



An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency

Quarterly Service Performance and Activity Report

QUARTER 4 2024



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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 Q4 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 Q4 2024 position regarding activity and performance.

CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

REFERRALS (data on referrals reported quarterly in arrears)

- 22,508 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q3 2024, 1,977 (8%) fewer than Q2 2024 (24,485) and 331 (1%) more than Q3 2023 (22,177). This brings to 70,592 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2024, 1,420 (2%) more than the same period in 2023 (69,172).
- 61% (42,780) of referrals for the first nine months of 2024 were for welfare concerns, 39% (27,402) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (410) of referrals.
- Most common source of referrals for the first nine months of 2024 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 34% (23,925) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by safeguarding officers (12%; 8,307), social workers (11%; 8,026) and teachers (10%; 6,711). Mandated persons accounted for 89% (62,944) of all sources.
- 57% (12,952/22,508) of referrals for Q3 2024 were closed following screening. Some 28% (6,317) of referrals progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (14%; 3,239) were either at the screening stage, awaiting closure following screening, or another process stage, when the data was extracted for reporting.
- 49% (6,325) of referrals for Q3 2024 were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 40% (5,137) were closed to social work with no further action required, 8% (1,018) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (196) were diverted to another agency.
- At the time the data for Q3 2024 was extracted for reporting, 98% (6,217/6,317) of preliminary enquiries were completed.
- Of the preliminary enquiry completed, 46% (2,838) required no further action; 33% (2,054) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (311) of cases. Some 10% (608) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS.
- At the time the Q3 2024 data was extracted for reporting, 56% (1,158/2,054) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed.

- 51% (593) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 60% (353) required no further action, 16% (94) were diverted to another agency for a service, 15% (91) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 9% (55) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- 27% (312) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 18% (212) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 4% (41) required admission to care.

SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA

- 22,839 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q4 2024, 1,978 (9%) more than Q3 2024 (20,861) and 757 (3%) more than Q4 2023 (22,082).
- 75% (17,049) of open cases were allocated to a worker at the end of Q4 2024, down four percentage points from Q3 2024 (79%).
- 5,790 (25%) cases were awaiting allocation, 1,511 (35%) more than Q3 2024 (4,279) and 459 (9%) more than Q4 2023 (5,331).
- Six areas account for 72% (4,162) of cases awaiting allocation, Dublin South Central (953; 16%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (890; 15%), Midlands (730; 13%), Cork (682; 12%), Louth/Meath (574; 10%) and Waterford/Wexford (333; 6%).
- 32% (1,842) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2024 were “active” on a duty system.
- 9% (523) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2024 were categorised as high priority, 78 (18%) more than Q3 2024 (445) and 75 (17%) more than Q4 2023 (448).
- 69% (4,020/5,790) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2024 were waiting three months or less and of these 48% (1,922) were waiting less than one month.
- 66% (345/523) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2024 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 51% (176) were waiting less than one month.

CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (CPNS)

Note: The data on children ‘active’ on the CPNS for Q4 2024 presented below is for the 12 December 2024 and not the usual last day of the month. This is due to the migration of Tusla’s standalone CPNS to its Tusla Case Management System for Child Protection & Welfare and Alternative Care (TCM CPAC) in the latter half of December, providing for better integration of child protection and welfare data. From Q1 2025 the CPNS data will be extracted from TCM – CPAC.

- 1,037 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of Q4 2024, 19 (2%) fewer than Q3 2024 (1,056) and the first decrease after seven consecutive increases.
- 75 (8%) more children ‘active’ at the end of Q4 2024 than at the end of Q4 2023 (962).
- 83% (864/1,037) of children listed as ‘active’ at the end of Q4 2024 were ‘active’ for no longer than 12 months, up slightly from 82% (870/1,056) at the end of Q3 2024.
- 6% (65/1,037) of children listed as ‘active’ at the end of Q4 2024 were ‘active’ for > 18 months, down from 7% (71/1,056) at the end of Q3 2024 and a decrease of six children.

- All children listed as ‘active’ at the end of Q4 2024 had an allocated social worker.

ALTERNATIVE CARE SERVICES

CHILDREN IN CARE

- 5,823 children in care at the end of Q4 2024, 63 (1%) more than Q3 2024 (5,760). This figure (5,823) includes 118 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.
- 87.2% (5,077) of children in care (17 Areas + SCSIP) were in foster care (general & relative) at the end of Q4 2024 and 9.3% (543) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 3.5% (203) 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, 88.6% (5,057/5,705) were in foster care, 8.0% (457) were in residential care and the remaining 3.3% (191) were in “other” care placements.
- 1,015 (17%) children in care at the end of Q4 2024 were in placements with private providers, 38 (4%) more than Q3 2024 (977).
- Across the 17 areas there were 29 (3%) more children in placements with private providers at the end of Q4 2024 (943) than at the end of Q3 2024 (914) and 115 (14%) more than Q4 2023 (828).
- 86% (5,003) of children in care at the end of Q4 2024 had an allocated worker, up two percentage points from Q3 2024 (84%). Some 820 (14%) children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q4 2024, 104 (11%) fewer than Q3 204 (924).
- 83% (4,844) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, down two percentage points from Q3 2024 (85%). Some 979 (17%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 127 (15%) more than Q3 2024 (852).
- 96% (3,582/3,727) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q4 2024, down one percentage point from Q3 2024 (97%).
- 93% (920/993) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q3 2024, up one percentage point from Q3 2024 (92%).

AFTERCARE

- 150 referrals for an aftercare service in Q4 2024. This brings to 580 the number of referrals for 2024, 57 (11%) more than 2023 (523).
- 2,935 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2024, 20 (<1%) more than Q3 2024 (2,915) and 31 (1%) more than Q4 2023 (2,904). *Figures include young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*
- 78% (1,721/2,196) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q4 2024 were in education/accredited training.

- Almost half (45%; 997) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,196) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 10% (218) had returned home to parents/family. One in five (23%; 509) was in independent living arrangements.
- 82% (2,394) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2024 had an aftercare plan, up one percentage point from Q3 2024 (81%). A total of 541 were awaiting a plan, 9 (2%) fewer than Q3 2024 (550).
- 88% (1,998/2,280) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2024, no change from Q3 2024. A total of 282 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2024, three more than Q3 2024 (279).
- 99.3% (284/286) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2024.
- 86% (1,714/1,994) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2024.

ADOPTION SERVICES

- 41 new children referred for adoption during Q4 2024. This brings to 192 the number of new children referred for adoption in 2024, 33 (15%) fewer than 2023 (225).
- 40 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q4 2024. Of these, 11 (28%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 14 (35%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 15 (38%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

FOSTER CARERS

- 3,809 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q4 2024, 44 (1%) fewer than Q3 2024 (3,853) and 47 (1%) fewer than Q4 2023 (3,856).
- 49 Tusla foster carers (26 general & 23 relative) and 13 private foster carers approved in Q4 2024. This brings to 210 the number of Tusla foster carers (104 general and 106 relative) and 34 the number of private foster carers approved in 2024. The number of Tusla foster carers approved in 2024 (210) is up 37 (21%) on 2023 (173) while the number of private foster carers is down 7 (17%) on 2023 (41).
- 74 applications for general foster care and 169 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q4 2024.
- 92% (2,026) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q4 2024, down one percentage point from Q3 2024.
- 165 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 16 (11%) more than Q3 2024 (149).
- 97% (931) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q4 2024, up one percentage point from Q3 2024 (96%).
- 32 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q4 2024, 10 (2%) fewer than Q3 2024 (42).

- 97% (196) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. Seven carers were awaiting a link worker, five more than Q3 2024 (2).

CHILDREN'S SERVICES REGULATION

EARLY YEARS INSPECTORATE

- 4,045 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q4 2024, three more than Q3 2024 (4,042) and one more than Q4 2023 (4,044).
- 620 inspections (all types) carried out in Q4 2024. This brings to 2,316 the number of inspections for 2024, 75 (3%) fewer than 2023 (2,391).
- 12 applications to register as a new service received by the Inspectorate in Q4 2024, bringing the number of applications received for 2024 to 136. A total of 146 applications were received in 2023.
- 158 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q4 2024, bringing the number notified for 2024 to 704. A total of 855 incidents notified in 2023.
- 107 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q4 2024, bringing the number of submissions for 2024 to 429. A total of 490 unsolicited information submissions¹ received by the Inspectorate during 2023.
- 13 services were found to have closed in Q4 2024, bringing the number closed for 2024 to 95. A total of 115 services were found to have closed in in 2023.

ALTERNATIVE CARE INSPECTION & MONITORING SERVICE

- 196 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q4 2024; 14 (8%) more than Q3 2024 (182).
- 59 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q4 2024, bringing to 218 the number of inspections for 2024, 31 (17%) more than 2023 (187).
- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q4 2024, no change from Q3 2024. Two non-statutory foster care services visited, and two monitoring visits conducted in 2024.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ASSESSMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICE

Home Education

- 2,325 children on the register for home education at the end of Q4 2024, 182 (8%) more than Q3 2024 (2,143).

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.

- 390 applications¹ received for home education during Q4 2024, bringing to 1,266 the number of applications received for 2024, 39 (3%) fewer than 2023 (1,305).

- 368 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q4 2024, bringing to 1,303 the number of assessments carried out for 2024, 256 (24%) more than 2023 (1,047).
- 639 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q4 2024, 169 (21%) fewer than Q3 2024 (808) and 461 (42%) fewer than Q4 2023 (1,100).

Independent Schools

- 59 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q4 2024, two fewer than Q3 2024 (61).
- 6,464 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q4 2024 with 4,628 of these children on the register.
- 13 assessments carried out in Q4 2024 bringing to 29 the number of assessments carried out for 2024, 6 (26%) more than 2023 (23).
- No schools due for assessment at the end of Q4 2024.

TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2024 – August 2025

- 2,706 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 647 (31%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (2,059).
- 3,728 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of December 2024, 1,003 (37%) more than December 2023 (2,725).
- 1,470 new individual children worked with during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 75 (5%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (1,395).
- 5,472 individual children worked with during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 426 (8%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (5,046).
- 260 school attendance notices (SANs) issued during the first four months academic year 2024-2025, 15 (5%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (275). The SANs issued were in respect of 189 individual children, two fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (191).
- 54 summonses issued during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 30 (125%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (24). The summonses were in respect of 41 individual children, 24 (141%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (17).
- 90 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 13 (13%) fewer than the previous academic year (103).

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.

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

- 378 family support providers commissioned (H2 2024)
- 93% (352) of services commissioned provided data for H2 2024.
- At least 19,413 children in receipt of family support services at the end of H2 2024. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- At least 23,529 children referred to family support services in the last six months of 2024. This brings to at least 48,443 the number of children referred in 2024 (average response rate of 89%). At least 47,260 children referred in 2023 (average response rate 86%).
- The most common source of referrals for 2024 was parents/guardians, accounting for 31% (14,909) of referrals followed by Tusla social workers (24%; 11,771), schools (11%; 5,364) and HSE Officers (9%; 4,589).
- 68% (32,989) of children referred in 2024 received a service in 2024. The percentage who received a service ranged from 44% (Waterford/Wexford) to 89% (Kerry). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 68%.

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

- 1,273 Meitheal processes requested during the last six months of 2024. This brings to 2,687 the number of requests received for 2024, 195 (8%) more than 2023 (2,492).
- The most common pathway for all requests received in 2024 was “Direct Access” accounting for 67% (1,793) of requests. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 25% (665) while “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for 9% (229) of requests.
- Of the requests where the pathway was ‘Direct Access’ 25% (350/1,378) were previously known to social work (based on data from 14/17 areas for H1 and 16/17 areas for H2).
- 73% (1,974/2,687) of Meitheal requests received during 2024 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- 1,679 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 (Discussion Stage) in 2024.
- 53% (885) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- 2,112 Meitheal processes were closed during 2024.
- 33% (692) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 25% (524) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 11% (241) were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3); 31% (655) were closed post-delivery.

- 114 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating at the end of 2024 with a further five planned in development.

PEOPLE & CHANGE

- 5,318 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q4 2024, 156 (3%) more than Q3 2024 (5,162) and 299 (6%) more than Q4 2023 (5,019).
- 839 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in 2024, 49 (6%) fewer than 2023 (888).
- 418 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in 2024, 77 (16%) fewer than 2023 (495). A further 116 staff retired in 2024, 15 (15%) more than 2023 (101).
- At the end of Q4 2024, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 7.7%, up from 6.36 at the end of Q3 2024 and up from 7.5% at the end of Q4 2023 (7.5%).
- e-learning training activity: 12,628 completions were achieved in Q4 2024
- Classroom training: 3,327 participants attended in Q4 2024.

FINANCE

- The outturn for the year to date (December YTD) is an overspend of €75.8 million (7%).
- Net expenditure, including additional income (non-Supplementary Funding related) is €1.168 billion against an initial revenue budget allocation of €1.092 billion (2024 Supplementary Funding has been excluded).
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €11.29 million.
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €91.87 million.

2.0 CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES

Key Facts

- 22,508 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q3 2024, 1,977 (8%) fewer than Q2 2024 (24,485) and 331 (1%) more than Q3 2023 (22,177). This brings to 70,592 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2024, 1,420 (2%) more than the same period in 2023 (69,172).
- 61% (42,780) of referrals for the first nine months of 2024 were for welfare concerns, 39% (27,402) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (410) of referrals.
- Most common source of referrals for the first nine months of 2024 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 34% (23,925) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by safeguarding officers (12%; 8,307), social workers (11%; 8,026) and teachers (10%; 6,711). Mandated persons accounted for 89% (62,944) of all sources.
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- 49% (6,325) of referrals for Q3 2024 were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 40% (5,137) were closed to social work with no further action required, 8% (1,018) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (196) were diverted to another agency.
- At the time the data for Q3 2024 was extracted for reporting, 98% (6,217/6,317) of preliminary enquiries were completed.
- Of the preliminary enquiry completed, 46% (2,838) required no further action; 33% (2,054) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (311) of cases. Some 10% (608) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS.
- At the time the Q3 2024 data was extracted for reporting, 56% (1,158/2,054) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed.
- 51% (593) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 60% (353) required no further action, 16% (94) were diverted to another agency for a service, 15% (91) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 9% (55) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
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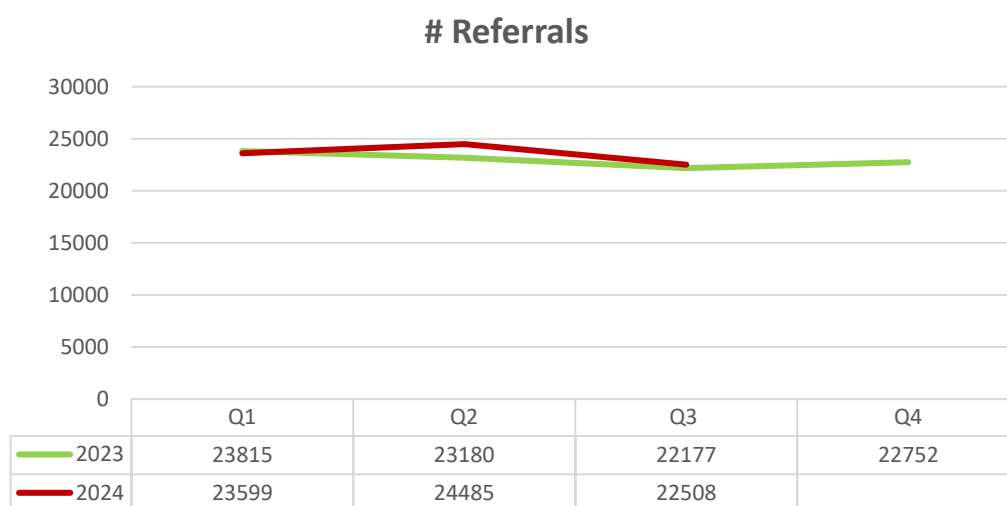
KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

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

2.1 REFERRALS (CHILD WELFARE AND CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT)

Number of Referrals

- 22,508 referrals to Child Protection and Welfare Services during Q3 2024¹, 1,977 (8%) fewer than Q2 2024 (24,485) and 331 (1%) more than Q3 2023 (22,177). This brings to 70,592 the number of referrals for the first nine months of 2024, 1,420 (2%) more than the same period in 2023 (69,172).



- 61% (42,780) of referrals for the first nine months of 2024 were for welfare concerns, 39% (27,402) were for abuse/neglect, and the primary report type was not recorded for the remaining <1% (410) of referrals (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1: Percentage of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Total 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	2024 YTD
Welfare	59.5%	58.6%	61.3%	62.0%	60.6%
Emotional abuse	17.3%	18.3%	16.9%	17.1%	17.4%
Neglect	5.6%	6.4%	5.8%	5.6%	5.9%
Physical abuse	9.1%	10.3%	9.7%	8.7%	9.6%
Sexual abuse	5.9%	5.9%	5.7%	6.1%	5.9%
Not recorded	2.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

¹ Data on referrals are reported quarterly in arrears.

