	33%
Donegal	67%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	44%
Total	55%

- A breakdown of the outcome of referrals closed following screening is presented below (Table 9).
- 53% (6,672) of referrals for Q4 2023 were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 35% (4,407) were closed to social work with no further action required, 7% (842) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 1% (148) were diverted to another agency.

Table 9: Outcome of referrals closed following screening

Outcome of referrals closed	Q4 2023	% Total
No further action - close	4,407	35%
No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	6,672	53%
Divert to another agency - close	148	1%
Divert to PPFS - close	842	7%
Other / Not recorded	417	3%
Total	12,486	100%

- The percentage breakdown of outcomes of referrals for Q4 2023 closed following screening, by area is presented in the table below (Table 10).

Table 10: Outcome of referrals closed following screening by area, Q4 2023

Area	No further action - close	No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	Divert to PPFS - close
Dublin South Central	18%	76%	2%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	30%	63%	5%
DSW/K/WW	25%	57%	14%
Midlands	35%	59%	3%
Dublin North City	35%	57%	4%
Dublin North	22%	49%	25%
Louth/Meath	29%	60%	2%
Cavan/Monaghan	14%	61%	12%
Cork	39%	54%	1%
Kerry	37%	58%	1%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	67%	30%	2%
Waterford/Wexford	41%	43%	11%
Mid West	50%	42%	2%
Galway/Roscommon	51%	45%	2%
Mayo	86%	12%	1%
Donegal	53%	46%	0%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	46%	52%	0%
Total	35%	53%	7%

Preliminary Enquiries

- At the time the data for Q4 2023 was extracted for reporting, 98% (6,460/6,572) of preliminary enquiries were completed. A breakdown of preliminary enquiries completed by area is presented in the table below (Table 11).
- 11% (716) of preliminary enquiries that were completed within 5 working days. A breakdown of the percentage of preliminary enquiries completed within 5 working days by area is presented in the table below.

Table 11: Preliminary enquiries commenced and completed, Q4 2023

Area	# PEs commenced	# PEs completed	% PEs completed	% PEs completed 5 days
Dublin South Central	342	334	97.7%	13%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	302	295	97.7%	6%
DSW/K/WW	678	668	98.5%	10%
Midlands	356	345	96.9%	5%
Dublin North City	263	241	91.6%	4%
Dublin North	493	474	96.1%	6%
Louth/Meath	691	690	99.9%	7%
Cavan/Monaghan	256	245	95.7%	8%
Cork	648	635	98.0%	17%
Kerry	314	314	100.0%	20%
CW/K/ST	373	373	100.0%	8%

Waterford/Wexford	420	419	99.8%	18%
Mid West	511	508	99.4%	11%
Galway/Roscommon	496	494	99.6%	14%
Mayo	127	127	100.0%	11%
Donegal	121	119	98.3%	16%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	181	179	98.9%	16%
Total	6,572	6,460	98.3%	11%

- Of the preliminary enquiry completed, 45% (2,939) required no further action; 33% (2,119) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (294) of cases. Some 11% (710) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS (Table 12).

Table 12: Outcomes from preliminary enquiries

Outcomes from preliminary enquiry	Q4 2023	% Total
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	2,939	45%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning Ongoing	294	5%
Divert to PPFS - Close	710	11%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	398	6%
Initial Assessment	2,119	33%
Total	6,460	100%

- The percentage breakdown of the outcomes of preliminary enquiries completed, by area for Q4 2023 is presented in the table below (Table 13).

Table 13: Percentage breakdown of outcomes of preliminary enquiries, by area Q4 2023

Area	% Closed - No further Action	% Requiring IA	% Divert - PPFS	% Closed - Ongoing	% Closed - Divert to Another Agency
Dublin South Central	30%	47%	5%	5%	13%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	54%	27%	8%	4%	6%
DSW/K/WW	48%	36%	10%	1%	6%
Midlands	35%	31%	24%	8%	2%
Dublin North City	43%	46%	10%	0%	1%
Dublin North	25%	41%	30%	1%	3%
Louth/Meath	60%	22%	13%	2%	3%
Cavan/Monaghan	56%	24%	11%	9%	0%
Cork	47%	36%	6%	6%	5%
Kerry	61%	21%	2%	12%	4%
CW/K/ST	54%	20%	14%	8%	4%
Waterford/Wexford	27%	42%	16%	11%	4%
Mid West	37%	34%	1%	1%	27%
Galway/Roscommon	52%	30%	11%	2%	5%
Mayo	39%	44%	8%	4%	5%
Donegal	45%	34%	1%	18%	2%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	61%	34%	4%	1%	0%
Total	45%	33%	11%	5%	6%

Initial Assessments

- At the time the Q4 2023 data was extracted for reporting, 55% (1,158/2,119) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed (Table 14).
- 33% (383) of initial assessments completed were completed within 40 days of receipt of referral.

Table 14: Breakdown of the status of Initial assessments, Q4 2023

Area	IA Closed	% IAs closed 40 working days
Dublin South Central	52%	23%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	65%	57%
DSW/K/WW	84%	33%
Midlands	21%	32%
Dublin North City	31%	3%
Dublin North	24%	22%
Louth/Meath	47%	17%
Cavan/Monaghan	29%	47%
Cork	43%	32%
Kerry	85%	36%
CW/K/ST	71%	25%
Waterford/Wexford	45%	54%
Mid West	76%	43%
Galway/Roscommon	68%	25%
Mayo	63%	29%
Donegal	68%	44%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	90%	37%
Total	55%	33%

- 51% (593) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 61% (362) required no further action, 17.5% (104) were diverted to another agency for a service, 17% (103) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 4% (24) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- 30% (351) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 15% (176) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 3% (38) required admission to care.
- The outcome of the initial assessments completed is presented in the table below.

Table 15: Breakdown of the outcome of initial assessments, Q4 2023

Outcomes from initial assessments	Q4 2022	% Total
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	362	31%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning Ongoing	24	2%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	104	9%
Divert to PPFS - Close	103	9%
Child Protection / CPC Safety Planning	176	15%
Safety Planning	351	30%
Admission to Care	38	3%
Total	1,158	100%

2.2 SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA (Child Protection & Welfare)

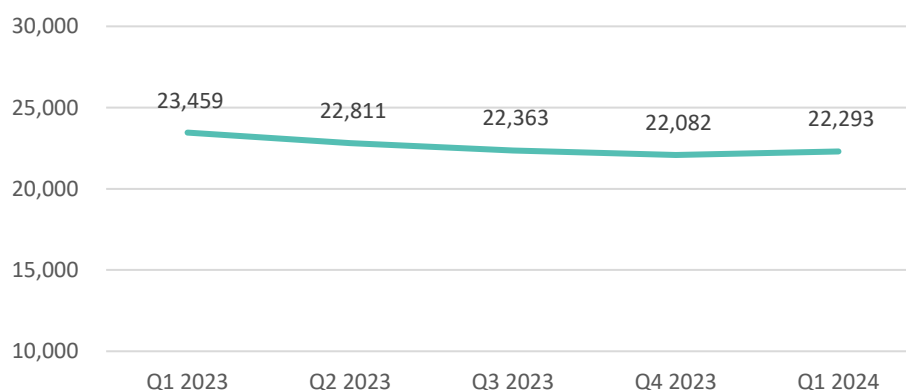
Key Facts

- 22,293 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q1 2024, 211 (1%) more than Q4 2023 (22,082) and 1,166 (5%) fewer than Q1 2023 (23,459).
- 79% (17,700) of open cases were allocated to a social worker at the end of Q1 2024, up three percentage points from Q4 2023 (76%).
- 4,593 (21%) cases were awaiting allocation, 738 (14%) fewer than Q4 2023 (5,331) and 1,375 (23%) fewer than Q1 2023 (5,968).
- Five areas account for 62% (2,840) of cases awaiting allocation, Dublin South Central (1,040; 23%), Louth/Meath (624; 14%), Cork (494; 11%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (364; 8%) and Midwest (318; 7%).
- 70% (3,227) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2024 were “active” on a duty system.
- 8% (369) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2024 were categorised as high priority, 79 (18%) fewer than Q4 2023 (448) and 32 (8%) fewer than Q1 2023 (401).
- 55% (2,508) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 35% (1,607) were low priority while the remaining 2% (109) were awaiting categorisation.
- 60% (2,740/4,593) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2024 were waiting three months or less and of these 53% (1,439) were waiting less than one month.
- 55% (202/369) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2024 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 61% (123) were waiting less than one month.

2.2.1 Open Cases

- 22,293 cases open² to social work nationally at the end of Q1 2024, 211 (1%) more than Q4 2023 (22,082) and 1,166 (5%) fewer than Q1 2023 (23,459). *Note: data from September 2023 includes cases awaiting categorisation, hence comparison with previous quarters needs to be interpreted with caution.*³

Number of open cases by year

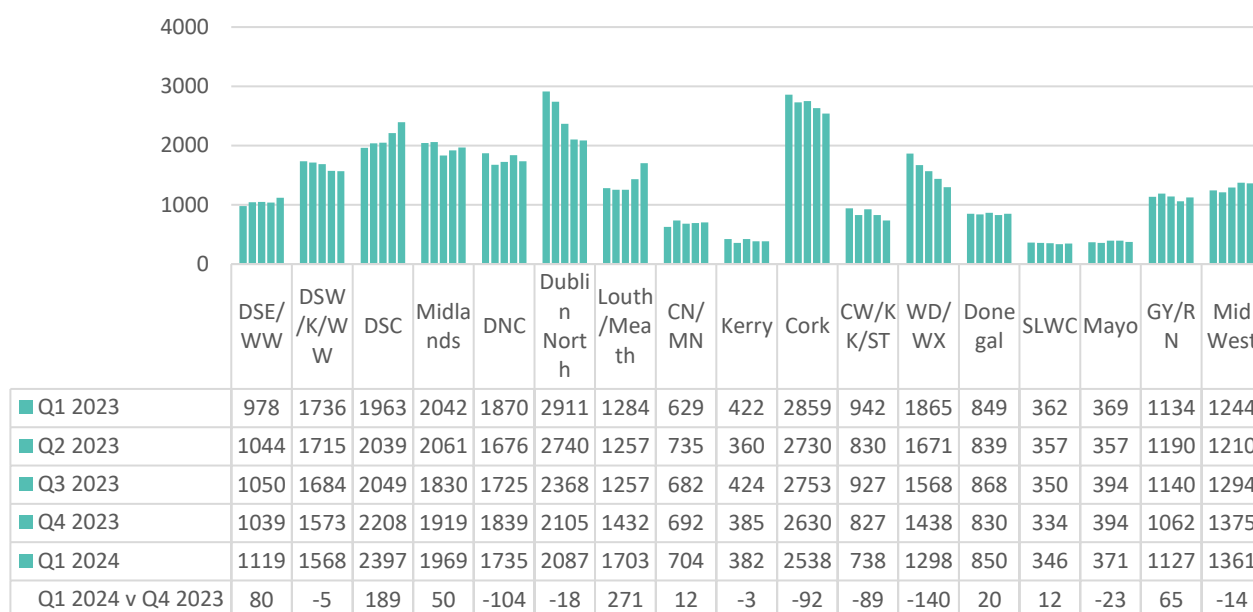


² Open cases include cases held on intake, allocated, unallocated child welfare and protection and children in care cases.

³ 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.

- The number of open cases ranged from 2,538 (11%) in Cork to 346 (2%) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan. Eight of the 17 areas had between 1,000 and 2,000 cases; a further six areas had fewer than 1,000 cases while the remaining three areas (Cork, Dublin North and Dublin South Central) had in excess of 2,000 cases.
- 8 areas reported an increase in open cases from Q4 2023. The largest increases were reported by Louth/Meath (up 271), Dublin South Central (up 189) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 80).
- Of the nine areas that reported a decrease, the largest decreases were reported by Waterford/Wexford (down 140), Dublin North City (down 104) and Cork (down 92).

Number of open cases by area

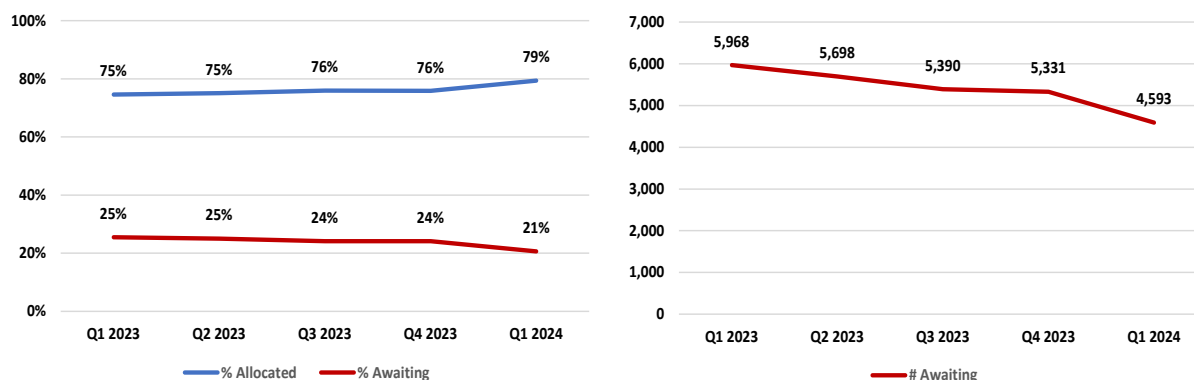


2.2.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

- 79% (17,700) of open cases were allocated to a social worker at the end of Q1 2024, up three percentage points from Q4 2023 (76%). *Note: data from September 2023 includes cases awaiting categorisation, hence comparison with previous quarters needs to be interpreted with caution.*⁴
- 4,593 (21%) cases were awaiting allocation, 738 (14%) fewer than Q4 2023 (5,331) and 1,375 (23%) fewer than Q1 2023 (5,968). *Note: data from September 2023 includes cases awaiting categorisation, hence comparison with previous quarters needs to be interpreted with caution.*⁴
- 70% (3,227) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2024 were “active” on a duty system⁴.

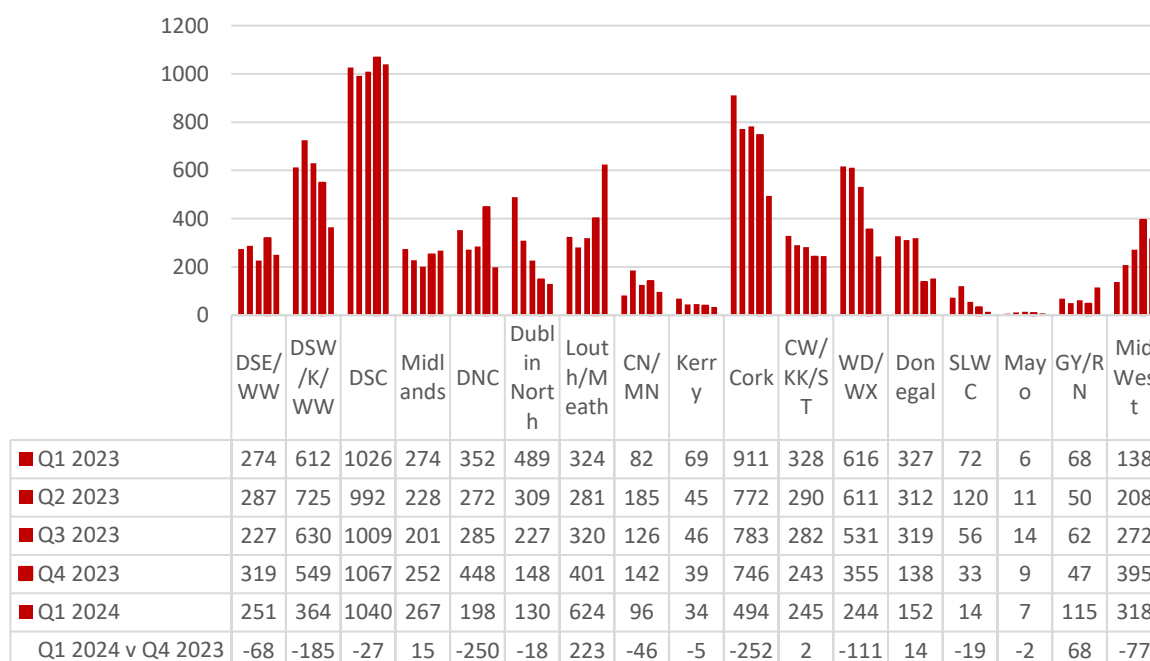
⁴ A case awaiting allocation may be “active” on a “duty” system. This means that there are actions being undertaken by a dedicated duty team or rotating social workers on a duty roster to progress the protection and welfare of the child. Examples of actions being undertaken include telephone calls relating to the concern, visits to see children, completing initial assessments and child in care reviews or care plans. The actions undertaken must have occurred within the monthly MTP reporting period. There must be evidence of actions progressing the protection and welfare of the child and not simply a management review of a file. These cases will form a separate category on the MTP returns template under cases awaiting allocation.

Cases allocated/awaiting allocation



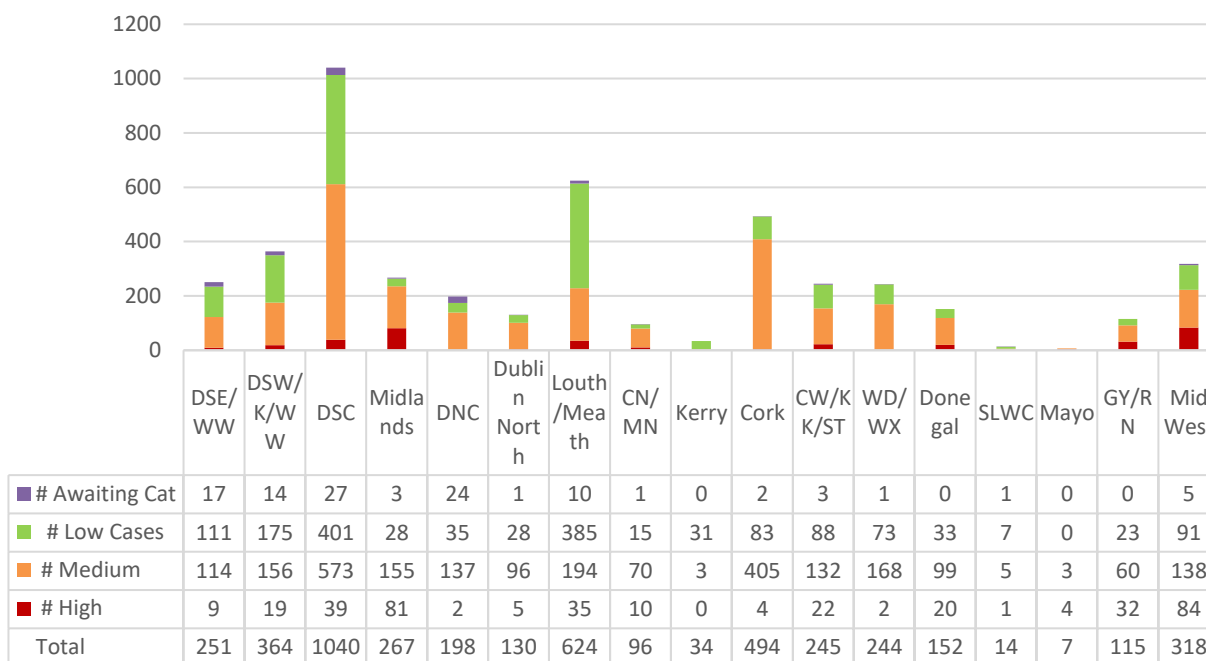
- Dublin South Central reported the highest number of cases awaiting allocation (1,040; 23%) followed by Louth/Meath (624; 14%), Cork (494; 11%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (364; 8%) and Midwest (318; 7%). These five areas account for 62% (2,840) of cases awaiting allocation.
- 5 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from Q4 2023 with the largest increases reported by Louth/Meath (up 223), Galway/Roscommon (up 68), Midlands (up 15) and Donegal (up 14).
- 12 areas reported a decrease with the largest decreases reported by Cork (down 252), Dublin North City (down 250), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 185) and Waterford/Wexford (down 111).

Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area



2.2.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level

- 8% (369) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2024 were categorised as high priority, 79 (18%) fewer than Q4 2023 (448) and 32 (8%) fewer than Q1 2023 (401).
- 55% (2,508) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 35% (1,607) were low priority while the remaining 2% (109) were awaiting categorisation.
- The highest number of high priority cases was reported by Midwest (84) followed by Midlands (81), Dublin South Central (39), Louth/Meath (35) and Galway/Roscommon (32). These five areas account for 73% (271) of all high priority cases awaiting.



2.2.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 60% (2,740/4,593) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2024 were waiting three months or less and of these 53% (1,439) were waiting less than one month.
- 55% (202/369) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q1 2024 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 61% (123) were waiting less than one month.

Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting

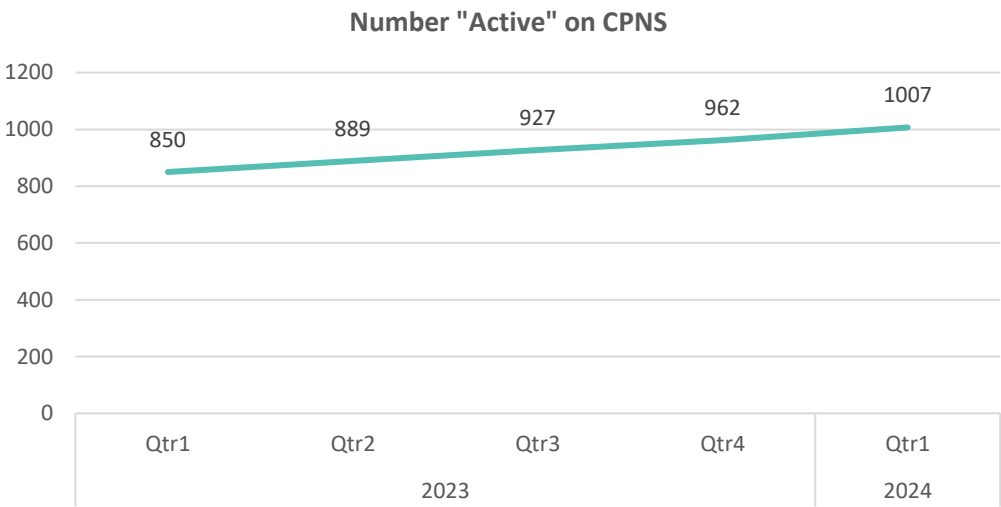
Time Waiting	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024
<1 month	2,432 (41%)	1,827 (32%)	1,759 (33%)	1,683 (32%)	1,439 (31%)
1-3 months	1,684 (28%)	1,920 (34%)	1,347 (25%)	1,578 (30%)	1,301 (28%)
>3 months	1,852 (31%)	1,951 (34%)	2,284 (42%)	2,070 (39%)	1,853 (40%)
Total	5,968 (100%)	5,698 (100%)	5,390 (100%)	5,331 (100%)	4,593 (100%)

2.3 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

KEY FACTS

- 1,007 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of Q1 2024, 45 (5%) more than Q4 2024 (962) and the fifth consecutive increase.
- 157 (18%) more children “active” at the end of Q1 2024 than at the end of Q1 2023 (850).
- 82% (822/1,007) of children were listed as “active” for no longer than 12 months, down slightly from 83% (796/962) at the end of Q4 2023.
- 7% (72/1,007) of children were listed as “active” for > 18 months, down slightly from 8% (73/962) at the end of Q4 2023.
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q1 2024 had an allocated social worker.

- 1,007 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)⁵ at the end of Q1 2024, 45 (5%) more than Q4 2024 (962) and the fifth consecutive increase.
- 157 (18%) more children “active” at the end of Q1 2024 than at the end of Q1 2023 (850).



- The number listed as “active” equates to about 8 children per 10,000 under 18 years and ranges from 4.2/10,000 in Dublin South East/Wicklow to 16.7/10,000 in Dublin North City, double the national average. Seven areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average.
- Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow reported the highest number (119) of children “active”, followed by Midwest (118) and Cork (108). Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan reported the fewest number (13) followed by Kerry (17), Cavan/Monaghan (21) and Mayo (21).

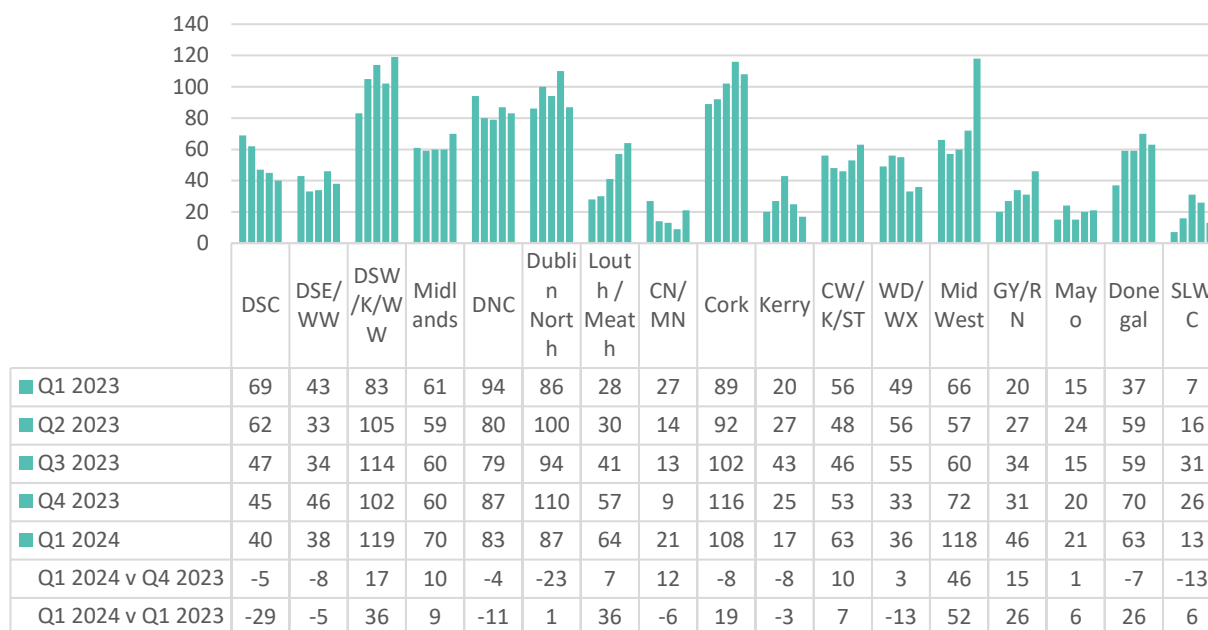
⁵ The CPNS, in accordance with the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2011, is a national record of all children who are the subject of a child protection plan agreed at a child protection conference. The CPNS is accessible to named professional groups subject to strict protocols.

Children listed as 'active' on CPNS per 10,000 population 0-17 years

Area	Q1 2024	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	83	49,682	16.7
Donegal	63	42,144	14.9
Mid West	118	96,764	12.2
DSW/K/WW	119	108,927	10.9
CW/K/ST	63	62,366	10.1
Midlands	70	80,962	8.6
Dublin North	87	103,508	8.4
Cork	108	136,786	7.9
Louth / Meath	64	96,531	6.6
Mayo	21	31,911	6.6
Dublin South Central	40	70,259	5.7
Cavan / Monaghan	21	37,336	5.6
Galway / Roscommon	46	81,799	5.6
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	13	24,312	5.3
Waterford / Wexford	36	69,239	5.2
Kerry	17	34,994	4.9
Dublin South East / Wicklow	38	91,047	4.2
Total	1,007	1,218,567	8.3

- 9/17 areas reported an increase in the number “active” from Q4 2023. The largest increases were reported by Midwest (up 46), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 17) and Galway/Roscommon (up 15).
- 8/17 areas reported a decrease in the number “active” from Q4 2023. The largest decreases were reported by Dublin North (down 23), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (down 13), Kerry (down 8) and Cork (down 8).
- 11/17 areas had more children “active” at the end of Q1 2024 than at the end of Q1 2023. Largest increases reported by Midwest (up 52), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 36) and Louth/Meath (up 36).
- 6/17 areas had fewer children “active” at the end of Q1 2024 than at the end of Q1 2023. Largest decreases reported by Dublin South Central (down 29), Waterford/Wexford (down 13) and Dublin North City (down 11).

"Active" by Area



- 57% (570/1,007) of children listed as “active” at the end of Q1 2024 were listed for 0-6 months, up from 53% (512/962) at the end of Q4 2023.
- 82% (822/1,007) of children were listed as “active” for no longer than 12 months, down slightly from 83% (796/962) at the end of Q4 2023.
- 7% (72/1,007) of children were listed as “active” for > 18 months, down slightly from 8% (73/962) at the end of Q4 2023.
- Six areas (CW/K/ST, Cavan/Monaghan, Kerry, Mayo, Midwest and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) had no child “active” for longer than 18 months.
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q1 2024 had an allocated social worker.

3.0 ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

3.1 Children in Care (Foster Care / Residential Care)

3.2 Aftercare

3.3 Adoption

3.4 Foster Carers

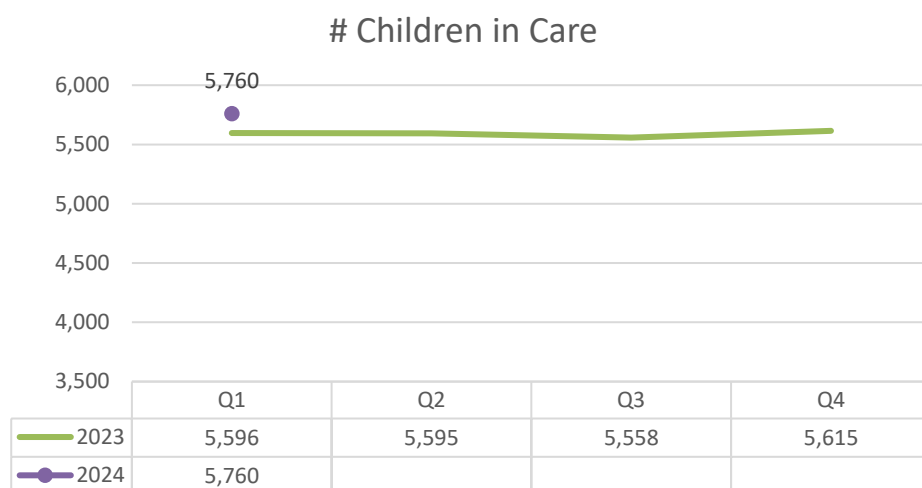
3.1 CHILDREN IN CARE (FOSTER CARE / RESIDENTIAL CARE)

KEY FACTS

- 5,760 children in care at the end of Q1 2024. This figure includes 144 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP). Across the 17 Tusla areas there was one more child in care at the end of Q1 2024 than at the end of Q4 2023 (5,615).
- 87.5% (5,042) of children in care were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q1 2024 and 8.2% (472) were in a residential (general and special care) placement. The remaining 4.3% (246) of children were in “Other” care placements. “Other” includes at home under a care order, supported lodgings, detention centre, disability unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, not specified etc.
- Across the 17 Areas, 89% (5,016/5,616) were in foster care, 7.2% (405) were in residential care and the remaining 3.5% (195) were in “other” care placements.
- 891 (15%) children in care at the end of Q1 2024 were in placements with private providers. Across the 17 areas there were 8 (1%) more children in placements with private providers at the end of Q1 2024 (836) than at the end of Q4 2023 (828).
- 83% (4,777) of children in care at the end of Q1 2024 had an allocated social worker. A total of 983 (17%) children were awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of Q1 2024.
- 80% (4,627) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan. A total of 1,133 (20%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan.
- 97% (3,588/3,720) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023.
- 93% (884/950) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023.

3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 5,760 children in care at the end of Q1 2024. *This figure includes 144 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.* Across the 17 Tusla areas there was one more child in care at the end of Q1 2024 than at the end of Q4 2023 (5,615).



Data for 2023 does not include children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection

- Across the 17 areas the number of children in care ranged from 690 in Cork to 112 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years (9.5), more than double the national rate, followed by Waterford/Wexford (6.1), Donegal (5.1) and Midwest (5.1). Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.3) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.6) and Dublin North (3.9).

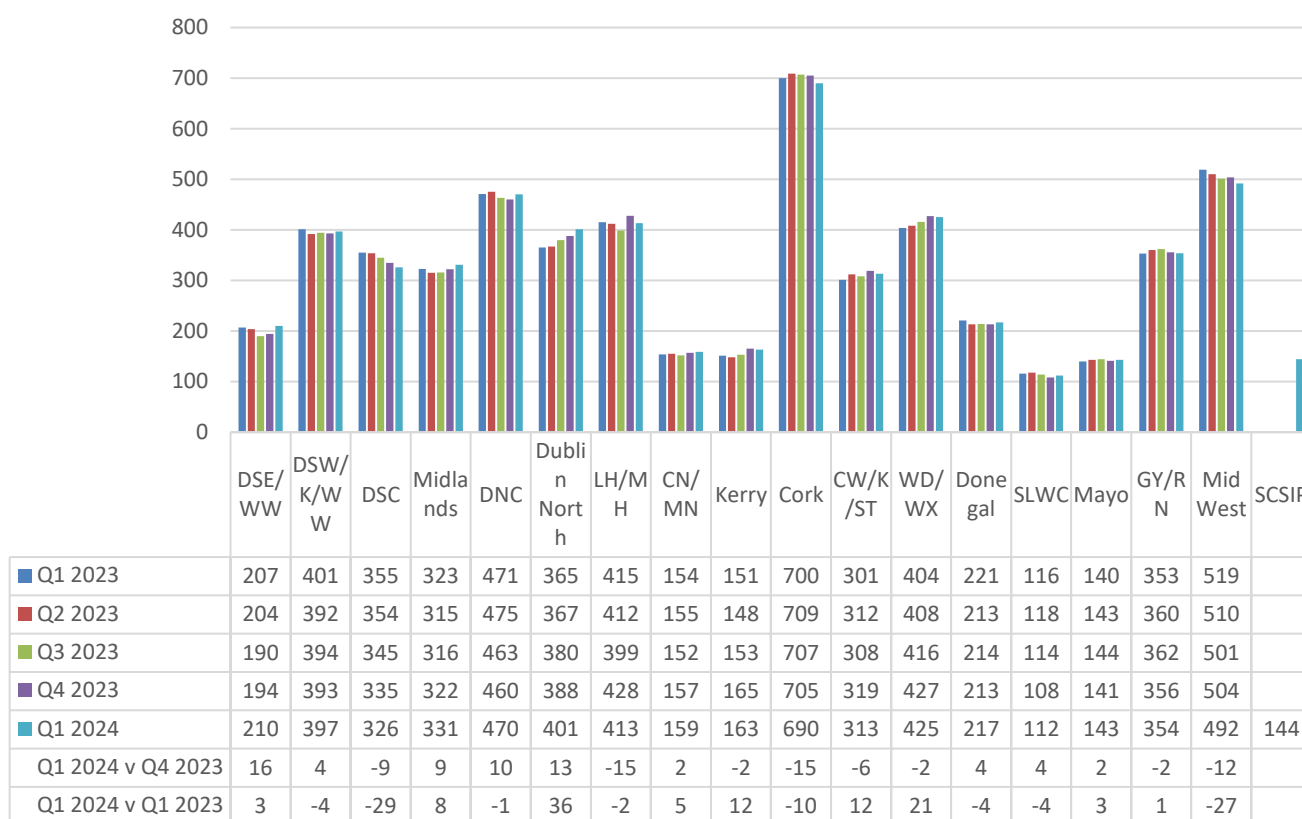
Number of children in care and rate per 1,000 population 0-17 years (ranked by rate)

Area	# Children in care Q1 2024	0-17 population (Census 2022)	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
Dublin North City	470	49,682	9.5
Waterford/Wexford	425	69,239	6.1
Donegal	217	42,144	5.1
Midwest	492	96,764	5.1
Cork	690	136,786	5.0
CW/KK/ST	313	62,366	5.0
Kerry	163	34,994	4.7
Dublin South Central	326	70,259	4.6
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	112	24,312	4.6
Mayo	143	31,911	4.5
Galway/Roscommon	354	81,799	4.3
Louth/Meath	413	96,531	4.3
Cavan/Monaghan	159	37,336	4.3
Midlands	331	80,962	4.1
Dublin North	401	103,508	3.9
DSW/K/WW	397	108,927	3.6
Dublin South East/Wicklow	210	91,047	2.3
Total Areas	5,616	1,218,567	4.6

- 9 areas reported an increase in children in care from Q4 2023. Largest increases reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 16), Dublin North (up 13) and Dublin North City (up 10).

- 8 areas reported a decrease in children in care from Q4 2023, with the largest decreases reported by Cork (down 15), Louth/Meath (down 15) and Midwest (down 12).
- 9 areas had more children in care at the end of Q1 2024 than at the end of Q1 2023, largest increases reported by Dublin North (up 36), Waterford/Wexford (up 21), Kerry (up 12) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (up 12).
- 8 areas reported a decrease with the largest decreases reported by Dublin South Central (down 29), Midwest (down 27) and Cork (down 10).

Breakdown of the number of children in care in each area



Number of Children in Care, by Care Type

- 87.5% (5,042) of children in care were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q1 2024 and 8.2% (472) were in a residential (general and special care) placement. The remaining 4.3% (246) of children were in “Other” care placements. “Other” includes at home under a care order, supported lodgings, detention centre, disability unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, not specified etc.
- Across the 17 Areas, 89% (5,016/5,616) were in foster care, 7.2% (405) were in residential care and the remaining 3.5% (195) were in “other” care placements.

Breakdown of the number of children in care by care type and quarter

	Foster Care General	Δ+/- prev Q	Foster Care Relative	Δ+/- prev Q	Residential Care Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	Residential Special	Δ+/- prev Q	Other Care	Δ+/- prev Q	Total	Δ+/- prev Q
Q1 2023	3,566		1,492		376		12		150		5,596	
Q2 2023	3,573	+7	1,485	-7	372	-4	15	+3	150	0	5,595	-1
Q3 2023	3,517	-56	1,476	-9	383	+11	14	-1	168	+18	5,558	-37
Q4 2023	3,560	+43	1,474	-2	397	+14	13	-1	171	+3	5,615	+57
Q1 2024	3,571		1,471		457		15		246		5,760	

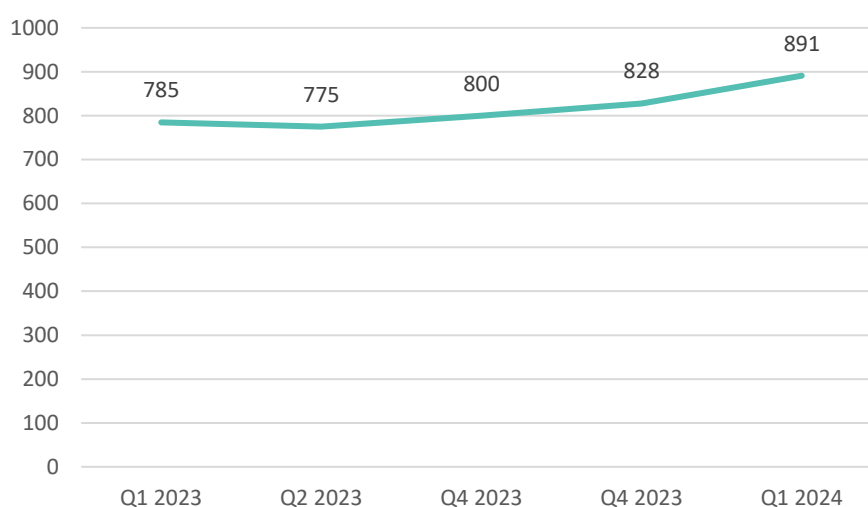
Data for 2023 does not include children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection, hence data for 2024 is not comparable with data for 2023.

