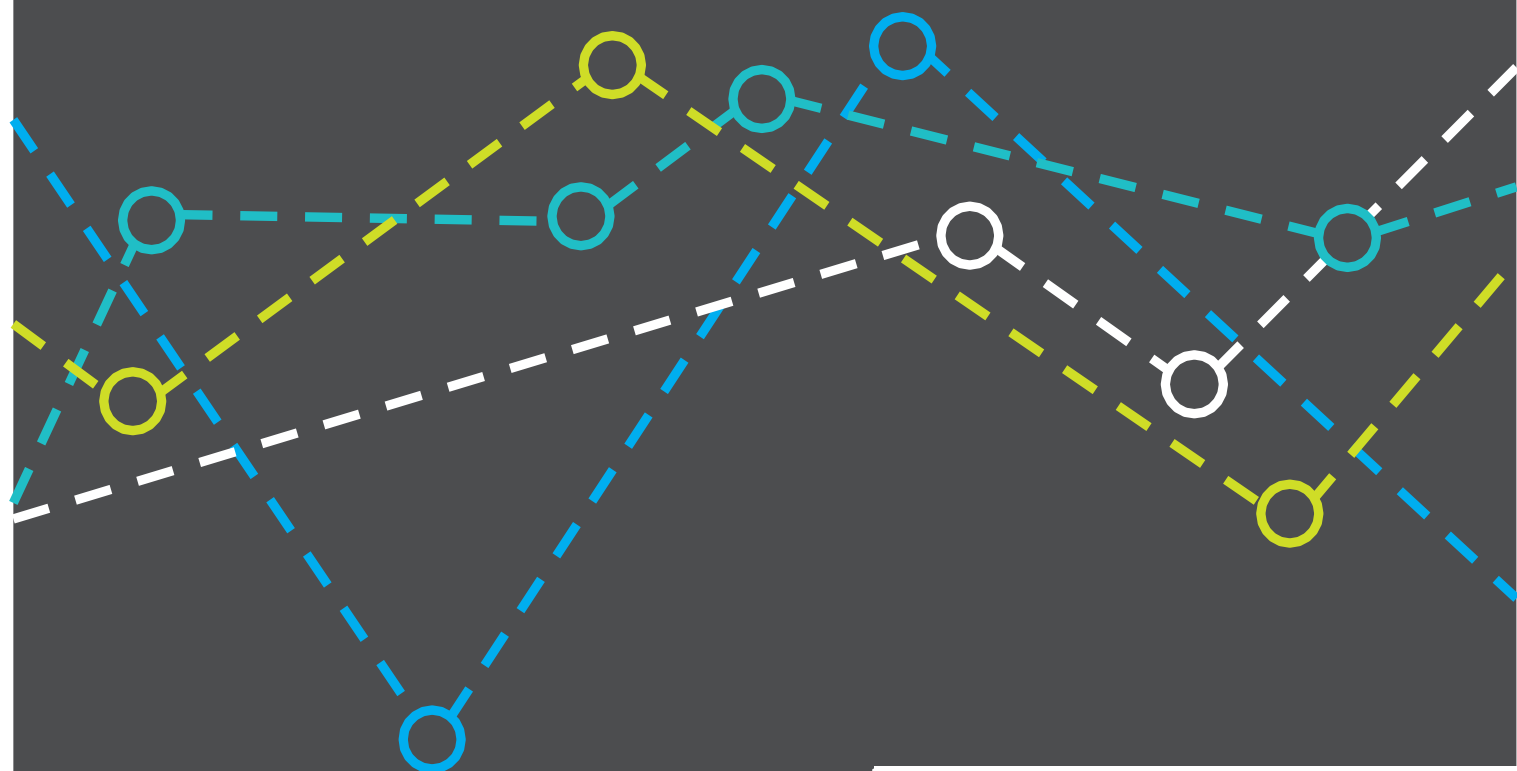




An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 2 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 Q2 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 Q2 2024 position regarding activity and performance.

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

REFERRALS (data on referrals reported quarterly in arrears)

- 23,599 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q1 2024, 847 (4%) more than Q4 2023 (22,752) and 216 (1%) fewer than Q1 2023 (23,815).
- More than half of referrals for Q1 2024 (59%; 13,833) were for welfare concerns, 41% (9,641) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (125) of referrals
- Most common source of referrals in Q1 2024 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 33% (7,854) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (13%; 2,970), social workers (12%; 2,739) and safeguarding officers (11%; 2,549). Mandated persons accounted for 90% (21,317) of all sources.
- 56% (13,156/23,599) of referrals for Q1 2024 were closed following screening. 29% (6,776) progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (16%; 3,667) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.
- 52% (6,871) of referrals for Q1 2024 were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 34% (4,514) were closed to social work with no further action required, 9% (1,123) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (198) were diverted to another agency.
- At the time the Q1 2024 data was extracted for reporting, 99% (6,687/6.776) of preliminary enquiries were completed.
- Of the preliminary enquiry completed, 44% (2,968) required no further action; 35% (2,323) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (344) of cases. Some 9% (616) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS
- At the time the Q1 2024 data was extracted for reporting, 56% (1,308/2,323) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed.
- 54% (706) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 58% (413) required no further action, 20% (139) were diverted to another agency for a service, 15% (109) were

diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 6% (45) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.

- 25% (329) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 18% (236) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 3% (37) required admission to care.

SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA

- 21,408 cases open¹ to social work nationally at the end of Q2 2024, 885 (4%) fewer than Q1 2024 (22,293) and 1,403 (6%) fewer than Q2 2023 (22,811).
- 77% (16,509) of open cases were allocated to a worker¹ at the end of Q2 2024, down two percentage points from Q1 2024 (79%).
- 4,899 (23%) cases were awaiting allocation, 306 (7%) more than Q1 2024 (4,593) and 799 (14%) fewer than Q2 2023 (5,698).
- Six areas account for 67% (3,265) of cases awaiting allocation, Dublin South Central (1,194), Cork (482), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (462), Louth/Meath (450), Dublin South East/Wicklow (340) and Midwest (337).
- 33% (1,627) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2024 were “active” on a duty system.
- 10% (500) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2024 were categorised as high priority, 131 (36%) more than Q1 2024 (369) and 24 (5%) fewer than Q2 2023 (524).
- 58% (2,855) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 30% (1,465) were low priority while the remaining 2% (79) were awaiting categorisation.
- 62% (3,014/4,899) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2024 were waiting three months or less and of these 45% (1,366) were waiting less than one month.
- 65% (327/500) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2024 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 58% (191) were waiting less than one month.

CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

- 1,024 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of Q2 2024, 17 (2%) more than Q1 2024 (1,007) and the sixth consecutive increase.
- 135 (15%) more children “active” at the end of Q2 2024 than at the end of Q2 2023 (889).
- 83% (850/1,024) of children were listed as “active” for no longer than 12 months, up slightly from 82% (822/1,007) at the end of Q1 2024.
- 5% (56/1,024) of children were listed as “active” for > 18 months, down from 7% (72/1,007) at the end of Q1 2024.
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q2 2024 had an allocated social worker.

¹ The number of allocated cases reflects a changing environment in Tusla where allocation of cases to a social worker has become more difficult with reduced availability of social workers nationally. Many cases are now allocated to other professionals also reflecting the changing nature of social work teams. In many instances where cases are unallocated to a social worker there is a social care worker or leader allocated to the case.

ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

CHILDREN IN CARE

- 5,804 children in care at the end of Q2 2024, 44 (<1%) more than Q1 2024 (5,760). This figure (5,804) includes 141 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.
- 87.4% (5,072) of all children in care were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q2 2024, 8.4% (488) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement, while the remaining 4.2% (244) 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, 89.1% (5,046/5,663) of children were in foster care, 7.3% (411) were in residential care and the remaining 3.6% (206) were in “other” care placements.
- 946 (16%) children in care at the end of Q2 2024 were in placements with private providers, 55 (6%) more than Q1 2024 (891).
- Across the 17 areas there were 39 (5%) more children in placements with private providers at the end of Q2 2024 (875) than at the end of Q1 2024 (836).
- 80% (4,671) of children in care at the end of Q2 2024 had an allocated worker. Some 1,133 (20%) children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q2 2024, 150 (15%) more than Q1 2024 (983).
- 84% (4,847) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan. A total of 957 (16%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 176 (16%) fewer than Q1 2024 (1,133).
- 95% (3,552/3,742) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q2 2024, down two percentage points from Q1 2024 (97%).
- 92% (891/965) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q2 2024, down one percentage point from Q1 2024 (93%).

AFTERCARE

- 179 referrals for an aftercare service in Q2 2024. This brings to 307 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2024, 41 (15%) more than the same period in 2023 (266).
- 2,915 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2024, six (<1%) fewer than Q1 2024 (2,921) and 73 (2%) fewer than Q2 2023 (2,988).
- 77% (1,681/2,176) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q2 2024 were in education/accredited training.
- 82% (2,394) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2024 had an aftercare plan, up one percentage point from Q1 2024 (81%). A total of 521 were awaiting a plan, 26 (5%) fewer than Q1 2024 (547).
- 89% (2,025/2,288) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2024, down one percentage point from Q1 2024. A total of 263 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2024, 33 (14%) more than Q1 2024 (230).

- 99% (291/294) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2024.
- 87% (1,734/1,994) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2024.

ADOPTION SERVICES

- 42 new children referred for adoption during Q2 2024. This brings to 89 the number of new children referred for adoption during the first six months of 2024. A total of 225 new children referred for adoption in 2023.
- 47 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q2 2024. Of these, 23 (49%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 14 (30%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 10 (21%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

FOSTER CARERS

- 3,842 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q2 2024, two (<1%) fewer than Q1 2024 (3,844) and 25 (<%) fewer than Q2 2023 (3,867).
- 51 Tusla foster carers (22 general & 29 relative) and seven private foster carers approved in Q2 2024. This brings to 107 the number of Tusla foster carers (50 general and 57 relative) and 18 the number of private foster carers approved in the first six months of 2024.
- 16 applicants to be general foster carers awaiting assessment at the end of Q2 2024 with a further six applicants awaiting approval by the foster care committee.
- 70 applications for general foster care and 130 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q2 2024.
- 93% (2,053) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2024, down one percentage point from Q1 2024 (94%)
- 162 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 18 (13%) more than Q1 2024 (144).
- 95% (943) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2024, no change from Q1 2022.
- 50 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q2 2024, three fewer than Q1 2024 (53).
- 96% (167) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. A total of seven carers were awaiting a link worker, three fewer than Q1 2024 (10). The seven carers were reported across two areas.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- 4,026 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q2 2024, 23 (<1%) fewer than Q1 2024 (4,049) and Q2 2023 (4,049).
- 617 inspections (all types) carried out in Q2 2024. This brings to 1,169 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2024, 65 (5%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (1,234).
- 195 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q2 2024, bringing the number notified for the first six months of 2024 to 377. A total of 855 incidents notified in 2023.
- 108 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q2 2024, bringing the number of submissions for the first six months of 2024 to 192. A total of 490 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during 2023.
- 32 services were found to have closed in the first six months of 2024, bringing the number for the first six months of 2024 to 41. A total of 115 services were found to have closed in 2023.

ALTERNATIVE CARE INSPECTION & MONITORING SERVICE

- 170 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q2 2024; 4 (2%) more than Q1 2024 (166).
- 54 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q2 2024, bringing to 102 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2024. A total of 102 inspections were also carried out during the same period in 2023.
- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q2 2024, no change from Q1 2024. Two non-statutory foster care services visited, and two monitoring visits conducted during the first six months of 2024.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

Home Education

- 2,536 children on the register for home education at the end of Q2 2024, 81 (3%) more than Q1 2024 (2,455) and 373 (17%) more than Q2 2023 (2,163).
- 271 applications¹ received for home education during Q2 2024, bringing to 558 the number of applications received for the first six months of 2024, 39 (7%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (597).
- 357 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q2 2024, bringing to 641 the number of assessments carried out for the first six months of 2024, 205 (47%) more than the same period in 2023 (436).
- 876 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q2 2024, 186 (18%) fewer than Q1 2024 (1,062) and 479 (35%) fewer than Q2 2023 (1,355).

Independent Schools

- 61 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q2 2024, up one from Q1 2024 (60).

- 6,545 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q2 2024 with 4,627 of these children on the register.
- 6 schools due for assessment at the end of Q2 2024.

TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2023 – August 2024

- 7,747 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the 10 months Sept - Jun 2024, 1,024 (15%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (6,723).
- 4,165 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of June 2024, 132 (3%) more than June 2023 (4,033).
- 3,579 new individual children worked with for the 10 months Sep – Jun 2024, 536 (18%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (3,043).
- 646 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the 10 months Sep – Jun, 156 (32%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (490). The SANs issued were in respect of 467 individual children, 125 (37%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (342).
- 122 summonses issued for the 10 months Sep- Jun 2023, 17 (16%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (105). The summonses were in respect of 103 individual children, 34 (49%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (69).
- 264 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs for the 10 months Sep-Jun 2024, 11 (4%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (253).

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 437 family support providers commissioned (H1 2024), *based on data from 16/17 areas*. 84% (368) of services provided data for H1 2024.
- At least 21,333 children were in receipt of family support services at the end of H1 2024. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- At least 24,613 children were referred to family support services during the first six months of 2024. This equates to about 2.0% of children (0-17 years).
- 64% (15,662) of children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2024 received a service during that period. The percentage who received a service ranged from 33% (Waterford/Wexford) to 95% (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan). Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 64%.

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

- 1,414 Meitheal processes requested during the first six months of 2024.
- The most common pathway for requests received during the first six months of 2024 was “Direct Access” accounting for 66% (935) of requests. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 24% (345) while “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for 9.5% (134) of requests.
- 80% (1,129/1,414) of Meitheal requests received during the first six months of 2024 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- 885 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the first six months of 2024.
- 54% (476) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- 961 Meitheal processes were closed during the first six months of 2024.
- 30% (290) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 27% (260) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 13% (125) were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3); 30% (286) were closed post-delivery.
- 118 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating at the end of Q2 2024 with a further nine planned/pre planning stage.

PEOPLE & CHANGE

- 5,125 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q2 2024, 100 (2%) more than Q1 2024 (5,025) and 287 (6%) more than Q2 2023 (4,838).
- 390 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla’s payroll) in the first six months of 2024, 93 (19%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (483).
- 201 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first six months of 2024, 16 (7%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (217). A further 65 staff retired in the first six months of 2024, 9 (16%) more than the same period in 2023 (56).
- At the end of Q2 2024, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.79%, up slightly from 6.7% at the end of Q1 2024 (6.7%) and up 1.55 percentage points from Q2 2023 (5.24%).
- e-learning training activity: 11,572 completions were achieved in Q2 2024
- Classroom training: 2,604 participants attended in Q2 2024.

FINANCE

- The outturn for the year to date (June YTD) is an overspend of €28,092 million (5%)
- The net expenditure is €549,196 million against a budget allocation of €521,104 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €3,074 million.
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €31,587 million.

2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

Key Facts

- 23,599 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q1 2024, 847 (4%) more than Q4 2023 (22,752) and 216 (1%) fewer than Q1 2023 (23,815).
- More than half of referrals for Q1 2024 (59%; 13,833) were for welfare concerns, 41% (9,641) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (125) of referrals
- Most common source of referrals in Q1 2024 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 33% (7,854) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (13%; 2,970), social workers (12%; 2,739) and safeguarding officers (11%; 2,549). Mandated persons accounted for 90% (21,317) of all sources.
- 56% (13,156/23,599) of referrals for Q1 2024 were closed following screening. 29% (6,776) progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (16%; 3,667) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.
- 52% (6,871) of referrals for Q1 2024 were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 34% (4,514) were closed to social work with no further action required, 9% (1,123) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (198) were diverted to another agency.
- At the time the Q1 2024 data was extracted for reporting, 99% (6,687/6.776) of preliminary enquiries were completed.
- Of the preliminary enquiry completed, 44% (2,968) required no further action; 35% (2,323) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (344) of cases. Some 9% (616) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS
- At the time the Q1 2024 data was extracted for reporting, 56% (1,308/2,323) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed.
- 54% (706) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 58% (413) required no further action, 20% (139) were diverted to another agency for a service, 15% (109) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 6% (45) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- 25% (329) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 18% (236) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 3% (37) required admission to care.

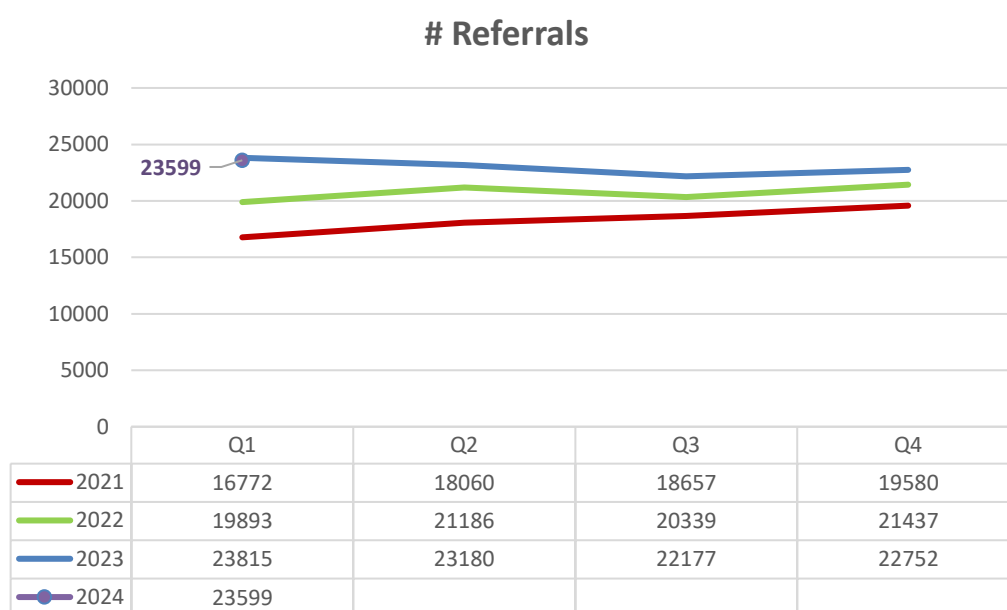
KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- 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

- 23,599 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q1 2024², 847 (4%) more than Q4 2023 (22,752) and 216 (1%) fewer than Q1 2023 (23,815).



- More than half of referrals for Q1 2024 (59%; 13,833) were for welfare concerns, 41% (9,641) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (125) of referrals (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1: Percentage of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Total 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024
Welfare	59.5%	60.2%	58.6%
Emotional abuse	17.3%	17.0%	18.3%
Neglect	5.6%	6.0%	6.4%
Physical abuse	9.1%	9.9%	10.3%
Sexual abuse	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%
Not recorded	2.5%	1.0%	0.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

² Data on referrals are reported quarterly in arrears.