Table 2: Number of referrals by primary report type

Primary Report Type	Total 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	2024 YTD
Welfare	54,721	13,833	14,998	13,949	42,780
Emotional abuse	15,908	4,319	4,148	3,846	12,313
Neglect	5,178	1,500	1,428	1,250	4,178
Physical abuse	8,375	2,426	2,364	1,956	6,746
Sexual abuse	5,467	1,396	1,406	1,363	4,165
Not recorded	2,275	125	141	144	410
Total	91,924	23,599	24,485	22,508	70,592

Referrals by Area

- The number of referrals for the first nine months of 2024 equates to about 58 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 30 per 1,000 (Dublin South East/Wicklow) to 90 per 1,000 (Midlands). Eight areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average of 58/1,000.
- The highest number of referrals for the first nine months of 2024 was reported by Midlands (7,265) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (6,875), Dublin North (6,850), Cork (6,403) and Dublin South Central (5,710). The fewest number was reported by Mayo (1,014) followed by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (1,134) and Kerry (1,893). 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	Q3 2024	2024 YTD	Pop	Rate / 1000 2024 YTD
Dublin South Central	6,895	2,116	1,997	1,597	5,710	70,259	81.3
DSE/WW	3,627	921	956	820	2,697	91,047	29.6
DSW/K/WW	8,873	2,384	2,325	2,166	6,875	108,927	63.1
Midlands	8,889	2,328	2,528	2,409	7,265	80,962	89.7
Dublin North City	5,446	1,341	1,332	1,247	3,920	48,909	80.1
Dublin North	9,341	2,210	2,425	2,215	6,850	104,281	65.7
Louth / Meath	7,261	1,841	1,994	1,717	5,552	96,531	57.5
Cavan / Monaghan	2,719	796	724	669	2,189	37,336	58.6
Cork	8,333	2,209	2,224	1,970	6,403	136,786	46.8
Kerry	2,704	558	604	731	1,893	34,994	54.1
CW/K/ST	4,361	1,058	1,070	1,175	3,303	62,366	53.0
Waterford/Wexford	6,394	1,611	1,784	1,611	5,006	69,239	72.3
Mid West	7,120	1,777	1,786	1,596	5,159	96,764	53.3
Galway/Roscommon	4,552	1,011	1,207	1,153	3,371	81,799	41.2
Mayo	1,320	377	338	299	1,014	31,911	31.8
Donegal	2,572	697	784	770	2,251	42,144	53.4
SLWC	1,517	364	407	363	1,134	24,312	46.6
Total	91,924	23,599	24,485	22,508	70,592	1,218,567	57.9

Population (0-17 years) based on Census 2022

Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals for the first nine months of 2024 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 34% (23,925) of referrals, followed to a lesser extent by safeguarding officers (12%; 8,307), social workers (11%; 8,026) and teachers (10%; 6,711). Mandated persons accounted for 89% (62,944) 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	Q3 2024	% Total	2024 YTD	% Total
Member of An Garda Síochána	7,881	35.0%	23,925	33.9%
A safeguarding officer,	2,729	12.1%	8,307	11.8%
Social worker	2,724	12.1%	8,026	11.4%
Teacher	1,122	5.0%	6,711	9.5%
Social care worker	1,124	5.0%	3,278	4.6%
Anonymous	1,212	5.4%	3,243	4.6%
Medical practitioner	786	3.5%	2,482	3.5%
Parent / Guardian	862	3.8%	2,292	3.2%
Registered nurse/midwife	672	3.0%	1,976	2.8%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	541	2.4%	1,618	2.3%
Psychologist	393	1.7%	1,262	1.8%
Youth worker	341	1.5%	1,181	1.7%
Psychotherapist	356	1.6%	1,166	1.7%
Manager of homeless provision / emergency acc	340	1.5%	1,000	1.4%
Other family member	282	1.3%	831	1.2%
Not specified	144	0.6%	411	0.6%
Courts (Section 20 Child Care Act 1991)	103	0.5%	353	0.5%
Manager of asylum seeker accommodation	134	0.6%	304	0.4%
Person responsible - a youth work service	67	0.3%	264	0.4%
Probation officer	100	0.4%	249	0.4%
Child care staff member - a pre-school service	69	0.3%	222	0.3%
Member of the public	98	0.4%	218	0.3%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	28	0.1%	178	0.3%
Occupational therapist	56	0.2%	161	0.2%
An addiction counsellor	40	0.2%	110	0.2%
Physiotherapist	37	0.2%	106	0.2%
Self	39	0.2%	104	0.1%
Other	33	0.1%	93	0.1%
Speech and language therapist	34	0.2%	91	0.1%
Guardian Ad Litem	32	0.1%	85	0.1%
Courts (Other Court Request)	23	0.1%	84	0.1%
Emergency medical technician	24	0.1%	67	0.1%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	26	0.1%	61	0.1%
Director of any institution child detained...	18	0.1%	49	0.1%
Manager of a language school or...	13	0.1%	27	0.0%
Immigration Services	*	0.0%	21	0.0%

Member of the clergy	16	0.1%	21	0.0%
Dentist	*	0.0%	15	0.0%
Total	22,508	100.0%	70,592	100.0%

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

Mandated Reports

- 31% (22,223/70,592) of all referrals for the first nine 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	Q3 2024	% Total	2024 YTD	% Total
Physical Abuse	1,626	24%	5,810	26%
Emotional Abuse	2,995	45%	9,537	43%
Sexual Abuse	1,213	18%	3,727	17%
Neglect	890	13%	3,149	14%
Total	6,724	100%	22,223	100%

- A breakdown of mandated reports by area is presented in Table 6 below. The number of mandated reports for the first nine months of 2024 ranges from 456 (2%) (Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) to 2,833 (13%) (Dublin North).

Table 6: Mandated reports by area

Area	Q3 2024	% Total	2024 YTD	% Total
Dublin South Central	480	7.1%	1,919	8.6%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	289	4.3%	1,033	4.6%
DSW/K/WW	405	6.0%	1,523	6.9%
Midlands	625	9.3%	1,956	8.8%
Dublin North City	368	5.5%	1,100	4.9%
Dublin North	826	12.3%	2,833	12.7%
Louth/Meath	796	11.8%	2,585	11.6%
Cavan/Monaghan	164	2.4%	528	2.4%
Cork	527	7.8%	1,850	8.3%
Kerry	271	4.0%	691	3.1%
CW/K/ST	274	4.1%	770	3.5%
Waterford/Wexford	307	4.6%	1,050	4.7%
Mid West	419	6.2%	1,402	6.3%
Galway/Roscommon	402	6.0%	1,156	5.2%
Mayo	167	2.5%	621	2.8%
Donegal	267	4.0%	750	3.4%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	137	2.0%	456	2.1%
Total	6,724	100.0%	22,223	100.0%

- A breakdown of source of mandated reports is presented in Table 7 below. The most common source of reports for the first nine months of 2024 was members of An Garda Síochána accounting for 38% (8,535) of all mandated reports, followed to a lesser extent by safeguarding officers (13%; 2,934), teachers (13%; 2,912) and social workers (11%; 2,526).

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

Source	Q3 2024	% Total	2024 YTD	% Total
Member of An Garda Síochána	2,795	41.6%	8,535	38.4%
A safeguarding officer,	924	13.7%	2,934	13.2%
Teacher	504	7.5%	2,912	13.1%
Social worker	812	12.1%	2,526	11.4%
Social care worker	344	5.1%	1,050	4.7%
Medical practitioner	240	3.6%	782	3.5%
Manager of Domestic Violence Shelter	232	3.5%	679	3.1%
Psychotherapist	154	2.3%	562	2.5%
Psychologist	146	2.2%	514	2.3%
Registered nurse/midwife	157	2.3%	461	2.1%
Youth worker	119	1.8%	409	1.8%
Manager of homeless provision or emergency acc	62	0.9%	200	0.9%
Child care staff member employed in a pre-school service	34	0.5%	91	0.4%
Person responsible for - a youth work service	26	0.4%	88	0.4%
A person carrying on a pre-school service	8	0.1%	73	0.3%
Manager of Asylum Seeker accommodation	37	0.6%	67	0.3%
Physiotherapist	16	0.2%	48	0.2%
Occupational therapist	17	0.3%	47	0.2%
Guardian Ad Litem	19	0.3%	47	0.2%
Speech and Language therapist	15	0.2%	34	0.2%
Probation officer	15	0.2%	34	0.2%
An addiction counsellor	9	0.1%	34	0.2%
Foster carer registered with the Agency	12	0.2%	32	0.1%
Director of any institution -child is detained by an order ..	8	0.1%	20	0.1%
Emergency medical technician	7	0.1%	19	0.1%
Dentist	3	0.0%	11	0.0%
Manager of a language school or...	7	0.1%	11	0.0%
Member of the clergy	2	0.0%	3	0.0%
Total	6,724	100.0%	22,223	100.0%

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

Screening

- 58% (12,952/22,508) of referrals for Q3 2024 were closed following screening (Table 8).
- 28% (6,317) of referrals for Q3 2024 progressed to the next stage of the referral process – the preliminary enquiry stage. The remaining referrals (14%; 3,239) 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 Q3 2024
Dublin South Central	61%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	50%
Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow	60%
Midlands	63%
Dublin North City	53%
Dublin North	70%
Louth/Meath	50%
Cavan/Monaghan	50%
Cork	56%
Kerry	32%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	65%
Waterford/Wexford	65%
Mid West	62%
Galway/Roscommon	34%
Mayo	48%
Donegal	65%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	45%
Total	58%

- A breakdown of the outcome of referrals closed following screening is presented below (Table 9).
- 49% (6,325) of referrals for Q3 2024 were closed following screening, as assessment / safety planning was already ongoing, while a further 40% (5,137) were closed to social work with no further action required, 8% (1,018) were diverted to Tusla's Prevention Partnership and Family Support (PPFS) services and 2% (196) were diverted to another agency.

Table 9: Outcome of referrals closed following screening

Outcome of referrals closed	Q3 2024	% Total
No further action - close	5,137	40%
No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	6,325	49%
Divert to another agency - close	196	2%
Divert to PPFS - close	1,018	8%
Other / Not recorded	276	2%
Total	12,952	100%

- The percentage breakdown of outcomes of referrals for Q3 2024 closed following screening, by area is presented in the table below (Table 10).

Table 10: Outcome of referrals closed following screening by area, Q3 2024

Area	No further action - close	No further action – close, assessment / safety planning ongoing	Divert to PPFS - close
Dublin South Central	16%	74%	5%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	35%	58%	5%
DSW/K/WW	41%	44%	12%
Midlands	38%	54%	4%
Dublin North City	38%	56%	4%
Dublin North	28%	45%	26%
Louth/Meath	34%	52%	6%
Cavan/Monaghan	15%	63%	11%
Cork	38%	52%	4%
Kerry	24%	74%	0%
Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary	75%	23%	2%
Waterford/Wexford	53%	39%	6%
Mid West	54%	39%	2%
Galway/Roscommon	34%	60%	4%
Mayo	79%	21%	0%
Donegal	51%	33%	12%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	44%	52%	2%
Total	40%	49%	8%

Preliminary Enquiries

- At the time the data for Q3 2024 was extracted for reporting, 98% (6,217/6,317) of preliminary enquiries were completed. A breakdown of preliminary enquiries completed by area is presented in the table below (Table 11).
- 14% (852) 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, Q3 2024

Area	# PEs commenced	# PEs completed	% PEs completed	% PEs completed 5 days
Dublin South Central	345	343	99%	17%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	256	245	96%	10%
DSW/K/WW	536	523	98%	6%
Midlands	412	402	98%	4%
Dublin North City	338	328	97%	6%
Dublin North	398	386	97%	8%
Louth/Meath	450	443	98%	7%
Cavan/Monaghan	242	228	94%	2%
Cork	643	637	99%	14%
Kerry	463	461	99.6%	33%
CW/K/ST	329	328	99.7%	23%

Waterford/Wexford	336	335	99.7%	12%
Mid West	424	421	99%	10%
Galway/Roscommon	600	592	99%	12%
Mayo	131	131	100%	5%
Donegal	225	225	100%	22%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	189	189	100%	56%
Total	6,317	6,217	98%	14%

- Of the preliminary enquiry completed, 46% (2,838) required no further action; 33% (2,054) required an initial assessment, while assessment / safety planning was ongoing in 5% (311) of cases. Some 10% (608) of referrals were closed with diversion to PPFS (Table 12).

Table 12: Outcomes from preliminary enquiries

Outcomes from preliminary enquiry	Q3 2024	% Total
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	2,838	46%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning Ongoing	311	5%
Divert to PPFS - Close	608	10%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	403	6%
Initial Assessment	2,054	33%
Not specified	3	0%
Total	6,217	100%

- The percentage breakdown of the outcomes of preliminary enquires completed, by area for Q3 2024 is presented in the table below (Table 13).

Table 13: Percentage breakdown of outcomes of preliminary enquiries, by area Q3 2024

Area	% Closed - No further Action	% Requiring IA	% Divert - PPFS	% Closed - Ongoing	% Closed - Divert to Another Agency
Dublin South Central	34%	42%	7%	4%	13%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	57%	29%	8%	3%	4%
DSW/K/WW	46%	32%	11%	2%	9%
Midlands	43%	37%	13%	6%	2%
Dublin North City	49%	37%	9%	3%	1%
Dublin North	32%	34%	28%	1%	5%
Louth/Meath	53%	26%	12%	2%	5%
Cavan/Monaghan	46%	22%	26%	3%	3%
Cork	47%	33%	4%	8%	9%
Kerry	56%	26%	1%	15%	2%
CW/K/ST	48%	27%	13%	9%	3%
Waterford/Wexford	31%	36%	16%	7%	11%
Mid West	39%	38%	1%	1%	20%
Galway/Roscommon	53%	34%	6%	1%	5%
Mayo	61%	27%	5%	3%	5%
Donegal	33%	43%	9%	13%	1%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	48%	39%	6%	5%	2%
Total	46%	33%	10%	5%	6%

Initial Assessments

- At the time the Q3 2024 data was extracted for reporting, 56% (1,158/2,054) of initial assessments required following a preliminary enquiry were completed (Table 14).
- 34% (390) of initial assessments completed were completed within 40 days of receipt of referral.

Table 14: Breakdown of the status of Initial assessments, by area Q3 2024

Area	% IA Closed	% IAs closed 40 working days
Dublin South Central	41%	35%
DSE/WW	72%	37%
DSW/K/WW	75%	27%
Midlands	22%	25%
Dublin North City	43%	8%
Dublin North	17%	17%
Louth/Meath	22%	16%
Cavan/Monaghan	14%	14%
Cork	36%	23%
Kerry	91%	30%
CW/K/ST	90%	54%
Waterford/Wexford	68%	33%
Mid West	79%	39%
Galway/Roscommon	82%	36%
Mayo	71%	20%
Donegal	49%	21%
SLWC	96%	73%
Total	56%	34%

- 51% (593) of referrals that required an initial assessment following the preliminary enquiry were closed to social work following completion of the initial assessment. Of these 60% (353) required no further action, 16% (94) were diverted to another agency for a service, 15% (91) were diverted to Tusla PPFS service, while the remaining 9% (55) were closed as assessment/safety planning already ongoing.
- 27% (312) of referrals required safety planning following completion of the initial assessment, a further 18% (212) required a children protection response / child protection conference and 4% (41) 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, Q3 2024

Outcomes from initial assessments	Q3 2024	% Total
No Further Action (NFA) - Close	353	30%
No Further Action (NFA) - Close, Assessment/Safety Planning Ongoing	55	5%
Divert to Another Agency - Close	94	8%
Divert to PPFS - Close	91	8%
Child Protection / CPC Safety Planning	212	18%
Safety Planning	312	27%
Admission to Care	41	4%
Total	1,158	100%

2.2 SOCIAL WORK ACTIVITY DATA (Child Protection & Welfare)

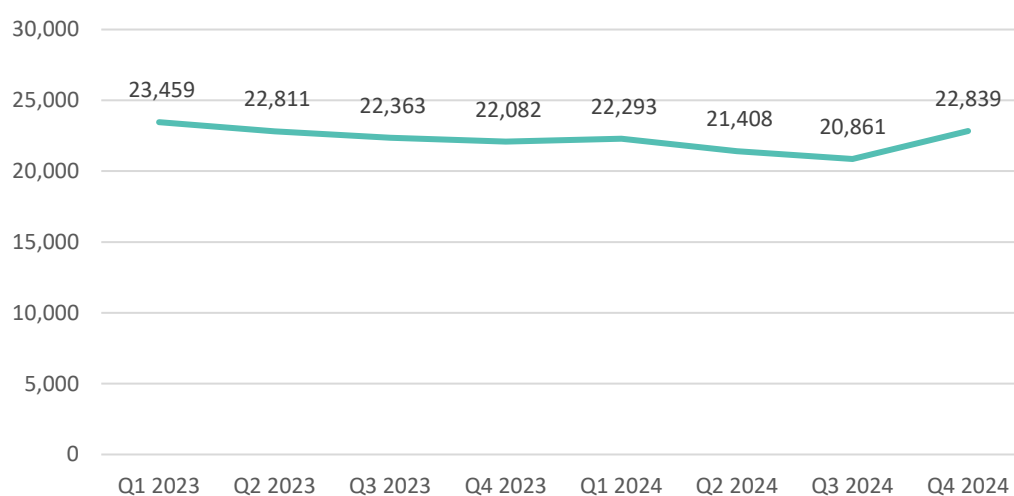
Key Facts

- 22,839 cases open to social work nationally at the end of Q4 2024, 1,978 (9%) more than Q3 2024 (20,861) and 757 (3%) more than Q4 2023 (22,082).
- 75% (17,049) of open cases were allocated to a worker at the end of Q4 2024, down four percentage points from Q3 2024 (79%).
- 5,790 (25%) cases were awaiting allocation, 1,511 (35%) more than Q3 2024 (4,279) and 459 (9%) more than Q4 2023 (5,331).
- Six areas account for 72% (4,162) of cases awaiting allocation, Dublin South Central (953; 16%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (890; 15%), Midlands (730; 13%), Cork (682; 12%), Louth/Meath (574; 10%) and Waterford/Wexford (333; 6%).
- 32% (1,842) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2024 were “active” on a duty system.
- 9% (523) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2024 were categorised as high priority, 78 (18%) more than Q3 2024 (445) and 75 (17%) more than Q4 2023 (448).
- 69% (4,020/5,790) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2024 were waiting three months or less and of these 48% (1,922) were waiting less than one month.
- 66% (345/523) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2024 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 51% (176) were waiting less than one month.

