



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 3 2022



Quality Assurance 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 Q3 2022. 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 Q3 2022 position regarding activity and performance.

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

REFERRALS *(Data for Q2 2022 extracted from NCCIS on 21 October 2022)*

- 21,186 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q2 2022¹; 1,293 (6%) more than Q1 2022 (19,893) and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2021 – Q2 2022.
- This brings to 41,079 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2022, 6,247 (18%) more than the same period in 2021 (34,832).
- More than half of referrals for 2022 YTD (55%; 22,497) were for welfare concerns, 36% (14,969) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 9% (3,613) of referrals.
- The most common source of referrals in 2022 YTD was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 35% (14,461) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by social workers (11%; 4,701) and teachers (11%; 4,336).
- 59% (12,493) of referrals for Q2 2022 were closed following screening; 35% (7,503) of referrals for Q2 2022 and progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage.
- Of the referrals closed, 40% (4,970) were closed with no further action required, a further 41% (5,081) were closed as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing and 7% (871) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services. The outcome was not recorded at the time the data was extracted for 8% (1,055) of referrals closed.
- 89% (6,645) of preliminary enquiries for referrals received in Q2 2022 were closed at the time the data was extracted and of these 9% (619) were closed within 5 working days.
- 46% (3,037) of referrals with a closed preliminary enquiry required no further action and were closed; 29% (1,926) required an initial assessment while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 11% (728) of cases. Some 7% (439) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS
- At the time the data was extracted for reporting, 50% (967) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were closed, 19% (369) were ongoing/ awaiting sign-off while the remaining 31% (590) were awaiting commencement.

¹ Data on referrals is reported quarterly in arrears

- 32% (313) of initial assessments closed were closed within 40 days of receipt of referral.
- 50% (483) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 57% (275) required no further action, 24% (116) were diverted to another agency for a service, and 9% (43) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service.
- A further 10% (49) were closed as safety planning was already ongoing.
- 30% (286) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 17% (160) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 3% (30) required admission to care.

SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA

- 21,527 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q3 2022, 490 (2%) fewer than Q2 2022 (22,017) and 371 (2%) more than the same period last year (21,156).
- 75% (16,129) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q3 2022, no change from Q2 2022 and down three percentage points from Q3 2021 (78%).
- 5,398 (25%) cases were awaiting allocation, 37 fewer than Q2 2022 (5,435) and 803 (17%) more than Q3 2021 (4,595)
- 66% (3,543) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2022 were “active” on a duty system.
- 7% (398) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2022 were categorised as high priority, 48 (14%) more than Q2 2022 (350).
- 73% (3,932/5,398) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2022 were waiting three months or less and of these 64% (2,500) were waiting less than one month.
- 83% (329/398) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2022 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 71% (235) were waiting less than one month.

CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

- 891 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of Q3 2022, 24 (3%) fewer than Q2 2022 (915); third consecutive decrease.
- 34 (4%) more children ‘active’ at the end of Q3 2022 than at the end of Q3 2021 (857).
- 82% (735) of children were listed as “active for no longer than 12 months.
- 8% (70) were listed as “active” for > 18 months, no change from Q2 2022.
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q3 2022 had an allocated social worker.

NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

- 1,130 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2022, 102 (8%) fewer than Q2 2022 (1,232) when the highest number for all quarters Q1 2021 – Q2 2022 was reported. This brings to 3,096 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2022, 1,230 (66%) more than the same period in 2021 (1,866).

- 225 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2022, 56 (20%) fewer than Q2 2022 (281) when the highest number for all quarters Q1 2021 – Q2 2022 was reported. This brings to 700 the number of children placed for the first nine months of 2022, 203 (41%) more than the same period in 2021 (497).
- 1,633 nights' accommodation supplied by the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2022, 848 (34%) fewer than Q2 2022 (2,481) when the highest number for all quarters Q1 2021 – Q2 2022 was reported. This brings to 5,768 the number of nights' accommodation supplied for the first nine months of 2022, 1,840 (47%) more than the same period in 2021 (3,928).

ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

CHILDREN IN CARE

- 5,810 children in care at the end of Q3 2022, 26 fewer than Q2 2022 (5,836). The number of children in care is down 31 (<1%) on Q3 2021 (5,841).
- 89% (5,171) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) at the end of Q3 2022 and 7.7% (446) were in a residential (general and special care) placement.
- 858 (14.8%) children in care at the end of Q3 2022 were in placements with private providers¹; 14 (2%) more than Q2 2022 (844) and 76 (10%) more than Q3 2021 (782).
- 87% (5,079) of children in care at the end of Q3 2022 had an allocated social worker; no change from Q2 2022.
- 731 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of Q3 2022, one more than Q2 2022 (730).

AFTERCARE

- 124 referrals for an aftercare service in Q3 2022. This brings to 382 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2022.
- 2,999 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2022, 46 (<2%) fewer than Q2 2022 (3,045) and 36 (<2%) fewer than Q3 2021 (3,035).
- 75% (1,710/2,271) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service were in education/accredited training.
- 84% (2,528) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2022 had an aftercare plan, up two percentage point from Q2 2022. A total of 471 were awaiting a plan, 66 (12%) fewer than Q2 2022 (537).
- 92% (2,322/2,528) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker.
- 93% (2,159/2,322) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2022, up two percentage point from Q2 2022. A total of 163 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2022, 35 (18%) fewer than Q2 2022 (198).

ADOPTION SERVICES

Information & Tracing

- 304 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q3 2022. This brings to 1,465 the number of enquiries for the first nine months of 2022, 902 (38%) fewer than the same period in 2021 (2,367).
- 488 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q3 2022, 80 (14%) fewer than Q2 2022 (568); the fewest number for the period Q1 2021 – Q3 2022 and the fourth consecutive quarterly decrease.
- At the end of Q3 2022, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 0 weeks to 10 weeks against a target of 8 weeks, down from 8 weeks to 24 weeks at the end of Q2 2022.

Adoption

- 47 new children referred for adoption during Q3 2022. This brings to 142 the number of children referred for the first nine months of 2022.
- 59 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment, at the end of the reporting period. Of these, 30 (51%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, five (8%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 24 (41%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

FOSTER CARERS

- 4,000 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q3 2022, 13 fewer than Q2 2022 (4,013 revised figure) and the third consecutive quarterly decrease.
- 86% (2,014) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2022, down four percentage points from Q2 2022 (90%).
- 340 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 102 (43%) more than Q2 2022 (238).
- 89% (937) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2022, down two percentage point from Q2 2022 (91%)
- 113 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q3 2022, 21 (23%) more than Q2 2022 (92).
- 92% (154) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. A total of 14 carers were awaiting a link worker, seven more than Q2 2022 (7). The 14 carers were reported across four areas and ranged from one to eight.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- 4,065 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q3 2022, 30 (<1%) fewer than Q2 2022 (4,095) and 75 (1.8%) fewer than Q3 2021 (4,140).
- 564 inspections (all types¹) carried out in Q3 2022. This brings to 1,911 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2022, 89 (5%) more than the same period in 2021 (1,822). *Inspections in early 2021 impacted due to Covid-19 restrictions.*
- 399 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q3 2022. This brings to 4,413 the number of incidents notified for the first nine months of 2022, 2,982 more than the same period in 2021 (1,431). *The majority of the incidents notified pertain to confirmed cases of Covid-19.*
- 95 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q3 2022. This brings to 252 the number of submissions received for the first nine months of 2022, 57 (29%) more than the same period in 2021 (195).
- 72 services were found to have closed in Q3 2022, bringing to 130 the number of services that were found to have closed in the first nine months of 2022. A total of 122 services were found to have closed during the same period in 2021.

ALTERNATIVE CARE INSPECTION & MONITORING SERVICE

- 146 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q3 2022; four more than Q2 2022 (142)
- A total of 44 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q3 2022. This brings to 135 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2022.
- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q3 2022; no change from Q1 2022. Two monitoring visits conducted in Q2 2022.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

Home Education

- 1,920 children on the register for home education at the end of Q3 2022, 69 (4%) more than Q2 2022 (1,851) and 127 (7%) more than Q3 2021 (1,793).
- 372 applications received for home education during Q3 2022, 173 (90%) more than Q2 2022 (199) and 84 (18%) fewer than Q3 2021 (456). This brings to 959 the number of applications for the first nine months of 2022, 97 (9%) fewer than the same period in 2021 (1,056).
- 103 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q3 2022, 27 (20%) fewer than Q2 2022 (130) and 39 (61%) more than Q3 2021 (64). This brings to 388 the number of assessments for the first nine months of 2022, 17 (5%) more than the same period in 2021 (371).
- 1,547 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q3 2022, 65 (4%) fewer than Q2 2022 (1,612) and 289 (16%) fewer than Q3 2021 (1,836); the third consecutive quarterly decrease.

Independent Schools

- 56 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q3 2022, no change from Q2 2022
- 6,218 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q3 2022 with 4,413 of these children on the register.
- 43 schools due for review assessment (\geq 3-year cycle) and four schools due for preliminary assessment at the end of Q3 2022.

TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2021 – August 2022

Data presented needs to be interpreted in the context of the impact of Covid-19 on school attendance and service provided.

- 6,771 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the academic year 2021/2022, 1,181 (21%) more than the previous year 2020/2021 (5,590).
- 3,551 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of the academic year 2021/2022, 1,382 (64%) more than the end of the previous year 2020/2021 (2,169).
- 6,199 individual children worked with during the academic year 2021/2022, 666 (12%) more than the previous year 2020/2021 (5,533).
- 598 school attendance notices (SANs) issued during the academic year 2021/2022, 476 more than the previous year 2020/2021 (122). The SANs issued were in respect of 407 individual children.
- 111 summonses issued during the academic year 2021/2022, 108 more than the previous year 2020/2021 (3). The summonses were in respect of 76 individual children.
- 130 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs during the academic year 2021/2022, 50 (63%) more than the previous year 2020/2021 (80).

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 17,873 children were in receipt of family support services at the end Q2 2022, 798 (5%) more than Q4 2021 (17,075). Based on a response rate of 88%
- At least 18,324 children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2022. This equates to about 1.5% of the child population (0-17 years).
- 65% (11,908) of children referred to family support services in the first six months of 2022 received a service. The percentage who received a service ranged from 94% (Cavan/Monaghan) to 43% (Kerry). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 65%.

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

- 1,168 Meitheal processes requested in the first six months of 2022, 37 more than the last six months of 2021 (1,131) and 74 fewer than the first six months of 2021 (1,242).
- The most common pathway for requests was Direct Access accounting for 70% (817) of requests. Social Work Diversion accounted for a further 16% (190) while Social Work Step-Down accounted for 8% (93) of requests. The pathway was not provided for the remaining 68 (6%) requests, (59 in Waterford/Wexford, 8 Donegal and 1 Galway/Roscommon).
- 84% (982/1,168) of Meitheal requests received in the first six months of 2022 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- 836 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the first six months of 2022.
- 55% (456) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- 862 Meitheal processes were closed in the first six months of 2022. 24% (211) of Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 29% (247) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 13% (109) were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3) and 34% (295) were closed post-delivery
- 123 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating at the end of Q2 2022. A further 22 CFSNs are planned/pre planning stage.

PEOPLE & CHANGE

- 4,609 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2022, 35 more than Q2 2022 (4,574) and 93 (2%) more than Q3 2021 (4,516).
- 561 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first nine months of 2022.
- 426 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) and 92 staff retired in the first nine months of 2022.
- At the end of Q3 2022, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.09%, 1.18 percentage points lower than Q2 2022 (7.27%) and 0.17 percentage points lower than Q3 2021 (6.26%).
- e-learning activity: 4,176 completions were achieved in Q3 2022
- Virtual classroom training: 1,320 completions.

FINANCE

- The outturn for the year to date (Sept 2022) is an overspend of €9.242 million.
- The net expenditure for the year to date is €683.351 million against a budget allocation of €674.108 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget for the year to date by €15.157 million.
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €28.172 million.

2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

Key Facts (*data for Q2 2022 based on extract from NCCIS on 21 October 2022*)

- 21,186 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q2 2022; 1,293 (6%) more than Q1 2022 (19,893) and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2021 – Q2 2022.
- This brings to 41,079 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2022, 6,247 (18%) more than the same period in 2021 (34,832).
- More than half of referrals for 2022 YTD (55%; 22,497) were for welfare concerns, 36% (14,969) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 9% (3,613) of referrals.
- The most common source of referrals in 2022 YTD was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 35% (14,461) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by social workers (11%; 4,701) and teachers (11%; 4,336).
- 59% (12,493) of referrals for Q2 2022 were closed following screening; 35% (7,503) of referrals for Q2 2022 and progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage.
- Of the referrals closed, 40% (4,970) were closed with no further action required, a further 41% (5,081) were closed as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing and 7% (871) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services. The outcome was not recorded at the time the data was extracted for 8% (1,055) of referrals closed.
- 89% (6,645) of preliminary enquiries for referrals received in Q2 2022 were closed at the time the data was extracted and of these 9% (619) were closed within 5 working days.
- 46% (3,037) of referrals with a closed preliminary enquiry required no further action and were closed; 29% (1,926) required an initial assessment while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 11% (728) of cases. Some 7% (439) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS
- At the time the data was extracted for reporting, 50% (967) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were closed, 19% (369) were ongoing/ awaiting sign-off while the remaining 31% (590) were awaiting commencement.
- 32% (313) of initial assessments closed were closed within 40 days of receipt of referral.
- 50% (483) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 57% (275) required no further action, 24% (116) were diverted to another agency for a service, and 9% (43) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service.
- A further 10% (49) were closed as safety planning was already ongoing.
- 30% (286) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 17% (160) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 3% (30) required admission to care.

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

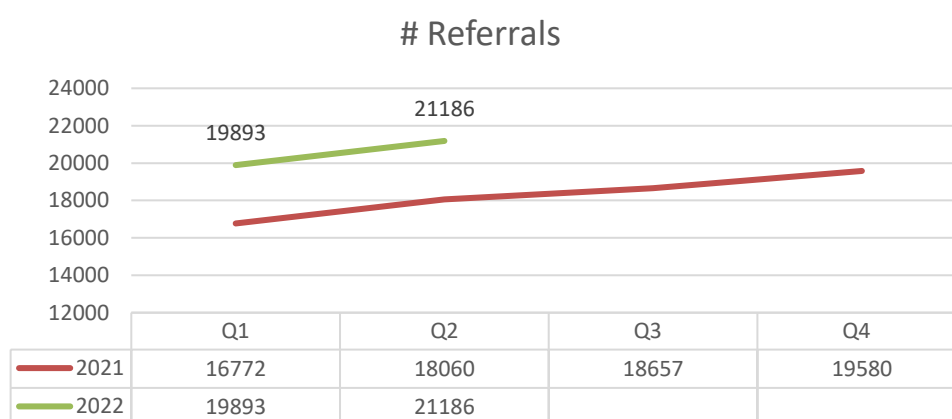
- 2.1 Referrals (child welfare and child abuse)
- 2.2 Social Work Activity Data
- 2.3 Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)
- 2.4 Crisis Intervention Service / Out of Hours Service

2.1 REFERRALS (CHILD WELFARE AND CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT)

Number of Referrals

Data for Q1 2021 extracted from NCCIS on 21 July 2022, data for Q2 2022 extracted on 21 Oct 2022

- 21,186 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q2 2022²; 1,293 (6%) more than Q1 2022 (19,893) and the highest number for all quarters Q1 2021 – Q2 2022.
- This brings to 41,079 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2022, 6,247 (18%) more than the same period in 2021 (34,832). *The number of referrals for 2021 needs to be interpreted in the context of the closure of schools and other services early in the year, due to the pandemic.*



- More than half of referrals for 2022 YTD (55%; 22,497) were for welfare concerns, 36% (14,969) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining 9% (3,613) of referrals (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1: Percentage of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	2022 YTD
Welfare	53.4%	56.1%	54.8%
Emotional abuse	16.3%	15.7%	16.0%
Neglect	5.4%	4.6%	5.0%
Physical abuse	9.2%	8.5%	8.9%
Sexual abuse	6.5%	6.8%	6.6%
Not recorded	9.3%	8.3%	8.8%
Total	100%	100%	100%

² Data on referrals are reported quarterly in arrears.

Table 2: Number of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Total 2021	Q1 2022	2022 YTD
Welfare	10,615	11,882	22,497
Emotional abuse	3,237	3,334	6,571
Neglect	1,070	967	2,037
Physical abuse	1,830	1,810	3,640
Sexual abuse	1,284	1,437	2,721
Not recorded	1,857	1,756	3,613
Total	19,893	21,186	41,079

Referrals by Area

- The number of referrals for 2022 YTD equates to about 35 referrals per 1,000 population under 18 years. The rate of referrals ranges from 19 per 1,000 (Dublin South East/Wicklow) to 54 per 1,000 (Dublin North City). Six areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average of 35/1,000.
- The highest number of referrals was reported by Midlands (4,155) followed by Cork (4,029) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3,968). The fewest number was reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (748) followed by Mayo (770) and Kerry (1,122). A breakdown of referrals by area is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Breakdown of referrals by area

Area	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	2022 YTD	Population	Rate / 1000
Dublin South Central	1,504	1,530	3,034	65,564	46.3
Dublin South East / Wicklow	782	903	1,685	86,810	19.4
DSW/K/WW	1,958	2,010	3,968	108,186	36.7
Midlands	2,023	2,132	4,155	80,193	51.8
Dublin North City	1,172	1,252	2,424	44,927	54.0
Dublin North	1,568	1,799	3,367	100,654	33.5
Louth / Meath	1,644	1,582	3,226	93,093	34.7
Cavan / Monaghan	612	639	1,251	36,446	34.3
Cork	1,904	2,125	4,029	134,015	30.1
Kerry	553	569	1,122	34,527	32.5
Carlow / Kilkenny/St. Tipperary	958	952	1,910	63,009	30.3
Waterford/Wexford	1,438	1,515	2,953	68,513	43.1
Mid West	1,459	1,595	3,054	96,266	31.7
Galway/Roscommon	1,062	1,180	2,242	79,912	28.1
Mayo	358	412	770	31,968	24.1
Donegal	561	580	1,141	42,865	26.6
Sligo/ Leitrim / West Cavan	337	411	748	23,554	31.8
Total	19,893	21,186	41,079	1,190,502	34.5

Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals in 2022 YTD was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 35% (14,461) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by social workers (11%; 4,701) and teachers (11%; 4,336). Mandated persons accounted for 87% (35,917) of all sources. The mandated person was not specified for 7% (2,659) of referrals. The source of all referrals is presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Source of Referrals (ranked by # referrals 2022 YTD)

Source	Total Q1 2022	Total Q2 2022	Total 2022 YTD	% Total
Member of An Garda Síochána	6,830	7,631	14,461	35.2%
Social worker	2,239	2,462	4,701	11.4%
Teacher	2,292	2,044	4,336	10.6%
Mandated person - not specified	1,590	1,069	2,659	6.5%
Social Care worker	834	1,010	1,844	4.5%
A safe-guarding officer,	767	971	1,738	4.2%
Anonymous	724	661	1,385	3.4%
Parent/Guardian	704	590	1,294	3.2%
Medical Practitioner	588	631	1,219	3.0%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	464	554	1,018	2.5%
Registered Nurse /midwife	406	602	1,008	2.5%
Other	534	370	904	2.2%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling who is registered with one of the professional bodies	324	432	756	1.8%
Other Family Member	286	278	564	1.4%
Psychologist	260	283	543	1.3%
Member of the Public	159	244	403	1.0%
Youth worker	126	237	363	0.9%
Courts 1 (S.20)	156	134	290	0.7%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	87	199	286	0.7%
International Social Services	12	205	217	0.5%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	83	109	192	0.5%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	73	69	142	0.3%
Probation Officer	64	65	129	0.3%
Occupational therapist	32	46	78	0.2%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	32	33	65	0.2%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	33	29	62	0.2%
Self	32	29	61	0.1%
Emergency medical technician	42	14	56	0.1%
An Addiction counsellor	20	34	54	0.1%
Speech and Language therapist	27	26	53	0.1%
Manager of Asylum Seeker accommodation (Direct provision) Centre	12	33	45	0.1%
Courts 3 (Other Court Request)	20	22	42	0.1%
Guardian Ad Litem	9	28	37	0.1%
Physiotherapist	12	17	29	0.1%
Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	5	9	14	<1%

Manager of a language school or other recreational school where children reside away from home	3	8	11	<1%
Member of the Clergy	6	4	10	<1%
Dentist	*	*	*	<1%
Designated Officer in the HSE	-	*	*	<1%
Total	19,893	21,186	41,079	100.0%

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

Mandated Reports

- 27% (11,250/41,079) of all referrals for 2022 YTD were mandated reports. *It is likely that the actual number of mandated reports is slightly higher, due to the fact that the primary report type was not recorded for 9% of referrals at the time the data was extracted.*
- 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 2022	% Total	Q2 2022	% Total	2022 YTD	2022 YTD % Total
Physical Abuse	1,446	26%	1,401	24%	2,847	25%
Emotional Abuse	2,247	41%	2,443	42%	4,690	42%
Sexual Abuse	1,096	20%	1,251	22%	2,347	21%
Neglect	701	13%	665	12%	1,366	12%
Total	5,490	100%	5,760	100.00%	11,250	100%

- A breakdown of mandated reports by area is presented in Table 6 below. The number of mandated reports for 2022 YTD ranges from 1,290 (Cork) to 217 (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan).

Table 6: Mandated reports by area

Area	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	2022 YTD
Dublin South Central	412	387	799
Dublin South East/Wicklow	224	269	493
DSW/K/WW	344	365	709
Midlands	485	549	1,034
Dublin North City	396	464	860
Dublin North	605	676	1281
Louth/Meath	548	509	1057
Cavan/Monaghan	164	163	327
Cork	661	629	1,290
Kerry	166	165	331
Carlow/Kilkenny/St. Tipperary	331	321	652
Waterford/Wexford	221	216	437
Mid West	215	233	448
Galway/Roscommon	325	362	687
Mayo	142	175	317
Donegal	148	163	311
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	103	114	217
Total	5,490	5,760	11,250

- A breakdown of source of mandated reports is presented in Table 7 below. The most common source of reports for 2022 YTD was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 41% (4,601) of all mandated reports, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (17%; 1,941) and social workers (12%; 1,351).

