



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 3 2024



Quality & Regulation Directorate

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1.0 PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

This report provides an update on the performance and activity of Tusla services at the end of Q3 2024. It is structured around key performance and activity measures included in the Agency's Business Plan. The data presented was provided by services and refers to the latest performance and activity information available at this time. **These data can change from data previously published due to the ongoing validation of data.**

The summary by service type set out below provides an overview of the Q3 2024 position regarding activity and performance.

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

REFERRALS (data on referrals reported quarterly in arrears)

- 24,485 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q2 2024, 886 (4%) more than Q1 2024 (23,599) and 1,305 (6%) more than Q2 2023 (23,180). This brings to 48,084 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2024, 1,089 (2%) more than the same period in 2023 (46,995).
- 60% (28,831) of referrals for the first six months of 2024 were for welfare concerns, 39% (18,987) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (266) of referrals.
- most common source of referrals for the first six months of 2024 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 33% (16,044) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (12%; 5,589), safeguarding officers (12%; 5,578) and social workers (11%; 5,302). Mandated persons accounted for 90% (43,237) of all sources.
- 59% (14,481/24,485) of referrals for Q2 2024 were closed following screening; 28% (6,740) progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (13%; 3,264) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.
- 50% (7,302) of referrals for Q2 2024 were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 37% (5,354) were closed to social work with no further action required, 8% (1,203) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (235) were diverted to another agency.
- At the time the data for Q2 2024 was extracted for reporting, 98% (6,615/6,740) of preliminary enquiries were completed.
- Of the preliminary enquiry completed, 45% (2,964) required no further action; 34% (2,260) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (308) of cases. Some 10% (637) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS.
- At the time the Q2 2024 data was extracted for reporting, 57% (1,297/2,260) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed.
- 54% (706) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 62% (437) required

no further action, 17% (122) were diverted to another agency for a service, 15% (108) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 6% (39) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.

- 26% (341) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 15% (200) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 4% (50) required admission to care.

SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA

- 20,861 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q3 2024, 547 (3%) fewer than Q2 2024 (21,408) and 1,502 (7%) fewer than Q3 2023 (22,363).
- 79% (16,582) of open cases were allocated to a worker at the end of Q3 2024, up two percentage points from Q2 2024 (77%).
- 4,279 (21%) cases were awaiting allocation, 620 (13%) fewer than Q2 2024 (4,899) and 1,111 (21%) fewer than Q3 2023 (5,390).
- Six areas account for 70% (2,993) of cases awaiting allocation, Dublin South Central (980; 23%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (538; 13%), Midlands (422; 10%), Cork (398; 9%), Louth/Meath (369; 9%) and Midwest (286; 7%).
- 36% (1,523) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2024 were “active” on a duty system
- 10% (445) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2024 were categorised as high priority, 55 (11%) fewer than Q2 2024 (500) and 37 (8%) fewer than Q3 2023 (482).
- 57% (2,418/4,279) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2024 were waiting three months or less and of these 63% (1,533) were waiting less than one month.
- 58% (256/445) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2024 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 61% (155) were waiting less than one month.

CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

- 1,056 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of Q3 2024, 32 (3%) more than Q2 2024 (1,024) and the seventh consecutive increase.
- 129 (14%) more children “active” at the end of Q3 2024 than at the end of Q3 2023 (927).
- 82% (870/1,056) of children were listed as “active” for no longer than 12 months, down slightly from 83% (850/1,024) at the end of Q2 2024.
- 7% (71/1,056) of children were listed as “active” for > 18 months, up from 5% (56/1,024) at the end of Q2 2024 and an increase of 15 children.
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q3 2024 had an allocated social worker.

ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

CHILDREN IN CARE

- 5,760 children in care at the end of Q3 2024, 44 (<1%) fewer than Q2 2024 (5,804). This figure (5,760) includes 115 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.
- 87.4% (5,035) of children in care were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q3 2024 and 8.7% (501) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 3.9% (224) of children were in “Other” care placements. *“Other” includes at home under a care order, supported lodgings, detention centre, disability unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, not specified etc.*
- Across the 17 Areas, 88.8% (5,012/5,645) were in foster care, 7.6% (429) were in residential care and the remaining 3.6% (204) were in “other” care placements.
- 977 (17%) children in care at the end of Q3 2024 were in placements with private providers¹, 31 (3%) more than Q2 2024 (946).
- Across the 17 areas there were 39 (4%) more children in placements with private providers at the end of Q3 2024 (914) than at the end of Q2 2024 (875).
- 84% (4,836) of children in care at the end of Q3 2024 had an allocated worker, up four percentage points from Q2 2024 (80%). Some 924 (16%) children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q3 2024, 209 (18%) fewer than Q2 204 (1,133).
- 85% (4,908) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, up one percentage point from Q1 2024 (84%). A total of 852 (15%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 105 (11%) fewer than Q2 2024 (957).
- 97% (3,598/3,722) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q3 2024, up two percentage point from Q2 2024 (95%).
- 92% (887/962) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q3 2024, no change from Q2 2024.

AFTERCARE

- 116 referrals for an aftercare service in Q3 2024. This brings to 423 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2024, 23 more than the same period in 2023 (400).
- 2,915 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2024, 12 (<1%) fewer than Q2 2024 (2,927 revised figure) and 54 (2%) fewer than Q3 2023 (2,969). *Figures include young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*
- 77% (1,708/2,208) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q3 2024 were in education/accredited training.
- Almost half (46%; 1,005) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,208) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 10% (219) had returned home to parents/family. One in five (23%; 499) was in independent living arrangements.

- 81% (2,365) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2024 had an aftercare plan, down one percentage point from Q2 2024 (82%). A total of 550 were awaiting a plan, 12 (2%) more than Q2 2024 (538).
- 88% (2,003/2,282) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2024, no change from Q2 2024. A total of 279 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2024, 16 (6%) more than Q2 2024 (263).
- 99.6% (261/262) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2024.
- 86% (1,742/2,020) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2024.

ADOPTION SERVICES

- 62 new children referred for adoption during Q3 2024. This brings to 151 the number of new children referred for adoption during the first nine months of 2024. A total of 225 new children referred for adoption in 2023.
- 51 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q3 2024. Of these, 23 (45%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 11 (22%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 17 (33%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

FOSTER CARERS

- 3,854 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q3 2024, 12 (<1%) more than Q2 2024 (3,842) and 23 (<1%) fewer than Q3 2023 (3,877). *Increase from Q2 2024 partly explained by validation of register in one area.*
- 54 Tusla foster carers (28 general & 26 relative) and three private foster carers approved in Q3 2024. This brings to 161 the number of Tusla foster carers (78 general and 83 relative) and 21 the number of private foster carers approved in the first nine months of 2024.
- 25 applicants to be general foster carers awaiting assessment at the end of Q3 2024 with a further four applicants awaiting approval by the foster care committee.
- 78 applications for general foster care and 148 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q3 2024.
- 93% (2,061) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2024, no change from Q2 2024.
- 149 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 13 (8%) fewer than Q2 2024 (162).
- 96% (945) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2024, up one percentage point from Q2 2024 (95%).
- 42 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q3 2024, 8 (16%) fewer than Q2 2024 (50).

- 99% (194) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. Two carers were awaiting a link worker, five fewer than Q2 2024 (7).

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- 4,042 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q3 2024, 16 (<1%) more than Q2 2024 (4,026) and no change from Q3 2023.
- 527 inspections (all types) carried out in Q3 2024. This brings to 1,696 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2024, 92 (5%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (1,788).
- 31 applications to register as a new service, received by the Inspectorate in Q3 2024, bringing the number of applications received for the first nine months of 2024 to 124. A total of 146 applications were received in 2023.
- 169 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q3 2024, bringing the number notified for the first nine months of 2024 to 546. A total of 855 incidents notified in 2023.
- 130 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q3 2024, bringing the number of submissions for the first nine months of 2024 to 322. A total of 490 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during 2023.
- 41 services were found to have closed in the first nine months of 2024, bringing the number for the first nine months of 2024 to 82. A total of 115 services were found to have closed in 2023.

ALTERNATIVE CARE INSPECTION & MONITORING SERVICE

- 182 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q3 2024; 12 (7%) more than Q2 2024 (170).
- 57 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q3 2024, bringing to 159 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2024. A total of 144 inspections were carried out during the same period in 2023.
- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q3 2024, no change from Q2 2024. Two non-statutory foster care services visited, and two monitoring visits conducted during the first nine months of 2024.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

Home Education

- 2,143 children on the register for home education at the end of Q3 2024. *As outlined in a recently published regulatory notice (AEARS – RNo1.1), children and young people aged 16+ who meet specific criteria, as outlined in the notice, will automatically cease to be included on the section 14 register. In response to the notice, 475 children who met these criteria were removed from the register at the end of August, resulting in the large drop in the register numbers.*

- 318 applications received for home education during Q3 2024, bringing to 876 the number of applications received for the first nine months of 2024, 103 (11%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (979).
- 294 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q3 2024, bringing to 935 the number of assessments carried out for the first nine months of 2024, 207 (28%) more than the same period in 2023 (728).
- 808 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q3 2024, 68 (8%) fewer than Q2 2024 (876) and 441 (35%) fewer than Q3 2023 (1,249).

Independent Schools

- 61 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q3 2024, no change from Q2 2024.
- 6,605 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q3 2024 with 4,686 of these children on the register.
- 6 schools due for assessment at the end of Q3 2024.

TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2023 – August 2024

- 8,042 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) during the academic year 2023-2024, 658 (9%) more than the previous academic year (7,384).
- 3,509 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of August 2024, 25 (<1%) fewer than August 2023 (3,484).
- 3,924 new individual children worked with during the academic year 2023-2024, 523 (15%) more than the previous academic year (3,401).
- 7,575 individual children worked with during the academic year 2023-2024, 697 (10%) more than the previous academic year (6,878).
- 681 school attendance notices (SANs) issued during the academic year 2023-2024, 171 (34%) more than the previous academic year (510). The SANs issued were in respect of 494 individual children, 138 (39%) more than the previous academic year (356).
- 136 summonses issued during the academic year 2023-2024, 25 (23%) more than the previous academic year (111). The summonses were in respect of 111 individual children, 38 (52%) more than the previous academic year (73).
- 271 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs during the academic year 2023-2024, 13 (5%) more than the previous academic year (258).

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.

- 442 family support providers commissioned (H1 2024). 85% (375) of services commissioned provided data for H1 2024.
- At least 21,620 children were in receipt of family support services at the end of H1 2024. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- At least 24,914 children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2024.
- 63% (15,709) of children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2024 received a service during that period. The percentage who received a service ranged from 33% (Waterford/Wexford) to 95% (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 63%.

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

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

PEOPLE & CHANGE

- 5,162 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2024, 37 (<1%) more than Q2 2024 (5,125) and 192 (4%) more than Q3 2023 (4,970).
- 673 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first nine months of 2024, 56 (8%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (729).
- 332 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first nine months of 2024, 52 (14%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (384).
- At the end of Q3 2024, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.36%, down slightly from 6.79% at the end of Q2 2024 and up 0.66 percentage points from Q3 2023 (5.7%).
- e-learning training activity: 7,794 completions were achieved in Q3 2024
- Classroom training: 2,573 participants attended in Q3 2024.

FINANCE

- The outturn for the year to date (September YTD) is an overspend of €42.526 million (5%)
- The net expenditure is €825.309 million against a budget allocation of €788.722 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €8.154 million.
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €52.368 million.

2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

Key Facts

- 24,485 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q2 2024, 886 (4%) more than Q1 2024 (23,599) and 1,305 (6%) more than Q2 2023 (23,180). This brings to 48,084 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2024, 1,089 (2%) more than the same period in 2023 (46,995).
- 60% (28,831) of referrals for the first six months of 2024 were for welfare concerns, 39% (18,987) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (266) of referrals.
- most common source of referrals for the first six months of 2024 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 33% (16,044) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (12%; 5,589), safeguarding officers (12%; 5,578) and social workers (11%; 5,302). Mandated persons accounted for 90% (43,237) of all sources.
- 59% (14,481/24,485) of referrals for Q2 2024 were closed following screening; 28% (6,740) progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (13%; 3,264) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.
- 50% (7,302) of referrals for Q2 2024 were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 37% (5,354) were closed to social work with no further action required, 8% (1,203) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (235) were diverted to another agency.
- At the time the data for Q2 2024 was extracted for reporting, 98% (6,615/6,740) of preliminary enquiries were completed.
- Of the preliminary enquiry completed, 45% (2,964) required no further action; 34% (2,260) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (308) of cases. Some 10% (637) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS.
- At the time the Q2 2024 data was extracted for reporting, 57% (1,297/2,260) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed.
- 54% (706) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 62% (437) required no further action, 17% (122) were diverted to another agency for a service, 15% (108) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 6% (39) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- 26% (341) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 15% (200) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 4% (50) required admission to care.

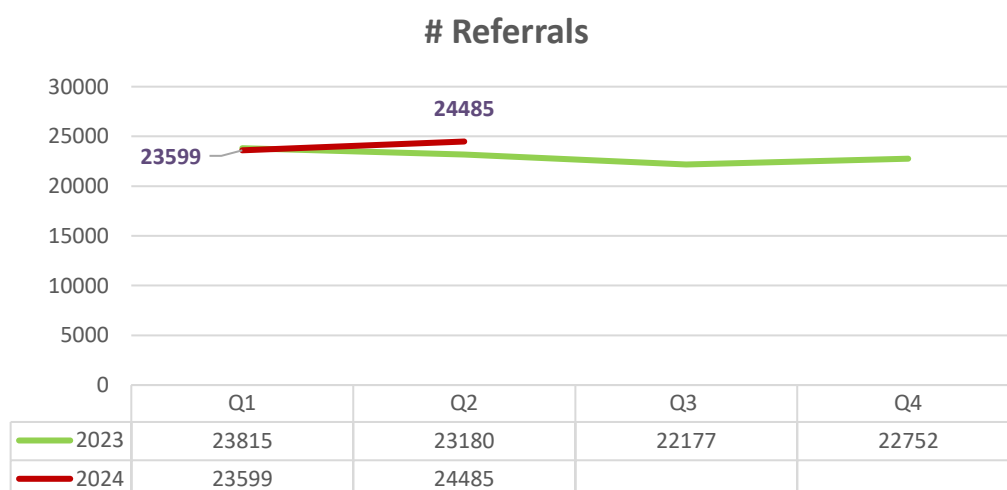
KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- 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

- 24,485 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q2 2024¹, 886 (4%) more than Q1 2024 (23,599) and 1,305 (6%) more than Q2 2023 (23,180). This brings to 48,084 the number of referrals for the first six months of 2024, 1,089 (2%) more than the same period in 2023 (46,995).



- 60% (28,831) of referrals for the first six months of 2024 were for welfare concerns, 39% (18,987) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (266) of referrals (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1: Percentage of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Total 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	2024 YTD
Welfare	59.5%	58.6%	61.3%	60.0%
Emotional abuse	17.3%	18.3%	16.9%	17.6%
Neglect	5.6%	6.4%	5.8%	6.1%
Physical abuse	9.1%	10.3%	9.7%	10.0%
Sexual abuse	5.9%	5.9%	5.7%	5.8%
Not recorded	2.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

¹ Data on referrals are reported quarterly in arrears.

Table 2: Number of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Total 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	2024 YTD
Welfare	54,721	13,833	14,998	28,831
Emotional abuse	15,908	4,319	4,148	8,467
Neglect	5,178	1,500	1,428	2,928
Physical abuse	8,375	2,426	2,364	4,790
Sexual abuse	5,467	1,396	1,406	2,802
Not recorded	2,275	125	141	266
Total	91,924	23,599	24,485	48,084

Referrals by Area

- The number of referrals for the first six months of 2024 equates to about 40 referrals per 1,000 population under 18 years. *Note, the actual number of children referred is likely to be fewer as more than one referral can be received in relation to a child.* The rate of referrals ranges from about 21 per 1,000 (Dublin South East/Wicklow) to 60 per 1,000 (Midlands). Eight areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average of 39.5/1,000.
- The highest number of referrals for the first six months of 2024 was reported by Midlands (4,856) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (4,709), Dublin North (4,635), Cork (4,433) and Dublin South Central (4,113). The fewest number was reported by Mayo (715) followed by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (771) and Kerry (1,162). A breakdown of referrals by area is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Breakdown of referrals by area

Area	Total 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	2024 YTD	Pop	Rate / 1000 2024 YTD
Dublin South Central	6,895	2,116	1,997	4,113	70,259	58.5
DSE/WW	3,627	921	956	1,877	91,047	20.6
DSW/K/WW	8,873	2,384	2,325	4,709	108,927	43.2
Midlands	8,889	2,328	2,528	4,856	80,962	60.0
Dublin North City	5,446	1,341	1,332	2,673	48,909	54.7
Dublin North	9,341	2,210	2,425	4,635	104,281	44.4
Louth / Meath	7,261	1,841	1,994	3,835	96,531	39.7
Cavan / Monaghan	2,719	796	724	1,520	37,336	40.7
Cork	8,333	2,209	2,224	4,433	136,786	32.4
Kerry	2,704	558	604	1,162	34,994	33.2
CW/K/ST	4,361	1,058	1,070	2,128	62,366	34.1
Waterford/Wexford	6,394	1,611	1,784	3,395	69,239	49.0
Mid West	7,120	1,777	1,786	3,563	96,764	36.8
Galway/Roscommon	4,552	1,011	1,207	2,218	81,799	27.1
Mayo	1,320	377	338	715	31,911	22.4
Donegal	2,572	697	784	1,481	42,144	35.1
SLWC	1,517	364	407	771	24,312	31.7
Total	91,924	23,599	24,485	48,084	1,218,567	39.5

Population (0-17 years) based on Census 2022

Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals for the first six months of 2024 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 33% (16,044) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (12%; 5,589), safeguarding officers (12%; 5,578) and social workers (11%; 5,302). Mandated persons accounted for 90% (43,237) of all sources. The source of all referrals is presented in Table 4 below.

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

Source	Q2 2024	% Total	2024 YTD	% Total
Member of An Garda Síochána	8,190	33.4%	16,044	33.4%
Teacher	2,619	10.7%	5,589	11.6%
A safe guarding Officer,	3,029	12.4%	5,578	11.6%
Social worker	2,563	10.5%	5,302	11.0%
Social Care worker	1,055	4.3%	2,154	4.5%
Anonymous	1,105	4.5%	2,031	4.2%
Medical Practitioner	833	3.4%	1,696	3.5%
Parent / Guardian	759	3.1%	1,430	3.0%
Registered Nurse/midwife	690	2.8%	1,304	2.7%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	618	2.5%	1,077	2.2%
Psychologist	479	2.0%	869	1.8%
Youth worker	416	1.7%	840	1.7%
Psychotherapist	420	1.7%	810	1.7%
Manager homeless / emergency accommodation	332	1.4%	660	1.4%
Other Family Member	236	1.0%	549	1.1%
Not specified	141	0.6%	265	0.6%
Courts 1 (S20 Child Care Act 1991)	135	0.6%	250	0.5%
Person, care / management of a youth work service	96	0.4%	197	0.4%
Manager of asylum seeker accommodation	97	0.4%	170	0.4%
Child care staff member - pre-school service	75	0.3%	153	0.3%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	71	0.3%	150	0.3%
Probation Officer	64	0.3%	149	0.3%
Member of the Public	80	0.3%	120	0.2%
Occupational therapist	60	0.2%	105	0.2%
An addiction counsellor	40	0.2%	70	0.1%
Physiotherapist	47	0.2%	69	0.1%
Self	32	0.1%	65	0.1%
Courts 3 (Other Court Request)	28	0.1%	61	0.1%
Other	42	0.2%	60	0.1%
Speech and Language therapist	29	0.1%	57	0.1%
Guardian Ad Litem	30	0.1%	53	0.1%
Emergency medical technician	19	0.1%	43	0.1%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	18	0.1%	35	0.1%
Director institution where a child is detained	14	0.1%	31	0.1%
Immigration Services	7	0.0%	16	0.0%
Manager of a language school or other	10	0.0%	14	0.0%

Dentist	*	0.0%	11	0.0%
Member of the Clergy	*	0.0%	*	0.0%
Mandated person – not specified	0	0.0%	*	0.0%
Total	2,4485	100.0%	48,084	100.0%

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

Mandated Reports

- 32% (15,499/48,084) of all referrals for the first six months of 2024 were mandated reports.
- A breakdown of mandated reports by primary report type is presented in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Mandated reports by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Q2 2024	% Total	2024 YTD	% Total
Physical Abuse	2,049	27%	4,184	27%
Emotional Abuse	3,130	42%	6,542	42%
Sexual Abuse	1,280	17%	2,514	16%
Neglect	1,055	14%	2,259	15%
Total	7,514	100%	15,499	100%

- A breakdown of mandated reports by area is presented in Table 6 below. The number of mandated reports for the first six months of 2024 ranges from 319 (2%) (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 2,007 (13%) (Dublin North).