Table 2: Number of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Total 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024
Welfare	54,721	13,692	13,833
Emotional abuse	15,908	3,874	4,319
Neglect	5,178	1,360	1,500
Physical abuse	8,375	2,255	2,426
Sexual abuse	5,467	1,347	1,396
Not recorded	2,275	224	125
Total	91,924	22,752	23,599

Referrals by Area

- The number of referrals for Q1 2024 equates to about 19 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 10 per 1,000 (Dublin South East/Wicklow) to 30 per 1,000 (Dublin South Central). Seven areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average of 19/1,000.
- The highest number of referrals for Q1 2024 was reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (2,384) followed by Midlands (2,328), Dublin North (2,210), Cork (2,209) and Dublin South Central (2,116). The fewest number was reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (364) followed by Mayo (377) and Kerry (558). A breakdown of referrals by area is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Breakdown of referrals by area

Area	Total 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Pop	Rate / 1000 Q1 2024
Dublin South Central	6,895	1,911	2,116	70,259	30.1
DSE/WW	3,627	925	921	91,047	10.1
DSW/K/WW	8,873	2,296	2,384	108,927	21.9
Midlands	8,889	2,242	2,328	80,962	28.8
Dublin North City	5,446	1,344	1,341	49,682	27.0
Dublin North	9,341	2,205	2,210	103,508	21.4
Louth / Meath	7,261	1,814	1,841	96,531	19.1
Cavan / Monaghan	2,719	723	796	37,336	21.3
Cork	8,333	2,216	2,209	136,786	16.1
Kerry	2,704	566	558	34,994	15.9
CW/K/ST	4,361	1,141	1,058	62,366	17.0
Waterford/Wexford	6,394	1,457	1,611	69,239	23.3
Mid West	7,120	1,632	1,777	96,764	18.4
Galway/Roscommon	4,552	1,010	1,011	81,799	12.4
Mayo	1,320	318	377	31,911	11.8
Donegal	2,572	597	697	42,144	16.5
SLWC	1,517	355	364	24,312	15.0
Total	91,924	22,752	23,599	1,218,567	19.4

Population (0-17 years) based on Census 2022

Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals in Q1 2024 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 33% (7,854) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (13%; 2,970), social workers (12%; 2,739) and safeguarding officers (11%; 2,549). Mandated persons accounted for 90% (21,317) of all sources. The source of all referrals is presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Source of Referrals (ranked by # referrals Q1 2024)

Source	Q1 2024	% Total
Member of An Garda Síochána	7,854	33.3%
Teacher	2,970	12.6%
Social worker	2,739	11.6%
A safeguarding officer,	2,549	10.8%
Social Care worker	1,099	4.7%
Anonymous	926	3.9%
Medical practitioner	863	3.7%
Parent / Guardian	671	2.8%
Registered nurse/midwife	614	2.6%
Manager of domestic violence shelter	459	1.9%
Youth worker	424	1.8%
Psychologist	390	1.7%
Psychotherapist	390	1.7%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	328	1.4%
Other Family Member	313	1.3%
No specified	124	0.5%
Courts (Section 20 Child Care Act 1991)	115	0.5%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	101	0.4%
Probation officer	85	0.4%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	79	0.3%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	78	0.3%
Manager of asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision centre)	73	0.3%
Occupational therapist	45	0.2%
Member of the Public	40	0.2%
Courts (Other Court Request)	33	0.1%
Self	33	0.1%
An addiction counsellor	30	0.1%
Speech and language therapist	28	0.1%
Emergency medical technician	24	0.1%
Guardian Ad Litem	23	0.1%
Physiotherapist	22	0.1%
Other	18	0.1%
Director of institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	17	0.1%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	17	0.1%
Immigration Services	9	<0.1%
Dentist	9	<0.1%

Language school/recreational school, children reside away from home	*	<0.1%
Mandated person – not specified	2	<0.1%
Member of the clergy	*	<0.1%
Total	23,599	100.0%

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

Mandated Reports

- 34% (7,985/23,599) of all referrals for Q1 2024 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	Q1 2024	% Total
Physical Abuse	2,135	27%
Emotional Abuse	3,412	43%
Sexual Abuse	1,234	15%
Neglect	1,204	15%
Total	7,985	100%

- A breakdown of mandated reports by area is presented in Table 6 below. The number of mandated reports for Q1 2024 ranges from 150 (2%) (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 1,064 (13%) (Dublin North).

Table 6: Mandated reports by area

Area	Q1 2024	% Total
Dublin South Central	820	10.3%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	443	5.5%
DSW/K/WW	585	7.3%
Midlands	652	8.2%
Dublin North City	397	5.0%
Dublin North	1,064	13.3%
Louth/Meath	898	11.2%
Cavan/Monaghan	198	2.5%
Cork	707	8.9%
Kerry	199	2.5%
CW/K/ST	246	3.1%
Waterford/Wexford	384	4.8%
Mid West	465	5.8%
Galway/Roscommon	339	4.2%
Mayo	243	3.0%
Donegal	195	2.4%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	150	1.9%
Total	7,985	100.0%

- A breakdown of source of mandated reports is presented in Table 7 below. The most common source of reports for Q1 2024 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for

37% (2,947) of all mandated reports, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (16%; 1,302), safeguarding officers (13%; 998) and social workers (12%; 926).

Table 7: Source of mandated reports (ranked by number of reports Q1 2024

Source	Q1 2024	% Total
Member of An Garda Síochána	2,947	36.91%
Teacher	1,302	16.31%
A safeguarding officer,	998	12.50%
Social worker	926	11.60%
Social Care worker	346	4.33%
Medical Practitioner	284	3.56%
Psychotherapist	213	2.67%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	193	2.42%
Psychologist	174	2.18%
Registered Nurse/midwife	159	1.99%
Youth worker	155	1.94%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	68	0.85%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	40	0.50%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	34	0.43%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	31	0.39%
An Addiction counsellor	15	0.19%
Manager of Asylum Seeker accommodation (Direct provision) Centre	15	0.19%
Probation Officer	13	0.16%
Occupational therapist	13	0.16%
Guardian Ad Litem	13	0.16%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	10	0.13%
Speech and Language therapist	9	0.11%
Physiotherapist	8	0.10%
Dentist	7	0.09%
Emergency medical technician	6	0.08%
Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	*	0.05%
Language school / recreational school where children reside away from home	*	0.03%
Total	7,985	100.00%

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

Screening

- 56% (13,156/23,599) of referrals for Q1 2024 were closed following screening (Table 8).
- 29% (6,776) of referrals for Q1 2024 progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (16%; 3,667) 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 Q1 2024
Dublin South Central	57%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	44%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	62%
Midlands	58%
Dublin North City	59%
Dublin North	67%
Louth/Meath	41%
Cavan/Monaghan	51%
Cork	58%
Kerry	27%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	69%
Waterford/Wexford	65%
Mid West	57%
Galway/Roscommon	28%
Mayo	51%
Donegal	64%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	36%
Total	56%

- A breakdown of the outcome of referrals closed following screening is presented below (Table 9).
- 52% (6,871) of referrals for Q1 2024 were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 34% (4,514) were closed to social work with no further action required, 9% (1,123) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (198) were diverted to another agency.

Table 9: Outcome of referrals closed following screening

Outcome of referrals closed	Q1 2024	% Total
No further action - close	4,514	34%
No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	6,871	52%
Divert to another agency - close	198	2%
Divert to PPFS - close	1,123	9%
Other / Not recorded	450	3%
Total	13,156	100%

- The percentage breakdown of outcomes of referrals for Q1 2024 closed following screening, by area is presented in the table below (Table 10).

Table 10: Outcome of referrals closed following screening by area, Q1 2024

Area	No further action - close	No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	Divert to PPFS - close
Dublin South Central	16%	79%	3%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	27%	67%	4%
DSW/K/WW	34%	46%	14%
Midlands	32%	59%	4%
Dublin North City	31%	60%	4%
Dublin North	14%	52%	32%
Louth/Meath	23%	61%	2%
Cavan/Monaghan	15%	53%	14%
Cork	42%	50%	3%
Kerry	25%	71%	1%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	76%	22%	2%
Waterford/Wexford	46%	38%	14%
Mid West	45%	46%	1%
Galway/Roscommon	46%	49%	3%
Mayo	77%	18%	1%
Donegal	49%	48%	1%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	35%	65%	1%
Total	34%	52%	9%

Preliminary Enquiries

- At the time the data for Q1 2024 was extracted for reporting, 99% (6,687/6.776) of preliminary enquiries were completed. A breakdown of preliminary enquiries completed by area is presented in the table below (Table 11).
- 12% (811) 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, Q1 2024

Area	# PEs commenced	# PEs completed	% PEs completed	% PEs completed 5 days
Dublin South Central	371	365	98.4%	16%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	298	296	99.3%	3%
DSW/K/WW	670	662	98.8%	4%
Midlands	385	378	98.2%	7%
Dublin North City	310	297	95.8%	2%
Dublin North	481	466	96.9%	4%
Louth/Meath	621	614	98.9%	7%
Cavan/Monaghan	293	286	97.6%	9%
Cork	713	702	98.5%	12%
Kerry	391	389	99.5%	32%
CW/K/ST	278	278	100.0%	19%

Waterford/Wexford	407	404	99.3%	17%
Mid West	561	556	99.1%	8%
Galway/Roscommon	486	485	99.8%	20%
Mayo	142	142	100.0%	5%
Donegal	156	154	98.7%	19%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	213	213	100.0%	39%
Total	6,776	6,687	98.7%	12%

- Of the preliminary enquiry completed, 44% (2,968) required no further action; 35% (2,323) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (344) of cases. Some 9% (616) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS (Table 12).

Table 12: Outcomes from preliminary enquiries

Outcomes from preliminary enquiry	Q1 2024	% Total
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	2,968	44%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning Ongoing	344	5%
Divert to PPFS - Close	616	9%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	436	7%
Initial Assessment	2,323	35%
Total	6,687	100%

- The percentage breakdown of the outcomes of preliminary enquiries completed, by area for Q1 2024 is presented in the table below (Table 13).

Table 13: Percentage breakdown of outcomes of preliminary enquiries, by area Q1 2024

Area	% Closed - No further Action	% Requiring IA	% Divert - PPFS	% Closed - Ongoing	% Closed - Divert to Another Agency
Dublin South Central	30%	44%	7%	9%	10%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	58%	27%	6%	2%	7%
DSW/K/WW	46%	39%	10%	2%	4%
Midlands	37%	44%	10%	7%	1%
Dublin North City	54%	34%	8%	0%	3%
Dublin North	32%	34%	28%	1%	5%
Louth/Meath	56%	27%	10%	1%	6%
Cavan/Monaghan	52%	32%	9%	7%	0%
Cork	47%	38%	4%	7%	4%
Kerry	54%	28%	2%	12%	4%
CW/K/ST	46%	32%	7%	14%	1%
Waterford/Wexford	27%	36%	17%	10%	10%
Mid West	37%	30%	4%	4%	25%
Galway/Roscommon	48%	34%	12%	0%	6%
Mayo	45%	42%	4%	3%	7%
Donegal	31%	45%	3%	19%	2%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	53%	35%	7%	3%	2%
Total	44%	35%	9%	5%	7%

Initial Assessments

- At the time the Q1 2024 data was extracted for reporting, 56% (1,308/2,323) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed (Table 14).
- 33% (435) of initial assessments completed were completed within 40 days of receipt of referral.

Table 14: Breakdown of the status of Initial assessments, Q1 2024

Area	IA Closed	% IAs closed 40 working days
Dublin South Central	50%	26%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	72%	47%
DSW/K/WW	87%	33%
Midlands	18%	33%
Dublin North City	29%	7%
Dublin North	23%	3%
Louth/Meath	41%	24%
Cavan/Monaghan	22%	5%
Cork	56%	34%
Kerry	89%	36%
CW/K/ST	81%	36%
Waterford/Wexford	61%	29%
Mid West	78%	52%
Galway/Roscommon	62%	33%
Mayo	54%	25%
Donegal	40%	36%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	91%	42%
Total	56%	33%

- 54% (706) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 58% (413) required no further action, 20% (139) were diverted to another agency for a service, 15% (109) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 6% (45) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- 25% (329) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 18% (236) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 3% (37) 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, Q1 2024

Outcomes from initial assessments	Q1 2024	% Total
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	413	32%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning Ongoing	45	3%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	139	11%
Divert to PPFS - Close	109	8%
Child Protection / CPC Safety Planning	236	18%
Safety Planning	329	25%
Admission to Care	37	3%
Total	1,308	100%

2.2 SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA (Child Protection & Welfare)

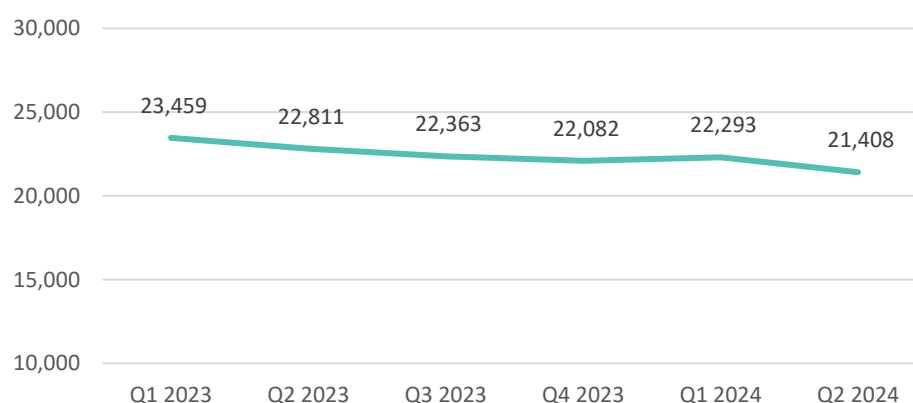
Key Facts

- 21,408 cases open¹ to social work nationally at the end of Q2 2024, 885 (4%) fewer than Q1 2024 (22,293) and 1,403 (6%) fewer than Q2 2023 (22,811).
- 77% (16,509) of open cases were allocated to a worker at the end of Q2 2024, down two percentage points from Q1 2024 (79%).
- 4,899 (23%) cases were awaiting allocation, 306 (7%) more than Q1 2024 (4,593) and 799 (14%) fewer than Q2 2023 (5,698).
- Six areas account for 67% (3,265) of cases awaiting allocation, Dublin South Central (1,194), Cork (482), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (462), Louth/Meath (450), Dublin South East/Wicklow (340) and Midwest (337).
- 33% (1,627) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2024 were “active” on a duty system.
- 10% (500) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2024 were categorised as high priority, 131 (36%) more than Q1 2024 (369) and 24 (5%) fewer than Q2 2023 (524).
- 58% (2,855) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 30% (1,465) were low priority while the remaining 2% (79) were awaiting categorisation.
- 62% (3,014/4,899) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2024 were waiting three months or less and of these 45% (1,366) were waiting less than one month.
- 65% (327/500) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2024 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 58% (191) were waiting less than one month.

2.2.1 Open Cases

- 21,408 cases open³ to social work nationally at the end of Q2 2024, 885 (4%) fewer than Q1 2024 (22,293) and 1,403 (6%) fewer than Q2 2023 (22,811). *Note: data from September 2023 includes cases awaiting categorisation, hence comparison with previous quarters needs to be interpreted with caution.*⁴

Number of open cases by quarter

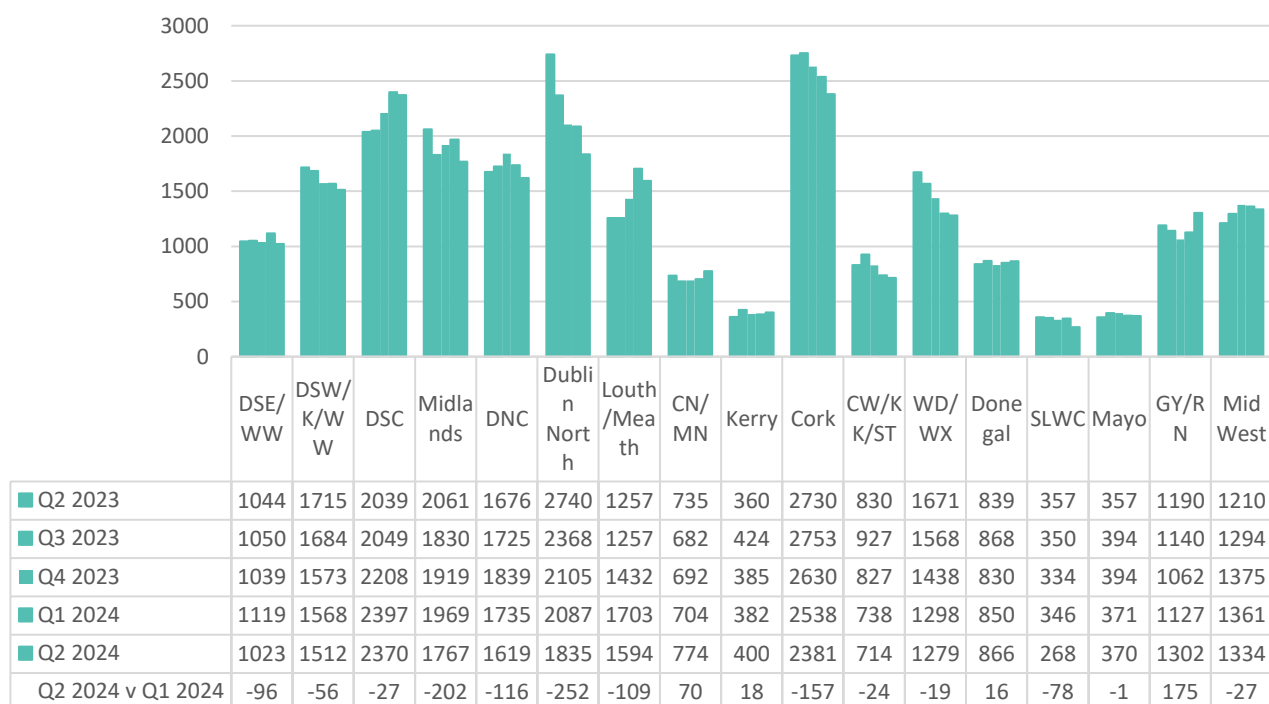


³ Open cases include cases held on intake, allocated, unallocated child welfare and protection and children in care cases.

⁴ 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 2,381 (11%) in Cork to 268 (1%) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan. Nine 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 two areas (Cork and Dublin South Central) had in excess of 2,000 cases.
- 4 areas reported an increase in open cases from Q1 2024. The largest increase was reported by Galway/Roscommon (up 175) followed by Cavan/Monaghan (up 70).
- Of the 13 areas that reported a decrease, the largest decreases were reported by Dublin North (down 252), Midlands (down 202) and Cork (down 157).

Number of open cases by area



2.2.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

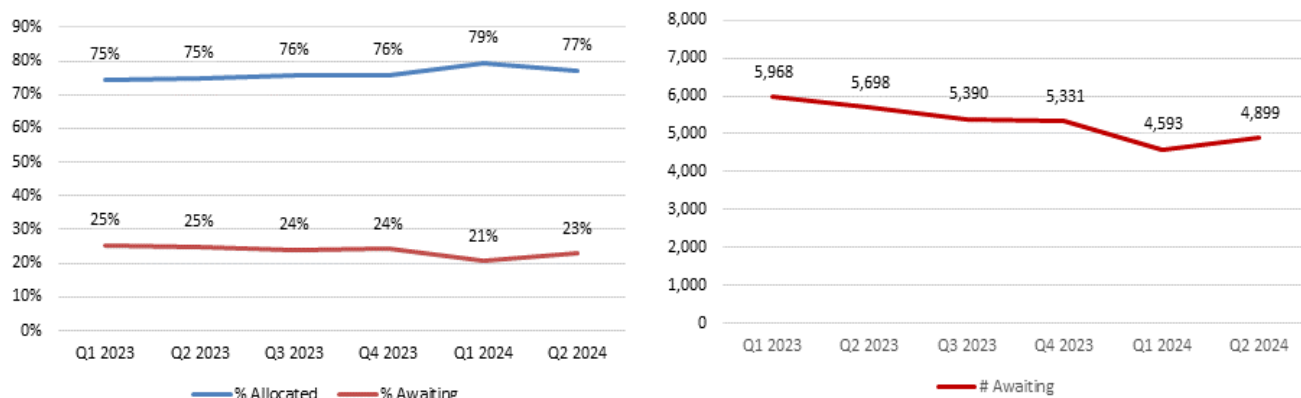
- 77% (16,509) of open cases were allocated to a worker at the end of Q2 2024, down two percentage points from Q1 2024 (79%). *Note: data from September 2023 includes cases awaiting categorisation, hence comparison with previous quarters needs to be interpreted with caution.*⁴

Note: the number of allocated cases reflects a changing environment in Tusla where allocation of cases to a social worker has become more difficult with reduced availability of social workers nationally. Many cases are now allocated to other professionals also reflecting the changing nature of social work teams. In many instances where cases are unallocated to a social worker there is a social care worker or leader allocated to the case.

- 4,899 (23%) cases were awaiting allocation, 306 (7%) more than Q1 2024 (4,593) and 799 (14%) fewer than Q2 2023 (5,698). *Note: data from September 2023 includes cases awaiting categorisation, hence comparison with previous quarters needs to be interpreted with caution.*⁴

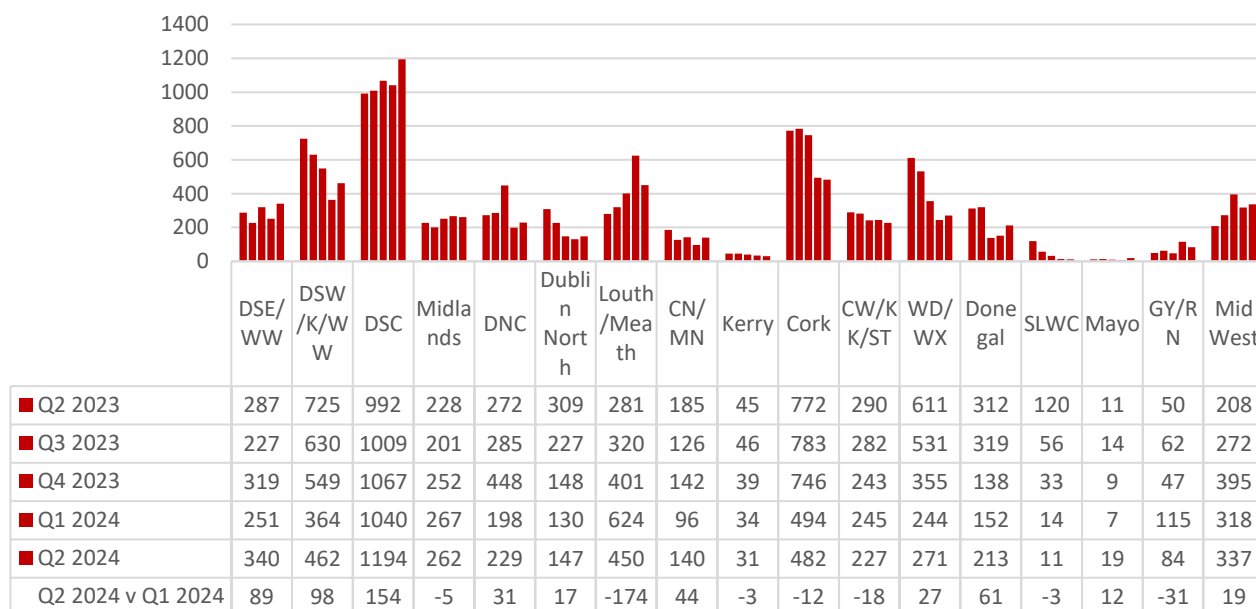
- 33% (1,627) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2024 were “active” on a duty system⁵.