2.2.1 Open Cases

- 22,839 cases open² to social work nationally at the end of Q4 2024, 1,978 (9%) more than Q3 2024 (20,861) and 757 (3%) more than Q4 2023 (22,082). *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

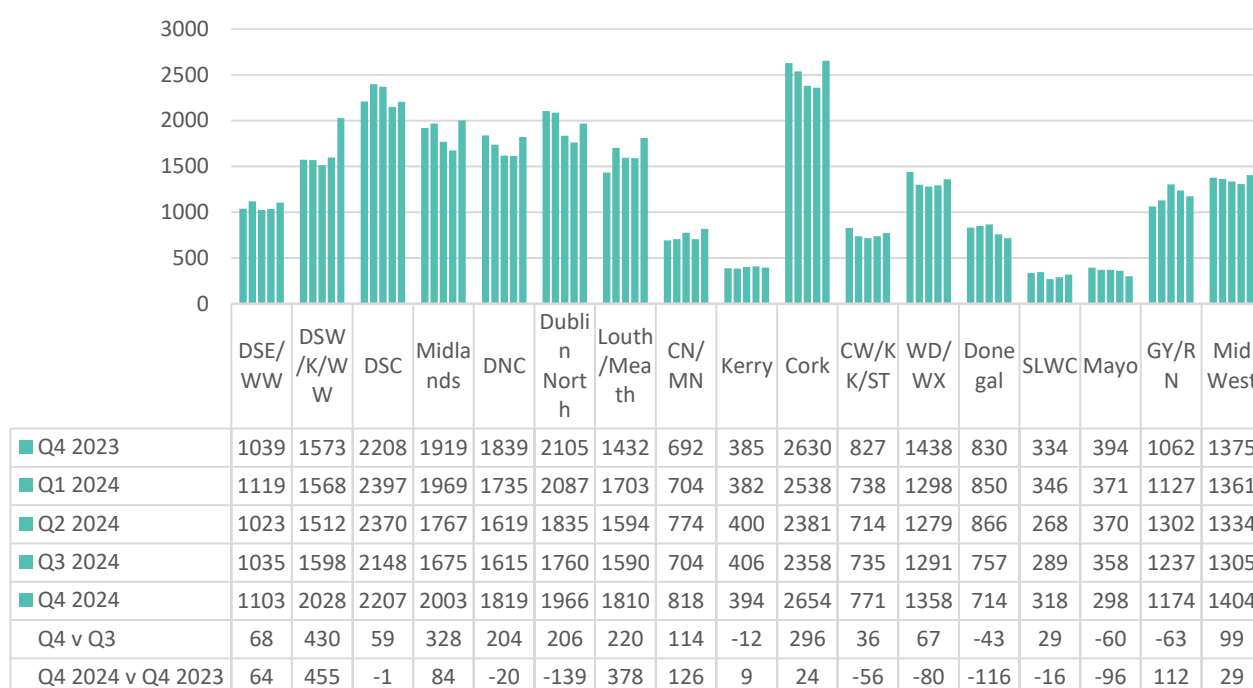


² Open cases include cases held on intake, allocated, unallocated child welfare and protection and children in care cases.

³ 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 2,654 (12%) in Cork to 298 (1%) in Mayo. Seven 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 four areas (Cork, Dublin South Central, Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow and Midlands) had in excess of 2,000 cases.
- 13 areas reported an increase in open cases from Q3 2024. The largest increase was reported by Dublin South West /Kildare / West Wicklow (up 430) followed by Midlands (up 328) and Cork (up 296).
- Of the four areas that reported a decrease, the largest decreases were reported by Galway/Roscommon (down 63) and Mayo (down 60).

Number of open cases by area



2.2.2 Open Cases Allocated / Awaiting Allocation

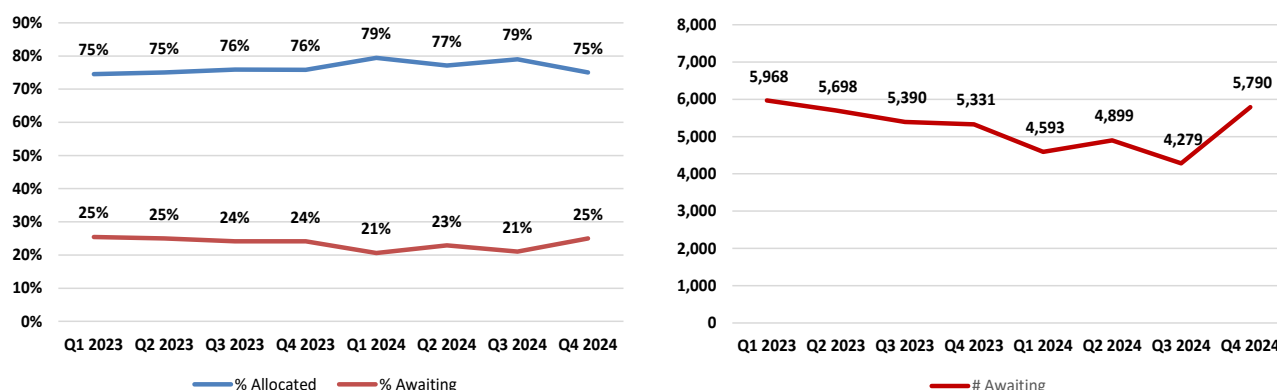
- 75% (17,049) of open cases were allocated to a worker at the end of Q4 2024, down four percentage points from Q3 2024 (79%). *Note: data from September 2023 includes cases awaiting categorisation, hence comparison with previous quarters needs to be interpreted with caution.*⁴

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

- 5,790 (25%) cases were awaiting allocation, 1,511 (35%) more than Q3 2024 (4,279) and 459 (9%) more than Q4 2023 (5,331).

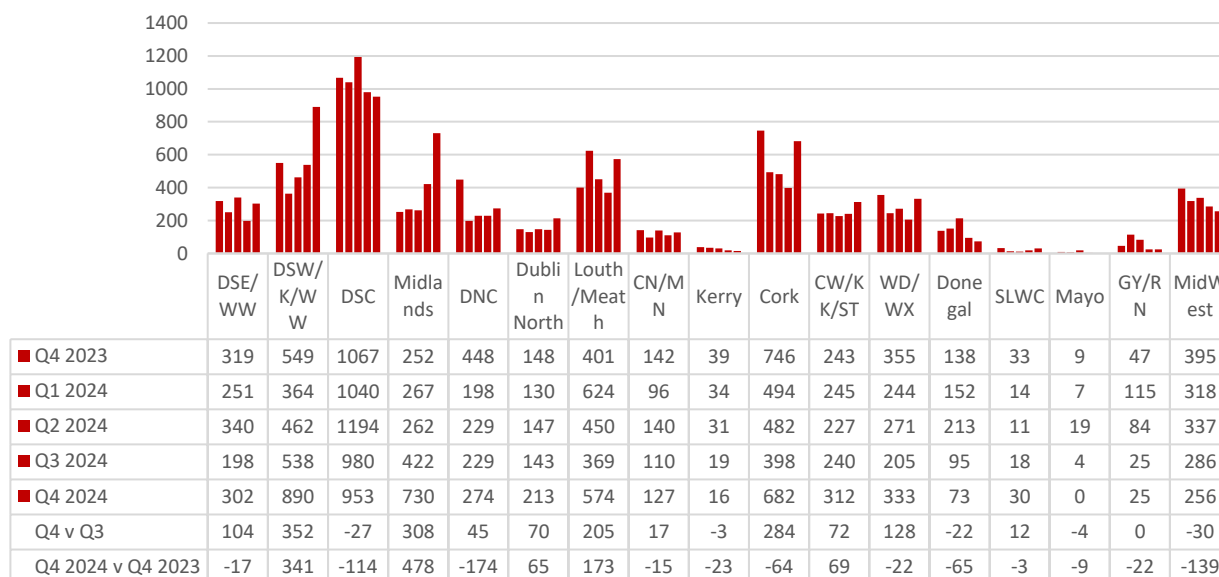
- 32% (1,842) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2024 were “active” on a duty system⁴.

Cases allocated/awaiting allocation



- Dublin South Central reported the highest number of cases awaiting allocation (953; 16%) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (890; 15%), Midlands (730; 13%), Cork (682; 12%), Louth/Meath (574; 10%) and Waterford/Wexford (333; 6%). These six areas account for 72% (4,162) of cases awaiting allocation.
- 11 areas reported an increase in cases awaiting allocation from Q3 2024 with the largest increases reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 352), Midlands (up 308), Cork (up 284) and Louth/Meath (205).
- 5 areas reported a decrease with the largest decreases reported by Midwest (down 30), Dublin South Central (down 27) and Donegal (down 22). The remaining area (Galway/Roscommon) reported no change.

Number of open cases awaiting allocation by area

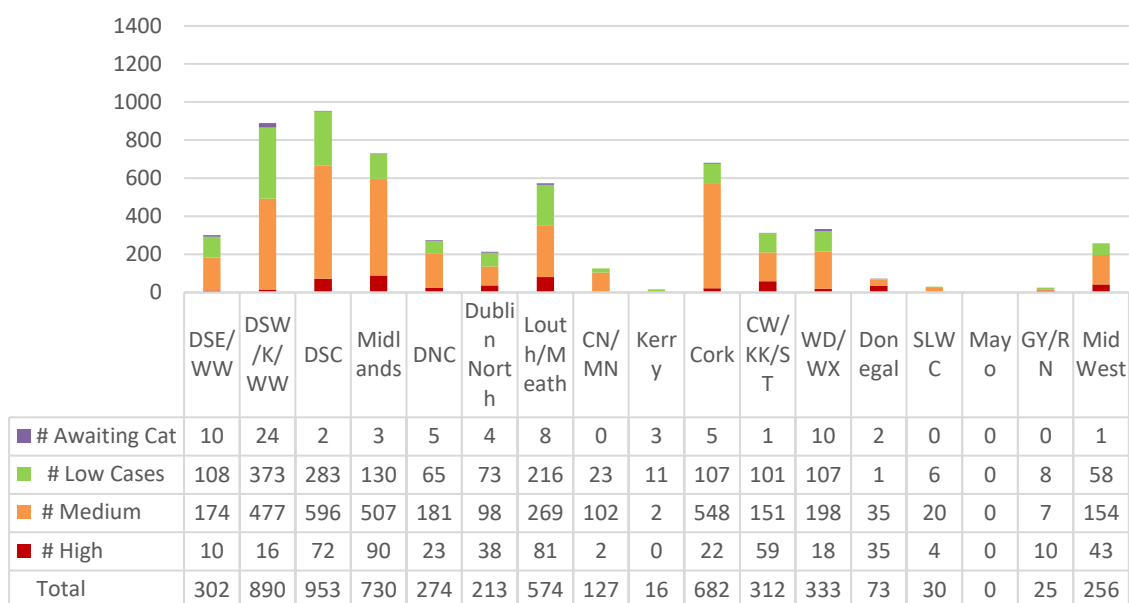


⁴ A case awaiting allocation may be “active” on a “duty” system. This means that there are actions being undertaken by a dedicated duty team or rotating social workers on a duty roster to progress the protection and welfare of the child. Examples of actions being undertaken include telephone calls relating 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

- 9% (523) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2024 were categorised as high priority, 78 (18%) more than Q3 2024 (445) and 75 (17%) more than Q4 2023 (448).
- 61% (3,519) of cases awaiting allocation were categorised at medium priority, 29% (1,670) were low priority while the remaining 1% (78) were awaiting categorisation.
- The highest number of high priority cases was reported by Midlands (90) followed by Louth/Meath (81), Dublin South Central (72), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (59), Midwest (43) and Dublin North (38). These six areas account for 73% (383) of all high priority cases awaiting.

Number Unallocated Cases by Priority Level



2.2.4 Cases Awaiting Allocation by Waiting Time

- 69% (4,020/5,790) of cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2024 were waiting three months or less and of these 48% (1,922) were waiting less than one month.
- 66% (345/523) of high priority cases awaiting allocation at the end of Q4 2024 were waiting 3 months or less and of these 51% (176) were waiting less than one month.

Breakdown of cases awaiting allocation by priority level and time waiting

Time Waiting	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024
<1 month	1,683 (32%)	1,439 (31%)	1,366 (28%)	1,533 (36%)	1,922 (33%)
1-3 months	1,578 (30%)	1,301 (28%)	1,648 (34%)	885 (21%)	2,098 (36%)
>3 months	2,070 (39%)	1,853 (40%)	1,885 (38%)	1,861 (43%)	1,770 (31%)
Total	5,331 (100%)	4,593 (100%)	4,899 (100%)	4,279 (100%)	5,790 (100%)

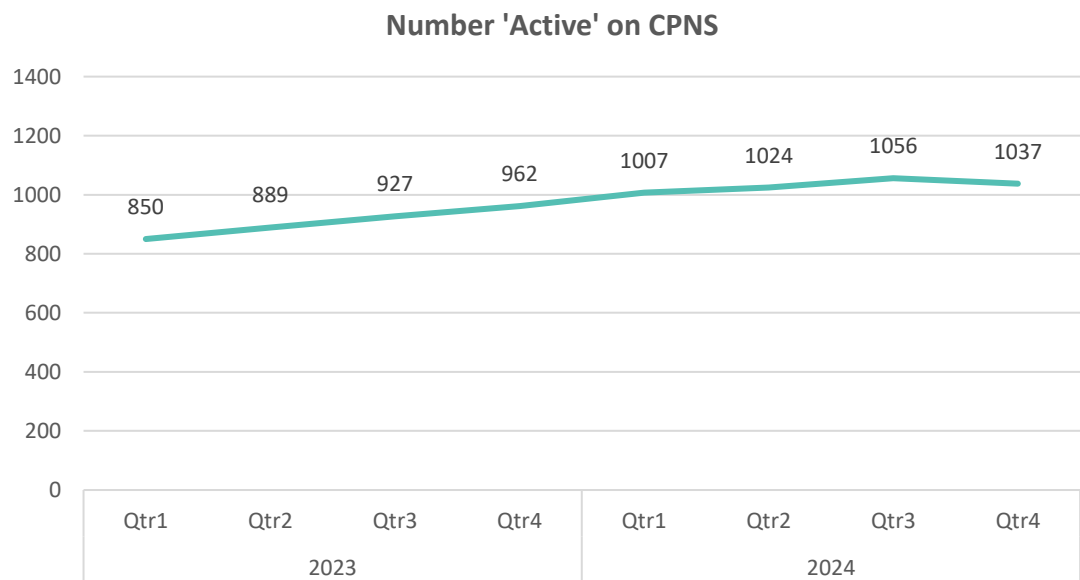
2.3 CHILD PROTECTION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

KEY FACTS

- 1,037 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS) at the end of Q4 2024, 19 (2%) fewer than Q3 2024 (1,056) and the first decrease after seven consecutive increases.
- 75 (8%) more children ‘active’ at the end of Q4 2024 than at the end of Q4 2023 (962).
- 83% (864/1,037) of children listed as ‘active’ at the end of Q4 2024 were ‘active’ for no longer than 12 months, up slightly from 82% (870/1,056) at the end of Q3 2024.
- 6% (65/1,037) of children listed as ‘active’ at the end of Q4 2024 were ‘active’ for > 18 months, down from 7% (71/1,056) at the end of Q3 2024 and a decrease of six children.
- All children listed as ‘active’ at the end of Q4 2024 had an allocated social worker.

Note: The data on children ‘active’ on the CPNS for Q4 2024 presented below is for the 12 December 2024 and not the usual last day of the month. This is due to the migration of Tusla’s standalone CPNS to its Tusla Case Management System for Child Protection & Welfare and Alternative Care (TCM CPAC) in the latter half of December, providing for better integration of child protection and welfare data. From Q1 2025 the CPNS data will be extracted from TCM – CPAC.

- 1,037 children listed as ‘active’ on the Child Protection Notification System (CPNS)⁵ at the end of Q4 2024, 19 (2%) fewer than Q3 2024 (1,056) and the first decrease after seven consecutive increases.
- 75 (8%) more children ‘active’ at the end of Q4 2024 than at the end of Q4 2023 (962).



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.