Table 7: Source of mandated reports (ranked by number of reports 2022 YTD)

Source	Total Q1 2022	Total Q2 2022	Total 2022 YTD	2022 YTD % of Total
Member of An Garda Síochána	2,180	2,421	4,601	40.9%
Teacher	1,042	899	1,941	17.3%
Social worker	731	620	1,351	12.0%
Social Care worker	281	310	591	5.3%
A safe guarding officer	284	299	583	5.2%
Medical Practitioner	204	217	421	3.7%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	199	189	388	3.4%
Psychotherapist or a person providing counselling	151	208	359	3.2%
Psychologist	103	127	230	2.0%
Registered Nurse /midwife	98	123	221	2.0%
Youth worker	35	91	126	1.1%
Person responsible for the care or management of a youth work service	32	36	68	0.6%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency accommodation facility	10	57	67	0.6%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	37	21	58	0.5%
Occupational therapist	17	21	38	0.3%
Probation Officer	13	24	37	0.3%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	10	18	28	0.2%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	14	12	26	0.2%
Manager of asylum seeker accommodation (direct provision centre)	5	16	21	0.2%
Guardian Ad Litem	3	16	19	0.2%
Emergency medical technician	11	7	18	0.2%
Physiotherapist	10	8	18	0.2%
Speech and Language therapist	9	8	17	0.2%
Director of any institution where a child is detained by an order of a court	*	*	6	0.1%
Manager of a language school or other recreational school where children reside away from home	*	*	6	0.1%
An Addiction counsellor	*	*	*	<1%
Member of the Clergy	*	*	*	<1%
Dentist	*	*	*	<1%
Total	5,490	5,760	11,250	100.0%

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

Screening

- 59% (12,493) of referrals for Q2 2022 were closed following screening (Table 8).
- 35% (7,503) of referrals for Q2 2022 and progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals 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 2022	% Referrals closed Q2 2022	% Referrals closed 2022 YTD
DSC	65%	66%	65%
DSE/WW	50%	51%	50%
DSW/K/WW	67%	71%	69%
Midlands	64%	69%	66%
DNC	46%	47%	47%
Dublin North	52%	62%	57%
LH/MH	61%	61%	61%
CN/MN	52%	48%	50%
Cork	47%	54%	51%
Kerry	43%	52%	48%
CW/KK/ST	43%	46%	44%
WD/WX	49%	50%	50%
MidWest	48%	57%	53%
GY/RN	52%	64%	58%
Mayo	60%	64%	62%
Donegal	63%	63%	63%
SLWC	42%	56%	50%
Total	55%	59%	57%

- A breakdown of the outcome of referrals closed following screening is presented below (Table 9). Of the referrals closed in Q2 2022, 40% (4,970) were closed with no further action required, a further 41% (5,081) were closed as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing and 7% (871) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services. The outcome was not recorded at the time the data was extracted for 8% (1,055) of referrals closed.

Table 9: Outcome of referrals closed following screening

Outcome of referrals closed	Q1 2022	% Q1 2022	Q2 2022	% Q2 2022	2022 YTD	% 2022 YTD
No further action - close	4,284	39%	4,970	39.8%	9,254	39.6%
No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	4,628	43%	5,081	40.7%	9,709	41.5%
Divert to another agency - close	269	2%	358	2.9%	627	2.7%
Divert to PPFS - close	797	7%	871	7.0%	1,668	7.1%
Other	164	2%	158	1.3%	322	1.4%
Not recorded	740	7%	1,055	8.4%	1,795	7.7%
Total	10,882	100%	12,493	100%	23,375	100.0%

- The percentage breakdown of outcomes of referrals (Q2 2022) closed following screening, by area is presented in the table below (Table 10).

Table 10: Outcome of referrals closed following screening by area, Q2 2022

Area	No further action - close	No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	Divert to PPFS - close
DSC	37%	29%	21%
DSE/WW	38%	51%	2%
DSW/K/WW	38%	43%	11%
Midlands	44%	45%	3%
DNC	28%	45%	3%
Dublin North	15%	55%	28%
LH/MH	48%	40%	2%
CN/MN	18%	58%	11%
Cork	44%	43%	2%
Kerry	62%	30%	1.0%
CW/KK/ST	52%	41%	0.9%
WD/WX	45%	37%	2%
MidWest	28%	34%	0.0%
GY/RN	45%	23%	1.5%
Mayo	75%	24%	0.4%
Donegal	63%	34%	0.3%
SLWC	48%	52%	0.0%
Total	40%	41%	7%

Preliminary Enquiries

- At the time the data was extracted for reporting, 89% (6,645) of preliminary enquiries were closed. A breakdown of preliminary enquiries closed by area is presented in the table below (Table 11).
- 9% (619) of preliminary enquiries that were closed within 5 working days. A breakdown of the percentage of preliminary enquiries closed within 5 working days by area is presented in the table below.

Table 11: Preliminary enquiries commenced and closed, Q2 2022

Area	# PEs commenced	# PEs closed	% PEs closed	% PEs closed 5 days
DSC	360	325	90%	4%
DSE/WW	350	322	92%	10%
DSW/K/WW	418	342	82%	3%
Midlands	560	531	95%	7%
DNC	527	416	79%	17%
Dublin North	601	492	82%	4%
LH/MH	551	517	94%	15%
CN/MN	292	274	94%	9%
Cork	974	782	80%	3%
Kerry	226	219	97%	6%
CW/KK/ST	512	504	98%	13%
WD/WX	599	497	83%	8%
MidWest	679	658	97%	14%
GY/RN	374	333	89%	8%
Mayo	135	105	78%	9%
Donegal	166	151	91%	13%
SLWC	179	177	99%	21%
Total	7,503	6,645	89%	9%

- 46% (3,037) of referrals with a closed preliminary enquiry required no further action and were closed; 29% (1,926) required an initial assessment while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 11% (728) of cases. Some 7% (439) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS (Table 12).

Table 12: Outcomes from preliminary enquiries

Outcomes from preliminary enquiry	Q1 2022	% Q1 2022	Q2 2022	% Q2 2022	2022 YTD	% 2022 YTD
No further action - close	3,329	44%	3,037	46%	6,366	45%
No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	875	12%	728	11%	1,603	11%
Initial Assessment	2,178	29%	1,926	29%	4,104	29%
Divert to another agency - close	519	7%	515	8%	1,034	7%
Divert to PPFS - close	603	8%	439	7%	1,042	7%
Total	7,504	100%	6,645	100%	14,149	100%

- The percentage breakdown of the outcomes of preliminary enquiries closed, by area for Q2 2022 is presented in the table below (Table 13).

Table 13: Percentage breakdown of outcomes of preliminary enquiries, by area Q2 2022

Area	% Closed - No further Action	% Requiring IA	% Divert - PPFS	% Closed - Assessment / Safety Planning Ongoing	% Closed - Divert to Another Agency
DSC	58%	19%	5%	6%	11%
DSE/WW	52%	28%	5%	10%	6%
DSW/K/WW	50%	28%	9%	8%	5%
Midlands	51%	25%	7%	13%	3%
DNC	18%	35%	5%	34%	9%
Dublin North	33%	40%	13%	6%	7%
LH/MH	56%	25%	10%	0%	8%
CN/MN	53%	27%	11%	7%	2%
Cork	50%	29%	2%	12%	8%
Kerry	50%	31%	5%	11%	4%
CW/KK/ST	46%	29%	14%	8%	4%
WD/WX	39%	26%	7%	26%	3%
MidWest	41%	30%	1%	7%	21%
GY/RN	54%	25%	5%	4%	11%
Mayo	42%	50%	5%	2%	1%
Donegal	41%	35%	2%	16%	6%
SLWC	50%	23%	3%	12%	11%
National	46%	29%	7%	11%	8%

Initial Assessments

- At the time the data was extracted for reporting, 50% (967) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were closed, 19% (369) were ongoing/ awaiting sign-off while the remaining 31% (590) were awaiting commencement (Table 14).
- 32% (313) of initial assessments closed were closed within 40 days of receipt of referral.

Table 14: Breakdown of the status of Initial assessments, Q2 2022

Area	IA Closed	IA Ongoing/Awaiting sign-off	IA not started	% IAs closed 40 working days
DSC	54%	16%	30%	12%
DSE/WW	70%	12%	18%	44%
DSW/K/WW	66%	18%	16%	36%
Midlands	32%	17%	52%	5%
DNC	42%	32%	26%	21%
Dublin North	31%	39%	30%	23%
LH/MH	45%	22%	32%	17%
CN/MN	25%	43%	32%	26%
Cork	48%	18%	33%	25%
Kerry	60%	1%	39%	65%
CW/KK/ST	37%	5%	59%	32%
WD/WX	39%	6%	55%	44%

MidWest	85%	8%	7%	40%
GY/RN	62%	23%	15%	35%
Mayo	45%	32%	23%	38%
Donegal	83%	9%	8%	45%
SLWC	59%	24%	17%	33%
Total	50%	19%	31%	32%

- 50% (483) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 57% (275) required no further action, 24% (116) were diverted to another agency for a service, and 9% (43) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service.
- A further 10% (49) were closed as safety planning was already ongoing.
- 30% (286) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 17% (160) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 3% (30) 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 assessment, Q1 2022

Outcomes from initial assessments	Q1 2022	% Q1 2022	Q2 2022	% Q2 2022	2022 YTD	% 2022 YTD
Admission to Care	40	3.6%	30	3.1%	70	3.4%
Child Protection / CPC Safety Planning	162	14.6%	160	16.5%	322	15.5%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	124	11.2%	116	12.0%	240	11.6%
Divert to PPFS - Close	61	5.5%	43	4.4%	104	5.0%
Family Welfare Conference	8	0.7%	8	0.8%	16	0.8%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	373	33.7%	275	28.4%	648	31.2%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning ongoing	43	3.9%	49	5.1%	92	4.4%
Safety Planning	296	26.7%	286	29.6%	582	28.1%
Total	1,107	100.0%	967	100.0%	2074	100.0%

2.2 SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA (Child Protection & Welfare)

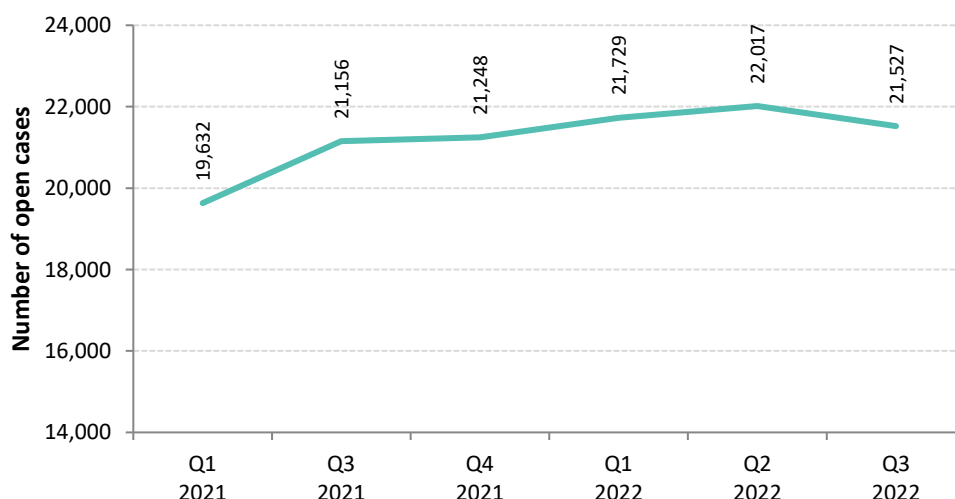
Key Facts

- 21,527 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q3 2022, 490 (2%) fewer than Q2 2022 (22,017) and 371 (2%) more than the same period last year (21,156).
- 75% (16,129) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q3 2022, no change from Q2 2022 and down three percentage points from Q3 2021 (78%).
- 5,398 (25%) cases were awaiting allocation, 37 fewer than Q2 2022 (5,435) and 803 (17%) more than Q3 2021 (4,595)
- 66% (3,543) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2022 were “active” on a duty system.
- 7% (398) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2022 were categorised as high priority, 48 (14%) more than Q2 2022 (350).
- 73% (3,932/5,398) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2022 were waiting three months or less and of these 64% (2,500) were waiting less than one month.
- 83% (329/398) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2022 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 71% (235) were waiting less than one month.

2.2.1 Open Cases

- 21,527 cases open³ to social work nationally at the end of Q3 2022, 490 (2%) fewer than Q2 2022 (22,017) and 371 (2%) more than the same period last year (21,156).

Number of open cases by year



Data for Q2 2021 not available due to the impact of the cyber-attack.

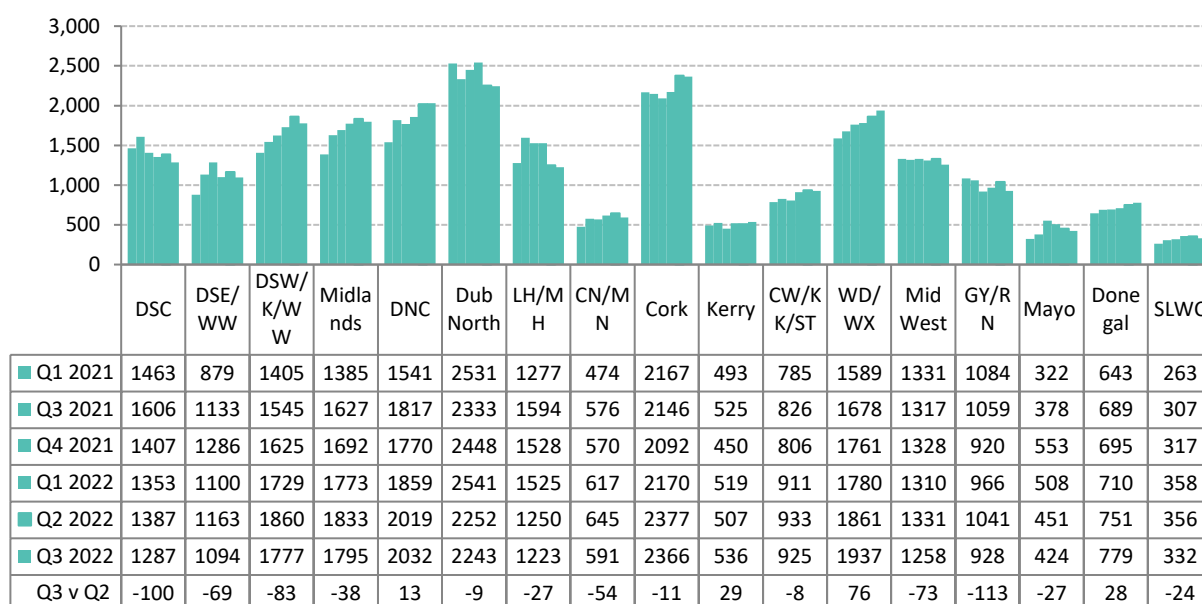
- The number of open cases ranged from 2,366 (11%) in Cork to 332 (<2%) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan. Seven of the 17 areas had between 1,000 and 2,000 cases;

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

seven areas had fewer than 1,000 cases while the remaining three areas (Cork, Dublin North and Dublin North City) had in excess of 2,000 cases.

- 4 areas reported an increase in open cases from Q2 2022. The largest increase was reported by Waterford/Wexford (up 76) followed by Kerry (up 29), Donegal (up 28) and Dublin North City (up 13).
- Of the 13 areas that reported a decrease, the largest decrease was reported by Galway/Roscommon (down 113), followed by Dublin South Central (down 100) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 83).

Number of open cases by area

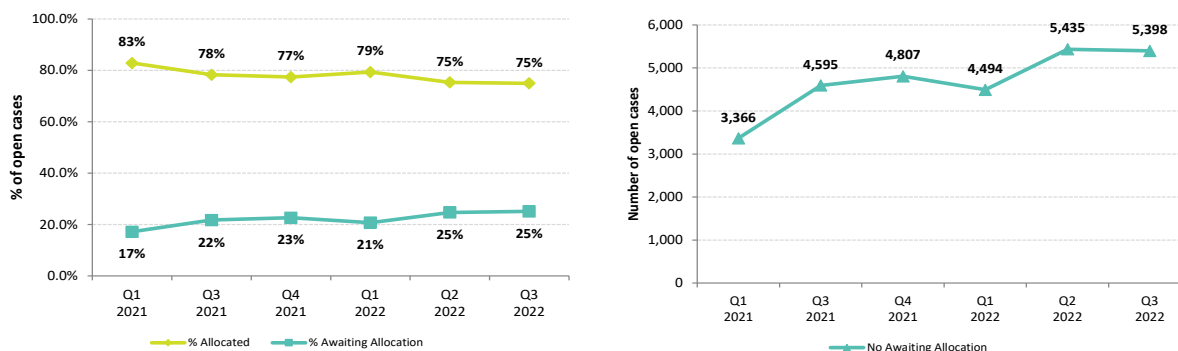


2.2.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

- 75% (16,129) of open cases were allocated to a named social worker at the end of Q3 2022, no change from Q2 2022 and down three percentage points from Q3 2021 (78%).
- 5,398 (25%) cases were awaiting allocation, 37 fewer than Q2 2022 (5,435) and 803 (17%) more than Q3 2021 (4,595)
- 66% (3,543) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2022 were “active” on a duty system⁴.

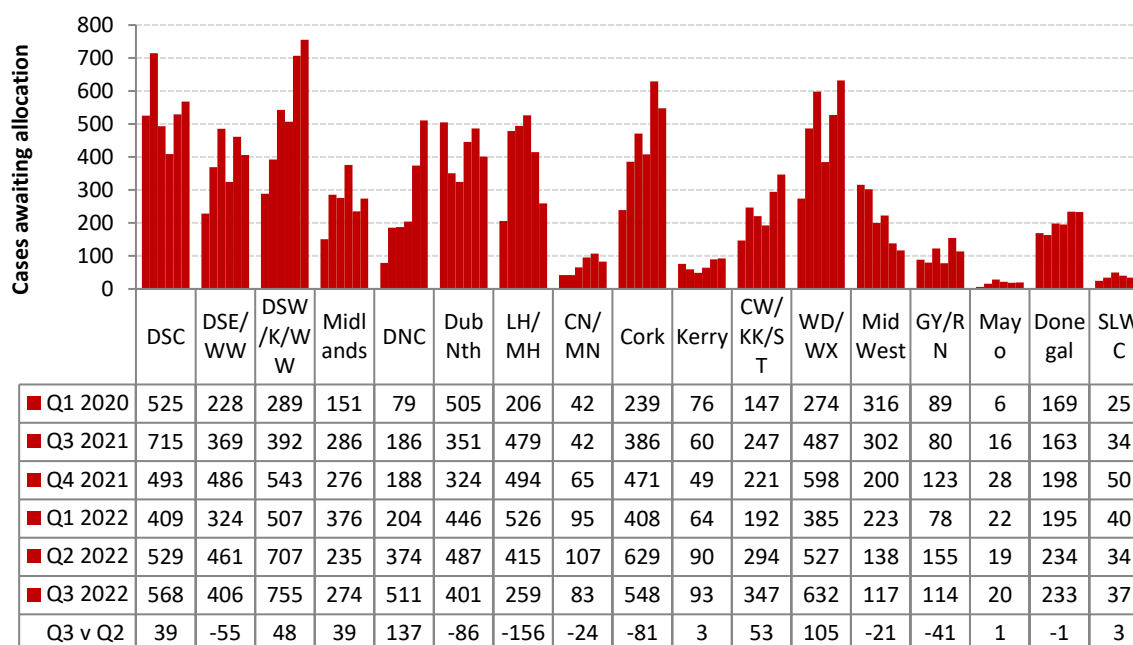
⁴ A case awaiting allocation may be “active” on a “duty” system. This means that there are actions being undertaken by a dedicated duty team or rotating social workers on a duty roster to progress the protection and welfare of the child. Examples of actions being undertaken include telephone calls relating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

Cases allocated/awaiting allocation



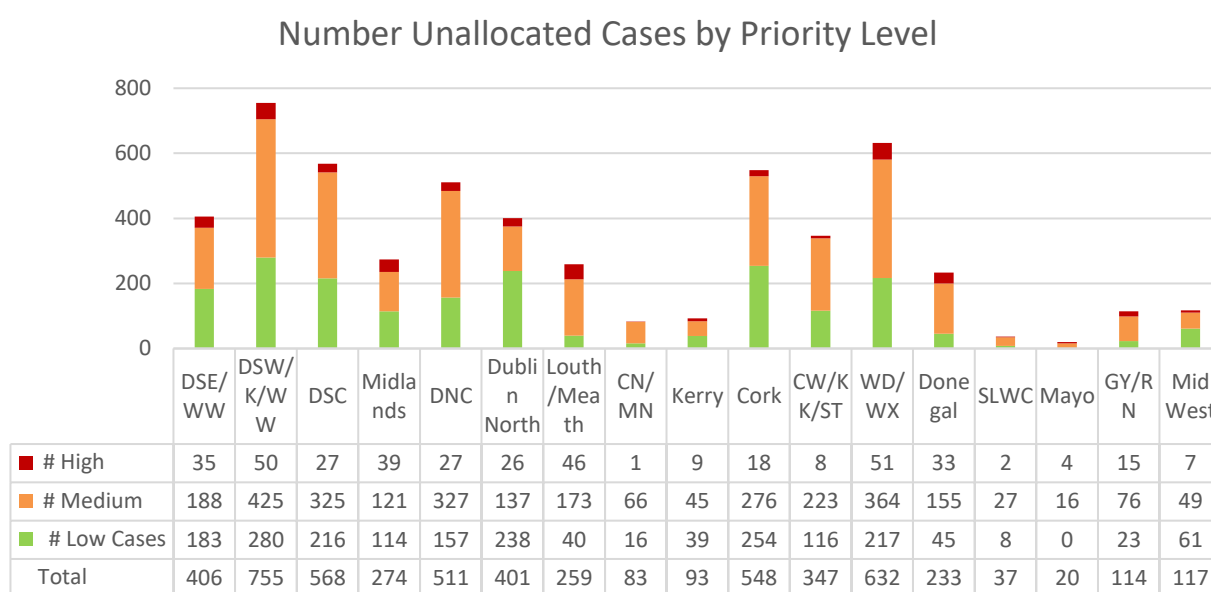
- Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow reported the highest number of cases awaiting allocation (755; 14%) followed by Waterford/Wexford (632; 12%), Dublin South Central (568; 11%), Cork (548; 10%) and Dublin North City (511; 9%) and These five areas account for 56% (3,014) of cases awaiting allocation.
- 9 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from Q2 2022 with the largest increases reported by Dublin North City (up 137), Waterford/Wexford (up 105) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (up 53).
- 8 areas reported a decrease with the largest decreases reported by Louth/Meath (down 156), Dublin North (down 86) and Cork (down 81).

Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area



2.2.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level

- 7% (398) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2022 were categorised as high priority, 48 (14%) more than Q2 2022 (350).
- 55% (2,993) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority while the remaining 37% (2,007) were low priority.
- The highest number of high priority cases was reported by Waterford/Wexford (51) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (50), Louth/Meath (46), Midlands (39) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (35). These five areas account for 56% (221) of all high priority cases awaiting.