Table 6: Mandated reports by area

Area	Q2 2024	% Total	2024 YTD	% Total
Dublin South Central	619	8.2%	1,439	9.3%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	301	4.0%	744	4.8%
DSW/K/WW	533	7.1%	1,118	7.2%
Midlands	679	9.0%	1,331	8.6%
Dublin North City	335	4.5%	732	4.7%
Dublin North	943	12.5%	2,007	12.9%
Louth/Meath	891	11.9%	1,789	11.5%
Cavan/Monaghan	166	2.2%	364	2.3%
Cork	616	8.2%	1,323	8.5%
Kerry	221	2.9%	420	2.7%
CW/K/ST	250	3.3%	496	3.2%
Waterford/Wexford	359	4.8%	743	4.8%
Mid West	518	6.9%	983	6.3%
Galway/Roscommon	415	5.5%	754	4.9%
Mayo	211	2.8%	454	2.9%
Donegal	288	3.8%	483	3.1%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	169	2.2%	319	2.1%
Total	7,514	100.0%	15,499	100.0%

- A breakdown of source of mandated reports is presented in Table 7 below. The most common source of reports for the first six months of 2024 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 37% (5,740) of all mandated reports, followed to a lesser extent by teachers (16%; 2,408), safeguarding officers (13%; 2,010) and social workers (11%; 1,714).

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

Source	Q2 2024	% Total	2024 YTD	% Total
Member of An Garda Siochana	2,793	37.2%	5,740	37.0%
Teacher	1,106	14.7%	2,408	15.5%
A safe guarding Officer,	1,012	13.5%	2,010	13.0%
Social worker	788	10.5%	1,714	11.1%
Social Care worker	360	4.8%	706	4.6%
Medical Practitioner	258	3.4%	542	3.5%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	254	3.4%	447	2.9%
Psychotherapist	195	2.6%	408	2.6%
Psychologist	194	2.6%	368	2.4%
Registered Nurse/midwife	145	1.9%	304	2.0%
Youth worker	135	1.8%	290	1.9%
Manager of homeless emergency accommodation facility	70	0.9%	138	0.9%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	31	0.4%	65	0.4%
Person care or management of a youth work service	22	0.3%	62	0.4%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	26	0.3%	57	0.4%
Physiotherapist	24	0.3%	32	0.2%
Occupational therapist	17	0.2%	30	0.2%
Manager of asylum Seeker accommodation	15	0.2%	30	0.2%
Guardian Ad Litem	15	0.2%	28	0.2%
An Addiction counsellor	10	0.1%	25	0.2%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	10	0.1%	20	0.1%
Probation Officer	6	0.1%	19	0.1%
Speech and Language therapist	10	0.1%	19	0.1%
Emergency medical technician	6	0.1%	12	0.1%
Director institution where a child is detained	8	0.1%	12	0.1%
Dentist	*	0.0%	*	0.1%
Manager of a language school or other	*	0.0%	*	0.0%
Member of the Clergy	*	0.0%	*	0.0%
Total	7,514	100.0%	15,499	100.0%

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

Screening

- 59% (14,481/24,485) of referrals for Q2 2024 were closed following screening (Table 8).
- 28% (6,740) of referrals for Q2 2024 progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (13%; 3,264) 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 Q2 2024
Dublin South Central	58%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	56%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	63%
Midlands	67%
Dublin North City	60%
Dublin North	71%
Louth/Meath	50%
Cavan/Monaghan	48%
Cork	62%
Kerry	26%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	67%
Waterford/Wexford	67%
Mid West	62%
Galway/Roscommon	27%
Mayo	57%
Donegal	64%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	48%
Total	59%

- A breakdown of the outcome of referrals closed following screening is presented below (Table 9).
- 50% (7,302) of referrals for Q2 2024 were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 37% (5,354) were closed to social work with no further action required, 8% (1,203) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (235) were diverted to another agency.

Table 9: Outcome of referrals closed following screening

Outcome of referrals closed	Q2 2024	% Total
No further action - close	5,354	37%
No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	7,302	50%
Divert to another agency - close	235	2%
Divert to PPFS - close	1,203	8%
Other / Not recorded	387	3%
Total	14,481	100%

- The percentage breakdown of outcomes of referrals for Q2 2024 closed following screening, by area is presented in the table below (Table 10).

Table 10: Outcome of referrals closed following screening by area, Q2 2024

Area	No further action - close	No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	Divert to PPFS - close
Dublin South Central	15%	78%	4%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	33%	59%	4%
DSW/K/WW	37%	45%	12%
Midlands	35%	58%	4%
Dublin North City	39%	52%	7%
Dublin North	27%	41%	30%
Louth/Meath	30%	57%	1%
Cavan/Monaghan	14%	68%	9%
Cork	36%	50%	6%
Kerry	36%	62%	0%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	69%	27%	2%
Waterford/Wexford	49%	37%	10%
Mid West	47%	46%	1%
Galway/Roscommon	43%	53%	2%
Mayo	67%	30%	2%
Donegal	44%	48%	4%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	47%	48%	1%
Total	37%	50%	8%

Preliminary Enquiries

- At the time the data for Q2 2024 was extracted for reporting, 98% (6,615/6,740) of preliminary enquiries were completed. A breakdown of preliminary enquiries completed by area is presented in the table below (Table 11).
- 13% (874) of preliminary enquiries that were completed within 5 working days. A breakdown of the percentage of preliminary enquiries completed within 5 working days by area is presented in the table below.

Table 11: Preliminary enquiries commenced and completed, Q2 2024

Area	# PEs commenced	# PEs completed	% PEs completed	% PEs completed 5 days
Dublin South Central	399	398	99.7%	5%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	277	264	95%	10%
DSW/K/WW	597	583	98%	8%
Midlands	399	396	99%	4%
Dublin North City	330	320	97%	5%
Dublin North	421	413	98%	14%
Louth/Meath	595	588	99%	10%
Cavan/Monaghan	294	279	95%	4%
Cork	647	631	98%	17%
Kerry	404	403	99.8%	28%
CW/K/ST	264	264	100%	11%

Waterford/Wexford	389	387	99%	11%
Mid West	506	490	97%	13%
Galway/Roscommon	655	639	98%	20%
Mayo	113	113	100%	2%
Donegal	251	248	99%	21%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	199	199	100%	44%
Total	6,740	6,615	98%	13%

- Of the preliminary enquiry completed, 45% (2,964) required no further action; 34% (2,260) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (308) of cases. Some 10% (637) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS (Table 12).

Table 12: Outcomes from preliminary enquiries

Outcomes from preliminary enquiry	Q2 2024	% Total
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	2,964	45%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning Ongoing	308	5%
Divert to PPFS - Close	637	10%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	446	7%
Initial Assessment	2,260	34%
Total	6,615	100.00%

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

Table 13: Percentage breakdown of outcomes of preliminary enquiries, by area Q2 2024

Area	% Closed - No further Action	% Requiring IA	% Divert - PPFS	% Closed - Ongoing	% Closed - Divert to Another Agency
Dublin South Central	29%	46%	10%	8%	7%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	47%	37%	8%	3%	5%
DSW/K/WW	44%	34%	13%	2%	8%
Midlands	47%	33%	9%	6%	5%
Dublin North City	51%	37%	8%	3%	2%
Dublin North	32%	35%	25%	2%	5%
Louth/Meath	60%	23%	8%	1%	9%
Cavan/Monaghan	56%	16%	20%	5%	3%
Cork	49%	34%	4%	6%	7%
Kerry	55%	30%	3%	11%	1%
CW/K/ST	53%	27%	10%	10%	1%
Waterford/Wexford	28%	41%	17%	9%	5%
Mid West	31%	37%	2%	1%	28%
Galway/Roscommon	50%	36%	8%	1%	6%
Mayo	50%	39%	4%	2%	5%
Donegal	32%	45%	8%	13%	2%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	49%	39%	7%	4%	2%
Total	45%	34%	10%	5%	7%

Initial Assessments

- At the time the Q2 2024 data was extracted for reporting, 57% (1,297/2,260) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed (Table 14).
- 32% (417) of initial assessments completed were completed within 40 days of receipt of referral.

Table 14: Breakdown of the status of Initial assessments, by area Q2 2024

Area	% IA Closed	% IAs closed 40 working days
Dublin South Central	37%	31%
DSE/WW	59%	47%
DSW/K/WW	82%	28%
Midlands	36%	26%
Dublin North City	47%	5%
Dublin North	23%	6%
Louth/Meath	28%	14%
Cavan/Monaghan	49%	32%
Cork	46%	28%
Kerry	83%	51%
CW/K/ST	73%	29%
Waterford/Wexford	53%	29%
Mid West	79%	48%
Galway/Roscommon	77%	32%
Mayo	91%	8%
Donegal	44%	8%
SLWC	96%	62%
Total	57%	32%

- 54% (706) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 62% (437) required no further action, 17% (122) were diverted to another agency for a service, 15% (108) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 6% (39) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- 26% (341) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 15% (200) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 4% (50) required admission to care.
- The outcome of the initial assessments completed is presented in the table below.

Table 15: Breakdown of the outcome of initial assessments, Q2 2024

Outcomes from initial assessments	Q2 2024	% Total
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	437	34%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning Ongoing	39	3%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	122	9%
Divert to PPFS - Close	108	8%
Child Protection / CPC Safety Planning	200	15%
Safety Planning	341	26%
Admission to Care	50	4%
Total	1,297	100%

2.2 SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA (Child Protection & Welfare)

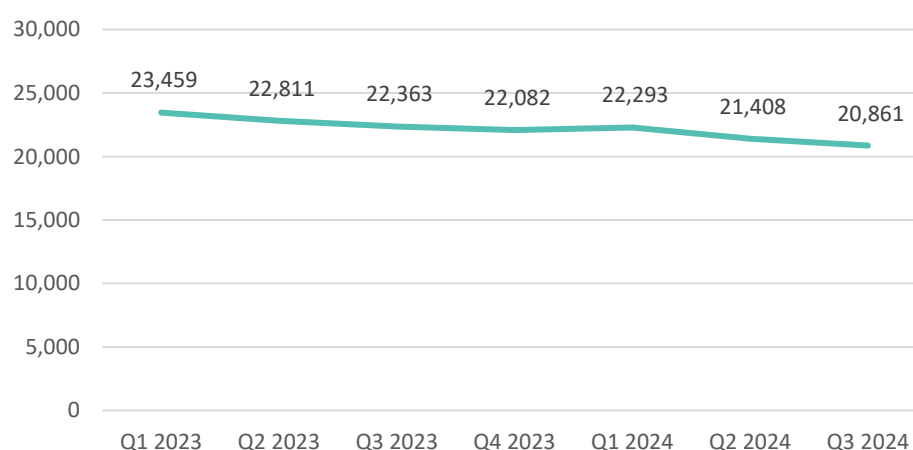
Key Facts

- 20,861 cases open¹ to social work nationally at the end of Q3 2024, 547 (3%) fewer than Q2 2024 (21,408) and 1,502 (7%) fewer than Q3 2023 (22,363).
- 79% (16,582) of open cases were allocated to a worker at the end of Q3 2024, up two percentage points from Q2 2024 (77%).
- 4,279 (21%) cases were awaiting allocation, 620 (13%) fewer than Q2 2024 (4,899) and 1,111 (21%) fewer than Q3 2023 (5,390).
- Six areas account for 70% (2,993) of cases awaiting allocation, Dublin South Central (980; 23%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (538; 13%), Midlands (422; 10%), Cork (398; 9%), Louth/Meath (369; 9%) and Midwest (286; 7%).
- 36% (1,523) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2024 were “active” on a duty system
- 10% (445) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2024 were categorised as high priority, 55 (11%) fewer than Q2 2024 (500) and 37 (8%) fewer than Q3 2023 (482).
- 58% (256/445) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2024 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 61% (155) were waiting less than one month.
- 57% (2,418/4,279) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2024 were waiting three months or less and of these 63% (1,533) were waiting less than one month.

2.2.1 Open Cases

- 20,861 cases open² to social work nationally at the end of Q3 2024, 547 (3%) fewer than Q2 2024 (21,408) and 1,502 (7%) fewer than Q3 2023 (22,363). *Note: data from September 2023 includes cases awaiting categorisation, hence comparison with previous quarters needs to be interpreted with caution.*³

Number of open cases by quarter

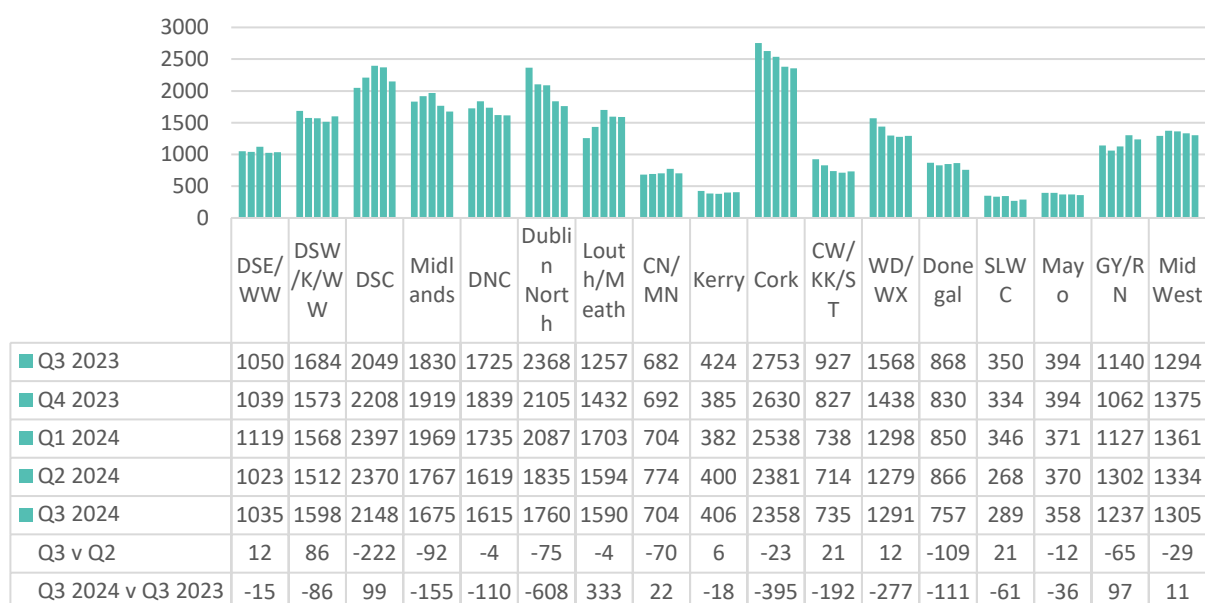


² Open cases include cases held on intake, allocated, unallocated child welfare and protection and children in care cases.

³ From September 2023, open cases (allocated/unallocated) include cases “awaiting categorisation” at month end. This is in addition to cases categorised as high, medium and low. The category “awaiting categorisation” was introduced this year to reflect better questions being asked at screening and awaiting information for slightly longer.

- The number of open cases ranged from 2,358 (11%) in Cork to 289 (1%) in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan. Nine of the 17 areas had between 1,000 and 2,000 cases; a further six areas had fewer than 1,000 cases while the remaining two areas (Cork and Dublin South Central) had in excess of 2,000 cases.
- 6 areas reported an increase in open cases from Q2 2024. The largest increase was reported by Dublin South West /Kildare / West Wicklow (up 86) followed by Carlow / Kilkenny / South Tipperary (up 21) and Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan (up 21).
- Of the 11 areas that reported a decrease, the largest decreases were reported by Dublin South Central (down 222), Donegal (down 109), Midlands (down 92), Dublin North (down 75) and Cavan / Monaghan (down 70).

Number of open cases by area



2.2.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

- 79% (16,582) of open cases were allocated to a worker at the end of Q3 2024, up two percentage points from Q2 2024 (77%). *Note: data from September 2023 includes cases awaiting categorisation, hence comparison with previous quarters needs to be interpreted with caution.*⁴

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

- 4,279 (21%) cases were awaiting allocation, 620 (13%) fewer than Q2 2024 (4,899) and 1,111 (21%) fewer than Q3 2023 (5,390). *Note: data from September 2023 includes cases awaiting categorisation, hence comparison with previous quarters needs to be interpreted with caution.*⁴

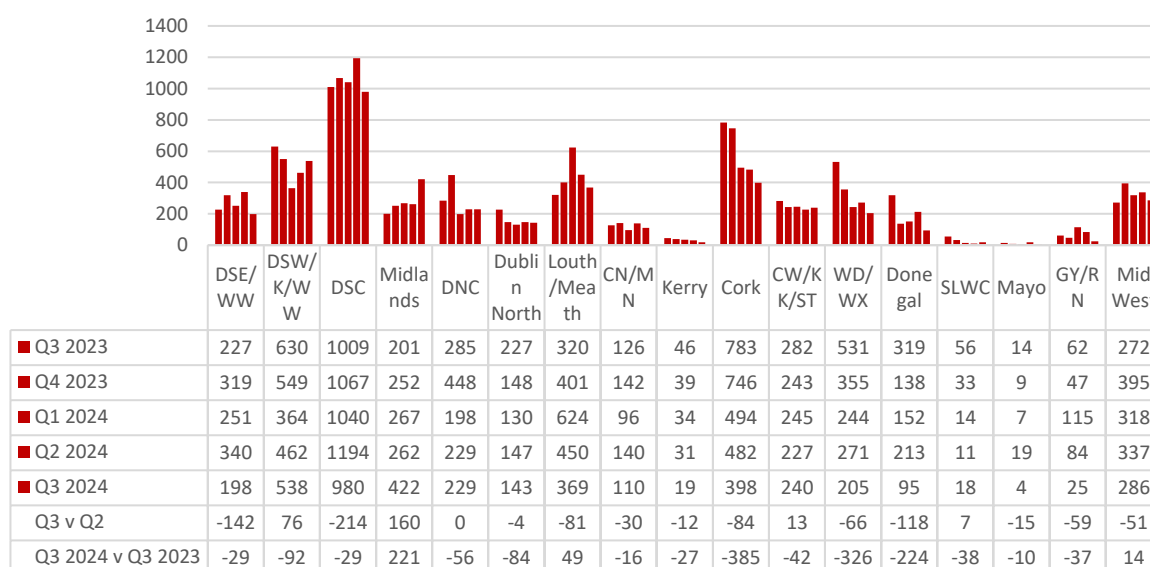
- 36% (1,523) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2024 were “active” on a duty system⁴.

Cases allocated/awaiting allocation



- Dublin South Central reported the highest number of cases awaiting allocation (980; 23%) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (538; 13%), Midlands (422; 10%), Cork (398; 9%), Louth/Meath (369; 9%) and Midwest (286; 7%). These six areas account for 70% (2,993) of cases awaiting allocation.
- 4 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from Q2 2024 with the largest increase reported by Midlands (up 160) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 76), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (up 13) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (up 7).
- 12 areas reported a decrease with the largest decrease reported by Dublin South Central (down 214), Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 142), Donegal (down 118), cork (down 84), Louth/Meath (down 81) and Waterford/Wexford (down 66). The remaining area (Dublin North city) reported no change.