- 16 (0.3%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023. These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in the table above.

3.1.2 Children in Placements with Private Providers

- 891 (15%) children in care at the end of Q1 2024 were in placements with private providers⁶. Across the 17 areas there were 8 (1%) more children in placements with private providers at the end of Q1 2024 (836) than at the end of Q4 2023 (828). *Note: data for 2023 does not include children reported under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*

Number of children in placements with private providers

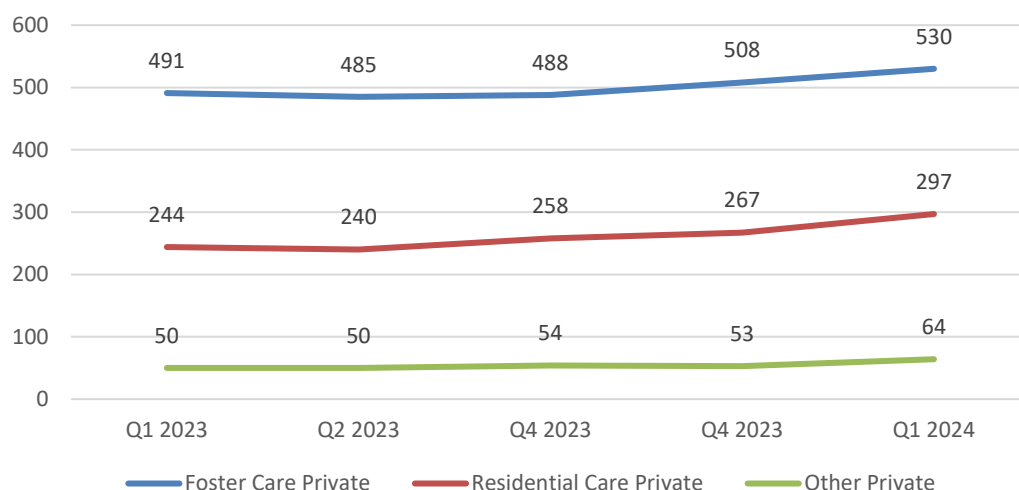


Note: data for 2023 does not include children reported under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.

- 59% (530) of children in placements with private providers were in foster care and 33% (297) were in residential placements. The remaining 7% (64) were in “Other” care placements. “Other” care placements include, disability units, mental health units, drugs and alcohol rehabilitation centres etc.

⁶ The number of children in private placements is included in the children in care figures presented in sections 3.1.1 / 3.1.2.

Number of children in placements with private providers, by care type



Note: data for 2023 does not include children reported under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection

- The highest number of children in care in placements with private providers is reported by Dublin North City (112) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare West Wicklow (107), Dublin South Central (107), Dublin North (98) and Midlands (70). These five areas account for 55% (494) of all children in placements with private providers.
- 8 areas reported an increase from Q4 2023 in children in placements with private providers with the largest increases reported by Dublin North City (up 10), Midlands (up 5) and Kerry (up 3). Of the seven areas that reported a decrease, the largest decrease was reported by Cork (down 5) followed by Galway/Roscommon (down 4). The remaining two areas (Dublin South Central and Mayo) reported no change.

Number of children in placements with private providers, by area

Area	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q1 v Q4
Dublin North City	102	112	10
DSW/K/WW	106	107	1
Dublin South Central	107	107	0
Dublin North	97	98	1
Midlands	65	70	5
Cork	63	58	-5
Dublin South East/Wicklow	50	52	2
Louth/Meath	50	47	-3
Waterford/Wexford	45	47	2
Midwest	36	34	-2
Kerry	29	32	3
CW/KK/ST	21	22	1
Donegal	22	21	-1
Galway/Roscommon	16	12	-4
SLWC	12	11	-1
Cavan/Monaghan	*	*	-1
Mayo	*	*	0
SCSIP Service	NA	55	NA
Total	828	891	8

*Figures suppressed due to small numbers. Suppressed figures included in totals.

3.1.3 Children in Care with an Allocated Social Worker

- 83% (4,777) of children in care at the end of Q1 2024 had an allocated social worker.
- 983 (17%) children were awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of Q1 2024.

Children in care (CIC) with an allocated social worker (SW) by care type

Care Type	CIC Q4 2023	No with SW Q4 2023	% with SW Q4 2023	CIC Q1 2024	No with SW Q1 2024	% with SW Q1 2024
Foster Care (General)	3,560	2,888	81%	3,571	2,980	83%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,474	1,132	77%	1,471	1,172	80%
Residential Care (General)	397	371	93%	457	410	90%
Residential Special Care	13	13	100%	15	15	100%
Other Placements	171	156	91%	246	200	81%
Total	5,615	4,560	81%	5,760	4,777	83%

Data for 2023 does not include children reported under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection

- The percentage with an allocated social worker ranged from 39% (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary) to 100% (Dublin North City, Donegal and Mayo). Nine areas reported 90% or higher.
- The area with the highest number of children awaiting an allocated social worker is Midwest (199; 40%) followed by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (190; 61%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (136; 34%), Dublin South Central (99; 30%) and the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (66; 46%). These five areas account for 70% (690) of all cases awaiting allocation.

Number of children in care with an allocated social worker

Area	No in Care Q4 2023	No with an allocated SW Q4 2023	% with an allocated SW Q4 2023	No in Care Q1 2023	No with an allocated SW Q1 2023	% with an allocated SW Q1 2023	# awaiting SW
DSE/WW	194	188	97%	210	209	99.6%	1
DSW/K/WW	393	255	65%	397	261	66%	136
DSC	335	241	72%	326	227	70%	99
Midlands	322	257	80%	331	267	81%	64
DNC	460	458	99%	470	470	100%	0
Dublin North	388	358	92%	401	378	94%	23
LH/MH	428	315	74%	413	350	85%	63
CN/MN	157	132	84%	159	138	87%	21
Kerry	165	144	87%	163	145	89%	18
Cork	705	670	95%	690	672	97%	18
CW/KK/ST	319	113	35%	313	123	39%	190
WD/WX	427	376	88%	425	383	90%	42
Donegal	213	213	100%	217	217	100%	0
SLWC	108	88	81%	112	104	93%	8
Mayo	141	141	100%	143	143	100%	0
GY/RN	356	330	93%	354	319	90%	35
Midwest	504	281	56%	492	293	60%	199
SCSIP Service	NA	NA	NA	144	78	54%	66
Total	5,615	4,560	81%	5,760	4,777	83%	983

Children in Care with an Up-To-Date Care Plan

- 80% (4,627) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan.
- A total of 1,133 (20%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan.

Number of children in care (CIC) with a care plan by care type

Care Type	CIC Q4 2023	No. with UTD CP Q4 2023	% with UTD CP Q4 2023	CIC Q1 2024	No. with UTD CP Q1 2024	% with UTD CP Q1 2024
Foster Care General	3,560	2,779	78%	3,571	2,936	82%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,474	1,108	75%	1,471	1,224	83%
Residential Care General	397	256	64%	457	317	69%
Residential Special Care	13	6	46%	15	10	67%
Other Placements	171	110	64%	246	140	57%
Total	5,615	4,259	76%	5,760	4,627	80%

Data for 2023 does not include children reported under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection

- The percentage of children with an up-to-date care plan ranged from 96% (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary) to 49% (Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection).
- The areas with the highest numbers of children awaiting an up-to-date plan are Dublin North City (143; 30%), Midwest (142; 29%), Cork (117; 17%), Midlands (102; 31%), Louth/Meath (97; 23%) and Dublin South Central (87; 27%). These six areas account for 61% (688) of children awaiting an up-to-date care plan.

Breakdown of the number of children in care with a care plan

Area	No in Care Q4 2023	No with a care plan Q4 2023	% with a care plan Q4 2023	No in Care Q1 2024	No with a care plan Q1 2024	% with a care plan Q1 2024	# Awaiting a Plan
DSE/WW	194	153	79%	210	169	80%	41
DSW/K/WW	393	275	70%	397	331	83%	66
DSC	335	215	64%	326	239	73%	87
Midlands	322	228	71%	331	229	69%	102
DNC	460	288	63%	470	327	70%	143
Dublin North	388	323	83%	401	348	87%	53
LH/MH	428	277	65%	413	316	77%	97
CN/MN	157	119	76%	159	141	89%	18
Kerry	165	128	78%	163	123	75%	40
Cork	705	576	82%	690	573	83%	117
CW/KK/ST	319	291	91%	313	300	96%	13
WD/WX	427	311	73%	425	395	93%	30
Donegal	213	200	94%	217	201	93%	16
SLWC	108	71	66%	112	100	89%	12
Mayo	141	129	91%	143	131	92%	12
GY/RN	356	285	80%	354	283	80%	71
Midwest	504	390	77%	492	350	71%	142
SCSIP Service	NA	NA	NA	144	71	49%	73
Total	5,615	4,259	76%	5,760	4,627	80%	1,133

3.1.4 Children in Care in Education

- 97% (3,588/3,720) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023.
- All but one area (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow) reporting 90% or higher.
- 67% (2,404) of children 6-15 years were in primary school, 27% (980) were in post primary school and 4% (142) were in special education. There were a further 62 (2%) spread across boarding school, education training facility, home tuition, pre-school and Other (not specified).
- 93% (884/950) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023.
- 12/17 reporting 90% or higher. Lowest percentages reported by Dublin North City (88%) and Dublin South Central (88%).
- 84% (739) of young people 16 & 17 years were in post primary school, 8% (72) were in special education and 5% (41) were attending an educational training facility. There were a further 32 (4%) spread across boarding school, home tuition, third level and other (not specified).

Children in care 6 -15 years, in full time education

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q4 2023	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2023	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2023	No of CIC 6-15 years Q1 2024	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2024	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2024
DSE/WW	131	126	96%	129	122	94.6%
DSW/K/WW	257	228	89%	260	228	87.7%
DSC	219	205	94%	213	195	91.5%
Midlands	221	216	98%	235	233	99.1%
Dublin North City	290	285	98%	290	277	95.5%
Dublin North	279	259	93%	293	267	91.1%
LH/MH	284	277	98%	279	277	99.3%
CN/MN	105	105	100%	110	110	100.0%
Kerry	104	102	98%	103	101	98.1%
Cork	470	462	98%	464	459	98.9%
CW/K/ST	210	209	99.9%	203	202	99.5%
WD/WX	274	265	97%	269	259	96.3%
Donegal	138	132	96%	138	133	96.4%
SLWC	75	74	99%	77	72	93.5%
Mayo	89	87	98%	89	88	98.9%
GY/RN	231	228	99%	230	229	99.6%
Mid West	348	345	99%	338	336	99.4%
Total	3,725	3,605	97%	3,720	3,588	96.5%

Children in care 16 and 17 years, in full time education

Area	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q4 2023	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2023	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2023	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q1 2024	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q1 2024	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q1 2024
DSE/WW	41	39	95.1%	53	47	88.7%
DSW/K/WW	58	52	89.7%	65	58	89.2%
DSC	59	52	88.1%	57	50	87.7%
Midlands	52	49	94.2%	45	42	93.3%
DNC	81	71	87.7%	80	70	87.5%
Dublin North	54	47	87.0%	47	42	89.4%
LH/MH	61	58	95.1%	57	54	94.7%
CN/MN	31	29	93.5%	28	27	96.4%
Kerry	26	26	100.0%	24	24	100.0%
Cork	143	133	93.0%	135	128	94.8%
CW/K/ST	43	43	100.0%	48	47	97.9%
WD/WX	76	73	96.1%	81	78	96.3%
Donegal	35	34	97.1%	34	32	94.1%
SLWC	19	16	84.2%	19	17	89.5%
Mayo	21	20	95.2%	21	20	95.2%
GY/RN	75	69	92.0%	71	65	91.5%
Mid West	86	81	94.2%	85	83	97.6%
Total	961	892	92.8%	950	884	93.1%

3.2 AFTERCARE

KEY FACTS

- 128 referrals for an aftercare service in Q1 2024.
- 2,932 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2024, 28 (1%) more than Q4 2023 (2,904) and 29 (1%) fewer than Q1 2023 (2,961).
- 76% (1,673/2,207) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q1 2024 were in education/accredited training.
- 81% (2,388) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2024 had an aftercare plan, down two percentage point from Q4 2023 (83%). A total of 544 were awaiting a plan, 63 (13%) more than Q4 2023 (481).
- 90% (2,035/2,265) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023. A total of 230 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2024, eight more than Q4 2023 (222).
- 98% (269/274) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2024.
- 89% (1,766/1,991) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2024.

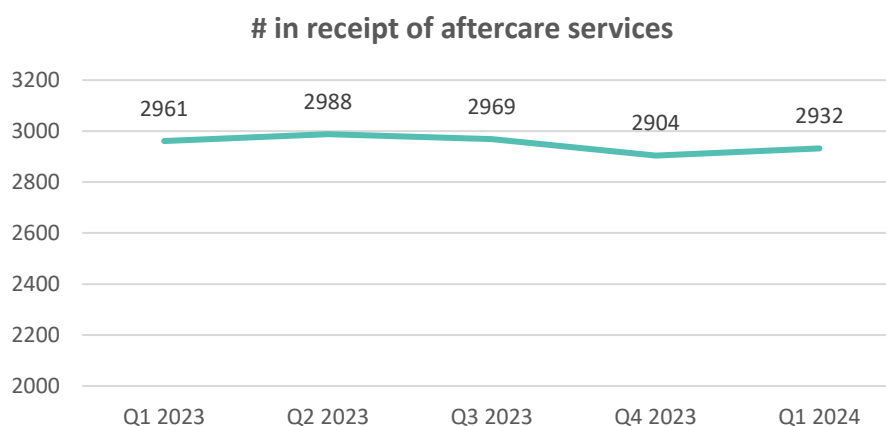
3.2.1 Referrals for an aftercare service received in the quarter

- 128 referrals for an aftercare service in Q1 2024.
- 100% (128) of referrals for Q1 2024 were eligible for an assessment of need.
- Of those eligible for an assessment of need 98% (126) were < 18 years and in care.
- 118 assessments of need were completed in Q1 2024.

Area	2023	Q1 2024
Dublin South Central	23	4
Dublin South East/Wicklow	20	7
DSW/K/WW	28	12
Midlands	25	3
Dublin North City	51	8
Dublin North	17	0
Louth/Meath	25	13
Cavan/Monaghan	17	3
Cork	73	16
Kerry	13	1
CW/K/ST	22	4
Waterford/Wexford	40	9
Mid West	57	13
Galway/Roscommon	25	14
Mayo	12	1
Donegal	14	3
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	11	5
SCSIP Service	50	12
Total	523	128

3.2.2 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of an aftercare service

- 2,932 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2024, 28 (1%) more than Q4 2023 (2,904) and 29 (1%) fewer than Q1 2023 (2,961). *Figures includes young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*



- Highest number in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2024 reported by Cork (355) followed by Dublin North City (262) and Midwest (248). Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (51) followed by Cavan/Monaghan (76) and Mayo (78).

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2023	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2023	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2023	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2024
Dublin South Central	206	209	187	178
Dublin South East/Wicklow	132	125	128	135
DSW/K/WW	217	225	228	208
Midlands	172	156	139	142
Dublin North City	274	266	268	262
Dublin North	160	163	137	153
Louth/Meath	139	135	134	156
Cavan/Monaghan	76	80	83	76
Cork	354	357	345	355
Kerry	84	84	79	81
CW/K/ST	172	172	169	163
Waterford/Wexford	193	190	193	189
Mid West	250	244	244	248
Galway/Roscommon	209	213	219	217
Mayo	77	74	77	78
Donegal	96	95	91	96
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	43	40	42	51
SCSIP Service	134	141	141	144
Total	2,988	2,969	2,904	2,932

3.2.3 Young adults 18-20 years (inclusive) in receipt of an aftercare service

- 54% (1,596) of those in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q1 2024 (2,932) were 18 – 20 years inclusive and of these 76% (1,220) were in education/accredited training, no change from Q4 2023 (table below).
- 11/17 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported at least seven out of 10 young people (18-20 years) in receipt of aftercare services in education/accredited training. One area (Dublin South East/Wicklow) reported 100%.
- Rates reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (54%), Cavan/Monaghan (60%) and Dublin South Central (60%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 18-20 years Q4 2023	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 18-20 years Q1 2024	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
Dublin South Central	112	71	63%	110	66	60%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	68	68	100%	70	70	100%
DSW/K/WW	117	69	59%	117	63	54%
Midlands	64	49	77%	63	54	86%
Dublin North City	142	103	73%	139	95	68%
Dublin North	96	72	75%	97	66	68%
Louth/Meath	97	61	63%	99	68	69%
Cavan/Monaghan	45	41	91%	47	28	60%
Cork	167	131	78%	172	140	81%
Kerry	42	34	81%	43	34	79%
CW/K/ST	75	67	89%	78	65	83%
Waterford/Wexford	104	75	72%	98	70	71%
Mid West	147	108	73%	150	139	93%
Galway/Roscommon	106	85	80%	109	88	81%
Mayo	34	33	97%	35	29	83%
Donegal	55	42	76%	49	41	84%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	25	19	76%	27	21	78%
SCSIP Service	96	87	91%	93	83	89%
Total	1,592	1,215	76%	1,596	1,220	76%

- The highest number of those in education/accredited training were in second level (381; 31%) followed by third level (248; 20%) and PLCs (215; 18%).

	# 18-20 years in education/accredited Training Q1 2024	%
Second Level	381	31%
Vocational Training	146	12%
PLCs	215	18%
Third Level College / University	248	20%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	143	12%
Other	87	7%
Total	1,220	100%

3.2.4 Young adults 21-22 years (inclusive) in receipt of aftercare services

- 21% (611) of those in receipt of an aftercare service (2,932) were 21 – 22 years inclusive and of these 74% (453) were in education/accredited training, up from 72% at the end of Q4 2023 (table below).
- 11/17 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported 70% or higher with five of these areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Cavan/Monaghan, Midwest, Donegal and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (53%), Dublin South Central (53%) and Waterford/Wexford (58%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 21-22 years Q4 2023	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 21-22 years Q1 2024	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
Dublin South Central	38	27	71%	40	21	53%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	22	22	100%	26	26	100%
DSW/K/WW	71	33	46%	43	23	53%
Midlands	31	24	77%	41	32	78%
Dublin North City	74	51	69%	63	50	79%
Dublin North	15	14	93%	25	24	96%
Louth/Meath	13	13	100%	15	14	93%
Cavan/Monaghan	13	9	69%	10	10	100%
Cork	68	46	68%	73	50	68%
Kerry	16	11	69%	17	13	76%
CW/K/ST	54	43	80%	48	32	67%
Waterford/Wexford	33	21	64%	31	18	58%
Mid West	47	43	91%	41	41	100%
Galway/Roscommon	75	42	56%	68	41	60%
Mayo	22	22	100%	17	14	82%
Donegal	12	11	92%	15	15	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	8	7	88%	7	7	100%
SCSIP Service	24	22	92%	31	22	71%
Total	636	461	72%	611	453	74%

- 48% (217) of those in education/accredited training were in third level colleges with a further 19% (85) in accredited training and 18% (80) in PLCs.