Cases allocated/awaiting allocation



- Dublin South Central reported the highest number of cases awaiting allocation (1,194; 24%) followed by Cork (482; 10%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (462; 9%), Louth/Meath (450; 9%), Dublin South East/Wicklow (340; 7%) and Midwest (337; 7%). These six areas account for 67% (3,265) of cases awaiting allocation.
- 10 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from Q1 2024 with the largest increases reported by Dublin South Central (up 154), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 98) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 89).
- 7 areas reported a decrease with the largest decrease reported by Louth/Meath (down 174) followed by Galway/Roscommon (down 31).

Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area

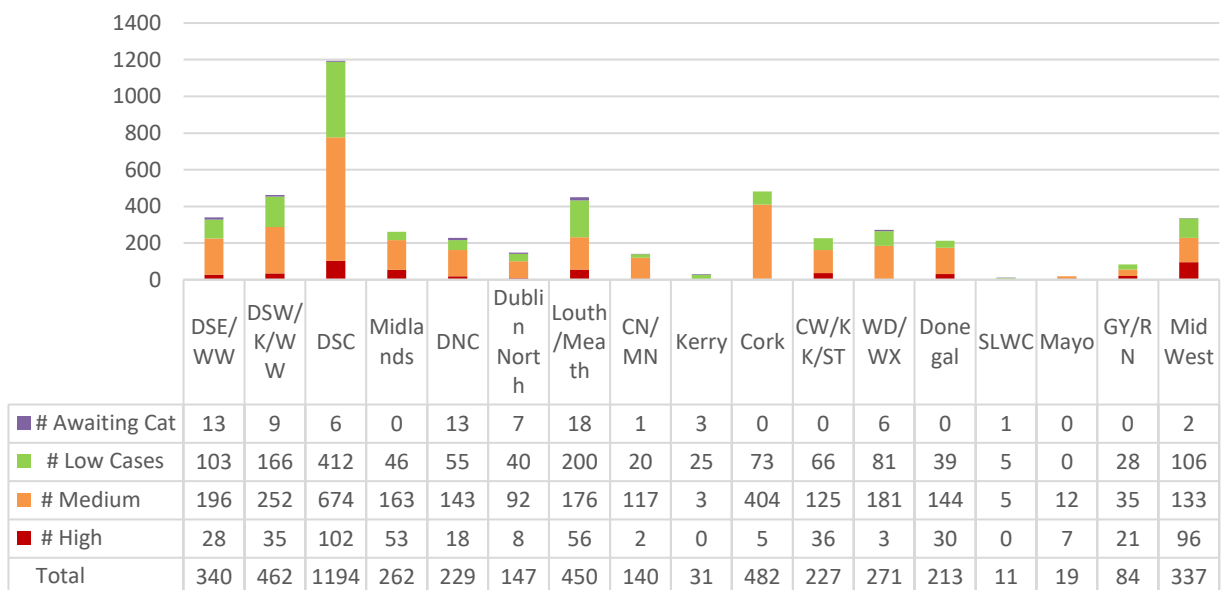


⁵ A case awaiting allocation may be “active” on a “duty” system. This means that there are actions being undertaken by a dedicated duty team or rotating social workers on a duty roster to progress the protection and welfare of the child. Examples of actions being undertaken include telephone calls relating to the concern, visits to see children, completing initial assessments and child in care reviews or care plans.

2.2.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level

- 10% (500) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2024 were categorised as high priority, 131 (36%) more than Q1 2024 (369) and 24 (5%) fewer than Q2 2023 (524).
- 58% (2,855) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 30% (1,465) were low priority while the remaining 2% (79) were awaiting categorisation.
- The highest number of high priority cases was reported by Dublin South Central (102) followed by Midwest (96), Louth/Meath (56) and Midlands (53). These four areas account for 61% (307) of all high priority cases awaiting.

Number Unallocated Cases by Priority Level



2.2.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 62% (3,014/4,899) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2024 were waiting three months or less and of these 45% (1,366) were waiting less than one month.
- 65% (327/500) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q2 2024 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 58% (191) were waiting less than one month.

Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting

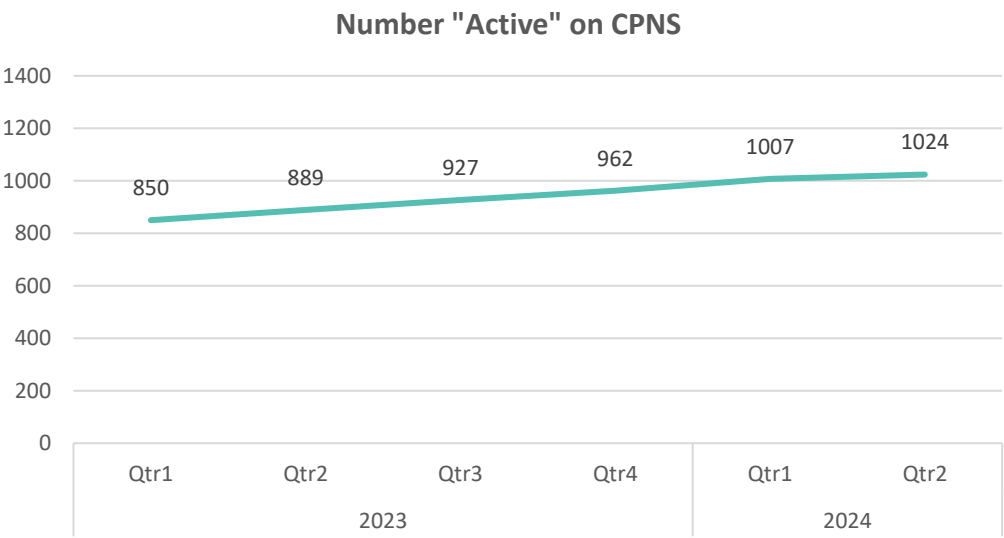
Time Waiting	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024
<1 month	1,827 (32%)	1,759 (33%)	1,683 (32%)	1,439 (31%)	1,366 (28%)
1-3 months	1,920 (34%)	1,347 (25%)	1,578 (30%)	1,301 (28%)	1,648 (34%)
>3 months	1,951 (34%)	2,284 (42%)	2,070 (39%)	1,853 (40%)	1,885 (38%)
Total	5,698 (100%)	5,390 (100%)	5,331 (100%)	4,593 (100%)	4,899 (100%)

2.3 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

KEY FACTS

- 1,024 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of Q2 2024, 17 (2%) more than Q1 2024 (1,007) and the sixth consecutive increase.
- 135 (15%) more children “active” at the end of Q2 2024 than at the end of Q2 2023 (889).
- 83% (850/1,024) of children were listed as “active” for no longer than 12 months, up slightly from 82% (822/1,007) at the end of Q1 2024.
- 5% (56/1,024) of children were listed as “active” for > 18 months, down from 7% (72/1,007) at the end of Q1 2024.
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q2 2024 had an allocated social worker.

- 1,024 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)⁶ at the end of Q2 2024, 17 (2%) more than Q1 2024 (1,007) and the sixth consecutive increase.
- 135 (15%) more children “active” at the end of Q2 2024 than at the end of Q2 2023 (889).



- The number listed as “active” equates to about 8 children per 10,000 under 18 years and ranges from 2.9/10,000 in Dublin South East/Wicklow to 19.7/10,000 in Dublin North City, more than double the national average. Seven areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average.
- Midwest reported the highest number (139) of children “active”, followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (121) and Cork (103). Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan reported the fewest number (15) followed by Mayo (17) and Cavan/Monaghan (21).

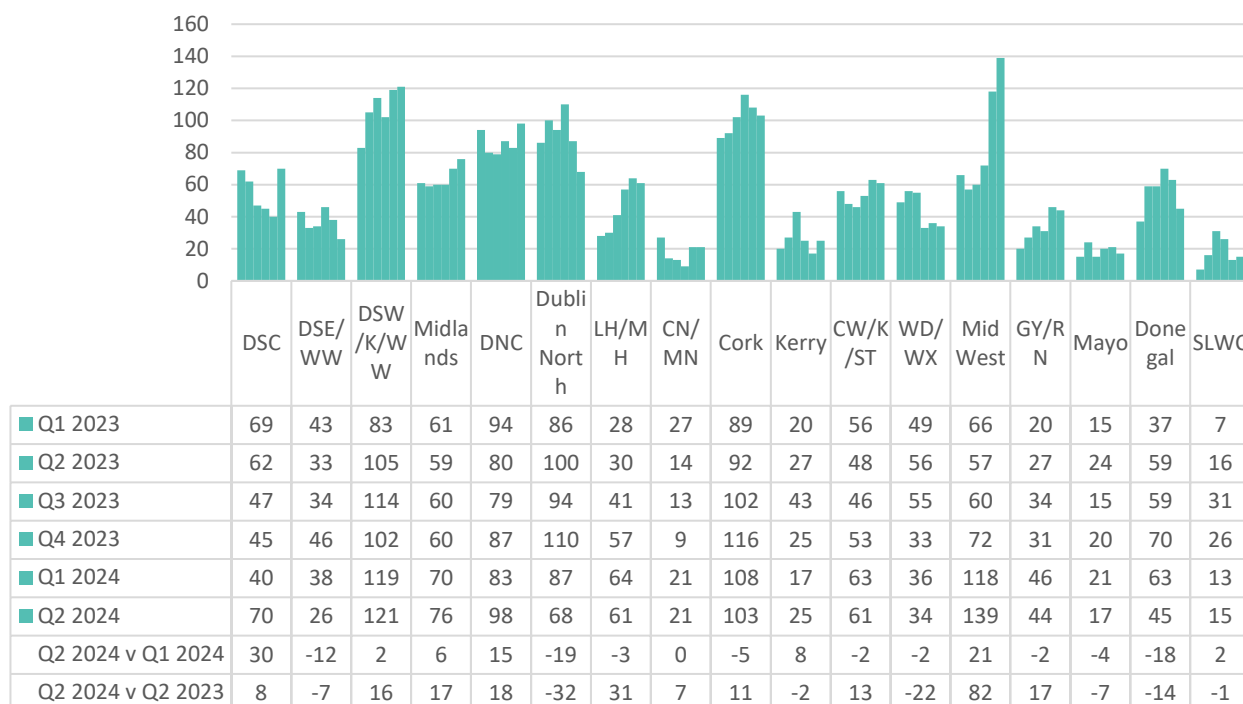
⁶ The CPNS, in accordance with the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2011, is a national record of all children who are the subject of a child protection plan agreed at a child protection conference. The CPNS is accessible to named professional groups subject to strict protocols.

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

Area	Q2 2024	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	98	49,682	19.7
Mid West	139	42,144	14.4
DSW/K/WW	121	96,764	11.1
Donegal	45	108,927	10.7
Dublin South Central	70	62,366	10.0
CW/K/ST	61	80,962	9.8
Midlands	76	103,508	9.4
Cork	103	136,786	7.5
Kerry	25	96,531	7.1
Dublin North	68	31,911	6.6
Louth / Meath	61	70,259	6.3
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	15	37,336	6.2
Cavan / Monaghan	21	81,799	5.6
Galway / Roscommon	44	24,312	5.4
Mayo	17	69,239	5.3
Waterford / Wexford	34	34,994	4.9
Dublin South East / Wicklow	26	91,047	2.9
Total	1,024	1,218,567	8.4

- 7/17 areas reported an increase in the number “active” from Q1 2024. The largest increases were reported by Dublin South Central (up 30), Midwest (up 21) and Dublin North City (up 15).
- 9/17 areas reported a decrease in the number “active” from Q1 2024. The largest decreases were reported by Dublin North (down 19), Donegal (down 18) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 12). The remaining area, Cavan/Monaghan reported no change.
- 10/17 areas had more children “active” at the end of Q2 2024 than at the end of Q2 2023. Largest increases reported by Midwest (up 82), Louth/Meath (up 31) and Dublin North City (up 18).
- 7/17 areas had fewer children “active” at the end of Q2 2024 than at the end of Q2 2023. Largest decreases reported by Dublin North (down 32), Waterford/Wexford (down 22) and Donegal (down 14).

#"Active" by Area



- 60% (612/1,024) of children listed as “active” at the end of Q2 2024 were listed for 0-6 months, up from 57% (570/1,007) at the end of Q1 2024.
- 83% (850/1,024) of children were listed as “active” for no longer than 12 months, up slightly from 82% (822/1,007) at the end of Q1 2024.
- 5% (56/1,024) of children were listed as “active” for > 18 months, down from 7% (72/1,007) at the end of Q1 2024.
- Eight areas (CW/K/ST, Cavan/Monaghan, Kerry, Louth/Meath, Mayo, Midwest, Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan and Waterford/Wexford) had no child “active” for longer than 18 months.
- The areas reporting children “active” for > 18 months are, Dublin South East/Wicklow (1), Galway/Roscommon (2), Midlands (3), Cork (3), Dublin South Central (4), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (5), Donegal (7), Dublin North (13), Dublin North City (18)
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q2 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)

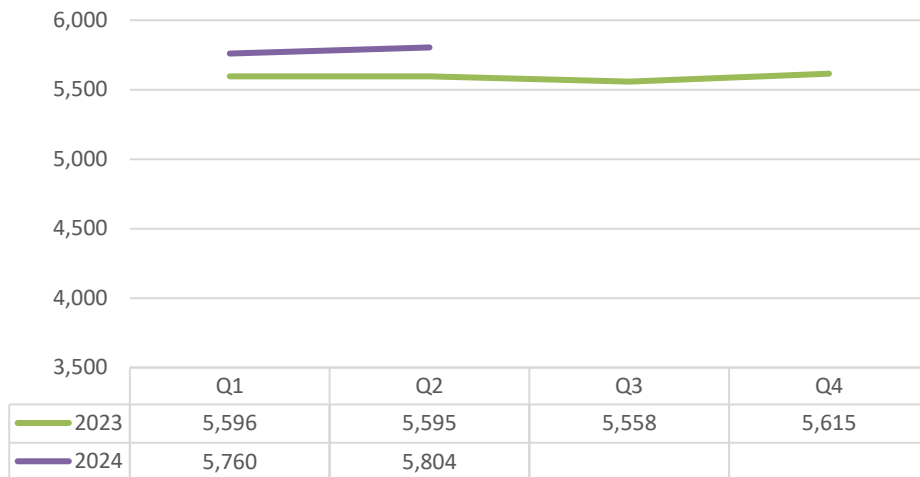
KEY FACTS

- 5,804 children in care at the end of Q2 2024, 44 (<1%) more than Q1 2024 (5,760). This figure (5,804) includes 141 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.
- 87.4% (5,072) of all children in care were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q2 2024, 8.4% (488) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement, while the remaining 4.2% (244) 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, 89.1% (5,046/5,663) of children were in foster care, 7.3% (411) were in residential care and the remaining 3.6% (206) were in “other” care placements.
- 946 (16%) children in care at the end of Q2 2024 were in placements with private providers, 55 (6%) more than Q1 2024 (891).
- Across the 17 areas there were 39 (5%) more children in placements with private providers at the end of Q2 2024 (875) than at the end of Q1 2024 (836).
- 80% (4,671) of children in care at the end of Q2 2024 had an allocated worker. Some 1,133 (20%) children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q2 2024, 150 (15%) more than Q1 2024 (983).
- 84% (4,847) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan. A total of 957 (16%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 176 (16%) fewer than Q1 2024 (1,133).
- 95% (3,552/3,742) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q2 2024, down two percentage points from Q1 2024 (97%).
- 92% (891/965) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q2

3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 5,804 children in care at the end of Q2 2024, 44 (<1%) more than Q1 2024 (5,760). *This figure (5,804) includes 141 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*

Children in Care



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

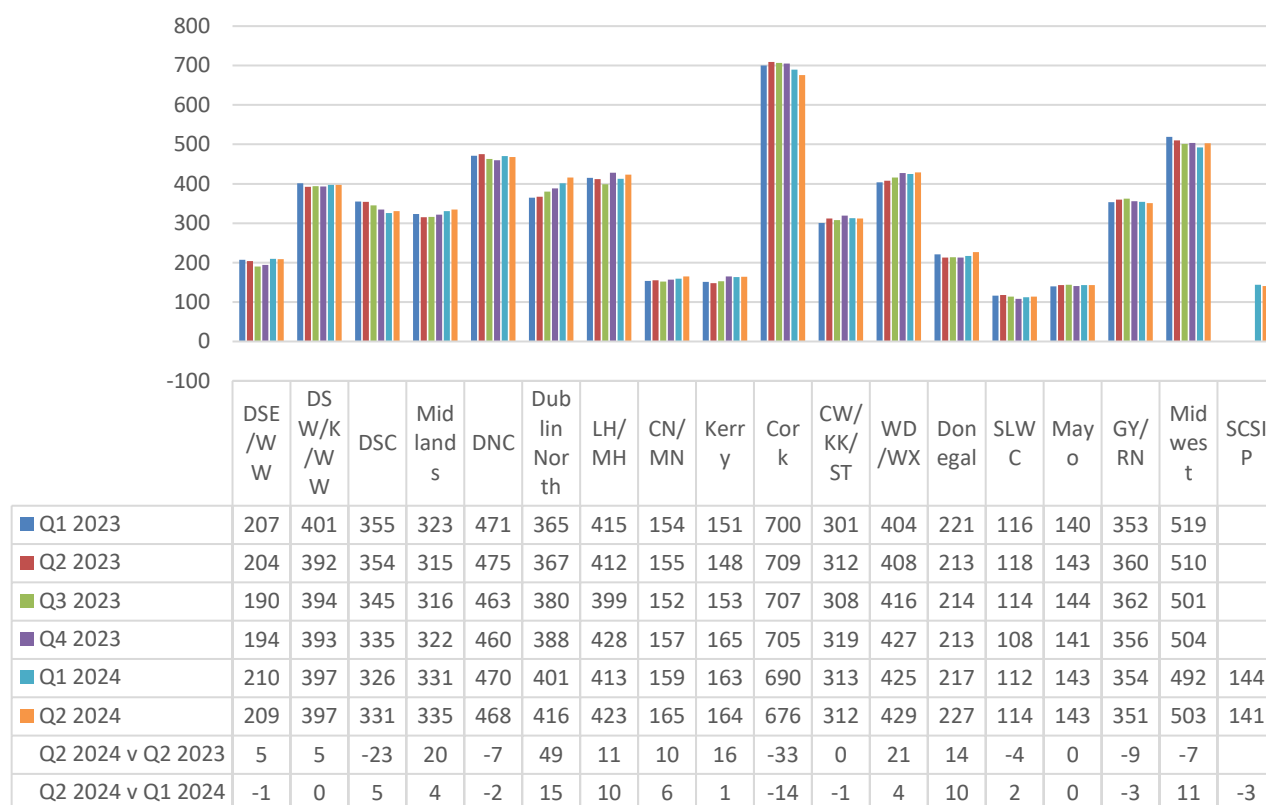
- Across the 17 areas the number of children in care ranged from 676 in Cork to 114 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years (9.4), more than double the national rate, followed by Waterford/Wexford (6.2), Donegal (5.4) and Midwest (5.2). Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.3) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.6) and Dublin North (4.0).

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

Area	# Children in care Q2 2024	0-17 population (Census 2022)	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
Dublin North City	468	49682	9.4
Waterford/Wexford	429	69239	6.2
Donegal	227	42144	5.4
Midwest	503	96764	5.2
CW/KK/ST	312	62366	5.0
Cork	676	136786	4.9
Dublin South Central	331	70259	4.7
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	114	24312	4.7
Kerry	164	34994	4.7
Mayo	143	31911	4.5
Cavan/Monaghan	165	37336	4.4
Louth/Meath	423	96531	4.4
Galway/Roscommon	351	81799	4.3
Midlands	335	80962	4.1
Dublin North	416	103508	4.0
DSW/K/WW	397	108927	3.6
Dublin South East/Wicklow	209	91047	2.3
Total Areas	5,663	1,218,567	4.6

- 10 areas reported an increase in children in care from Q1 2024. Largest increases reported by Dublin North (up 15), Midwest (up 11), Donegal (up 10) and Louth/Meath (up 10).
- 4 areas along with the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP) reported a decrease, with the largest decreases reported by the Service for SCSIP (down 3) and Galway/Roscommon (down 3). Two areas, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow and Mayo reported no change.
- 9 areas had more children in care at the end of Q2 2024 than at the end of Q2 2023, largest increases reported by Dublin North (up 49), Waterford/Wexford (up 21) and Midlands (up 20).
- 6 areas reported a decrease with the largest decreases reported by Cork (down 33) and Dublin South Central (down 23). Two areas Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary and Mayo reported no change.