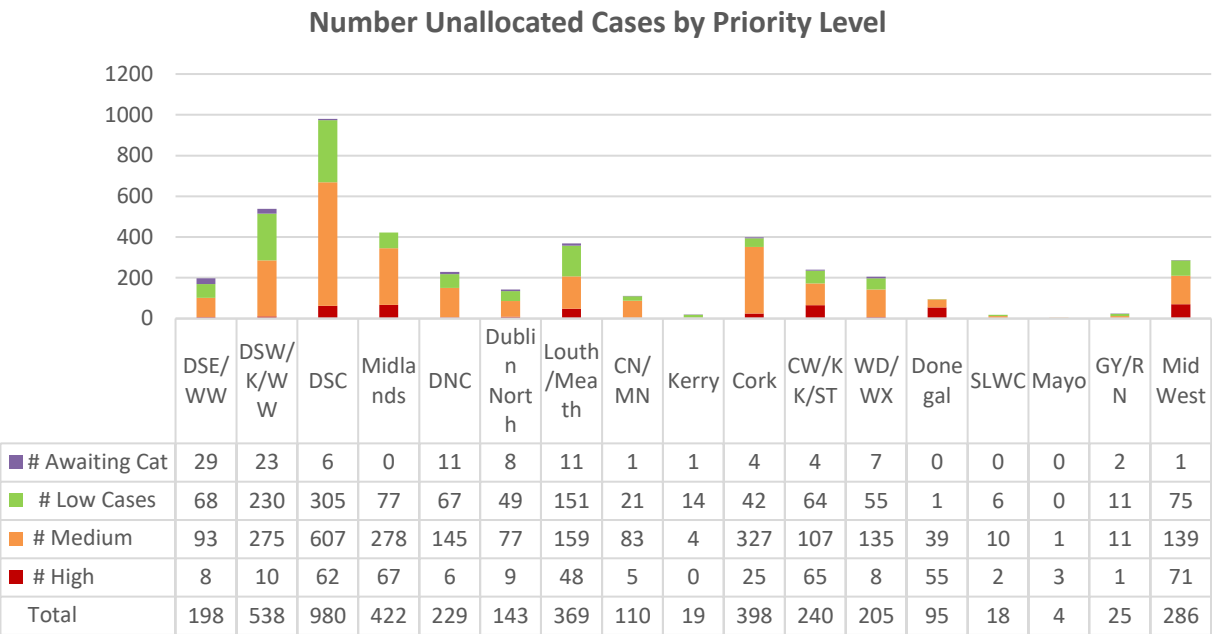
Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area



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.

2.2.3 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Priority Level

- 10% (445) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2024 were categorised as high priority, 55 (11%) fewer than Q2 2024 (500) and 37 (8%) fewer than Q3 2023 (482).
- 58% (2,490) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 29% (1,236) were low priority while the remaining 3% (108) were awaiting categorisation.
- The highest number of high priority cases was reported by Midwest (71) followed by Midlands (67), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (65), Dublin South Central 62), Donegal (55) and Louth/Meath (48). These six areas account for 83% (368) of all high priority cases awaiting.



2.2.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 57% (2,418/4,279) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2024 were waiting three months or less and of these 63% (1,533) were waiting less than one month.
- 58% (256/445) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q3 2024 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 61% (155) were waiting less than one month.

Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting

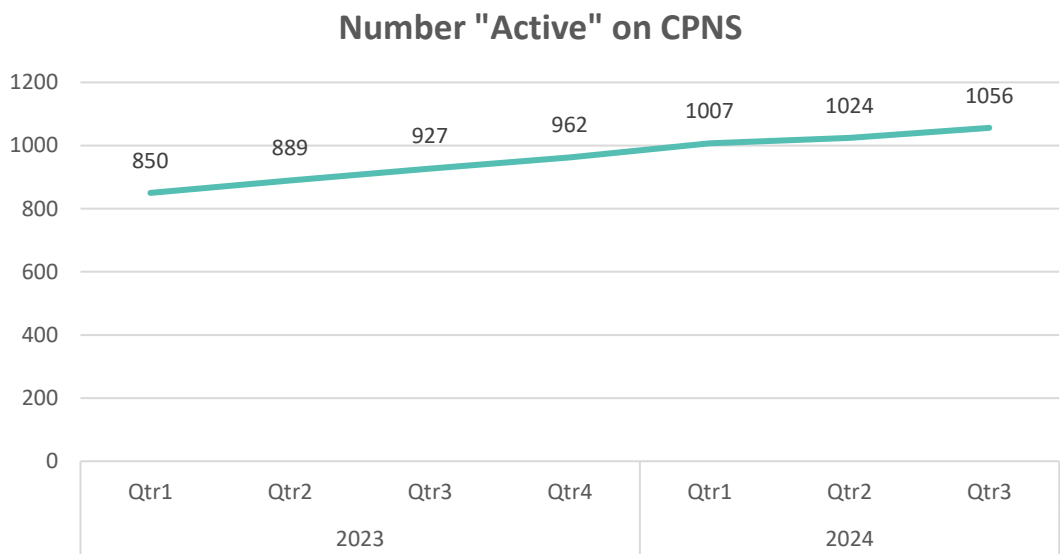
Time Waiting	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024
<1 month	1,759 (33%)	1,683 (32%)	1,439 (31%)	1,366 (28%)	1,533 (36%)
1-3 months	1,347 (25%)	1,578 (30%)	1,301 (28%)	1,648 (34%)	885 (21%)
>3 months	2,284 (42%)	2,070 (39%)	1,853 (40%)	1,885 (38%)	1,861 (43%)
Total	5,390 (100%)	5,331 (100%)	4,593 (100%)	4,899 (100%)	4,279 (100%)

2.3 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

KEY FACTS

- 1,056 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of Q3 2024, 32 (3%) more than Q2 2024 (1,024) and the seventh consecutive increase.
- 129 (14%) more children “active” at the end of Q3 2024 than at the end of Q3 2023 (927).
- 82% (870/1,056) of children were listed as “active” for no longer than 12 months, down slightly from 83% (850/1,024) at the end of Q2 2024.
- 7% (71/1,056) of children were listed as “active” for > 18 months, up from 5% (56/1,024) at the end of Q2 2024 and an increase of 15 children.
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q3 2024 had an allocated social worker.

- 1,056 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)⁵ at the end of Q3 2024, 32 (3%) more than Q2 2024 (1,024) and the seventh consecutive increase.
- 129 (14%) more children “active” at the end of Q3 2024 than at the end of Q3 2023 (927).



- The number listed as “active” equates to about 9 children per 10,000 under 18 years and ranges from 2.6/10,000 in Dublin South East/Wicklow to 22.5/10,000 in Dublin North City, more than double the national average. Eight areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average.
- Midwest reported the highest number (134) of children “active”, followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (114), Dublin North City (110) and Midlands (108). Cavan/Monaghan reported the fewest number (20) followed by Mayo (23) and Kerry (23).

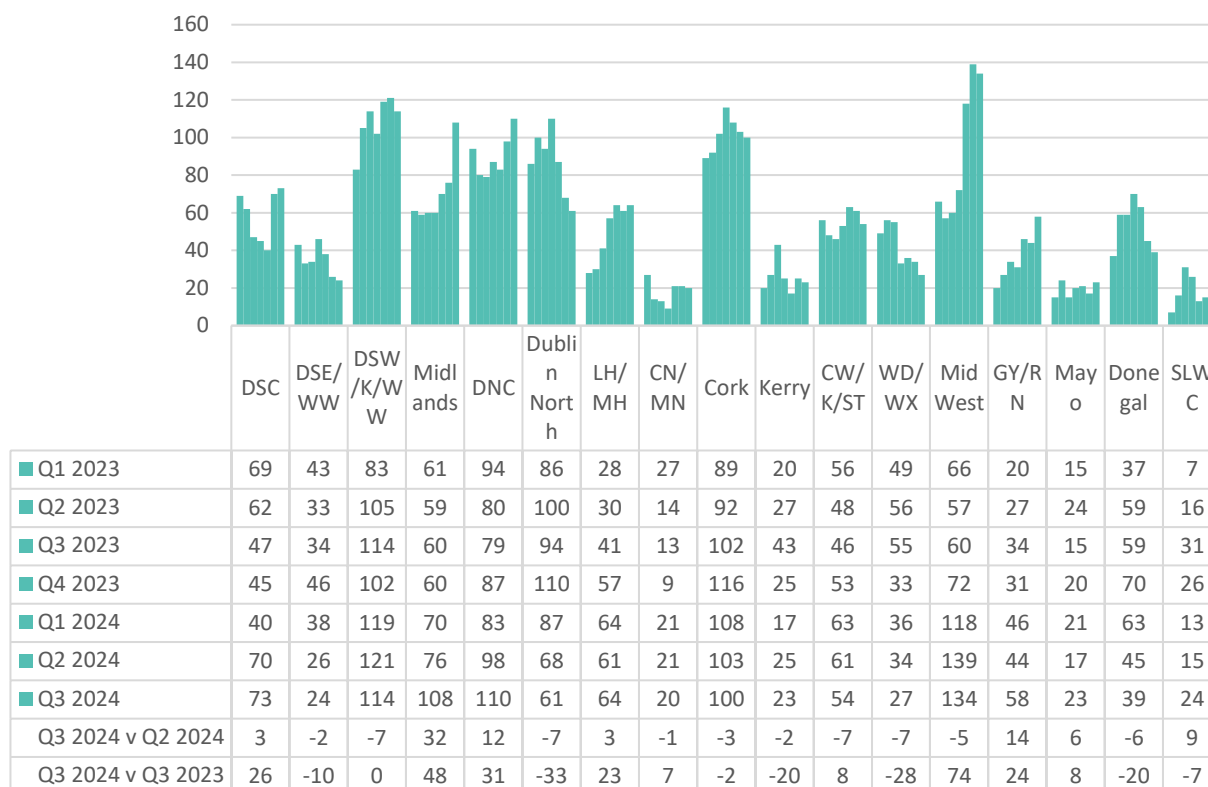
⁵ The CPNS, in accordance with the Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children, 2011, is a national record of all children who are the subject of a child protection plan agreed at a child protection conference. The CPNS is accessible to named professional groups subject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

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

Area	Q3 2024	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	110	48,909	22.5
Mid West	134	96,764	13.8
Midlands	108	80,962	13.3
Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow	114	108,927	10.5
Dublin South Central	73	70,259	10.4
Sligo / Leitrim / West Cavan	24	24,312	9.9
Donegal	39	42,144	9.3
Carlow / Kilkenny / South Tipperary	54	62,366	8.7
Cork	100	136,786	7.3
Mayo	23	31,911	7.2
Galway / Roscommon	58	81,799	7.1
Louth / Meath	64	96,531	6.6
Kerry	23	34,994	6.6
Dublin North	61	104,281	5.8
Cavan / Monaghan	20	37,336	5.4
Waterford / Wexford	27	69,239	3.9
Dublin South East / Wicklow	24	91,047	2.6
Total	1,056	1,218,567	8.7

- 7/17 areas reported an increase in the number “active” from Q2 2024. The largest increases were reported by Midlands (up 32), Galway/Roscommon (up 14) and Dublin North City (up 12).
- 10/17 areas reported a decrease in the number “active” from Q2 2024. The largest decreases were reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 7), Dublin North (down 7), Carlow/Kilkenny/Sout Tipperary (down 7), Waterford/Wexford (down 7) and Donegal (down 6).
- 9/17 areas had more children “active” at the end of Q3 2024 than at the end of Q3 2023. Largest increases reported by Midwest (up 74), Midlands (up 48) and Dublin North City (up 31)
- 7/17 areas had fewer children “active” at the end of Q3 2024 than at the end of Q3 2023. Largest decreases reported by Dublin North (down 33), Waterford/Wexford (down 28), Donegal (down 20) and Kerry (down 20).

#"Active" by Area



- 54% (574/1,056) of children listed as “active” at the end of Q3 2024 were listed for 0-6 months, down from 60% (612/1,024) at the end of Q2 2024.
- 82% (870/1,056) of children were listed as “active” for no longer than 12 months, down slightly from 83% (850/1,024) at the end of Q2 2024.
- 7% (71/1,056) of children were listed as “active” for > 18 months, up from 5% (56/1,024) at the end of Q2 2024 and an increase of 15 children.
- 7 areas (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary, Cavan/Monaghan, Dublin South East/Wicklow, Kerry, Mayo, Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan and Waterford/Wexford) had no child “active” for longer than 18 months.
- The areas reporting children “active” for > 18 months are, Louth/Meath (1/64), Galway/Roscommon (2/58), Midlands (3/108), Dublin South Central (4/73), Cork (5/100), Midwest (5/134), Dublin North (5/61), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (13/114), Donegal (15/39), Dublin North City (18/110).
- All children listed as “active” at the end of Q3 2024 had an allocated social worker.

3.0 ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

3.1 Children in Care (Foster Care / Residential Care)

3.2 Aftercare

3.3 Adoption

3.4 Foster Carers

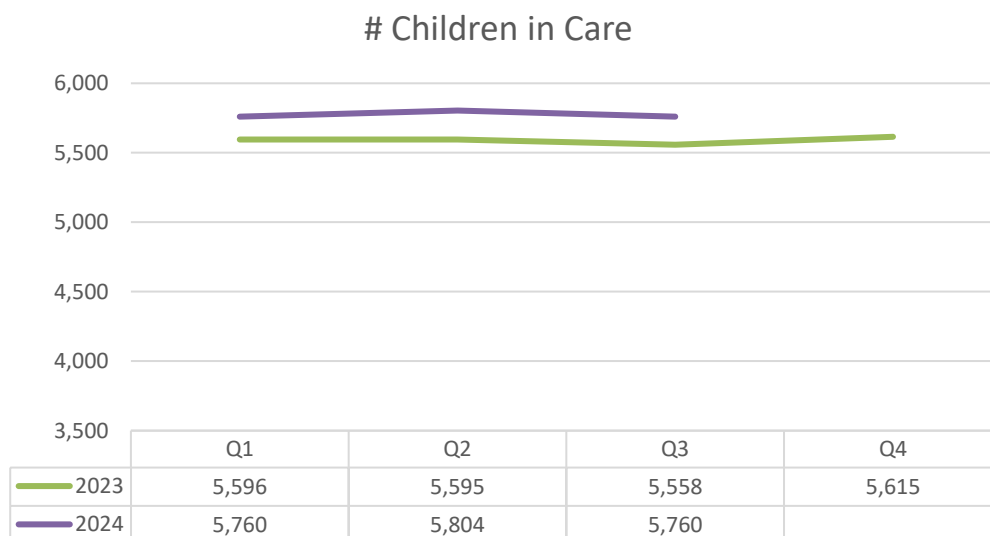
3.1 CHILDREN IN CARE (FOSTER CARE / RESIDENTIAL CARE)

KEY FACTS

- 5,760 children in care at the end of Q3 2024, 44 (<1%) fewer than Q2 2024 (5,804). This figure (5,760) includes 115 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.
- 87.4% (5,035) of children in care were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q3 2024 and 8.7% (501) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 3.9% (224) of children were in “Other” care placements. *“Other” includes at home under a care order, supported lodgings, detention centre, disability unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, not specified etc.*
- Across the 17 Areas, 88.8% (5,012/5,645) were in foster care, 7.6% (429) were in residential care and the remaining 3.6% (204) were in “other” care placements.
- 977 (17%) children in care at the end of Q3 2024 were in placements with private providers¹, 31 (3%) more than Q2 2024 (946).
- Across the 17 areas there were 39 (4%) more children in placements with private providers at the end of Q3 2024 (914) than at the end of Q2 2024 (875).
- 84% (4,836) of children in care at the end of Q3 2024 had an allocated worker, up four percentage points from Q2 2024 (80%). Some 924 (16%) children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q3 2024, 209 (18%) fewer than Q2 2024 (1,133).
- 85% (4,908) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, up one percentage point from Q1 2024 (84%). A total of 852 (15%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 105 (11%) fewer than Q2 2024 (957).
- 97% (3,598/3,722) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q3 2024, up two percentage point from Q2 2024 (95%).
- 92% (887/962) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q3 2024, no change from Q2 2024.

3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 5,760 children in care at the end of Q3 2024, 44 (<1%) fewer than Q2 2024 (5,804). *This figure (5,760) includes 115 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*



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

- Across the 17 areas the number of children in care ranged from 667 in Cork to 115 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years (9.4), more than double the national rate, followed by Waterford/Wexford (6.2), Donegal (5.6) and Midwest (5.1). Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.2) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.8) and Dublin North (4.0).

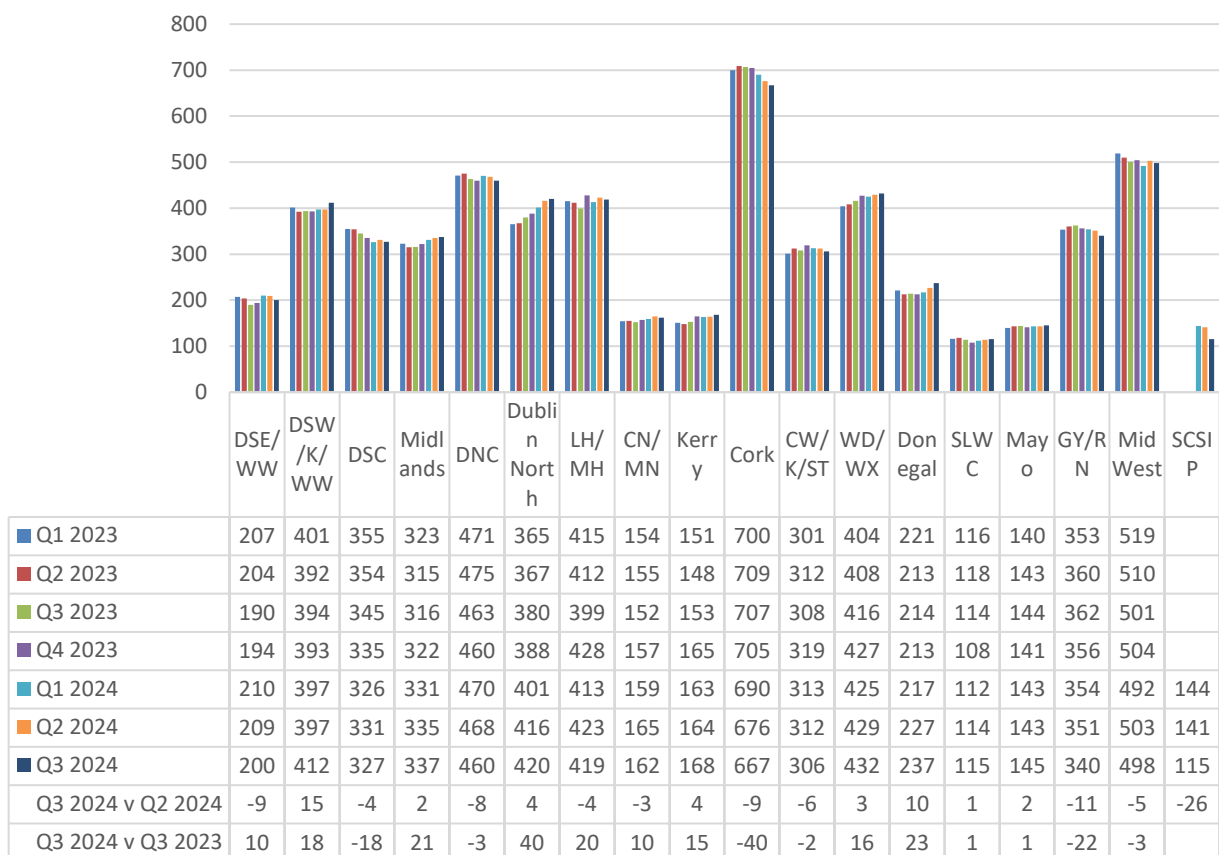
Number of children in care and rate per 1,000 population 0-17 years (ranked by rate)

Area	# Children in care Q3 2024	0-17 population (Census 2022)	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
Dublin North City	460	48,909	9.4
Waterford/Wexford	432	69,239	6.2
Donegal	237	42,144	5.6
Midwest	498	96,764	5.1
CW/KK/ST	306	62,366	4.9
Cork	667	136,786	4.9
Kerry	168	34,994	4.8
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	115	24,312	4.7
Dublin South Central	327	70,259	4.7
Mayo	145	31,911	4.5
Louth/Meath	419	96,531	4.3
Cavan/Monaghan	162	37,336	4.3
Midlands	337	80,962	4.2
Galway/Roscommon	340	81,799	4.2
Dublin North	420	104,281	4.0

DSW/K/WW	412	108,927	3.8
Dublin South East/Wicklow	200	91,047	2.2
Total Areas	5,645	1,218,567	4.6

- 8 areas reported an increase in children in care from Q2 2024. Largest increases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 15), Donegal (up 10), Dublin North (up 4) and Kerry (up 4).
- 9 areas along with the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection (SCSIP) reported a decrease, with the largest decrease reported by the Service for SCSIP (down 26) followed by Galway/Roscommon (down 11), Cork (down 9) and Dublin South east/Wicklow (down 9).
- 11 areas had more children in care at the end of Q3 2024 than at the end of Q3 2023, largest increases reported by Dublin North (up 40), Donegal (up 23), Midlands (21) and Louth/Meath (up 20).
- 6 areas reported a decrease with the largest decrease reported by Cork (down 40) followed by Galway/Roscommon (down 22) and Dublin South Central (down 18).