	# 21-22 years in education/accredited Training Q1 2024	%
Second Level	8	2%
Vocational Training	50	11%
PLCs	80	18%
Third Level College / University	217	48%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	85	19%
Other	13	3%
Total	453	100%

3.2.5 Young adults 18-22 years (inclusive) in receipt of an aftercare service – accommodation

- Almost half (48%; 1,051) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,207) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 9% (201) had returned home to parents/family. One in five (21%; 454) was in independent living.

Accommodation	# 18-22 placement type Q1 2024	%
Residential Care Placement	179	8%
Remained with Carers	1,051	48%
Independent Living	454	21%
Designated Care Leavers Accommodation	30	1%
At home	201	9%
Supported Lodgings	41	2%
Other	251	11%
Total	2,207	100%

3.2.6 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of aftercare services with an Aftercare Plan

- 81% (2,388) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q1 2024 had an aftercare plan, down two percentage point from Q4 2023 (83%). A total of 544 were awaiting a plan, 63 (13%) greater than Q4 2023 (481).
- 12 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a percentage equal to or higher the national average of 81%. Rates reported by Louth/Meath (53%), Dublin South Central (74%), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (75%) and Cork (75%) lower than all other areas.
- 96% (2,112/2,207) of those 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service had a plan. 38% (276/725) of those <18 years had a plan.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2023	# with an Aftercare Plan Q4 2023	% with an Aftercare Plan Q4 2023	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2024	# with an Aftercare Plan Q1 2024	% with an Aftercare Plan Q1 2024
Dublin South Central	187	138	74%	178	131	74%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	128	123	96%	135	135	100%
DSW/K/WW	228	205	90%	208	177	85%
Midlands	139	129	93%	142	126	89%
Dublin North City	268	212	79%	262	198	76%
Dublin North	137	119	87%	153	127	83%
Louth/Meath	134	84	63%	156	82	53%
Cavan/Monaghan	83	75	90%	76	66	87%
Cork	345	259	75%	355	265	75%
Kerry	79	66	84%	81	67	83%
CW/K/ST	169	134	79%	163	134	82%
Waterford/Wexford	193	155	80%	189	155	82%
Mid West	244	230	94%	248	232	94%

Galway/Roscommon	219	173	79%	217	178	82%
Mayo	77	77	100%	78	64	82%
Donegal	91	80	88%	96	78	81%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	42	31	74%	51	38	75%
SCSIP Service	141	133	94%	144	135	94%
Total	2,904	2,423	83%	2,932	2,388	81%

3.2.7 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of aftercare services with an Aftercare Worker

- 95% (2,265/2,388) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker. Thirteen areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported 100%.
- Percentages reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (62%) and Midlands (76%) lower than all other areas. *Some areas advised that young persons/adults who are settled and doing well are moved to the drop-in service (i.e., assessed as not needing an allocated social worker). With a reduction in staff this allows the service to prioritise those with greatest need for allocation to a social worker.*
- 90% (2,035/2,265) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2021, no change from Q4 2023. A total of 230 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2024, eight more than Q4 2023 (222).
- 98% (269/274) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2024.
- 89% (1,766/1,991) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q1 2024.
- 12 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 90% with 11 of them reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South Central (46%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (66%) and Midwest (78%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# with a Plan Q1 2024	# Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q1 2024	% Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q1 2024	# with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q1 2024	% with an Aftercare Worker Q1 2024	% with an Aftercare Worker Q1 2024
Dublin South Central	131	131	100%	60	46%	48%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	135	135	100%	135	100%	100%
DSW/K/WW	177	148	84%	97	66%	61%
Midlands	126	96	76%	96	100%	100%
Dublin North City	198	198	100%	198	100%	100%
Dublin North	127	127	100%	126	99%	100%
Louth/Meath	82	82	100%	82	100%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	66	53	80%	53	100%	100%
Cork	265	265	100%	237	89%	95%

Kerry	67	67	100%	67	100%	100%
CW/K/ST	134	83	62%	72	87%	73%
Waterford/Wexford	155	155	100%	139	90%	100%
Mid West	232	232	100%	180	78%	81%
Galway/Roscommon	178	178	100%	178	100%	100%
Mayo	64	64	100%	64	100%	100%
Donegal	78	78	100%	78	100%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	38	38	100%	38	100%	100%
SCSIP Service	135	135	100%	135	100%	100%
Total	2,388	2,265	95%	2,035	90%	90%

3.2.8 Drop-in Service

- All areas reported having a drop-in service.

3.2.9 Interagency Aftercare Steering Committee

- All areas reported having an interagency aftercare steering committee.

3.3 ADOPTION SERVICES

KEY FACTS

Adoption

- 47 new children referred for adoption during Q1 2024. At least 216 new children referred for adoption in 2023. Data for Q1 and Q2 2023 incomplete.
- 44 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q1 2024. Of these, 20 (45%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 7 (16%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 17 (39%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

3.3.1 Adoption Assessments

- 47 new children referred for adoption during Q1 2024. At least 216 new children referred for adoption in 2023. *Data for Q1 and Q2 2023 incomplete.*
- 44 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q1 2024. Of these, 20 (45%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 7 (16%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 17 (39%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

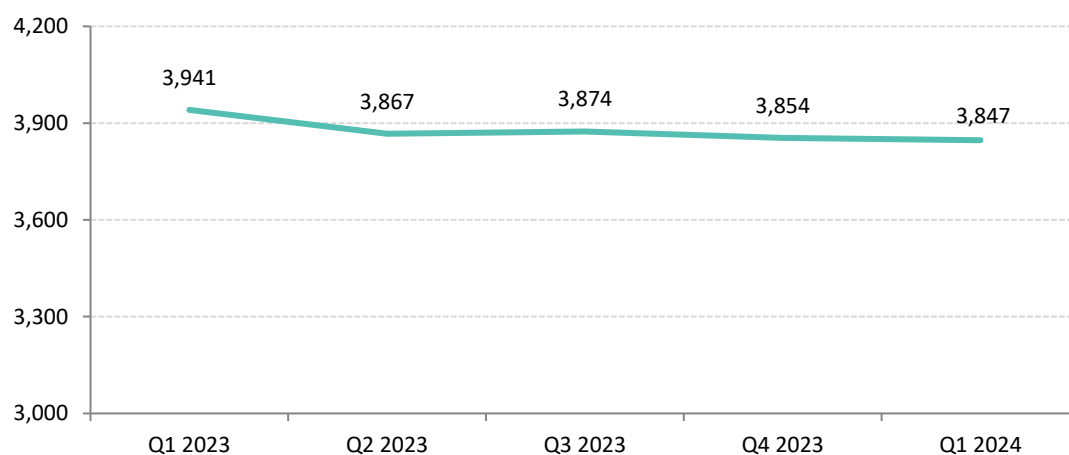
3.4 FOSTER CARERS

KEY FACTS

- 3,847 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q1 2024, seven (<1%) fewer than Q4 2023 (3,854) and 94 (2%) fewer than Q1 2023 (3,941).
- 56 Tusla foster carers (general & relative) and 14 private foster carers approved in Q1 2024.
- 15 applicants to be general foster carers awaiting assessment at the end of Q1 2024 with a further 13 applicants awaiting approval by the foster care committee.
- 61 applications for general foster care and 120 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q1 2024.
- 94% (2,072) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2024, up one percentage point from Q4 2023 (93%)
- 144 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 12 (8%) fewer than Q4 2023 (156).
- 95% (945) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023.
- 53 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023.
- 95% (180) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. A total of 10 carers were awaiting a link worker, three fewer than Q4 2023 (13). The 10 carers were reported across three areas.

3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 3,847 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q1 2024, seven (<1%) fewer than Q4 2023 (3,854) and 94 (2%) fewer than Q1 2023 (3,941).
- 224 unapproved relative foster carers at the end of Q1 2024 of which 85% (190) had a child placed for >12 weeks. 82% (998/1,222) of relative foster carers are approved.



Number of approved foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation)

- 58% (2,216) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 26% (998), while private foster carers account for the remaining 16% (633).
- The number of general foster carers (2,216) is down 11 (<1%) from Q4 2023 (2,227) and 98 (4%) from Q1 2023 (2,314), quarter on quarter decrease. Relative foster carers (998) are up two from Q4 2023 (996) and down 18 (2%) from Q1 2023 (1,016). Private foster carers (633) are up two (<1%) from Q4 2023 (631) and up 22 (4%) from Q1 2023 (611).

Breakdown of foster carers by type

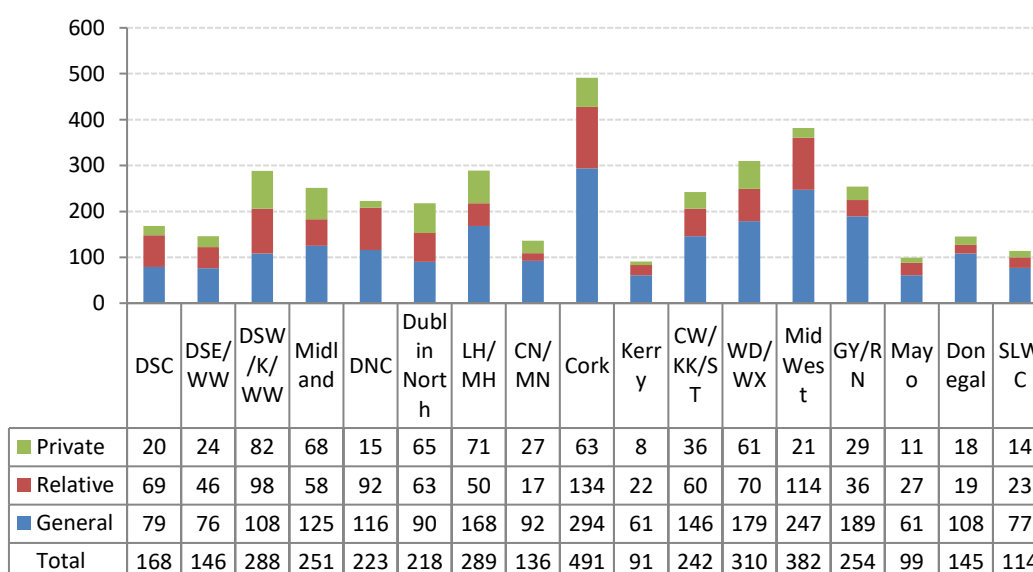
Foster Carers	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Δ (+/-) Q1 2024 v Q4 2023
General (Approved)	2,314	2,255	2,231	2,227	2,216	-11
Relative (Approved)	1,016	1,002	1,015	996	998	2
Private (Approved)	611	610	628	631	633	2
Total Approved	3,941	3,867	3,874	3,854	3,847	-7
Relative (Unapproved)	217	241	257	245	224	-21

- 56 Tusla foster carers (general & relative) and 14 private foster carers approved in Q1 2024.
- 15 applicants to be general foster carers awaiting assessment at the end of Q1 2024 with a further 13 applicants awaiting approval by the foster care committee.
- 61 applications for general foster care and 120 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q1 2024.

3.4.2 Foster carers approved and on the Panel of Approved Foster Carers

- The number of foster carers approved (all types) and on the panel at the end of Q1 2024, ranged from 491 in Cork to 91 in Kerry

Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q1 2024



- 8 areas reported an increase from Q4 2023 in the number of foster carers on the panel. Largest increases reported by Louth/Meath (up 18) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 10).
- 9 areas reported a decrease from Q4 2023. The largest decreases were reported by Dublin North City (down 20) and Cork (down 15).

Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types)

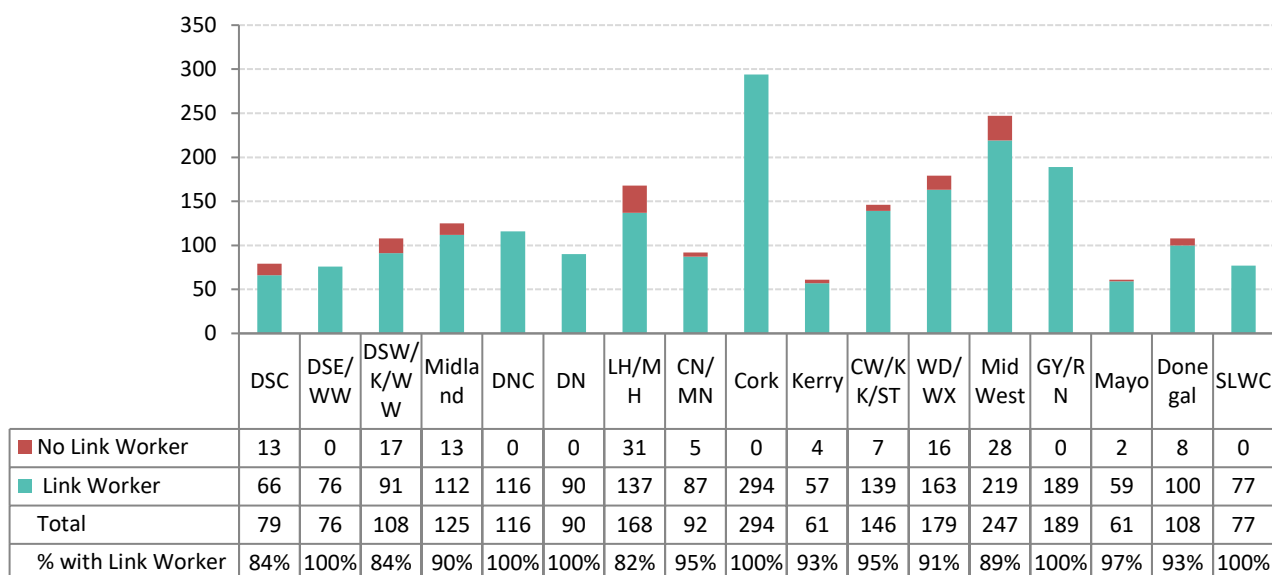
Area	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2023	Δ (+/-) Q1 2024 v Q4 2023
Dublin South Central	181	180	170	170	168	-2
Dublin South East/Wicklow	154	141	151	136	146	10
DSW/K/WW	304	293	297	289	288	-1
Midlands	244	244	246	257	251	-6
Dublin North City	247	251	244	243	223	-20
Dublin North	212	213	219	216	218	2
Louth/Meath	305	280	272	271	289	18
Cavan/Monaghan	140	130	133	137	136	-1
Cork	491	488	501	506	491	-15
Kerry	89	85	84	88	91	3
CW/K/ST	248	237	249	239	242	3
Waterford/Wexford	321	319	310	308	310	2
Mid West	380	391	387	384	382	-2
Galway/Roscommon	271	264	259	257	254	-3
Mayo	100	97	100	100	99	-1
Donegal	153	148	147	143	145	2
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	101	106	105	110	114	4
Total	3,941	3,867	3,874	3,854	3,847	-7

- 94% (2,072) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2024, up one percentage point from Q4 2023 (93%)
- 144 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 12 (8%) fewer than Q4 2023 (156).
- 13/17 areas reported 90% or higher with six of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Louth/Meath (82%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (84%) and Dublin South Central (84%) lower than all other areas.
- Louth/Meath has the highest number of general foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker (31) followed by Midwest (28).

General foster carers (approved) with/awaiting link social worker

Area	With Link Worker Q4 2023	Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2023	% With Link Worker Q4 2023	With Link Worker Q1 2024	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2024	% With Link Worker Q1 2024	Δ +/- No. Awaiting LW Q1 2024 v Q4 2023
Dublin South Central	62	20	76%	66	13	84%	-7
Dublin South East/Wicklow	76	0	100%	76	0	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	88	27	77%	91	17	84%	-10
Midlands	119	14	89%	112	13	90%	-1
Dublin North City	101	18	85%	116	0	100%	-18
Dublin North	89	0	100%	90	0	100%	0
Louth/Meath	129	19	87%	137	31	82%	12
Cavan/Monaghan	81	8	91%	87	5	95%	-3
Cork	304	0	100%	294	0	100%	0
Kerry	58	0	100%	57	4	93%	4
CW/K/ST	137	8	94%	139	7	95%	-1
Waterford/Wexford	178	1	99%	163	16	91%	15
Mid West	228	24	90%	219	28	89%	4
Galway/Roscommon	192	0	100%	189	0	100%	0
Mayo	58	6	91%	59	2	97%	-4
Donegal	97	10	91%	100	8	93%	-2
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	74	1	99%	77	0	100%	-1
Total	2,071	156	93%	2072	144	94%	-12

General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q1 2024



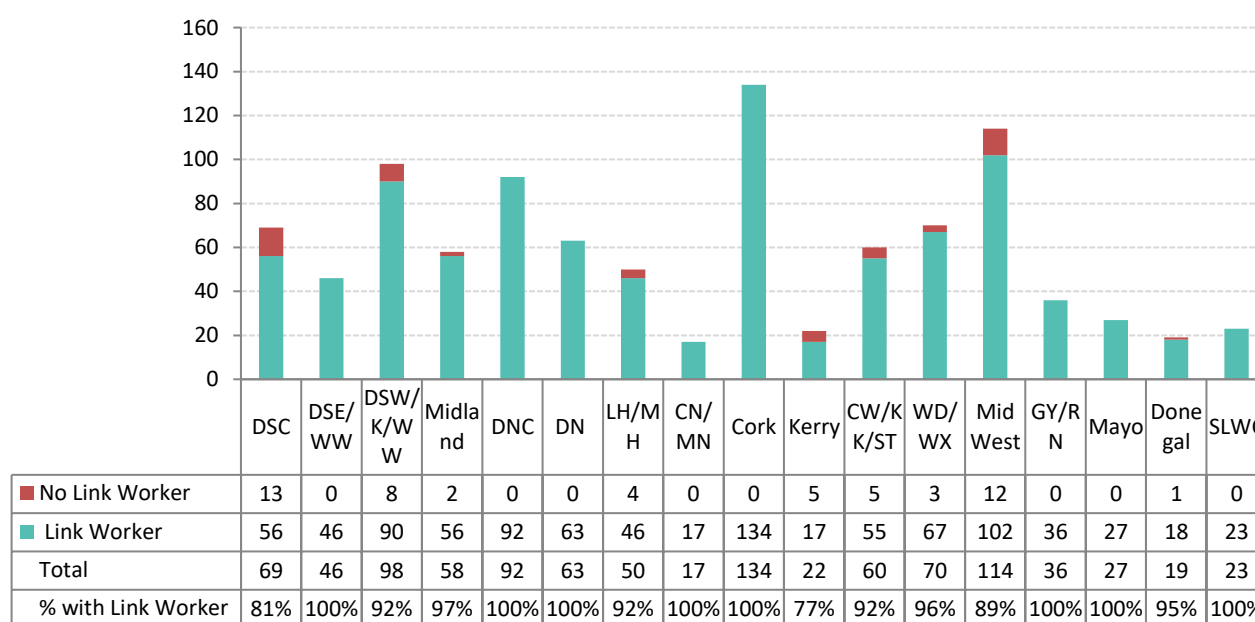
- 95% (945) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023.
- 53 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023.