2.2.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 73% (3,932/5,398) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2022 were waiting three months or less and of these 64% (2,500) were waiting less than one month.
- 83% (329/398) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2022 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 71% (235) were waiting less than one month.

Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting

Time Waiting	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022
<1 month	1,865 (39%)	2,248 (50%)	2,553 (47%)	2,500 (46%)
1-3 months	1,661 (35%)	1,153 (26%)	1,659 (31%)	1,432 (27%)
>3 months	1,281 (27%)	1,093 (24%)	1,223 (23%)	1,466 (27%)
Total	4,807 (100%)	4,494 (100%)	5,435 (100%)	5,398 (100%)

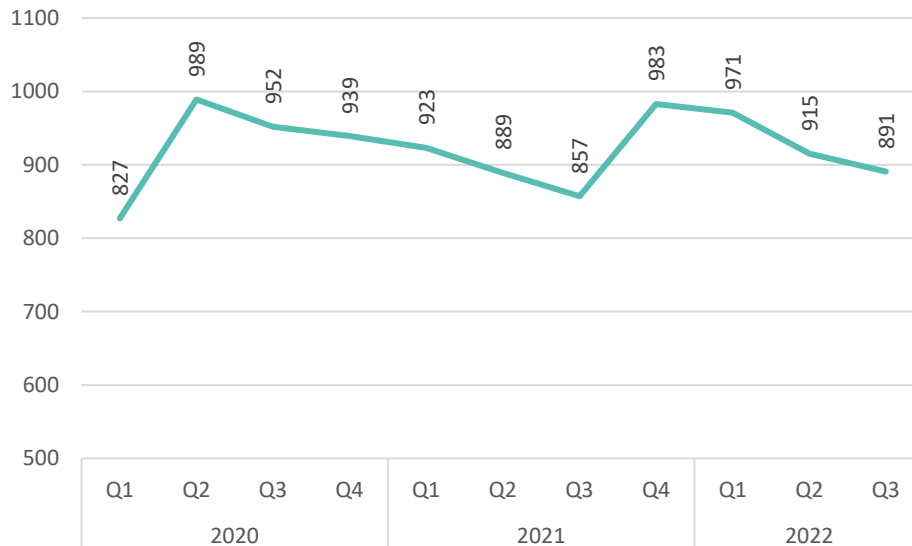
2.3 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

KEY FACTS

- 891 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)¹ at the end of Q3 2022, 24 (3%) fewer than Q2 2022 (915); third consecutive decrease.
 - 34 (4%) more children ‘active’ at the end of Q3 2022 than at the end of Q3 2021 (857).
 - 82% (735) of children were listed as “active for no longer than 12 months.
 - 8% (70) were listed as “active” for > 18 months, no change from Q2 2022.
 - All children listed as “active” at the end of Q3 2022 had an allocated social worker.
- 891 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)⁵ at the end of Q3 2022, 24 (3%) fewer than Q2 2022 (915); third consecutive decrease.
 - 34 (4%) more children ‘active’ at the end of Q3 2022 than at the end of Q3 2021 (857).

The number of children listed as "active" for 2020 needs to be interpreted with caution, due to some review child protection conferences (where decisions are made to remove children listed as "active") being deferred due to Covid-19 restrictions. Guidance issued by Tusla on foot of the COVID-19 restrictions in March 2020 advised that following discussion and evaluation of safety plans, review conferences may be deferred for a maximum of 3 months.

Number of children listed as 'Active' on the CPNS, by quarter



- The number listed as “active” equates to about 7.5 children per 10,000 under 18 years and ranges from 2.4/10,000 in Galway/Roscommon to 18.5/10,000 in Dublin North City, more than double the national average. Eleven areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average.

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

- Cork reported the highest number (92) of children “active”, followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (86), Dublin North City (83) and Midwest (83). Kerry reported the fewest number (17) followed by Galway/Roscommon (19) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (25).

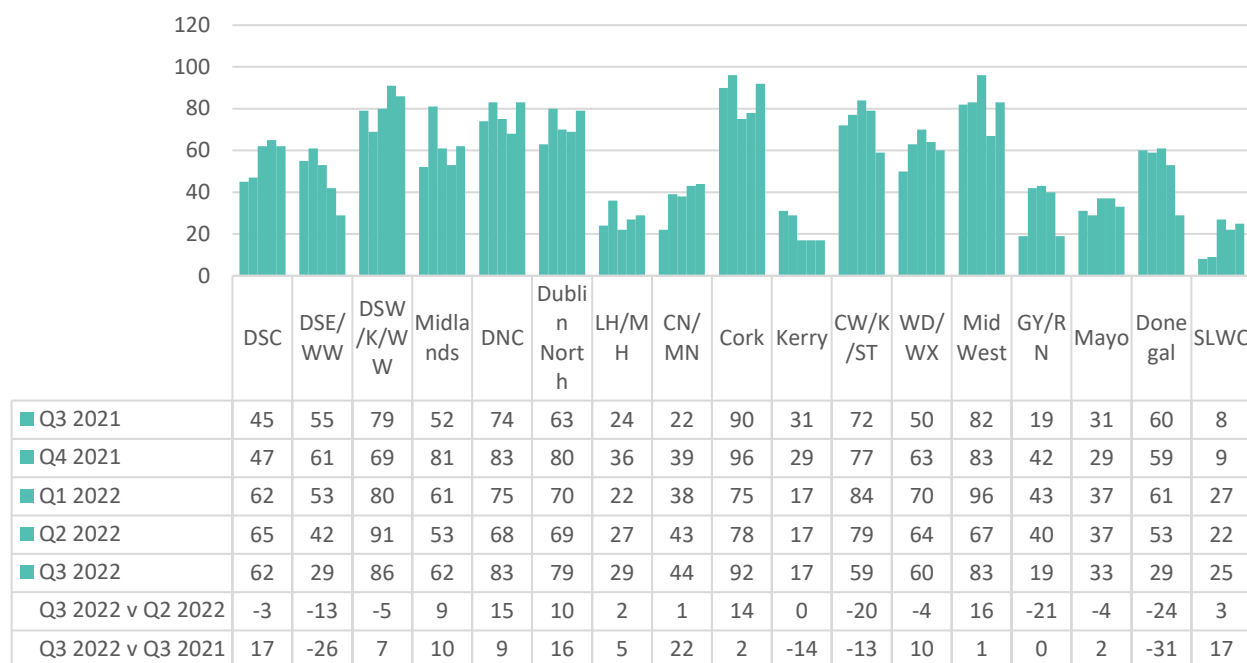
Children listed as 'active' on CPNS per 10,000 population 0-17 years

Area	# Q3 2022	Population 0-17 years	Rate / 10,000 pop
Dublin North City	83	44,927	18.5
Cavan / Monaghan	44	36,446	12.1
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	25	23,554	10.6
Mayo	33	31,968	10.3
Dublin South Central	62	65,564	9.5
Carlow / Kilkenny / South Tipperary	59	63,009	9.4
Waterford / Wexford	60	68,513	8.8
Mid West	83	96,266	8.6
Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow	86	108,186	7.9
Dublin North	79	100,654	7.8
Midlands	62	80,193	7.7
Cork	92	134,015	6.9
Donegal	29	42,865	6.8
Kerry	17	34,527	4.9
Dublin South East / Wicklow	29	86,810	3.3
Louth / Meath	29	93,093	3.1
Galway / Roscommon	19	79,912	2.4
Total	891	1,190,502	7.5

Population: Census 2016

- 8/17 areas reported an increase in the number “active” from Q2 2022. The largest increase was reported by Midwest (up 16) followed by Dublin North City (up 15) and Cork (up 14).
- 8/17 areas reported a decrease in the number “active” from Q2 2022. The largest decrease was reported by Donegal (down 24) followed by Galway/Roscommon (down 21) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 20). The remaining area (Kerry) reported no change.
- 12/17 areas had more children “active” at the end of Q3 2022 than Q3 2021. Largest increases reported by Cavan/Monaghan (up 22), Dublin South Central (up 17) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (up 17).
- 4/17 areas had fewer children “active” at the end of Q3 2022 than Q3 2021. Largest decrease reported by Donegal (down 31) followed by Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 26) and Kerry (down 14).
- The remaining area (Galway/Roscommon) reported no change.
- Three areas (Louth/Meath, Cavan/Monaghan and Cork) have reported two consecutive increases while four areas (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary, Waterford/Wexford, Galway/Roscommon and Donegal) have reported two consecutive decreases. One area (Dublin South East/Wicklow) has reported three consecutive decreases.

Number of children listed as "active" by area, by quarter

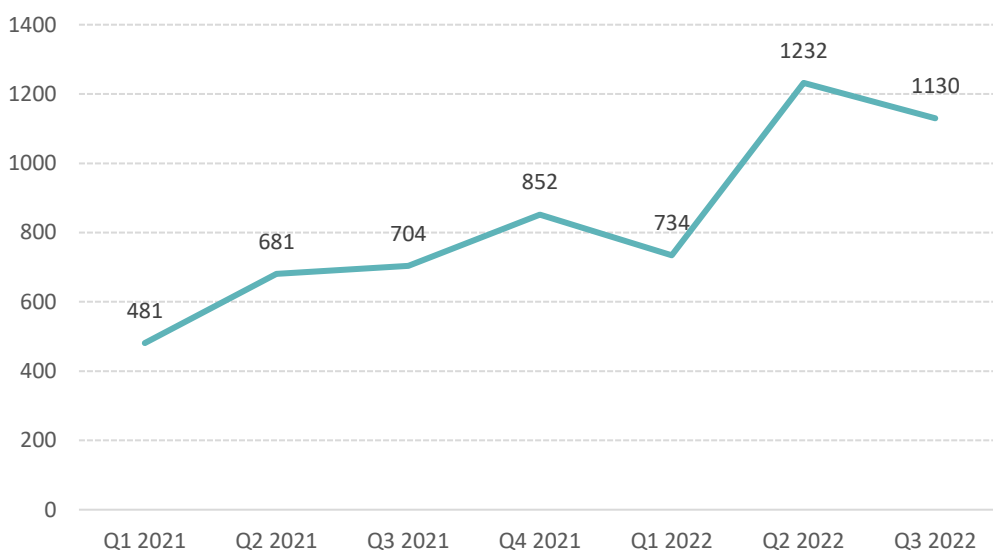


- 54% (481) of children listed as “active” at the end of Q3 2022 were listed for 0-6 months, up slightly from Q2 2022 (53%; 485).
- 82% (735) of children were listed as “active for no longer than 12 months, down slightly from 83% (758) in Q2 2022.
- 8% (70) were listed as “active” for > 18 months, no change from Q2 2022.
- Three areas (Cavan/Monaghan, Dublin South East/Wicklow and Midlands) had no child “active” for longer than 18 months while a further five areas (Kerry, Mayo, Midwest, Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) had no child “active” for longer than 24 months.
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q3 2022 had an allocated social worker.

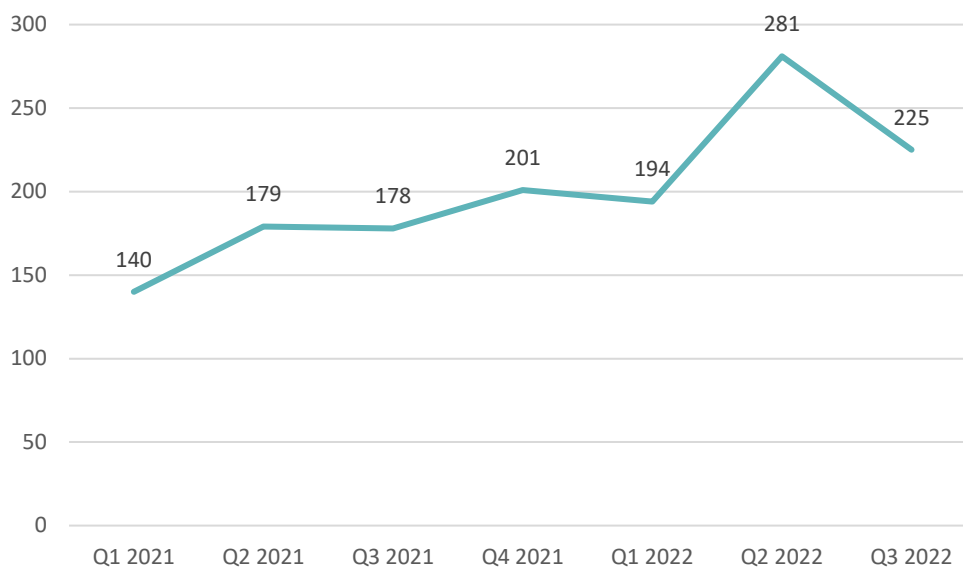
2.4 NATIONAL OUT OF HOURS SERVICE

KEY FACTS

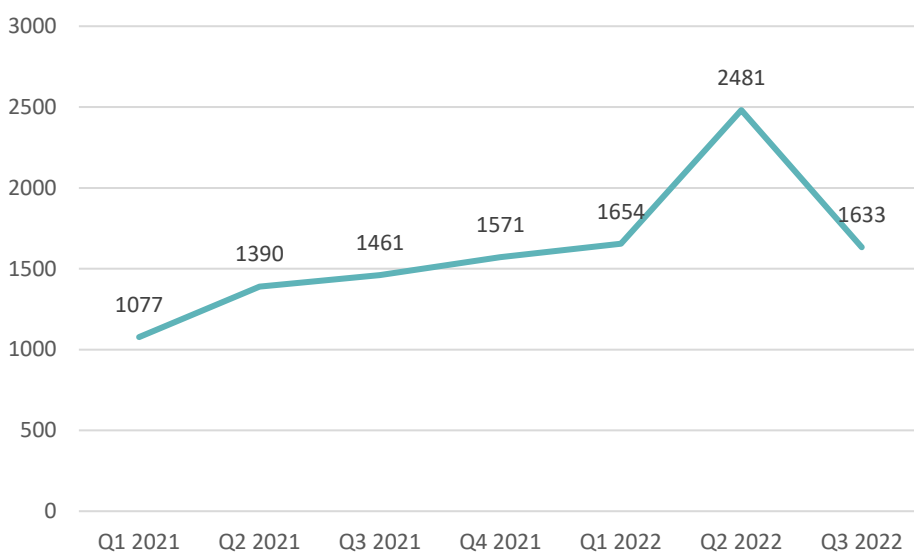
- 1,130 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2022, 102 (8%) fewer than Q2 2022 (1,232) when the highest number for all quarters Q1 2021 – Q2 2022 was reported. This brings to 3,096 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2022, 1,230 (66%) more than the same period in 2021 (1,866).
 - 225 children were placed by the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2022, 56 (20%) fewer than Q2 2022 (281) when the highest number for all quarters Q1 2021 – Q2 2022 was reported. This brings to 700 the number of children placed for the first nine months of 2022, 203 (41%) more than the same period in 2021 (497).
 - 1,633 nights' accommodation supplied by the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2022, 848 (34%) fewer than Q2 2022 (2,481) when the highest number for all quarters Q1 2021 – Q2 2022 was reported. This brings to 5,768 the number of nights' accommodation supplied for the first nine months of 2022, 1,840 (47%) more than the same period in 2021 (3,928).
- 1,130 referrals to the National Out of Hours Service in Q3 2022, 102 (8%) fewer than Q2 2022 (1,232) when the highest number for all quarters Q1 2021 – Q2 2022 was reported. This brings to 3,096 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2022, 1,230 (66%) more than the same period in 2021 (1,866).



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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)

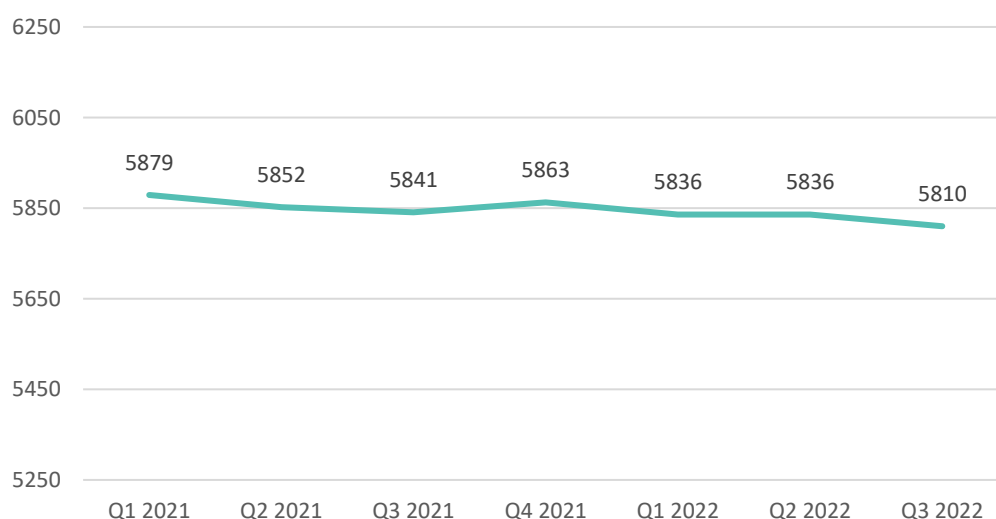
KEY FACTS

- 5,810 children in care at the end of Q3 2022, 26 fewer than Q2 2022 (5,836). The number of children in care is down 31 (<1%) on Q3 2021 (5,841).
- 89% (5,171) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) at the end of Q3 2022 and 7.7% (446) were in a residential (general and special care) placement.
- 858 (14.8%) children in care at the end of Q3 2022 were in placements with private providers¹; 14 (2%) more than Q2 2022 (844) and 76 (10%) more than Q3 2021 (782).
- 87% (5,079) of children in care at the end of Q3 2022 had an allocated social worker; no change from Q2 2022.
- 731 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of Q3 2022; one more than Q2 2022 (730).

3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 5,810 children in care at the end of Q3 2022, 26 fewer than Q2 2022 (5,836). The number of children in care is down 31 (<1%) on Q3 2021 (5,841).

Number of children in care by quarter



- Across the 17 areas the number of children in care ranged from 727 in Cork to 109 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years (10.4/1,000), more than double the national rate, followed by Waterford/Wexford (6.0/1,000), Dublin South Central (5.5/1,000) and Midwest (5.5/1,000). Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.4/1,000) followed by Dublin North (3.6/1,000) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.8/1,000).

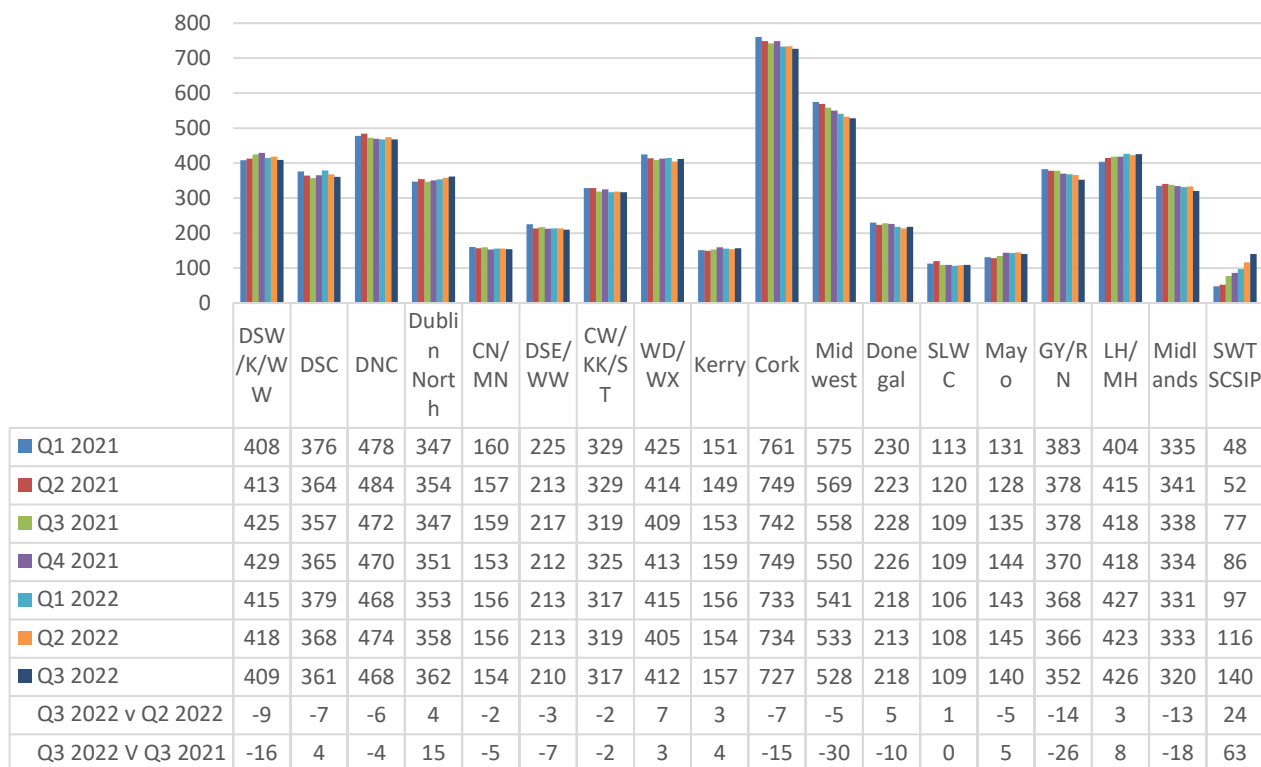
Number of children in care and rate per 1,000 population 0-17 years

Area	0-17 population (Census 2016)	No CIC Q3 2022	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
Dublin North City	44,927	468	10.4
Waterford/Wexford	68,513	412	6.0
Dublin South Central	65,564	361	5.5
Midwest	96,266	528	5.5
Cork	134,015	727	5.4
Donegal	42,865	218	5.1
CW/KK/ST	63,009	317	5.0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	2,3554	109	4.6
Louth/Meath	93,093	426	4.6
Kerry	34,527	157	4.5
Galway/Roscommon	79,912	352	4.4
Mayo	31,968	140	4.4
Cavan/Monaghan	36446	154	4.2
Midlands	80,193	320	4.0
DSW/K/WW	108,186	409	3.8
Dublin North	100,654	362	3.6
Dublin South East/Wicklow	86,810	210	2.4
Total Areas	1,190,502	5,670	4.8

*Children under Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SWTSCSIP) are not included above.

- 6 areas along with the Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SWTSCSIP) reported an increase in children in care from Q2 2022. Largest increase reported by the SWTSCSIP (up 24) followed by Waterford/Wexford (up 7) and Donegal (up 5).
- 11 areas reported a decrease in children in care from Q2 2022, with the largest decrease reported by Galway/Roscommon (down 14), Midlands (down 13) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 9).
- 6 areas along with the SWTSCSIP had more children in care at the end of Q3 2022 than at the end of Q3 2021. The largest increase was reported by the SWTSCSIP (up 63) followed by Dublin North (up 15) and Louth/Meath (up 8).
- 10 areas reported a decrease with the largest decrease reported by Midwest (down 30) followed by Galway/Roscommon (down 26) and Midlands (down 18). The remaining area, Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan reported no change.