Breakdown of the number of children in care in each area



Number of Children in Care, by Care Type

- 87.4% (5,035) of children in care were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q3 2024 and 8.7% (501) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 3.9% (224) of children were in “Other” care placements. *“Other” includes at home under a care order, supported lodgings, detention centre, disability unit, hospital, special emergency arrangement, not specified etc.*
- Across the 17 Areas, 88.8% (5,012/5,645) were in foster care, 7.6% (429) were in residential care and the remaining 3.6% (204) were in “other” care placements.

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

	Foster Care General	Δ+/- prev Q	Foster Care Relative	Δ+/- prev Q	Residential Care Gen	Δ+/- prev Q	Residential Special	Δ+/- prev Q	Other Care	Δ+/- prev Q	Total	Δ+/- prev Q
Q1 2023	3,566		1,492		376		12		150		5,596	
Q2 2023	3,573	+7	1,485	-7	372	-4	15	+3	150	0	5,595	-1
Q3 2023	3,517	-56	1,476	-9	383	+11	14	-1	168	+18	5,558	-37
Q4 2023	3,560	+43	1,474	-2	397	+14	13	-1	171	+3	5,615	+57
Q1 2024	3,571		1,471		457		15		246		5,760	
Q2 2024	3,599	+28	1,473	+2	473	+16	15	0	244	-2	5,804	+44
Q3 2024	3,581	-18	1,454	-19	486	+13	15	0	224	-20	5,760	-44

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

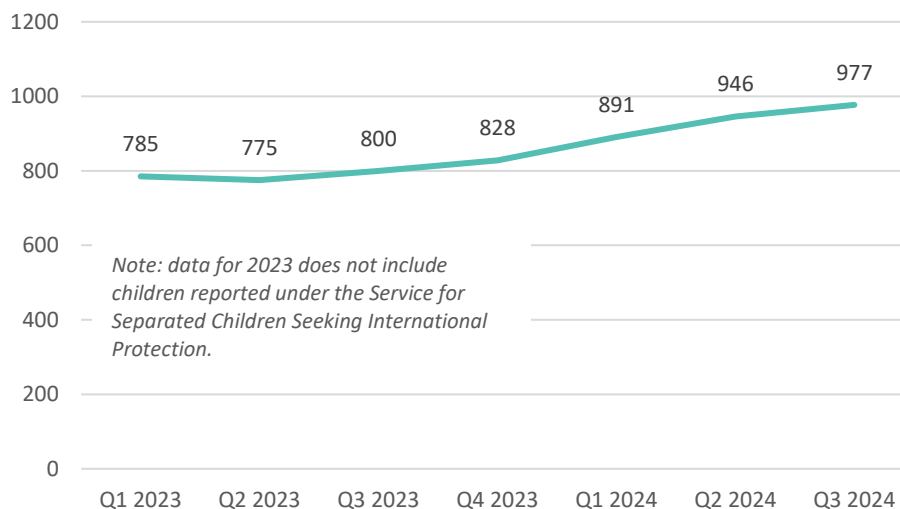
- 16 (0.3%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q 2024, one fewer than Q2 2024. These children are included in the figures for the various care types set out in the table above.

3.1.2 Children in Placements with Private Providers

- 977 (17%) children in care at the end of Q3 2024 were in placements with private providers⁶, 31 (3%) more than Q2 2024 (946).
- Across the 17 areas there were 39 (4%) more children in placements with private providers at the end of Q3 2024 (914) than at the end of Q2 2024 (875). *Note: data for 2023 does not include children reported under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*

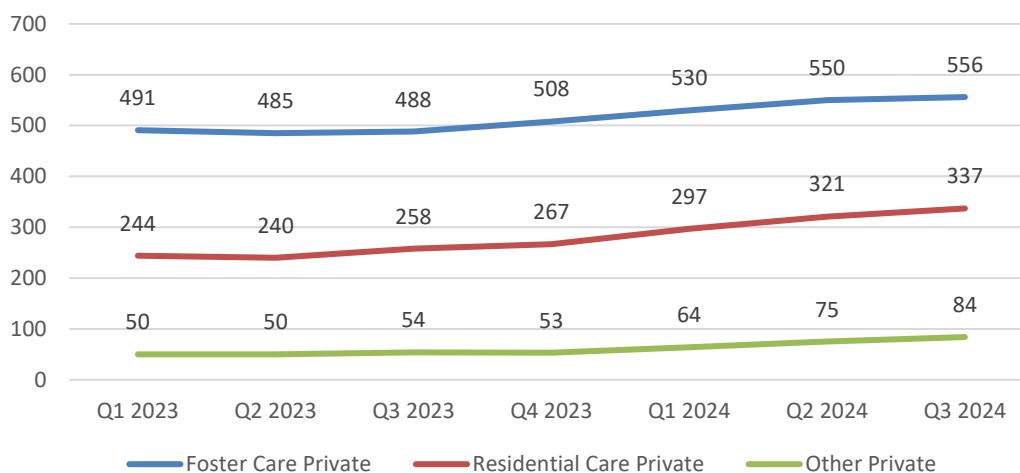
⁶ The number of children in private placements is included in the children in care figures presented in sections 3.1.1 / 3.1.2.

Number of children in placements with private providers



- 57% (556) of children in placements with private providers were in foster care, up 6 (1%) from Q2 2024 (550). Fifth consecutive increase.
- 34% (337) were in residential placements, 16 (5%) more than Q2 2024 (321). Fifth consecutive increase.
- The remaining 9% (84) were in “Other” care placements, 9 (12%) more than Q2 2024 (75). Third consecutive increase. “Other” care placements include, disability units, mental health units, drugs and alcohol rehabilitation centres etc.

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



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

- The highest number of children in care in placements with private providers is reported by Dublin North City (123) followed by Dublin North (117), Dublin South West/Kildare West Wicklow (113), Dublin South Central (113) and Midlands (83). These five areas account for 56% (549) of all children in placements with private providers.
- 11 areas reported an increase from Q2 2024 in children in placements with private providers with the largest increases reported by Dublin North (up 15), Waterford/Wexford (up 5), Dublin North City (up 4) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 4). Three areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a decrease, SCSIP (down 8), Cork (down 3), Kerry (down 1) and

Dublin South East/Wicklow (down 1). The remaining three areas (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan and Cavan/Monaghan)) reported no change.

Number of children in placements with private providers, by area

Area	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q3 v Q2
Dublin North City	112	119	123	4
Dublin North	98	102	117	15
Dublin South West / Kildare / West Wicklow	107	109	113	4
Dublin South Central	107	110	113	3
Midlands	70	80	83	3
SCSIP	55	71	63	-8
Cork	58	60	57	-3
Louth/Meath	47	51	53	2
Waterford/Wexford	47	46	51	5
Dublin South East/Wicklow	52	51	50	-1
Midwest	34	39	41	2
Kerry	32	33	32	-1
CW/KK/ST	22	22	22	0
Donegal	21	18	20	2
Galway/Roscommon	12	14	16	2
Sligo/Leitrim West Cavan	11	12	12	0
Cavan/Monaghan	*	*	*	0
Mayo	*	*	*	2
Total	891	946	977	31

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

3.1.3 Children in Care with an Allocated Worker⁷

- 84% (4,836) of children in care at the end of Q3 2024 had an allocated worker, up four percentage points from Q2 2024 (80%).
- 924 (16%) children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q3 2024, 209 (18%) fewer than Q2 2024 (1,133).

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

Care Type	CIC Q2 2024	Allocated Q2 2024	% Allocated Q2 2024	CIC Q3 2024	Allocated Q3 2024	% Allocated Q3 2024
Foster Care (General)	3,599	2,912	81%	3,581	2,976	83%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,473	1,140	77%	1,454	1,186	82%
Residential Care (General)	473	403	85%	486	449	92%
Residential Special Care	15	14	93%	15	15	100%
Other Placements	244	202	83%	224	210	94%
Total	5,804	4,671	80%	5,760	4,836	84%

⁷ These numbers of allocated cases reflect a changing environment in Tusla where allocation of cases to a social worker has become more difficult with reduced availability of social workers nationally. Many cases are now allocated to other professionals also reflecting the changing nature of social work teams. In many instances where cases are unallocated to a social worker there is a social care worker or leader allocated to the case.

- The percentage with an allocated worker ranged from 38% (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary) to 100% (Donegal, Mayo and Galway/Roscommon). Eight areas reported 90% or higher.
- The area with the highest number of children awaiting allocation is Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (191; 62%) followed by Midwest (184; 37%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (131; 32%), Louth/Meath (74; 18%) and Dublin South Central (74; 23%). These five areas account for 71% (654) of all cases awaiting allocation.

Number of children in care with an allocated worker

Area	No in Care Q2 2024	Allocated Q2 2024	% Allocated Q2 2024	No in Care Q3 2024	Allocated Q3 2024	% Allocated Q3 2024	# Awaiting
DSE/WW	209	194	93%	200	198	99%	2
DSW/K/WW	397	243	61%	412	281	68%	131
DSC	331	238	72%	327	253	77%	74
Midlands	335	280	84%	337	271	80%	66
DNC	468	416	89%	460	423	92%	37
Dublin North	416	380	91%	420	373	89%	47
LH/MH	423	344	81%	419	345	82%	74
CN/MN	165	141	85%	162	139	86%	23
Kerry	164	140	85%	168	156	93%	12
Cork	676	656	97%	667	657	99%	10
CW/KK/ST	312	118	38%	306	115	38%	191
WD/WX	429	363	85%	432	381	88%	51
Donegal	227	227	100%	237	237	100%	0
SLWC	114	106	93%	115	102	89%	13
Mayo	143	143	100%	145	145	100%	0
GY/RN	351	351	100%	340	340	100%	0
Midwest	503	262	52%	498	314	63%	184
SCSIP Service	141	69	49%	115	106	92%	9
Total	5,804	4,671	80%	5,760	4,836	84%	924

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

- 85% (4,908) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, up one percentage point from Q1 2024 (84%).
- A total of 852 (15%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 105 (11%) fewer than Q2 2024 (957).

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

Care Type	CIC Q2 2024	No. with UTD CP Q2 2024	% with UTD CP Q2 2024	CIC Q3 2024	No. with UTD CP Q3 2024	% with UTD CP Q3 2024
Foster Care General	3,599	3,103	86%	3,581	3,154	88%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,473	1,251	85%	1,454	1,243	85%
Residential Care General	473	339	72%	486	363	75%
Residential Special Care	15	10	67%	15	9	60%
Other Placements	244	144	59%	224	139	62%
Total	5,804	4,847	84%	5,760	4,908	85%

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

- The percentage of children with an up-to-date care plan ranged from 97% (Midlands) to 68% (Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection).
- The areas with the highest numbers of children awaiting an up-to-date plan are Dublin North City (111; 24%), Dublin South Central (106; 32%), Midwest (95; 19%) and Cork (94; 14%).

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

Area	No in Care Q2 2024	No with a care plan Q2 2024	% with a care plan Q2 2024	No in Care Q3 2024	No with a care plan Q3 2024	% with a care plan Q3 2024	# Awaiting a Plan
DSE/WW	209	167	80%	200	164	82%	36
DSW/K/WW	397	351	88%	412	346	84%	66
DSC	331	240	73%	327	221	68%	106
Midlands	335	332	99%	337	327	97%	10
DNC	468	304	65%	460	349	76%	111
Dublin North	416	357	86%	420	354	84%	66
LH/MH	423	347	82%	419	344	82%	75
CN/MN	165	147	89%	162	147	91%	15
Kerry	164	141	86%	168	148	88%	20
Cork	676	582	86%	667	573	86%	94
CW/KK/ST	312	292	94%	306	294	96%	12
WD/WX	429	401	93%	432	395	91%	37
Donegal	227	207	91%	237	215	91%	22
SLWC	114	94	82%	115	102	89%	13
Mayo	143	130	91%	145	132	91%	13
GY/RN	351	289	82%	340	316	93%	24
Midwest	503	395	79%	498	403	81%	95
SCSIP Service	141	71	50%	115	78	68%	37
Total	5,804	4,847	84%	5,760	4,908	85%	852

3.1.4 Children in Care in Education

- 97% (3,598/3,722) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q3 2024, up two percentage point from Q2 2024 (95%).
- All but one area (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow) reporting 90% or higher with two areas reporting 100% (Cavan/Monaghan and Kerry).
- 68% (2,449) of children 6-15 years were in primary school, 26% (948) were in post primary school and 4% (140) were in special education. There were a further 61 (2%) spread across boarding school, education training facility, home tuition, pre-school and Other (not specified).
- 92% (887/962) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q3 2024, no change from Q2 2024.
- 10/17 reporting 90% or higher with one area reporting 100% (Mayo). Lowest percentages reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (82%), Dublin South Central (86%) and Midlands (86%).

- 85% (757) of young people 16 & 17 years were in post primary school, 8% (71) were in special education and 3% (27) were attending an educational training facility. There were a further 32 (4%) spread across boarding school, home tuition, third level and other (not specified).

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

Area	No of CIC 6-15 years Q2 2024	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q2 2024	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q2 2024	No of CIC 6-15 years Q3 2024	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q3 2024	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q3 2024
DSE/WW	130	119	92%	126	117	93%
DSW/K/WW	259	227	88%	269	239	89%
DSC	209	183	88%	211	194	92%
Midlands	237	230	97%	245	237	97%
Dublin North City	284	275	97%	271	263	97%
Dublin North	299	265	89%	292	272	93%
LH/MH	286	283	99%	295	292	99%
CN/MN	113	111	98%	107	107	100%
Kerry	105	101	96%	107	107	100%
Cork	453	443	98%	449	444	99%
CW/K/ST	207	202	98%	195	192	98%
WD/WX	268	262	98%	266	261	98%
Donegal	146	132	90%	149	144	97%
SLWC	79	72	91%	79	77	97%
Mayo	90	88	98%	94	93	99%
GY/RN	233	226	97%	225	219	97%
Mid West	344	333	97%	342	340	99%
Total	3,742	3,552	95%	3,722	3,598	97%

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

Area	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q2 2024	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q2 2024	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q2 2024	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q3 2024	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q3 2024	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q3 2024
DSE/WW	47	41	87%	45	37	82%
DSW/K/WW	67	60	90%	71	63	89%
DSC	65	58	89%	58	50	86%
Midlands	51	46	90%	44	38	86%
DNC	79	70	89%	84	75	89%
Dublin North	52	44	85%	64	57	89%
LH/MH	68	64	94%	63	61	97%
CN/MN	29	29	100%	32	31	97%
Kerry	22	21	95%	27	26	96%
Cork	132	123	93%	123	116	94%
CW/K/ST	49	47	96%	51	50	98%
WD/WX	83	81	98%	83	78	94%
Donegal	31	28	90%	33	31	94%

SLWC	18	16	89%	19	17	89%
Mayo	18	18	100%	16	16	100%
GY/RN	69	62	90%	68	62	91%
Mid West	85	83	98%	81	79	98%
Total	965	891	92%	962	887	92%

3.2 AFTERCARE

KEY FACTS

- 116 referrals for an aftercare service in Q3 2024. This brings to 423 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2024, 23 more than the same period in 2023 (400).
- 2,915 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2024, 12 (<1%) fewer than Q2 2024 (2,927 revised figure) and 54 (2%) fewer than Q3 2023 (2,969). *Figures include young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*
- 77% (1,708/2,208) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q3 2024 were in education/accredited training.
- Almost half (46%; 1,005) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,208) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 10% (219) had returned home to parents/family. One in five (23%; 499) was in independent living arrangements.
- 81% (2,365) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2024 had an aftercare plan, down one percentage point from Q2 2024 (82%). A total of 550 were awaiting a plan, 12 (2%) more than Q2 2024 (538).
- 88% (2,003/2,282) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2024, no change from Q2 2024. A total of 279 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2024, 16 (6%) more than Q2 2024 (263).
- 99.6% (261/262) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2024.
- 86% (1,742/2,020) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2024.

3.2.1 Referrals for an aftercare service received in the quarter

- 116 referrals for an aftercare service in Q3 2024. This brings to 423 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2024, 23 more than the same period in 2023 (400).
- 100% (116) of referrals for Q3 2024 were eligible for an assessment of need.
- Of those eligible for an assessment of need 95% (110) were <18 years and in care.
- 128 assessments of need were completed in Q3 2024. This brings to 330 the number of assessments of needs completed in the first nine months of 2024.

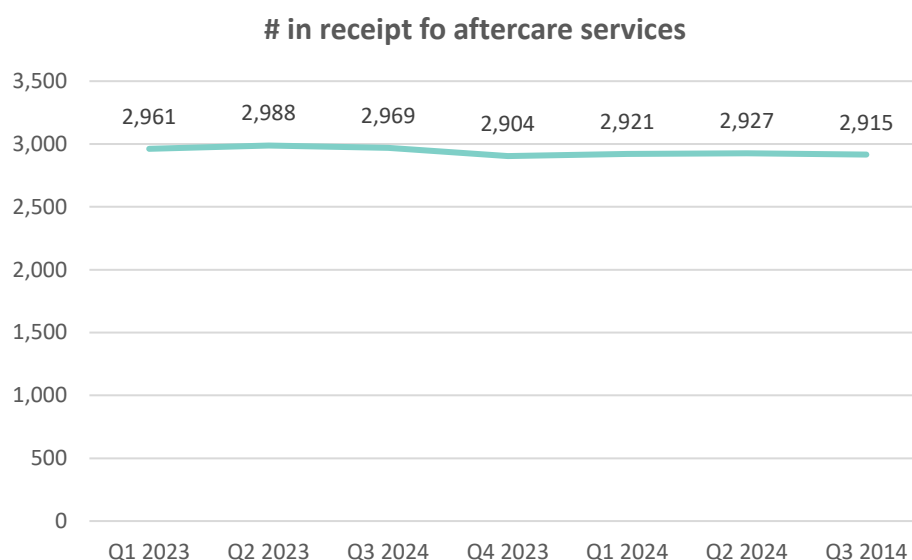
Table: Referrals for an Aftercare Service by Area

Area	2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	2024 YTD
Dublin South Central	23	4	10	7	21
Dublin South East/Wicklow	20	7	7	5	19
DSW/K/WW	28	12	16	10	38
Midlands	25	3	7	3	13
Dublin North City	51	8	14	6	28
Dublin North	17	0	11	5	16
Louth/Meath	25	13	5	3	21
Cavan/Monaghan	17	3	6	7	16
Cork	73	16	16	10	42

Kerry	13	1	8	2	11
CW/K/ST	22	4	10	8	22
Waterford/Wexford	40	9	8	12	29
Mid West	57	13	15	6	34
Galway/Roscommon	25	14	8	14	36
Mayo	12	1	4	1	6
Donegal	14	3	6	0	9
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	11	5	3	1	9
SCSIP Service	50	12	25	16	53
Total	523	128	179	116	423

3.2.2 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of an aftercare service

- 2,915 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2024, 12 (<1%) fewer than Q2 2024 (2,927 revised figure) and 54 (2%) fewer than Q3 2023 (2,969). *Figures include young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*



- Highest number of adults/young people in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2024 reported by Cork (348) followed by Dublin North City (255) and Midwest (237). Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (55) followed by Mayo (68) and Cavan/Monaghan (81).