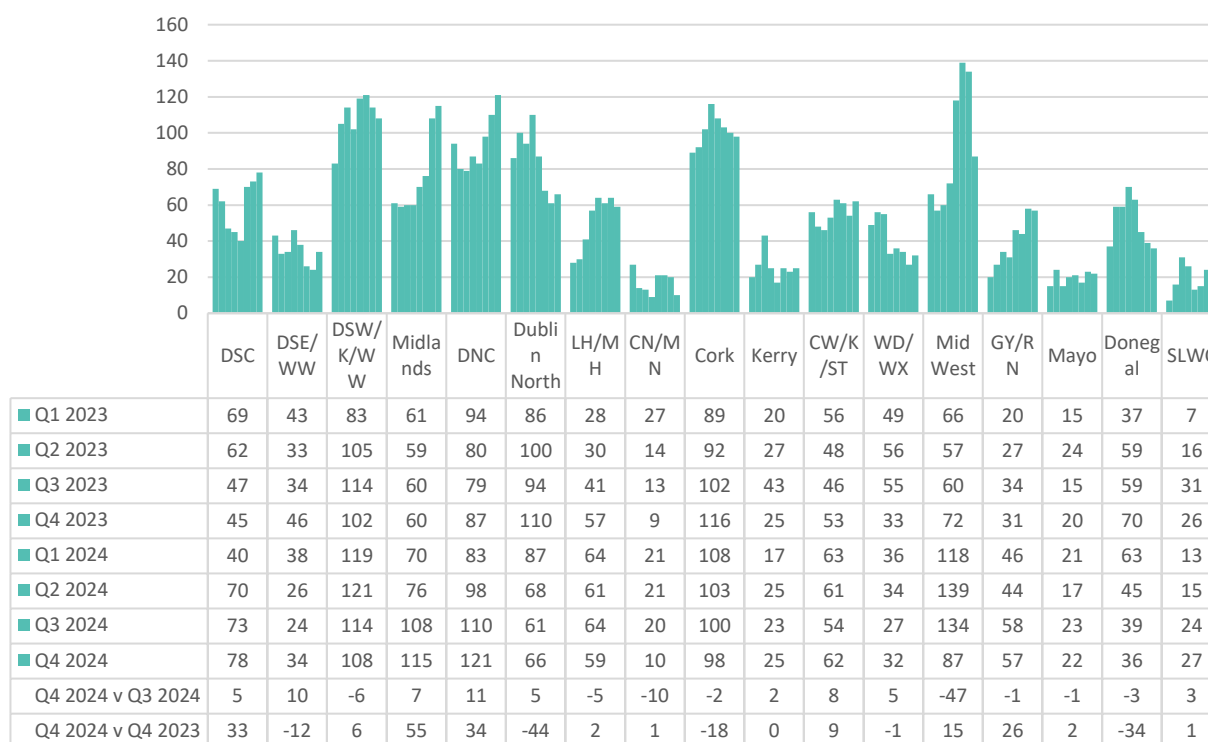
- The number listed as ‘active’ equates to about 9 children per 10,000 under 18 years and ranges from 2.7/10,000 in Cavan/Monaghan to 24.7/10,000 in Dublin North City, more than double the national average. Eight areas reported a rate equal to or higher than the national average.
- Dublin North City reported the highest number (121) of children ‘active’, followed by Midlands (115) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (108).

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

Area	Q4 2024	Population	Rate/10,000
Dublin North City	121	48,909	24.7
Midlands	115	80,962	14.2
SLWC	27	24,312	11.1
Dublin South Central	78	70,259	11.1
CW/K/ST	62	62,366	9.9
DSW/K/WW	108	108,927	9.9
Mid West	87	96,764	9.0
Donegal	36	42,144	8.5
Cork	98	136,786	7.2
Kerry	25	34,994	7.1
GY/RN	57	81,799	7.0
Mayo	22	31,911	6.9
Dublin North	66	104,281	6.3
Louth / Meath	59	96,531	6.1
Waterford / Wexford	32	69,239	4.6
DSE/WW	34	91,047	3.7
Cavan / Monaghan	10	37,336	2.7
Total	1037	1,218,567	8.5

- 9/17 areas reported an increase in the number ‘active’ from Q3 2024. The largest increases were reported by Dublin North City (up 11), Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 10) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (up 8).
- 8/17 areas reported a decrease in the number ‘active’ from Q3 2024. The largest decrease was reported by Midwest (down 47) and followed to a lesser extent by Cavan/Monaghan (down 10), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (down 6) and Louth/Meath (down 5).
- 11/17 areas had more children ‘active’ at the end of Q4 2024 than at the end of Q4 2023. Largest increases reported by Midlands (up 55), Dublin North City (up 34), Dublin South Central (up 33) and Galway/Roscommon (up 26).
- 5/17 areas had fewer children ‘active’ at the end of Q4 2024 than at the end of Q4 2023. Largest decreases reported by Dublin North (down 44), Donegal (down 34) and Cork 9down 18).

Number 'Active' by Area



- 54% (561/1,037) of children listed as 'active' at the end of Q4 2024 were listed for 0-6 months, no change from Q3 2024 (54% (574/1,056)).
- 83% (864/1,037) of children were listed as 'active' for no longer than 12 months, up slightly from 82% (870/1,056) at the end of Q3 2024.
- 6% (65/1,037) of children were listed as 'active' for > 18 months, down from 7% (71/1,056) at the end of Q3 2024 and a decrease of six children.
- 7 areas (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary, Cavan/Monaghan, Dublin South East/Wicklow, Kerry, Mayo, Midlands and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan) had no child 'active' for longer than 18 months.
- The areas reporting the largest number of children 'active' for > 18 months were, Dublin North City (14), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (14), Dublin North (11) and Galway/Roscommon (8).
- All children listed as 'active' at the end of Q4 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)

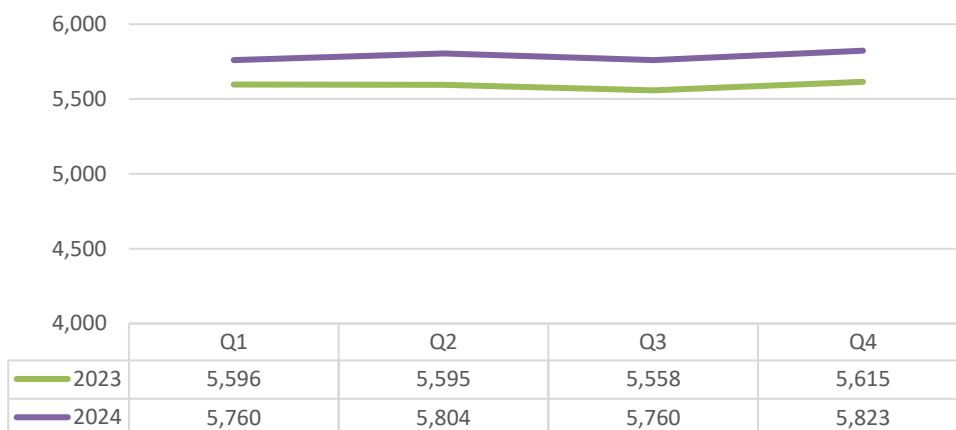
KEY FACTS

- 5,823 children in care at the end of Q4 2024, 63 (1%) more than Q3 2024 (5,760). This figure (5,823) includes 118 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.
- 87.2% (5,077) of children in care (17 Areas + SCSIP) were in foster care (general & relative) at the end of Q4 2024 and 9.3% (543) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 3.5% (203) 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, 88.6% (5,057/5,705) were in foster care, 8.0% (457) were in residential care and the remaining 3.3% (191) were in “other” care placements.
- 1,015 (17%) children in care at the end of Q4 2024 were in placements with private providers, 38 (4%) more than Q3 2024 (977).
- Across the 17 areas there were 29 (3%) more children in placements with private providers at the end of Q4 2024 (943) than at the end of Q3 2024 (914) and 115 (14%) more than Q4 2023 (828).
- 86% (5,003) of children in care at the end of Q4 2024 had an allocated worker, up two percentage points from Q3 2024 (84%). Some 820 (14%) children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q4 2024, 104 (11%) fewer than Q3 204 (924).
- 83% (4,844) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, down two percentage points from Q3 2024 (85%). Some 979 (17%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 127 (15%) more than Q3 2024 (852).
- 96% (3,582/3,727) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q4 2024, down one percentage point from Q3 2024 (97%).
- 93% (920/993) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q3 2024, up one percentage point from Q3 2024 (92%).

3.1.1 Number of Children in Care

- 5,823 children in care at the end of Q4 2024, 63 (1%) more than Q3 2024 (5,760). *This figure (5,823) includes 118 children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*

Children in Care



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

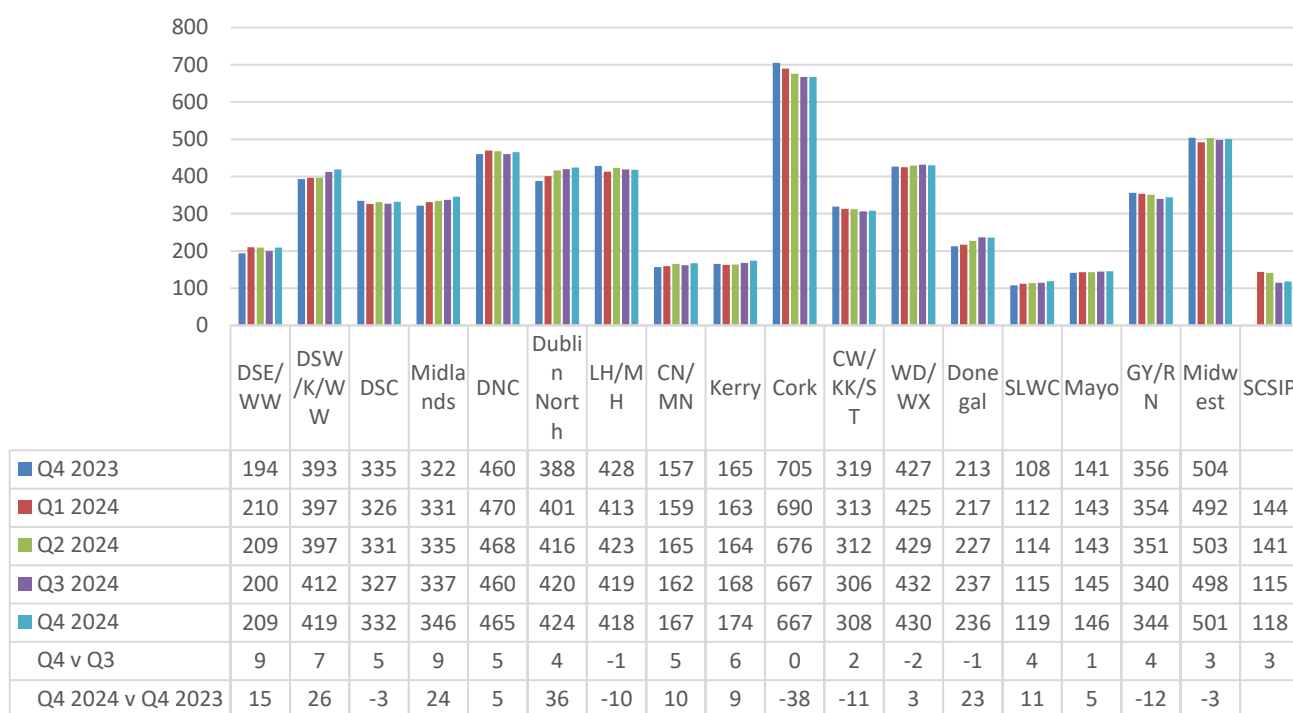
- Across the 17 areas the number of children in care ranged from 667 in Cork to 119 in Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan.
- Dublin North City reported the highest rate of children in care per 1,000 population under 18 years (9.5), more than double the national rate 4.7, followed by Waterford/Wexford (6.2), and Donegal (5.6). Lowest rate reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.3) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (3.8) and Dublin North (4.1).

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

Area	# Children in care Q4 2024	0-17 population (Census 2022)	No of CIC/1,000 population 0-17
Dublin North City	465	48,909	9.5
Waterford/Wexford	430	69,239	6.2
Donegal	236	42,144	5.6
Midwest	501	96,764	5.2
Kerry	174	34,994	5.0
CW/KK/ST	308	62,366	4.9
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	119	24,312	4.9
Cork	667	136,786	4.9
Dublin South Central	332	70,259	4.7
Mayo	146	31,911	4.6
Cavan/Monaghan	167	37,336	4.5
Louth/Meath	418	96,531	4.3
Midlands	346	80,962	4.3
Galway/Roscommon	344	81,799	4.2
Dublin North	424	104,281	4.1
DSW/K/WW	419	108,927	3.8
Dublin South East/Wicklow	209	91,047	2.3
Total Areas	5,705	1,218,567	4.7

- 13 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported an increase in children in care from Q3 2024. Largest increases reported by Dublin South East/Wicklow (up 9), Midlands (up 9) and Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 7).
- 3 areas reported a decrease, Waterford/Wexford (down 2), Donegal (down 1) and Louth/Meath (down 1). The remaining area (Cork) reported no change.
- 11 areas had more children in care at the end of Q4 2024 than at the end of Q4 2023, largest increases reported by Dublin North (up 36), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 26), Midlands (up 24) and Donegal (up 23).
- 6 areas reported a decrease with the largest decrease reported by Cork (down 38) followed by Galway/Roscommon (down 12), Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (down 11) and Louth/Meath (down 10).

Breakdown of the number of children in care in each area



Number of Children in Care, by Care Type

- 87.2% (5,077) of children in care (17 Areas + SCSIP) were in foster care (general, relative) at the end of Q4 2024 and 9.3% (543) were in a residential care (general and special care) placement. The remaining 3.5% (203) 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, 88.6% (5,057/5,705) were in foster care, 8.0% (457) were in residential care and the remaining 3.3% (191) 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
Q4 2023	3,560		1,474		397		13		171		5,615	
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
Q4 2024	3,581	0	1,496	+42	530	+44	13	-2	203	-21	5,823	+63

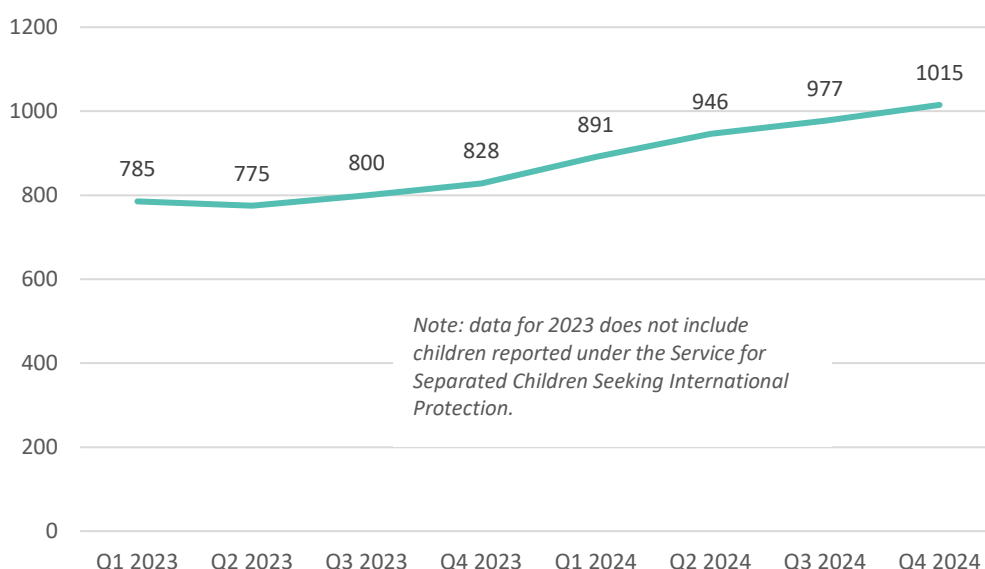
Data for 2023 does not include children reported by the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection, hence data for 2024 is not comparable with data for 2023.

- 16 (0.3%) children were in out of State placements at the end of Q4 2024, no change from Q3 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

- 1,015 (17%) children in care at the end of Q4 2024 were in placements with private providers⁶, 38 (4%) more than Q3 2024 (977).
- Across the 17 areas there were 29 (3%) more children in placements with private providers at the end of Q4 2024 (943) than at the end of Q3 2024 (914) and 115 (14%) more than Q4 2023 (828). *Note: data for 2023 does not include children reported under the Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection.*

Number of children in placements with private providers

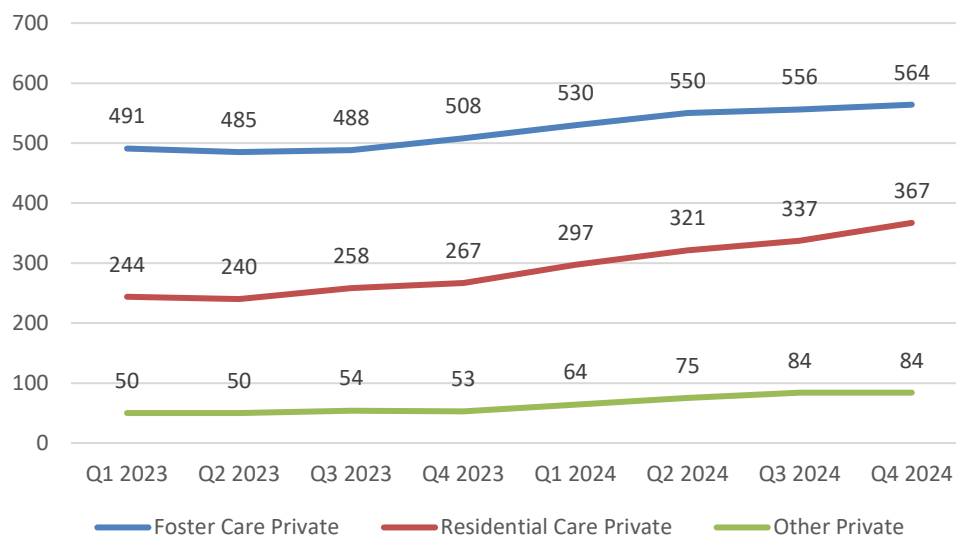


- 56% (564) of children in placements with private providers were in foster care, up 8 (1%) from Q3 2024 (556). Sixth consecutive increase.

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.

- 36% (367) were in residential placements, 30 (9%) more than Q3 2024 (339). Sixth consecutive increase.
- The remaining 8% (84) were in “Other” care placements, no change from Q3 2024. *“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 (129) followed by Dublin North (122), Dublin South West/Kildare West Wicklow (118), Dublin South Central (113) and Midlands (87). These five areas account for 56% (569) of all children in placements with private providers.
- 12 areas reported an increase from Q3 2024 in children in placements with private providers with the largest increases reported by Service for SCSIP (up 9), Dublin North City (up 6), Dublin North (up 5) and Dublin south West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 5). Two areas (Cork and Mayo) reported a decrease of two. The remaining four areas (Dublin south Central, Louth/Meath, Midwest and Galway/Roscommon) reported no change.