Breakdown of the number of children in care in each area



Number of Children in Care, by Care Type

- 89% (5,171) of children in care were in foster care (general and relative) at the end of Q3 2022 and 7.7% (446) were in a residential (general and special care) placement.

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

	FC Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	FC Rel	Δ+/- prev Q	Res Care Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	Res Care Spec	Δ+/- prev Q	Other Care	Δ+/- prev Q	Total	Δ+/- prev Q
Q1 2021	3,817	-12	1,517	0	412	+9	17	-1	116	+1	5,879	-3
Q2 2021	3,798	-19	1,503	-14	417	+5	18	+1	116	0	5,852	-27
Q3 2021	3,782	-16	1,489	-14	430	+13	17	-1	123	+7	5,841	-11
Q4 2021	3,770	-12	1,502	+13	438	+8	16	-1	137	+14	5,863	+22
Q1 2022	3,731	-39	1,500	-2	418	-20	16	0	171	+34	5,836	-27
Q2 2022	3,715	-16	1,504	+4	414	-4	15	-1	188	+17	5,836	0
Q3 2022	3,690	-25	1,481	-23	432	+18	14	-1	193	+5	5,810	-26

FC Gen = Foster Care General; FC Rel = Foster Care with Relatives; Res Care Gen = Residential Care General; Res Care Spec = Residential Care Special; CIC = Children in care.

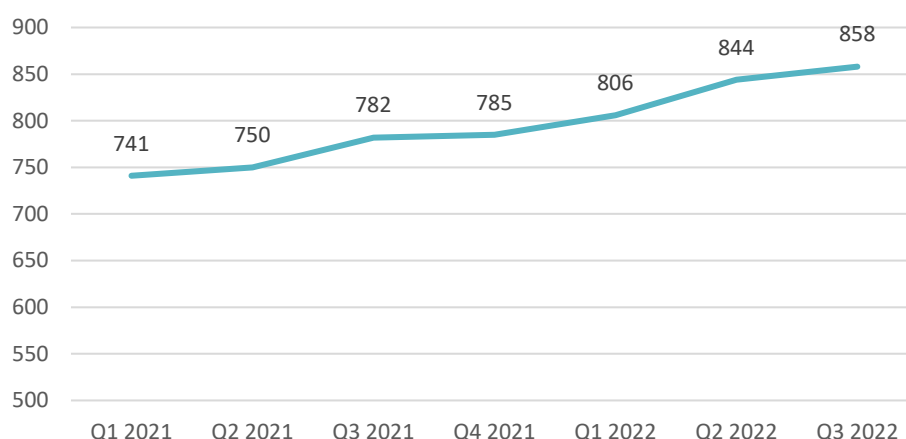
- 11 (0.2%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q3 2022; no change from Q2 2022. These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in the table above.
- 8 children in residential care were in a single care placement at the end of Q3 2022, one more than Q2 2022 (7).
- 29 children were in respite care (from home) at the end of Q3 2022.

3.1.2 Children in Placements with Private Providers

- 858 (14.8%) children in care at the end of Q3 2022 were in placements with private providers⁶; 14 (2%) more than Q2 2022 (844) and 76 (10%) more than Q3 2021 (782).

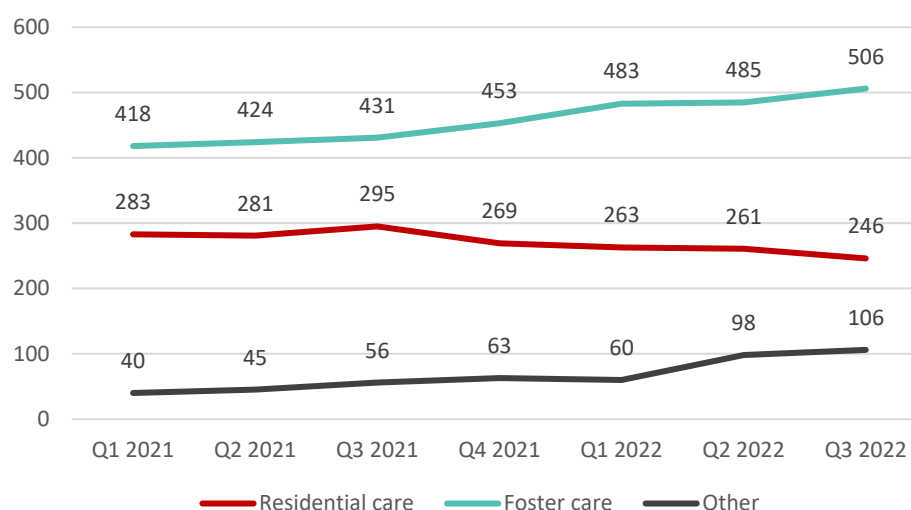
Note: data should be interpreted with caution due to the inclusion of a small number of children in residential care in placements with voluntary organisations.

Number of children in placements with private providers



- 59% (506) of children in placements with private providers were in foster care and 29% (246) were in residential placements.
- The number of children in foster care placements with private providers (506) is up 21 (4%) from Q2 2022 (485) and up 75 (17%) from Q3 2021 (431).
- 246 children in residential care with private providers, 15 (5.7%) fewer than Q2 2022 (261) and 49 (16.6%) fewer than Q3 2021 (295). [Ref: note above re voluntary organisations].

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



- The highest number of children in care in placements with private providers is reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (109) followed by Dublin North City (106), Dublin

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

South Central (105), Dublin North (86) and the Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (69). These five areas account for 55% (475) of all children in placements with private providers.

- Nine areas reported an increase from Q2 2022 in children in placements with private providers with the largest increase reported by Louth/Meath (up 6) followed by Kerry (up 6) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 5). Seven areas along with the SWTSCSIP reported a decrease with the largest decreases reported by Cork (down 3), Midlands (down 3), SWTSCSIP (down 3) and Dublin North City (down 3). The remaining area (Waterford/Wexford) reported no change.

Number of children in placements with private providers, by area

Area	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q3 2022 V Q2 2022
DSC	106	104	105	1
DSE/WW	43	44	49	5
DSW/K/WW	107	111	109	-2
Midlands	63	67	64	-3
DNC	101	109	106	-3
Dublin North	84	82	86	4
LH/MH	38	35	41	6
CN/MN	*	*	*	-1
Cork	65	66	63	-3
Kerry	21	19	25	6
CW/KK/ST	12	15	13	-2
WD/WX	41	24	24	0
Mid West	42	40	39	-1
GY/RN	20	19	22	3
Mayo	*	*	*	1
Donegal	20	18	22	4
SLWC	8	10	12	2
SWTSCSIP	25	72	69	-3
Total	806	844	858	14

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

3.1.3 Children in Care with an Allocated Social Worker

- 87% (5,079) of children in care at the end of Q3 2022 had an allocated social worker; no change from Q2 2022.
- 731 children were awaiting allocation of a social worker at the end of Q3 2022; one more than Q2 2022 (730).

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

Care Type	CIC Q2 2022	No with SW Q2 2022	% with SW Q2 2022	CIC Q3 2022	No with SW Q3 2022	% with SW Q3 2022
Foster Care (General)	3,715	3,245	87%	3,690	3,229	88%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,504	1,273	85%	1,481	1,247	84%
Residential Care (General)	414	390	94%	432	405	94%
Residential Special Care	15	15	100%	14	14	100%
Other Placements	188	183	97%	193	184	95%
Total	5,836	5,106	87%	5,810	5,079	87%

- One area (Mayo) met the target of 100% of children in care with an allocated social worker. Ten areas along with the SWTSCSIP reported 90% or higher.
- The area with the highest number of children awaiting an allocated social worker is Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (144), followed by Waterford/Wexford (125), DSW/K/WW (115), Midlands (65) and Dublin North (60). These five areas account for 69% (509) of all cases awaiting allocation.

Number of children in care with an allocated social worker

Area	No in Care Q2 2022	No with an allocated SW Q2 2022	% with an allocated SW Q2 2022	No in Care Q3 2022	No with an allocated SW Q3 2022	% with an allocated SW Q3 2022	# awaiting SW
DSC	368	355	96%	361	322	89%	39
DSE/WW	213	192	90%	210	201	96%	9
DSW/K/WW	418	353	84%	409	294	72%	115
Midlands	333	295	89%	320	255	80%	65
DNC	474	458	97%	468	448	96%	20
Dublin North	358	282	79%	362	302	83%	60
LH/MH	423	388	92%	426	405	95%	21
CN/MN	156	129	83%	154	146	95%	8
Cork	734	680	93%	727	705	97%	22
Kerry	154	127	82%	157	129	82%	28
CW/KK/ST	319	186	58%	317	173	55%	144
WD/WX	405	310	77%	412	287	70%	125
Mid West	533	494	93%	528	514	97%	14
GY/RN	366	313	86%	352	316	90%	36
Mayo	145	145	100%	140	140	100%	0
Donegal	213	181	85%	218	212	97%	6
SLWC	108	102	94%	109	99	91%	10
SWTSCSIP	116	116	100%	140	131	94%	9
Total	5836	5106	87%	5,810	5,079	87%	731

3.1.4 Children in Care with a Care Plan

- 97% (5,627) of children in care had a care plan, no change from Q2 2022.
- 183 children did not have a care plan, four more than Q2 2022 (179)

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

Care Type	CIC Q2 2022	No with CP Q2 2022	% with CP Q2 2022	CIC Q3 2022	No with CP Q3 2022	% with CP Q3 2022
Foster Care General	3,715	3,610	97%	3,690	3,587	97%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,504	1,454	97%	1,481	1,435	97%
Residential Care General	414	398	96%	432	417	97%
Residential Special Care	15	15	100%	14	14	100%
Other Placements	188	180	96%	193	174	90%
Total	5,836	5,657	97%	5,810	5,627	97%

- All areas along with Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection reporting 90% or higher.

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

Area	No in Care Q2 2022	No with a care plan Q2 2022	% with a care plan Q2 2022	No in Care Q3 2022	No with a care plan Q3 2022	% with a care plan Q3 2022	# with no care plan
DSC	368	349	95%	361	348	96%	13
DSE/WW	213	212	100%	210	206	98%	4
DSW/K/WW	418	410	98%	409	394	96%	15
Midlands	333	331	99%	320	320	100%	0
DNC	474	453	96%	468	443	95%	25
Dublin North	358	337	94%	362	345	95%	17
LH/MH	423	384	91%	426	387	91%	39
CN/MN	156	148	95%	154	145	94%	9
Cork	734	712	97%	727	713	98%	14
Kerry	154	152	99%	157	154	98%	3
CW/KK/ST	319	316	99%	317	317	100%	0
WD/WX	405	399	99%	412	395	96%	17
Mid West	533	530	99%	528	524	99%	4
GY/RN	366	355	97%	352	345	98%	7
Mayo	145	141	97%	140	140	100%	0
Donegal	213	209	98%	218	212	97%	6
SLWC	108	103	95%	109	107	98%	2
SWTSCSIP	116	116	100%	140	132	94%	8
TOTAL	5836	5657	97%	5,810	5,627	97%	183

3.1.5 Children in Care in Education

- 93.6% (3,609/3,857) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q3 2022, up one percentage points from Q2 2022. *Note: this figure does not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*
- 14/17 areas reporting 90% or higher with one of these areas (Kerry) reporting 100%. Lowest percentages reported by Midwest (81.1%), Dublin North (83.1%) and Dublin South Central (87.9%).
- 71% (2,555) of children 6-15 years were in primary school, 21.4% (771) were in post primary school, 4.6% (165) were in special education and 2.2% in pre-school (79). There were a further 24 spread across boarding school, education training facility, home tuition, third level and Other (not specified). The education type was not recorded for the remaining 15 children.
- 89% (892/1,003) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q3 2022, no change from Q2 2022. *Note: this figure does not include children in care under the care of Tusla's Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*

- 7/17 reporting 90% or higher with one of these areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow) reporting 100%. Lowest percentages reported by Dublin North (80.3%) followed by Midwest (82.1%) and Louth/Meath (83.3%).
- 82.5% (736) of young people 16 & 17 years were in post primary school, 8% (71) were in special education and 4.4% (39) were attending an educational training facility and 2.7% (24) were attending primary school. There were a further 21 spread across boarding school, home tuition, third level/higher and other (not specified). The education type was not recorded for the remaining child.

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

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q2 2022	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q2 2022	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q2 2022	No of CIC 6-15 years Q3 2022	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q3 2022	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q3 2022
DSC	240	216	90%	240	211	87.9%
DSE/WW	145	139	96%	143	138	96.5%
DSW/K/WW	283	265	94%	275	257	93.5%
Midlands	225	221	98%	213	209	98.1%
DNC	299	262	88%	306	284	92.8%
Dublin North	254	205	81%	255	212	83.1%
LH/MH	282	255	90%	282	276	97.9%
CN/MN	116	114	98%	116	115	99.1%
Cork	504	490	97%	502	482	96.0%
Kerry	97	97	100%	102	102	100%
CW/KK/ST	213	203	95%	211	201	95.3%
WD/WX	283	263	93%	280	278	99.3%
Mid West	363	291	80%	359	291	81.1%
GY/RN	252	245	97%	255	248	97.3%
Mayo	89	88	99%	92	91	98.9%
Donegal	134	134	100%	139	133	95.7%
SLWC	69	66	96%	72	66	91.7%
Total	3848	3554	92%	3,842	3,594	93.5%

*Q3 2022: 15 records where education type was not recorded are not included above

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

Area	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q2 2022	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q2 2022	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q2 2022	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q3 2022	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q3 2022	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q3 2022
DSC	71	65	92%	65	57	87.7%
DSE/WW	44	43	98%	45	45	100.0%
DSW/K/WW	81	63	78%	75	66	88.0%
Midlands	48	45	94%	53	46	86.8%
DNC	87	77	89%	82	73	89.0%
Dublin North	59	48	81%	61	49	80.3%
LH/MH	62	49	79%	66	55	83.3%

CN/MN	23	22	96%	24	23	95.8%
Cork	126	118	94%	141	131	92.9%
Kerry	28	26	93%	29	27	93.1%
CW/KK/ST	51	50	98%	56	55	98.2%
WD/WX	69	67	97%	74	67	90.5%
Mid West	95	75	79%	95	78	82.1%
GY/RN	66	61	92%	62	54	87.1%
Mayo	22	19	86%	23	20	87.0%
Donegal	34	32	94%	36	31	86.1%
SLWC	16	16	100%	15	14	93.3%
National	982	876	89%	1,002	891	88.9%

*Q3 2022: One record where education type was not recorded is not included above

3.2 AFTERCARE

KEY FACTS

- 124 referrals for an aftercare service in Q3 2022. This brings to 382 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2022.
- 2,999 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2022, 46 (<2%) fewer than Q2 2022 (3,045) and 36 (<2%) fewer than Q3 2021 (3,035).
- 75% (1,710/2,271) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service were in education/accredited training.
- 84% (2,528) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2022 had an aftercare plan, up two percentage point from Q2 2022. A total of 471 were awaiting a plan, 66 (12%) fewer than Q2 2022 (537).
- 92% (2,322/2,528) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker.
- 93% (2,159/2,322) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2022, up two percentage point from Q2 2022. A total of 163 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2022, 35 (18%) fewer than Q2 2022 (198).

3.2.1 Referrals for an aftercare service received in the quarter

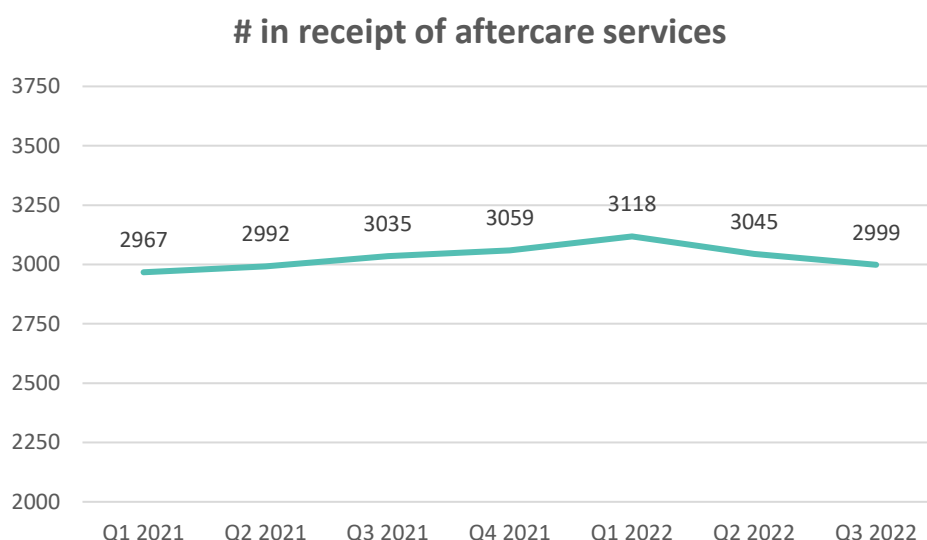
- 124 referrals for an aftercare service in Q3 2022. This brings to 382 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2022.
- 97% (369) of all referrals received were eligible for an assessment of need.
- Of those eligible for an assessment of need 99% (366) were < 18 years and in care.
- 96 assessments of need were completed in Q3 2022, bringing to 315 the number of assessments completed for the first nine months of 2022.

Area	2021 Total	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	2022 YTD
DSC	27	10	10	1	21
DSE/WW	21	9	4	6	19
DSW/K/WW	45	7	8	4	19
Midlands	29	8	6	12	26
DNC	42	11	15	15	41
Dublin North	42	6	6	7	19
LH/MH	20	20	2	1	23
CN/MN	17	4	3	3	10
Cork	60	8	9	23	40
Kerry	14	3	6	11	20
CW/KK/ST	20	8	7	3	18
WD/WX	41	8	3	12	23
Mid West	58	8	15	8	31
GY/RN	24	5	1	7	13
Mayo	8	2	6	5	13
Donegal	22	5	0	2	7
SLWC	6	5	4	1	10

SWTSCSIP	27	11	15	3	29
Total	523	138	120	124	382

3.2.2 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of an aftercare service

- 2,999 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2022, 46 (<2%) fewer than Q2 2022 (3,045) and 36 (<2%) fewer than Q3 2021 (3,035). *Decrease in Q2 2022 partly explained by a sharp decrease in one area due to validation of their register. Figures includes young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*



- Highest number in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2022 reported by Cork (357) followed by Dublin North City (270), Midwest (258) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (253). Sharp decrease reported by Dublin North City due to validation of their register.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2022	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2022	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2022
DSC	241	214	213
DSE/WW	144	121	124
DSW/K/WW	281	248	253
Midlands	168	153	167
DNC	323	332	270
Dublin North	176	173	168
LH/MH	156	148	149
CN/MN	77	72	74
Cork	352	359	357
Kerry	76	80	87
CW/KK/ST	174	173	166
WD/WX	187	190	188
Mid West	239	251	258
GY/RN	205	202	201
Mayo	66	70	71
Donegal	90	91	88

SLWC	43	42	45
SWTSCIP	120	126	120
Total	3118	3,045	2,999

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

- 55% (1,646) of those in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q3 2022 (3,001) were 18 – 20 years inclusive and of these 76% (1,249) were in education/accredited training, no change from Q2 2022 (table below).
- 12/17 areas along with the SWTSCIP reported at least seven out of 10 young people (18-20 years) in receipt of aftercare services in education/accredited training. Three areas (Cavan/Monaghan, Mayo and the Social Work Team for Separated Children seeking International Protection) reported 100%.
- Rates reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (60%), Dublin South Central (61%), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (62%), Kerry (64%) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (66%) and Dublin North (67%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 18-20 years Q2 2022	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 18-20 years Q3 2022	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
DSC	119	77	65%	126	77	61%
DSE/WW	69	62	90%	72	67	93%
DSW/K/WW	124	77	62%	129	78	60%
Midlands	76	61	80%	78	63	81%
DNC	145	102	70%	145	106	73%
Dublin North	100	55	55%	98	66	67%
LH/MH	86	67	78%	84	64	76%
CN/MN	49	49	100%	51	51	100%
Cork	184	147	80%	179	137	77%
Kerry	44	32	73%	45	29	64%
CW/KK/ST	88	65	74%	85	56	66%
WD/WX	96	65	68%	108	78	72%
Mid West	156	133	85%	147	128	87%
GY/RN	111	80	72%	116	81	70%
Mayo	36	36	100%	37	37	100%
Donegal	49	42	86%	50	45	90%
SLWC	27	27	100%	26	16	62%
SWTSCIP	77	69	90%	70	70	100%
Total	1,636	1,246	76%	1,646	1,249	76%

- The highest number of those in education/accredited training were in third level colleges / university (339; 27%), followed by second level (313; 25%) and PLCs (262; 21%).

	# 18-20 years in education/ accredited Training Q3 2022	%
Second Level	313	25%
Vocational Training	127	10%
PLCs	262	21%
Third Level College / University	339	27%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	145	12%
Other	63	5%
Total	1,249	100%

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

- 21% (625) of those in receipt of an aftercare service were 21 – 22 years inclusive and of these 74% (461) were in education/ accredited training, down one percentage point from Q2 2022 (table below).
- 11 areas along with the SWTSCIP reported 70% or higher with three of these areas reporting 100% (Louth/Meath, Cavan/Monaghan and Mayo). Rates reported by Dublin South Central (53%), Galway/Roscommon (59%) and Waterford/Wexford (62%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 21-22 years Q2 2022	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 21-22 years Q3 2022	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
DSC	31	18	58%	38	20	53%
DSE/WW	20	19	95%	19	18	95%
DSW/K/WW	55	39	71%	59	38	64%
Midlands	43	37	86%	40	31	78%
DNC	91	61	67%	85	55	65%
Dublin North	32	19	59%	22	18	82%
LH/MH	19	17	89%	18	18	100%
CN/MN	8	8	100%	10	10	100%
Cork	79	57	72%	67	49	73%
Kerry	12	8	67%	9	7	78%
CW/KK/ST	41	30	73%	39	28	72%
WD/WX	41	29	71%	37	23	62%
Mid West	50	45	90%	54	51	94%
GY/RN	61	34	56%	63	37	59%
Mayo	21	21	100%	20	20	100%
Donegal	13	13	100%	9	7	78%
SLWC	6	6	100%	6	4	67%
SWTSCIP	30	28	93%	30	27	90%
Total	653	489	75%	625	461	74%

- Almost half (44%; 202) of those in education/ accredited training were in third level colleges with a further 22% (100) in accredited training and 19% (88) in PLCs.