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2023	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q1 2024	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2024	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2024
Dublin South Central	187	178	195	202
Dublin South East/Wicklow	128	135	139	144
DSW/K/WW	228	208	222	210
Midlands	139	142	142	135
Dublin North City	268	262	248	255
Dublin North	137	153	163	167
Louth/Meath	134	156	155	137

Cavan/Monaghan	83	76	74	81
Cork	345	355	353	348
Kerry	79	81	86	84
CW/K/ST	169	163	151	156
Waterford/Wexford	193	189	177	171
Mid West	244	248	249	237
Galway/Roscommon	219	217	217	207
Mayo	77	67	66	68
Donegal	91	96	97*	94
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	42	51	53	55
SCSIP Service	141	144	140	164
Total	2,904	2,921	2,927	2,915

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

- 55% (1,591) of those in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q3 2024 (2,915) were 18 – 20 years inclusive and of these 78% (1,234) were in education/accredited training, no change from Q2 2024 (78%) (table below).
- 11/17 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported at least seven out of 10 young people (18-20 years) in receipt of aftercare services in education/accredited training. Three areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Cavan/Monaghan and Midwest) reported 100%.
- Rates reported by Dublin South Central (53%), Dublin North (61%) Louth/Meath (64%), Waterford/Wexford (65%) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (65%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 18-20 years Q2 2024	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 18-20 years Q3 2024	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
Dublin South Central	117	56	48%	114	60	53%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	69	69	100%	72	72	100%
DSW/K/WW	120	78	65%	118	77	65%
Midlands	63	53	84%	65	56	86%
Dublin North City	135	95	70%	131	91	69%
Dublin North	94	61	65%	90	55	61%
Louth/Meath	90	56	62%	89	57	64%
Cavan/Monaghan	41	41	100%	42	42	100%
Cork	175	132	75%	182	138	76%
Kerry	43	32	74%	42	30	71%
CW/K/ST	76	64	84%	74	65	88%
Waterford/Wexford	95	70	74%	97	63	65%
Mid West	146	146	100%	136	136	100%
Galway/Roscommon	106	86	81%	106	83	78%
Mayo	33	30	91%	37	29	78%
Donegal	56*	46*	82%*	54	47	87%

Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	27	25	93%	27	24	89%
SCSIP Service	91	85	93%	115	109	95%
Total	1,577*	1,225*	78%*	1,591	1,234	78%

*Revised from previously reported.

- The highest number of those in education/accredited training were in second level (298; 24%) followed by third level (254; 21%) and PLCs (241; 20%).

	# 18-20 years in education/accredited Training Q3 2024	%
Second Level	298	24%
Vocational Training	215	17%
PLCs	241	20%
Third Level College / University	254	21%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	141	11%
Other	85	7%
Total	1,234	100%

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

- 21% (617) of those in receipt of an aftercare service (2,915) were 21 – 22 years inclusive and of these 77% (474) were in education/accredited training, up from 76% at the end of Q2 2024 (table below).
- 12/17 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported 70% or higher with three of these areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Cavan/Monaghan and Midwest) reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South Central (53%), Galway/Roscommon (57%), Waterford/Wexford (59%) and Cork (63%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 21-22 years Q2 2024	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 21-22 years Q3 2024	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
Dublin South Central	30	20	67%	43	23	53%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	29	29	100%	33	33	100%
DSW/K/WW	48	26	54%	37	29	78%
Midlands	40	30	75%	34	28	82%
Dublin North City	66	49	74%	65	51	78%
Dublin North	31	29	94%	40	35	88%
Louth/Meath	18	14	78%	22	17	77%
Cavan/Monaghan	12	12	100%	16	16	100%
Cork	66	46	70%	67	42	63%
Kerry	17	14	82%	15	10	67%
CW/K/ST	38	35	92%	40	35	88%
Waterford/Wexford	29	15	52%	29	17	59%
Mid West	47	47	100%	45	45	100%
Galway/Roscommon	72	44	61%	67	38	57%
Mayo	16	13	81%	17	15	88%
Donegal	17*	16*	94%	20	17	85%

Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	9	8	89%	8	7	88%
SCSIP Service	17	13	76%	19	16	84%
Total	602*	460*	76%	617	474	77%

*Revised from previously reported.

- 48% (226) of those in education/accredited training were in third level colleges with a further 17% (81) in PLCs, 15% (70) in accredited training and 14% (66) in vocational training.

	# 21-22 years in education/accredited Training Q3 2024	%
Second Level	8	2%
Vocational Training	66	14%
PLCs	81	17%
Third Level College / University	226	48%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	70	15%
Other	23	5%
Total	474	100.0%

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

- Almost half (46%; 1,005) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,208) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 10% (219) had returned home to parents/family. One in five (23%; 499) was in independent living arrangements.

Accommodation	# 18-22 placement type Q3 2024	%
Residential Care Placement	158	7%
Remained with Carers	1,005	46%
Independent Living	499	23%
Designated Care Leavers Accommodation	33	1%
At home	219	10%
Supported Lodgings	36	2%
Other	258	12%
Total	2,208	100.0%

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

- 81% (2,365) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q3 2024 had an aftercare plan, down one percentage point from Q2 2024 (82%). A total of 550 were awaiting a plan, 12 (2%) more than Q2 2024 (538).
- 10 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a percentage equal to or higher the national average of 81%. Rates reported by Louth/Meath (66%), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (71%), Cork (71%) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (74%) lower than all other areas.
- 95% (2,103/2,208) of those 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service had a plan. 37% (262/707) of those <18 years had a plan.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q2 2024	# with an Aftercare Plan Q2 2024	% with an Aftercare Plan Q2 2024	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2024	# with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2024	% with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2024
Dublin South Central	195	140	72%	202	153	76%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	139	132	95%	144	139	97%
DSW/K/WW	222	183	82%	210	172	82%
Midlands	142	127	89%	135	119	88%
Dublin North City	248	209	84%	255	194	76%
Dublin North	163	131	80%	167	137	82%
Louth/Meath	155	91	59%	137	90	66%
Cavan/Monaghan	74	74	100%	81	79	98%
Cork	353	258	73%	348	246	71%
Kerry	86	67	78%	84	64	76%
CW/K/ST	151	119	79%	156	116	74%
Waterford/Wexford	177	144	81%	171	141	82%
Mid West	249	233	94%	237	214	90%
Galway/Roscommon	217	172	79%	207	171	83%
Mayo	66	58	88%	68	56	82%
Donegal	97*	79*	81%	94	83	88%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	53	39	74%	55	39	71%
SCSIP Service	140	133	95%	164	152	93%
Total	2,927*	2,389*	82%	2,915	2,365	81%

*Revised from previously reported.

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

- 96% (2,282/2,365) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker. Thirteen areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported 100%.
- Percentages reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (70%) and Midlands (80%) lower than all other areas. *Some areas advised that young persons/adults who are settled and doing well are moved to the drop-in service (i.e., assessed as not needing an allocated social worker). With a reduction in staff this allows the service to prioritise those with greatest need for allocation to a social worker.*
- 88% (2,003/2,282) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2024, no change from Q2 2024. A total of 279 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2024, 16 (6%) more than Q2 2024 (263).
- 99.6% (261/262) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2024.
- 86% (1,742/2,020) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q3 2024.

- 11 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 88% with 11 of them reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South Central (41%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (56%), Midwest (78%) and Dublin North (79%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# with a Plan Q3 2024	# Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q3 2024	% Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q3 2024	# with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q3 2024	% with an Aftercare Worker Q3 2024	% with an Aftercare Worker Q2 2024
Dublin South Central	153	153	100%	63	41%	41%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	139	139	100%	139	100%	100%
DSW/K/WW	172	152	88%	85	56%	63%
Midlands	119	95	80%	95	100%	100%
Dublin North City	194	190	98%	190	100%	100%
Dublin North	137	137	100%	108	79%	78%
Louth/Meath	90	90	100%	90	100%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	79	79	100%	79	100%	100%
Cork	246	246	100%	238	97%	100%
Kerry	64	64	100%	64	100%	100%
CW/K/ST	116	81	70%	69	85%	88%
Waterford/Wexford	141	141	100%	115	82%	92%
Mid West	214	214	100%	167	78%	69%
Galway/Roscommon	171	171	100%	171	100%	100%
Mayo	56	56	100%	56	100%	100%
Donegal	83	83	100%	83	100%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	39	39	100%	39	100%	100%
SCSIP Service	152	152	100%	152	100%	100%
Total	2,365	2,282	96%	2,003	88%	88%

3.2.8 Drop-in Service

- All areas reported having a drop-in service.

3.2.9 Interagency Aftercare Steering Committee

- All areas reported having an interagency aftercare steering committee.

3.3 ADOPTION SERVICES

KEY FACTS

Adoption

- 62 new children referred for adoption during Q3 2024. This brings to 151 the number of new children referred for adoption during the first nine months of 2024. A total of 225 new children referred for adoption in 2023.
- 51 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q3 2024. Of these, 23 (45%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 11 (22%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 17 (33%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

3.3.1 Adoption Assessments

- 62 new children referred for adoption during Q3 2024. This brings to 151 the number of new children referred for adoption during the first nine months of 2024. A total of 225 new children referred for adoption in 2023.
- 51 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q3 2024. Of these, 23 (45%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 11 (22%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 17 (33%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

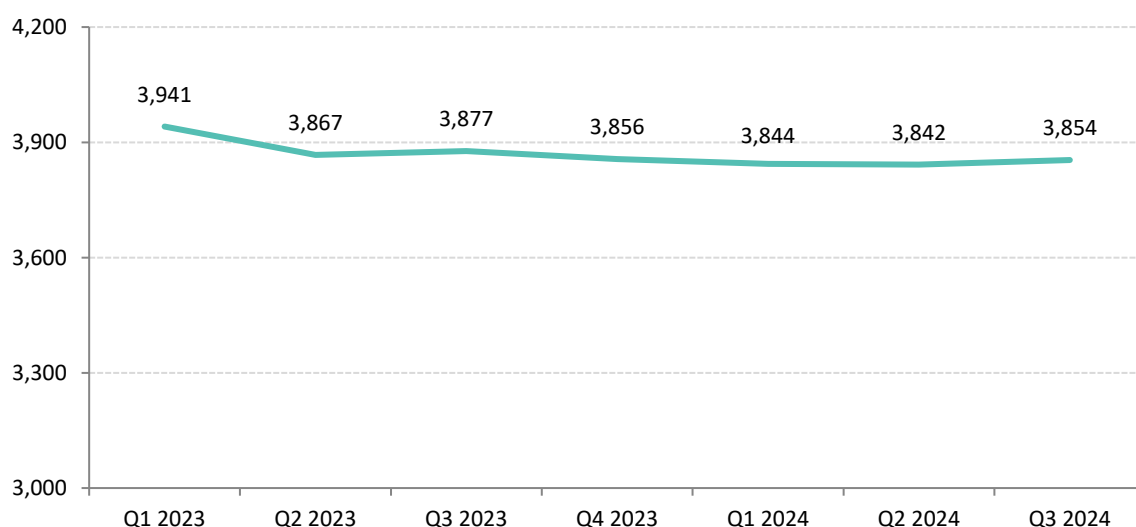
3.4 FOSTER CARERS

KEY FACTS

- 3,854 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q3 2024, 12 (<1%) more than Q2 2024 (3,842) and 23 (<1%) fewer than Q3 2023 (3,877). Increase from Q2 2024 partly explained by validation of register in one area.
- 54 Tusla foster carers (28 general & 26 relative) and three private foster carers approved in Q3 2024. This brings to 161 the number of Tusla foster carers (78 general and 83 relative) and 21 the number of private foster carers approved in the first nine months of 2024.
- 25 applicants to be general foster carers awaiting assessment at the end of Q3 2024 with a further four applicants awaiting approval by the foster care committee.
- 78 applications for general foster care and 148 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q3 2024.
- 93% (2,061) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2024, no change from Q2 2024.
- 149 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 13 (8%) fewer than Q2 2024 (162).
- 96% (945) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2024, up one percentage point from Q2 2024 (95%).
- 42 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q3 2024, 8 (16%) fewer than Q2 2024 (50).
- 99% (194) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an

3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 3,854 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q3 2024, 12 (<1%) more than Q2 2024 (3,842) and 23 (<1%) fewer than Q3 2023 (3,877). *Increase from Q2 2024 partly explained by validation of register in one area.*



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

- 230 unapproved relative foster carers at the end of Q3 2024 of which 85% (196) had a child placed for >12 weeks. 81% (987/1,217) of relative foster carers are approved.
- 57% (2,210) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 26% (987), while private foster carers account for the remaining 17% (657).
- The number of general foster carers (2,210) is down five from Q2 2024 (2,215) and 21 (1%) from Q3 2023 (2,231), quarter on quarter decrease. Relative foster carers (987) are down six from Q2 2024 (993) and 28 from Q3 2023 (1,015). Private foster carers (657) are up 23 from Q2 2024 (634) and up 26 (4%) from Q3 2023 (631). Increase partly explained by validation of the foster carers register in one area.

Breakdown of foster carers by type

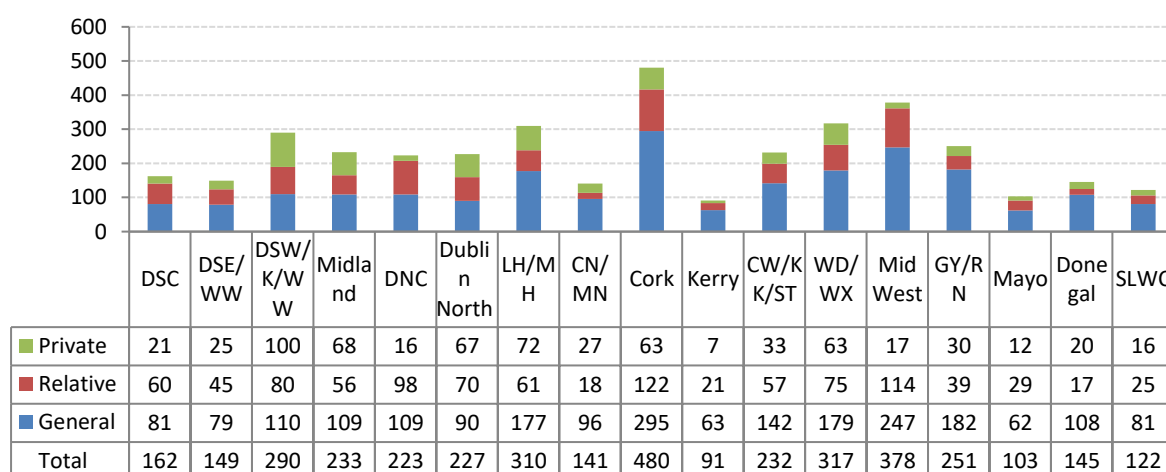
Foster Carers	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Δ (+/-) Q3 v Q2
General (Approved)	2,231	2,227	2,216	2,215	2,210	-5
Relative (Approved)	1,015	996	998	993	987	-6
Private (Approved)	631	633	630	634	657*	+23*
Total Approved	3,877	3,856	3,844	3,842	3,854	12
Relative (Unapproved)	257	245	224	222	230	8

*Increase in private foster carers partly explained by validation of register in one area.

- 54 Tusla foster carers (28 general & 26 relative) and three private foster carers approved in Q3 2024. This brings to 161 the number of Tusla foster carers (78 general and 83 relative) and 21 the number of private foster carers approved in the first nine months of 2024.
- 25 applicants to be general foster carers awaiting assessment at the end of Q3 2024 with a further four applicants awaiting approval by the foster care committee.
- 78 applications for general foster care and 148 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q3 2024.

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

- The number of foster carers approved (all types) and on the panel at the end of Q3 2024, ranged from 480 in Cork to 91 in Kerry



Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q3 2024

- 9 areas reported an increase from Q2 2024 in the number of foster carers on the panel. Largest increase reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 7) followed by Louth/Meath (up 6), Waterford/Wexford (up 5) and Mayo (up 5).
- 7 areas reported a decrease from Q2 2024. The largest decrease was reported by Dublin South Central (down 7) followed by Cork (down 5). The remaining area (Dublin South East/Wicklow) reported no change.

Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types)

Area	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Δ (+/-) Q3 2024 v Q2 2024
Dublin South Central	170	170	168	169	162	-7
Dublin South East/Wicklow	151	136	146	149	149	0
DSW/K/WW	297	289	288	283	290*	7
Midlands	246	257	251	236	233	-3
Dublin North City	244	243	223	224	223	-1
Dublin North	219	216	218	224	227	3
Louth/Meath	272	271	289	304	310	6
Cavan/Monaghan	133	137	136	139	141	2
Cork	501	506	491	485	480	-5
Kerry	84	88	91	90	91	1
CW/K/ST	249	239	242	235	232	-3
Waterford/Wexford	310	308	310	312	317	5
Mid West	390	386	379	379	378	-1
Galway/Roscommon	259	257	254	250	251	1
Mayo	100	100	99	98	103	5
Donegal	147	143	145	147	145	-2
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	105	110	114	118	122	4
Total	3,877	3,856	3,844	3,842	3,854	12

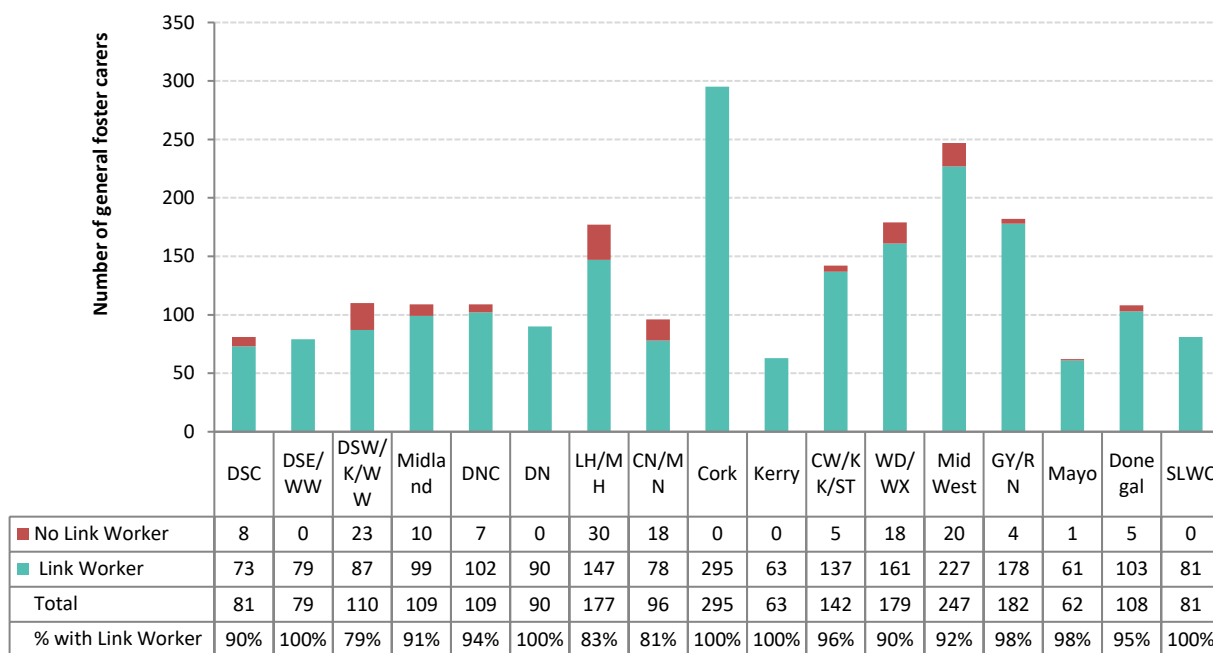
**Increase partly explained by validation of the foster carers register in this area*

- 93% (2,061) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2024, no change from Q2 2024.
- 149 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 13 (8%) fewer than Q2 2024 (162).
- 14/17 areas reported 90% or higher with five of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (79%), Cavan/Monaghan (81%) and Louth/Meath (83%) lower than all other areas.
- Louth/Meath has the highest number of general foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker (30) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (23) and Midwest (20).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q2 2024	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2024	% With Link Worker Q2 2024	With Link Worker Q3 2024	Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2024	% With Link Worker Q3 2024	Δ +/- No. Awaiting LW Q3 2024 v Q2 2024
Dublin South Central	74	7	91%	73	8	90%	1
Dublin South East/Wicklow	78	0	100%	79	0	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	83	29	74%	87	23	79%	-6
Midlands	104	10	91%	99	10	91%	0
Dublin North City	103	8	93%	102	7	94%	-1
Dublin North	91	0	100%	90	0	100%	0
Louth/Meath	140	35	80%	147	30	83%	-5
Cavan/Monaghan	90	5	95%	78	18	81%	13
Cork	297	0	100%	295	0	100%	0
Kerry	61	1	98%	63	0	100%	-1
CW/K/ST	135	7	95%	137	5	96%	-2
Waterford/Wexford	156	21	88%	161	18	90%	-3
Mid West	217	29	88%	227	20	92%	-9
Galway/Roscommon	185	0	100%	178	4	98%	4
Mayo	59	1	98%	61	1	98%	0
Donegal	101	9	92%	103	5	95%	-4
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	79	0	100%	81	0	100%	0
Total	2,053	162	93%	2,061	149	93%	1

General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q3 2024



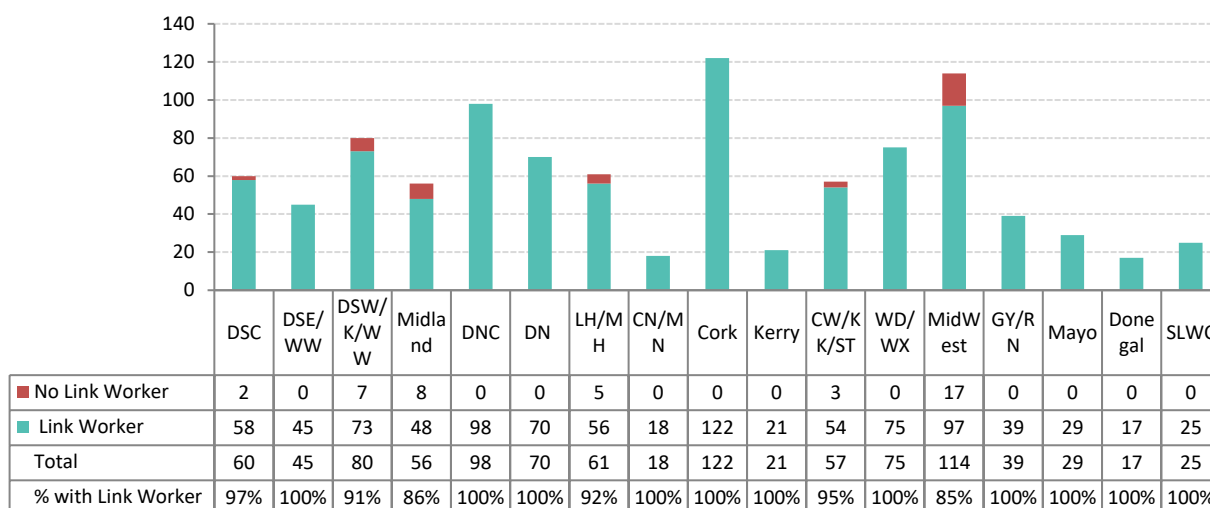
- 96% (945) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q3 2024, up one percentage point from Q2 2024 (95%).