Number of children in placements with private providers, by area

Area	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q4 v Q3
Dublin North City	112	119	123	129	6
Dublin North	98	102	117	122	5
DSW/K/WW	107	109	113	118	5
Dublin South Central	107	110	113	113	0
Midlands	70	80	83	87	4
SCSIP	55	71	63	72	9
Cork	58	60	57	55	-2
LH/MH	47	51	53	53	0
WD/WX	47	46	51	53	2
DSE/WW	52	51	50	52	2
Midwest	34	39	41	41	0
Kerry	32	33	32	33	1
CW/KK/ST	22	22	22	25	3
Donegal	21	18	20	22	2

GY/RN	12	14	16	16	0
SLWC	11	12	12	14	2
CN/MN	5	8	8	9	1
Mayo	1	1	3	1	-2
Total	891	946	977	1,015	38

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

3.1.3 Children in Care with an Allocated Worker⁷

- 86% (5,003) of children in care at the end of Q4 2024 had an allocated worker, up two percentage points from Q3 2024 (84%).
- 820 (14%) children were awaiting allocation of worker at the end of Q4 2024, 104 (11%) fewer than Q3 2024 (924).

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

Care Type	CIC Q3 2024	Allocated Q3 2024	% Allocated Q3 2024	CIC Q4 2024	Allocated Q4 2024	% Allocated Q4 2024
Foster Care (General)	3,581	2,976	83%	3,581	3,053	85%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,454	1,186	82%	1,496	1,258	84%
Residential Care (General)	486	449	92%	530	486	92%
Residential Special Care	15	15	100%	13	13	100%
Other Placements	224	210	94%	203	193	95%
Total	5,760	4,836	84%	5,823	5,003	86%

- The percentage with an allocated worker ranged from 34% (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary) to 100% (Dublin South East/Wicklow and Mayo). Ten areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported 90% or higher.
- The area with the highest number of children awaiting allocation is Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (203; 66%) followed by Midwest (151; 30%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (119; 28%), Louth/Meath (65; 16%) and Dublin South Central (64; 19%). These five areas account for 73% (602) of all cases awaiting allocation.

Number of children in care with an allocated worker

Area	No in Care Q3 2024	Allocated Q3 2024	% Allocated Q3 2024	No in Care Q4 2024	Allocated Q4 2024	% Allocated Q4 2024	# Awaiting
DSE/WW	200	198	99%	209	209	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	412	281	68%	419	300	72%	119
DSC	327	253	77%	332	268	81%	64
Midlands	337	271	80%	346	289	84%	57
DNC	460	423	92%	465	431	93%	34
Dublin North	420	373	89%	424	393	93%	31
LH/MH	419	345	82%	418	353	84%	65
CN/MN	162	139	86%	167	156	93%	11
Kerry	168	156	93%	174	165	95%	9

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.

Cork	667	657	99%	667	657	99%	10
CW/KK/ST	306	115	38%	308	105	34%	203
WD/WX	432	381	88%	430	382	89%	48
Donegal	237	237	100%	236	233	99%	3
SLWC	115	102	89%	119	113	95%	6
Mayo	145	145	100%	146	146	100%	0
GY/RN	340	340	100%	344	342	99%	2
Midwest	498	314	63%	501	350	70%	151
SCSIP Service	115	106	92%	118	111	94%	7
Total	5,760	4,836	84%	5,823	5,003	86%	820

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

- 83% (4,844) of children in care had an up-to-date care plan, down two percentage points from Q3 2024 (85%).
- A total of 979 (17%) of children were awaiting an up-to-date care plan, 127 (15%) more than Q3 2024 (852).

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

Care Type	CIC Q3 2024	No. with UTD CP Q3 2024	% with UTD CP Q3 2024	CIC Q4 2024	No. with UTD CP Q4 2024	% with UTD CP Q4 2024
Foster Care General	3,581	3,154	88%	3,581	3,061	85%
Foster Care (Relatives)	1,454	1,243	85%	1,496	1,258	84%
Residential Care General	486	363	75%	530	386	73%
Residential Special Care	15	9	60%	13	9	69%
Other Placements	224	139	62%	203	130	64%
Total	5,760	4,908	85%	5,823	4,844	83%

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

- The percentage of children with an up-to-date care plan ranged from 96% (Midlands) to 58% (Service for Separated Children Seeking International Protection).
- The areas with the highest numbers of children awaiting an up-to-date plan are Dublin South Central (119; 36%), Midwest (116; 23%) and Louth/Meath (103; 25%).

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

Area	No in Care Q3 2024	No with a care plan Q3 2024	% with a care plan Q3 2024	No in Care Q4 2024	No with a care plan Q4 2024	% with a care plan Q4 2024	# Awaiting a Plan
DSE/WW	200	164	82%	209	157	75%	52
DSW/K/WW	412	346	84%	419	328	78%	91
DSC	327	221	68%	332	213	64%	119
Midlands	337	327	97%	346	333	96%	13
DNC	460	349	76%	465	369	79%	96
Dublin North	420	354	84%	424	353	83%	71
LH/MH	419	344	82%	418	315	75%	103
CN/MN	162	147	91%	167	149	89%	18
Kerry	168	148	88%	174	133	76%	41
Cork	667	573	86%	667	603	90%	64

CW/KK/ST	306	294	96%	308	279	91%	29
WD/WX	432	395	91%	430	404	94%	26
Donegal	237	215	91%	236	224	95%	12
SLWC	115	102	89%	119	104	87%	15
Mayo	145	132	91%	146	134	92%	12
GY/RN	340	316	93%	344	293	85%	51
Midwest	498	403	81%	501	385	77%	116
SCSIP Service	115	78	68%	118	68	58%	50
Total	5,760	4,908	85%	5,823	4,844	83%	979

3.1.4 Children in Care in Education

- 96% (3,582/3,727) of children in care aged 6 to 15 years (inclusive) were in full time education at the end of Q4 2024, down one percentage point from Q3 2024 (97%).
- All but two areas (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow and Dublin South Central) reporting 90% or higher.
- 68% (2,428) of children 6-15 years were in primary school, 27% (954) were in post primary school and 4% (138) were in special education. There were a further 62 (2%) spread across boarding school, education training facility, home tuition, pre-school and Other (not specified).
- 93% (920/993) of children in care aged 16 and 17 years were in full time education at the end of Q3 2024, up one percentage point from Q3 2024 (92%).
- 13/17 reporting 90% or higher with two areas reporting 100% (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary and Mayo). Lowest percentages reported by Midlands (85%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (86%) and Dublin South Central (87%).
- 86% (794) of young people 16 & 17 years were in post primary school, 7% (65) were in special education and 4% (36) were attending an educational training facility. There were a further 25 (3%) 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 Q3 2024	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q3 2024	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q3 2024	No of CIC 6-15 years Q4 2024	No of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2024	% of CIC 6-15 years in FT education Q4 2024
DSE/WW	126	117	93%	128	124	97%
DSW/K/WW	269	239	89%	266	233	88%
DSC	211	194	92%	215	189	88%
Midlands	245	237	97%	243	233	96%
Dublin North City	271	263	97%	280	272	97%
Dublin North	292	272	93%	292	273	93%
LH/MH	295	292	99%	300	297	99%
CN/MN	107	107	100%	109	108	99%
Kerry	107	107	100%	107	105	98%
Cork	449	444	99%	446	437	98%
CW/K/ST	195	192	98%	203	202	99.9%
WD/WX	266	261	98%	256	250	98%

Donegal	149	144	97%	145	139	96%
SLWC	79	77	97%	80	75	94%
Mayo	94	93	99%	95	94	99%
GY/RN	225	219	97%	224	214	96%
Mid West	342	340	99%	338	337	99.9%
Total	3,722	3,598	97%	3,727	3,582	96%

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

Area	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	No of CIC 16-17 yrs Q4 2024	No of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2024	% of CIC 16-17 years in FT education Q4 2024
DSE/WW	45	37	82%	44	40	91%
DSW/K/WW	71	63	89%	78	67	86%
DSC	58	50	86%	55	48	87%
Midlands	44	38	86%	52	44	85%
DNC	84	75	89%	78	72	92%
Dublin North	64	57	89%	67	59	88%
LH/MH	63	61	97%	63	60	95%
CN/MN	32	31	97%	32	30	94%
Kerry	27	26	96%	31	30	97%
Cork	123	116	94%	129	124	96%
CW/K/ST	51	50	98%	52	52	100%
WD/WX	83	78	94%	86	78	91%
Donegal	33	31	94%	39	35	90%
SLWC	19	17	89%	21	20	95%
Mayo	16	16	100%	16	16	100%
GY/RN	68	62	91%	69	65	94%
Mid West	81	79	98%	81	80	99%
Total	962	887	92%	993	920	93%

3.2 AFTERCARE

KEY FACTS

- 150 referrals for an aftercare service in Q4 2024. This brings to 580 the number of referrals for 2024, 57 (11%) more than 2023 (523).
- 2,935 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2024, 20 (<1%) more than Q3 2024 (2,915) and 31 (1%) more than Q4 2023 (2,904). *Figures include young persons < 18 years and those 18-22 years inclusive.*
- 78% (1,721/2,196) of those 18-22 years inclusive in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q4 2024 were in education/accredited training.
- Almost half (45%; 997) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,196) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 10% (218) had returned home to parents/family. One in five (23%; 509) was in independent living arrangements.
- 82% (2,394) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2024 had an aftercare plan, up one percentage point from Q3 2024 (81%). A total of 541 were awaiting a plan, 9 (2%) fewer than Q3 2024 (550).
- 88% (1,998/2,280) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2024, no change from Q3 2024. A total of 282 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2024, three more than Q3 2024 (279).
- 99.3% (284/286) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2024.
- 86% (1,714/1,994) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2024.

3.2.1 Referrals for an aftercare service received in the quarter

- 150 referrals for an aftercare service in Q4 2024. This brings to 580 the number of referrals for 2024, 57 (11%) more than 2023 (523).
- 100% of referrals for Q4 2024 were eligible for an assessment of need.
- Of those eligible for an assessment of need all were <18 years and in care.
- 93 assessments of need were completed in Q4 2024. This brings to 438 the number of assessments of needs completed for 2024, 28 (6%) fewer than 2023 (466)

Table: Referrals for an Aftercare Service by Area

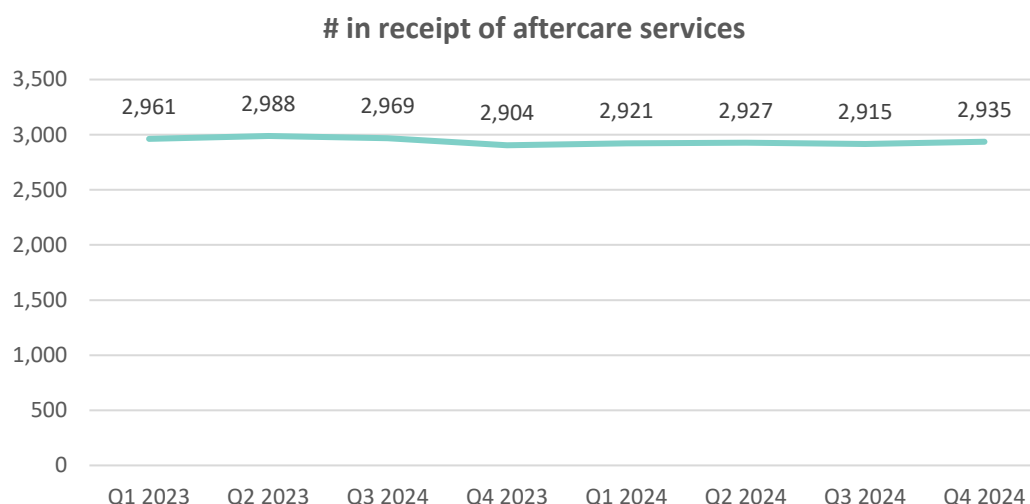
Area	2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	2024 YTD
Dublin South Central	23	4	10	7	9	30
Dublin South East/Wicklow	20	7	7	5	5	24
DSW/K/WW	28	12	16	10	9	47
Midlands	25	3	7	3	8	21
Dublin North City	51	8	14	6	17	45
Dublin North	17	0	11	5	9	25
Louth/Meath	25	13	5	3	9	30
Cavan/Monaghan	17	3	6	7	6	22
Cork	73	19*	17*	10	18	64

Kerry	13	1	8	2	6	17
CW/K/ST	22	4	10	8	14	36
Waterford/Wexford	40	8*	8*	13*	11	39
Mid West	57	13	15	6	8	42
Galway/Roscommon	25	14	8	14	4	40
Mayo	12	1	4	1	2	8
Donegal	14	3	6	0	3	12
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	11	5	3	4*	2	14
SCSIP Service	50	12	25	16	10	63
Total	523	130*	180*	120*	150	580

*Revised from previously reported

3.2.2 Young Persons / Adults in receipt of an aftercare service

- 2,935 young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2024, 20 (<1%) more than Q3 2024 (2,915) and 31 (1%) more than Q4 2023 (2,904). *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 Q4 2024 reported by Cork (365) followed by Dublin North City (249) and Midwest (226). Fewest number reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (50) followed by Mayo (67) and Cavan/Monaghan (77).

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	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2024
Dublin South Central	187	178	195	202	209
DSE/WW	128	135	139	144	135
DSW/K/WW	228	208	222	210	215
Midlands	139	142	142	135	129
Dublin North City	268	262	248	255	249
Dublin North	137	153	163	167	182
Louth/Meath	134	156	155	137	153

Cavan/Monaghan	83	76	74	81	77
Cork	345	355	353	348	365
Kerry	79	81	86	84	87
CW/K/ST	169	163	151	156	164
Waterford/Wexford	193	189	177	171	161
Mid West	244	248	249	237	226
Galway/Roscommon	219	217	217	207	208
Mayo	77	67	66	68	67
Donegal	91	96	97	94	96
SLWC	42	51	53	55	50
SCSIP Service	141	144	140	164	162
Total	2,904	2,921	2,927	2,915	2,935

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

- 54% (1,579) of those in receipt of an aftercare service at the end of Q4 2024 (2,935) were 18 – 20 years inclusive and of these 80% (1,257) were in education/accredited training, up two percentage points from Q4 2024 (78%) (table below).
- 12/17 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. Four areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Cavan/Monaghan, Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary and Midwest) reported 100%.
- Rates reported by Dublin South Central (54%) and Dublin North (56%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 18-20 years Q3 2024	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 18-20 years Q4 2024	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
Dublin South Central	114	60	53%	111	60	54%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	72	72	100%	64	64	100%
DSW/K/WW	118	77	65%	114	76	67%
Midlands	65	56	86%	61	49	80%
Dublin North City	131	91	69%	131	98	75%
Dublin North	90	55	61%	79	44	56%
Louth/Meath	89	57	64%	93	63	68%
Cavan/Monaghan	42	42	100%	44	44	100%
Cork	182	138	76%	188	145	77%
Kerry	42	30	71%	44	34	77%
CW/K/ST	74	65	88%	75	75	100%
Waterford/Wexford	97	63	65%	95	66	69%
Mid West	136	136	100%	131	131	100%
Galway/Roscommon	106	83	78%	106	87	82%
Mayo	37	29	78%	37	31	84%
Donegal	54	47	87%	55	46	84%

Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	27	24	89%	29	24	83%
SCSIP Service	115	109	95%	122	120	98%
Total	1,591	1,234	78%	1,579	1,257	80%

- The highest number of those in education/accredited training were in second level (287; 23%) followed by third level (266; 21%) and PLCs (252; 20%).

	# 18-20 years in education/accredited Training Q4 2024	%
Second Level	287	23%
Vocational Training	163	13%
PLCs	252	20%
Third Level College / University	266	21%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	196	16%
Other	93	7%
Total	1,257	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 (2,935) were 21 – 22 years inclusive and of these 75% (464) were in education/accredited training, down two percentage points from Q3 2024 (77%) (table below).
- 13/17 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported 70% or higher with four of these areas (Dublin South East/Wicklow, Cavan/Monaghan, Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary and Midwest) reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South Central (45%), Galway/Roscommon (58%) and Cork (59%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# 21-22 years Q3 2024	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training	# 21-22 years Q4 2024	# in education / accredited training	% in education / accredited training
Dublin South Central	43	23	53%	51	23	45%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	33	33	100%	29	29	100%
DSW/K/WW	37	29	78%	42	30	71%
Midlands	34	28	82%	29	27	93%
Dublin North City	65	51	78%	69	44	64%
Dublin North	40	35	88%	35	31	89%
Louth/Meath	22	17	77%	20	16	80%
Cavan/Monaghan	16	16	100%	13	13	100%
Cork	67	42	63%	70	41	59%
Kerry	15	10	67%	17	14	82%
CW/K/ST	40	35	88%	39	39	100%
Waterford/Wexford	29	17	59%	23	17	74%
Mid West	45	45	100%	43	43	100%
Galway/Roscommon	67	38	57%	73	42	58%
Mayo	17	15	88%	18	15	83%
Donegal	20	17	85%	17	16	94%

Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	8	7	88%	8	7	88%
SCSIP Service	19	16	84%	21	17	81%
Total	617	474	77%	617	464	75%

- 48% (225) of those in education/accredited training were in third level colleges with a further 19% (88) in PLCs, 15% (71) in accredited training and 9% (42) in vocational training.

	# 21-22 years in education/accredited Training Q4 2024	%
Second Level	2	<1%
Vocational Training	42	9%
PLCs	71	15%
Third Level College / University	225	48%
Accredited Training (e.g., Solas)	88	19%
Other	36	8%
Total	464	100%

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

- Almost half (45%; 997) of young people 18 – 22 years (2,196) in receipt of aftercare services had remained living with their carers. A further 10% (218) had returned home to parents/family. One in five (23%; 509) was in independent living arrangements.