	# 21-22 years in education/ accredited Training Q3 2022	%
Second Level	6	1%
Vocational Training	44	10%
PLCs	88	19%
Third Level College / University	202	44%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	100	22%
Other	21	5%
Total	461	100%

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

- Almost half (45%; 1,030) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,271) in receipt of aftercare had remained living with their carers. A further 9% (202) had returned home to parents/family. One in four (28%; 626) was in independent living.

	# 18-22 placement type Q3 2022	%
Residential Care Placement	145	6%
Remained with Carers	1030	45%
Independent Living	626	28%
Designated Care Leavers Accommodation	70	3%
At home	202	9%
Supported Lodgings	40	2%
Other	158	7%
Total	2,271	100%

*Figure for Designated Care Leavers Accommodation needs to be interpreted with care due to issues regarding the interpretation of the definition

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

- 84% (2,528) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2022 had an aftercare plan, up two percentage point from Q2 2022. A total of 471 were awaiting a plan, 66 (12%) fewer than Q2 2022 (537).
- 8 areas along with the SWTSCSIP reported a percentage equal to or higher the national average of 85%. Rates reported by Louth/Meath (65%), Kerry (75%) Cork (76%) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (78%) lower than all other areas.
- 97% (2,214/2,271) of those 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service had a plan. 43% (314/728) of those <18 years had a plan.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2022	# with an Aftercare Plan Q2 2022	% with an Aftercare Plan Q2 2022	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2022	# with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2022	% with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2022
DSC	214	172	80%	213	183	86%
DSE/WW	121	119	98%	124	122	98%
DSW/K/WW	248	191	77%	253	209	83%
Midlands	153	141	92%	167	145	87%
DNC	332	236	71%	270	234	87%
Dublin North	173	139	80%	168	134	80%
LH/MH	148	98	66%	149	97	65%
CN/MN	72	72	100%	74	72	97%
Cork	359	285	79%	357	273	76%
Kerry	80	65	81%	87	65	75%
CW/KK/ST	173	142	82%	166	136	82%
WD/WX	190	144	76%	188	154	82%
Mid West	251	228	91%	258	235	91%
GY/RN	202	168	83%	201	168	84%
Mayo	70	70	100%	71	71	100%
Donegal	91	90	99%	88	86	98%
SLWC	42	34	81%	45	35	78%
SWTSCSIP	126	114	90%	120	109	91%
Total	3,045	2,508	82%	2,999	2,528	84%

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

- 92% (2,322/2,528) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker. Thirteen areas along with the SWTSCIP reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 92% with ten of them reporting 100%.
- Percentages reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (60%), Midlands (73%) and Galway/Roscommon (74%) are lower than all other areas. *Midlands and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow areas advised that a number of young persons/adults who are settled and doing well were 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.*
- 93% (2,159/2,322) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2022, up two percentage point from Q2 2022. A total of 163 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2022, 35 (18%) fewer than Q2 2022 (198).
- 14 areas along with the SWTSCIP reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 93% with twelve of them reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South Central (59%) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (67%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service with a Plan Q3 2022	# with Plan Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q3 2022	% with Plan Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q3 2022	# with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q3 2022	% with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q3 2022	% with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q2 2021
DSC	183	183	100%	108	59%	62%
DSE/WW	122	122	100%	117	96%	100%
DSW/K/WW	209	167	80%	112	67%	66%
Midlands	145	106	73%	106	100%	100%
DNC	234	234	100%	234	100%	100%
Dublin North	134	134	100%	134	100%	100%
LH/MH	97	97	100%	97	100%	100%
CN/MN	72	72	100%	72	100%	100%
Cork	273	260	95%	247	95%	92%
Kerry	65	65	100%	65	100%	100%
CW/KK/ST	136	82	60%	79	96%	75%
WD/WX	154	144	94%	144	100%	85%
Mid West	235	232	99%	220	95%	95%
GY/RN	168	124	74%	124	100%	100%
Mayo	71	71	100%	71	100%	100%
Donegal	86	85	99%	85	100%	100%
SLWC	35	35	100%	35	100%	100%
SWTSCSIP	109	109	100%	109	100%	100%
Total	2,528	2,322	92%	2,159	93%	91%

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

Information & Tracing

- 304 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q3 2022. This brings to 1,465 the number of enquiries for the first nine months of 2022, 902 (38%) fewer than the same period in 2021 (2,367).
- 488 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q3 2022, 80 (14%) fewer than Q2 2022 (568); the fewest number for the period Q1 2021 – Q3 2022 and the fourth consecutive quarterly decrease.
- At the end of Q3 2022, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 0 weeks to 10 weeks against a target of 8 weeks, down from 8 weeks to 24 weeks at the end of Q2 2022.

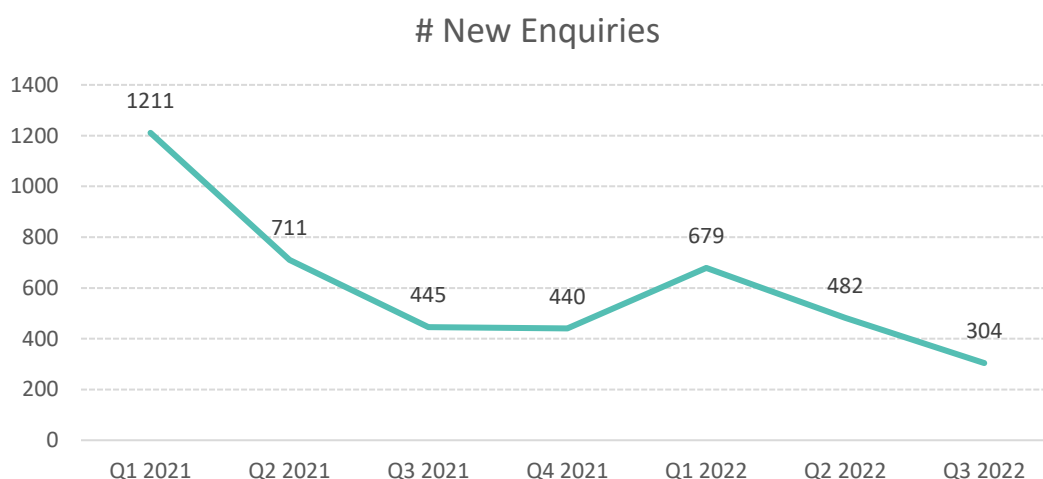
Adoption

- 47 new children referred for adoption during Q3 2022. This brings to 142 the number of children referred for the first nine months of 2022.
- 59 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment, at the end of the reporting period. Of these, 30 (51%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, five (8%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 24 (41%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

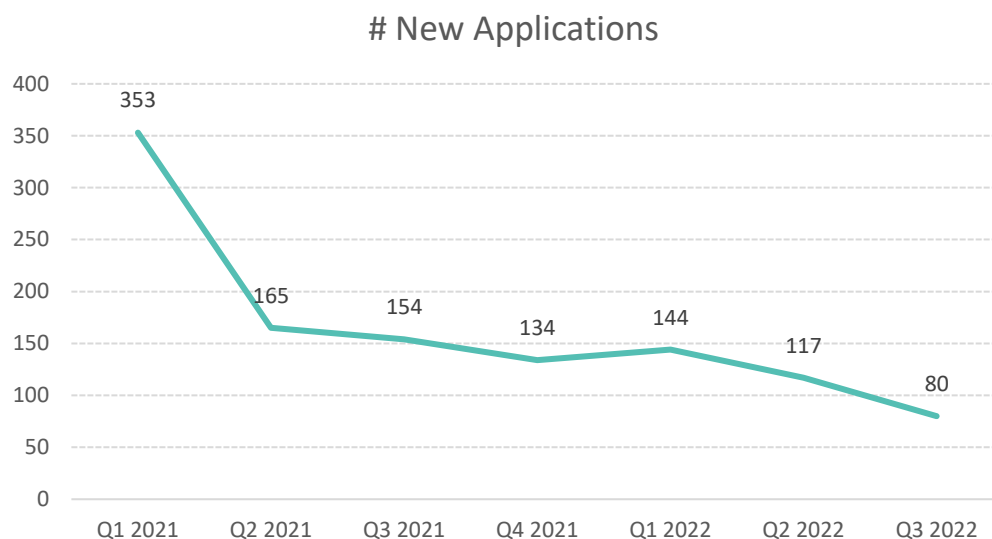
3.3.1 Information and Tracing Service

The Agency's Adoption Information and Tracing Service oversees a broad spectrum of enquiries from a wide range of people, including adopted people, birth parents, adoptive parents, siblings of adopted people and other birth relatives and people raised in long-term foster care. The service assists each of these categories of person with their information and tracing enquiries.

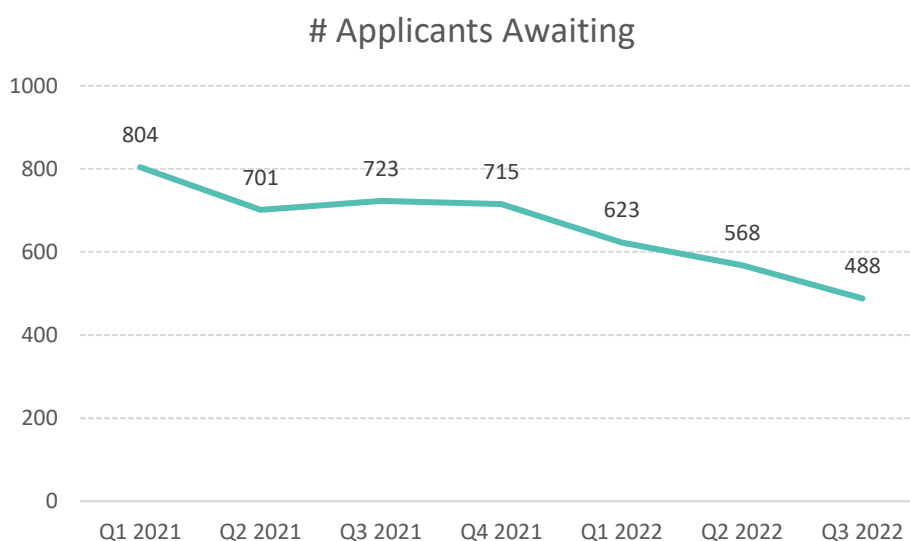
- 304 new enquiries regarding information and tracing received in Q3 2022. This brings to 1,465 the number of enquiries for the first nine months of 2022, 902 (38%) fewer than the same period in 2021 (2,367).



- 80 new applications to commence tracing of a searched person received in Q3 2022. This brings to 341 the number of applications for the first nine months of 2022, 331 (49%) fewer than the same period in 2021 (672).



- 488 applicants awaiting an information and tracing service at the end of Q3 2022, 80 (14%) fewer than Q2 2022 (568); the fewest number for the period Q1 2021 – Q3 2022 and the fourth consecutive quarterly decrease.



- At the end of Q3 2022, the length of time from application (production of ID) to the provision of personal information in line with GDPR legislation ranged from 0 weeks to 10 weeks against a target of 8 weeks, down from 8 weeks to 24 weeks at the end of Q2 2022.
- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 1 applications ranged from 4 months to 61 months against a target of 3 months or less, up from 6 months to 48 months at the end of Q2 2022.
- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for priority 2 applications ranged 0 months to 14 months against a target of 6 months or less, down from 0 months to 50 months at the end of Q2 2022. Q2 revised from previously published.

- The length of time from application (production of ID) to allocation of a social worker for all other applications ranged from 9 months to 57 months against a target of 12 months or less, down slightly from 12 months to 59 months at the end of Q2 2022.

3.3.2 Adoption Assessments

- 47 new children referred for adoption during Q3 2022. This brings to 142 the number of children referred for the first nine months of 2022.
- 59 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment, at the end of the reporting period. Of these, 30 (51%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, five (8%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 24 (41%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

3.4 FOSTER CARERS

KEY FACTS

- 4,000 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q3 2022, 13 fewer than Q2 2022 (4,013 revised figure) and the third consecutive decrease.
- 86% (2,014) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2022, down four percentage points from Q2 2022 (90%).
- 340 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 102 (43%) more than Q2 2022 (238).
- 89% (937) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2022, down two percentage point from Q2 2022 (91%)
- 113 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q3 2022, 21 (23%) more than Q2 2022 (92).
- 92% (154) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. A total of 14 carers were awaiting a link worker, seven more than Q2 2022 (7). The 14 carers were reported across four areas and ranged from one to eight.

3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 4,000 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q3 2022, 13 fewer than Q2 2022 (4,013 revised figure) and the third consecutive decrease.
- 210 unapproved relative foster carers of which 80% (168) had a child placed for >12 weeks. 83% (1,050/1,260) of relative foster carers are approved.

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



- 59% (2,354) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 26% (1,050) while private foster carers account for the remaining 15% (596).
- The number of general foster carers (2,354) is down 24 from Q2 2022 (2,378) and 88 (4%) from Q3 2021 (2,442). Relative foster carers (approved) are down seven from Q2 2022 (1,057) and

no change from Q3 2021 (1,050). Private foster carers (596) are up 18 (3%) from Q2 2022 (578 revised) and 72 (14%) from Q3 2021 (524).

Breakdown of foster carers by type

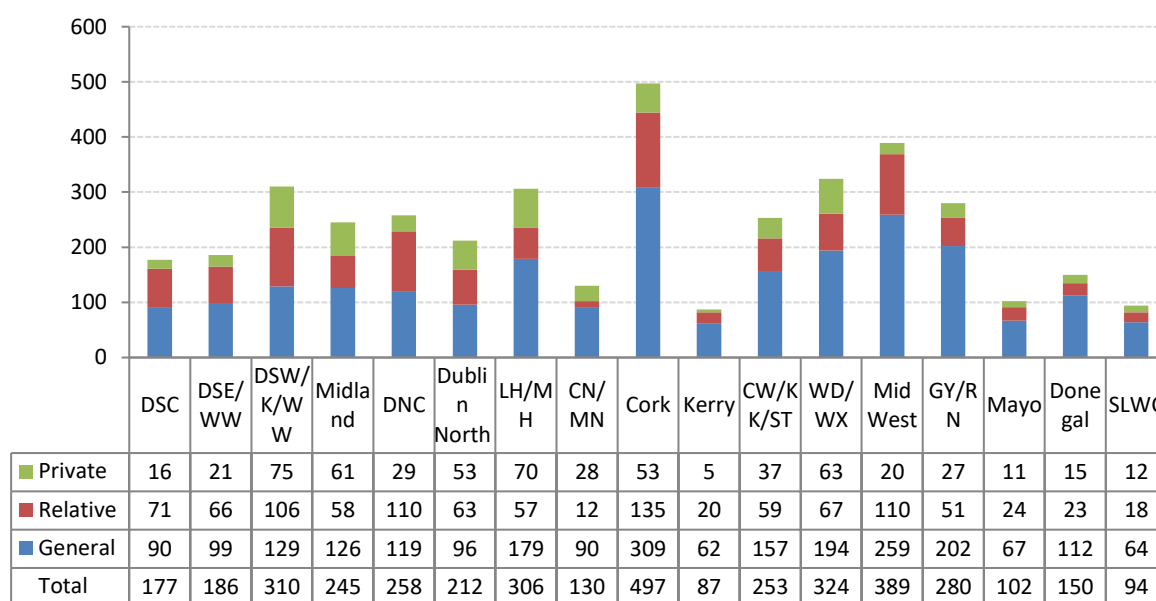
Foster Carers	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Δ (+/-) Q3 2022 v Q2 2022
General (Approved)	2,442	2,435	2,396	2,378	2,354	-24
Relative (Approved)	1,050	1,062	1,052	1,057	1,050	-7
Private (Approved)	524	542	569*	578*	596	+18
Total Approved	4,016	4,039	4,017	4,013	4,000	-13
Relative (Unapproved)	228	246	216	215	210	-5

*Revised from previously published

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 Q3 2022, ranged from 497 in Cork to 94 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.

Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q3 2022



- 5 areas reported an increase from Q2 2022 in the number of foster carers on the panel. The largest increase was reported by Louth/Meath (up 18) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 7) and Galway/Roscommon (up 4).
- 9 areas reported a decrease from Q2 2022. The largest decrease was reported by Kerry (down 17) followed by Midwest (down 6), Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 5) and Dublin South Central (down 5).
- The remaining three areas (Cork, Mayo and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) reported no change from Q2 2022.

Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types)

Area	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Δ (+/-) Q3 2022 v Q2 2022
DSC	182	182	182	182	177	-5
DSE/WW	209	205	190	191	186	-5
DSW/K/WW	296	298	297	303	310	7
Midland	237	238	241	243	245	2
DNC	272	263	251	257	258	1
Dublin North	188	192	214*	215*	212	-3
LH/MH	293	295	296	288	306	18
CN/MN	127	126	123	133	130	-3
Cork	498	504	492	497	497	0
Kerry	104	114	104	104	87	-17
CW/KK/ST	254	255	255	257	253	-4
WD/WX	320	333	335	325	324	-1
MidWest	414	404	410	395	389	-6
GY/RN	278	280	273*	276*	280	4
Mayo	103	103	104	102	102	0
Donegal	151	155	157	151	150	-1
SLWC	90	92	93	94	94	0
Total	4,016	4,039	4,017	4,013	4,000	-13

*Revised from previously published

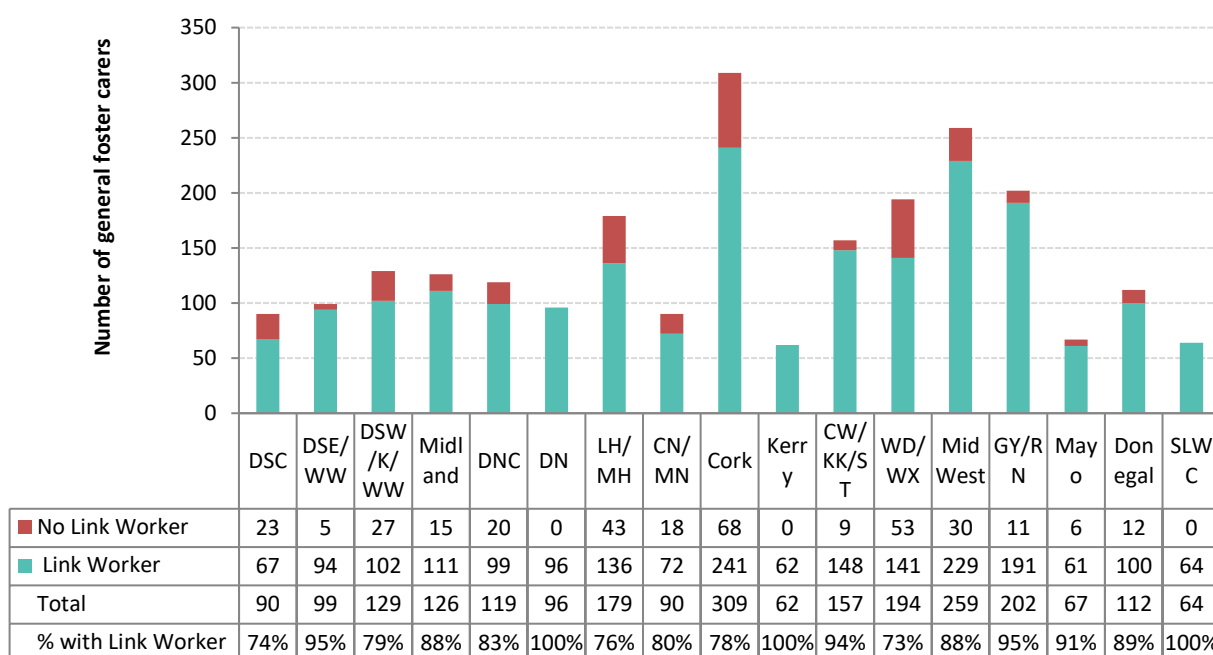
- 86% (2,014) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2022, down four percentage points from Q2 2022 (90%).
- 340 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 102 (43%) more than Q2 2022 (238).
- 7 areas reported 90% or higher with three of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Waterford/Wexford (73%), Dublin South Central (74%), Louth/Meath (76%), Cork (78%) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (79%) lower than all other areas.
- Cork has the highest number of general foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker (68) followed by Waterford/Wexford (53), Louth/Meath (43) and Midwest (30).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q2 2022	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2022	% With Link Worker Q2 2022	With Link Worker Q3 2022	Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2022	% With Link Worker Q3 2022	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2022 v Q2 2022
DSC	81	10	89%	67	23	74%	13
DSE/WW	99	6	94%	94	5	95%	-1
DSW/K/WW	97	23	81%	102	27	79%	4
Midland	110	16	87%	111	15	88%	-1
DNC	102	20	84%	99	20	83%	0
Dub North	102	0	100%	96	0	100%	0
LH/MH	145	31	82%	136	43	76%	12

CN/MN	87	0	100%	72	18	80%	18
Cork	311	0	100%	241	68	78%	68
Kerry	58	14	81%	62	0	100%	-14
CW/KK/ST	149	6	96%	148	9	94%	3
WD/WX	195	3	98%	141	53	73%	50
MidWest	188	81	70%	229	30	88%	-51
GY/RN	192	11	95%	191	11	95%	0
Mayo	61	5	92%	61	6	91%	1
Donegal	100	12	89%	100	12	89%	0
SLWC	63	0	100%	64	0	100%	0
Total	2,140	238	90%	2,014	340	86%	102

General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q3 2022

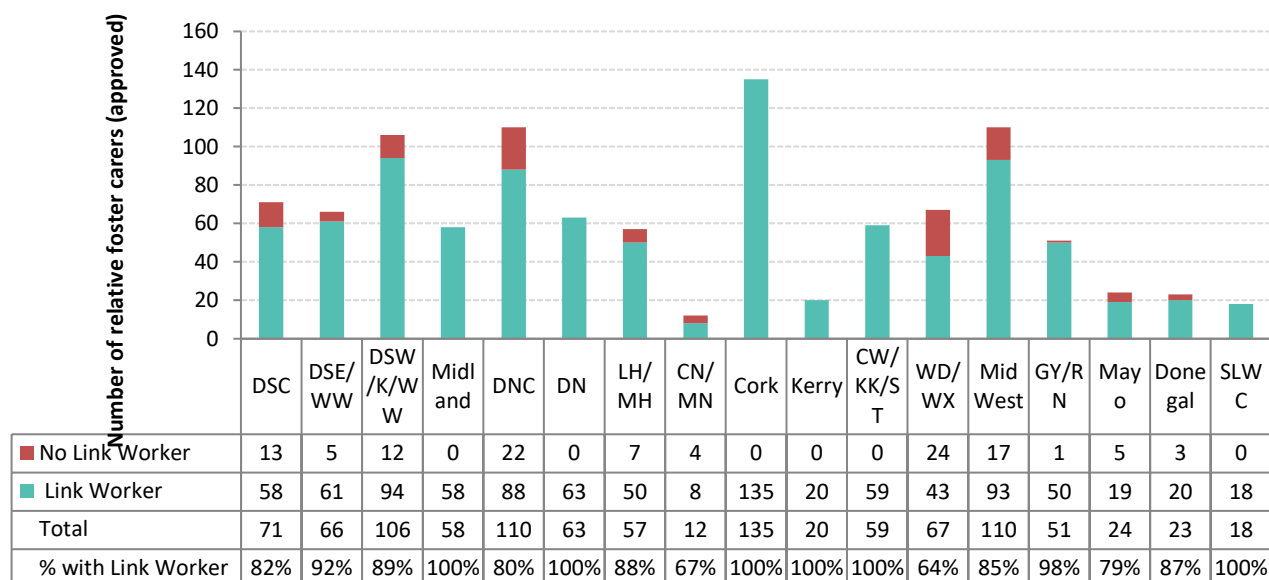


- 89% (937) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2022, down two percentage point from Q2 2022 (91%)
- 113 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q3 2022, 21 (23%) more than Q2 2022 (92).
- 8 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with six of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Waterford/Wexford (64%), Cavan/Monaghan (67%) and Mayo (79%) lower than all other areas.
- Waterford/Wexford reported the highest number of relative foster carers on the panel awaiting a link (social) worker (24) followed by Dublin North City (22) and Midwest (17).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q2 2022	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2022	% With Link Worker Q2 2022	With Link Worker Q3 2022	Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2022	% With Link Worker Q3 2022	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2022 v Q2 2022
DSC	65	9	88%	58	13	82%	4
DSE/WW	58	7	89%	61	5	92%	-2
DSW/K/WW	96	9	91%	94	12	89%	3
Midlands	57	0	100%	58	0	100%	0
DNC	84	22	79%	88	22	80%	0
Dublin North	61	0	100%	63	0	100%	0
LH/MH	54	2	96%	50	7	88%	5
CN/MN	19	2	90%	8	4	67%	2
Cork	134	0	100%	135	0	100%	0
Kerry	27	0	100%	20	0	100%	0
CW/KK/ST	62	1	98%	59	0	100%	-1
WD/WX	65	0	100%	43	24	64%	24
MidWest	75	31	71%	93	17	85%	-14
GY/RN	49	0	100%	50	1	98%	1
Mayo	19	6	76%	19	5	79%	-1
Donegal	21	3	88%	20	3	87%	0
SLWC	19	0	100%	18	0	100%	0
Total	965	92	91%	937	113	89%	21

Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q3 2022



3.4.3 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

- 210 relative foster carers were unapproved at the end of Q3 2022, five fewer than Q2 2022 (215).
- Of these, 168 (80%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; down eight from Q2 2022 (176)

- 92% (154) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. A total of 14 carers were awaiting a link worker, seven more than Q2 2022 (7). The 14 carers were reported across four areas and ranged from one to eight.