- 14/17 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with eight of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Kerry (77%) and Dublin South Central (81%) lower than all other areas.
- Dublin South Central reported the highest number of relative foster carers on the panel awaiting a link (social) worker (13) followed by Midwest (12).

Relative foster carers (approved) with/awaiting link social worker

Area	With Link Worker Q4 2023	Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2023	% With Link Worker Q4 2023	With Link Worker Q1 2024	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2024	% With Link Worker Q1 2024	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2024 v Q4 2023
Dublin South Central	54	15	78%	56	13	81%	-2
Dublin South East/Wicklow	37	0	100%	46	0	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	81	16	84%	90	8	92%	-8
Midlands	54	4	93%	56	2	97%	-2
Dublin North City	95	0	100%	92	0	100%	0
Dublin North	62	0	100%	63	0	100%	0
Louth/Meath	43	9	83%	46	4	92%	-5
Cavan/Monaghan	15	3	83%	17	0	100%	-3
Cork	140	0	100%	134	0	100%	0
Kerry	23	0	100%	17	5	77%	5
CW/K/ST	57	2	97%	55	5	92%	3
Waterford/Wexford	69	0	100%	67	3	96%	3
Mid West	113	3	97%	102	12	89%	9
Galway/Roscommon	36	0	100%	36	0	100%	0
Mayo	25	0	100%	27	0	100%	0
Donegal	17	1	94%	18	1	95%	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	22	0	100%	23	0	100%	0
Total	943	53	95%	945	53	95%	0

Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q1 2024



3.4.3 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

- 224 relative foster carers were unapproved at the end of Q1 2024, 21 (9%) fewer than Q4 2023 (245) and the fewest number since Q1 2013 (217).
- Of these, 190 (85%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; down 20 (10%) from Q4 2023 (210)
- 95% (180) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. A total of 10 carers were awaiting a link worker, three fewer than Q4 2023 (13). The 10 carers were reported across three areas.

Breakdown of relative foster carers not approved

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Δ (+/-) Q1 2024 v Q4 2023
No. unapproved	217	241	257	245	224	-21
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	173	175	187	210	190	-20
	80%	73%	73%	86%	85%	
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	150	165	175	197	180	-17
	87%	94%	94%	94%	95%	
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	23	10	12	13	10	-3

4.0 CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

4.1 Early Years Inspectorate

4.2 Alternative Education Assessment & Registration Service

4.3 Alternative Care Inspection & Monitoring Service

4.1 EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

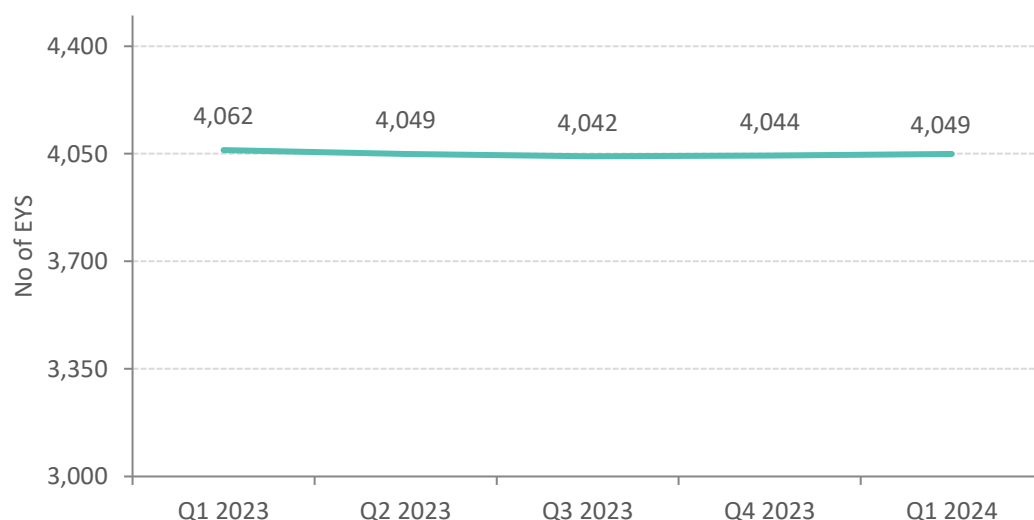
KEY FACTS

- 4,049 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q1 2024, five more than Q4 2023 (4,044) and 13 (<1%) fewer than Q1 2023 (4,062).
- 552 inspections (all types) carried out in Q1 2024, 54 (9%) fewer than Q1 2023 (606). A total of 2,391 inspections carried out in 2023.
- 182 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q1 2024. A total of 855 incidents notified in 2023.
- 84 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q1 2024. A total of 490 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during 2023.
- 9 services were found to have closed in Q1 2024. A total of 115 services were found to have closed in 2023.

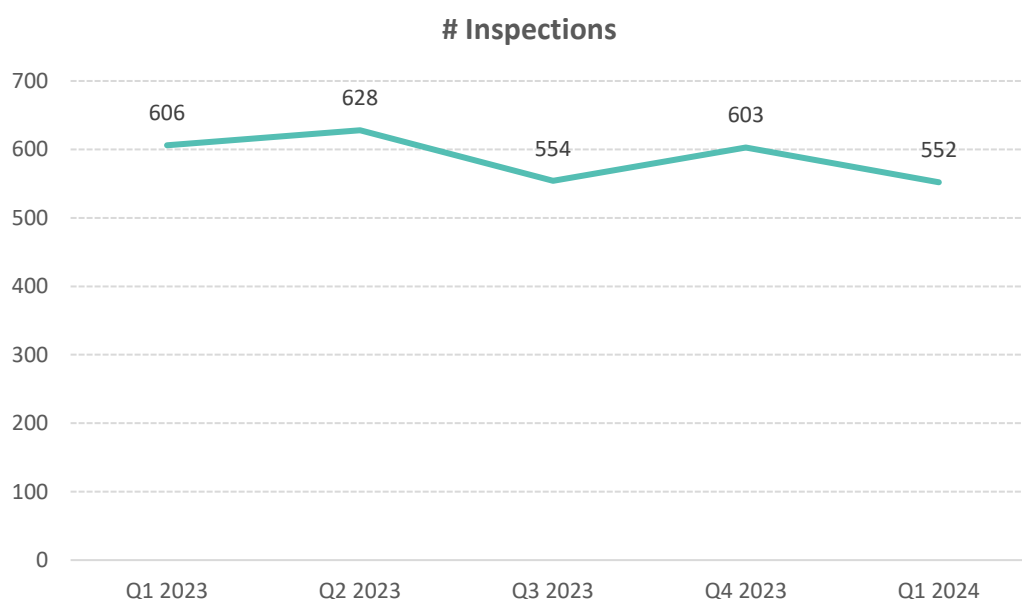
4.1.1 Activity Data

- 4,049 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q1 2024, five more than Q4 2023 (4,044) and 13 (<1%) fewer than Q1 2023 (4,062).

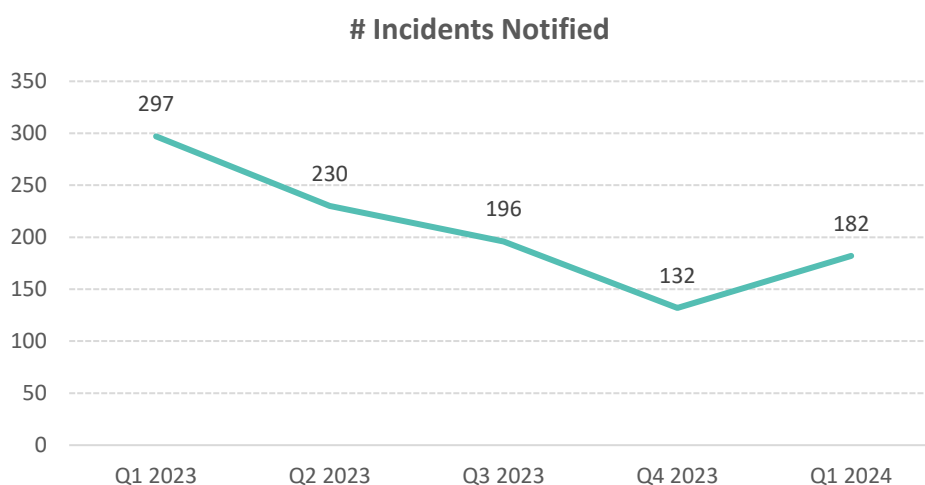
Early Years Services on the Register



- 552 inspections (all types⁷) carried out in Q1 2024, 54 (9%) fewer than Q1 2023 (606). A total of 2,391 inspections carried out in 2023.

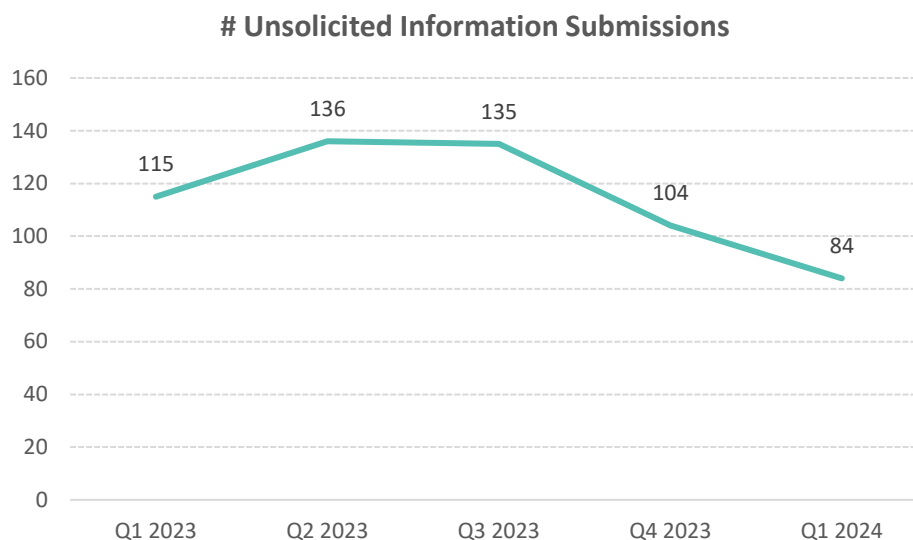


- 20 new applications to become a registered provider received by the Inspectorate in Q1 2024. A total of 146 applications received in 2023.
- 14 new registration applications approved by the Inspectorate in Q1 2024. A total of 86 new registration applications received in 2023.
- No applications to become an EYS refused registration by the Inspectorate in Q1 2024. No applications refused by the Inspectorate in 2023.
- 348 “change in circumstances” notifications received by the Inspectorate in Q1 2024. A total of 1,967 “change in circumstances” notifications received by the Inspectorate in 2023.
- 182 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q1 2024. A total of 855 incidents notified in 2023.



⁷ Includes initial, follow up, complaints, focused inspections or fit for purpose inspections.

- 84 unsolicited information submissions⁸ received by the Inspectorate during Q1 2024. A total of 490 unsolicited information submissions⁹ received by the Inspectorate during 2023.



- One EYS prosecuted by Tusla, in Q1 2024, for breach of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Service) Regulations 2016. No EYS prosecuted in 2023.
- No service removed from the register by the Inspectorate in Q1 2024. No service removed from the register by the Inspectorate in 2023
- 9 services were found to have closed in Q1 2024. A total of 115 services were found to have closed in 2023

⁸ Unsolicited information is defined as any piece of information that relates to the operation of an Early Years Service that has been brought to the attention of the Inspectorate but has not been sought or requested or invited. Information received in the form of a complaint shall be processed as unsolicited information.

⁹ Unsolicited information is defined as any piece of information that relates to the operation of an Early Years Service that has been brought to the attention of the Inspectorate but has not been sought or requested or invited. Information received in the form of a complaint shall be processed as unsolicited information.

4.2 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT & REGISTRATION SERVICE

Key Facts

Home Education

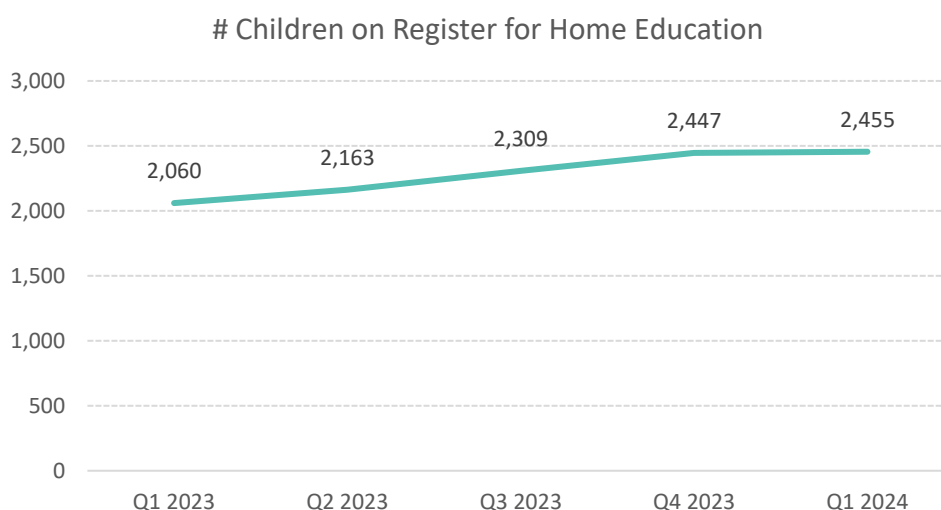
- 2,455 children on the register for home education at the end of Q1 2024, eight more than Q4 2023 (2,447) and 395 (19%) more than Q1 2023 (2,060).
- 287 applications received for home education during Q1 2024, 39 (12%) fewer than Q4 2023 (326) and 65 (18%) fewer than Q1 2023 (352).
- 284 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q1 2024, 35 (11%) fewer than Q4 2023 (319) and 59 (26%) more than Q1 2023 (225).
- 1,062 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q1 2024, 38 (3%) fewer than Q4 2023 (1,100) and 375 (26%) fewer than Q1 2023 (1,437).

Independent Schools

- 60 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q1 2024, up two from Q4 2023 (58).
- 6,434 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q1 2024 with 4,733 of these children on the register.
- 14 schools due for assessment at the end of Q1 2024.

Home Education

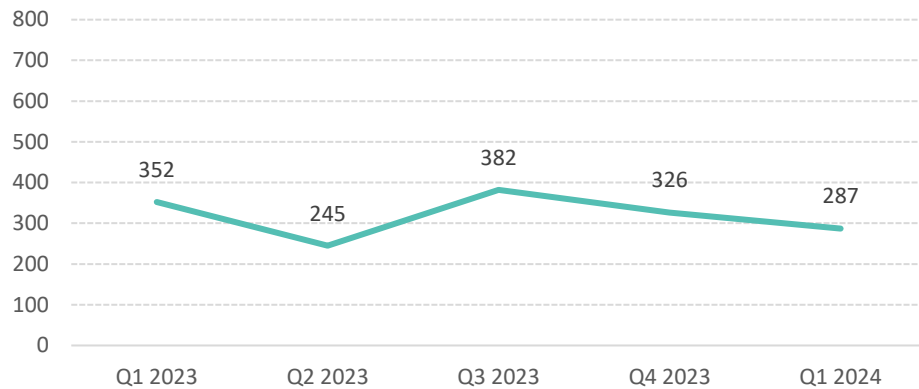
- 2,455 children on the register for home education at the end of Q1 2024, eight more than Q4 2023 (2,447) and 395 (19%) more than Q1 2023 (2,060).



- 16% (401) of children on the register at the end of Q1 2024 have special educational needs.
- 287 applications¹⁰ received for home education during Q1 2024, 39 (12%) fewer than Q4 2023 (326) and 65 (18%) fewer than Q1 2023 (352).

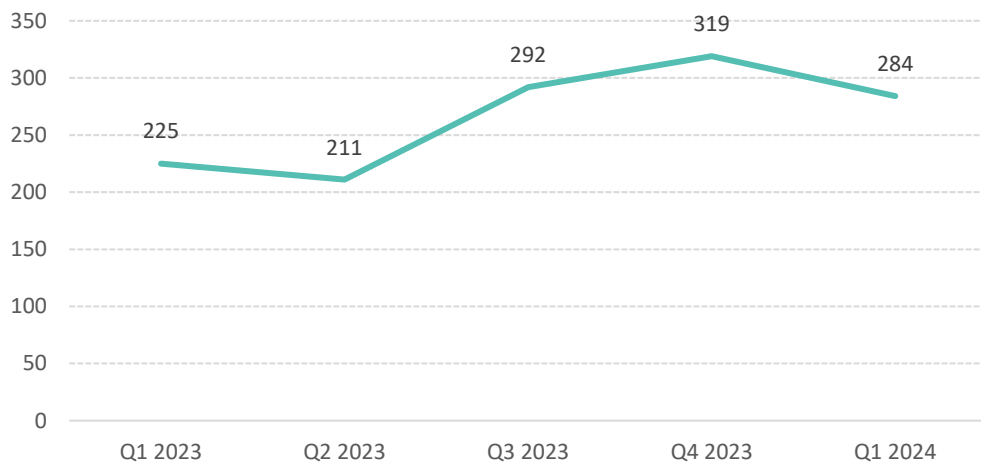
¹⁰ The figure for applications includes valid and invalid applications

Applications for Home Education



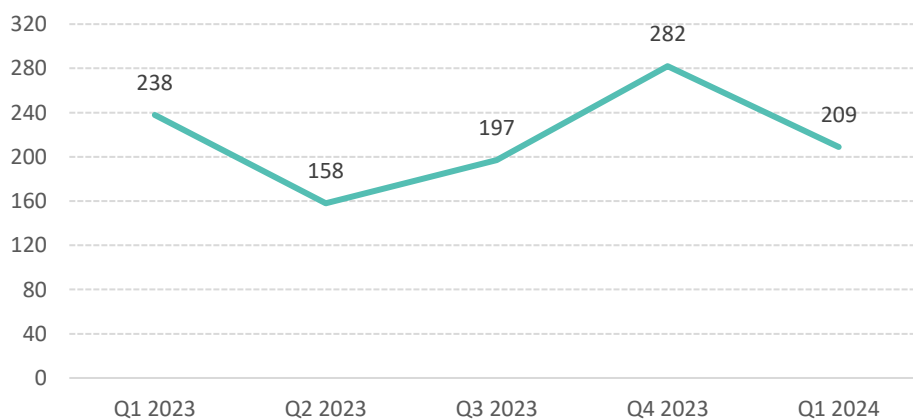
- 284 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q1 2024, 35 (11%) fewer than Q4 2023 (319) and 59 (26%) more than Q1 2023 (225).

Assessments Done



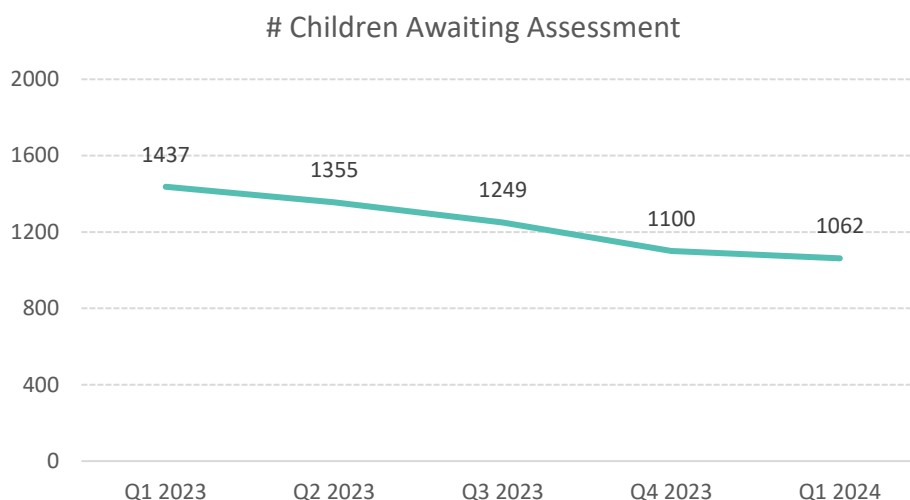
- 209 children registered for home education¹¹ in Q1 2024, 73 (26%) fewer than Q4 2023 (282) and 29 (12%) fewer than Q1 2023 (238).