Accommodation	# 18-22 placement type Q4 2024	%
Residential Care Placement	166	8%
Remained with Carers	997	45%
Independent Living	509	23%
Designated Care Leavers Accommodation	21	1%
At home	218	10%
Supported Lodgings	39	2%
Other	236	11%
Total	2,196	100%

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

- 82% (2,394) of young persons/adults in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Q4 2024 had an aftercare plan, up one percentage point from Q3 2024 (81%). A total of 541 were awaiting a plan, 9 (2%) fewer than Q3 2024 (550).
- 8 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a percentage equal to or higher the national average of 82%. Rates reported by Louth/Meath (61%) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (71%) lower than all other areas.
- 96% (2,106/2,196) of those 18-22 years in receipt of an aftercare service had a plan. 39% (288/739) of those <18 years had a plan.

Area	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q3 2024	# with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2024	% with an Aftercare Plan Q3 2024	# in Receipt of an Aftercare Service Q4 2024	# with an Aftercare Plan Q4 2024	% with an Aftercare Plan Q4 2024
Dublin South Central	202	153	76%	209	152	73%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	144	139	97%	135	123	91%
DSW/K/WW	210	172	82%	215	178	83%
Midlands	135	119	88%	129	117	91%
Dublin North City	255	194	76%	249	199	80%
Dublin North	167	137	82%	182	133	73%
Louth/Meath	137	90	66%	153	94	61%
Cavan/Monaghan	81	79	98%	77	72	94%
Cork	348	246	71%	365	290	79%
Kerry	84	64	76%	87	64	74%
CW/K/ST	156	116	74%	164	117	71%
Waterford/Wexford	171	141	82%	161	136	84%
Mid West	237	214	90%	226	211	93%
Galway/Roscommon	207	171	83%	208	165	79%
Mayo	68	56	82%	67	61	91%
Donegal	94	83	88%	96	96	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	55	39	71%	50	37	74%
SCSIP Service	164	152	93%	162	149	92%
Total	2,915	2,365	81%	2,935	2,394	82%

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

- 95% (2,280/2,394) of those with an aftercare plan were assessed as needing an aftercare worker. Twelve areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported 100%.
- Percentages reported by Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (55%) and Midlands (79%) 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% (1,998/2,280) of those assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2024, no change from Q3 2024. A total of 282 young people were awaiting an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2024, three more than Q3 2024 (279).
- 99.3% (284/286) of young people < 18 years assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2024.
- 86% (1,714/1,994) of 18–22-year-olds assessed as needing an aftercare worker had an aftercare worker at the end of Q4 2024.

- 13 areas along with the Service for SCSIP reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 88% with 13 of them reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South Central (41%), Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (53%) and Midwest (69%) lower than all other areas.

Area	# with a Plan Q4 2024	# Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q4 2024	% Assessed as needing Aftercare Worker Q4 2024	# with an Allocated Aftercare Worker Q4 2024	% with an Aftercare Worker Q4 2024	% with an Aftercare Worker Q3 2024
Dublin South Central	152	152	100%	62	41%	41%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	123	123	100%	123	100%	100%
DSW/K/WW	178	157	88%	83	53%	56%
Midlands	117	93	79%	93	100%	100%
Dublin North City	199	194	97%	194	100%	100%
Dublin North	133	133	100%	133	100%	79%
Louth/Meath	94	94	100%	94	100%	100%
Cavan/Monaghan	72	72	100%	72	100%	100%
Cork	290	279	96%	247	89%	97%
Kerry	64	64	100%	64	100%	100%
CW/K/ST	117	64	55%	64	100%	85%
Waterford/Wexford	136	136	100%	116	85%	82%
Mid West	211	211	100%	145	69%	78%
Galway/Roscommon	165	165	100%	165	100%	100%
Mayo	61	61	100%	61	100%	100%
Donegal	96	96	100%	96	100%	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	37	37	100%	37	100%	100%
SCSIP Service	149	149	100%	149	100%	100%
Total	2,394	2,280	95%	1,998	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

- 41 new children referred for adoption during Q4 2024. This brings to 192 the number of new children referred for adoption in 2024, 33 (15%) fewer than 2023 (225).
- 40 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q4 2024. Of these, 11 (28%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 14 (35%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 15 (38%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

3.3.1 Adoption Assessments

- 41 new children referred for adoption during Q4 2024. This brings to 192 the number of new children referred for adoption in 2024, 33 (15%) fewer than 2023.
- 40 completed initial assessments awaiting allocation to a social worker for full assessment at the end of Q4 2024. Of these, 11 (28%) were waiting for 0-8 weeks, 14 (35%) were waiting > 8 weeks to 16 weeks (inclusive) while the remaining 15 (38%) were waiting more than 16 weeks.

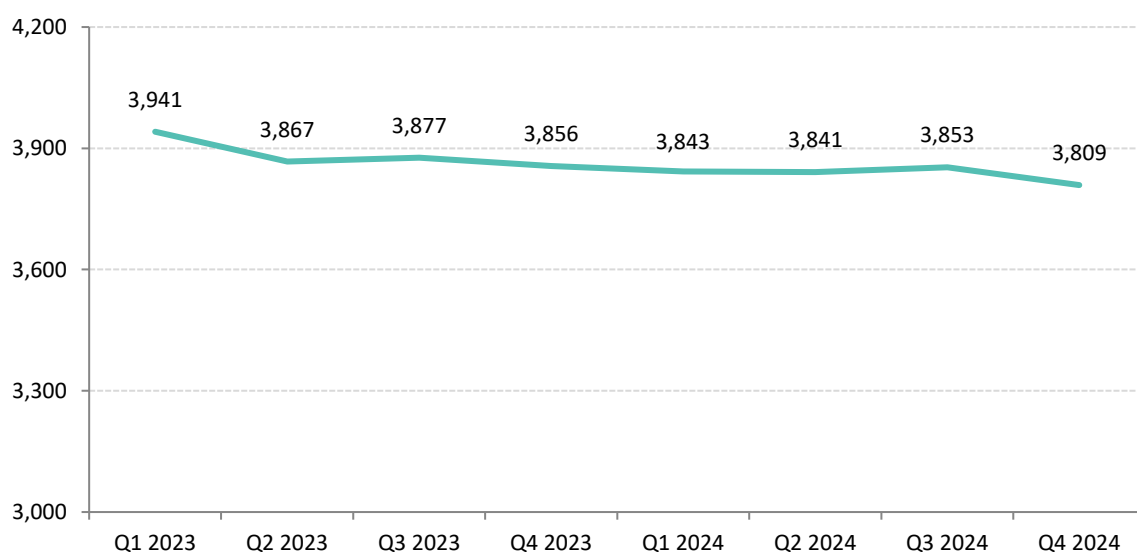
3.4 FOSTER CARERS

KEY FACTS

- 3,809 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q4 2024, 44 (1%) fewer than Q3 2024 (3,853) and 47 (1%) fewer than Q4 2023 (3,856).
- 49 Tusla foster carers (26 general & 23 relative) and 13 private foster carers approved in Q4 2024. This brings to 210 the number of Tusla foster carers (104 general and 106 relative) and 34 the number of private foster carers approved in 2024. The number of Tusla foster carers approved in 2024 (210) is up 37 (21%) on 2023 (173) while the number of private foster carers is down 7 (17%) on 2023 (41).
- 74 applications for general foster care and 169 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q4 2024.
- 92% (2,026) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q4 2024, down one percentage point from Q3 2024.
- 165 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 16 (11%) more than Q3 2024 (149).
- 97% (931) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q4 2024, up one percentage point from Q3 2024 (96%).
- 32 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q4 2024, 10 (2%) fewer than Q3 2024 (42).
- 97% (196) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. Seven carers were awaiting a link worker, five more than Q3 2024 (2).

3.4.1 Number of foster carers

- 3,809 foster carers (all types minus Brussels II Regulation) on the panel of approved foster carers at the end of Q4 2024, 44 (1%) fewer than Q3 2024 (3,853) and 47 (1%) fewer than Q4 2023 (3,856). *Increase from Q2 2024 partly explained by validation of register in one area.*



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

- 244 unapproved relative foster carers at the end of Q4 2024 of which 83% (203) had a child placed for >12 weeks. 80% (963/1,207) of relative foster carers are approved.
- 58% (2,191) of all approved foster carers are general foster carers. Relative foster carers (approved) account for a further 25% (963), while private foster carers account for the remaining 17% (655).
- The number of general foster carers (2,191) is down 19 (1%) from Q3 2024 (2,210) and 36 (2%) from Q4 2023 (2,227), quarter on quarter decrease. Relative foster carers (963) are down 24 (2%) from Q3 2024 (987) and 33 (3%) from Q4 2023 (996). Private foster carers (655) are down one from Q3 2024 (656) and up 22 (3%) from Q4 2023 (633).

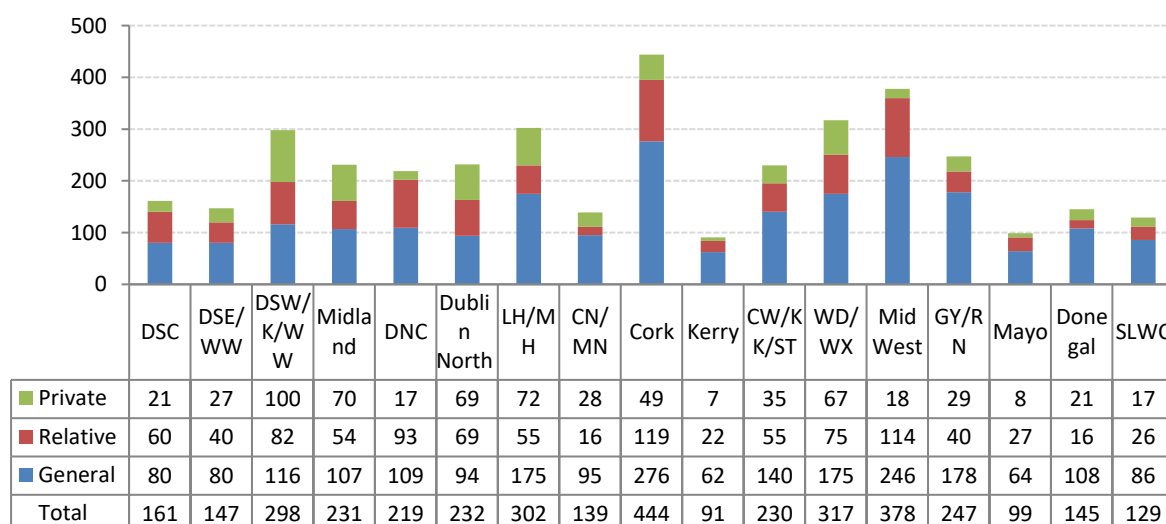
Breakdown of foster carers by type

Foster Carers	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Δ (+/-) Q4 v Q3
General (Approved)	2,227	2,216	2,215	2,210	2,191	-19
Relative (Approved)	996	998	993	987	963	-24
Private (Approved)	633	629	633	656	655	-1
Total Approved	3,856	3,843	3,841	3,853	3,809	-44
Relative (Unapproved)	245	224	222	230	244	+14

- 49 Tusla foster carers (26 general & 23 relative) and 13 private foster carers approved in Q4 2024. This brings to 210 the number of Tusla foster carers (104 general and 106 relative) and 34 the number of private foster carers approved in 2024. The number of Tusla foster carers approved in 2024 (210) is up 37 (21%) on 2023 (173) while the number of private foster carers is down 7 (17%) on 2023 (41).
- 74 applications for general foster care and 169 applications for relative foster care in progress at the end of Q4 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 Q4 2024, ranged from 444 in Cork to 91 in Kerry



Foster carers approved by type and area on the panel of approved foster carers, Q4 2024

- 3 areas reported an increase from Q3 2024 in the number of foster carers on the panel. Largest increase reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (up 8) followed Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (up 7) and Dublin North (up 5).
- 10 areas reported a decrease from Q3 2024. The largest decrease was reported by Cork (down 36) followed to a lesser extent by Louth/Meath (down 8). The remaining four areas (Kerry, Waterford/Wexford, Midwest and Donegal)) reported no change.

Area breakdown of approved foster carers (all types)

Area	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Δ (+/-) Q4 2024 v Q3 2024
Dublin South Central	170	168	169	162	161	-1
Dublin South East/Wicklow	136	146	149	149	147	-2
DSW/K/WW	289	288	283	290*	298	8
Midlands	257	251	236	233	231	-2
Dublin North City	243	223	224	223	219	-4
Dublin North	216	218	224	227	232	5
Louth/Meath	271	289	304	310	302	-8
Cavan/Monaghan	137	136	139	141	139	-2
Cork	506	491	485	480	444	-36
Kerry	88	91	90	91	91	0
CW/K/ST	239	242	235	232	230	-2
Waterford/Wexford	308	310	312	317	317	0
Mid West	386	379	379	378	378	0
Galway/Roscommon	257	253	249	250	247	-3
Mayo	100	99	98	103	99	-4
Donegal	143	145	147	145	145	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	110	114	118	122	129	7
Total	3,856	3,843	3,841	3,853	3,809	-44

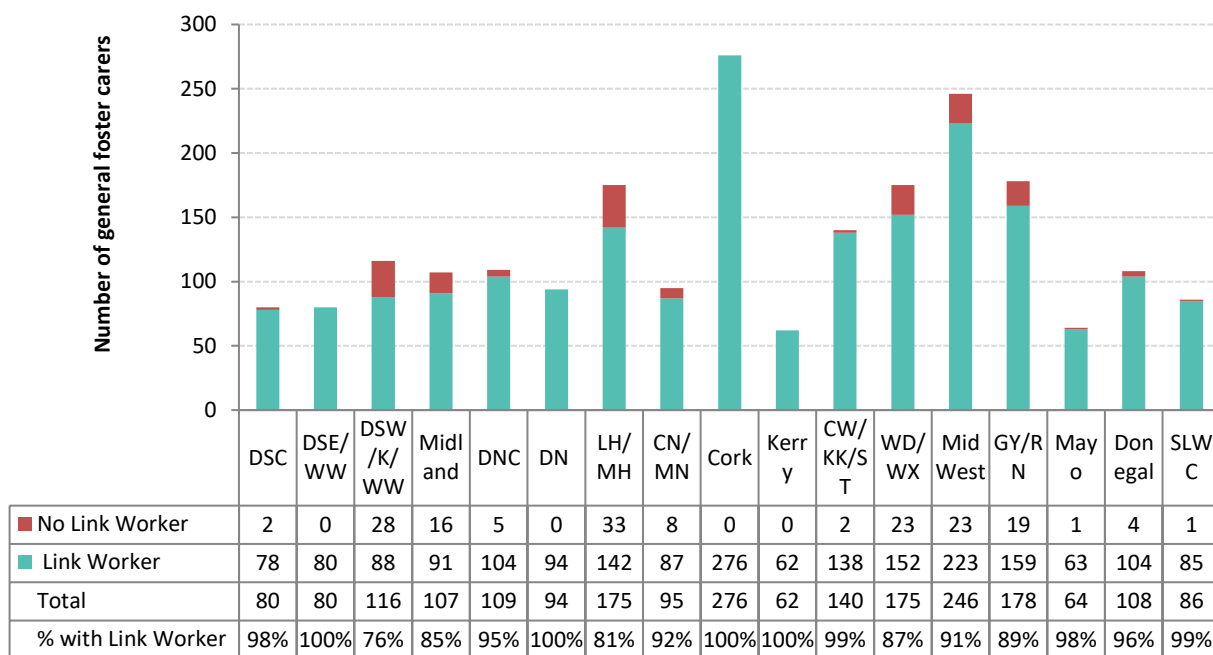
**Increase partly explained by validation of the foster carers register in this area*

- 92% (2,026) of general foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q4 2024, down one percentage point from Q3 2024.
- 165 general foster carers were awaiting an allocated link worker, 16 (11%) more than Q3 2024 (149).
- 12/17 areas reported 90% or higher with four of these areas reporting 100%. Rates reported by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (76%), Louth/Meath (81%) and Midlands (85%) lower than all other areas.
- Louth/Meath has the highest number of general foster carers awaiting an allocated link worker (33) followed by Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow (28), Waterford/Wexford (23) and Midwest (23).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q3 2024	Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2024	% With Link Worker Q3 2024	With Link Worker Q4 2024	Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2024	% With Link Worker Q4 2024	Δ +/- No. Awaiting LW Q4 2024 v Q3 2024
Dublin South Central	73	8	90%	78	2	98%	-6
Dublin South East/Wicklow	79	0	100%	80	0	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	87	23	79%	88	28	76%	5
Midlands	99	10	91%	91	16	85%	6
Dublin North City	102	7	94%	104	5	95%	-2
Dublin North	90	0	100%	94	0	100%	0
Louth/Meath	147	30	83%	142	33	81%	3
Cavan/Monaghan	78	18	81%	87	8	92%	-10
Cork	295	0	100%	276	0	100%	0
Kerry	63	0	100%	62	0	100%	0
CW/K/ST	137	5	96%	138	2	99%	-3
Waterford/Wexford	161	18	90%	152	23	87%	5
Mid West	227	20	92%	223	23	91%	3
Galway/Roscommon	178	4	98%	159	19	89%	15
Mayo	61	1	98%	63	1	98%	0
Donegal	103	5	95%	104	4	96%	-1
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	81	0	100%	85	1	99%	1
Total	2,061	149	93%	2,026	165	92%	16

General foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting a link (social worker), Q4 2024



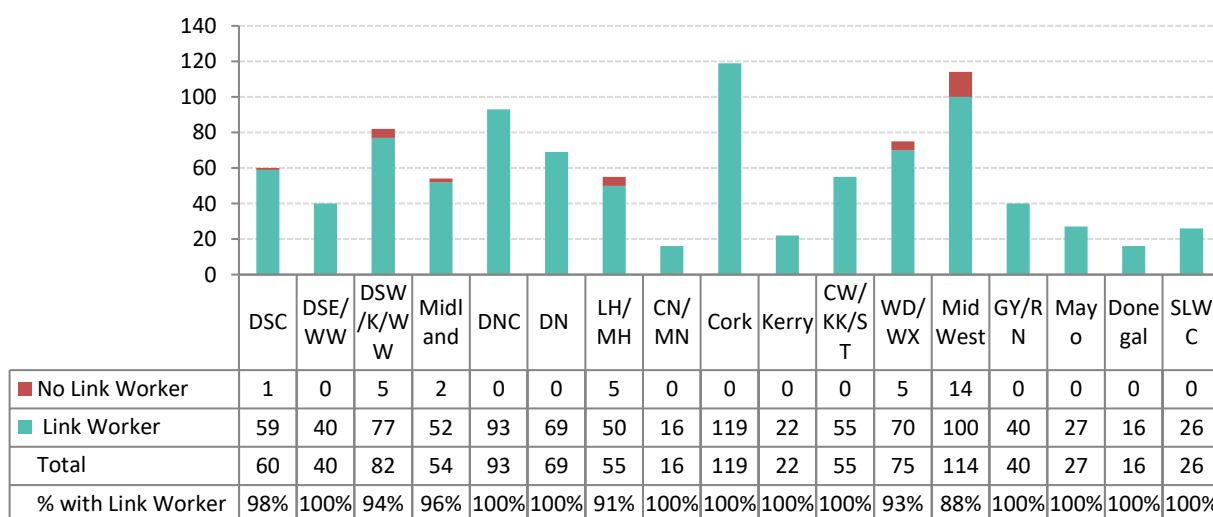
- 97% (931) of relative foster carers on the panel had an allocated link (social) worker at the end of Q4 2024, up one percentage point from Q3 2024 (96%).