Breakdown of foster carers not approved

	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Δ (+/-) Q3 2022 v Q2 2022
Unapproved Relative Foster Carers						
No. unapproved	228	246	216	215	210	-5
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	194 85%	191 78%	189 88%	176 82%	168 80%	-8
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	192 99%	191 100%	176 93%	169 96%	154 92%	
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	2	0	13	7	14	+7

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

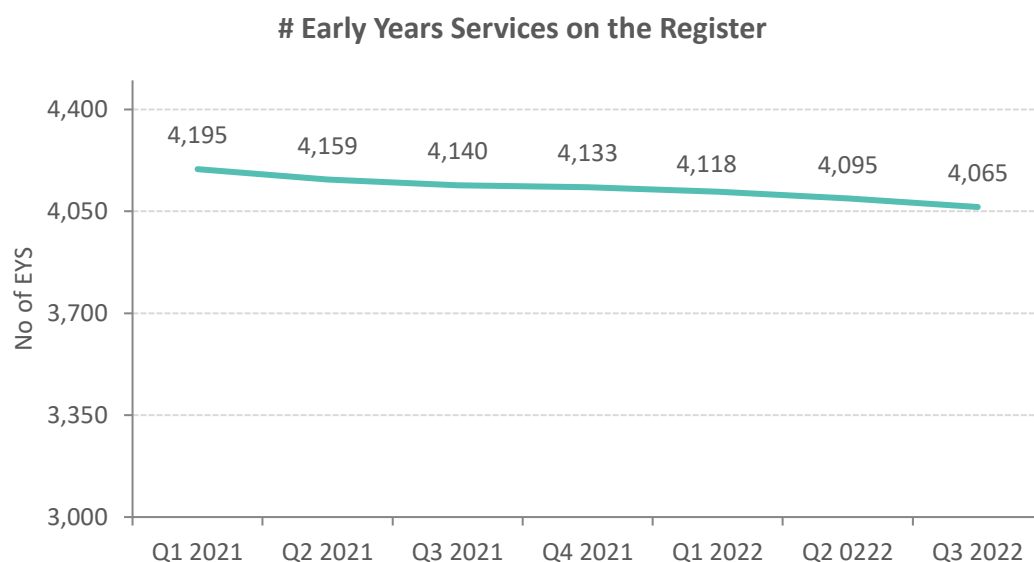
4.1 EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

KEY FACTS

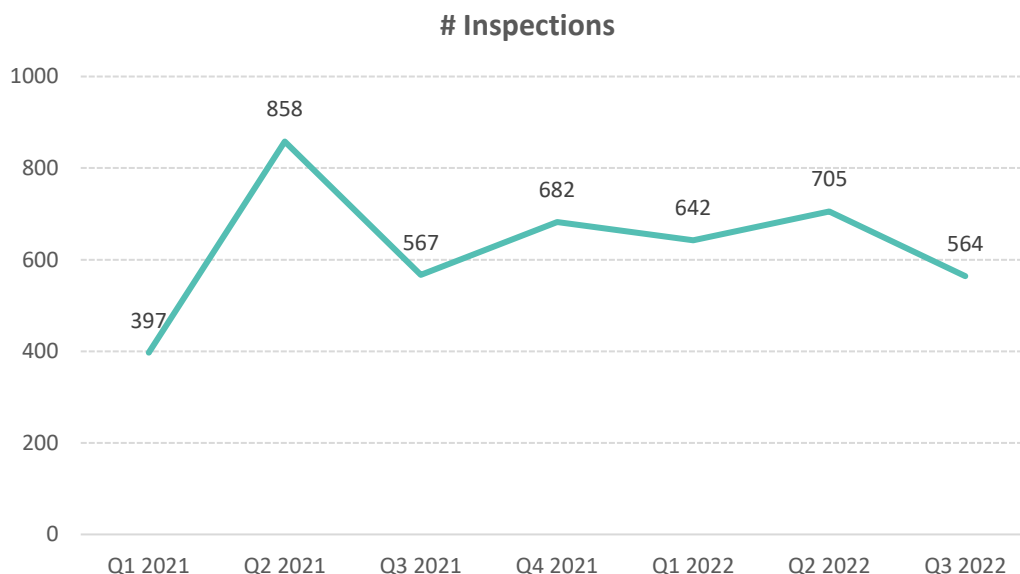
- 4,065 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q3 2022, 30 (<1%) fewer than Q2 2022 (4,095) and 75 (1.8%) fewer than Q3 2021 (4,140).
- 564 inspections (all types¹) carried out in Q3 2022. This brings to 1,911 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2022, 89 (5%) more than the same period in 2021 (1,822). *Inspections in early 2021 impacted due to Covid-19 restrictions.*
- 399 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q3 2022. This brings to 4,413 the number of incidents notified for the first nine months of 2022, 2,982 more than the same period in 2021 (1,431). *The majority of the incidents notified pertain to confirmed cases of Covid-19.*
- 95 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q3 2022. This brings to 252 the number of submissions received for the first nine months of 2022, 57 (29%) more than the same period in 2021 (195).
- 72 services were found to have closed in Q3 2022, bringing to 130 the number of services that were found to have closed in the first nine months of 2022. A total of 122 services were found to have closed during the same period in 2021.

4.1.1 Activity Data

- 4,065 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q3 2022, 30 (<1%) fewer than Q2 2022 (4,095) and 75 (1.8%) fewer than Q3 2021 (4,140).

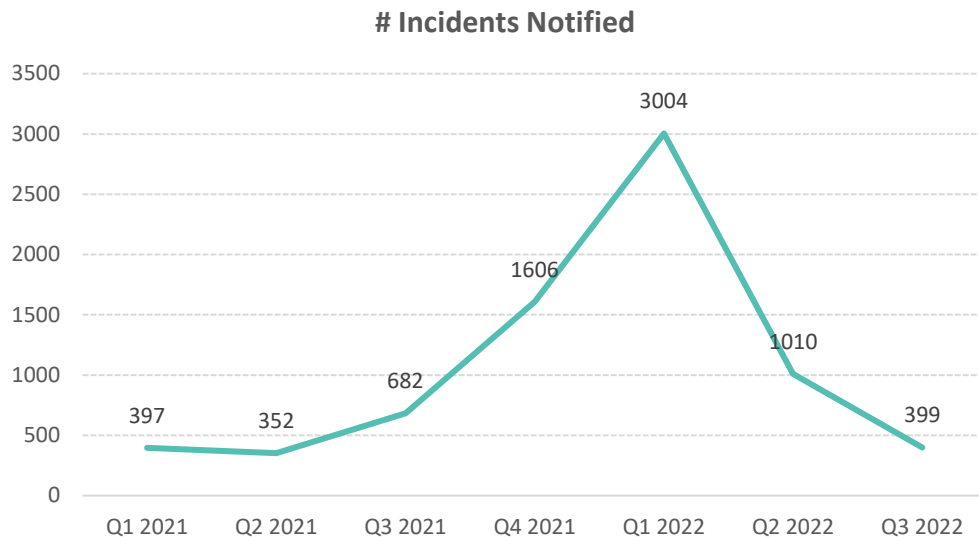


- 564 inspections (all types⁷) carried out in Q3 2022. This brings to 1,911 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2022, 89 (5%) more than the same period in 2021 (1,822). *Inspections in early 2021 impacted due to Covid-19 restrictions.*

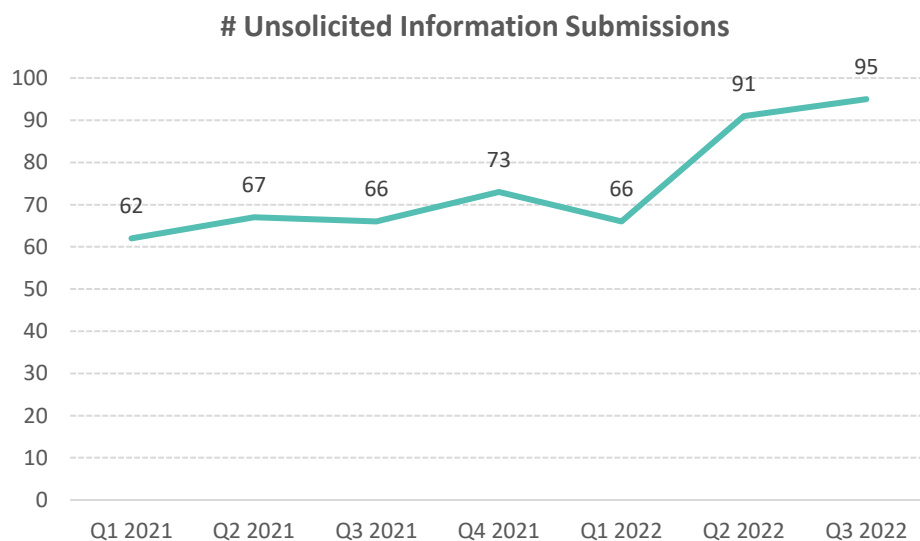


- 47 new applications to become a registered provider received by the Inspectorate in Q3 2022. This brings to 123 the number of new applications for the first nine months of 2022, 35 (40%) more than the same period in 2021 (88).
- 42 new registration applications approved by the Inspectorate in Q3 2022. This brings to 63 the number of applications approved for the first nine months of 2022, 10 (19%) more than the same period in 2021 (53).
- No applications to become an EYS refused registration by the Inspectorate in the first nine months of 2022.
- 831 “change in circumstances” requests processed by the Inspectorate in Q3 2022. This brings to 1,721 the number of requests processed for the first nine months of 2022, 354 (26%) more than the same period in 2021 (1,367).
- 399 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q3 2022. This brings to 4,413 the number of incidents notified for the first nine months of 2022, 2,982 more than the same period in 2021 (1,431).

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



- 95 unsolicited information submissions⁸ received by the Inspectorate during Q3 2022. This brings to 252 the number of submissions received for the first nine months of 2022, 57 (29%) more than the same period in 2021 (195).



- No EYS prosecuted in Q3 2022, by Tusla for breach of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Service) Regulations 2016. A total of three prosecutions in the first nine months of 2022.
- No service removed from the register by the Inspectorate in the first nine months of 2022.
- 72 services were found to have closed in Q3 2022, bringing to 130 the number of services that were found to have closed in the first nine months of 2022. A total of 122 services were found to have closed during the same period in 2021.

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

4.2 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT & REGISTRATION SERVICE

Key Facts

Home Education

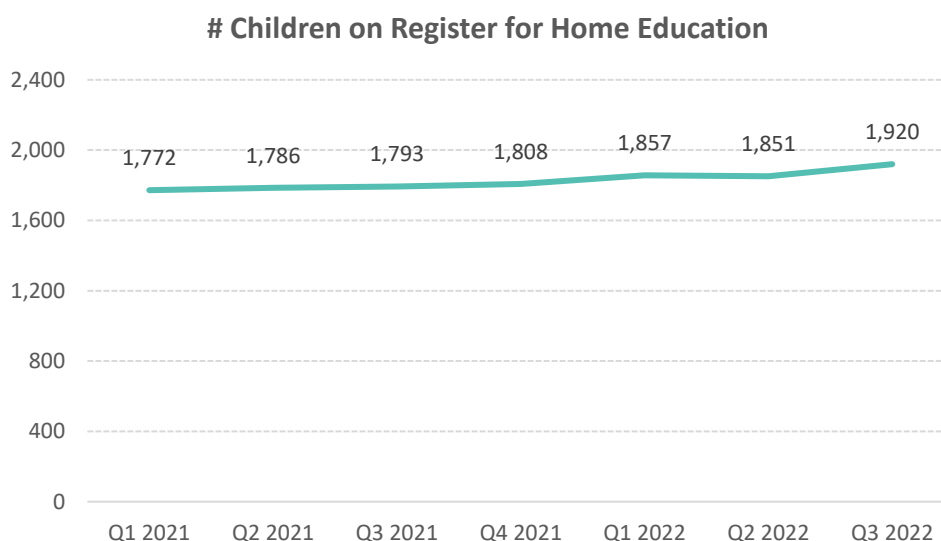
- 1,920 children on the register for home education at the end of Q3 2022, 69 (4%) more than Q2 2022 (1,851) and 127 (7%) more than Q3 2021 (1,793).
- 372 applications received for home education during Q3 2022, 173 (90%) more than Q2 2022 (199) and 84 (18%) fewer than Q3 2021 (456). This brings to 959 the number of applications for the first nine months of 2022, 97 (9%) fewer than the same period in 2021 (1,056).
- 103 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q3 2022, 27 (20%) fewer than Q2 2022 (130) and 39 (61%) more than Q3 2021 (64). This brings to 388 the number of assessments for the first nine months of 2022, 17 (5%) more than the same period in 2021 (371).
- 1,547 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q3 2022, 65 (4%) fewer than Q2 2022 (1,612) and 289 (16%) fewer than Q3 2021 (1,836); the third consecutive quarterly decrease.

Independent Schools

- 56 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q3 2022, no change from Q2 2022
- 6,218 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q3 2022 with 4,413 of these children on the register.
- 43 schools due for review assessment (\geq 3-year cycle) and four schools due for preliminary assessment at the end of Q3 2022.

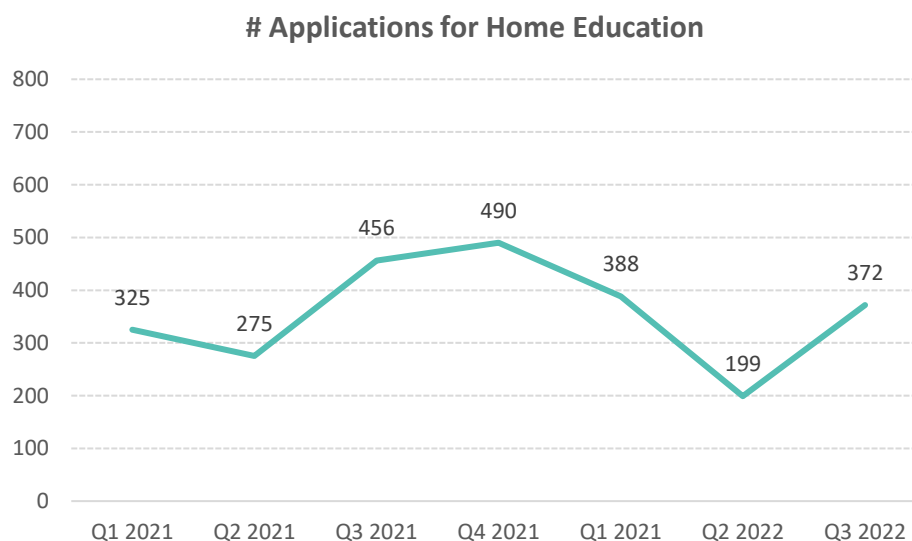
Home Education

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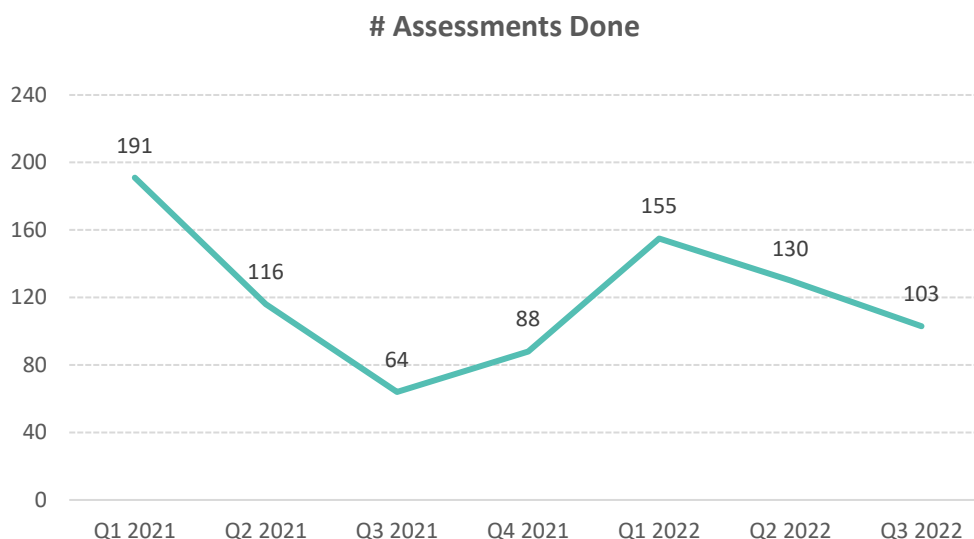


- 19% (364) of children on the register at the end of Q3 2022 have special educational needs.

- 372 applications⁹ received for home education during Q3 2022, 173 (90%) more than Q2 2022 (199) and 84 (18%) fewer than Q3 2021 (456). This brings to 959 the number of applications for the first nine months of 2022, 97 (9%) fewer than the same period in 2021 (1,056).



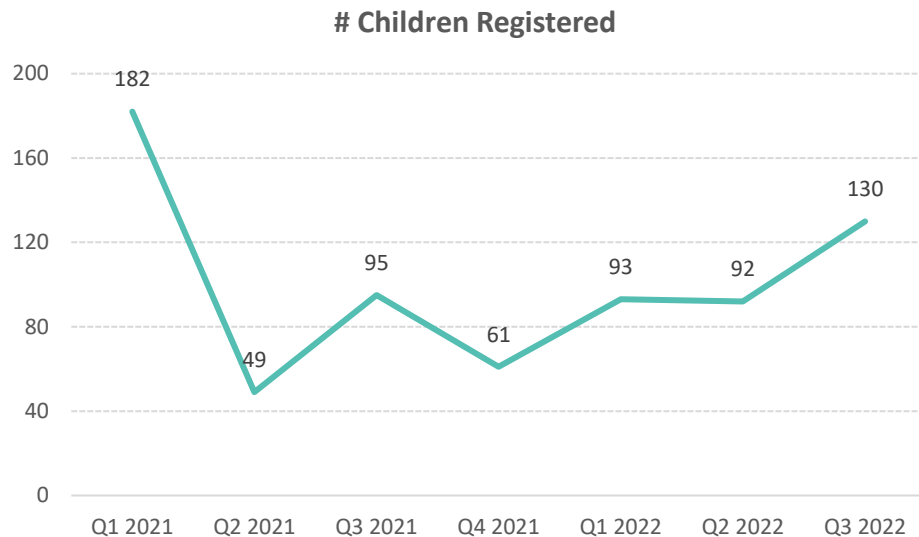
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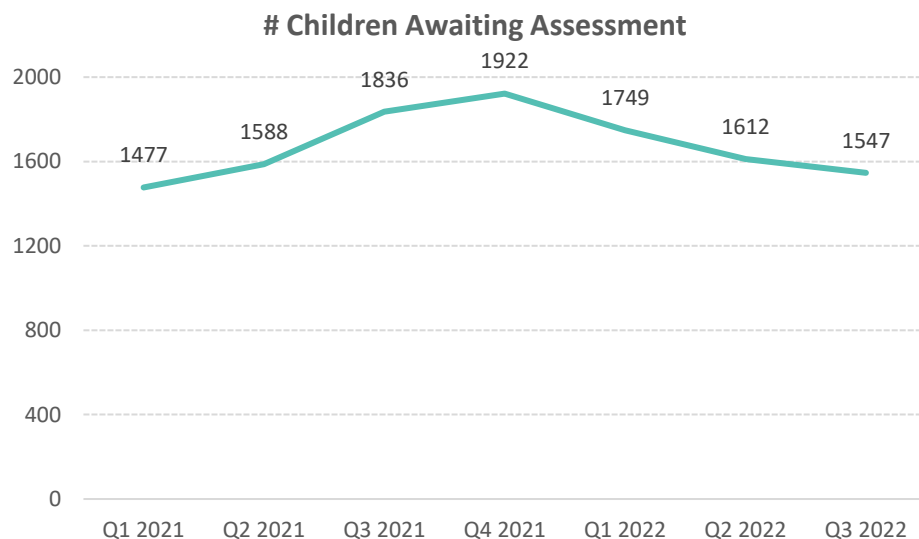
- 130 children registered for home education¹⁰ in Q3 2022, 38 (41%) more than Q2 2022 (92) and 35 (37%) more than Q3 2021 (95). This brings to 315 the number of children registered for the first nine months of 2022, 11 (3%) fewer than the same period in 2021 (326).