Breakdown of the number of children in care in each area



Number of Children in Care, by Care Type

- 87.4% (5,072) of children in care were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q2 2024 and 8.4% (488) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 4.2% (244) 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, 89.1% (5,046/5,663) were in foster care, 7.3% (411) were in residential care and the remaining 3.6% (206) 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	
Q2 2024	3,599	+28	1,473	+2	473	+16	15	0	244	-2	5,804	+44

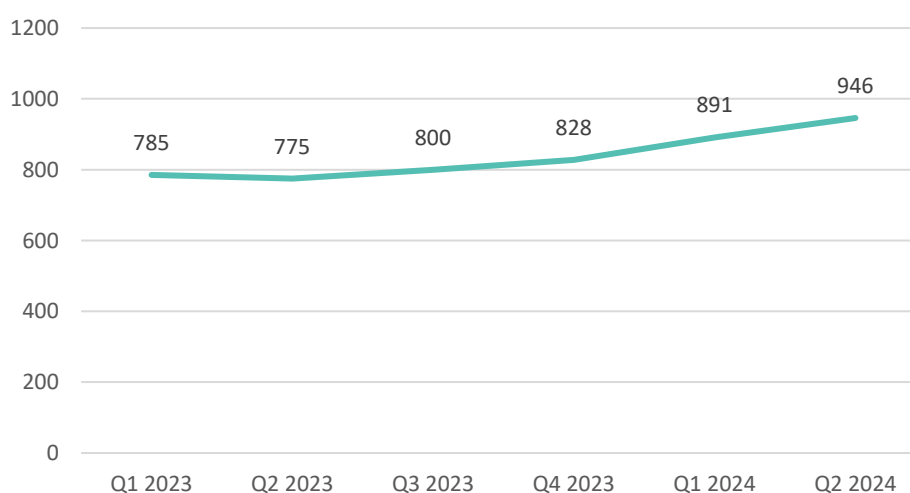
Data for 2023 does not include children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection, hence data for 2024 is not comparable with data for 2023.

- 17 (0.3%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q2 2024, one more than Q1 2024. 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

- 946 (16%) children in care at the end of Q2 2024 were in placements with private providers⁷, 55 (6%) more than Q1 2024 (891).
- Across the 17 areas there were 39 (5%) more children in placements with private providers at the end of Q2 2024 (875) than at the end of Q1 2024 (836). *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

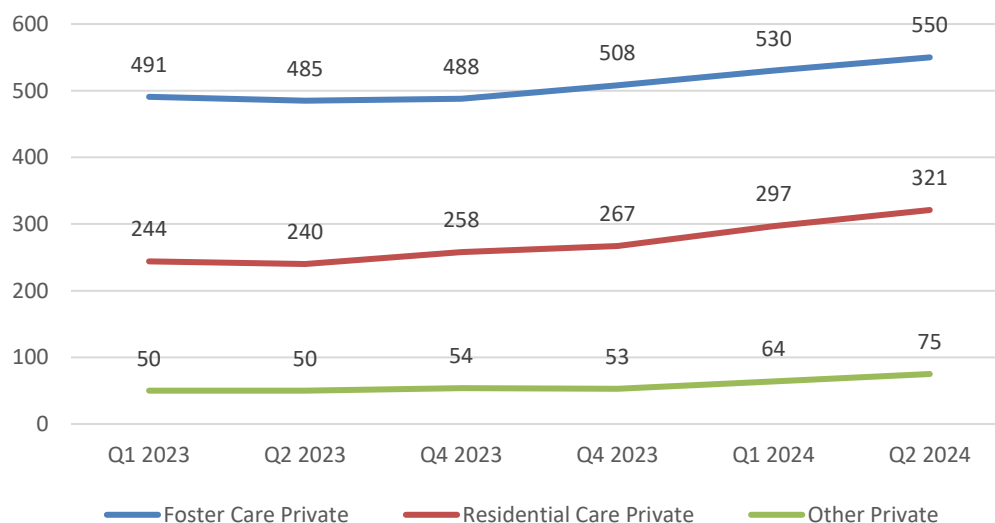


Note: data for 2023 does not include children reported under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.

⁷ The number of children in private placements is included in the children in care figures presented in sections 3.1.1 / 3.1.2.

- 58% (550) of children in placements with private providers were in foster care, up 20 (4%) from Q1 2024 (530).
- 34% (321) were in residential placements, 24 (8%) more than Q1 2024 (297).
- The remaining 8% (75) were in “Other” care placements, 11 (17%) more than Q1 2024 (64). “Other” care placements include, disability units, mental health units, drugs and alcohol rehabilitation centres etc.

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 (119) followed by Dublin South Central (110), Dublin South West/Kildare West Wicklow (109), Dublin North (102) and Midlands (80). These five areas account for 55% (520) of all children in placements with private providers.
- 12 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported an increase from Q1 2024 in children in placements with private providers with the largest increases reported by the Service for SCSIP (up 16), Midlands (up 10) and Dublin North City (up 7). Three areas reported a decrease, Donegal (down 3), Waterford/Wexford (down 1) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 1). The remaining two areas (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary and Mayo) reported no change.

Number of children in placements with private providers, by area

Area	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q2 v Q1
Dublin North City	112	119	7
Dublin South Central	107	110	3
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	107	109	2
Dublin North	98	102	4
Midlands	70	80	10
SCSIP	55	71	16
Cork	58	60	2
Dublin South East/Wicklow	52	51	-1
Louth/Meath	47	51	4
Waterford/Wexford	47	46	-1
Midwest	34	39	5

Kerry	32	33	1
CW/KK/ST	22	22	0
Donegal	21	18	-3
Galway/Roscommon	12	14	2
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	11	12	1
Cavan/Monaghan	*	*	3
Mayo	*	*	0
Total	891	946	55

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

3.1.3 Children in Care with an Allocated Worker⁸

- 80% (4,671) of children in care at the end of Q2 2024 had an allocated worker.
- 1,133 (20%) children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q2 2024, 150 (15%) more than Q1 2024 (983).

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

Care Type	CIC Q1 2024	Allocated Q1 2024	% Allocated Q1 2024	CIC Q2 2024	Allocated Q2 2024	% Allocated Q2 2024
Foster Care (General)	3,571	2,980	83%	3,599	2,912	81%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,471	1,172	80%	1,473	1,140	77%
Residential Care (General)	457	410	90%	473	403	85%
Residential Special Care	15	15	100%	15	14	93%
Other Placements	246	200	81%	244	202	83%
Total	5,760	4,777	83%	5,804	4,671	80%

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

- The percentage with an allocated worker ranged from 38% (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary) to 100% (Donegal, Mayo and Galway/Roscommon). Seven areas reported 90% or higher.
- The area with the highest number of children awaiting allocation is Midwest (241; 48%) followed by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (194; 62%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (154; 39%), Dublin South Central (93; 28%) and Louth/Meath (79; 19%). These five areas account for 67% (761) of all cases awaiting allocation.

Number of children in care with an allocated worker

Area	No in Care Q1 2024	Allocated Q1 2024	% Allocated Q1 2024	No in Care Q2 2024	Allocated Q2 2024	% Allocated Q2 2024	# Awaiting
DSE/WW	210	209	99.6%	209	194	93%	15
DSW/K/WW	397	261	66%	397	243	61%	154
DSC	326	227	70%	331	238	72%	93
Midlands	331	267	81%	335	280	84%	55
DNC	470	470	100%	468	416	89%	52
Dublin North	401	378	94%	416	380	91%	36

⁸ These numbers of allocated cases reflect a changing environment in Tusla where allocation of cases to a social worker has become more difficult with reduced availability of social workers nationally. Many cases are now allocated to other professionals also reflecting the changing nature of social work teams. In many instances where cases are unallocated to a social worker there is a social care worker or leader allocated to the case.

LH/MH	413	350	85%	423	344	81%	79
CN/MN	159	138	87%	165	141	85%	24
Kerry	163	145	89%	164	140	85%	24
Cork	690	672	97%	676	656	97%	20
CW/KK/ST	313	123	39%	312	118	38%	194
WD/WX	425	383	90%	429	363	85%	66
Donegal	217	217	100%	227	227	100%	0
SLWC	112	104	93%	114	106	93%	8
Mayo	143	143	100%	143	143	100%	0
GY/RN	354	319	90%	351	351	100%	0
Midwest	492	293	60%	503	262	52%	241
SCSIP Service	144	78	54%	141	69	49%	72
Total	5,760	4,777	83%	5,804	4,671	80%	1,133

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

- 84% (4,847) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan.
- A total of 957 (16%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 176 (16%) fewer than Q1 2024 (1,133).

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

Care Type	CIC Q1 2024	No. with UTD CP Q1 2024	% with UTD CP Q1 2024	CIC Q2 2024	No. with UTD CP Q2 2024	% with UTD CP Q2 2024
Foster Care General	3,571	2,936	82%	3,599	3,103	86%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,471	1,224	83%	1,473	1,251	85%
Residential Care General	457	317	69%	473	339	72%
Residential Special Care	15	10	67%	15	10	67%
Other Placements	246	140	57%	244	144	59%
Total	5,760	4,627	80%	5,804	4,847	84%

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 99% (Midlands) to 50% (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 (164; 35%), Midwest (108; 21%), Cork (94; 14%) and Dublin South Central (91; 27%).

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

Area	No in Care Q1 2024	No with a care plan Q1 2024	% with a care plan Q1 2024	No in Care Q2 2024	No with a care plan Q2 2024	% with a care plan Q2 2024	# Awaiting a Plan
DSE/WW	210	169	80%	209	167	80%	42
DSW/K/WW	397	331	83%	397	351	88%	46
DSC	326	239	73%	331	240	73%	91
Midlands	331	229	69%	335	332	99%	3
DNC	470	327	70%	468	304	65%	164
Dublin North	401	348	87%	416	357	86%	59
LH/MH	413	316	77%	423	347	82%	76

CN/MN	159	141	89%	165	147	89%	18
Kerry	163	123	75%	164	141	86%	23
Cork	690	573	83%	676	582	86%	94
CW/KK/ST	313	300	96%	312	292	94%	20
WD/WX	425	395	93%	429	401	93%	28
Donegal	217	201	93%	227	207	91%	20
SLWC	112	100	89%	114	94	82%	20
Mayo	143	131	92%	143	130	91%	13
GY/RN	354	283	80%	351	289	82%	62
Midwest	492	350	71%	503	395	79%	108
SCSIP Service	144	71	49%	141	71	50%	70
Total	5,760	4,627	80%	5,804	4,847	84%	957

3.1.4 Children in Care in Education

- 95% (3,552/3,742) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q2 2024, down two percentage points from Q1 2024 (97%).
- All but three areas (Dublin South Central, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow and Dublin North) reporting 90% or higher.
- 69% (2,448) of children 6-15 years were in primary school, 25% (898) were in post primary school and 4% (141) were in special education. There were a further 65 (2%) spread across boarding school, education training facility, home tuition, pre-school and Other (not specified).
- 92% (891/965) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q2 2024, down one percentage point from Q1 2024 (93%).
- 12/17 reporting 90% or higher. Lowest percentages reported by Dublin North (85%) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (87%).
- 84% (751) of young people 16 & 17 years were in post primary school, 9% (76) were in special education and 3% (30) were attending an educational training facility. There were a further 34 (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 Q1 2024	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2024	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q1 2024	No of CIC 6-15 years Q2 2024	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q2 2024	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q2 2024
DSE/WW	129	122	94.6%	130	119	92%
DSW/K/WW	260	228	87.7%	259	227	88%
DSC	213	195	91.5%	209	183	88%
Midlands	235	233	99.1%	237	230	97%
Dublin North City	290	277	95.5%	284	275	97%
Dublin North	293	267	91.1%	299	265	89%
LH/MH	279	277	99.3%	286	283	99%
CN/MN	110	110	100.0%	113	111	98%

Kerry	103	101	98.1%	105	101	96%
Cork	464	459	98.9%	453	443	98%
CW/K/ST	203	202	99.5%	207	202	98%
WD/WX	269	259	96.3%	268	262	98%
Donegal	138	133	96.4%	146	132	90%
SLWC	77	72	93.5%	79	72	91%
Mayo	89	88	98.9%	90	88	98%
GY/RN	230	229	99.6%	233	226	97%
Mid West	338	336	99.4%	344	333	97%
Total	3,720	3,588	96.5%	3,742	3,552	95%

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

Area	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	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q2 2024	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q2 2024	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q2 2024
DSE/WW	53	47	88.7%	47	41	87%
DSW/K/WW	65	58	89.2%	67	60	90%
DSC	57	50	87.7%	65	58	89%
Midlands	45	42	93.3%	51	46	90%
DNC	80	70	87.5%	79	70	89%
Dublin North	47	42	89.4%	52	44	85%
LH/MH	57	54	94.7%	68	64	94%
CN/MN	28	27	96.4%	29	29	100%
Kerry	24	24	100.0%	22	21	95%
Cork	135	128	94.8%	132	123	93%
CW/K/ST	48	47	97.9%	49	47	96%
WD/WX	81	78	96.3%	83	81	98%
Donegal	34	32	94.1%	31	28	90%
SLWC	19	17	89.5%	18	16	89%
Mayo	21	20	95.2%	18	18	100%
GY/RN	71	65	91.5%	69	62	90%
Mid West	85	83	97.6%	85	83	98%
Total	950	884	93.1%	965	891	92%

3.2 AFTERCARE

KEY FACTS

- 179 referrals for an aftercare service in Q2 2024. This brings to 307 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2024, 41 (15%) more than the same period in 2023 (266).
- 2,915 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2024, six (<1%) fewer than Q1 2024 (2,921) and 73 (2%) fewer than Q2 2023 (2,988).
- 77% (1,681/2,176) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q2 2024 were in education/accredited training.
- 82% (2,394) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2024 had an aftercare plan, up one percentage point from Q1 2024 (81%). A total of 521 were awaiting a plan, 26 (5%) fewer than Q1 2024 (547).
- 89% (2,025/2,288) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2024, down one percentage point from Q1 2024. A total of 263 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2024, 33 (14%) more than Q1 2024 (230).
- 99% (291/294) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2024.
- 87% (1,734/1,994) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2024.

3.2.1 Referrals for an aftercare service received in the quarter

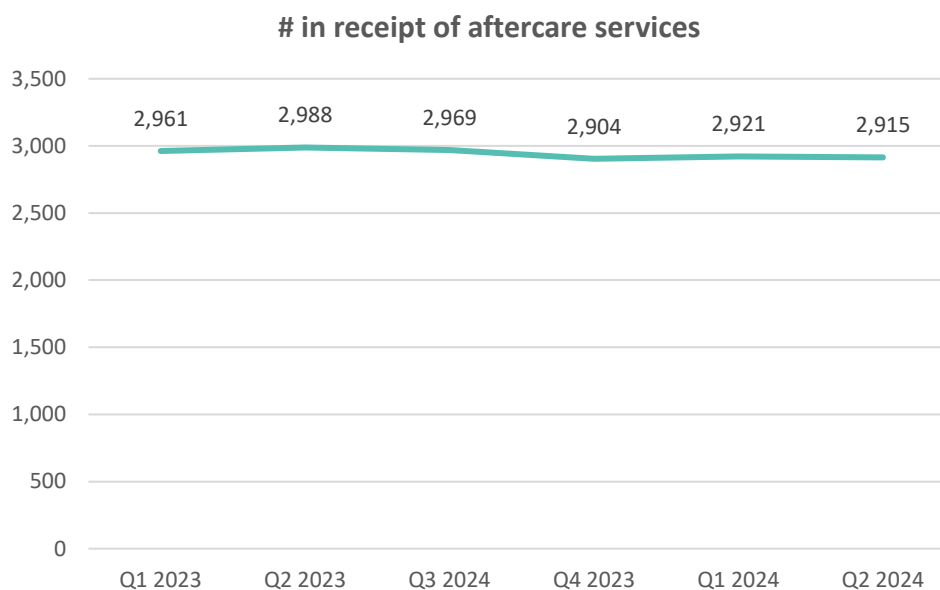
- 179 referrals for an aftercare service in Q2 2024. This brings to 307 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2024, 41 (15%) more than the same period in 2023 (266).
- 99% (178) of referrals for Q2 2024 were eligible for an assessment of need.
- Of those eligible for an assessment of need 97% (172) were < 18 years and in care.
- 84 assessments of need were completed in Q2 2024. This brings to 202 the number of assessments of needs completed in the first six months of 2024.

Area	2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	2024 YTD
Dublin South Central	23	4	10	14
Dublin South East/Wicklow	20	7	7	14
DSW/K/WW	28	12	16	28
Midlands	25	3	7	10
Dublin North City	51	8	14	22
Dublin North	17	0	11	11
Louth/Meath	25	13	5	18
Cavan/Monaghan	17	3	6	9
Cork	73	16	16	32
Kerry	13	1	8	9
CW/K/ST	22	4	10	14
Waterford/Wexford	40	9	8	17
Mid West	57	13	15	28
Galway/Roscommon	25	14	8	22
Mayo	12	1	4	5

Donegal	14	3	6	9
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	11	5	3	8
SCSIP Service	50	12	25	37
Total	523	128	179	307

3.2.2 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of an aftercare service

- 2,915 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2024, six (<1%) fewer than Q1 2024 (2,921) and 73 (2%) fewer than Q2 2023 (2,988). *Figures includes young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*



- Highest number in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2024 reported by Cork (353) followed by Midwest (249) and Dublin North City (248). Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (53) followed by Mayo (66) and Cavan/Monaghan (74).

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2023	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2023	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2024	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2024
Dublin South Central	209	187	178	195
Dublin South East/Wicklow	125	128	135	139
DSW/K/WW	225	228	208	222
Midlands	156	139	142	142
Dublin North City	266	268	262	248
Dublin North	163	137	153	163
Louth/Meath	135	134	156	155
Cavan/Monaghan	80	83	76	74
Cork	357	345	355	353
Kerry	84	79	81	86
CW/K/ST	172	169	163	151
Waterford/Wexford	190	193	189	177
Mid West	244	244	248	249

Galway/Roscommon	213	219	217	217
Mayo	74	77	67	66
Donegal	95	91	96	85
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	40	42	51	53
SCSIP Service	141	141	144	140
Total	2,969	2,904	2,921	2,915

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

- 54% (1,570) of those in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q2 2024 (2,915) were 18 – 20 years inclusive and of these 77% (1,216) were in education/accredited training, up one percentage point from Q1 2024 (76%) (table below).
- 13/17 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. Three areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Cavan/Monaghan and Midwest) reported 100%.
- Rates reported by Dublin South Central (48%), Louth/Meath (62%) Dublin North (65%) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (65%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 18-20 years Q1 2024	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 18-20 years Q2 2024	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
Dublin South Central	110	66	60%	117	56	48%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	70	70	100%	69	69	100%
DSW/K/WW	117	63	54%	120	78	65%
Midlands	63	54	86%	63	53	84%
Dublin North City	139	95	68%	135	95	70%
Dublin North	97	66	68%	94	61	65%
Louth/Meath	99	68	69%	90	56	62%
Cavan/Monaghan	47	28	60%	41	41	100%
Cork	172	140	81%	175	132	75%
Kerry	43	34	79%	43	32	74%
CW/K/ST	78	65	83%	76	64	84%
Waterford/Wexford	98	70	71%	95	70	74%
Mid West	150	139	93%	146	146	100%
Galway/Roscommon	109	88	81%	106	86	81%
Mayo	35	28	80%	33	30	91%
Donegal	49	41	84%	49	37	76%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	27	21	78%	27	25	93%
SCSIP Service	93	83	89%	91	85	93%
Total	1,596	1,219	76%	1,570	1,216	77%

- The highest number of those in education/accredited training were in second level (408; 34%) followed by third level (217; 18%) and PLCs (198; 16%).