Children Registered



¹¹ Number registered in a quarter does not reflect the number of assessments carried out in the previous quarter – reports are written, reviewed and approved internally before registration

- 1,062 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q1 2024, 38 (3%) fewer than Q4 2023 (1,100) and 375 (26%) fewer than Q1 2023 (1,437).



- 201 children removed from the register in Q1 2024. Of the children removed from the register 111 (55%) returned to school, 43 (21%) were over 18 years and 31 (15%) left the jurisdiction. The remaining 16 (8%) were removed for other reasons.

Independent Schools

- 60 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q1 2024, up two from Q4 2023 (58).
- 6,434 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q1 2024 with 4,733 of these children on the register.
- 14 schools due for assessment at the end of Q1 2024.

4.3 ALTERNATIVE CARE INSPECTION & MONITORING SERVICES

Key Facts

- 166 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q1 2024; 2 (1%) more than Q4 2023 (164).
- 48 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q1 2024.
- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023. Two non-statutory foster care services visited, and two monitoring visits conducted during Q1 2024.

Non-Statutory Children's Residential Centres

- 166 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q1 2024; 2 (1%) more than Q4 2023 (164).
- 48 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q1 2024.

Inspections of Non Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	Total 2023	Q1 2024
Thematic Inspection (announced) on-site	85	24
Thematic Inspection (unannounced) on site	74	19
Thematic Inspection (announced) remote inspection	4	0
New Registration Inspection Visit	24	5
Total	187	48

Non-Statutory Foster Care Service

- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q1 2024, no change from Q4 2023. Two non-statutory foster care services visited, and two monitoring visits conducted during Q1 2024.

5.0 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY FACTS

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2023 – August 2024

- 5,050 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the seven months Sept - Mar 2024, 842 (20%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (4,208).
- 3,429 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of March 2024, 49 (1%) fewer than March 2023 (3,478).
- 2,586 new individual children worked with for the seven months Sep – Mar 2024, 278 (12%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (2,308).
- 491 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the seven months Sep – Mar, 129 (36%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (362). The SANs issued were in respect of 348 individual children, 95 (38%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (253).
- 61 summonses issued for the seven months Sep- Mar 2023, 4 (6%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (65). The summonses were in respect of 50 individual children, 6 (14%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (44).
- 193 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs for the seven months Sep-Mar 2024, 12 (7%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (181).

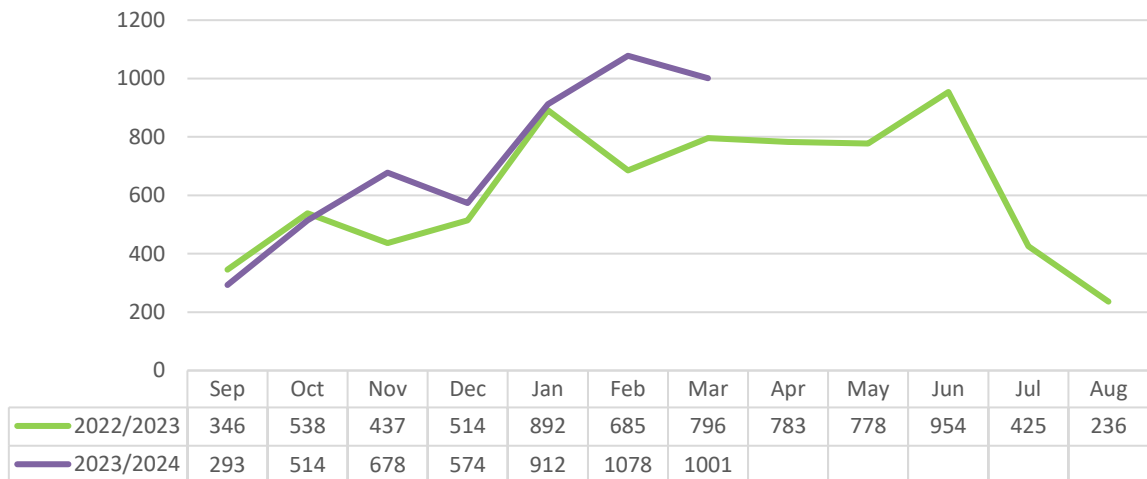
Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2023 – August 2024

- 5,050 referrals¹² screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the seven months Sept -Mar 2024, 842 (20%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (4,208).
- 2,605 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers for the seven months Sept -Mar 2024, 21 (1%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (2,626).
- 1,775 referrals screened out / required no further action for the seven months Sept - Mar 2024, 280 (19%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (1,495).
- 3,429 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of March 2024, 49 (1%) fewer than March 2023 (3,478).

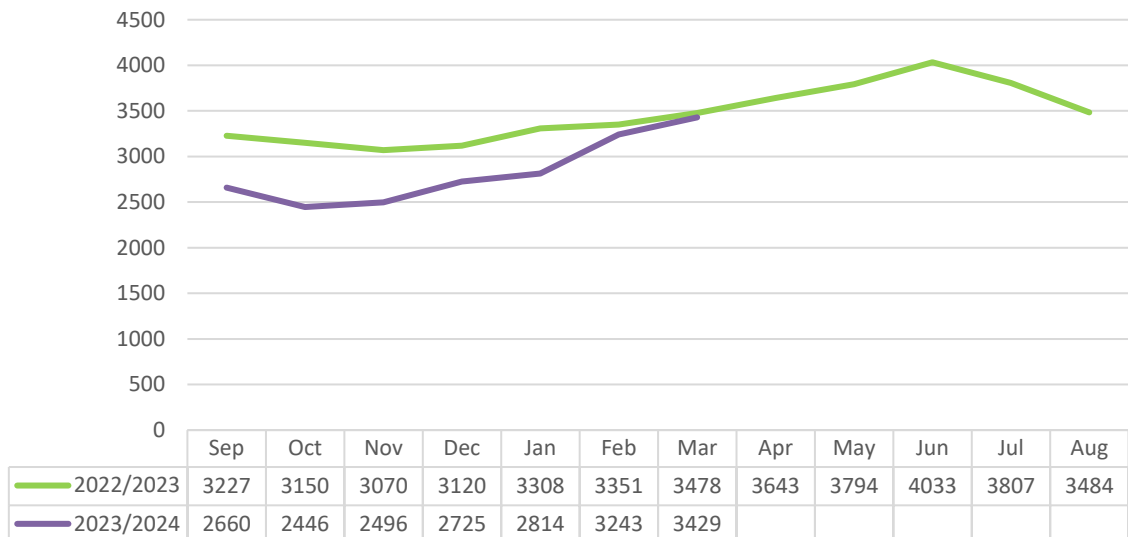
	Sept 2022 – Mar 2023	Sept 2023 – Mar 2024	Δ
# Referrals screened	4,208	5,050	842 (20%)
# Referrals allocated	2,626	2,605	-21 (1%)
# Referrals screened out	1,495	1,775	280 (19%)
# Referrals on waiting list	3,478	3,429	-49 (1%)

¹² A referral is a written notification of concern to EWS from a school, a parent, agency or concerned citizen in relation to the educational welfare of a named child. Referrals are then screened against a set of criteria by the Senior Educational Welfare Officer and a decision is made as to whether to proceed and open a case in relation this named child, or placed on a waiting list if there is an EWS capacity issue.

Referrals Screened



Referrals on a Waiting List at Month End



- 3,547 new cases assigned to EWOs for the seven months Sep – Mar 2024, 409 (13%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (3,138).
- 3,098 cases closed for the seven months Sep – Mar 2024, 269 (10%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (2,829).
- 2,586 new individual children worked with for the seven months Sep – Mar 2024, 278 (12%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (2,308).
- 6,237 individual children worked with for the seven months Sep – Mar 2024, 452 (8%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (5,785).

	Sept 2022 – Mar 2023	Sept 2023 – Mar 2024	Δ
# cases assigned	3,138	3,547	409 (13%)
# cases closed	2,829	3,098	269 (10%)
# new individual children worked with	2,308	2,586	278 (12%)
# Individual children worked with	5,785	6,237	452 (8%)

- 491 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the seven months Sep – Mar, 129 (36%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (362). The SANs issued were in respect of 348 individual children, 95 (38%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (253).
- 61 summonses issued for the seven months Sep- Mar 2023, 4 (6%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (65). The summonses were in respect of 50 individual children, 6 (14%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (44).
- EWOs attended 142 court cases in relation to their own cases during the seven months Sep – Mar 2024, 24 (14%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (166).
- 96 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs for the seven months Sep-Mar 2024, 17 (22%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (79).
- 193 Section 24¹³ meetings convened by EWOs for the seven months Sep-Mar 2024, 12 (7%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (181).

	Sept 2022 – Mar 2023	Sept 2023 – Mar 2024	Δ
School Attendance Notices Issues	362	491	129 (36%)
SANs - individual children involved	253	348	95 (38%)
Summonses Issued	65	61	-4 (6%)
Summonses – individual children involved	44	50	6 (14%)
Court cases attended in relation to own cases	166	142	-24 (14%)
Child protection conferences attended	79	96	17 (22%)
Section 24 meetings convened	181	193	12 (7%)
Child protection & welfare referrals made	101	114	13 (13%)

¹³ Section 24 Education Welfare Act 2000: Where the board of management of a recognised school or a person acting on its behalf is of the opinion that a student should be expelled from that school it shall, before so expelling the student, notify the educational welfare officer to whom functions under this Act have been assigned, in writing, of its opinion and the reasons therefor. The educational welfare officer concerned shall, as soon as may be after receiving a notification under *subsection (1)*, make all reasonable efforts to ensure that provision is made for the continued education of the student to whom the notification relates.

- (2) For the purposes of *subsection (2)*, the educational welfare officer concerned shall, as soon as may be after receiving the said notification—
 - (a) make all reasonable efforts to consult with the principal of the school concerned or a person nominated by him or her, the student concerned and his or her parents, and such other persons as the educational welfare officer considers appropriate, and
 - (b) convene a meeting attended by him or her of such of those persons as agree to attend such meeting.

6.0 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

6.1 Family Support Services

6.2 Meitheal and Child & Family Support Networks

6.1 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES¹⁴

KEY FACTS

Data needs to be interpreted in the context of varying response rates

- At least 19,792 children were in receipt of family support services at the end 2023. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years). *Based on a response rate of 89%.*
- At least 25,087 children referred to family support services during the last six months of 2023. This brings to 47,260 the number of children referred for 2023. This equates to about 4.0% of children (0-17 years).
- 64% (30,092) of children referred to family support services in 2023 received a service during 2023. The percentage who received a service ranged from 34% (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 96% (Mayo). Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 64%.

The data presented below needs to be interpreted in the context of varying response rates.

6.1.1 Family Support Providers

- 399 family support providers commissioned (H2 2023)
- 89% (356) of services commissioned provided data for H2 2023, up from 82% (347/421) in H1 2023. Response rate ranged from 50% (Midlands) to 100% in six areas (Dublin South Central, Cavan/Monaghan, Midwest, Galway/Roscommon, Mayo and Donegal).

Family Support Services Commissioned by Areas

Area	# Family Support Providers Commissioned H2 2023	# External to Tusla	# Internal to Tusla	# services that provided data	% that provided data
Dublin South Central	30	27	3	30	100%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	15	12	3	13	87%
DSW/K/WW	30	25	5	29	97%
Midlands	10	10	0	5	50%
Dublin North City	46	39	7	34	74%
Dublin North	23	22	1	20	87%
Louth/Meath	21	16	5	17	81%
Cavan/Monaghan	17	15	2	17	100%
Cork	46	44	2	44	96%

¹⁴ Family Support Services includes those services funded through a Service Arrangement with the Child and Family Agency and those internally funded and delivered through the Child and Family Agency.

Kerry	20	20	0	18	90%
CW/K/ST	26	24	2	22	85%
Waterford/Wexford	25	22	3	19	76%
Mid West	32	32	0	32	100%
Galway/Roscommon	20	10	10	20	100%
Mayo	9	9	0	9	100%
Donegal	12	12	0	12	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	17	17	0	15	88%
Total	399	356	43	356	89%

6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

- At least 19,792 children were in receipt of family support services at the end 2023. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- Highest rates reported by Donegal (6.2%), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (5.5%) and Dublin North City (3.1%). Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average.
- Highest number of children in receipt of family support services reported by Donegal (2,637; 13%) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (2,323; 12%), Midwest (1,936; 10%) and Dublin South Central (1,528; 8%).

Children in receipt of Family Support Services

Area	Number of children in receipt of a FSS end of Q4 2022	Number of children in receipt of a FSS end of Q2 2023	Number of children in receipt of a FSS end of Q4 2023	% Total Q4 2023	Population 0-17 years (Census 2016)	Rate / 100 children
Dublin South Central	1,410	1,516	1,528	8%	65,564	2.3%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	637	727	761	4%	86,810	0.9%
DSW/K/WW	1,883	2,323	2,323	12%	108,186	2.1%
Midlands	161	420	311	2%	80,193	0.4%
Dublin North City	1,267	1,214	1,384	7%	44,927	3.1%
Dublin North	1,437	1,489	437	2%	100,654	0.4%
Louth/Meath	1,014	983	1,004	5%	93,093	1.1%
Cavan/Monaghan	913	625	529	3%	36,446	1.5%
Cork	1,391	730	817	4%	134,015	0.6%
Kerry	403	504	588	3%	34,527	1.7%
CW/KK/ST	1,455	1,436	1,470	7%	63,009	2.3%
Waterford/Wexford	803	339	1,028	5%	68,513	1.5%
MidWest	1,649	1,869	1,936	10%	96,266	2.0%
Galway/Roscommon	1,136	1,295	1,262	6%	79,912	1.6%
Mayo	337	368	486	2%	31,968	1.5%
Donegal	1,495	1,457	2,637	13%	42,865	6.2%
SLWC	1,377	1,335	1,291	7%	23,554	5.5%
Total	18,768	18,630	19,792	100%	1,190,502	1.7%

6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

- At least 25,087 children referred to family support services during the last six months of 2023. This brings to 47,260 the number of children referred for 2023. This equates to about 4.0% of children (0-17 years).
- The highest rate of referrals for 2023 was reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (17.5%) followed by Donegal (10.1%), Dublin North City (9.5%) and Dublin South Central (6.0%)
- The highest number of children referred in 2023 was reported by Donegal (4,327), Dublin North City (4,264), Dublin South West/Kildare West Wicklow (4,170) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (4,133).

Children referred to Family Support Services by area

Area	Total Referrals 2022	Referrals H1 2023	Referrals H2 2023	Total Referrals 2023	% Total 2023	Population 0-17 years (Census 2016)	% children referred
Dublin South Central	3,261	2,152	1,793	3,945	8%	65,564	6.0%
DSE/WW	1,142	730	865	1,595	3%	86,810	1.8%
DSW/K/WW	3,540	2,149	2,021	4,170	9%	108,186	3.9%
Midlands	387	465	456	921	2%	80,193	1.1%
Dublin North City	4,487	1,957	2,307	4,264	9%	44,927	9.5%
Dublin North	2,932	2,027	1,910	3,937	8%	100,654	3.9%
Louth/Meath	2,030	975	899	1,874	4%	93,093	2.0%
Cavan/Monaghan	1,727	616	599	1,215	3%	36,446	3.3%
Cork	2,145	1,222	1,562	2,784	6%	134,015	2.1%
Kerry	1,023	1,021	926	1,947	4%	34,527	5.6%
CW/K/ST	2,915	1,759	1,455	3,214	7%	63,009	5.1%
Waterford/Wexford	2,095	811	1,414	2,225	5%	68,513	3.2%
Mid West	2,594	1,255	1,419	2,674	6%	96,266	2.8%
Galway/Roscommon	2,490	1,485	1,442	2,927	6%	79,912	3.7%
Mayo	1,060	683	425	1,108	2%	31,968	3.5%
Donegal	2,891	1,887	2,440	4,327	9%	42,865	10.1%
SLWC	3,791	979	3,154	4,133	9%	23,554	17.5%
Total	40,510	22,173	25,087	47,260	100%	1,190,502	4.0%

6.1.4 Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals in 2023 was parents/guardians, accounting for 28.9% (13,657) of referrals followed by Tusla social workers (23.5%; 11,118), schools (11.5%; 5,413) and self-referrals (10.8%; 5,118).

Children referred to Family Support Services by source of referral

Source	# Referrals 2022	# Referrals H1 2023	# Referrals H2 2023	Total Referrals 2023	% Total 2023
Parent/Guardian	12,966	5,702	7,955	13,657	28.9%
Tusla Social Workers	8,984	5,339	5,779	11,118	23.5%
Schools	3,984	2,553	2,860	5,413	11.5%
Self-Referral	3,320	2,848	2,270	5,118	10.8%

HSE Officers	3,838	1,751	1,944	3,695	7.8%
Voluntary Agency	1,758	1,343	1,072	2,415	5.1%
Other Tulsa Officers	2,386	1,133	1,209	2,342	5.0%
Other	1,964	985	1,020	2,005	4.2%
Other Family Member	581	140	579	719	1.5%
GP	502	260	295	555	1.2%
AGS	190	91	67	158	0.3%
Anonymous	37	28	37	65	0.1%
Total	40,510	22,173	25,087	47,260	100.0%

6.1.5 Children who received a service

- 60% (15,018) of children referred to family support services during the last six months of 2023 received a service during that period. The percentage who received a service ranged from 18% (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 97% (Mayo). Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 60%.

Children referred to Family Support Services who received a service during the reporting period, H1 and H2 2023

Area	Referrals H1 2023	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service	Referrals H2 2023	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service
Dublin South Central	2,152	1,262	59%	1,793	1,144	64%
DSE/WW	730	374	51%	865	327	38%
DSW/K/WW	2,149	1,545	72%	2,021	1,484	73%
Midlands	465	332	71%	456	398	87%
Dublin North City	1,957	1,165	60%	2,307	1,190	52%
Dublin North	2,027	1,093	54%	1,910	552	29%
Louth/Meath	975	606	62%	899	358	40%
Cavan/Monaghan	616	536	87%	599	552	92%
Cork	1,222	776	64%	1,562	947	61%
Kerry	1,021	437	43%	926	691	75%
CW/K/ST	1,759	1348	77%	1,455	954	66%
Waterford/Wexford	811	282	35%	1,414	1,140	81%
Mid West	1,255	1,026	82%	1,419	1,088	77%
Galway/Roscommon	1,485	1,233	83%	1,442	1,007	70%
Mayo	683	653	96%	425	413	97%
Donegal	1,887	1,561	83%	2,440	2202	90%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	979	845	86%	3,154	571	18%
Total	22,173	15,074	68%	25,087	15,018	60%

- 64% (30,092) of children referred to family support services in 2023 received a service during 2023. The percentage who received a service ranged from 34% (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan)

to 96% (Mayo). Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 64%.