- 42 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q3 2024, 8 (16%) fewer than Q2 2024 (50).
- 15/17 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with eleven of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Midwest (85%) and Midlands (86%) lower than all other areas.
- Midwest reported the highest number of relative foster carers on the panel awaiting a link (social) worker (17) followed by Midlands (8).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q2 2024	Awaiting Link Worker Q2 2024	% With Link Worker Q2 2024	With Link Worker Q3 2024	Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2024	% With Link Worker Q3 2024	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2024 v Q2 2024
Dublin South Central	64	4	94%	58	2	97%	-2
Dublin South East/Wicklow	46	0	100%	45	0	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	74	15	83%	73	7	91%	-8
Midlands	53	1	98%	48	8	86%	7
Dublin North City	97	0	100%	98	0	100%	0
Dublin North	67	0	100%	70	0	100%	0
Louth/Meath	50	7	88%	56	5	92%	-2
Cavan/Monaghan	15	3	83%	18	0	100%	-3
Cork	125	0	100%	122	0	100%	0
Kerry	18	3	86%	21	0	100%	-3
CW/K/ST	55	4	93%	54	3	95%	-1
Waterford/Wexford	71	0	100%	75	0	100%	0
Mid West	105	10	91%	97	17	85%	7
Galway/Roscommon	36	0	100%	39	0	100%	0
Mayo	26	1	96%	29	0	100%	-1
Donegal	17	2	89%	17	0	100%	-2
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	24	0	100%	25	0	100%	0
Total	943	50	95%	945	42	96%	-8

Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q3 2024



3.4.3 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

- 230 relative foster carers were unapproved at the end of Q3 2024, eight more than Q2 2024 (222) and 27 (11%) fewer than Q3 2023 (257).
- Of these, 196 (85%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; up 22 (13%) from Q2 2024 (174)
- 99% (194) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. Two carers were awaiting a link worker, five fewer than Q2 2024 (7).

Breakdown of relative foster carers not approved

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Δ (+/-) Q3 2024 v Q2 2024
No. unapproved	257	245	224	222	230	+8
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	187	210	190	174	196	+22
	73%	86%	85%	78%	85%	
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	175	197	180	167	194	
	94%	94%	95%	96%	99%	
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	12	13	10	7	2	-5

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

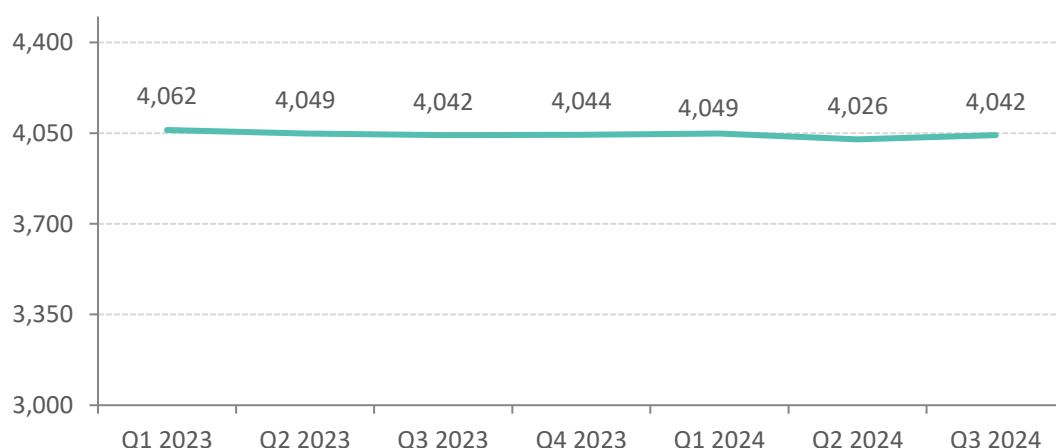
KEY FACTS

- 4,042 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q3 2024, 16 (<1%) more than Q2 2024 (4,026) and no change from Q3 2023.
- 527 inspections (all types) carried out in Q3 2024. This brings to 1,696 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2024, 92 (5%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (1,788).
- 31 applications to register as a new service, received by the Inspectorate in Q3 2024, bringing the number of applications received for the first nine months of 2024 to 124. A total of 146 applications were received in 2023.
- 169 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q3 2024, bringing the number notified for the first nine months of 2024 to 546. A total of 855 incidents notified in 2023.
- 130 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q3 2024, bringing the number of submissions for the first nine months of 2024 to 322. A total of 490 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during 2023.
- 41 services were found to have closed in the first nine months of 2024, bringing the number for the first nine months of 2024 to 82. A total of 115 services were found to have closed in 2023.

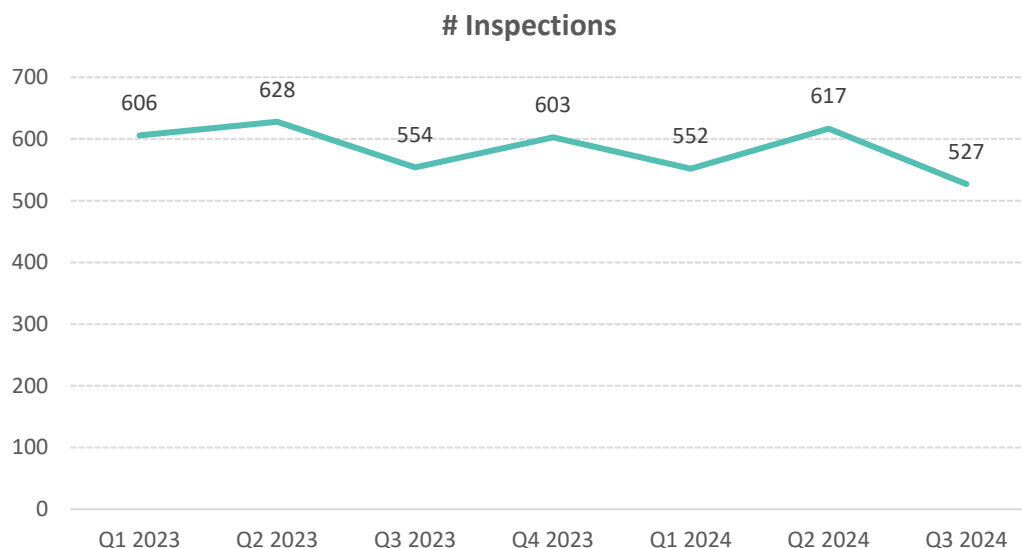
4.1.1 Activity Data

- 4,042 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q3 2024, 16 (<1%) more than Q2 2024 (4,026) and no change from Q3 2023.

Early Years Services on the Register

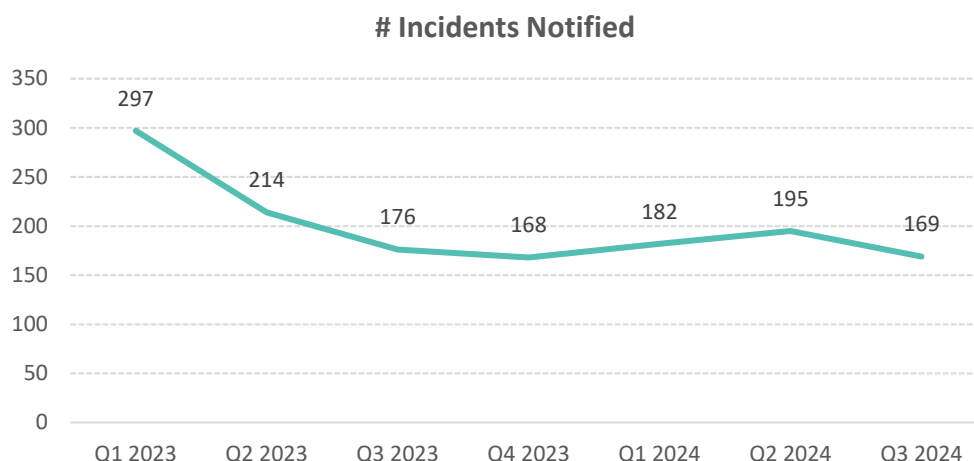


- 527 inspections (all types⁸) carried out in Q3 2024. This brings to 1,696 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2024, 92 (5%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (1,788).

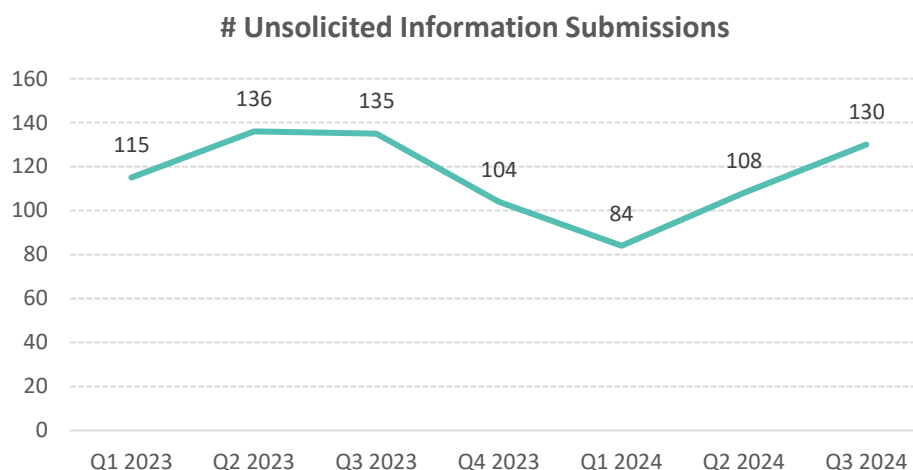


- 31 applications to register as a new service, received by the Inspectorate in Q3 2024, bringing the number of applications received for the first nine months of 2024 to 124. A total of 146 applications were received in 2023.
- 58 new registration applications approved by the Inspectorate in Q3 2024, bringing the number of applications approved for the first nine months of 2024 to 81. A total of 86 new registration applications approved in 2023.
- One application to become an EYS refused registration by the Inspectorate in the first nine months of 2024. No applications refused by the Inspectorate in 2023.
- 612 “change in circumstances” notifications received by the Inspectorate in Q3 2024, bringing the number of notifications received for the first nine months of 2024 to 1,457. A total of 1,967 “change in circumstances” notifications received by the Inspectorate in 2023.
- 169 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q3 2024, bringing the number notified for the first nine months of 2024 to 546. A total of 855 incidents notified in 2023.

⁸ Includes initial, follow up, complaints, focused inspections or fit for purpose inspections.



- 130 unsolicited information submissions⁹ received by the Inspectorate during Q3 2024, bringing the number of submissions for the first nine months of 2024 to 322. A total of 490 unsolicited information submissions¹⁰ received by the Inspectorate during 2023.



- One EYS prosecuted by Tusla, in the first nine months of 2024, for breach of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Service) Regulations 2016. No EYS prosecuted in 2023.
- No service removed from the register by the Inspectorate in the first nine months of 2024. No service removed from the register by the Inspectorate in 2023
- 41 services were found to have closed in the first nine months of 2024, bringing the number for the first nine months of 2024 to 82. A total of 115 services were found to have closed in 2023.

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

¹⁰ Unsolicited information is defined as any piece of information that relates to the operation of an Early Years Service that has been brought to the attention of the Inspectorate but has not been sought or requested or invited. Information received in the form of a complaint shall be processed as unsolicited information.

4.2 ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT & REGISTRATION SERVICE

Key Facts

Home Education

2,143 children on the register for home education at the end of Q3 2024. As outlined in a recently published regulatory notice (AEARS – RNo1.1), children and young people aged 16+ who meet specific criteria, as outlined in the notice, will automatically cease to be included on the section 14 register. In response to the notice, 475 children who met these criteria were removed from the register at the end of August, resulting in the large drop in the register numbers.

- 318 applications received for home education during Q3 2024, bringing to 876 the number of applications received for the first nine months of 2024, 103 (11%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (979).
- 294 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q3 2024, bringing to 935 the number of assessments carried out for the first nine months of 2024, 207 (28%) more than the same period in 2023 (728).
- 808 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q3 2024, 68 (8%) fewer than Q2 2024 (876) and 441 (35%) fewer than Q3 2023 (1,249).

Independent Schools

- 61 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q3 2024, no change from Q2 2024.
- 6,605 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q3 2024 with 4,686 of these children on the register.
- 6 schools due for assessment at the end of Q3 2024.

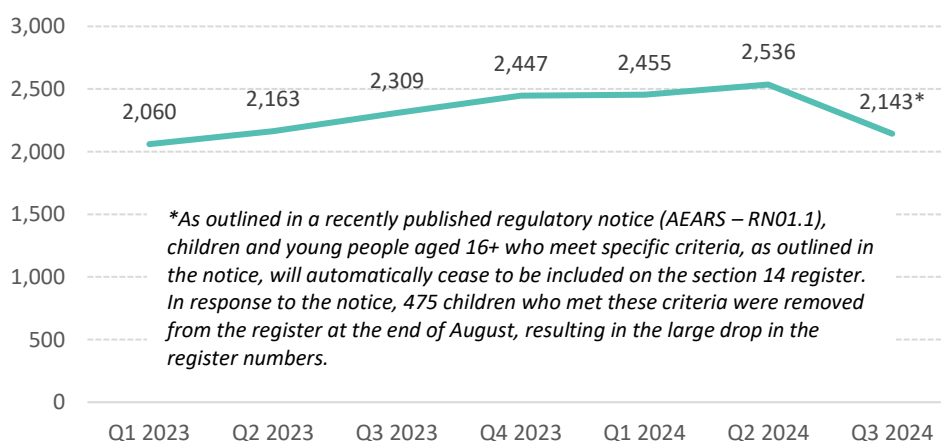
Home Education

- 2,143 children on the register for home education at the end of Q3 2024.

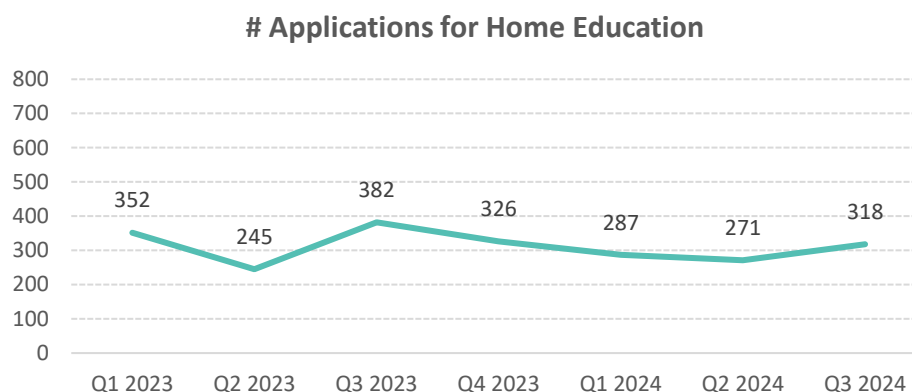
As outlined in a recently published regulatory notice (AEARS – RNo1.1), children and young people aged 16+ who meet specific criteria, as outlined in the notice, will automatically cease to be included on the section 14 register. In response to the notice, 475 children who met these criteria were removed from the register at the end of August, resulting in the large drop in the register numbers.

- 16% (340) of children on the register at the end of Q3 2024 have special educational needs.

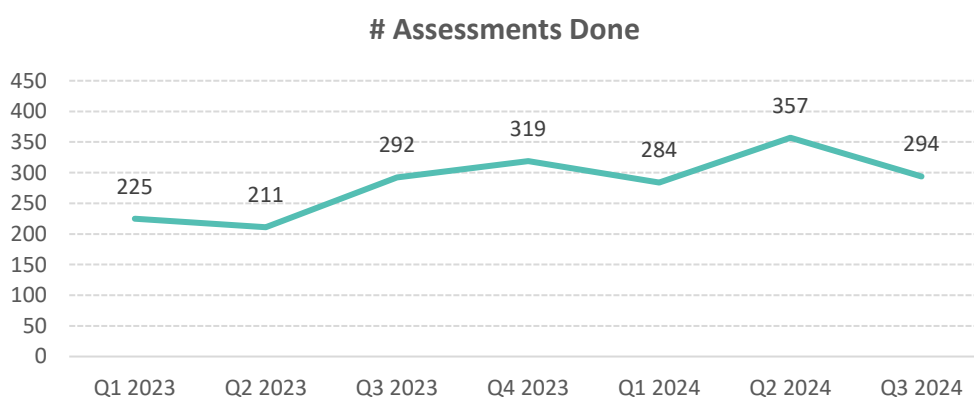
Children on Register for Home Education



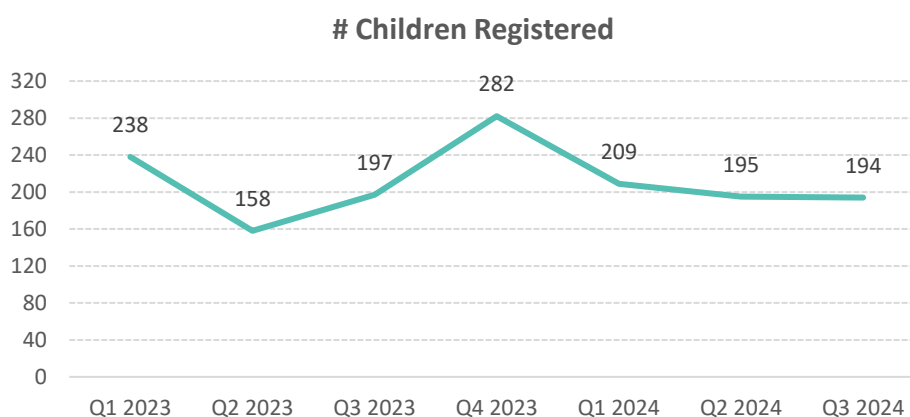
- 318 applications¹¹ received for home education during Q3 2024, bringing to 876 the number of applications received for the first nine months of 2024, 103 (11%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (979).



- 294 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q3 2024, bringing to 935 the number of assessments carried out for the first nine months of 2024, 207 (28%) more than the same period in 2023 (728).