	# 18-20 years in education/accredited Training Q2 2024	%
Second Level	408	34%
Vocational Training	146	12%
PLCs	198	16%
Third Level College / University	217	18%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	147	12%
Other	100	8%
Total	1,216	100%

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

- 21% (606) of those in receipt of an aftercare service (2,915) were 21 – 22 years inclusive and of these 77% (465) were in education/accredited training, up from 74% at the end of Q1 2022 (table below).
- 13/17 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported 70% or higher with four of these areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Cavan/Monaghan, Midwest and Donegal) reporting 100%. Rates reported by Waterford/Wexford (52%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (54%) and Galway/Roscommon (61%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 21-22 years Q1 2024	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 21-22 years Q2 2024	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
Dublin South Central	40	21	53%	30	20	67%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	26	26	100%	29	29	100%
DSW/K/WW	43	23	53%	48	26	54%
Midlands	41	32	78%	40	30	75%
Dublin North City	63	50	79%	66	49	74%
Dublin North	25	24	96%	31	29	94%
Louth/Meath	15	14	93%	18	14	78%
Cavan/Monaghan	10	10	100%	12	12	100%
Cork	73	50	68%	66	46	70%
Kerry	17	13	76%	17	14	82%
CW/K/ST	48	32	67%	38	35	92%
Waterford/Wexford	31	18	58%	29	15	52%
Mid West	41	41	100%	47	47	100%
Galway/Roscommon	68	41	60%	72	44	61%
Mayo	18	14	78%	16	13	81%
Donegal	15	15	100%	21	21	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	7	7	100%	9	8	89%
SCSIP Service	31	22	71%	17	13	76%
Total	612	453	74%	606	465	77%

- 50% (233) of those in education/accredited training were in third level colleges with a further 19% (89) in accredited training and 14% (67) in PLCs.

	# 21-22 years in education/accredited Training Q2 2024	%
Second Level	8	2%
Vocational Training	45	10%
PLCs	67	14%
Third Level College / University	233	50%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	89	19%
Other	23	5%
Total	465	100%

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

- Almost half (47%; 1,021) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,176) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 10% (213) had returned home to parents/family. One in five (21%; 459) was in independent living.

Accommodation	# 18-22 placement type Q2 2024	%
Residential Care Placement	168	8%
Remained with Carers	1,021	47%
Independent Living	459	21%
Designated Care Leavers Accommodation	36	2%
At home	213	10%
Supported Lodgings	36	2%
Other	243	11%
Total	2,176	100%

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

- 82% (2,394) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q2 2024 had an aftercare plan, up one percentage point from Q1 2024 (81%). A total of 521 were awaiting a plan, 26 (5%) fewer than Q1 2024 (547).
- 8 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a percentage equal to or higher the national average of 82%. Rates reported by Louth/Meath (59%), Dublin South Central (72%), Cork (73%) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (74%) lower than all other areas.
- 96% (2,099/2,176) of those 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service had a plan. 40% (295/739) of those <18 years had a plan.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2024	# with an Aftercare Plan Q1 2024	% with an Aftercare Plan Q1 2024	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2024	# with an Aftercare Plan Q2 2024	% with an Aftercare Plan Q2 2024
Dublin South Central	178	131	74%	195	140	72%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	135	135	100%	139	132	95%
DSW/K/WW	208	177	85%	222	183	82%
Midlands	142	126	89%	142	127	89%
Dublin North City	262	198	76%	248	209	84%
Dublin North	153	127	83%	163	131	80%
Louth/Meath	156	82	53%	155	91	59%
Cavan/Monaghan	76	66	87%	74	74	100%
Cork	355	265	75%	353	258	73%
Kerry	81	67	83%	86	67	78%
CW/K/ST	163	134	82%	151	119	79%
Waterford/Wexford	189	155	82%	177	144	81%
Mid West	248	232	94%	249	233	94%
Galway/Roscommon	217	178	82%	217	172	79%
Mayo	67	50	75%	66	58	88%
Donegal	96	78	81%	85	84	99%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	51	38	75%	53	39	74%
SCSIP Service	144	135	94%	140	133	95%
Total	2,921	2,374	81%	2,915	2,394	82%

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

- 96% (2,288/2,394) 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 (68%) 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.*
- 89% (2,025/2,288) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2024, down one percentage point from Q1 2024. A total of 263 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2024, 33 (14%) more than Q1 2024 (230).
- 99% (291/294) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2024.
- 87% (1,734/1,994) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q2 2024.

- 13 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 89% with 12 of them reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South Central (41%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (63%) and Midwest (69%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# with a Plan Q2 2024	# Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q2 2024	% Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q2 2024	# with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q2 2024	% with an Aftercare Worker Q2 2024	% with an Aftercare Worker Q1 2024
Dublin South Central	140	140	100%	57	41%	46%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	132	132	100%	132	100%	100%
DSW/K/WW	183	155	85%	97	63%	66%
Midlands	127	97	76%	97	100%	100%
Dublin North City	209	209	100%	209	100%	100%
Dublin North	131	131	100%	102	78%	99%
Louth/Meath	91	91	100%	91	100%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	74	74	100%	74	100%	100%
Cork	258	258	100%	258	100%	89%
Kerry	67	67	100%	67	100%	100%
CW/K/ST	119	81	68%	71	88%	87%
Waterford/Wexford	144	134	93%	123	92%	90%
Mid West	233	233	100%	161	69%	78%
Galway/Roscommon	172	172	100%	172	100%	100%
Mayo	58	58	100%	58	100%	100%
Donegal	84	84	100%	84	100%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	39	39	100%	39	100%	100%
SCSIP Service	133	133	100%	133	100%	100%
Total	2,394	2,288	96%	2,025	89%	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

- 42 new children referred for adoption during Q2 2024. This brings to 89 the number of new children referred for adoption during the first six months of 2024. A total of 225 new children referred for adoption in 2023.
- 47 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q2 2024. Of these, 23 (49%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 14 (30%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 10 (21%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

3.3.1 Adoption Assessments

- 42 new children referred for adoption during Q2 2024. This brings to 89 the number of new children referred for adoption during the first six months of 2024. A total of 225 new children referred for adoption in 2023.
- 47 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q2 2024. Of these, 23 (49%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 14 (30%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 10 (21%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

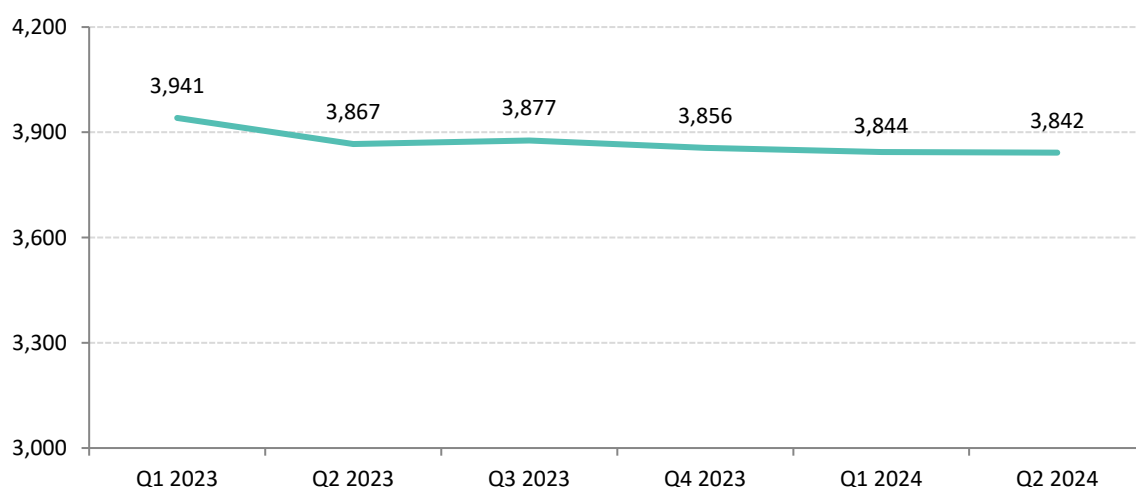
3.4 FOSTER CARERS

KEY FACTS

- 3,842 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q2 2024, two (<1%) fewer than Q1 2024 (3,844) and 25 (<%) fewer than Q2 2023 (3,867).
- 51 Tusla foster carers (22 general & 29 relative) and seven private foster carers approved in Q2 2024. This brings to 107 the number of Tusla foster carers (50 general and 57 relative) and 18 the number of private foster carers approved in the first six months of 2024.
- 16 applicants to be general foster carers awaiting assessment at the end of Q2 2024 with a further six applicants awaiting approval by the foster care committee.
- 70 applications for general foster care and 130 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q2 2024.
- 93% (2,053) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2024, down one percentage point from Q1 2024 (94%)
- 162 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 18 (13%) more than Q1 2024 (144).
- 95% (943) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2024, no change from Q1 2022.
- 50 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q2 2024, three fewer than Q1 2024 (53).
- 96% (167) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. A total of seven carers were awaiting a link worker, three fewer than Q1 2024 (10). The seven carers were reported across two areas.

3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 3,842 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q2 2024, two (<1%) fewer than Q1 2024 (3,844) and 25 (<%) fewer than Q2 2023 (3,867).



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

- 222 unapproved relative foster carers at the end of Q2 2024 of which 78% (174) had a child placed for >12 weeks. 82% (993/1,215) of relative foster carers are approved.
- 58% (2,215) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 26% (993), while private foster carers account for the remaining 17% (634).
- The number of general foster carers (2,215) is down one from Q1 2024 (2,216) and 40 (2%) from Q2 2023 (2,255), quarter on quarter decrease. Relative foster carers (993) are down five from Q1 2024 (998) and nine from Q2 2023 (1,002). Private foster carers (634) are up four from Q1 2024 (630) and up 24 (4%) from Q2 2023 (610).

Breakdown of foster carers by type

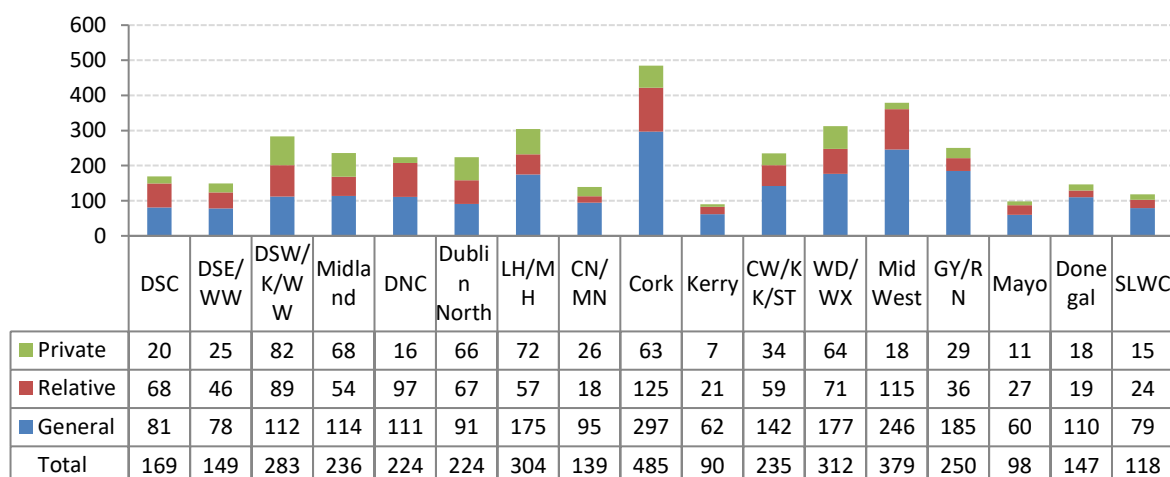
Foster Carers	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Δ (+/-) Q2 2024 v Q1 2024
General (Approved)	2,255	2,231	2,227	2,216	2,215	-1
Relative (Approved)	1,002	1,015	996	998	993	-5
Private (Approved)	610	631	633	630	634	+4
Total Approved	3,867	3,877	3,856	3,844	3,842	-2
Relative (Unapproved)	241	257	245	224	222	-2

- 51 Tusla foster carers (22 general & 29 relative) and seven private foster carers approved in Q2 2024. This brings to 107 the number of Tusla foster carers (50 general and 57 relative) and 18 the number of private foster carers approved in the first six months of 2024.
- 16 applicants to be general foster carers awaiting assessment at the end of Q2 2024 with a further six applicants awaiting approval by the foster care committee.
- 70 applications for general foster care and 130 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q2 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 Q2 2024, ranged from 485 in Cork to 90 in Kerry

Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q2 2024



- 9 areas reported an increase from Q1 2024 in the number of foster carers on the panel. Largest increase reported by Louth/Meath (up 15) followed by Dublin North (up 6).
- 7 areas reported a decrease from Q1 2024. The largest decrease was reported by Midlands (down 15) followed by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 7) and Cork (down 6). The remaining area (Midwest) reported no change).

Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types)

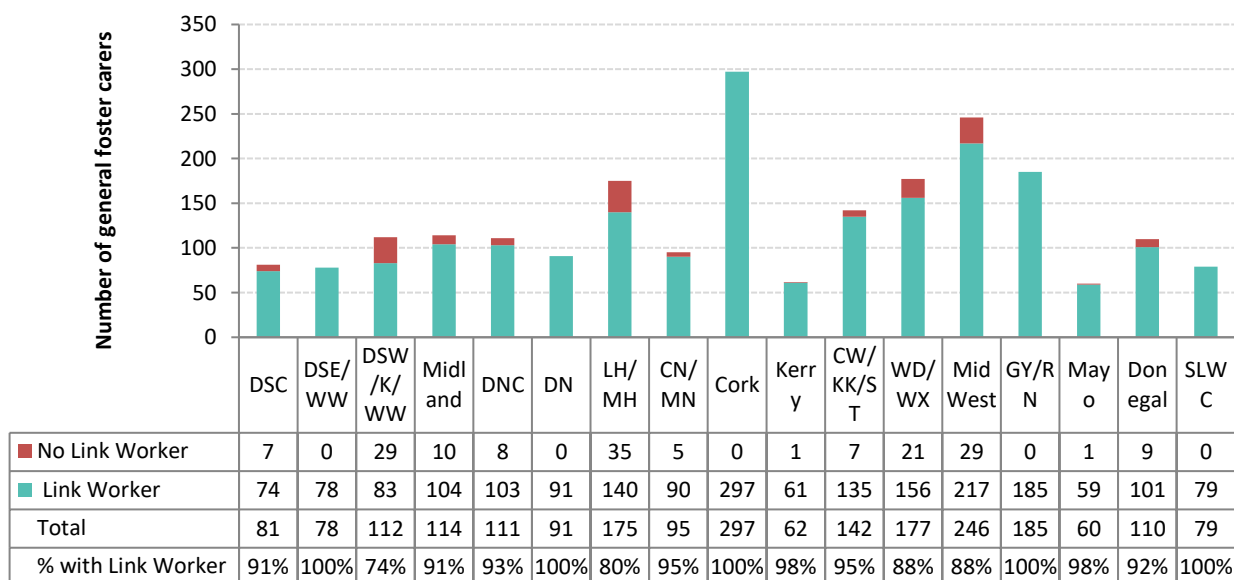
Area	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Δ (+/-) Q2 2024 v Q1 2024
Dublin South Central	180	170	170	168	169	1
Dublin South East/Wicklow	141	151	136	146	149	3
DSW/K/WW	293	297	289	288	283	-5
Midlands	244	246	257	251	236	-15
Dublin North City	251	244	243	223	224	1
Dublin North	213	219	216	218	224	6
Louth/Meath	280	272	271	289	304	15
Cavan/Monaghan	130	133	137	136	139	3
Cork	488	501	506	491	485	-6
Kerry	85	84	88	91	90	-1
CW/K/ST	237	249	239	242	235	-7
Waterford/Wexford	319	310	308	310	312	2
Mid West	391	390	386	379	379	0
Galway/Roscommon	264	259	257	254	250	-4
Mayo	97	100	100	99	98	-1
Donegal	148	147	143	145	147	2
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	106	105	110	114	118	4
Total	3,867	3,877	3,856	3,844	3,842	-2

- 93% (2,053) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2024, down one percentage point from Q1 2024 (94%)
- 162 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 18 (13%) more than Q1 2024 (144).
- 13/17 areas reported 90% or higher with five of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (74%) and Louth/Meath (80%) lower than all other areas.
- Louth/Meath has the highest number of general foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker (35) followed by Midwest (29), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (29) and Waterford/Wexford (21).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q1 2024	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2024	% With Link Worker Q1 2024	With Link Worker Q2 2024	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2024	% With Link Worker Q2 2024	Δ +/- No. Awaiting LW Q2 2024 v Q1 2024
Dublin South Central	66	13	84%	74	7	91%	-6
Dublin South East/Wicklow	76	0	100%	78	0	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	91	17	84%	83	29	74%	12
Midlands	112	13	90%	104	10	91%	-3
Dublin North City	116	0	100%	103	8	93%	8
Dublin North	90	0	100%	91	0	100%	0
Louth/Meath	137	31	82%	140	35	80%	4
Cavan/Monaghan	87	5	95%	90	5	95%	0
Cork	294	0	100%	297	0	100%	0
Kerry	57	4	93%	61	1	98%	-3
CW/K/ST	139	7	95%	135	7	95%	0
Waterford/Wexford	163	16	91%	156	21	88%	5
Mid West	219	28	89%	217	29	88%	1
Galway/Roscommon	189	0	100%	185	0	100%	0
Mayo	59	2	97%	59	1	98%	-1
Donegal	100	8	93%	101	9	92%	1
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	77	0	100%	79	0	100%	0
Total	2,072	144	94%	2,053	162	93%	18

General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q2 2024



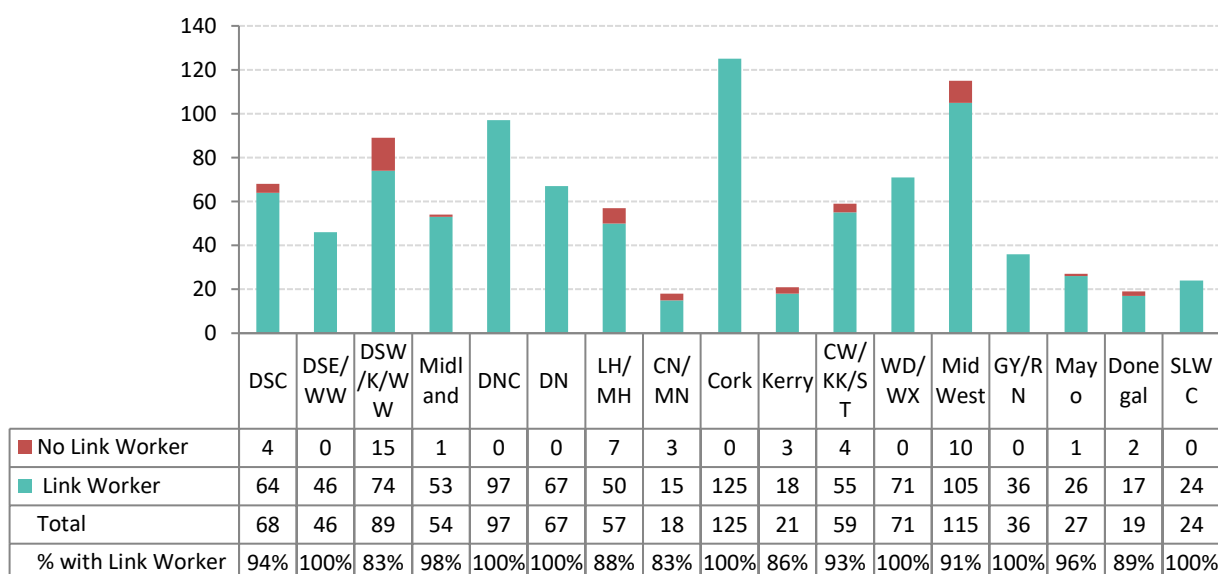
- 95% (943) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q2 2024, no change from Q1 2022.
- 50 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q2 2024, three fewer than Q1 2024 (53).

- 12/17 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with seven of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (83%), Cavan/Monaghan (83%) and Kerry (86%) lower than all other areas.
- Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow reported the highest number of relative foster carers on the panel awaiting a link (social) worker (15) followed by Midwest (10).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q1 2024	Awaiting Link Worker Q1 2024	% With Link Worker Q1 2024	With Link Worker Q2 2024	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2024	% With Link Worker Q2 2024	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2024 v Q1 2024
Dublin South Central	56	13	81%	64	4	94%	-9
Dublin South East/Wicklow	46	0	100%	46	0	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	90	8	92%	74	15	83%	7
Midlands	56	2	97%	53	1	98%	-1
Dublin North City	92	0	100%	97	0	100%	0
Dublin North	63	0	100%	67	0	100%	0
Louth/Meath	46	4	92%	50	7	88%	3
Cavan/Monaghan	17	0	100%	15	3	83%	3
Cork	134	0	100%	125	0	100%	0
Kerry	17	5	77%	18	3	86%	-2
CW/K/ST	55	5	92%	55	4	93%	-1
Waterford/Wexford	67	3	96%	71	0	100%	-3
Mid West	102	12	89%	105	10	91%	-2
Galway/Roscommon	36	0	100%	36	0	100%	0
Mayo	27	0	100%	26	1	96%	1
Donegal	18	1	95%	17	2	89%	1
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	23	0	100%	24	0	100%	0
Total	945	53	95%	943	50	95%	-3

Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q2 2024



3.4.3 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

- 222 relative foster carers were unapproved at the end of Q2 2024, two fewer than Q1 2024 (224) and 19 (8%) fewer than Q2 2023 (241).
- Of these, 174 (78%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; down 16 (8%) from Q1 2024 (190)
- 96% (167) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. A total of seven carers were awaiting a link worker, three fewer than Q1 2024 (10). The seven carers were reported across two areas.