Children referred to Family Support Services who received a service during the reporting period 2023

Area	Total Referrals 2023	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service
Dublin South Central	3,945	2,406	61%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	1,595	701	44%
DSW/K/WW	4,170	3,029	73%
Midlands	921	730	79%
Dublin North City	4,264	2,355	55%
Dublin North	3,937	1,645	42%
Louth/Meath	1,874	964	51%
Cavan/Monaghan	1,215	1,088	90%
Cork	2,784	1,723	62%
Kerry	1,947	1,128	58%
CW/K/ST	3,214	2,302	72%
Waterford/Wexford	2,225	1,422	64%
Mid West	2,674	2,114	79%
Galway/Roscommon	2,927	2,240	77%
Mayo	1,108	1,066	96%
Donegal	4,327	3,763	87%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	4,133	1,416	34%
Total	47,260	30,092	64%

- Of the children referred to family support services during the last six months of 2023 who received a service (15,018), 4% (617) were subject of a child in care plan; 10% (1,434) were subject of a Tusla child protection and welfare safety plan; 8% (1,146) were subject of a Meitheal support plan while 39% (5,809) were subject of a single agency family support plan.
- A breakdown on the number and percentage of children who participated in the development, implementation and review of those plans is presented in the tables below.

Breakdown of the number and percentage of children who participated in the development, implementation and review of plans, H2 2023

Plan type	# children subject of plan:	# / % children who participated in development of plan	# / % children who participated in implementation of plan	# / % children who participated in review of plan
Children in care plan	617	268 (43%)	279 (45%)	266 (43%)
Child protection & welfare safety plan	1,434	856 (60%)	813 (57%)	794 (55%)
Meitheal support plan	1,146	861 (75%)	828 (72%)	760 (66%)
Single agency response plan	5,809	4,447 (77%)	4,160 (72%)	3,683 (63%)

- Of the children referred to family support services in 2023 who received a service (30,092), 5% (1,373) were subject of a child in care plan; 8% (2,513) were subject of a Tusla child protection

and welfare safety plan; 7% (2,045) were subject of a Meitheal support plan while 45% (13,630) were subject of a single agency family support plan.

- A breakdown on the number and percentage of children who participated in the development, implementation and review of those plans is presented in the tables below.

Breakdown of the number and percentage of children who participated in the development, implementation and review of plans, 2023

Plan type	# children subject of plan:	# / % children who participated in development of plan	# / % children who participated in implementation of plan	# / % children who participated in review of plan
Children in care plan	1,373	740 (54%)	734 (53%)	709 (52%)
Child protection & welfare safety plan	2,513	1,322 (53%)	1,237 (49%)	1,186 (47%)
Meitheal support plan	2,045	1,375 (67%)	1,326 (65%)	1,183 (58%)
Single agency response plan	13,630	8,101 (59%)	7,709 (57%)	7,038 (52%)

6.1.6 Parenting Support Service

- 9,879 parents/guardians/care givers were referred to a parenting support service during the last six months of 2023. This brings to 19,877 the number referred for 2023.
- 7,644 (77%) of the parents/guardians/care givers referred during the last six months of 2023 received a service. This brings to 15,498 (78%) the number who received a service for 2023.
- 3,477 individual (one-to-one) parenting support services were commissioned internally during the last six months of 2023.
- 2,867 individual (one-to-one) parenting support services were commissioned externally during the last six months of 2023.
- 2,123 parenting support services that are group-based interventions were commissioned internally during the last six months of 2023.
- 1,381 parenting support services that are group-based interventions were commissioned during the last six months of 2023.

6.2 MEITHEAL

A key component of Tusla's Prevention, Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) programme of work is the roll-out of **Meitheal** - a national practice model (common approach to practice) for all agencies working with children, young people and their families. This model is designed to ensure that the needs and strengths of children and their families are effectively identified and understood and responded to in a timely way so that children and families get the help and support needed to improve children's outcomes and realise their rights. It is an early intervention response tailored to the needs of an individual child or young person and is used where more than one agency involvement is needed. There are three stages of the Meitheal process; preparation, discussion and delivery.

KEY FACTS

- 1,163 Meitheal processes requested during the last six months of 2023. This brings to 2,492 the number of processes requested for 2023, 172 (7%) more than 2022 (2,320).
- The most common pathway for all requests received during 2023 was "Direct Access" accounting for 73% (1,820) of requests. "Social Work Diversion" accounted for a further 20% (490) while "Social Work Step-Down" accounted for 7% (182) of requests.
- 84% (2,095/2,492) of Meitheal requests received during 2023 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- 1,725 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in 2023.
- 53% (911) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- 1,473 Meitheal processes were closed during 2023.
- 23% (334) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 36% (535) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 12% (177) were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3) and 29% (427) were closed post-delivery.
- 120 Child and Family Support Networks¹ (CFSN) operating at the end of 2023 with a further eight planned/pre planning stage.

6.2.1 Meitheal Activity Data

- 1,163 Meitheal processes requested during the last six months of 2023. This brings to 2,492 the number of processes requested for 2023, 172 (7%) more than 2022 (2,320).
- Highest number of requests for 2023 reported by Waterford/Wexford (352; 14%) followed by Cork (271; 11%) and Dublin North (259; 10%).
- The fewest number was reported by Mayo (38; 1.5%) followed by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (43; 1.7%) and Donegal (75; 3%).

Meitheal processes requested

Area	Total Requested 2022	# Requested H1 2023	# Requested H2 2023	Total Requested 2023	% Total 2023
Dublin South Central	68	44	42	86	3.5%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	76	57	34	91	3.7%
DSW/K/WW	138	95	72	167	6.7%
Midlands	71	35	72	107	4.3%
Dublin North City	83	43	60	103	4.1%
Dublin North	208	181	78	259	10.4%
Louth/Meath	130	79	83	162	6.5%
Cavan/Monaghan	232	62	66	128	5.1%
Cork	197	155	116	271	10.9%
Kerry	224	89	85	174	7.0%
CW/K/ST	183	98	96	194	7.8%
Waterford/Wexford	316	193	159	352	14.1%
Mid West	108	60	71	131	5.3%
Galway/Roscommon	135	55	56	111	4.5%
Mayo	37	21	17	38	1.5%
Donegal	68	40	35	75	3.0%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	46	22	21	43	1.7%
National	2,320	1,329	1,163	2,492	100.0%

- The most common pathway for requests received during the last six months of 2023 was “Direct Access” accounting for 73% (850) of requests. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 21% (246) while “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for 6% (67) of requests.
- A breakdown of request received during the last six months of 2023 by pathway is presented in the table below.

Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests H2 2023

Area	# Requested H2 2023	Of the total number of Meitheal requests:					
		Direct Access	% Direct Access	Social Work Diversion	% SW Diversion	Social Work Step - Down	% Step-Down
Dublin South Central	42	40	95%	1	2%	1	2%
DSE/WW	34	26	76%	4	12%	4	12%
DSW/K/WW	72	61	85%	11	15%	0	0%
Midlands	72	58	81%	12	17%	2	3%
Dublin North City	60	54	90%	6	10%	0	0%
Dublin North	78	76	97%	0	0%	2	3%
Louth/Meath	83	45	54%	33	40%	5	6%
Cavan/Monaghan	66	34	52%	25	38%	7	11%
Cork	116	48	41%	47	41%	21	18%
Kerry	85	54	64%	25	29%	6	7%

CW/K/ST	96	58	60%	35	36%	3	3%
Waterford/Wexford	159	124	78%	34	21%	1	1%
Mid West	71	64	90%	0	0%	7	10%
Galway/Roscommon	56	44	79%	10	18%	2	4%
Mayo	17	17	100%	0	0%	0	0%
Donegal	35	32	91%	0	0%	3	9%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	21	15	71%	3	14%	3	14%
Total	1,163	850	73%	246	21%	67	6%

- The most common pathway for all requests received during 2023 was “Direct Access” accounting for 73% (1,820) of requests. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 20% (490) while “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for 7% (182) of requests.
- The percentage of requests received through “Direct Access” ranged from 49% (80/162) in Louth/Meath to 95% (36/38) in Mayo. Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 73%.
- The percentage of requests received from “Social Work Diversion” ranged from <1% (1/259) in Dublin North to 45% (73/162) in Louth/Meath. Five areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average 20%.
- The percentage of requests received from “Social Work Step-Down” ranged from 0% in two areas (Mayo and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow) to 23% (10/43) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan. Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average 7%.

Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests 2023

Area	# Requested 2023	Of the total number of Meitheal requests:					
		Direct Access	% Direct Access	Social Work Diversion	% SW Diversion	Social Work Step - Down	% Step-Down
Dublin South Central	86	81	94%	2	2%	3	3%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	91	71	78%	14	15%	6	7%
DSW/K/WW	167	139	83%	28	17%	0	0%
Midlands	107	85	79%	16	15%	6	6%
Dublin North City	103	90	87%	7	7%	6	6%
Dublin North	259	214	83%	1	<1%	44	17%
Louth/Meath	162	80	49%	73	45%	9	6%
Cavan/Monaghan	128	73	57%	43	34%	12	9%
Cork	271	138	51%	98	36%	35	13%
Kerry	174	113	65%	39	22%	22	13%
CW/K/ST	194	115	59%	76	39%	3	2%
Waterford/Wexford	352	293	83%	55	16%	4	1%
Mid West	131	111	85%	10	8%	10	8%
Galway/Roscommon	111	91	82%	17	15%	3	3%

Mayo	38	36	95%	2	5%	0	0%
Donegal	75	63	84%	3	4%	9	12%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	43	27	63%	6	14%	10	23%
Total	2,492	1,820	73%	490	20%	182	7%

- 80% (927/1,163) of Meitheal requests received during the last six months of 2023 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- The percentage of requests proceeding to Stage 2 ranged from 100% in three areas (Dublin South Central, Dublin South East/Wicklow, Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 17% (13/78) in Dublin North. Thirteen areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 80%.

Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage) H2 2023

Area	# Requested H2 2023	# that proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)
Dublin South Central	42	42	100%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	34	34	100%
DSW/K/WW	72	69	96%
Midlands	72	56	78%
Dublin North City	60	32	53%
Dublin North	78	13	17%
Louth/Meath	83	66	80%
Cavan/Monaghan	66	65	98%
Cork	116	97	84%
Kerry	85	37	44%
CW/K/ST	96	86	90%
Waterford/Wexford	159	138	87%
Mid West	71	68	96%
Galway/Roscommon	56	55	98%
Mayo	17	15	88%
Donegal	35	33	94%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	21	21	100%
Total	1,163	927	80%

- 84% (2,095/2,492) of Meitheal requests received during 2023 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- The percentage of requests proceeding to Stage 2 ranged from 100% in two areas (Dublin South Central and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 61% (106/174) in Kerry. Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 84%.

Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage) 2023

Area	# Requested 2023	# that proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)
Dublin South Central	86	86	100%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	91	73	80%
DSW/K/WW	167	163	98%
Midlands	107	91	85%
Dublin North City	103	68	66%
Dublin North	259	189	73%
Louth/Meath	162	126	78%
Cavan/Monaghan	128	87	68%
Cork	271	234	86%
Kerry	174	106	61%
CW/K/ST	194	181	93%
Waterford/Wexford	352	313	89%
Mid West	131	120	92%
Galway/Roscommon	111	109	98%
Mayo	38	35	92%
Donegal	75	71	95%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	43	43	100%
Total	2,492	2,095	84%

- 856 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the last six months of 2023.
- 53% (452) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting). The percentage of processes that proceeded to delivery ranged from 100% in one areas (Galway/Roscommon) to 5% in Waterford/Wexford (4/73). Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 53%.
- 25% (212) were referred for a single agency response. The percentage of processes referred for a single agency response ranged from 84% (61/73) in Waterford/Wexford to 0% in six areas. Five areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 25%.
- 3% (24) of processes were referred to social work (stepped – up). These processes were reported across seven areas. Ten areas reported none.
- 6% (50) of processes were closed. The percentage of processes closed ranged from 17% (12/72) in Midlands to none in six areas. Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (6%).

Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, H2 2023

Area	# Reaching Completion of Stage 2, H2 2023	Of the total number of Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two (Discussion Stage) the number and percentage that									
		<i>Proceeded to Delivery</i>	%	<i>Referred to Social Work</i>	%	<i>Referred to a Single Agency Response</i>	%	<i>Closed</i>	%	<i>Categorised as Other</i>	%
DSC	38	30	79%	0	0%	3	8%	4	11%	1	3%
DSE/WW	26	15	58%	0	0%	0	0%	1	4%	10	38%
DSW/K/WW	40	37	93%	0	0%	0	0%	3	8%	0	0%
Midlands	72	37	51%	8	11%	7	10%	12	17%	8	11%
DNC	50	20	40%	2	4%	21	42%	1	2%	6	12%
Dublin North	78	22	28%	0	0%	50	64%	0	0%	6	8%
LH/MH	79	68	86%	1	1%	6	8%	4	5%	0	0%
CN/MN	36	8	22%	3	8%	22	61%	3	8%	0	0%
Cork	108	13	12%	4	4%	9	8%	12	11%	70	65%
Kerry	29	24	83%	0	0%	3	10%	0	0%	2	7%
CW/KK/ST	79	45	57%	1	1%	28	35%	1	1%	4	5%
WD/WX	73	4	5%	0	0%	61	84%	6	8%	2	3%
MidWest	49	39	80%	5	10%	2	4%	3	6%	0	0%
GY/RN	45	45	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Mayo	16	15	94%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	6%
Donegal	31	24	77%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	7	23%
SLWC	7	6	86%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	14%
Total	856	452	53%	24	3%	212	25%	50	6%	118	14%

- 1,725 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in 2023.
- 53% (911) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting). The percentage of processes that proceeded to delivery ranged from 94% in one area (Galway/Roscommon) to 12% in Dublin North (33/265). Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 53%.
- 30% (519) were referred for a single agency response. The percentage of processes referred for a single agency response ranged from 85% (224/265) in Dublin North to 0% in six areas. Five areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 30%.
- 2% (38) of processes were referred to social work (stepped – up). These processes were reported across 10 areas. Seven areas reported none.
- 6% (101) of processes were closed. The percentage of processes closed ranged from 18% (19/107) in Midlands to none in three areas (Dublin North, Kerry and Sligo/Leitrim / West Cavan). Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (6%).

Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, 2023

Area	# Reaching Completion of Stage 2, 2023	Of the total number of Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two (Discussion Stage) the number and percentage that									
		<i>Proceeded to Delivery</i>	%	<i>Referr ed to Social Work</i>	%	<i>Referr ed to a Single Agency Respo nse</i>	%	<i>Closed</i>	%	<i>Categor ised as Other</i>	%
DSC	79	67	85%	0	0%	4	5%	7	9%	1	1%
DSE/WW	65	43	66%	0	0%	0	0%	10	15%	12	18%
DSW/K/WW	106	99	93%	0	0%	0	0%	7	7%	0	0%
Midlands	107	64	60%	9	8%	7	7%	19	18%	8	7%
DNC	75	39	52%	3	4%	25	33%	2	3%	6	8%
Dublin North	265	33	12%	0	0%	224	85%	0	0%	8	3%
LH/MH	139	87	63%	4	3%	13	9%	10	7%	25	18%
CN/MN	78	22	28%	5	6%	48	62%	3	4%	0	0%
Cork	138	29	21%	5	4%	15	11%	14	10%	75	54%
Kerry	71	66	93%	0	0%	3	4%	0	0%	2	3%
CW/KK/ST	158	88	56%	4	3%	55	35%	6	4%	5	3%
WD/WX	156	21	13%	0	0%	121	78%	12	8%	2	1%
MidWest	89	77	87%	5	6%	4	4%	3	3%	0	0%
GY/RN	100	94	94%	1	1%	0	0%	5	5%	0	0%
Mayo	34	31	91%	1	3%	0	0%	1	3%	1	3%
Donegal	52	39	75%	1	2%	0	0%	2	4%	10	19%
SLWC	13	12	92%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	8%
Total	1,725	911	53%	38	2%	519	30%	101	6%	156	9%

- 591 Meitheal processes were closed during the last six months in 2023. The number of processes closed ranged from 89 (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary) to four (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan).
- 29% (171) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1). The percentage closed following submission of a Meitheal request form ranged from 100% (4/4) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan to none in three areas (Dublin North, Cavan/Monaghan and Mayo). Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 29%.
- 31% (183) of Meitheal processes were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage). The percentage closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form ranged 100% (52/52) in Dublin North to none in two areas (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan and Mayo). Six areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (31%).
- 13% (79) of Meitheal processes were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3). The percentage closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings ranged from 40% (12/30) in Donegal to none in four areas (Dublin North,

Louth/Meath, Kerry and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan). Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 13%.

- 27% (158) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery. The percentage closed post-delivery ranged from 78% (7/9) in Mayo area to none in three areas (Cork, Dublin North and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan). Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 27%.

Number of Meitheals closed H2 2023

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed H2 2023	Of the total number of Meitheals closed the number and % that were closed following:							
		Submission of a Meitheal Request Form	%	Completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Discussion Stage)	%	Commencement of Meitheal Support meetings (Delivery Stage)	%	Post delivery	%
DSC	26	3	12%	9	35%	4	15%	10	38%
DSE/WW	33	6	18%	6	18%	10	30%	11	33%
DSW/K/WW	72	13	18%	10	14%	7	10%	42	58%
Midlands	16	7	44%	1	6%	1	6%	7	44%
DNC	27	11	41%	9	33%	3	11%	4	15%
Dublin North	52	0	0%	52	100%	0	0%	0	0%
LH/MH	29	19	66%	4	14%	0	0%	6	21%
CN/MN	32	0	0%	22	69%	4	13%	6	19%
Cork	34	27	79%	6	18%	1	3%	0	0%
Kerry	28	26	93%	1	4%	0	0%	1	4%
CW/KK/ST	89	17	19%	37	42%	15	17%	20	22%
WD/WX	31	11	35%	13	42%	2	6%	5	16%
MidWest	55	13	24%	5	9%	17	31%	20	36%
GY/RN	24	7	29%	7	29%	1	4%	9	38%
Mayo	9	0	0%	0	0%	2	22%	7	78%
Donegal	30	7	23%	1	3%	12	40%	10	33%
SLWC	4	4	100%	0	0	0	0%	0	0%
National	591	171	29%	183	31%	79	13%	158	27%

- 1,473 Meitheal processes were closed during 2023. The number of processes closed ranged from 235 (Dublin North) to six (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan).
- 23% (334) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1). The percentage closed following submission of a Meitheal request form ranged from 100% (6/6) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan to none in two areas (Cavan/Monaghan and Mayo). Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 23%.

- 36% (535) of Meitheal processes were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage). The percentage closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form ranged 94% (221/235) in Dublin North to none in one area (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan). Three areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (36%).
- 12% (177) of Meitheal processes were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3). The percentage closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings ranged from 31% (20/64) in Donegal to none in one area (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan). Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 12%.
- 29% (427) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery. The percentage closed post-delivery ranged from 68% (15/22) in Mayo area to none in two areas (Cork and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 29%.