- 32 relative foster carers on the panel were awaiting an allocated link worker at the end of Q4 2024, 10 (2%) fewer than Q3 2024 (42).
- 16/17 areas reported a percentage of 90% or higher with eleven of these areas reporting 100%. Rate reported by Midwest (88%) lower than all other areas.
- Midwest reported the highest number of relative foster carers on the panel awaiting a link (social) worker (14).

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

Area	With Link Worker Q3 2024	Awaiting Link Worker Q3 2024	% With Link Worker Q3 2024	With Link Worker Q4 2024	Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2024	% With Link Worker Q4 2024	Δ +/- No. Awaiting Link Worker Q4 2024 v Q3 2024
Dublin South Central	58	2	97%	59	1	98%	-1
Dublin South East/Wicklow	45	0	100%	40	0	100%	0
DSW/K/WW	73	7	91%	77	5	94%	-2
Midlands	48	8	86%	52	2	96%	-6
Dublin North City	98	0	100%	93	0	100%	0
Dublin North	70	0	100%	69	0	100%	0
Louth/Meath	56	5	92%	50	5	91%	0
Cavan/Monaghan	18	0	100%	16	0	100%	0
Cork	122	0	100%	119	0	100%	0
Kerry	21	0	100%	22	0	100%	0
CW/K/ST	54	3	95%	55	0	100%	-3
Waterford/Wexford	75	0	100%	70	5	93%	5
Mid West	97	17	85%	100	14	88%	-3
Galway/Roscommon	39	0	100%	40	0	100%	0
Mayo	29	0	100%	27	0	100%	0
Donegal	17	0	100%	16	0	100%	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	25	0	100%	26	0	100%	0
Total	945	42	96%	931	32	97%	-10

Relative foster carers approved and on the panel with/awaiting allocated link Q4 2024



3.4.3 Foster carers (relative) unapproved

- 244 relative foster carers were unapproved at the end of Q4 2024, 14 (6%) more than Q3 2024 (230) and one fewer than Q4 2023 (245).
- Of these, 203 (83%) had a child placed with them for longer than 12 weeks; up 7 (4%) from Q3 2024 (196)
- 97% (196) of unapproved relative foster carers who had a child placed with them for >12 weeks had an allocated link (social) worker. Seven carers were awaiting a link worker, five more than Q3 2024 (2). The seven carers were reported across three areas.

Breakdown of relative foster carers not approved

Unapproved Relative Foster Carers	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Δ (+/-) Q4 2024 v Q3 2024
No. unapproved	245	224	222	230	244	+14
No (%) with a child > 12 weeks	210	190	174	196	203	+7
	86%	85%	78%	85%	83%	
Child > 12 weeks and have a Link Worker	197	180	167	194	196	+2
	94%	95%	96%	99%	97%	
Child > 12 weeks AWAITING Link Worker	13	10	7	2	7	+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

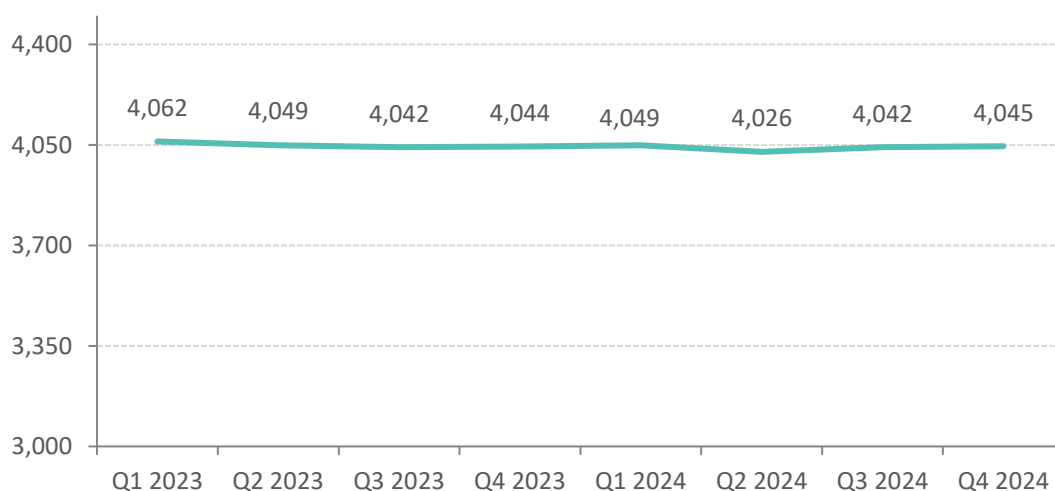
KEY FACTS

- 4,045 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q4 2024, three more than Q3 2024 (4,042) and one more than Q4 2023 (4,044).
- 620 inspections (all types) carried out in Q4 2024. This brings to 2,316 the number of inspections for 2024, 75 (3%) fewer than 2023 (2,391).
- 12 applications to register as a new service received by the Inspectorate in Q4 2024, bringing the number of applications received for 2024 to 136. A total of 146 applications were received in 2023.
- 158 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q4 2024, bringing the number notified for 2024 to 704. A total of 855 incidents notified in 2023.
- 107 unsolicited information submissions received by the Inspectorate during Q4 2024, bringing the number of submissions for 2024 to 429. A total of 490 unsolicited information submissions¹ received by the Inspectorate during 2023.
- 13 services were found to have closed in Q4 2024, bringing the number closed for 2024 to 95. A total of 115 services were found to have closed in 2023.

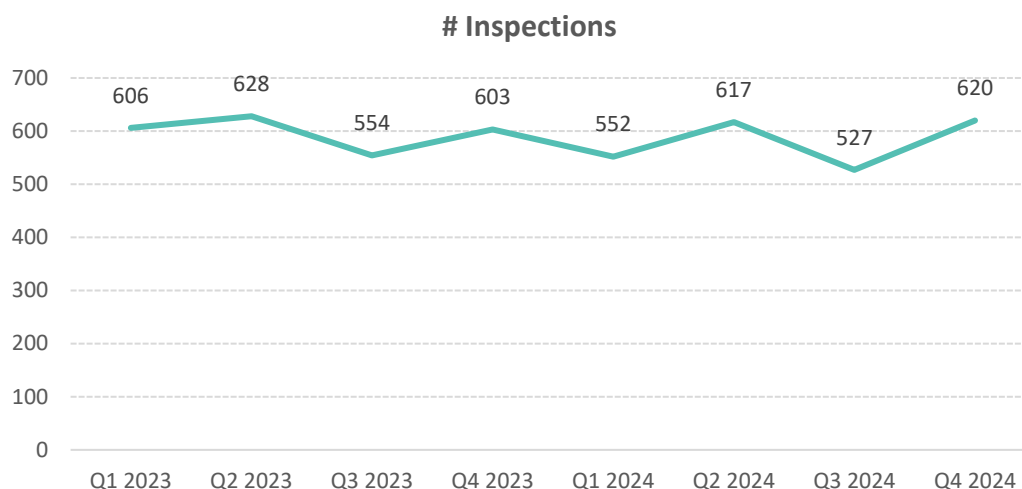
4.1.1 Activity Data

- 4,045 early years services (EYS) on the register nationally at the end of Q4 2024, three more than Q3 2024 (4,042) and one more than Q4 2023 (4,044).

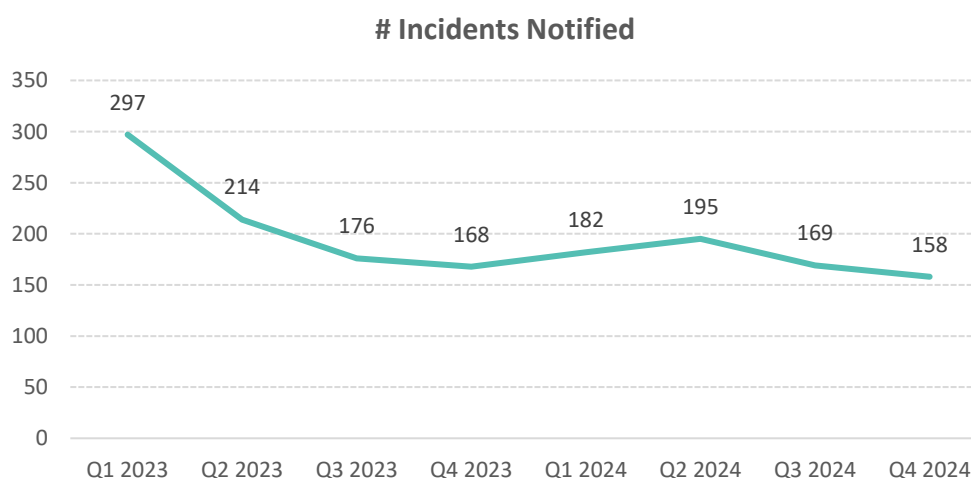
Early Years Services on the Register



- 620 inspections (all types⁸) carried out in Q4 2024. This brings to 2,316 the number of inspections for 2024, 75 (3%) fewer than 2023 (2,391).

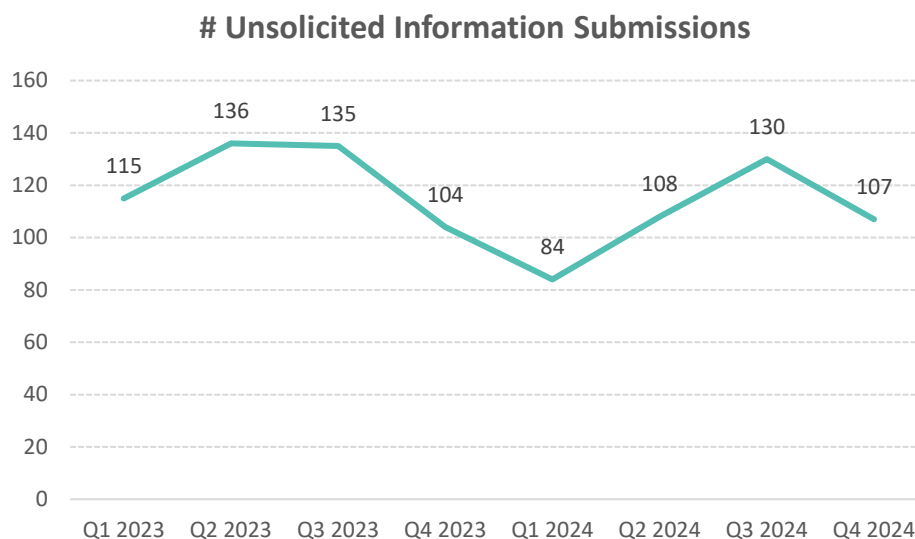


- 12 applications to register as a new service received by the Inspectorate in Q4 2024, bringing the number of applications received for 2024 to 136. A total of 146 applications were received in 2023.
- 15 new registration applications approved by the Inspectorate in Q4 2024, bringing the number of applications approved for 2024 to 96. A total of 86 new registration applications approved in 2023.
- One application to become an EYS refused registration by the Inspectorate in 2024. No applications refused by the Inspectorate in 2023.
- 455 “change in circumstances” notifications received by the Inspectorate in Q4 2024, bringing the number of notifications received for 2024 to 1,912. A total of 1,967 change in circumstances” notifications received by the Inspectorate in 2023.
- 158 incidents notified to the Inspectorate in Q4 2024, bringing the number notified for 2024 to 704. A total of 855 incidents notified in 2023.



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

- 107 unsolicited information submissions⁹ received by the Inspectorate during Q4 2024, bringing the number of submissions for 2024 to 429. A total of 490 unsolicited information submissions¹⁰ received by the Inspectorate during 2023.



- One EYS prosecuted by Tusla, in 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 2024. No service removed from the register by the Inspectorate in 2023
- 13 services were found to have closed in Q4 2024, bringing the number for 2024 to 95. 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

- 2,325 children on the register for home education at the end of Q4 2024, 182 (8%) more than Q3 2024 (2,143).

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.

- 390 applications received for home education during Q4 2024, bringing to 1,266 the number of applications received for 2024, 39 (3%) fewer than 2023 (1,305).
- 368 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q4 2024, bringing to 1,303 the number of assessments carried out for 2024, 256 (24%) more than 2023 (1,047).
- 639 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q4 2024, 169 (21%) fewer than Q3 2024 (808) and 461 (42%) fewer than Q4 2023 (1,100).

Independent Schools

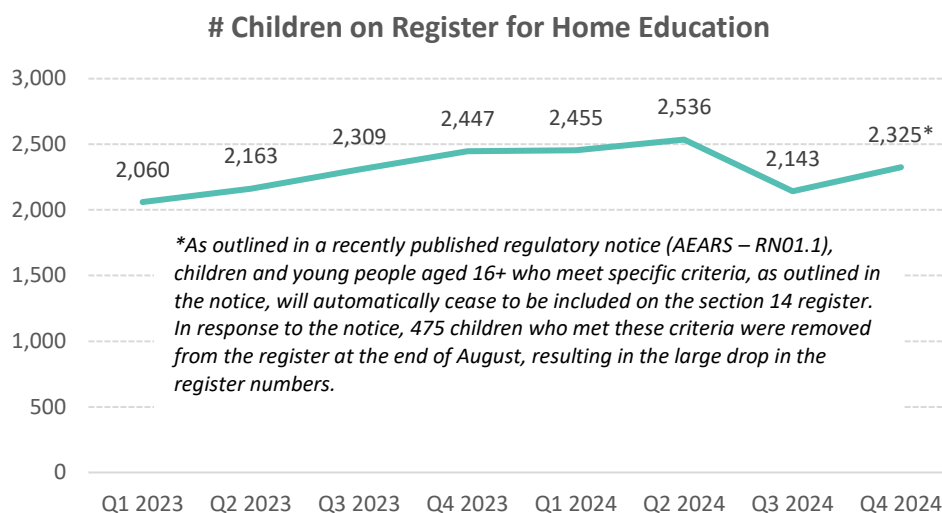
- 59 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q4 2024, two fewer than Q3 2024 (61).
- 6,464 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q4 2024 with 4,628 of these children on the register.
- 13 assessments carried out in Q4 2024 bringing to 29 the number of assessments carried out for 2024, 6 (26%) more than 2023 (23).
- No schools due for assessment at the end of Q4 2024.

Home Education

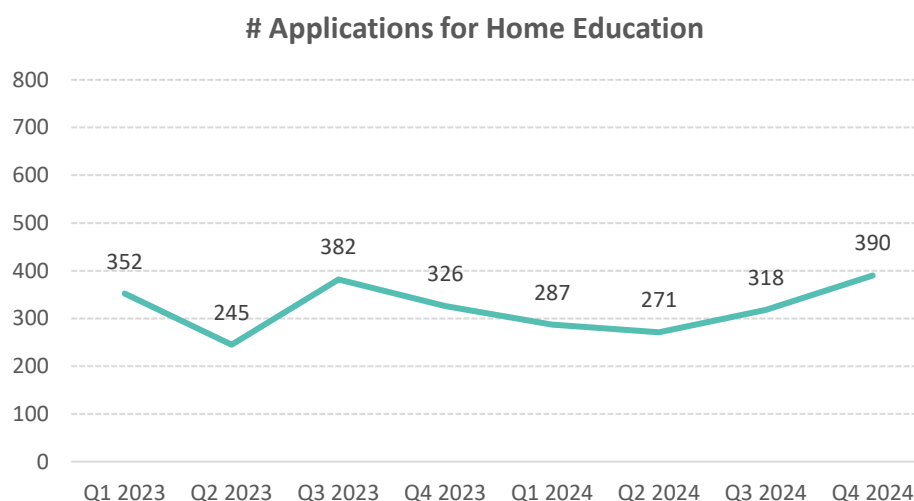
- 2,325 children on the register for home education at the end of Q4 2024, 182 (8%) more than Q3 2024 (2,143).