Breakdown of relative foster carers not approved

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Δ (+/-) Q2 2024 v Q1 2024
No. unapproved	241	257	245	224	222	-2
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	175	187	210	190	174	-16
	73%	73%	86%	85%	78%	
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	165	175	197	180	167	-13
	94%	94%	94%	95%	96%	
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	10	12	13	10	7	-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

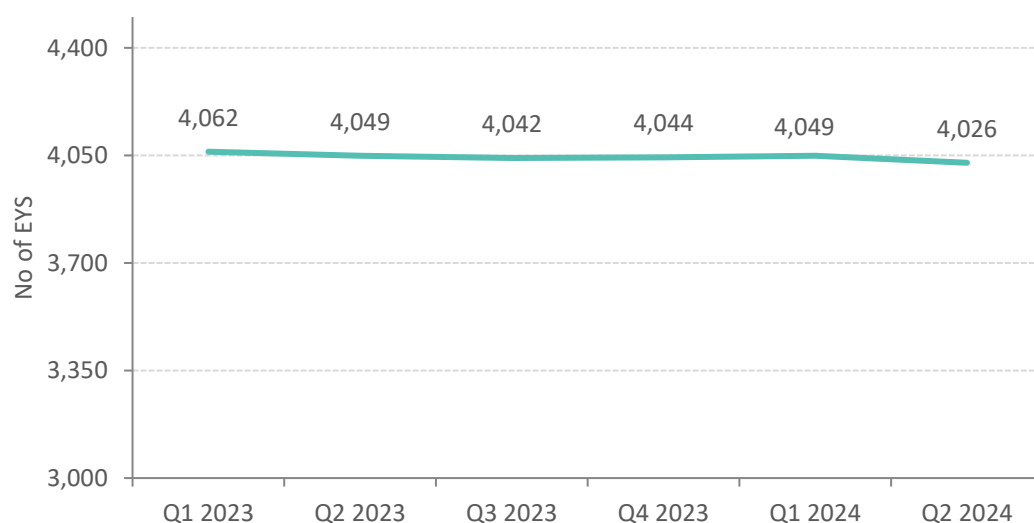
KEY FACTS

- 4,026 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q2 2024, 23 (<1%) fewer than Q1 2024 (4,049) and Q2 2023 (4,049).
- 617 inspections (all types) carried out in Q2 2024. This brings to 1,169 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2024, 65 (5%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (1,234).
- 195 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q2 2024, bringing the number notified for the first six months of 2024 to 377. A total of 855 incidents notified in 2023.
- 108 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q2 2024, bringing the number of submissions for the first six months of 2024 to 192. A total of 490 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during 2023.
- 32 services were found to have closed in the first six months of 2024, bringing the number for the first six months of 2024 to 41. A total of 115 services were found to have closed in 2023.

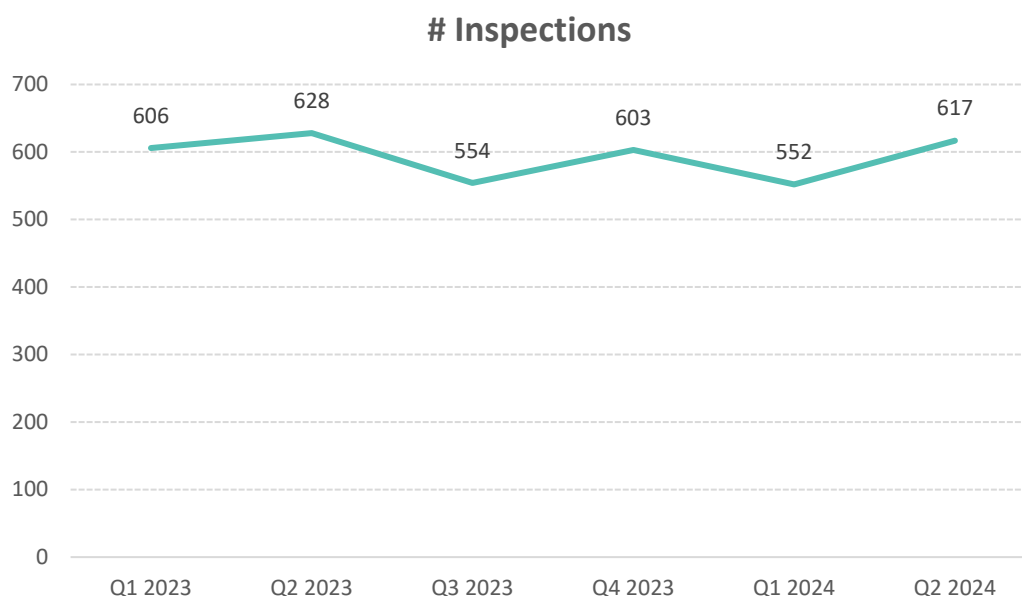
4.1.1 Activity Data

- 4,026 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q2 2024, 23 (<1%) fewer than Q1 2024 (4,049) and Q2 2023 (4,049).

Early Years Services on the Register

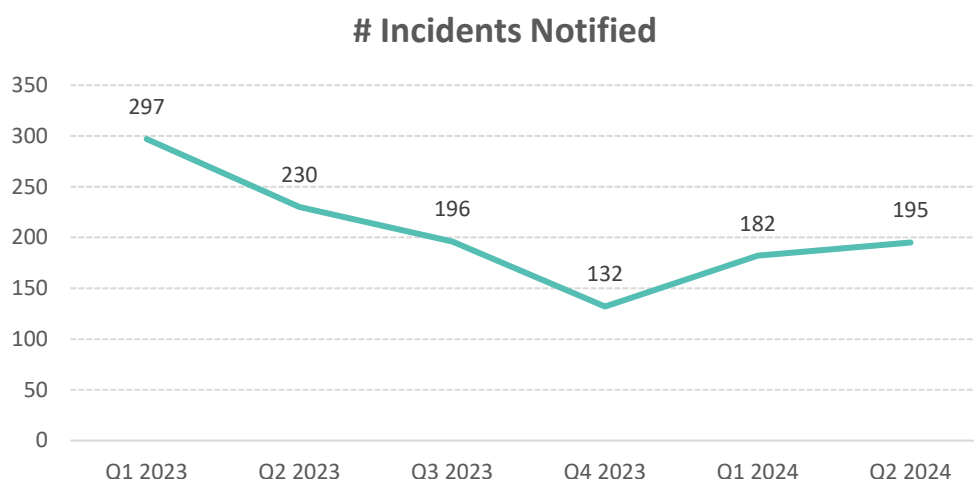


- 617 inspections (all types⁹) carried out in Q2 2024. This brings to 1,169 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2024, 65 (5%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (1,234).

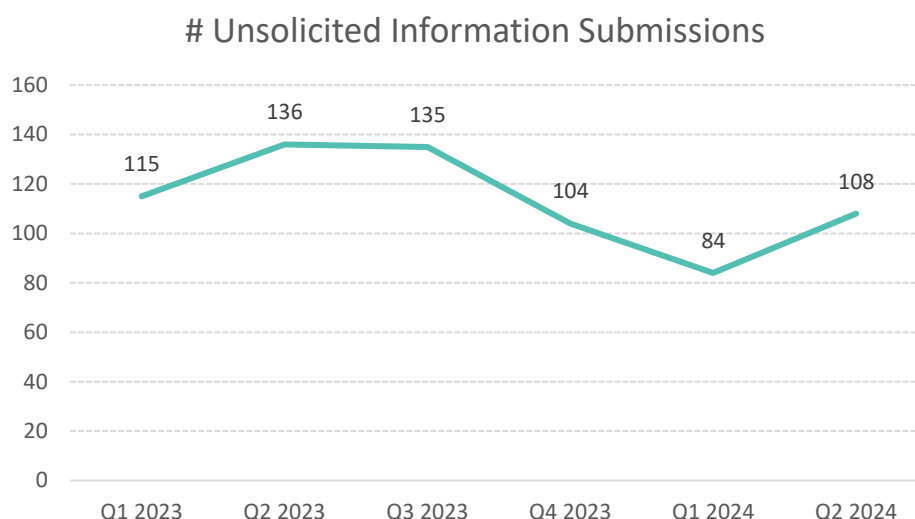


- 73 new applications to become a registered provider, received by the Inspectorate in Q2 2024, bringing the number of applications received for the first six months of 2024 to 93. A total of 146 applications were received in 2023.
- 9 new registration applications approved by the Inspectorate in Q2 2024, bringing the number of applications approved for the first six months of 2024 to 23. A total of 86 new registration applications approved in 2023.
- One application to become an EYS refused registration by the Inspectorate in the first six months of 2024. No applications refused by the Inspectorate in 2023.
- 497 “change in circumstances” notifications received by the Inspectorate in Q2 2024, bringing the number of notifications received for the first six months of 2024 to 845. A total of 1,967 “change in circumstances” notifications received by the Inspectorate in 2023.
- 195 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q2 2024, bringing the number notified for the first six months of 2024 to 377. A total of 855 incidents notified in 2023.

⁹ Includes initial, follow up, complaints, focused inspections or fit for purpose inspections.



- 108 unsolicited information submissions¹⁰ received by the Inspectorate during Q2 2024, bringing the number of submissions for the first six months of 2024 to 192. A total of 490 unsolicited information submissions¹¹ received by the Inspectorate during 2023.



- One EYS prosecuted by Tusla, in the first six months of 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 the first six months of 2024. No service removed from the register by the Inspectorate in 2023
- 32 services were found to have closed in the first six months of 2024, bringing the number for the first six months of 2024 to 41. A total of 115 services were found to have closed in 2023.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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

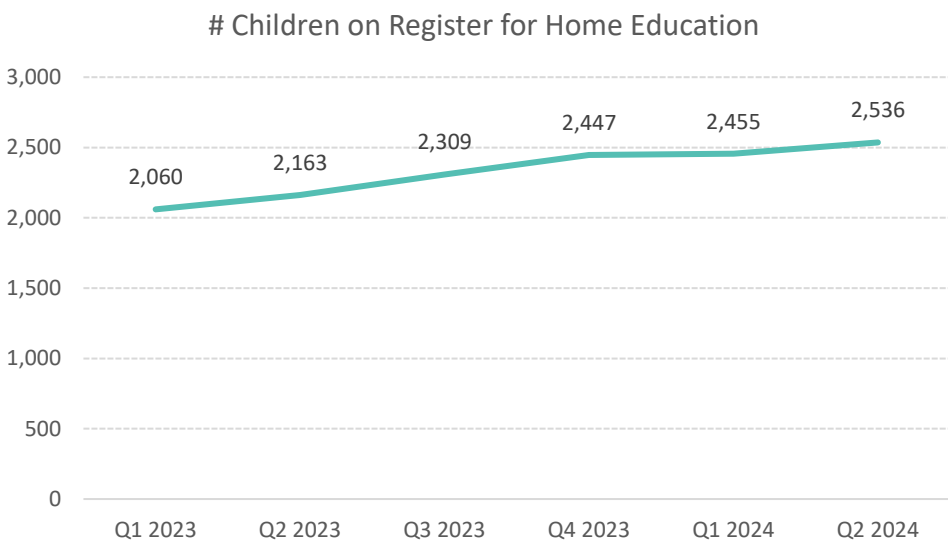
- 2,536 children on the register for home education at the end of Q2 2024, 81 (3%) more than Q1 2024 (2,455) and 373 (17%) more than Q2 2023 (2,163).
- 271 applications¹ received for home education during Q2 2024, bringing to 558 the number of applications received for the first six months of 2024, 39 (7%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (597).
- 357 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q2 2024, bringing to 641 the number of assessments carried out for the first six months of 2024, 205 (47%) more than the same period in 2023 (436).
- 876 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q2 2024, 186 (18%) fewer than Q1 2024 (1,062) and 479 (35%) fewer than Q2 2023 (1,355).

Independent Schools

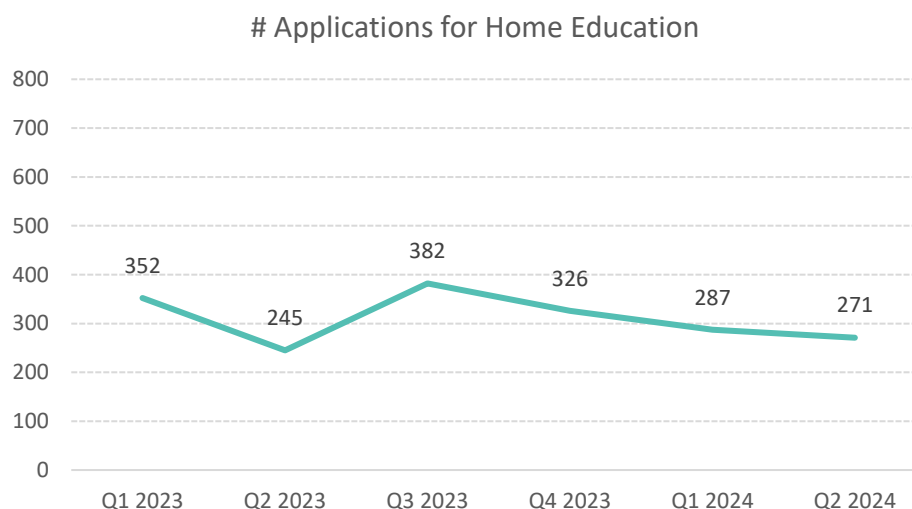
- 61 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q2 2024, up one from Q1 2024 (60).
- 6,545 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q2 2024 with 4,627 of these children on the register.
- 6 schools due for assessment at the end of Q2 2024.

Home Education

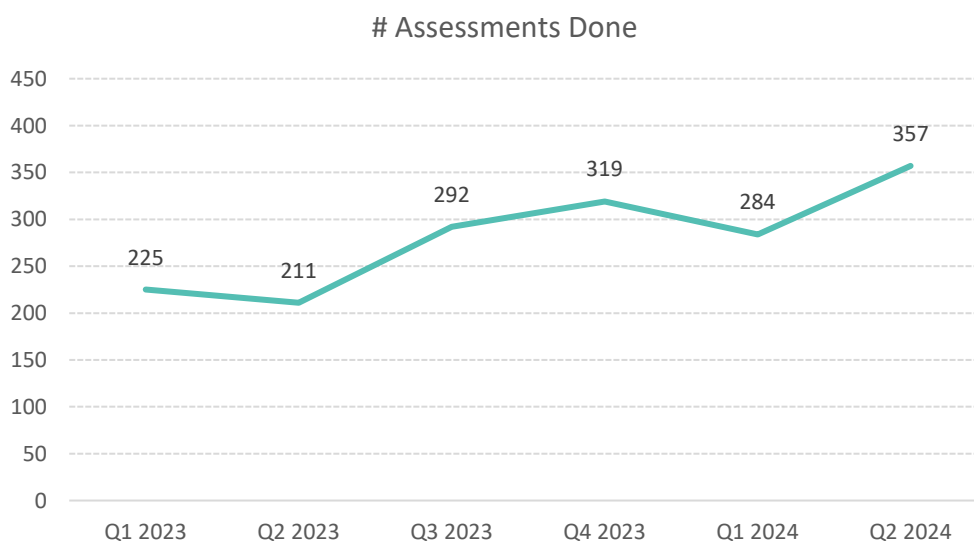
- 2,536 children on the register for home education at the end of Q2 2024, 81 (3%) more than Q1 2024 (2,455) and 373 (17%) more than Q2 2023 (2,163).
- 17% (424) of children on the register at the end of Q2 2024 have special educational needs.



- 271 applications¹² received for home education during Q2 2024, bringing to 558 the number of applications received for the first six months of 2024, 39 (7%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (597).



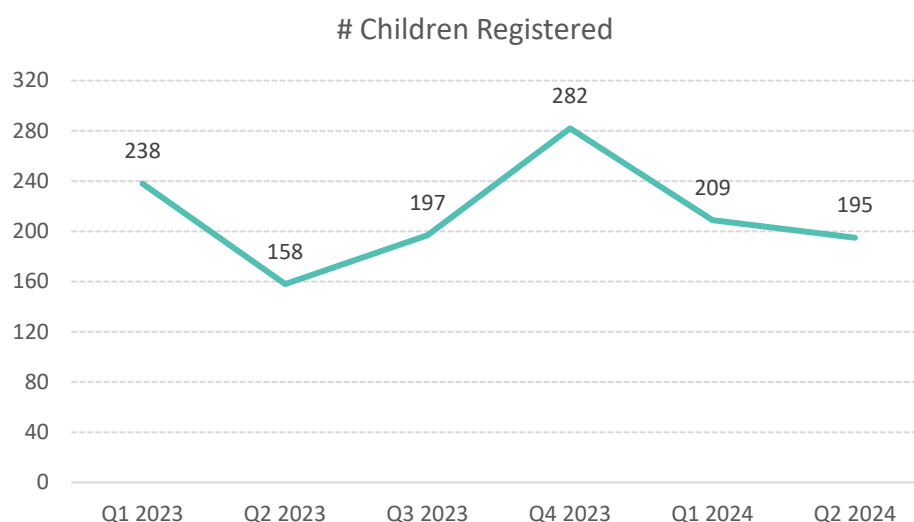
- 357 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q2 2024, bringing to 641 the number of assessments carried out for the first six months of 2024, 205 (47%) more than the same period in 2023 (436).



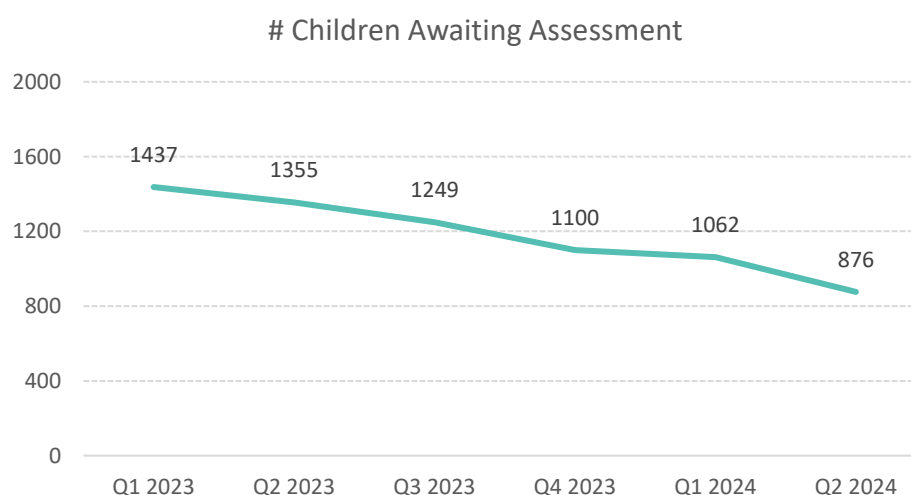
- 195 children registered for home education¹³ in Q2 2024, bringing to 404 the number of children registered for the first six months of 2024, eight more than the same period in 2023 (396).

¹² The figure for applications includes valid and invalid applications

¹³ 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



- 876 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q2 2024, 186 (18%) fewer than Q1 2024 (1,062) and 479 (35%) fewer than Q2 2023 (1,355).



- 114 children removed from the register in Q2 2024, bringing to 315 the number of children removed for the first six months of 2024. Of the children removed from the register 44 (39%) returned to school, 47 (41%) were over 18 years and 16 (14%) left the jurisdiction. The remaining seven (6%) were removed for other reasons. A total of 359 children were removed from the register in 2023.

Independent Schools

- 61 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q2 2024, up one from Q1 2024 (60).
- 6,545 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q2 2024 with 4,627 of these children on the register.
- 6 schools due for assessment at the end of Q2 2024.

4.3 ALTERNATIVE CARE INSPECTION & MONITORING SERVICES

Key Facts

- 170 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q2 2024; 4 (2%) more than Q1 2024 (166).
- 54 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q2 2024, bringing to 102 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2024. A total of 102 inspections were also carried out during the same period in 2023.
- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q2 2024, no change from Q1 2024. Two non-statutory foster care services visited, and two monitoring visits conducted during the first six months of 2024.

Non-Statutory Children's Residential Centres

- 170 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q2 2024; 4 (2%) more than Q1 2024 (166).
- 54 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q2 2024, bringing to 102 the number of inspections for the first six months of 2024. A total of 102 inspections were also carried out during the same period in 2023.