⁹ The figure for applications includes valid and invalid applications

¹⁰ Number registered in a quarter does not reflect the number of assessments carried out in the previous quarter – reports are written, reviewed and approved internally before registration



- 1,547 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q3 2022, 65 (4%) fewer than Q2 2022 (1,612) and 289 (16%) fewer than Q3 2021 (1,836) and the third consecutive quarterly decrease.



- 61 children removed from the register in Q3 2022. Of these, 11 returned to school and 49 turned 18 years. The remaining child was removed for other reasons. This brings to 203 the number of children who were removed from the register in the first nine months of 2022.

Independent Schools

- 56 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q3 2022, no change from Q2 2022
- 6,218 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q3 2022 with 4,413 of these children on the register.
- 43 schools due for review assessment (\geq 3-year cycle) and four schools due for preliminary assessment at the end of Q3 2022.

4.3 ALTERNATIVE CARE INSPECTION & MONITORING SERVICES

Key Facts

- 146 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q3 2022; four more than Q2 2022 (142)
- A total of 44 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q3 2022. This brings to 135 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2022.
- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q3 2022; no change from Q1 2022. Two monitoring visits conducted in Q2 2022.

Non-Statutory Children's Residential Centres

- 146 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q3 2022; four more than Q2 2022 (142)
- A total of 44 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q3 2022. This brings to 135 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2022.

Inspections of Non Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	Total 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	2022 YTD
Thematic Inspection (announced) on-site	135	40*	37	28	105
Thematic Inspection (unannounced) on site	15	5	3	7	15
Thematic Inspection (announced) remote inspection	0	1*	3	3	7
New Registration Inspection Visit	15	1	1	6	8
Total	165	47	44	44	135

*Revised since previously reported

Non-Statutory Foster Care Services

- 6 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q3 2022; no change from Q2 2022
- Two monitoring visits conducted in Q2 2022.

5.0 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY FACTS

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2021 – August 2022

- 6,771 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the academic year 2021/2022, 1,181 (21%) more than the previous year 2020/2021 (5,590).
- 3,551 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of the academic year 2021/2022, 1,382 (64%) more than the end of the previous year 2020/2021 (2,169).
- 6,199 individual children worked with during the academic year 2021/2022, 666 (12%) more than the previous year 2020/2021 (5,533).
- 598 school attendance notices (SANs) issued during the academic year 2021/2022, 476 more than the previous year 2020/2021 (122). The SANs issued were in respect of 407 individual children.
- 111 summonses issued during the academic year 2021/2022, 108 more than the previous year 2020/2021 (3). The summonses were in respect of 76 individual children.
- 130 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs during the academic year 2021/2022, 50 (63%) more than the previous year 2020/2021 (80).

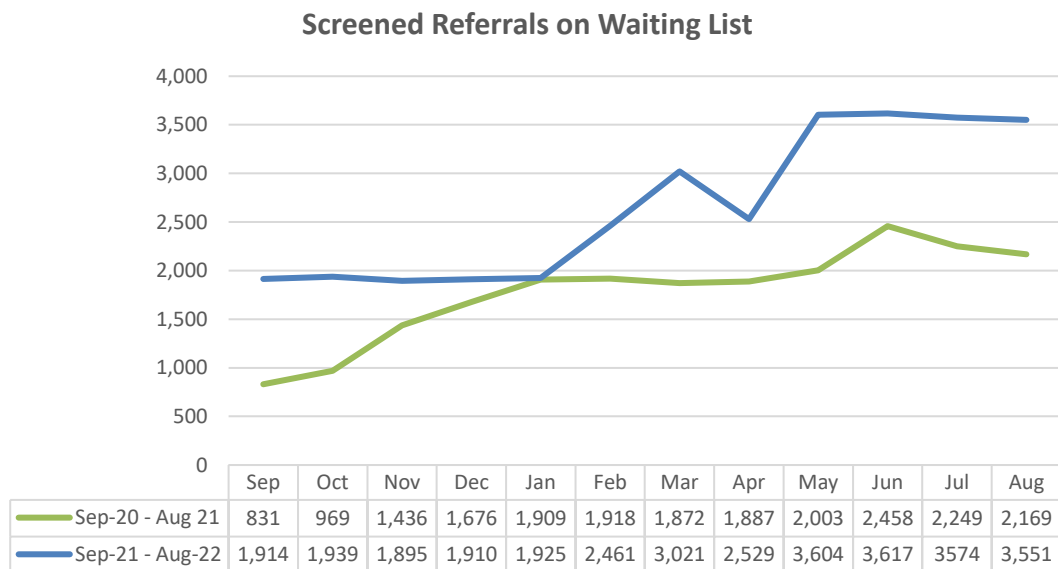
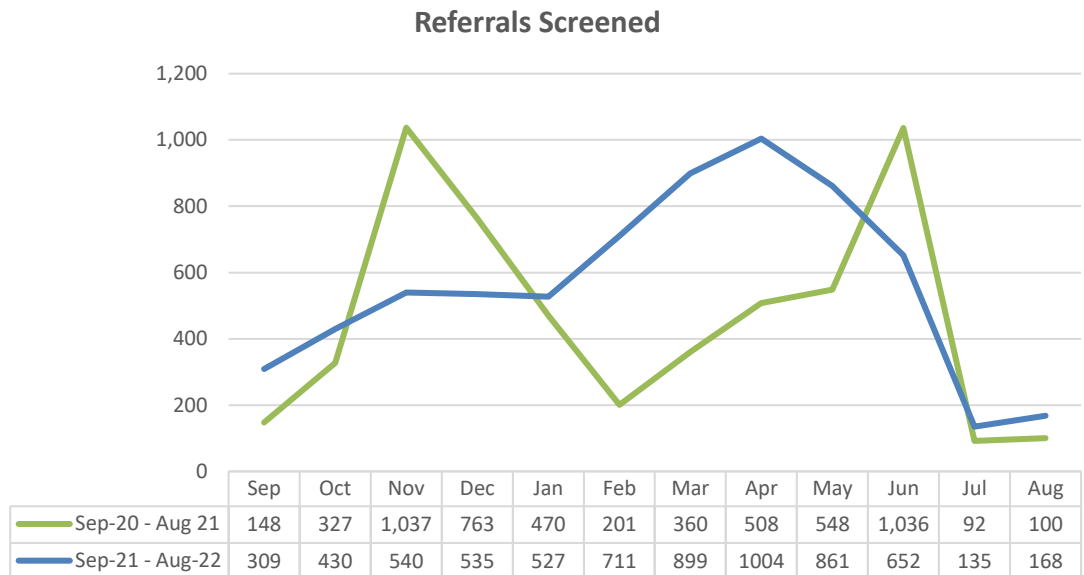
Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2021 – August 2022

Data presented needs to be interpreted in the context of the impact of Covid-19 on school attendance and service provided.

- 6,771 referrals¹¹ screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) for the academic year 2021/2022, 1,181 (21%) more than the previous year 2020/2021 (5,590).
- 2,945 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers during the academic year 2021/2022, 462 (19%) more than the previous year 2020/2021 (2,483).
- 2,509 referrals screened out / required no further action during the academic year 2021/2022, 1,162 (86%) more than the previous year 2020/2021 (1,347).
- 3,551 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of the academic year 2021/2022, 1,382 (64%) more than the end of the previous year 2020/2021 (2,169).

	Sept 2020 – Aug 2021	Sept 2021 – Aug 2022	Δ
# Referrals screened	5,590	6,771	+1,181 (21%)
# Referrals allocated	2,483	2,945	+462 (19%)
# Referrals screened out	1,347	2,509	+1,162 (86%)
# Referrals on waiting list	2,169	3,551	+1,382 (64%)

¹¹ 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.



- 3,779 new cases assigned to EWOs during the academic year 2021/2022, 301 (9%) more than the previous year 2020/2021 (3,478).
- 3,428 cases closed during the academic year 2021/2022, 232 (7%) more than the previous year 2020/2021 (3,196).
- 3,073 new individual children worked with during the academic year 2021/2022, 384 (14%) more than the previous year 2020/2021 (2,689).
- 6,199 individual children worked with during the academic year 2021/2022, 666 (12%) more than the previous year 2020/2021 (5,533).

	Sept 2020 – Aug 2021	Sept 2021 – Aug 2022	Δ
# cases assigned	3,478	3,779	+301 (9%)
# cases closed	3,196	3,428	+232 (7%)
# New individual children worked with	2,689	3,073	+384 (14%)
# Individual children worked with	5,533	6,199	+666 (12%)

- 598 school attendance notices (SANs) issued during the academic year 2021/2022, 476 more than the previous year 2020/2021 (122). The SANs issued were in respect of 407 individual children.
- 111 summonses issued during the academic year 2021/2022, 108 more than the previous year 2020/2021 (3). The summonses were in respect of 76 individual children.
- EWOs attended 135 court cases in relation to their own cases during the academic year 2021/2022, 100 (286%) more than the previous year 2020/2021 (35).
- 127 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs during the academic year 2021/2022, 14 (10%) fewer than the previous year 2020/2021 (141).
- 130 Section 24¹² meetings convened by EWOs during the academic year 2021/2022, 50 (63%) more than the previous year 2020/2021 (80).

	Sept 2020 – Aug 2021	Sept 2021 – Aug 2022	Δ
School Attendance Notices Issues	122	598	+476 (390%)
SANs - individual children involved	76	407	+331 (436%)
Summonses Issued	3	111	+108 (3,600%)
Summonses – individual children involved	2	76	+74 (3,700%)
Court cases attended in relation to own cases	35	135	+100 (286%)
Child protection conferences attended	141	127	-14 (10%)
Section 24 meetings convened	80	130	+50 (63%)
Child protection & welfare referrals made	84	116	+32 (38%)

¹² 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—
- 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
 - 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 SERVICES¹³

KEY FACTS

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

- At least 17,873 children were in receipt of family support services at the end Q2 2022, 798 (5%) more than Q4 2021 (17,075). Based on a response rate of 88%
- At least 18,324 children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2022. This equates to about 1.5% of the child population (0-17 years).
- 65% (11,908) of children referred to family support services in the first six months of 2022 received a service. The percentage who received a service ranged from 94% (Cavan/Monaghan) to 43% (Kerry). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 65%.

6.1.1 Family Support Providers

- 370 family support providers commissioned for the first half of 2022.
- 88% (325) of services provided data for the first half of 2022.

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

Family Support Services Commissioned by Areas

Area	# Family Support Providers Commissioned Q1/Q2 2022	# External to Tusla	# Internal to Tusla	# services that provided data	% that provided data
DSC	36	33	3	36	100%
DSE/WW	12	9	3	31	100%
DSW/K/WW	24	19	5	24	100%
Midlands	15	15	0	15	100%
DNC	42	35	7	40	95%
Dublin North	21	18	3	18	86%
LH/MH	20	15	5	20	100%
CN/MN	22	19	3	19	86%
Cork	6*	5	1	6	100%
Kerry	13	10	3	0	0%
CW/KK/ST	28	26	2	26	93%
WD/WX	26	23	3	17	65%

¹³ 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.

MidWest	38	38	0	38	100%
GY/RN	28	20	8	18	64%
Mayo	9	9	0	6	67%
Donegal	12	12	0	12	100%
SLWC	18	18	0	18	100%
Total	370	324	46	325	88%

*Cork: a recent review for family support metrics established the scope of the services requested for the return did not expand in line with the guidance and questionnaire issued in 2020 and consequently the data for the Cork Area is an under representation. This will be rectified for future data returns.

6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

- At least 17,873 children were in receipt of family support services at the end Q2 2022, 798 (5%) more than Q4 2021 (17,075). Highest number reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (2,668; 15%) followed by Midwest (1,827; 10%) and Dublin North (1,595; 9%). Fewest number reported by Midlands (125; <1%), Mayo (274; 1.5%) and Kerry (305; 1.7%).

Children in receipt of Family Support Services

Area	Number of children in receipt of a FSS end of Q4 2021	Number of children in receipt of a FSS end of Q2 2022	% Total Q2 2021
DSC	1,220	1,220	6.8%
DSE/WW	615	626	3.5%
DSW/K/WW	2,101	2,668	14.9%
Midlands	224	125	0.7%
DNC	1,408	1,406	7.9%
Dublin North	1,235	1,595	8.9%
LH/MH	863	900	5.0%
CN/MN	963	721	4.0%
Cork	479	416	2.3%
Kerry	389	305	1.7%
CW/KK/ST	1,034	1,432	8.0%
WD/WX	817	968	5.4%
MidWest	1,316	1,827	10.2%
GY/RN	1,254	1,059	5.9%
Mayo	432	274	1.5%
Donegal	1,343	1,412	7.9%
SLWC	1,382	919	5.1%
Total	17,075	17,873	100.0%

6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

- At least 18,324 children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2022. This equates to about 1.5% of the child population (0-17 years).
- The highest rate of referrals was reported by Dublin North City (4.9%) followed by Donegal (3.3%) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (2.8%).

- The highest number of children referred was reported by Dublin North City (2,202; 12%) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (2,022; 11%) and Dublin North (1,580; 9%). Fewest number reported Midlands (161; <1%), Cork (328; 2%) and Dublin South East/Wicklow (537; 3%).

Children referred to Family Support Services by area

Area	Total number of children referred to FSS, Q3/Q4 2021	Total number of children referred to FSS Q1/Q2 2022	% Total Referred Q1/Q2 2022	Population 0-17 years (Census 2016)	% children referred
DSC	1,367	1,412	7.7%	65,564	2.15%
DSE/WW	561	537	2.9%	86,810	0.62%
DSW/K/WW	1,568	2,022	11.0%	108,186	1.87%
Midlands	250	161	0.9%	80,193	0.20%
DNC	1,533	2,202	12.0%	44,927	4.90%
Dublin North	1,439	1,580	8.6%	100,654	1.57%
LH/MH	635	881	4.8%	93,093	0.95%
CN/MN	777	633	3.5%	36,446	1.74%
Cork	406	328	1.8%	134,015	0.24%
Kerry	472	620	3.4%	34,527	1.80%
CW/KK/ST	922	1,402	7.7%	63,009	2.23%
WD/WX	1,298	1,226	6.7%	68,513	1.79%
MidWest	1,191	1,340	7.3%	96,266	1.39%
GY/RN	1,219	1,334	7.3%	79,912	1.67%
Mayo	431	594	3.2%	31,968	1.86%
Donegal	1,485	1,402	7.7%	42,865	3.27%
SLWC	737	650	3.5%	23,554	2.76%
Total	16,291	18,324	100.0%	1,190,502	1.54%

6.1.4 Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals was parents/guardians, accounting for 27% (4,896) of referrals followed by Tusla social workers (25%; 4,529), schools (10%; 1,878) and HSE Officers (10.2%; 1,866).

Children referred to Family Support Services by source of referral, Q1/Q2 2022

Source	# Referrals Q3/Q4 2021	# Referrals Q1/Q2 2022	% Total
Parent/Guardian	3,843	4,896	26.7%
Tusla Social Workers	4,633	4,529	24.7%
Schools	1,616	1,878	10.2%
HSE Officers	1,657	1,866	10.2%
Self-Referral	1,461	1,643	9.0%
Other Tulsa Officers	968	1,248	6.8%
Other	741	931	5.1%
Voluntary Agency	750	862	4.7%
GP	241	234	1.3%
Other Family Member	202	125	0.7%
AGS	159	89	0.5%

Anonymous	20	23	0.1%
Total	16,291	18,324	100.0%

6.1.5 Children who received a service

- 65% (11,908) of children referred to family support services in the first six months of 2022 received a service. The percentage who received a service ranged from 94% (Cavan/Monaghan) to 43% (Kerry). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 65%.

Children referred to Family Support Services (Q1/Q2 2022) who received a service during the reporting period

Area	Number referred Q1/Q2 2022	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service
DSC	1412	808	57%
DSE/WW	537	329	61%
DSW/K/WW	2,022	1,137	56%
Midlands	161	128	80%
DNC	2,202	980	45%
Dublin North	1,580	1,156	73%
LH/MH	881	584	66%
CN/MN	633	593	94%
Cork	328	144	44%
Kerry	620	269	43%
CW/KK/ST	1,402	942	67%
WD/WX	1,226	945	77%
MidWest	1,340	1002	75%
GY/RN	1,334	935	70%
Mayo	594	466	78%
Donegal	1,402	1,142	81%
SLWC	650	348	54%
Total	18,324	11,908	65%

- Of the children referred to family support services in first six months of 2022 who received a service (11,908), 6% (676) were subject of a child in care plan; 5% (595) were subject of a Tusla social work child protection plan; 6% (686) were subject of a Tusla social work led safety plan; 6% (661) were subject of a Meitheal support plan while 47% (5,591) were subject of a single agency family support plan.
- A breakdown on the number and percentage of children who participated in the development, implementation and review of those plans is presented in the table below.

Breakdown of the number and percentage of children who participated in the development, implementation and review of plans, Q1/Q2 2022

Plan type	# children subject of plan:	# / % children who participated in development of plan	# / % children who participated in implementation of plan	# / % children who participated in review of plan
Children in care plan	676	254	251	212
	6%	38%	(37%)	(31%)
Tusla social work child protection plan	595	201	202	190
	5%	(34%)	(34%)	(32%)
Tusla safety plan	686	310	300	280
	6%	(45%)	(44%)	(41%)
Meitheal support plan	661	359	349	298
	6%	(54%)	(53%)	(45%)
Single agency response plan	5,591	2,846	2,847	2,744
	47%	(51%)	(51%)	(49%)

6.1.6 Parenting Support Service

- 10,524 parents/guardians/care givers were referred to a parenting support service in the first six months of 2022.
- 8,197 (78%) of the parents/guardians/care givers referred received a service.
- 3,861 individual (one-to-one) parenting support services were commissioned internally during the first six months of 2022.
- 2,832 individual (one-to-one) parenting support services were commissioned externally.
- 1,528 parenting support services that are group-based interventions were commissioned internally during the first six months of 2022.
- 702 parenting support services that are group-based interventions were commissioned externally.

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

- 1,168 Meitheal processes requested in the first six months of 2022, 37 more than the last six months of 2021 (1,131) and 74 fewer than the first six months of 2021 (1,242).
- The most common pathway for requests was Direct Access accounting for 70% (817) of requests. Social Work Diversion accounted for a further 16% (190) while Social Work Step-Down accounted for 8% (93) of requests. The pathway was not provided for the remaining 68 (6%) requests, (59 in Waterford/Wexford, 8 Donegal and 1 Galway/Roscommon).
- 84% (982/1,168) of Meitheal requests received in the first six months of 2022 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- 836 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the first six months of 2022.
- 55% (456) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2, proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- 862 Meitheal processes were closed in the first six months of 2022. 24% (211) of Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 29% (247) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 13% (109) were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3) and 34% (295) were closed post-delivery
- 123 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating at the end of Q2 2022. A further 22 CFSNs are planned/pre planning stage.

6.2.1 Meitheal Activity Data

- 1,168 Meitheal processes requested in the first six months of 2022, 37 more than the last six months of 2021 (1,131) and 74 fewer than the first six months of 2021 (1,242).
- Highest number of requests for the first six of 2022 reported by Waterford/Wexford (143; 12%) followed by Kerry (134; 11.5%), Cork (132; 11.3%) and Dublin North (108; 9.2%). These four areas account for almost half (44%; 517) of all Meitheal processes requested.
- The fewest number was reported by the Mayo (19; 1.6%) followed by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (26; 2.2%) and Dublin South Central (32; 2.7%).

Meitheal processes requested

Area	# Requested Q1/Q2 2021	# Requested Q3/Q4 2021	# Requested Q1/Q2 2022	% Total Q1/Q2 2022
DSC	26	47	32	2.7%
DSE/WW	50	38	35	3.0%
DSW/K/WW	68	37	83	7.1%
Midlands	17	33	50	4.3%
DNC	34	31	51	4.4%
Dublin North	248	181	108	9.2%
LH/MH	81	53	74	6.3%
CN/MN	55	101	45	3.9%
Cork	128	114	132	11.3%
Kerry	151	142	134	11.5%
CW/KK/ST	45	75	79	6.8%
WD/WX	103	100	143	12.2%
MidWest	55	59	47	4.0%
GY/RN	98	48	75	6.4%
Mayo	25	21	19	1.6%
Donegal	32	25	35	3.0%
SLWC	26	26	26	2.2%
National	1,242	1,131	1,168	100.0%

- The most common pathway for requests was Direct Access accounting for 70% (817) of requests. Social Work Diversion accounted for a further 16% (190) while Social Work Step-Down accounted for 8% (93) of requests. The pathway was not provided for the remaining 68 (6%) requests, (59 in Waterford/Wexford, 8 Donegal and 1 Galway/Roscommon).
- The percentage of direct access requests ranged from 95% (18/19) in Mayo to 33% (15/45) in Cavan/Monaghan. Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 70%.
- The percentage of requests diverted from social work ranged from 47% (21/45) in Cavan/Monaghan to none in four areas (Mayo, Midlands, Dublin South Central and Dublin North. Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 16%.
- The percentage of requests stepped down from social work ranged 20% (9/45) in Cavan/Monaghan to none in Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary). Four areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average 8%.

Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests Q1 / Q2 2022

Area	# Requested Q1/Q2 2022	Of the total number of Meitheal requests:					
		Direct Access	% Direct Access	Social Work Diversion	% SW Diversion	Social Work Step - Down	% Step-Down
DSC	32	30	94%	0	0%	2	6%
DSE/WW	35	24	69%	9	26%	2	6%
DSW/K/WW	83	61	73%	20	24%	2	2%
Midlands	50	47	94%	0	0%	3	6%
DNC	51	37	73%	7	14%	7	14%
Dublin North	108	88	81%	0	0%	20	19%
LH/MH	74	53	72%	16	22%	5	7%
CN/MN	45	15	33%	21	47%	9	20%
Cork	132	93	70%	20	15%	19	14%
Kerry	134	102	76%	22	16%	10	7%
CW/KK/ST	79	47	59%	32	41%	0	0%
WD/WX	143	54	38%	25	17%	5	3%
MidWest	47	34	72%	12	26%	1	2%
GY/RN	75	69	92%	1	1%	4	5%
Mayo	19	18	95%	0	0%	1	5%
Donegal	35	22	63%	3	9%	2	6%
SLWC	26	23	88%	2	8%	1	4%
Total	1,168	817	70%	190	16%	93	8%

- 84% (982/1,168) of Meitheal requests received in the first six months of 2022 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- The percentage of requests proceeding to Stage 2 ranged from 98% (106/108) in Dublin North to 49% in Cavan/Monaghan (22/45). Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (84%).

Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage) Q1/Q2 2022

Area	# Requested Q1/Q2 2022	# that proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)
DSC	32	23	72%
DSE/WW	35	28	80%
DSW/K/WW	83	77	93%
Midlands	50	47	94%
DNC	51	45	88%
Dublin North	108	106	98%
LH/MH	74	67	91%
CN/MN	45	22	49%
Cork	132	116	88%
Kerry	134	130	97%
CW/KK/ST	79	66	84%
WD/WX	143	78	55%

MidWest	47	44	94%
GY/RN	75	69	92%
Mayo	19	18	95%
Donegal	35	21	60%
SLWC	26	25	96%
Total	1,168	982	84%

- 836 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the first six months of 2022.
- 55% (456) 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 92% (60/65) in Kerry to 10% in Dublin North (11/109). Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 55%.
- 30% (250) were referred for a single agency response – majority (85%; 213) of these were reported by four areas (Dublin North, Waterford/Wexford, CW/K/ST and Cork). The percentage of processes referred for a single agency response ranged from 85% (93/109) to none in four areas (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan, DSW/K/WW, Donegal and Dublin South East/Wicklow). Three areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 30%.
- <2% (13) of processes were referred to social work (stepped – up). These processes were reported across eight areas. Nine areas reported none.
- 7% (61) of processes were closed. The percentage of processes closed ranged from 33% (18/54) in Cork to none in five areas (Midlands, Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan, Dublin South Central, Mayo and Galway/Roscommon). Six areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average.

Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, Q1/Q2 2022

Area	# Reaching Completion of Stage 2, Q1/Q2 2022	Of the total number of Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two (Discussion Stage) the number and percentage that									
		<i>Proceed ed to Delivery</i>	%	<i>Referr ed to Social Work</i>	%	<i>Referr ed to a Single Agenc y Respo nse</i>	%	<i>Closed</i>	%	<i>Categor ised as Other</i>	%
DSC	23	19	83%	0	0.0%	3	13%	0	0%	1	4%
DSE/WW	34	17	50%	1	2.9%	0	0%	3	9%	13	38%
DSW/K/WW	72	57	79%	0	0.0%	0	0%	4	6%	11	15%
Midlands	46	28	61%	4	8.7%	7	15%	0	0%	7	15%
DNC	42	21	50%	0	0.0%	3	7%	7	17%	11	26%
Dublin North	109	11	10%	0	0.0%	93	85%	5	5%	0	0%
LH/MH	67	48	72%	1	1.5%	6	9%	12	18%	0	0%
CN/MN	27	20	74%	1	3.7%	4	15%	2	7%	0	0%
Cork	54	21	39%	0	0.0%	15	28%	18	33%	0	0%
Kerry	65	60	92%	1	1.5%	1	2%	3	5%	0	0%
CW/KK/ST	50	14	28%	0	0.0%	35	70%	1	2%	0	0%

WD/WX	83	9	11%	2	2.4%	70	84%	2	2%	0	0%
MidWest	29	22	76%	1	3.4%	2	7%	3	10%	1	3%
GY/RN	75	67	89%	2	2.7%	6	8%	0	0%	0	0%
Mayo	19	14	74%	0	0.0%	5	26%	0	0%	0	0%
Donegal	28	16	57%	0	0.0%	0	0%	1	4%	11	39%
SLWC	13	12	92%	0	0.0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	8%
Total	836	456	55%	13	1.6%	250	30%	61	7%	56	7%

- 862 Meitheal processes were closed in the first six months of 2022. The number closed ranged from 152 (Cork) to 10 (Dublin South Central).
- 24% (211) of 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 71% (12/17) in Kerry to none in Donegal. Five areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 24%.
- 29% (247) 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 from 91% (94/103) in Dublin North to 9% in three areas (DSW/K/WW, Midwest and Cork). Five areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (29%). Thirty-eight (94/247) percent of Meitheals closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage) were reported by Dublin North.
- 13% (109) of Meitheal processes were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3). The percentage closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings ranged from 50% (5/10) in Dublin South Central to none in three areas (Waterford/Wexford, Louth/Meath, Kerry). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 13%.
- 34% (295) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery. The percentage closed post-delivery ranged from 71% (36/51) in Cavan/Monaghan to 5% (5/103) in Dublin North. Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 34%.

Number of Meitheals closed Q1 / Q2 2022

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed Q1/Q2	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	10	1	10%	1	10%	5	50%	3	30%
DSE/WW	40	6	15%	4	10%	10	25%	20	50%
DSW/K/WW	53	7	13%	5	9%	7	13%	34	64%
Midlands	17	3	18%	7	41%	4	24%	3	18%
DNC	63	9	14%	12	19%	23	37%	19	30%

Dublin North	103	1	1%	94	91%	3	3%	5	5%
LH/MH	41	20	49%	12	29%	0	0%	9	22%
CN/MN	51	3	6%	6	12%	6	12%	36	71%
Cork	152	75	49%	13	9%	20	13%	44	29%
Kerry	17	12	71%	4	24%	0	0%	1	6%
CW/KK/ST	65	18	28%	37	57%	6	9%	4	6%
WD/WX	82	19	23%	29	35%	0	0%	34	41%
MidWest	45	8	18%	4	9%	6	13%	27	60%
GY/RN	63	20	32%	9	14%	5	8%	29	46%
Mayo	17	3	18%	3	18%	3	18%	8	47%
Donegal	16	0	0%	4	25%	3	19%	9	56%
SLWC	27	6	22%	3	11%	8	30%	10	37%
National	862	211	24%	247	29%	109	13%	295	34%

6.2.2 Child and Family Support Networks

- 123 Child and Family Support Networks¹⁴ (CFSN) operating at the end of Q2 2022. A further 22 CFSNs are planned/pre planning stage.

Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned

Area	CFSNs Operating Q4 2021	CFSNs Operating Q2 2022	CFSNs Planned
DSC	7	8	2
DSE/Wicklow	7	7	2
DSW/K/WW	10	9	1
Midlands	6	5	0
Dublin North City	6	6	0
Dublin North	4	4	1
Louth/Meath	5	5	0
Cavan/Monaghan	8	6	0
Cork	11	12	12
Kerry	8	8	0
CW/KK/ST	7	8	4
WD/WX	8	8	0
MidWest	11	13	0
GY/RN	12	12	0
Mayo	4	4	0
Donegal	5	5	0
SLWC	3	3	0
Total	122	123	22

¹⁴ Child and Family Support Networks: Collaborative networks of community, voluntary and statutory providers intended to improve access to support services for children and their families⁸

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

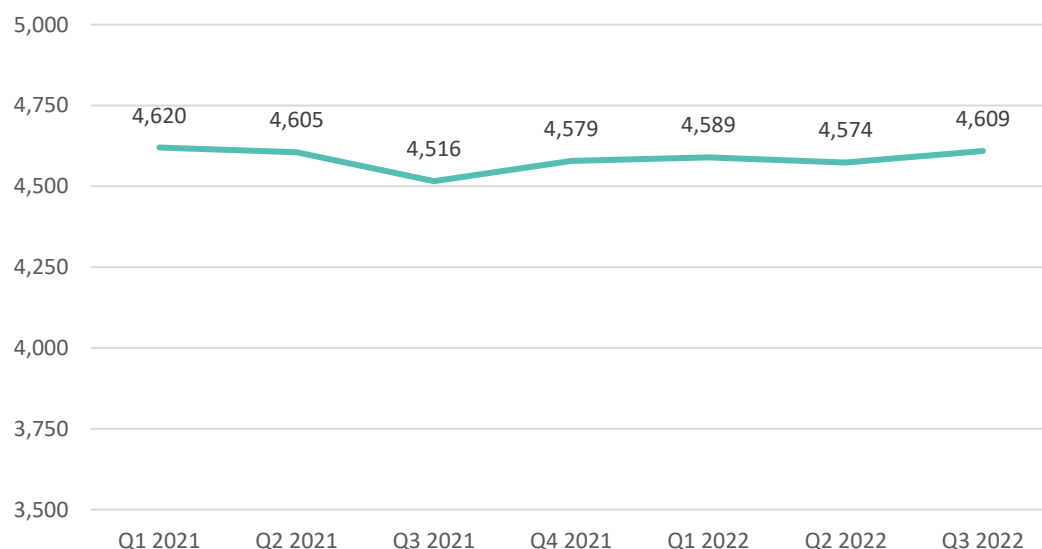
KEY FACTS

- 4,609 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2022, 35 more than Q2 2022 (4,574) and 93 (2%) more than Q3 2021 (4,516).
- 561 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first nine months of 2022.
- 426 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) and 92 staff retired in the first nine months of 2022.
- At the end of Q3 2022, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.09%, 1.18 percentage points lower than Q2 2022 (7.27%) and 0.17 percentage points lower than Q3 2021 (6.26%).
- e-learning activity: 4,176 completions were achieved in Q3 2022
- Virtual classroom training: 1,320 completions.

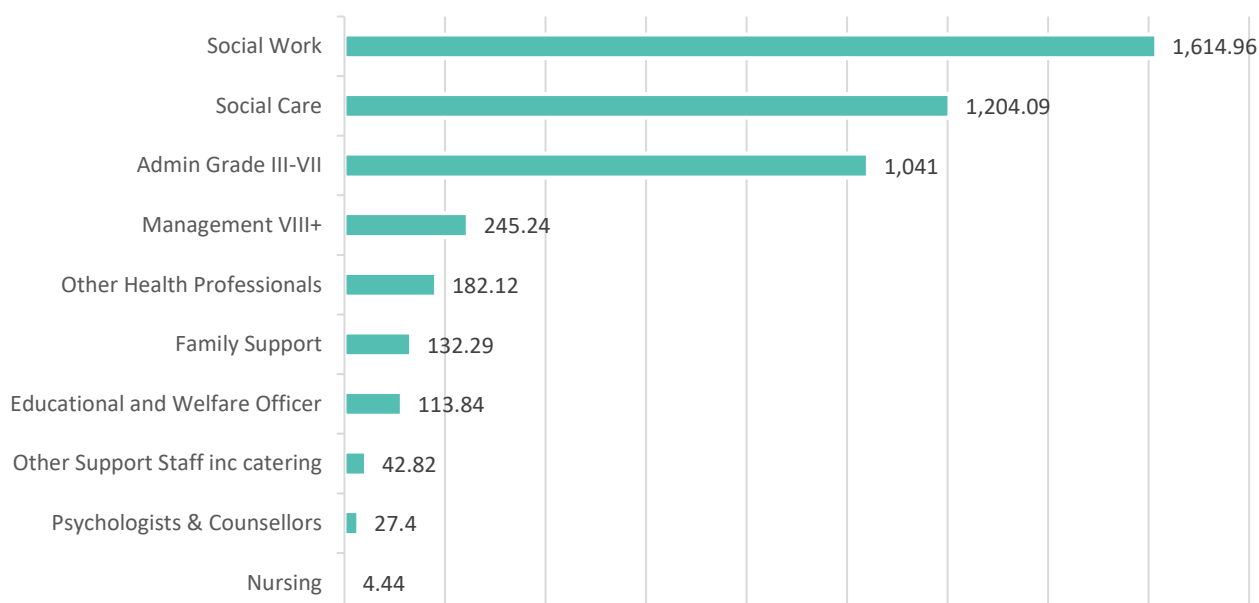
7.1 Workforce Position

- 4,609 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2022, 35 more than Q2 2022 (4,574) and 93 (2%) more than Q3 2021 (4,516).

Total Staff Employed (WTE), by quarter



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency, accounting for 35% (1,615) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q3 2022, followed by social care staff accounting for a further 26% (1,204). Management (Grade VIII+) account for 5% (245) of the workforce.



- Increase/decrease in WTEs by staff category from Q2 2022 and Q3 2021 is presented in the table below.

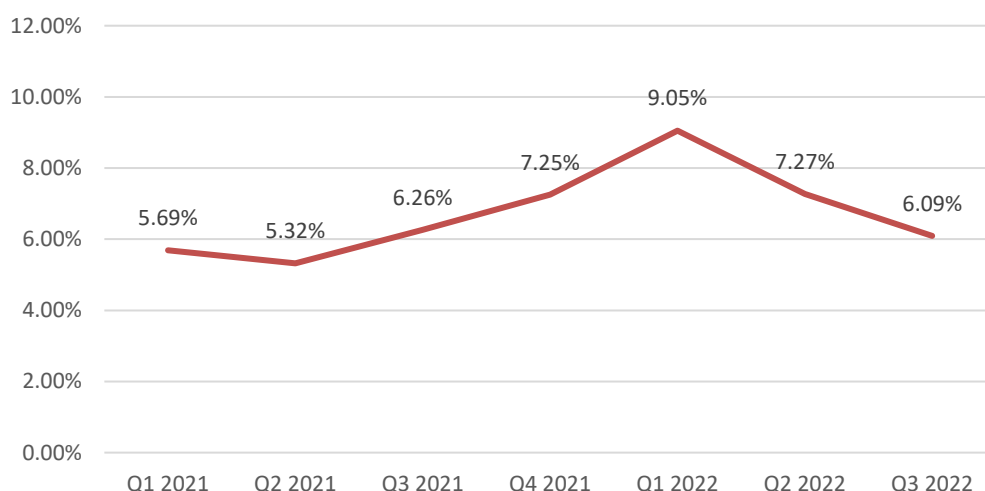
Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category

Staffing by Category	Q3 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q3 2022 v Q2 2022	Q3 2022 v Q3 2021
Social Work	1,594.68	1,645.29	1,607.14	1,614.96	7.82	20.28
Social Care	1,233.76	1,195.61	1,215.01	1,204.09	-10.92	-29.67
Admin Grade III-VII	973.48	1,009.11	1,007	1,041.39	34.39	67.91
Family Support	129.71	135.15	131.92	132.29	0.37	2.58
Management VIII+	223.53	234.87	240.32	245.24	4.92	21.71
Educational and Welfare Officer	108.08	111	113.06	113.84	0.78	5.76
Other Support Staff inc catering	43.95	42.13	43.15	42.82	-0.33	-1.13
Nursing	5.19	5.08	4.51	4.44	-0.07	-0.75
Psychologists & Counsellors	31.09	30.55	29.36	27.4	-1.96	-3.69
Other Health Professionals	172.84	179.82	182.61	182.12	-0.49	9.28
Total Staffing	4,516	4,589	4,574	4,609	34.59	92.28

- 561 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first nine months of 2022.
- 426 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first nine months of 2022.
- 92 staff retired in in the first nine months of 2022.
- 158 (3%) staff were on maternity leave at the end of Q3 2022.

7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of Q3 2022, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.09%, 1.18 percentage points lower than Q2 2022 (7.27%) and 0.17 percentage points lower than Q3 2021 (6.26%).



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff at 9.31%. The rate for Residential Services (11.52%) (data not shown), is five percentage points higher than the overall rate of 6.09%. The overall absence rate excluding Residential Services is 6.64%.

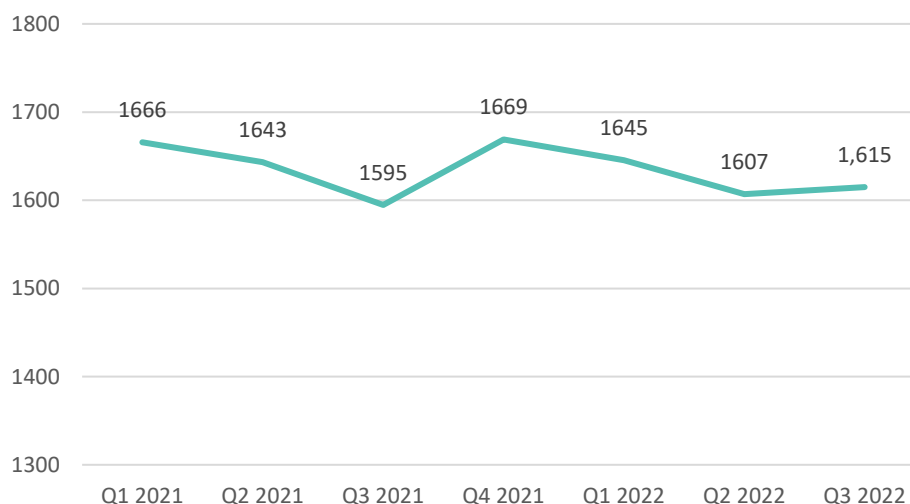
Absence rate by staff grade

Staff Grade	Absence Rate Q1 2022	Absence Rate Q2 2022	Absence Rate Q3 2022
Social Work	8.04%	6.57%	5.03%
Social Care	13.25%	11.09%	9.31%
All other grades	7.02%	5.17%	4.75%

7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,615 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2022, eight more than Q2 2022 (1,607) and 20 more than Q3 2021 (1,595).

Number of social workers (WTE) by quarter



- 179 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in in the first nine months of 2022.
- 240 social workers left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks excluding retirements) in the first nine months of 2022.
- 26 social workers retired in in the first nine months of 2022.
- 86 (5%) social workers were on maternity leave at the end of Q3 2022.
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q3 2021 to Q3 2022 by area is presented in the table below.

Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q2 2021 – Q2 2022

	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)
Area	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022
DSC	88.27	98.57	88.39	82.21	77.3
DSE/WW	94.87	101.09	98.72	93.17	92.45
DSW/K/WW	110.06	112.62	109.72	107.67	111.96
Midlands	90.47	94.89	94.11	90.76	90.24
Regional Services DML	12.54	13.44	14.14	15.1	15.18
DML Total	396.21	420.61	405.08	388.91	387.13
CN/MN	40.37	41.72	41.52	45.84	49.3
DNC	104.32	104.64	103.13	88.63	81.93
LH/MH	83.14	89.69	92.35	86.97	89.62
Dublin North	89.2	102.95	98.03	90.79	94.96
Regional Services DNE	15.35	13.29	12.13	12.18	9.6
DNE Total	332.38	352.29	347.16	324.41	325.41
CW/KK/ST	58.91	67.37	67.59	66.63	66.22
Cork	174.41	175.65	171.36	162.37	166.93
Kerry	39.44	42.22	44.11	44.56	46.4
WD/WX	85.09	85	85.92	91.29	92.09
Regional Services South		0.98	1.81	2	2
South Total	357.85	371.22	370.79	366.85	373.64
Donegal	66.34	66.93	69.39	68.77	70.68
GY/RN	93.64	92.84	93.48	98.72	97.58
Mayo	33.16	40.03	39.67	39.34	38.29
Mid West	114.8	121.57	116.39	115.53	119.65
SLWC	36.62	38.49	38.77	40.32	40.32
Regional Services West	1.86	1.86	2.37	2.57	1.83
West Total	346.42	361.72	360.37	365.25	368.35
Residential DML					
Residential DNE	2	2.6	2.6	2.54	2.62
Residential West					
Residential South	1.99	2	2	1.48	0.92
National; residential					1.00

Residential Services	3.99	4.6	4.6	4.02	4.54
Corporate	157.83	158.49	157.29	157.7	155.89
Early Years Inspectorate	6.96				
Corporate	157.83	158.49	157.29	157.7	155.89
Total	1,594.68	1,668.93	1,645.29	1,607.14	1,614.96

7.4 Workforce Learning and Development (WLD)

- Table 1 shows classroom training attendance for Q3 2022
- Table 2 shows E-learning activity for Q3 2022.
- The most attended classroom training was the Violence Harassment and Aggression Awareness Workshop with 560 participants for this quarter.
- The most popular E-learning module was 'Implementing Children First in Tusla' with 588 completions. This was followed by the 'Introduction to Children First' module with 500 completions.

Table 1: Virtual Classroom Training, Q3 2022

Name of Module	Total Completions
Child & Youth Participation Virtual Classroom	13
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Refresher Programme	52
National Child Care Information System (NCCIS) Fundamentals Training	112
NUIG/Tusla Event	60
Microsoft Outlook Training	12
Microsoft Excel Advanced Training	12
Microsoft Forms Training	6
Microsoft Word Advanced Training	11
Microsoft Powerpoint Advanced Training	3
Microsoft Powerpoint Foundations Training	2
Microsoft Teams Training	18
Sharing Personal Data Safely	74
Tusla Coaching Skills Programme	4
Grade V Induction	22
Court Skills in Practice - Mock court session for child care cases	19
Office for Legal Services, Briefings 2022 - Classroom Based	26
Staff Fire Safety Training	19
Tusla Manual Handling	112
Violence Harassment & Aggression (VHA)	560
Birth Information and Tracing TCM	33
Making the Most Of Supervision for Supervisees	6
Regional Workshop for Adoption Tracing Staff	80
Attachment Relationships in Tusla Practice	64
Total	1,320*

* This figure does not include the Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure and Tusla Case Management training attendance for the period.

Table 2: E-Learning Q3 2022

Name of Module	Total Completions
An Introduction to Parental Participation for all staff	50
Birth Information and Tracing TCM	33
An Introduction to Tusla's Approach to Commissioning	16
Tusla Case Management - The Fundamentals	365
CF in Action	448
Child Sexual Exploitation	76
Complaint Handling in Tusla Module1	315
Complaints Handling in Tusla Module2	109
Critical Incident Stress Management	44
Data Protection in Tusla	311
Freedom of Information: An Introduction to the FOI Act	228
Health and Safety Management: Introduction for Line Managers	35
Hidden Harm	62
Implementing CF	588
Introduction to Children First	500
Meitheal Briefing	40
Minute Taking - An Introduction	23
Parental Participation in Practice	21
Revised Standard Business Process (NCCIS)	40
Tusla Employee Health & Safety	472
Tusla NIMS (Complaints) Training Programme	13
Organisational Risk Management	92
CASP e-learning	295
Total	4,176

Other Achievements of Note for Q3 2022:

- Tusla Coaching Network was launched by Magdalena Mook CEO ICF on September 15th
- A pilot Induction Programme for Children's Residential Services and Special Care Staff was facilitated to prepare new staff and have them work ready. This included key mandatory training elements to have workers prepared for frontline work.
- WLD coordinated the delivery of six Child Trafficking Workshops (Hidden in Plain Sight) by experts in the area for 114 staff
- E-Learning Training Modules to support implementation of the TCM system were developed by WLD

8 FINANCE

KEY FACTS

- The outturn for the year to date (Sept 2022) is an overspend of €9.242 million.
- The net expenditure for the year to date is €683.351 million against a budget allocation of €674.108 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget for the year to date by €15.157 million
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €28.172 million

Financial Performance

- The outturn for the year to date (Sept 2022) is an overspend of €9.242 million.
- The net expenditure for the year to date is €683.351 million against a budget allocation of €674.108 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget for the year to date by €15.157 million

Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	September 2022 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Pay costs	251.027	266.183	(-15.157)	(-6%)

- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €28.172 million

Non-Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	September 2022 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Non pay costs	456.357	428.185	28.172	7%

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
SWTSCSIP	Social Work Team for Separated Children Seeking International Protection