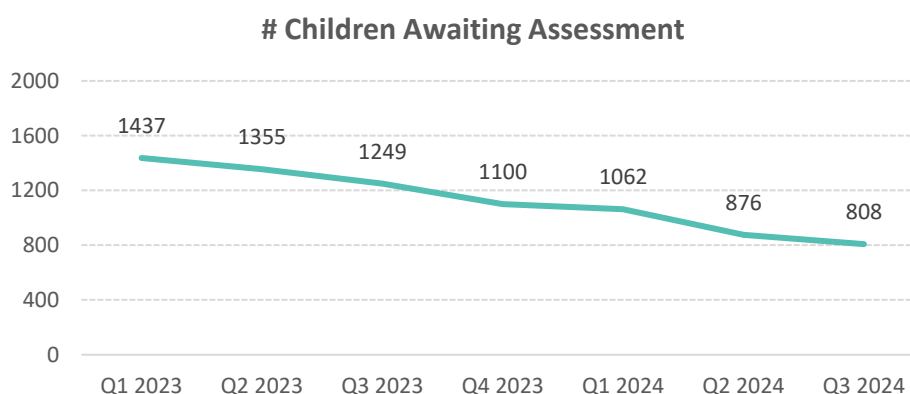
- 194 children registered for home education¹² in Q3 2024, bringing to 598 the number of children registered for the first nine months of 2024, five more than the same period in 2023 (593).



¹¹ The figure for applications includes valid and invalid applications

¹² 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

- 808 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q3 2024, 68 (8%) fewer than Q2 2024 (876) and 441 (35%) fewer than Q3 2023 (1,249).



- 587 children removed from the register in Q3 2024, bringing to 902 the number of children removed for the first nine months of 2024. Of the children removed from the register for the first nine months of 2024, 119 (13%) were over 18 years, 185 (21%) returned to school, 55 (6%) left the jurisdiction. The remaining 543 (60%) were removed for other reasons.

Independent Schools

- 61 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q3 2024, no change from Q2 2024.
- 6,605 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q3 2024 with 4,686 of these children on the register.
- 6 schools due for assessment at the end of Q3 2024.

4.3 ALTERNATIVE CARE INSPECTION & MONITORING SERVICES

Key Facts

- 182 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q3 2024; 12 (7%) more than Q2 2024 (170).
- 57 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q3 2024, bringing to 159 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2024. A total of 144 inspections were carried out during the same period in 2023.
- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q3 2024, no change from Q2 2024. Two non-statutory foster care services visited, and two monitoring visits conducted during the first nine months of 2024.

Non-Statutory Children's Residential Centres

- 182 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q3 2024; 12 (7%) more than Q2 2024 (170).
- 57 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q3 2024, bringing to 159 the number of inspections for the first nine months of 2024. A total of 144 inspections were carried out during the same period in 2023.

Inspections of Non-Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	Total 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	2024 YTD
Thematic Inspection (announced) on-site	85	24	24	34	82
Thematic Inspection (unannounced) on site	74	19	25	10	54
Thematic Inspection (announced) remote inspection	4	0	0	0	0
New Registration Inspection Visit	24	5	5	13	23
Total	187	48	54	57	159

Non-Statutory Foster Care Service

- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q3 2024, no change from Q2 2024. Two non-statutory foster care services visited, and two monitoring visits conducted during the first nine months of 2024.

5.0 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY FACTS

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2023 – August 2024

- 8,042 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) during the academic year 2023-2024, 658 (9%) more than the previous academic year (7,384).
- 3,509 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of August 2024, 25 (<1%) fewer than August 2023 (3,484).
- 3,924 new individual children worked with during the academic year 2023-2024, 523 (15%) more than the previous academic year (3,401).
- 7,575 individual children worked with during the academic year 2023-2024, 697 (10%) more than the previous academic year (6,878).
- 681 school attendance notices (SANs) issued during the academic year 2023-2024, 171 (34%) more than the previous academic year (510). The SANs issued were in respect of 494 individual children, 138 (39%) more than the previous academic year (356).
- 136 summonses issued during the academic year 2023-2024, 25 (23%) more than the previous academic year (111). The summonses were in respect of 111 individual children, 38 (52%) more than the previous academic year (73).
- 271 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs during the academic year 2023-2024, 13 (5%) more than the previous academic year (258).

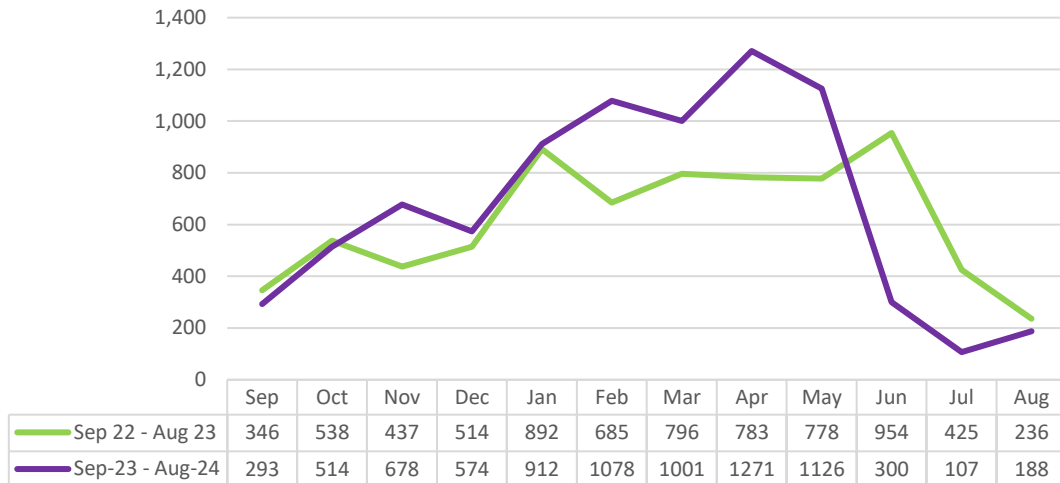
Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2023 – August 2024

- 8,042 referrals¹³ screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) during the academic year 2023-2024, 658 (9%) more than the previous academic year (7,384).
- 3,985 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers during the academic year 2023-2024, 220 (6%) more than the previous academic year (3,765).
- 3,020 referrals screened out / required no further action during the academic year 2023-2024, 96 (3%) more than the previous academic year (3,116).
- 3,509 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of August 2024, 25 (<1%) fewer than August 2023 (3,484).

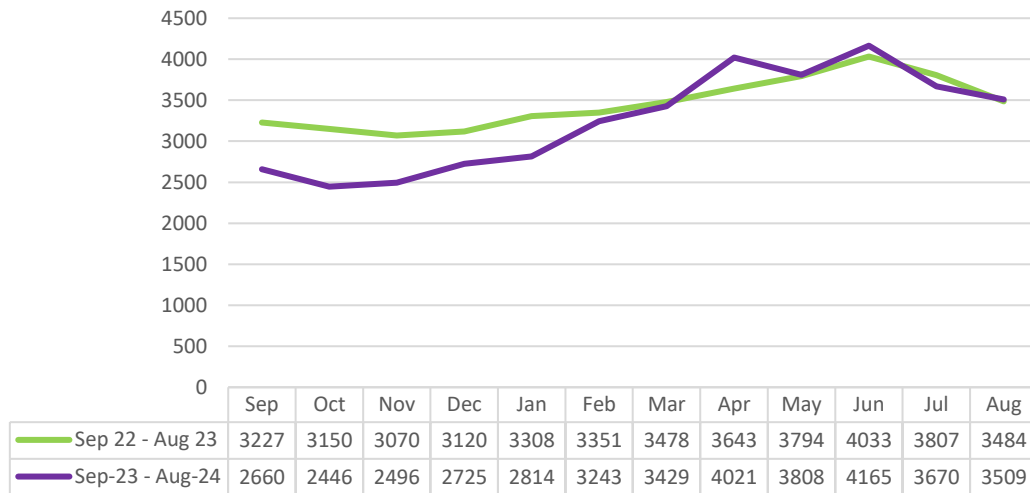
	Sept 2022 – Aug 2023	Sept 2023 – Aug 2024	Δ
# Referrals screened	7,384	8,042	658 (9%)
# Referrals allocated	3,765	3,985	220 (6%)
# Referrals screened out	3,116	3,020	96 (3%)
# Referrals on waiting list	3,484	3,509	25 (<1%)

¹³ A referral is a written notification of concern to EWS from a school, a parent, agency or concerned citizen in relation to the educational welfare of a named child. Referrals are then screened against a set of criteria by the Senior Educational Welfare Officer and a decision is made as to whether to proceed and open a case in relation this named child, or placed on a waiting list if there is an EWS capacity issue.

Referrals Screened



Screened Referrals on Waiting List



- 5,147 new cases assigned to EWOs during the academic year 2023-2024, 734 (17%) more than the previous academic year (4,413).
- 4,796 cases closed during the academic year 2023-2024, 557 (13%) more than the previous academic year (4,239).
- 3,924 new individual children worked with during the academic year 2023-2024, 523 (15%) more than the previous academic year (3,401).
- 7,575 individual children worked with during the academic year 2023-2024, 697 (10%) more than the previous academic year (6,878).

	Sept 2022 – Aug 2023	Sept 2023 – Aug 2024	Δ
# cases assigned	4,413	5,147	734 (17%)
# cases closed	4,239	4,796	557 (13%)
# new individual children worked with	3,401	3,924	523 (15%)
# Individual children worked with	6,878	7,575	697 (10%)

- 681 school attendance notices (SANs) issued during the academic year 2023-2024, 171 (34%) more than the previous academic year (510). The SANs issued were in respect of 494 individual children, 138 (39%) more than the previous academic year (356).
- 136 summonses issued during the academic year 2023-2024, 25 (23%) more than the previous academic year (111). The summonses were in respect of 111 individual children, 38 (52%) more than the previous academic year (73).
- EWOs attended 247 court cases in relation to their own cases during the academic year 2023-2024, one fewer than the previous academic year (248).
- 271 Section 24¹⁴ meetings convened by EWOs during the academic year 2023-2024, 13 (5%) more than the previous academic year (258).
- 178 child protection and welfare referrals made by EWOs during the academic year 2023-2024, 30 (20%) more than the previous academic year (148).
- 144 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs during the academic year 2023-2024, 29 (25%) more than the previous academic year (115).

	Sept 2022 – Aug 2023	Sept 2023 – Aug 2024	Δ
School Attendance Notices Issues	510	681	171 (34%)
SANs - individual children involved	356	494	138 (39%)
Summonses Issued	111	136	25 (23%)
Summonses – individual children involved	73	111	38 (52%)
Court cases attended in relation to own cases	248	247	-1 (<1%)
Section 24 meetings convened	258	271	13 (5%)
Child protection & welfare referrals made	148	178	30 (20%)
Child protection conferences attended	115	144	29 (25%)

¹⁴ Section 24 Education Welfare Act 2000: Where the board of management of a recognised school or a person acting on its behalf is of the opinion that a student should be expelled from that school it shall, before so expelling the student, notify the educational welfare officer to whom functions under this Act have been assigned, in writing, of its opinion and the reasons therefor. The educational welfare officer concerned shall, as soon as may be after receiving a notification under *subsection (1)*, make all reasonable efforts to ensure that provision is made for the continued education of the student to whom the notification relates.

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

6.0 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

6.1 Family Support Services

6.2 Meitheal and Child & Family Support Networks

6.1 FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES¹⁵

KEY FACTS

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

- 442 family support providers commissioned (H1 2024). 85% (375) of services commissioned provided data for H1 2024.
- At least 21,620 children were in receipt of family support services at the end of H1 2024. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- At least 24,914 children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2024.
- 63% (15,709) of children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2024 received a service during that period. The percentage who received a service ranged from 33% (Waterford/Wexford) to 95% (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 63%.

Data updated from previously published.

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

6.1.1 Family Support Providers

- 442 family support providers commissioned (H1 2024)
- 85% (375) of services commissioned provided data for H1 2024. Response rates ranged from 52% (Dublin South Central) to 100% in six areas (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow, Louth/Meath, Kerry, Midwest, Galway/Roscommon, Mayo and Donegal).

Family Support Services Commissioned by Areas

Area	# Family Support Providers Commissioned H1 2024	# External to Tusla	# Internal to Tusla	# services that provided data	% that provided data
Dublin South Central	86	34	52	45	52%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	15	12	3	13	87%
DSW/K/WW	25	20	5	25	100%
Midlands	5	5	0	4	80%
Dublin North City	48	41	7	46	96%
Dublin North	22	21	1	19	86%
Louth/Meath	23	18	5	23	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	18	16	2	17	94%

¹⁵ 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.

Cork	37	35	2	29	78%
Kerry	20	20	0	20	100%
CW/K/ST	27	24	3	25	93%
Waterford/Wexford	25	22	3	20	80%
Mid West	39	39	0	39	100%
Galway/Roscommon	12	12	0	12	100%
Mayo	10	10	0	10	100%
Donegal	12	12	0	12	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	18	18	0	16	89%
Total	442	359	83	375	85%

6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

- At least 21,620 children were in receipt of family support services at the end of H1 2024. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- Highest rates reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (5.5%) and Donegal (4.4%). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 1.8%.
- Highest number of children in receipt of family report services reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (2,565; 11.9%) followed by Midwest (2,076; 9.6%), Donegal (1,841; 8.5%) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (1,532; 7.1%).

Children in receipt of Family Support Services

Area	Number of children in receipt of a FSS end of H2 2023	Number of children in receipt of a FSS end of H1 2024	% Total H1 2024	Population 0-17 years (Census 2016)	Rate / 100 children
Dublin South Central	1,528	1,487	6.9%	70,259	2.1%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	761	690	3.2%	91,047	0.8%
DSW/K/WW	2,323	2,565	11.9%	108,927	2.4%
Midlands	311	186	0.9%	80,962	0.2%
Dublin North City	1,384	1,406	6.5%	48,909	2.9%
Dublin North	437	1,169	5.4%	104,281	1.1%
Louth/Meath	1,004	1,284	5.9%	96,531	1.3%
Cavan/Monaghan	529	770	3.6%	37,336	2.1%
Cork	817	1,009	4.7%	136,786	0.7%
Kerry	588	927	4.3%	34,994	2.6%
CW/KK/ST	1,470	1,532	7.1%	62,366	2.5%
Waterford/Wexford	1,028	1,159	5.4%	69,239	1.7%
MidWest	1,936	2,076	9.6%	96,764	2.1%
Galway/Roscommon	1,262	1,403	6.5%	81,799	1.7%
Mayo	486	773	3.6%	31,911	2.4%
Donegal	2,637	1,841	8.5%	42,144	4.4%
SLWC	1,291	1,343	6.2%	24,312	5.5%
Total	19,792	21,620	100.0%	1,218,567	1.8%

6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

- At least 24,914 children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2024.
- The highest rate of referrals was reported by Dublin North City (6.2%) followed by Donegal (4.1%), Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (3.8%) and Waterford/Wexford (3.2%).
- The highest number of children referred was reported by Dublin North City (3,025; 12%) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (2,328; 9%), Waterford/Wexford (2,209; 9%) and Dublin south Central (2,120; 9%).

Children referred to Family Support Services by area

Area	Total Referrals 2023	Total Referrals H1 2024	% Total H1 2024	Population 0-17 years (Census 2016)	% children referred
Dublin South Central	3,945	2,120	8.5%	70,259	3.0%
DSE/WW	1,595	966	3.9%	91,047	1.1%
DSW/K/WW	4,170	2,328	9.3%	108,927	2.1%
Midlands	921	229	0.9%	80,962	0.3%
Dublin North City	4,264	3,025	12.1%	48,909	6.2%
Dublin North	3,937	1,237	5.0%	104,281	1.2%
Louth/Meath	1,874	1,185	4.8%	96,531	1.2%
Cavan/Monaghan	1,215	998	4.0%	37,336	2.7%
Cork	2,784	1,781	7.1%	136,786	1.3%
Kerry	1,947	1,039	4.2%	34,994	3.0%
CW/K/ST	3,214	1,652	6.6%	62,366	2.6%
Waterford/Wexford	2,225	2,209	8.9%	69,239	3.2%
Mid West	2,674	1,472	5.9%	96,764	1.5%
Galway/Roscommon	2,927	1,341	5.4%	81,799	1.6%
Mayo	1,108	662	2.7%	31,911	2.1%
Donegal	4,327	1,736	7.0%	42,144	4.1%
SLWC	4,133	934	3.7%	24,312	3.8%
Total	47,260	24,914	100.0%	1,218,567	2.0%

6.1.4 Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals for the first six months of 2024 was parents/guardians, accounting for 29.3% (7,295) of referrals followed by Tusla social workers (22.6%; 5,639), schools (12%; 2,997) and HSE Officers (10%; 2,495).

Children referred to Family Support Services by source of referral

Source	Total Referrals 2023	Total Referrals H1 2024	% Total H1 2024
Parent/Guardian	13,657	7,295	29.3%
Tusla Social Workers	11,118	5,639	22.6%
Schools	5,413	2,997	12.0%
HSE Officers	3,695	2,495	10.0%
Other	2,005	2,061	8.3%

Other Tulsa Officers	2,342	1,437	5.8%
Child/Young Person	5,118	1,276	5.1%
Voluntary Agency	2,415	1,127	4.5%
GP	555	260	1.0%
Other Family Member	719	251	1.0%
AGS	158	76	0.3%
Anonymous	65	0	0.0%
Total	47,260	24,914	100.0%

6.1.5 Children who received a service

- 63% (15,709) of children referred to family support services during the first six months of 2024 received a service during that period. The percentage who received a service ranged from 33% (Waterford/Wexford) to 95% (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 63%.

Children referred to Family Support Services who received a service during the reporting period, H1 2024

Area	Referrals H2 2023	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service	Referrals H1 2024	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service
Dublin South Central	1,793	1,144	64%	2,120	1,226	58%
DSE/WW	865	327	38%	966	418	43%
DSW/K/WW	2,021	1,484	73%	2,328	1,146	49%
Midlands	456	398	87%	229	114	50%
Dublin North City	2,307	1,190	52%	3,025	1,505	50%
Dublin North	1,910	552	29%	1,237	946	76%
Louth/Meath	899	358	40%	1,185	655	55%
Cavan/Monaghan	599	552	92%	998	644	65%
Cork	1,562	947	61%	1,781	1,218	68%
Kerry	926	691	75%	1,039	893	86%
CW/K/ST	1,455	954	66%	1,652	1,203	73%
Waterford/Wexford	1,414	1,140	81%	2,209	739	33%
Mid West	1,419	1,088	77%	1,472	1,153	78%
Galway/Roscommon	1,442	1,007	70%	1,341	951	71%
Mayo	425	413	97%	662	613	93%
Donegal	2,440	2202	90%	1,736	1,395	80%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	3,154	571	18%	934	890	95%
Total	25,087	15,018	60%	24,914	15,709	63%

6.1.6 Parenting Support Service

- 14,913 parents/guardians/care givers were referred to a parenting support service during the first six months of 2024.
- 84% (12,456) of the parents/guardians/care givers referred received a service.
- 3,566 individual (one-to-one) parenting support services were commissioned internally during the first six months of 2024.
- 4,221 individual (one-to-one) parenting support services were commissioned externally during the first six months of 2024.
- 2,164 parenting support services that are group-based interventions were commissioned internally during the first six months of 2024.
- 1,309 parenting support services that are group-based interventions were commissioned externally during the first six months of 2024.

6.2 MEITHEAL

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

KEY FACTS

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

6.2.1 Meitheal Activity Data

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

Meitheal processes requested

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

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

Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests H1 2024

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

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

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

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

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

- 885 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the first six months of 2024.
- 54% (476) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting). The percentage of processes that proceeded to delivery ranged from 97% (28/29) Donegal to 12% (16/129) in Cavan/Monaghan. Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 54%.

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

Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, H1 2024

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

- 961 Meitheal processes were closed during the first six months of 2024. The number of processes closed ranged from 201 (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary) to 14 (Dublin North).
- 30% (290) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1). The percentage closed following submission of a Meitheal request form ranged from 100% (14/14) in Dublin North to none in two areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow and Cavan/Monaghan). Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 30%.