Number of Meitheals closed 2023

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed 2023	Of the total number of Meitheals closed the number and % that were closed following:							
		Submission of a Meitheal Request Form	%	Completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Discussion Stage)	%	Commencement of Meitheal Support meetings (Delivery Stage)	%	Post delivery	%
DSC	51	7	14%	10	20%	11	22%	23	45%
DSE/WW	73	8	11%	16	22%	20	27%	29	40%
DSW/K/WW	153	28	18%	18	12%	18	12%	89	58%
Midlands	23	9	39%	1	4%	1	4%	12	52%
DNC	65	28	43%	16	25%	8	12%	13	20%
Dublin North	235	2	1%	221	94%	5	2%	7	3%
LH/MH	71	27	38%	22	31%	2	3%	20	28%
CN/MN	103	0	0%	61	59%	7	7%	35	34%
Cork	57	45	79%	11	19%	1	2%	0	0%
Kerry	52	45	87%	2	4%	1	2%	4	8%
CW/KK/ST	158	31	20%	73	46%	26	16%	28	18%
WD/WX	170	52	31%	52	31%	7	4%	59	35%
MidWest	105	19	18%	10	10%	30	29%	46	44%
GY/RN	65	13	20%	15	23%	14	22%	23	35%
Mayo	22	0	0%	1	5%	6	27%	15	68%
Donegal	64	14	22%	6	9%	20	31%	24	38%
SLWC	6	6	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
National	1,473	334	23%	535	36%	177	12%	427	29%

6.2.2 Child and Family Support Networks

- 120 Child and Family Support Networks¹⁵ (CFSN) operating at the end of 2023 with a further eight planned/pre planning stage.

Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned

Area	CFSNs Operating Q4 2022	CFSNs Operating Q4 2023	CFSNs Planned Q4 2023
Dublin South Central	8	8	3
Dublin South East/Wicklow	7	7	0
DSW/K/WW	10	10	0
Midlands	2	4	4
Dublin North City	6	6	0
Dublin North	3	4	0
Louth/Meath	5	5	0
Cavan/Monaghan	6	8	0
Cork	12	12	0
Kerry	8	3	0
CW/K/ST	8	8	1
Waterford/Wexford	8	8	0
Mid West	13	13	0
Galway/Roscommon	12	12	0
Mayo	4	4	0
Donegal	5	5	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	3	3	0
Total	120	120	8

¹⁵ Child and Family Support Networks: Collaborative networks of community, voluntary and statutory providers intended to improve access to support services for children and their families

7.0 PEOPLE & CHANGE

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

7.1 Workforce Position

7.2 Absence Rate

7.3 Social Work Staff

7.4 Residential Services

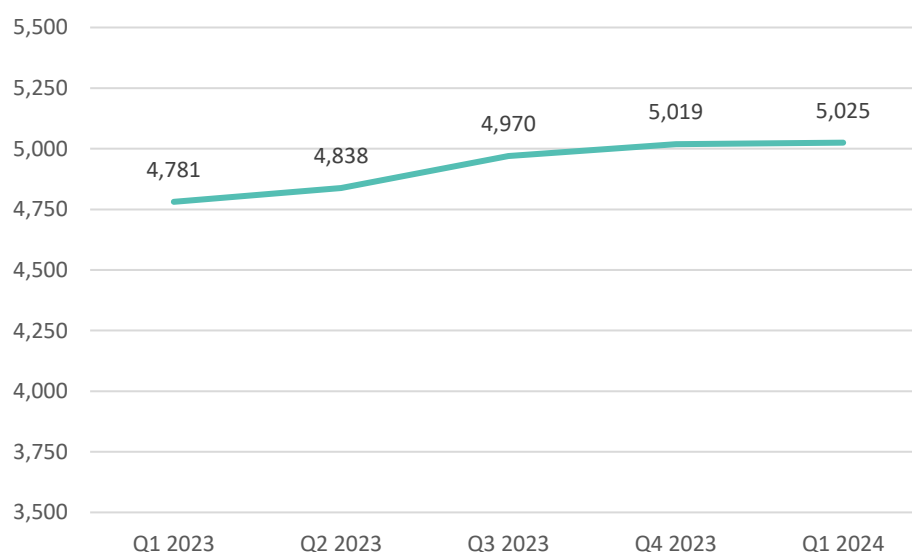
7.5 Workforce Learning and Development

KEY FACTS

- 5,025 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2024, 6 (<1%) more than Q4 2023 (5,019) and 244 (5%) more than Q1 2023 (4,781).
- 169 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first three months of 2024, 60 (26%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (229).
- 101 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first three months of 2024, 19 (16%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (120). A further, 28 staff retired in the first three months of 2024, 7 (33%) more than the same period in 2023 (21).
- At the end of Q1 2024, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.7%, down from 7.5% at the end of Q4 2023 and up from 6.03% at the end of Q1 2023.
- e-learning training activity: 7,889 completions were achieved in Q1 2024
- Classroom training: 1,290 participants attended in Q1 2024.

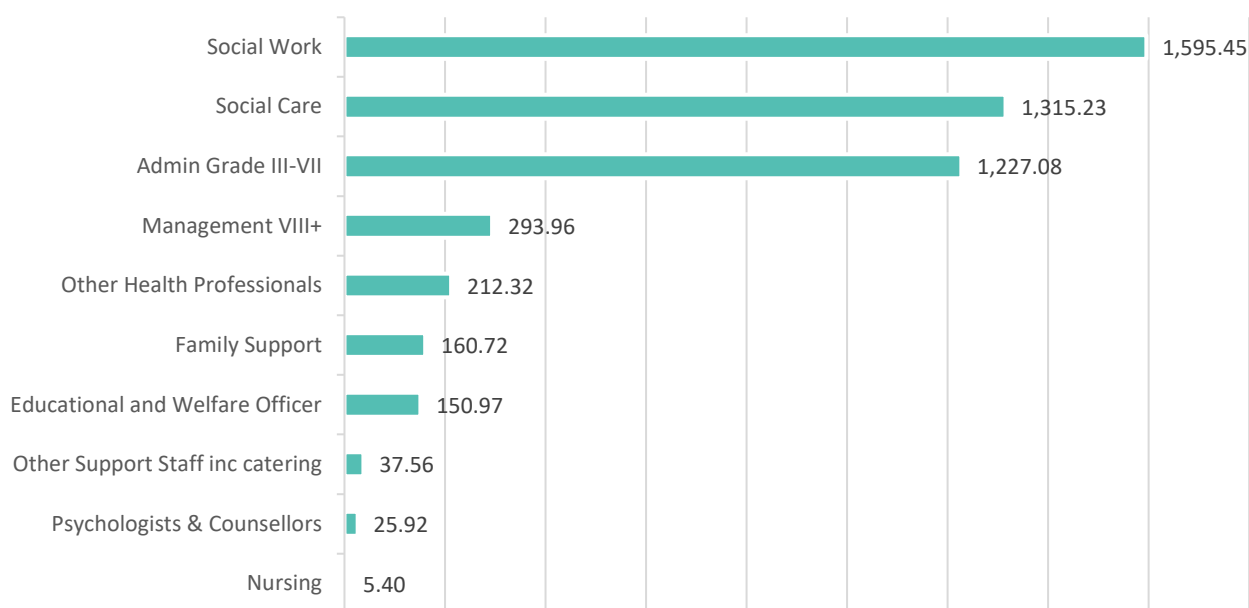
- 5,025 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2024, 6 (<1%) more than Q4 2023 (5,019) and 244 (5%) more than Q1 2023 (4,781).

Total Staff Employed (WTE), by quarter



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency, accounting for 32% (1,595.45) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q1 2024, followed by social care staff

accounting for a further 26% (1,315.23). Management (Grade VIII+) account for 6% (293.96) of the workforce.



- Increase/decrease in WTEs by staff category is presented in the table below.

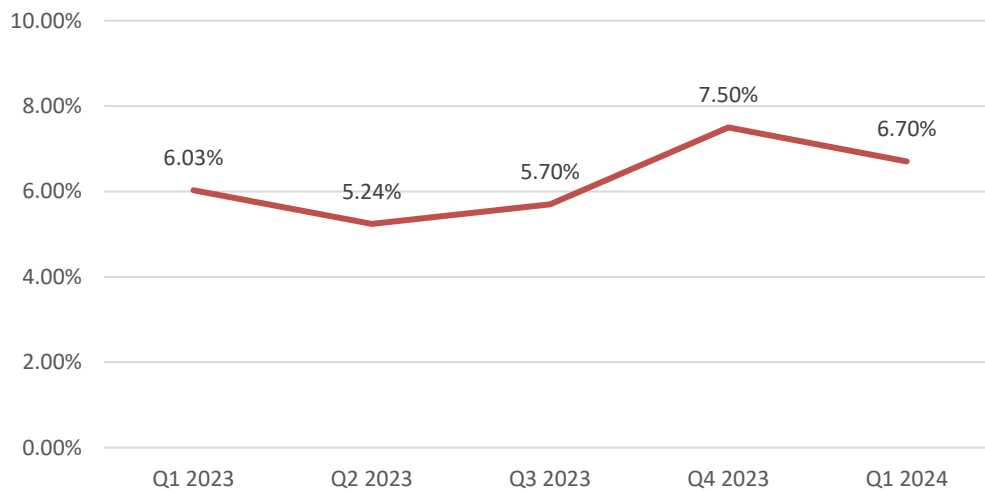
Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category

Staffing by Category	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q1 2024 v Q4 2023	Q1 2024 v Q1 2023
Social Work	1,592.72	1,555.78	1,609.65	1,611.57	1,595.45	-16.1	2.7
Social Care	1,230.92	1,258.53	1,301.32	1,322.68	1,315.23	-7.5	84.3
Admin Grade III-VII	1,151	1,176.48	1,191.83	1,214.88	1,227.08	12.2	76.1
Family Support	130.81	151.21	165.48	150.48	160.72	10.2	29.9
Management VIII+	273.94	276.47	286.12	292.39	293.96	1.6	20.0
Educational & Welfare Officer	137.42	147.04	148.05	149.26	150.97	1.7	13.6
Other Support Staff	41.15	38.29	36.5	37.6	37.56	0.0	-3.6
Nursing	4.82	5.35	5.38	5.38	5.40	0.0	0.6
Psychologists & Counsellors	26.03	26.88	24.24	23.8	25.92	2.1	-0.1
Other Health Professionals	192.2	201.59	201.35	210.73	212.32	1.6	20.1
Total Staffing	4,781	4,838	4,970	5,019	5,025	5.6	243.6

- 169 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first three months of 2024, 60 (26%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (229).
- 101 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first three months of 2024, 19 (16%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (120).
- 28 staff retired in the first three months of 2024, 7 (33%) more than the same period in 2023 (21).
- 134 (3%) staff were on maternity leave (paid and unpaid) at the end of Q1 2024.

7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of Q1 2024, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.7%, down from 7.5% at the end of Q4 2023 and up from 6.03% at the end of Q1 2023.



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff at 9.68%. The rate for Residential Services (11.69%) (data not shown), is five percentage points higher than the overall rate of 6.7%. The overall absence rate excluding Residential Services is 5.68%.

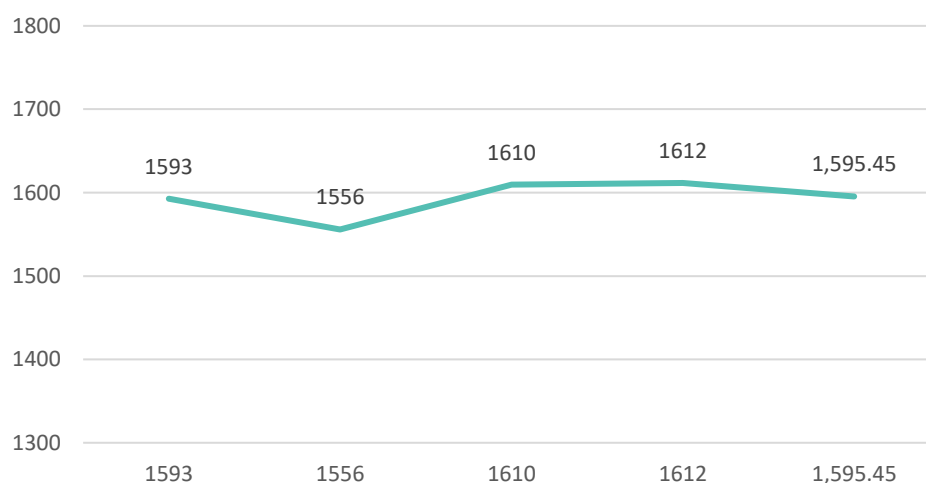
Absence rate by staff grade

Staff Grade	Absence Rate Q1 2023	Absence Rate Q2 2023	Absence Rate Q3 2023	Absence Rate Q4 2023	Absence Rate Q1 2024
Social Work	6.1%	4.01%	4.69%	6.12%	5.84%
Social Care	8.16%	7.49%	8.7%	10.34%	9.68%
All other grades	4.55%	4.59%	4.4%	6.4%	5.18%

7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,595.45 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q1 2024, 16.1 (1%) fewer than at the end of Q4 2023 (1,611.57) and 2.7 (<1%) more than Q1 2023 (1,592.72)

Number of social workers (WTE) by quarter



- 36 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first three months of 2024, 5 (16%) more than the same period in 2023 (31).
- 42 social workers left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks excluding retirements) during the first three months of 2024, 18 (30%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (60).
- 5 social workers retired in the first three months of 2024, three more than the same period in 2023 (2).
- 65 (4%) social workers were on maternity leave (paid and unpaid) at the end of Q1 2024.
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q1 2023 to Q1 2024 by area is presented in the table below.

Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q1 2023 – Q1 2024

	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)
Area	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024
DSC	73.46	69.47	73.51	72.94	70.5
DSE/WW	88.06	84.14	86.62	85.84	82.65
DSW/K/WW	98.6	100.74	102.64	100.41	100.16
Midlands	89.67	83.36	94.06	93.2	93.87
Regional Services DML	15.59	15.44	20.32	20.46	20.75
DML Total	365.38	353.15	377.15	372.85	367.93
CN/MN	44.8	47.89	45.69	46.48	48.62
DNC	80.01	74.2	75.84	73.72	76.9
LH/MH	86.25	80.73	81.96	78.84	81.4
Dublin North	88.21	83.97	92.27	94.47	91.56
Regional Services DNE	13.41	13.33	14.61	14.9	13.59
DNE Total	312.68	300.12	310.37	308.41	312.07
CW/KK/ST	65.41	62.94	68.17	64.12	64.82
Cork	183.68	183.12	186.48	188.12	189.31
Kerry	44.97	45.11	44.22	41.2	40.64
WD/WX	89.26	83.1	89.11	94.21	91.72
Regional Services South	2.92	2.0	2.0	3.94	5.87
South Total	386.24	376.57	389.98	391.59	392.36
Donegal	69.1	66.27	74.87	73.36	71.19
GY/RN	94.32	95.36	96.06	98.48	93.73
Mayo	34.53	36.36	38.45	35.68	36.41
Mid West	112.23	103.6	110.32	104.65	96.42
SLWC	36.7	37.52	38.61	42.18	40.46
Regional Services West	3.64	6.8	2.85	8.91	11.88
West Total	350.52	345.91	361.16	363.26	350.09
Residential DML					
Residential DNE	2.6	2.58	2.6	2.6	2.6
Residential West					

Residential South	1	1	1	1	1
National residential	1	0.99	1	1	1
Residential Services	4.6	4.57	4.6	4.6	4.6
Corporate	173.3	175.46	166.39	170.86	168.4
National Operations					
Corporate	173.3	175.46	166.39	170.86	168.4
Total	1592.72	1,556	1,609.65	1,611.57	1,595.45

7.4 Workforce Learning and Development (WLD)

- Table 1 shows classroom training attendance for Q1 2024
- Table 2 shows E-learning activity for Q1 2024
- The most attended classroom training was ‘Being Trauma Informed’ with 110 completions, followed by ‘Violence Harassment & Aggression (108 completions), ‘ Sharing Personal Data Safely (106 completions) and ‘Tusla Manual Handling’ (105 completions).
- The most popular E-learning module during Q1 2024 was ‘Implementing Children First in Tusla’ with 1,021 completions followed by “Tusla Employee Health and Safety” (863 completions).

Table 1: Classroom Training, Q1 2024

Name of Module	Total Completions
Attachment	15
Being Trauma Informed	110
Child & Youth Participation Virtual Classroom	24
Court Skills in Practice	23
CPD Briefing	42
Diversity in Modern Ireland	57
Diversity in Modern Ireland Train the Trainer	8
First Aid Refresher	7
First Aid Response	18
Hidden in Plain Sight	49
Management: An Introduction for First Time Managers	45
MBTI Team Development	49
Meitheal Chair/Facilitator	7
Meitheal-Tusla Led Early Intervention Practice Model	7
Office for Legal Services, Briefings 2024	30
Resilience and Self Care	17
Resistance – Engaging with Families	41
Safe talk	7
Sharing Personal Data Safely	106
Signs of Safety	37
TCM (Classroom) Training for Child Protection and Alternative Care Staff	84
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Refresher Programme	50
Tusla Coaching Skills	10

Tusla Intake Eligibility Procedure for SCSIP	12
Tusla Manual Handling	105
Tusla.University of Galway Joint Event	77
Understanding Self Harm	7
Violence Harassment & Aggression	108
Welltree Module 1	9
Welltree Module 2	8
Welltree Module 4	18
Welltree Module 5	10
Care Experiences, journeys through the Irish care system	84
Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) - Tusla	9
TOTAL	1,290

Table 2: E-Learning Q1 2024

Name of Module	Total Completions
An Introduction to Parental Participation for all staff	63
An Introduction to Tusla's Approach to Commissioning	9
Attachment in Tusla Practice	44
CASP elearning	82
Children First in Action	770
Child Sexual Exploitation	216
Complaint Handling in Tusla Module1	555
Complaints Handling in Tusla Module2	146
Critical Incident Stress Management	59
Data Protection in Tusla	702
De-escalation Skills for Staff Redeployed to CRS	9
Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Module 1	14
Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Module 2	3
Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Module 3	1
DSGBV	59
Freedom of Information: An Introduction to the FOI Act	733
Health and Safety Management: Introduction for Line Managers	68
Hidden Harm: Impact of Parental Alcohol and other Drug use	46
Implementing Children First in Tusla	1,021
Incident Management	585
Induction to Childrens Residential Services	22
Introduction to Children First	752
Medication Management in CRS	168
Meitheal Briefing	43
Minute Taking - An Introduction	86
Organisational Risk Management	55
Parental Participation in Practice	10
TCM for CPAc	148
Tusla Case Management - The Fundamentals	211

Tusla Employee Health & Safety	863
Using NIMS for the Management of Complaints	16
Violence Harassment & Aggression	330
Total	7,889

8 FINANCE

KEY FACTS

- The outturn for the year to date (March YTD) is an overspend of €14.443 million (5%)
- The net expenditure is €282.790 million against a budget allocation of €268.346 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €1.365 million.
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €16.568 million.

Financial Performance

- The outturn for the year to date (March YTD) is an overspend of €14.443 million (5%)
- The net expenditure is €282.790 million against a budget allocation of €268.346 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €1.365 million.

Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	March 2023 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
Pay costs	€99,894	€101,259	€1,365	(1%)

- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €16.568 million.

Non-Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	March 2023 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
Non pay costs	€188,880	€172,311	€16,568	10%

APPENDIX I

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations have been used for Tusla Service Areas in charts and tables presented in this report.

Service Area	Abbreviation
Dublin South Central	DSC
Dublin South East / Wicklow	DSE/WW
Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow	DSW/K/WW
Midlands	Midlands
Dublin North City	DNC
Dublin North	DN
Louth / Meath	LH/MH
Cavan / Monaghan	CN/MN
Cork	Cork
Kerry	Kerry
Carlow Kilkenny / South Tipperary	CW/KK/ST
Waterford / Wexford	WD/WX
Mid West	Mid West
Galway / Roscommon	GY/RN
Mayo	Mayo
Donegal	Donegal
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	SLWC
SCSIP	Separated Children Seeking International Protection