Inspections of Non Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	Total 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	2024 YTD
Thematic Inspection (announced) on-site	85	24	24	48
Thematic Inspection (unannounced) on site	74	19	25	44
Thematic Inspection (announced) remote inspection	4	0	0	0
New Registration Inspection Visit	24	5	5	10
Total	187	48	54	102

Non-Statutory Foster Care Service

- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q2 2024, no change from Q1 2024. Two non-statutory foster care services visited, and two monitoring visits conducted during the first six months of 2024.

5.0 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY FACTS

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2023 – August 2024

- 7,747 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the 10 months Sept -Jun 2024, 1,024 (15%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (6,723).
- 4,165 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of June 2024, 132 (3%) more than June 2023 (4,033).
- 3,579 new individual children worked with for the 10 months Sep – Jun 2024, 536 (18%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (3,043).
- 646 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the 10 months Sep – Jun, 156 (32%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (490). The SANs issued were in respect of 467 individual children, 125 (37%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (342).
- 122 summonses issued for the 10 months Sep- Jun 2023, 17 (16%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (105). The summonses were in respect of 103 individual children, 34 (49%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (69).
- 264 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs for the 10 months Sep-Jun 2024, 11 (4%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (253).

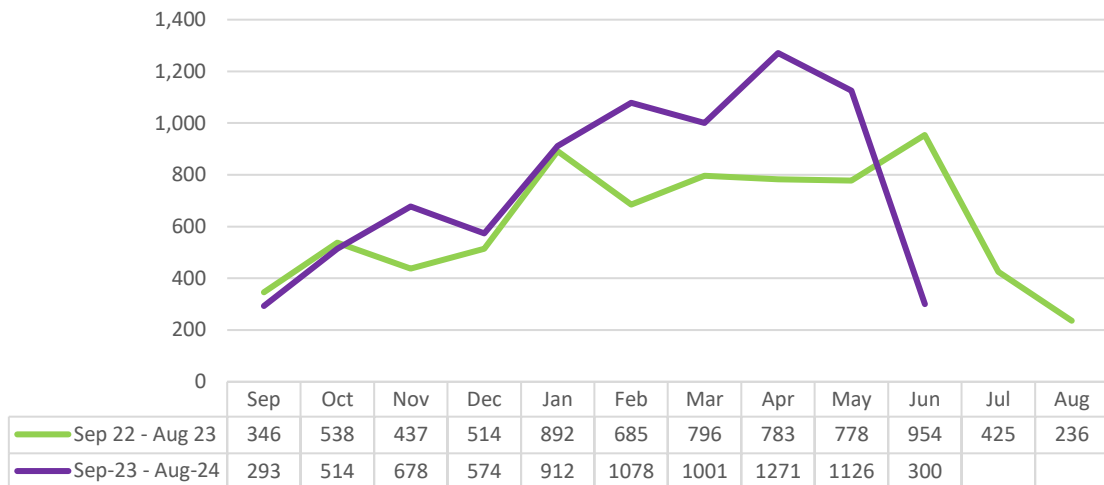
Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2023 – August 2024

- 7,747 referrals¹⁴ screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the 10 months Sept - Jun 2024, 1,024 (15%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (6,723).
- 3,626 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers for the 10 months Sept -Jun 2024, 141 (4%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (3,485).
- 2,447 referrals screened out / required no further action for the 10 months Sept - Jun 2024, nine (<1%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (2,456).
- 4,165 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of June 2024, 132 (3%) more than June 2023 (4,033).

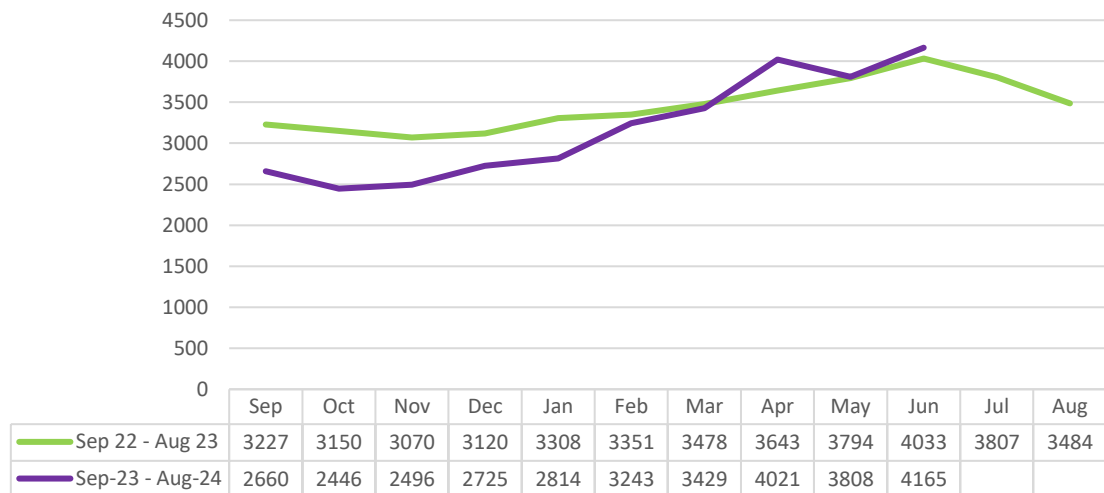
	Sept 2022 – Jun 2023	Sept 2023 – Jun 2024	Δ
# Referrals screened	6,723	7,747	1,024 (15%)
# Referrals allocated	3,485	3,626	141 (4%)
# Referrals screened out	2,456	2,447	-9 (<1%)
# Referrals on waiting list	4,033	4,165	132 (3%)

¹⁴ 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



Screened Referrals on Waiting List



- 4,727 new cases assigned to EWOs for the 10 months Sep – Jun 2024, 738 (19%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (3,989).
- 4,339 cases closed for the 10 months Sep – Jun 2024, 534 (14%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (3,805).
- 3,579 new individual children worked with for the 10 months Sep – Jun 2024, 536 (18%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (3,043).
- 7,230 individual children worked with for the seven months Sep – Jun 2024, 710 (11%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (6,520).

	Sept 2022 – Jun 2023	Sept 2023 – Jun 2024	Δ
# cases assigned	3,989	4,727	738 (19%)
# cases closed	3,805	4,339	534 (14%)
# new individual children worked with	3,043	3,579	536 (18%)
# Individual children worked with	6,520	7,230	710 (11%)

- 646 school attendance notices (SANs) issued for the 10 months Sep – Jun, 156 (32%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (490). The SANs issued were in respect of 467 individual children, 125 (37%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (342).
- 122 summonses issued for the 10 months Sep- Jun 2023, 17 (16%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (105). The summonses were in respect of 103 individual children, 34 (49%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (69).
- EWOs attended 228 court cases in relation to their own cases during the 10 months Sep – Jun 2024, nine (4%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (237).
- 135 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs for the 10 months Sep-Jun 2024, 26 (24%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (109).
- 264 Section 24¹⁵ meetings convened by EWOs for the 10 months Sep-Jun 2024, 11 (4%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (253).

	Sept 2022 – Jun 2023	Sept 2023 – Jun 2024	Δ
School Attendance Notices Issues	490	646	156 (32%)
SANs - individual children involved	342	467	125 (37%)
Summonses Issued	105	122	17 (16%)
Summonses – individual children involved	69	103	34 (49%)
Court cases attended in relation to own cases	237	228	-9 (4%)
Child protection conferences attended	109	135	26 (24%)
Section 24 meetings convened	253	264	11 (4%)
Child protection & welfare referrals made	139	168	29 (21%)

¹⁵ 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 SERVICES¹⁶

KEY FACTS

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

- At least 437 family support providers commissioned (H1 2024), *based on data from 16/17 areas*. 84% (368) of services provided data for H1 2024.
- At least 21,333 children were in receipt of family support services at the end of H1 2024. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- At least 24,613 children were referred to family support services during the first six months of 2024. This equates to about 2.0% of children (0-17 years).
- 64% (15,662) of children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2024 received a service during that period. The percentage who received a service ranged from 33% (Waterford/Wexford) to 95% (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan). Eleven 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

- At least 437 family support providers commissioned (H1 2024) *based on data from 16/17 areas*.
- 84% (368) of services commissioned provided data for H1 2024. Response rates ranged from 52% (Dublin South Central) to 100% in six areas (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow Kerry, Midwest, Galway/Roscommon, Mayo and Donegal).

Family Support Services Commissioned by Areas

Area	# Family Support Providers Commissioned H1 2024	# External to Tusla	# Internal to Tusla	# services that provided data	% that provided data
Dublin South Central	86	34	52	45	52%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	15	12	3	13	87%
DSW/K/WW	25	20	5	25	100%
Midlands	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dublin North City	48	41	7	46	96%
Dublin North	22	21	1	19	86%
Louth/Meath	23	18	5	20	87%

¹⁶ 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.

Cavan/Monaghan	18	16	2	17	94%
Cork	37	35	2	29	78%
Kerry	20	20	0	20	100%
CW/K/ST	27	24	3	25	93%
Waterford/Wexford	25	22	3	20	80%
Mid West	39	39	0	39	100%
Galway/Roscommon	12	12	0	12	100%
Mayo	10	10	0	10	100%
Donegal	12	12	0	12	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	18	18	0	16	89%
Total	437	354	83	368	84%

6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

- At least 21,333 children were in receipt of family support services at the end of H1 2024. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- Highest rates reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (5.5%) and Donegal (4.4%). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 1.8%.
- Highest number of children in receipt of family report services reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (2,565; 12%) followed by Midwest (2,076; 9.7%), Donegal (1,841; 8.6%) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (1,532; 7.2%).

Children in receipt of Family Support Services

Area	Number of children in receipt of a FSS end of H2 2023	Number of children in receipt of a FSS end of H1 2024	% Total H1 2024	Population 0-17 years (Census 2016)	Rate / 100 children
Dublin South Central	1,528	1,487	7.0%	70,259	2.1%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	761	690	3.2%	91,047	0.8%
DSW/K/WW	2,323	2,565	12.0%	108,927	2.4%
Midlands	311	186	0.9%	80,962	0.2%
Dublin North City	1,384	1,406	6.6%	49,682	2.8%
Dublin North	437	1,169	5.5%	103,508	1.1%
Louth/Meath	1,004	997	4.7%	96,531	1.0%
Cavan/Monaghan	529	770	3.6%	37,336	2.1%
Cork	817	1,009	4.7%	136,786	0.7%
Kerry	588	927	4.3%	34,994	2.6%
CW/KK/ST	1,470	1,532	7.2%	62,366	2.5%
Waterford/Wexford	1,028	1,159	5.4%	69,239	1.7%
MidWest	1,936	2,076	9.7%	96,764	2.1%
Galway/Roscommon	1,262	1403	6.6%	81,799	1.7%
Mayo	486	773	3.6%	31,911	2.4%
Donegal	2,637	1,841	8.6%	42,144	4.4%
SLWC	1,291	1,343	6.3%	24,312	5.5%
Total	19,792	21,333	100.0%	1,218,567	1.8%

6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

- At least 24,613 children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2024.
- The highest rate of referrals was reported by Dublin North City (6.1%) followed by Donegal (4.1%), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (3.8%) and Waterford/Wexford (3.2%).
- The highest number of children referred was reported by Dublin North City (3,025; 12%) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (2,328; 9%), Waterford/Wexford (2,209; 9%) and Dublin south Central (2,120; 9%).

Children referred to Family Support Services by area

Area	Total Referrals 2023	Total Referrals H1 2024	% Total H1 2024	Population 0-17 years (Census 2016)	% children referred
Dublin South Central	3,945	2,120	8.6%	70,259	3.0%
DSE/WW	1,595	966	3.9%	91,047	1.1%
DSW/K/WW	4,170	2,328	9.5%	108,927	2.1%
Midlands	921	229	0.9%	80,962	0.3%
Dublin North City	4,264	3,025	12.3%	49,682	6.1%
Dublin North	3,937	1,237	5.0%	103,508	1.2%
Louth/Meath	1,874	884	3.6%	96,531	0.9%
Cavan/Monaghan	1,215	998	4.1%	37,336	2.7%
Cork	2,784	1,781	7.2%	136,786	1.3%
Kerry	1,947	1,039	4.2%	34,994	3.0%
CW/K/ST	3,214	1,652	6.7%	62,366	2.6%
Waterford/Wexford	2,225	2,209	9.0%	69,239	3.2%
Mid West	2,674	1,472	6.0%	96,764	1.5%
Galway/Roscommon	2,927	1,341	5.4%	81,799	1.6%
Mayo	1,108	662	2.7%	31,911	2.1%
Donegal	4,327	1,736	7.1%	42,144	4.1%
SLWC	4,133	934	3.8%	24,312	3.8%
Total	47,260	24,613	100.0%	1,218,567	2.0%

6.1.4 Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals for the first six months of 2024 was parents/guardians, accounting for 29.2% (7,187) of referrals followed by Tusla social workers (22.9%; 5,628), schools (12.1%; 2,990) and HSE Officers (10.1%; 2,492).

Children referred to Family Support Services by source of referral

Source	Total Referrals 2023	Total Referrals H1 2024	% Total H1 2024
Parent/Guardian	13,657	7,187	29.2%
Tusla Social Workers	11,118	5,628	22.9%
Schools	5,413	2,990	12.1%
HSE Officers	3,695	2,492	10.1%
Other	2,005	1,911	7.8%

Other Tulsa Officers	2,342	1,434	5.8%
Child/Young Person	5,118	1,276	5.2%
Voluntary Agency	2,415	1,110	4.5%
GP	555	260	1.1%
Other Family Member	719	251	1.0%
AGS	158	74	0.3%
Anonymous	65		0.0%
Total	47,260	24,613	100.0%

6.1.5 Children who received a service

- 64% (15,662) of children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2024 received a service during that period. The percentage who received a service ranged from 33% (Waterford/Wexford) to 95% (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan). Eleven 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, H1 2024

Area	Referrals H2 2023	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service	Referrals H1 2024	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service
Dublin South Central	1,793	1,144	64%	2,120	1,226	58%
DSE/WW	865	327	38%	966	418	43%
DSW/K/WW	2,021	1,484	73%	2,328	1,146	49%
Midlands	456	398	87%	229	114	50%
Dublin North City	2,307	1,190	52%	3,025	1,505	50%
Dublin North	1,910	552	29%	1,237	946	76%
Louth/Meath	899	358	40%	884	608	69%
Cavan/Monaghan	599	552	92%	998	644	65%
Cork	1,562	947	61%	1,781	1,218	68%
Kerry	926	691	75%	1,039	893	86%
CW/K/ST	1,455	954	66%	1,652	1,203	73%
Waterford/Wexford	1,414	1,140	81%	2,209	739	33%
Mid West	1,419	1,088	77%	1,472	1,153	78%
Galway/Roscommon	1,442	1,007	70%	1,341	951	71%
Mayo	425	413	97%	662	613	93%
Donegal	2,440	2202	90%	1,736	1,395	80%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	3,154	571	18%	934	890	95%
Total	25,087	15,018	60%	24,613	15,662	64%

6.1.6 Parenting Support Service

- 14,454 parents/guardians/care givers were referred to a parenting support service during the first six months of 2024.

- 83% (12,025) of the parents/guardians/care givers referred received a service.
- 3,558 individual (one-to-one) parenting support services were commissioned internally during the first six months of 2024.
- 4,150 individual (one-to-one) parenting support services were commissioned externally during the first six months of 2024.
- 2,163 parenting support services that are group-based interventions were commissioned internally during the first six months of 2024.
- 967 parenting support services that are group-based interventions were commissioned externally during the first six months of 2024.

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

- 1,414 Meitheal processes requested during the first six months of 2024.
- The most common pathway for requests received during the first six months of 2024 was "Direct Access" accounting for 66% (935) of requests. "Social Work Diversion" accounted for a further 24% (345) while "Social Work Step-Down" accounted for 9.5% (134) of requests.
- 80% (1,129/1,414) of Meitheal requests received during the first six months of 2024 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- 885 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the first six months of 2024.
- 54% (476) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- 961 Meitheal processes were closed during the first six months of 2024.
- 30% (290) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 27% (260) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 13% (125) were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3); 30% (286) were closed post-delivery.
- 118 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating at the end of Q2 2024 with a further nine planned/pre planning stage.

6.2.1 Meitheal Activity Data

- 1,414 Meitheal processes requested during the first six months of 2024.
- Highest number of requests reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (274; 19.4%) followed by Waterford/Wexford (216; 15.3%) and Cork (153; 10.8%).
- Fewest number of requests was reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (22; 1.6%) and Dublin North City (26; 1.8%).

Meitheal processes requested

Area	Total Requested 2023	Total Requested H1 2024	% Total H1 2024
Dublin South Central	86	29	2.1%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	91	61	4.3%
DSW/K/WW	167	83	5.9%
Midlands	107	54	3.8%
Dublin North City	103	26	1.8%
Dublin North	259	44	3.1%
Louth/Meath	162	61	4.3%
Cavan/Monaghan	128	131	9.3%
Cork	271	153	10.8%
Kerry	174	86	6.1%
CW/K/ST	194	274	19.4%
Waterford/Wexford	352	216	15.3%
Mid West	131	72	5.1%
Galway/Roscommon	111	41	2.9%
Mayo	38	28	2.0%
Donegal	75	33	2.3%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	43	22	1.6%
National	2,492	1,414	100.0%

- The most common pathway for requests received during the first six months of 2024 was “Direct Access” accounting for 66% (935) of requests. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 24% (345) while “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for 9.5% (134) of requests.
- A breakdown of request received during the first six months of 2024 by pathway is presented in the table below.

Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests H1 2024

Area	# Requested H1 2024	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	29	24	82.8%	1	3.4%	4	13.8%
DSE/WW	61	56	91.8%	1	1.6%	4	6.6%
DSW/K/WW	83	64	77.1%	17	20.5%	2	2.4%
Midlands	54	48	88.9%	4	7.4%	2	3.7%
Dublin North City	26	21	80.8%	2	7.7%	3	11.5%
Dublin North	44	42	95.5%	1	2.3%	1	2.3%
Louth/Meath	61	39	63.9%	15	24.6%	7	11.5%
Cavan/Monaghan	131	65	49.6%	41	31.3%	25	19.1%
Cork	153	74	48.4%	35	22.9%	44	28.8%
Kerry	86	44	51.2%	22	25.6%	20	23.3%
CW/K/ST	274	129	47.1%	140	51.1%	5	1.8%

Waterford/Wexford	216	164	75.9%	52	24.1%	0	0.0%
Mid West	72	62	86.1%	5	6.9%	5	6.9%
Galway/Roscommon	41	36	87.8%	4	9.8%	1	2.4%
Mayo	28	25	89.3%	1	3.6%	2	7.1%
Donegal	33	26	78.8%	0	0.0%	7	21.2%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	22	16	72.7%	4	18.2%	2	9.1%
Total	1,414	935	66.1%	345	24.4%	134	9.5%

- 80% (1,129/1,414) of Meitheal requests received during the first six months of 2024 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- The percentage of requests proceeding to Stage 2 ranged from 100% in three areas (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow, Mayo and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 27% (35/131) in Cavan/Monaghan. Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 80%.

Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage) H1 2024

Area	# Requested H1 2024	# that proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)
Dublin South Central	29	21	72%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	61	60	98%
DSW/K/WW	83	83	100%
Midlands	54	41	76%
Dublin North City	26	23	88%
Dublin North	44	29	66%
Louth/Meath	61	59	97%
Cavan/Monaghan	131	35	27%
Cork	153	133	87%
Kerry	86	61	71%
CW/K/ST	274	190	69%
Waterford/Wexford	216	203	94%
Mid West	72	70	97%
Galway/Roscommon	41	40	98%
Mayo	28	28	100%
Donegal	33	31	94%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	22	22	100%
Total	1,414	1,129	80%

- 885 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the first six months of 2024.
- 54% (476) 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 97% (28/29) Donegal to 12% (16/129) in Cavan/Monaghan. Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 54%.

- 29% (253) were referred for a single agency response. The percentage of processes referred for a single agency response ranged from 78% (50/64) in Waterford/Wexford to 0% in six areas. Four areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 29%.
- 2% (14) of processes were referred to social work (stepped – up). These processes were reported across eight areas. Nine areas reported none.
- 16% (142) of processes were closed. The percentage of processes closed ranged from 40% (4/10) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan to none in two areas. Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (16%).

Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, H1 2024

Area	# Reaching Completion of Stage 2, H1 2024	Proceeded to Delivery	%	Referred to Social Work	%	Referred to a Single Agency Response	%	Closed	%
DSC	29	19	66%	1	3%	1	3%	8	28%
DSE/WW	56	52	93%	0	0%	0	0%	4	7%
DSW/K/WW	57	53	93%	0	0%	0	0%	4	7%
Midlands	51	26	51%	0	0%	5	10%	20	39%
DNC	18	14	78%	0	0%	2	11%	2	11%
Dublin North	30	8	27%	1	3%	12	40%	9	30%
LH/MH	48	34	71%	1	2%	7	15%	6	13%
CN/MN	129	16	12%	4	3%	78	60%	31	24%
Cork	65	39	60%	2	3%	13	20%	11	17%
Kerry	60	40	67%	1	2%	4	7%	15	25%
CW/KK/ST	129	34	26%	0	0%	80	62%	15	12%
WD/WX	64	14	22%	0	0%	50	78%	0	0%
MidWest	47	40	85%	0	0%	0	0%	7	15%
GY/RN	35	31	89%	3	9%	0	0%	1	3%
Mayo	28	22	79%	0	0%	1	4%	5	18%
Donegal	29	28	97%	1	3%	0	0%	0	0%
SLWC	10	6	60%	0	0%	0	0%	4	40%
Total	885	476	54%	14	2%	253	29%	142	16%

- 961 Meitheal processes were closed during the first six months of 2024. The number of processes closed ranged from 201 (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary) to 14 (Dublin North).
- 30% (290) 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% (14/14) in Dublin North to none in two areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow and Cavan/Monaghan). Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 30%.

- 27% (260) 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 82% (102/124) in Cavan/Monaghan to none in two areas (Dublin North and Dublin South Central). Four areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (27%).
- 13% (125) of Meitheal processes were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3). The percentage closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings ranged from 38% (6/16) in Midlands to none in two areas (Dublin North and Louth/Meath). Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 13%.
- 30% (286) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery. The percentage closed post-delivery ranged from 68% (26/38) in Dublin South East/Wicklow area to none in one area (Dublin North). Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 30%.

Number of Meitheals closed H1 2024

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed H1 2024	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	16	4	25%	0	0%	2	13%	10	63%
DSE/WW	38	0	0%	6	16%	6	16%	26	68%
DSW/K/WW	75	18	24%	4	5%	12	16%	41	55%
Midlands	16	5	31%	2	13%	6	38%	3	19%
DNC	56	22	39%	6	11%	9	16%	19	34%
Dublin North	14	14	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
LH/MH	21	11	52%	5	24%	0	0%	5	24%
CN/MN	124	0	0%	102	82%	8	6%	14	11%
Cork	117	49	42%	24	21%	11	9%	33	28%
Kerry	69	23	33%	8	12%	7	10%	31	45%
CW/KK/ST	201	95	47%	59	29%	27	13%	20	10%
WD/WX	42	17	40%	12	29%	1	2%	12	29%
MidWest	57	9	16%	11	19%	8	14%	29	51%
GY/RN	31	6	19%	5	16%	6	19%	14	45%
Mayo	21	5	24%	1	5%	4	19%	11	52%
Donegal	41	6	15%	9	22%	11	27%	15	37%
SLWC	22	6	27%	6	27%	7	32%	3	14%
National	961	290	30%	260	27%	125	13%	286	30%

6.2.2 Child and Family Support Networks

- 118 Child and Family Support Networks¹⁷ (CFSN) operating at the end of Q2 2024 with a further nine planned/pre planning stage.

Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned

Area	CFSNs Operating H2 2023	CFSNs Operating H1 2024	CFSNs Planned H2 2024
Dublin South Central	8	7	1
Dublin South East/Wicklow	7	7	0
DSW/K/WW	10	10	0
Midlands	4	4	2
Dublin North City	6	6	1
Dublin North	4	4	4
Louth/Meath	5	5	0
Cavan/Monaghan	8	5	1
Cork	12	12	0
Kerry	3	3	0
CW/K/ST	8	10	0
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	118	9

¹⁷ 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

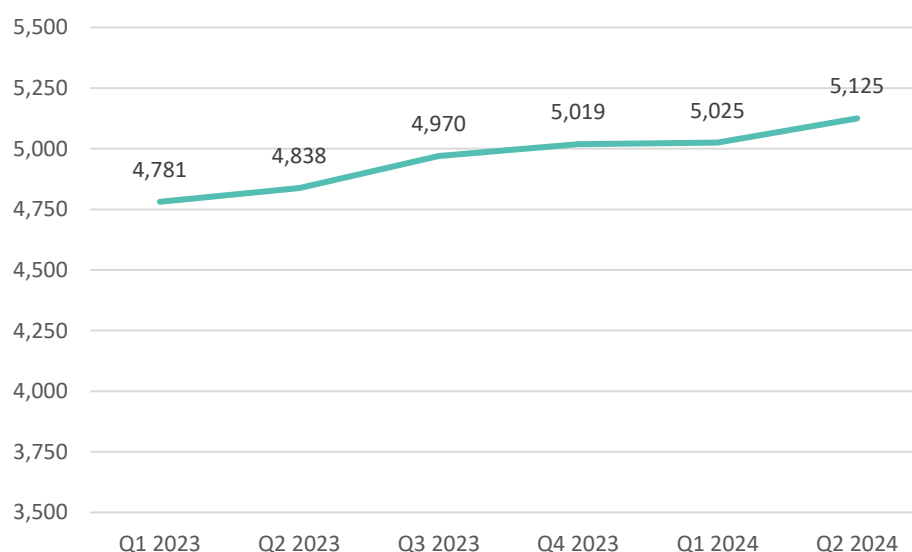
7.5 Workforce Learning and Development

KEY FACTS

- 5,125 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q2 2024, 100 (2%) more than Q1 2024 (5,025) and 287 (6%) more than Q2 2023 (4,838).
- 390 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first six months of 2024, 93 (19%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (483).
- 201 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first six months of 2024, 16 (7%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (217). A further 65 staff retired in the first six months of 2024, 9 (16%) more than the same period in 2023 (56).
- At the end of Q2 2024, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.79%, up slightly from 6.7% at the end of Q1 2024 (6.7%) and up 1.55 percentage points from Q2 2023 (5.24%).
- e-learning training activity: 11,572 completions were achieved in Q2 2024
- Classroom training: 2,604 participants attended in Q2 2024.

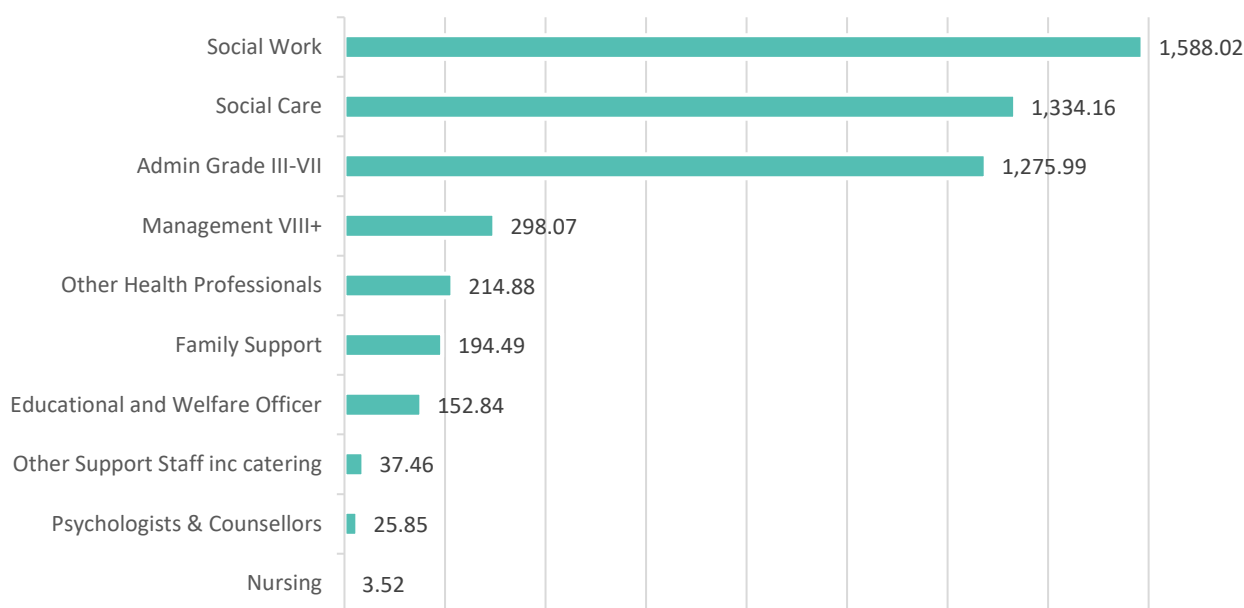
- 5,125 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q2 2024, 100 (2%) more than Q1 2024 (5,025) and 287 (6%) more than Q2 2023 (4,838).

Total Staff Employed (WTE), by quarter



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency, accounting for 31% (1,588.02) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q2 2024, followed by social care staff

accounting for a further 26% (1,334.16). Management (Grade VIII+) account for 6% (298.07) of the workforce.



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

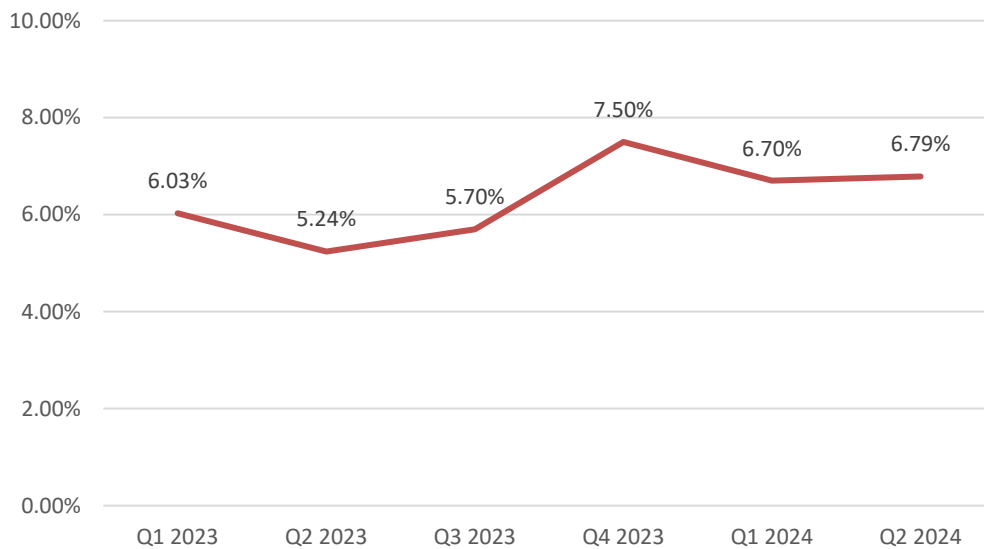
Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category

Staffing by Category	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q2 2024 v Q1 2024	Q2 2024 v Q2 2023
Social Work	1,555.78	1,609.65	1,611.57	1,595.45	1,588.02	-7	32
Social Care	1,258.53	1,301.32	1,322.68	1,315.23	1,334.16	19	76
Admin Grade III-VII	1,176.48	1,191.83	1,214.88	1,227.08	1,275.99	49	100
Family Support	151.21	165.48	150.48	160.72	194.49	34	43
Management VIII+	276.47	286.12	292.39	293.96	298.07	4	22
Educational & Welfare Officer	147.04	148.05	149.26	150.97	152.84	2	6
Other Support Staff	38.29	36.5	37.6	37.56	37.46	0	-1
Nursing	5.35	5.38	5.38	5.40	3.52	-2	-2
Psychologists & Counsellors	26.88	24.24	23.8	25.92	25.85	0	-1
Other Health Professionals	201.59	201.35	210.73	212.32	214.88	3	13
Total Staffing	4,838	4,970	5,019	5,025	5,125	100	287

- 390 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first six months of 2024, 93 (19%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (483).
- 201 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first six months of 2024, 16 (7%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (217).
- 65 staff retired in the first six months of 2024, 9 (16%) more than the same period in 2023 (56).
- 139 (3%) staff were on maternity leave (paid and unpaid) at the end of Q2 2024.

7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of Q2 2024, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.79%, up slightly from 6.7% at the end of Q1 2024 (6.7%) and up 1.55 percentage points from Q2 2023 (5.24%).



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff at 9.74%. The rate for Residential Services (11.28%) (data not shown), is 4.49 percentage points higher than the overall rate of 6.79%. The overall absence rate excluding Residential Services is 5.91%.

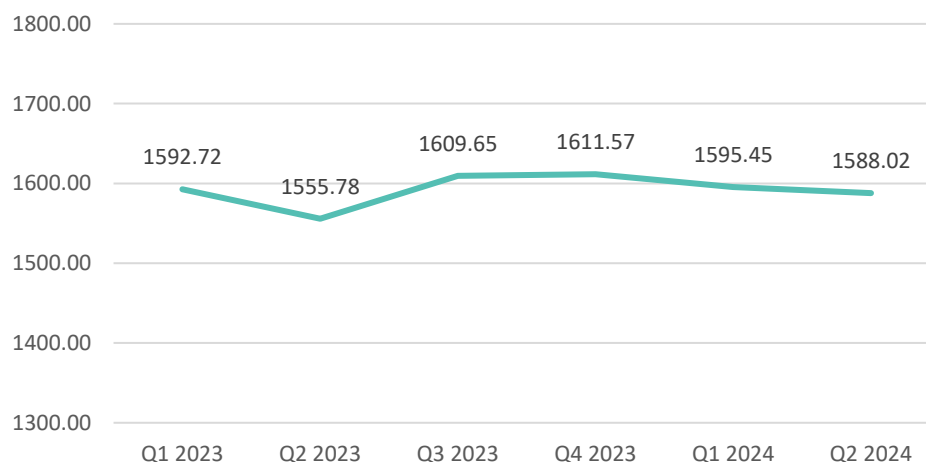
Absence rate by staff grade

Staff Grade	Absence Rate Q2 2023	Absence Rate Q3 2023	Absence Rate Q4 2023	Absence Rate Q1 2024	Absence Rate Q2 2024
Social Work	4.01%	4.69%	6.12%	5.84%	6.14%
Social Care	7.49%	8.7%	10.34%	9.68%	9.74%
All other grades	4.59%	4.4%	6.4%	5.18%	5.2%

7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,588.02 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q2 2024, 7.43 (1%) fewer than at the end of Q1 2024 (1,595.45) and 32.24 (2%) more than Q2 2023 (1,555.78)

Number of social workers (WTE) by quarter



- 72 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first six months of 2024, one fewer than the same period in 2023 (73).
- 88 social workers left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks excluding retirements) during the first six months of 2024, 30 (25%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (118).
- 15 social workers retired in the first six months of 2024, four more than the same period in 2023 (11).
- 71 (4%) social workers were on maternity leave (paid and unpaid) at the end of Q2 2024.
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q2 2023 to Q2 2024 by area is presented in the table below.

Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q2 2023 – Q2 2024

	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)
Area	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024
DSC	69.47	73.51	72.94	70.5	70.52
DSE/WW	84.14	86.62	85.84	82.65	80.61
DSW/K/WW	100.74	102.64	100.41	100.16	97.16
Midlands	83.36	94.06	93.2	93.87	91.76
Regional Services DML	15.44	20.32	20.46	20.75	18.77
DML Total	353.15	377.15	372.85	367.93	358.82
CN/MN	47.89	45.69	46.48	48.62	49.02
DNC	74.2	75.84	73.72	76.9	79.75
LH/MH	80.73	81.96	78.84	81.4	85.76
Dublin North	83.97	92.27	94.47	91.56	92.9
Regional Services DNE	13.33	14.61	14.9	13.59	12.42
DNE Total	300.12	310.37	308.41	312.07	319.85
CW/KK/ST	62.94	68.17	64.12	64.82	62.31
Cork	183.12	186.48	188.12	189.31	187.68
Kerry	45.11	44.22	41.2	40.64	36.79
WD/WX	83.1	89.11	94.21	91.72	89.56
Regional Services South	2.0	2.0	3.94	5.87	6.77
South Total	376.57	389.98	391.59	392.36	383.11
Donegal	66.27	74.87	73.36	71.19	72.19
GY/RN	95.36	96.06	98.48	93.73	93.69
Mayo	36.36	38.45	35.68	36.41	35.04
Mid West	103.6	110.32	104.65	96.42	92.74
SLWC	37.52	38.61	42.18	40.46	44.52
Regional Services West	6.8	2.85	8.91	11.88	11.56
West Total	345.91	361.16	363.26	350.09	349.74
Residential DML					
Residential DNE	2.58	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
Residential West					

Residential South	1	1	1	1	1
National residential	0.99	1	1	1	1
Residential Services	4.57	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Corporate	175.46	166.39	170.86	168.4	171.9
National Operations					
Corporate	175.46	166.39	170.86	168.4	171.9
Total	1,556	1,609.65	1,611.57	1,595.45	1,588.02

7.4 Workforce Learning and Development (WLD)

- Table 1 shows classroom training attendance for Q2 2024
- Table 2 shows E-learning activity for Q2 2024
- The most attended classroom training was ‘Tusla Manual Handling’ with 338 completions followed by ‘Violence Harassment & Aggression’ with 235 completions and ‘Understanding Behaviour through a Neurodiverse Lens’ with 217 completions.
- The most popular E-learning module during Q2 2024 was ‘Introduction to Children First’ with 1,900 completions followed by ‘Complaint Handling in Tusla Module 1’ with 1,618 completions and ‘Data Protection in Tusla’ with 1,398 completions.

Table 1: Classroom Training, Q2 2024

Name of Module	Total Completions
AMBIT	21
Attachment	42
Being Trauma Informed	173
Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure 2 Pilot	17
Child & Youth Participation Virtual Classroom	69
Children who have been Sexually Harmed	67
Court Skills in Practice	46
Diversity in Modern Ireland	53
First Aid Refresher	10
First Aid Response	14
Focus on Mental Health	170
Hidden in Plain Sight	94
Joint Gardai Tusla Training event	36
LÁMH	10
Ligature, Knife and Audit	72
Management: An Introduction for First Time Managers	42
Meitheal Chair/Facilitator	2
Meitheal Record Keeper	7
Meitheal Train the Trainer	15
Meitheal-Tusla Led Early Intervention Practice Model	13
MS Excel Advanced	11

MS Excel Foundations	9
MS Excel Intermediate	23
MS Forms	6
MS Outlook	6
MS PowerPoint Advanced	3
MS Teams/SharePoint/OneNote	16
MS Word Advanced	3
NVR Training	17
Office for Legal Services, Briefings 2024	34
Presentation and Facilitation Skills	22
Reflective Writing and Recording	4
Resilience and Self Care	76
Resistance – Engaging with Families	29
Sharing Personal Data Safely	130
Signs of Safety	32
Supervision Skills for Supervisors Module 2	15
TCM (Classroom) Training for Child Protection and Alternative Care Staff	70
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Refresher Programme	192
Tusla Coaching Skills	44
Tusla Intake Eligibility Procedure for SCSIP	9
Tusla Manual Handling	338
Tusla / University of Galway Joint Event	39
Understanding Behavior through a Neurodiverse Lens	217
Understanding Self Harm	32
Violence Harassment & Aggression	235
‘Welltree’ Refresher	10
Young People - Loss and Grief	9
Total	2,604

Table 2: E-Learning Q1 2024

Name of Module	Total Completions
An Introduction to Parental Participation for all staff	24
An Introduction to Tusla's Approach to Commissioning	6
Attachment in Tusla Practice	39
Barnahaus	32
CASP e-learning	39
Children First in Action	763
Child Sexual Exploitation	210
Complaint Handling in Tusla Module1	1,618
Complaints Handling in Tusla Module2	96
Critical Incident Stress Management	37

Data Protection in Tusla	1,398
De-escalation Skills for Staff Redeployed to CRS	8
Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence	29
Freedom of Information: An Introduction to the FOI Act	1,008
Health and Safety Management: Introduction for Line Managers	59
Hidden Harm: Impact of Parental Alcohol and other Drug use	33
Implementing Children First in Tusla	1,319
Incident Management	1,118
Induction to Children's Residential Services	22
Introduction to Children First	1,900
Medication Management in CRS	170
Meitheal Briefing	22
Minute Taking - An Introduction	66
Organisational Risk Management	59
Parental Participation in Practice	7
Tusla Case Management System – Child Protection / Alternative Care	94
Tusla Case Management - The Fundamentals	169
Tusla Employee Health & Safety	971
Using NIMS for the Management of Complaints	21
Violence Harassment & Aggression	235
Total	11,572

8 FINANCE

KEY FACTS

- The outturn for the year to date (June YTD) is an overspend of €28,092 million (5%)
- The net expenditure is €549,196 million against a budget allocation of €521,104 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €3,074 million.
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €31,587 million.

Financial Performance

- The outturn for the year to date (June YTD) is an overspend of €28,092 million (5%)
- The net expenditure is €549,196 million against a budget allocation of €521,104 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €3,074 million.

Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	June 2023 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
Pay costs	€201,083	€204,157	€3,074	(2%)

- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €31,587 million.

Non-Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	June 2023 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
Non pay costs	€359,036	€327,449	€31,587	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