- 27% (260) of Meitheal processes were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage). The percentage closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form ranged 82% (102/124) in Cavan/Monaghan to none in two areas (Dublin North and Dublin South Central). Four areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (27%).
- 13% (125) of Meitheal processes were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3). The percentage closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings ranged from 38% (6/16) in Midlands to none in two areas (Dublin North and Louth/Meath). Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 13%.
- 30% (286) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery. The percentage closed post-delivery ranged from 68% (26/38) in Dublin South East/Wicklow area to none in one area (Dublin North). Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 30%.

Number of Meitheals closed H1 2024

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed H1 2024	Of the total number of Meitheals closed the number and % that were closed following:							
		Submission of a Meitheal Request Form	%	Completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Discussion Stage)	%	Commencement of Meitheal Support meetings (Delivery Stage)	%	Post delivery	%
DSC	16	4	25%	0	0%	2	13%	10	63%
DSE/WW	38	0	0%	6	16%	6	16%	26	68%
DSW/K/WW	75	18	24%	4	5%	12	16%	41	55%
Midlands	16	5	31%	2	13%	6	38%	3	19%
DNC	56	22	39%	6	11%	9	16%	19	34%
Dublin North	14	14	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
LH/MH	21	11	52%	5	24%	0	0%	5	24%
CN/MN	124	0	0%	102	82%	8	6%	14	11%
Cork	117	49	42%	24	21%	11	9%	33	28%
Kerry	69	23	33%	8	12%	7	10%	31	45%
CW/KK/ST	201	95	47%	59	29%	27	13%	20	10%
WD/WX	42	17	40%	12	29%	1	2%	12	29%
MidWest	57	9	16%	11	19%	8	14%	29	51%
GY/RN	31	6	19%	5	16%	6	19%	14	45%
Mayo	21	5	24%	1	5%	4	19%	11	52%
Donegal	41	6	15%	9	22%	11	27%	15	37%
SLWC	22	6	27%	6	27%	7	32%	3	14%
National	961	290	30%	260	27%	125	13%	286	30%

6.2.2 Child and Family Support Networks

- 118 Child and Family Support Networks¹⁶ (CFSN) operating at the end of Q2 2024 with a further nine planned/pre planning stage.

Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned

Area	CFSNs Operating H2 2023	CFSNs Operating H1 2024	CFSNs Planned H2 2024
Dublin South Central	8	7	1
Dublin South East/Wicklow	7	7	0
DSW/K/WW	10	10	0
Midlands	4	4	2
Dublin North City	6	6	1
Dublin North	4	4	4
Louth/Meath	5	5	0
Cavan/Monaghan	8	5	1
Cork	12	12	0
Kerry	3	3	0
CW/K/ST	8	10	0
Waterford/Wexford	8	8	0
Mid West	13	13	0
Galway/Roscommon	12	12	0
Mayo	4	4	0
Donegal	5	5	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	3	3	0
Total	120	118	9

¹⁶ Child and Family Support Networks: Collaborative networks of community, voluntary and statutory providers intended to improve access to support services for children and their families

7.0 PEOPLE & CHANGE

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

7.1 Workforce Position

7.2 Absence Rate

7.3 Social Work Staff

7.4 Residential Services

7.5 Workforce Learning and Development

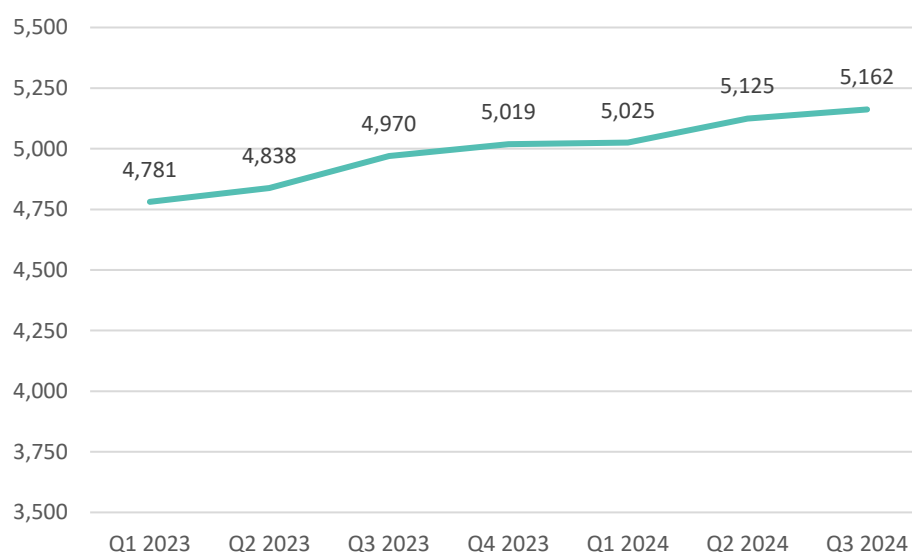
KEY FACTS

- 5,162 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2024, 37 (<1%) more than Q2 2024 (5,125) and 192 (4%) more than Q3 2023 (4,970).
- 673 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first nine months of 2024, 56 (8%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (729).
- 332 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first nine months of 2024, 52 (14%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (384).
- At the end of Q3 2024, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.36%, down slightly from 6.79% at the end of Q2 2024 and up 0.66 percentage points from Q3 2023 (5.7%).
- e-learning training activity: 7,794 completions were achieved in Q3 2024
- Classroom training: 2,573 participants attended in Q3 2024.

7.1 Workforce Position

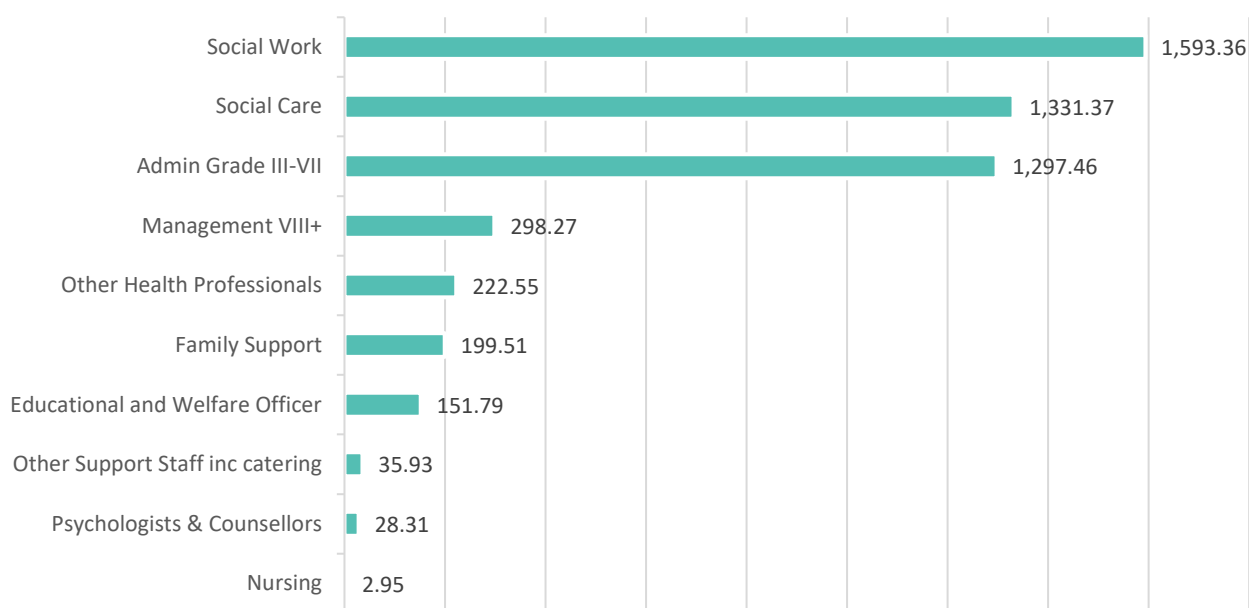
- 5,162 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2024, 37 (<1%) more than Q2 2024 (5,125) and 192 (4%) more than Q3 2023 (4,970).

Total Staff Employed (WTE), by quarter



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency, accounting for 31% (1,593.36) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q3 2024, followed by social care staff

accounting for a further 26% (1,331.37). Management (Grade VIII+) account for 6% (298.27) of the workforce.



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

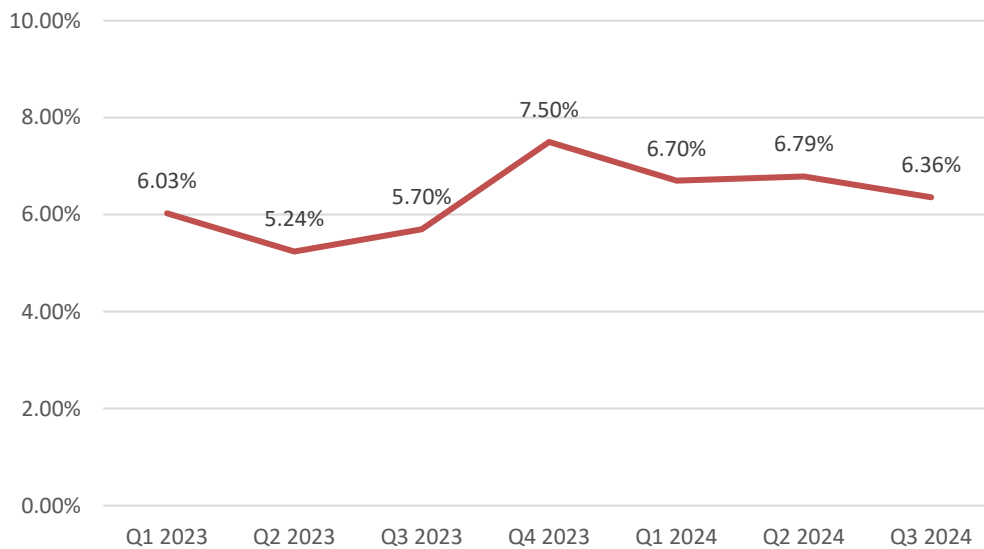
Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category

Staffing by Category	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q3 2024 v Q2 2024	Q3 2024 v Q3 2023
Social Work	1,609.65	1,611.57	1,595.45	1,588.02	1,593.36	5.34	-16.29
Social Care	1,301.32	1,322.68	1,315.23	1,334.16	1,331.37	-2.79	30.05
Admin Grade III-VII	1,191.83	1,214.88	1,227.08	1,275.99	1,297.46	21.47	105.63
Family Support	165.48	150.48	160.72	194.49	199.51	5.02	34.03
Management VIII+	286.12	292.39	293.96	298.07	298.27	0.20	12.15
Educational & Welfare Officer	148.05	149.26	150.97	152.84	151.79	-1.05	3.74
Other Support Staff	36.5	37.6	37.56	37.46	35.93	-1.53	-0.57
Nursing	5.38	5.38	5.40	3.52	2.95	-0.57	-2.43
Psychologists & Counsellors	24.24	23.8	25.92	25.85	28.31	2.46	4.07
Other Health Professionals	201.35	210.73	212.32	214.88	222.55	7.67	21.20
Total Staffing	4,970	5,019	5,025	5,125	5,162	37	192

- 673 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first nine months of 2024, 56 (8%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (729).
- 332 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in the first nine months of 2024, 52 (14%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (384).
- 93 staff retired in the first nine months of 2024, 12 (15%) more than the same period in 2023 (81).
- 155 (3%) staff were on maternity leave (paid and unpaid) at the end of Q3 2024.

7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of Q3 2024, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 6.36%, down slightly from 6.79% at the end of Q2 2024 and up 0.66 percentage points from Q3 2023 (5.7%).



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff at 10.5%. The rate for Residential Services (11.44%) (data not shown), is 5.08 percentage points higher than the overall rate of 6.36%. The overall absence rate excluding Residential Services is 5.43%.

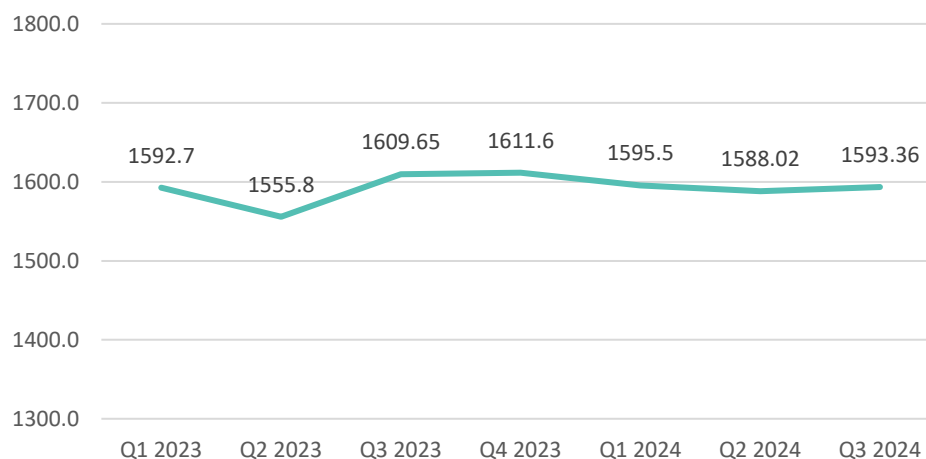
Absence rate by staff grade

Staff Grade	Absence Rate Q3 2023	Absence Rate Q4 2023	Absence Rate Q1 2024	Absence Rate Q2 2024	Absence Rate Q3 2024
Social Work	4.69%	6.12%	5.84%	6.14%	4.92
Social Care	8.7%	10.34%	9.68%	9.74%	10.05
All other grades	4.4%	6.4%	5.18%	5.2%	4.99

7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,593.36 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q3 2024, 5.34 (<1%) fewer than at the end of Q2 2024 (1,588.0) and 16.29 (1%) fewer than Q3 2023 (1,609.65)

Number of social workers (WTE) by quarter



- 179 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in the first nine months of 2024, 5 (3%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (184).
- 125 social workers left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks excluding retirements) during the first nine months of 2024, 54 (30%) fewer than the same period in 2023 (179).
- 21 social workers retired in the first nine months of 2024, 8 (62%) more than the same period in 2023 (13).
- 76 (5%) social workers were on maternity leave (paid and unpaid) at the end of Q3 2024.
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q3 2023 to Q3 2024 by area is presented in the table below.

Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q3 2023 – Q3 2024

	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)
Area	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024
DSC	73.51	72.94	70.5	70.52	76.56
DSE/WW	86.62	85.84	82.65	80.61	74
DSW/K/WW	102.64	100.41	100.16	97.16	100.63
Midlands	94.06	93.2	93.87	91.76	90.28
Regional Services DML	20.32	20.46	20.75	18.77	16.91
DML Total	377.15	372.85	367.93	358.82	358.38
CN/MN	45.69	46.48	48.62	49.02	45.06
DNC	75.84	73.72	76.9	79.75	78.73
LH/MH	81.96	78.84	81.4	85.76	90.47
Dublin North	92.27	94.47	91.56	92.9	89.53
Regional Services DNE	14.61	14.9	13.59	12.42	13.21
DNE Total	310.37	308.41	312.07	319.85	317
CW/KK/ST	68.17	64.12	64.82	62.31	62.28
Cork	186.48	188.12	189.31	187.68	181.17
Kerry	44.22	41.2	40.64	36.79	35.28
WD/WX	89.11	94.21	91.72	89.56	92.56
Regional Services South	2.0	3.94	5.87	6.77	7.47
South Total	389.98	391.59	392.36	383.11	378.56
Donegal	74.87	73.36	71.19	72.19	76.57
GY/RN	96.06	98.48	93.73	93.69	101.75
Mayo	38.45	35.68	36.41	35.04	36.62
Mid West	110.32	104.65	96.42	92.74	91.94
SLWC	38.61	42.18	40.46	44.52	42.03
Regional Services West	2.85	8.91	11.88	11.56	13.07
West Total	361.16	363.26	350.09	349.74	361.98
Residential DML					
Residential DNE	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
Residential West					

Residential South	1	1	1	1	1
National residential	1	1	1	1	1
Residential Services	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6
Corporate	166.39	170.86	168.4	171.9	172.64
Corporate	166.39	170.86	168.4	171.9	172.64
Total	1,609.65	1,611.57	1,595.45	1,588.02	1,593.36

7.4 Workforce Learning and Development (WLD)

- Table 1 shows classroom training attendance for Q3 2024
- Table 2 shows E-learning activity for Q3 2024
- The most attended classroom training was ‘Child Abuse Substantiation Procedure (CASP) Update Training’ with 527 completions followed by ‘Tusla Manual Handling’ with 431 completions and ‘MECPATHS Child Trafficking Training’ with 187 completions.
- The most popular E-learning module during Q3 2024 was ‘Data Protection in Tusla’ with 997 completions followed by ‘Complaint Handling in Tusla- Module 1’ with 992 completions and ‘Implementing Children First in Tusla’ with 851 completions.

Table 1: Classroom Training, Q3 2024

Name of Module	Total Completions
AMBIT	18
Applied Complaints Officer Review Training	4
Applied Complaints Officer Training	8
Attachment	16
CASP 2 Update Training	527
Child & Youth Participation Virtual Classroom	7
Children who have Sexually Harmed	61
Court Skills in Practice	34
Diversity in Modern Ireland	39
Everyday Personal Effectiveness Programme	27
First Aid Refresher	16
First Aid Response	31
Induction Day Tusla	47
LAMH	10
Management: An Introduction for First Time Managers	12
MBTI	8
MECPATHS Child Trafficking	187
MS Excel Advanced	5
MS Excel Intermediate	13
MS Outlook	9
MS Teams/SharePoint/OneNote	18

MS Word Advanced	4
Office for Legal Services, Briefings 2024	47
Reflective Writing in Practice	30
Resilience and Self Care	35
Resistance – Engaging with Families	7
Safetalk	20
Sharing Personal Data Safely	108
TCM (Classroom) Training for Child Protection and Alternative Care Staff	153
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Core Programme	3
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Refresher Programme	103
Tusla Coaching Skills	31
Tusla Manual Handling	431
Understanding Self Harm	14
VHA	100
Welltree 4	58
Welltree Module 1	51
Welltree Module 2	63
Welltree Module 3	66
Welltree Module 5	59
Welltree Module 6	59
Welltree Refresher	17
Young People - loss and Grief	17
Total	2,573

Table 2: E-Learning Q3 2024

Name of Module	Total Completions
An Introduction to Parental Participation for all staff	32
An Introduction to Tusla's Approach to Commissioning	11
Attachment in Tusla Practice	49
Barnahus	59
CASP elearning	10
Children First in Action	484
Child Sexual Exploitation - Tusla	164
Complaint handling in Tusla. (Module 1)	992
Complaint handling in Tusla. Understanding Complaint Investigations (Module2)	83
Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)- Tusla	45
Data Protection in Tusla	997
De-escalation Skills for Redeployed Staff to Residential Services - Tusla	3
Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence - An Introduction - Tusla	64
Freedom of Information: An Introduction to the FOI Act	747
Health and Safety Management: Introduction for Line Managers	49
Hidden Harm: The Impact of Parental Alcohol and other Drug use	50
Implementing Children First in Tusla	851

Incident Management - Tusla	720
Induction to Children's Residential Services in Tusla	22
An Introduction to Children First	105
Medication Management in Children's Residential Services - Tusla	138
Meitheal Briefing - Tusla	31
Minute Taking: An Introduction - Tusla	59
Organisational Risk Management - Tusla	74
Parental Participation in Practice	16
TCM for Child Protection, Welfare and Alternative Care (CPAC) - Tusla online	133
Tusla Case Management: Fundamentals of the TCM System	233
Tusla Employee Health and Safety Awareness Training	800
Using NIMS for the Management of Complaints	18
Violence, Harassment and Aggression (VHA) Online - Tusla	755
Total	7,794

8 FINANCE

KEY FACTS

- The outturn for the year to date (September YTD) is an overspend of €42.526 million (5%)
- The net expenditure is €825.309 million against a budget allocation of €788.722 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €8.154 million.
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €52.368 million.

Financial Performance

- The outturn for the year to date (September YTD) is an overspend of €42.526 million (5%)
- The net expenditure is €825.309 million against a budget allocation of €788.722 million.
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €8.154 million.

Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	Sept 2023 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
Pay costs	€303,103	€311,257	€8,154	(3%)

- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €52,368 million.

Non-Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	Sept 2023 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
Non pay costs	€545,668	€493,300	€52,368	11%

APPENDIX I

ABBREVIATIONS

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

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