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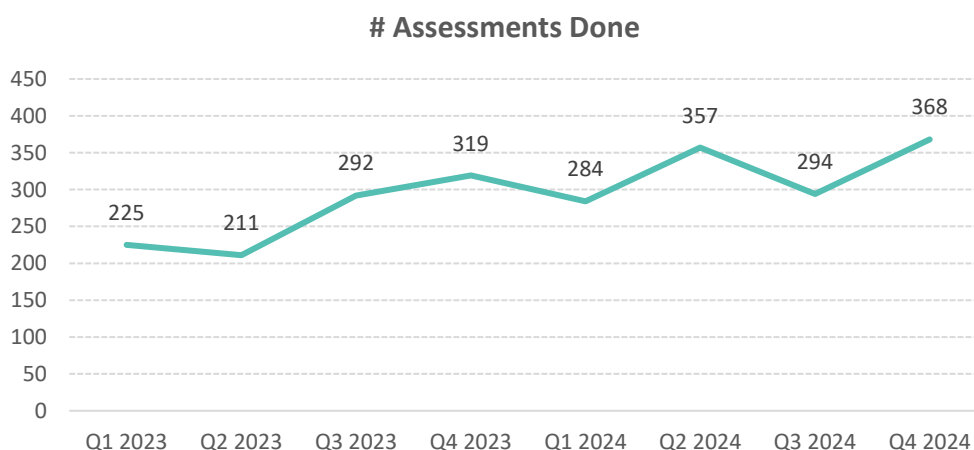
- 16% (380) of children on the register at the end of Q4 2024 have special educational needs.



- 390 applications¹¹ received for home education during Q4 2024, bringing to 1,266 the number of applications received for 2024, 39 (3%) fewer than 2023 (1,305).

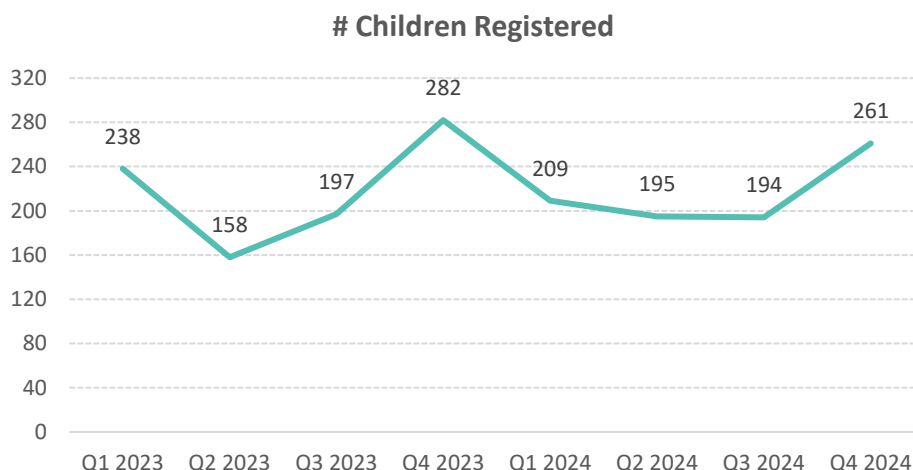


- 368 assessments (all types) for home education carried out in Q4 2024, bringing to 1,303 the number of assessments carried out for 2024, 256 (24%) more than 2023 (1,047).

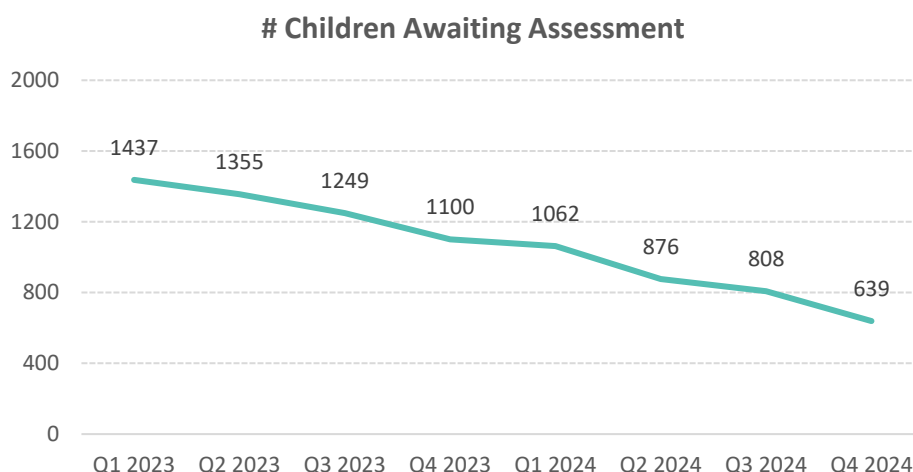


¹¹ The figure for applications includes valid and invalid applications

- 261 children registered for home education¹² in Q4 2024, bringing to 859 the number of children registered for 2024, 16 (2%) fewer than 2023 (875).



- 639 children on a waiting list for assessment at the end of Q4 2024, 169 (21%) fewer than Q3 2024 (808) and 461 (42%) fewer than Q4 2023 (1,100).



- 79 children removed from the register in Q4 2024, bringing to 981 the number of children removed in 2024. Of the children removed from the register in 2024, 120 (12%) were over 18 years, 244 (25%) returned to school, 70 (7%) left the jurisdiction. The remaining 547 (56%) were removed for other reasons (no longer home educated).

Independent Schools

- 59 assessed independent schools on the register at the end of Q4 2024, two fewer than Q3 2024 (61).
- 6,464 children in assessed independent schools at the end of Q4 2024 with 4,628 of these children on the register.

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

- 13 assessments carried out in Q4 2024 bringing to 29 the number of assessments carried out for 2024, 6 (26%) more than 2023 (23).
- No schools due for assessment at the end of Q4 2024.

4.3 ALTERNATIVE CARE INSPECTION & MONITORING SERVICES

Key Facts

- 196 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q4 2024; 14 (8%) more than Q3 2024 (182).
- 59 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q4 2024, bringing to 218 the number of inspections for 2024, 31 (17%) more than 2023 (187).
- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q4 2024, no change from Q3 2024. Two non-statutory foster care services visited, and two monitoring visits conducted in 2024.

Non-Statutory Children's Residential Centres

- 196 non-statutory residential centres at the end Q4 2024; 14 (8%) more than Q3 2024 (182).
- 59 inspections (all types) were conducted in Q4 2024, bringing to 218 the number of inspections for 2024, 31 (17%) more than 2023 (187).

Inspections of Non-Statutory Residential Services

Inspections by Type	Total 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	2024 YTD
Thematic Inspection (announced) on-site	85	24	24	34	29	111
Thematic Inspection (unannounced) on site	74	19	25	10	12	66
Thematic Inspection (announced) remote inspection	4	0	0	0	0	0
New Registration Inspection Visit	24	5	5	13	18	41
Total	187	48	54	57	59	218

Non-Statutory Foster Care Service

- 5 non-statutory foster care services at the end Q4 2024, no change from Q3 2024. Two non-statutory foster care services visited, and two monitoring visits conducted in 2024.

5.0 TUSLA EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

KEY FACTS

Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2024 – August 2025

- 2,706 referrals screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 647 (31%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (2,059).
- 3,728 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of December 2024, 1,003 (37%) more than December 2023 (2,725).
- 1,470 new individual children worked with during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 75 (5%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (1,395).
- 5,472 individual children worked with during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 426 (8%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (5,046).
- 260 school attendance notices (SANs) issued during the first four months academic year 2024-2025, 15 (5%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (275). The SANs issued were in respect of 189 individual children, two fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (191).
- 54 summonses issued during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 30 (125%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (24). The summonses were in respect of 41 individual children, 24 (141%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (17).
- 90 Section 24 meetings convened by EWOs during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 13 (13%) fewer than the previous academic year (103).

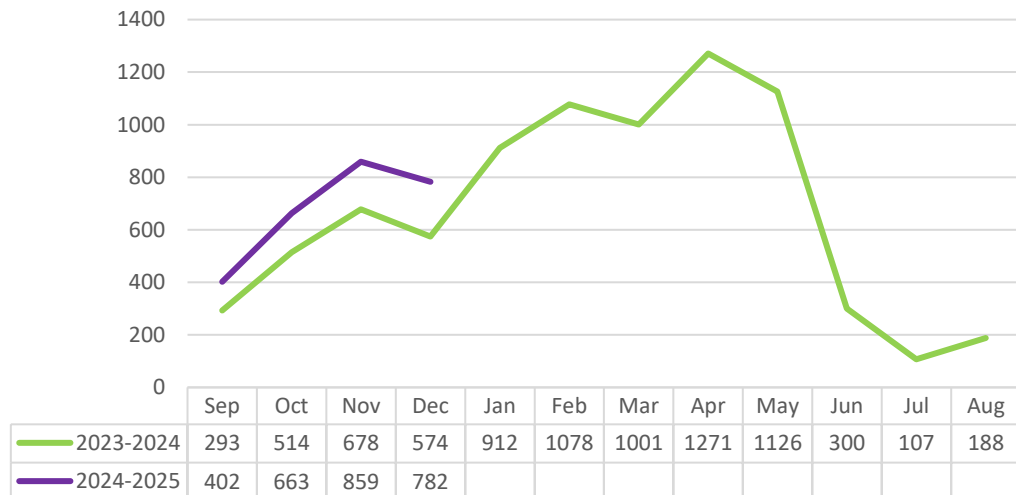
Educational Welfare: Academic Year September 2024 – August 2025

- 2,706 referrals¹³ screened by senior educational welfare officers (EWO) during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 647 (31%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (2,059).
- 1,543 referrals allocated to educational welfare officers during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 214 (16%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (1,329).
- 664 referrals screened out / required no further action during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 385 (37%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (1,049).
- 3,728 screened referrals on a waiting list at the end of December 2024, 1,003 (37%) more than December 2023 (2,725).

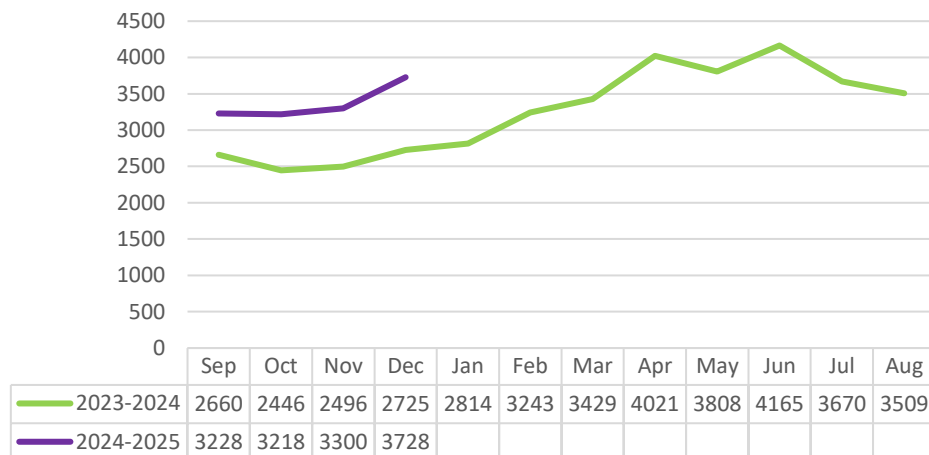
¹³ A referral is a written notification of concern to EWS from a school, a parent, agency or concerned citizen in relation to the educational welfare of a named child. Referrals are then screened against a set of criteria by the Senior Educational Welfare Officer and a decision is made as to whether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

	Sept 2023 – Dec 2023	Sept 2024 – Dec 2024	Δ
# Referrals screened	2,059	2,706	647 (31%)
# Referrals allocated	1,329	1,543	214 (16%)
# Referrals screened out	1,049	664	-385 (37%)
# Referrals on waiting list	2,725	3,728	1,003 (37%)

Referrals for Educational Welfare Service



Referrals on Waiting List at Month End



- 1,835 new cases assigned to EWOs during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 179 (9%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (2,014).
- 1,795 cases closed during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 83 (4%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (1,878).
- 1,470 new individual children worked with during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 75 (5%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (1,395).
- 5,472 individual children worked with during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 426 (8%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (5,046).

	Sept 2023 – Dec 2023	Sept 2024 – Dec 2024	Δ
# cases assigned	2,014	1,835	-179 (9%)
# cases closed	1,878	1,795	-83 (4%)
# new individual children worked with	1,395	1,470	75 (5%)
# Individual children worked with	5,046	5,472	426 (8%)

- 260 school attendance notices (SANs) issued during the first four months academic year 2024-2025, 15 (5%) fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (275). The SANs issued were in respect of 189 individual children, two fewer than the same period in the previous academic year (191).
- 54 summonses issued during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 30 (125%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (24). The summonses were in respect of 41 individual children, 24 (141%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (17).
- EWOs attended 145 court cases in relation to their own cases during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 61 (73%) more than the same period previous academic year (84).
- 90 Section 24¹⁴ meetings convened by EWOs during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 13 (13%) fewer than the previous academic year (103).
- 108 child protection and welfare referrals made by EWOs during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 55 (104%) more than the previous academic year (53).
- 64 child protection conferences (CPC) attended by EWOs during the first four months of the academic year 2024-2025, 10 (19%) more than the same period in the previous academic year (54).

	Sept 2023 – Dec 2023	Sept 2024 – Dec 2024	Δ
School Attendance Notices Issues	275	260	-15 (5%)
SANs - individual children involved	191	189	-2 (1%)
Summonses Issued	24	54	30 (125%)
Summonses – individual children involved	17	41	24 (141%)
Court cases attended in relation to own cases	84	145	61 (73%)

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.

Section 24 meetings convened	103	90	-13 (13%)
Child protection & welfare referrals made	53	108	55 (104%)
Child protection conferences attended	54	64	10 (19%)

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

- 378 family support providers commissioned (H2 2024)
- 93% (352) of services commissioned provided data for H2 2024.
- At least 19,413 children in receipt of family support services at the end of H2 2024. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- At least 23,529 children referred to family support services in the last six months of 2024. This brings to at least 48,443 the number of children referred in 2024 (average response rate of 89%). At least 47,260 children referred in 2023 (average response rate 86%).
- The most common source of referrals for 2024 was parents/guardians, accounting for 31% (14,909) of referrals followed by Tusla social workers (24%; 11,771), schools (11%; 5,364) and HSE Officers (9%; 4,589).
- 68% (32,989) of children referred in 2024 received a service in 2024. The percentage who received a service ranged from 44% (Waterford/Wexford) to 89% (Kerry). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 68%.

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

6.1.1 Family Support Providers

- 378 family support providers commissioned (H2 2024).
- 93% (352) of services commissioned provided data for H2 2024.
- Response rates ranged from 72% to 100% in eight areas.

Family Support Services Commissioned by Areas

Area	# FSS Commissioned H2 2024	# External to Tusla	# Internal to Tusla	# that provided data	% that provided data
Dublin South Central	30	27	3	29	97%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	15	12	3	11	73%
DSW/K/WW	25	20	5	25*	100%
Midlands	6	6	0	5	83%
Dublin North City	48	41	7	46	96%
Dublin North	22	21	1	20	91%
Louth/Meath	23	18	5	23	100%

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.

Cavan/Monaghan	18	16	2	16	89%
Cork	31	29	2	31	100%
Kerry	20	20	0	19	95%
CW/K/ST	32	29	3	32	100%
Waterford/Wexford	25	22	3	18	72%
Mid West	32	30	2	26	81%
Galway/Roscommon	13	13	0	13	100%
Mayo	11	11	0	11	100%
Donegal	13	12	1	13	100%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	14	14	0	14	100%
Total	378	341	37	352	93%

*Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow - incomplete data reported due to staff vacancy

6.1.2 Children in Receipt of Family Support Services

- At least 19,413 children were in receipt of family support services at the end of H2 2024. This equates to almost 2% of children (0-17 years).
- Highest rates reported by Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (4.6%) and Donegal (4.5%). Eight areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 1.6%.
- Highest numbers of children in receipt of family support services reported by Dublin North City (1,926), Donegal (1,905) and Midwest (1,720). Fewest number reported by Midlands (236), Mayo (486) and Cavan/Monaghan (560).

Children in receipt of Family Support Services

Area	Children in receipt of FSS end of H2 2023	Children in receipt of FSS end of H2 2024	% Total H2 2024	Population 0-17 years	Rate / 100 children
Dublin South Central	1,528	1,540	8%	70,259	2.2
Dublin South East/Wicklow	761	701	4%	91,047	0.8
DSW/K/WW	2,323	645*	3%	108,927	0.6
Midlands	311	236	1%	80,962	0.3
Dublin North City	1,384	1,926	10%	48,909	3.9
Dublin North	437	1,050	5%	104,281	1.0
Louth/Meath	1,004	1,232	6%	96,531	1.3
Cavan/Monaghan	529	560	3%	37,336	1.5
Cork	817	1,217	6%	136,786	0.9
Kerry	588	1,133	6%	34,994	3.2
CW/KK/ST	1,470	1,595	8%	62,366	2.6
Waterford/Wexford	1,028	747	4%	69,239	1.1
MidWest	1,936	1,720	9%	96,764	1.8
Galway/Roscommon	1,262	1,591	8%	81,799	1.9
Mayo	486	486	3%	31,911	1.5
Donegal	2,637	1,905	10%	42,144	4.5
SLWC	1,291	1,129	6%	24,312	4.6
Total	19,792	19,413	100%	1,218,567	1.6

*Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow - incomplete data reported due to staff vacancy

6.1.3 Children Referred to Family Support Services

- At least 23,529 children referred to family support services during the last six months of 2024. This brings to at least 48,443 the number of children referred in 2024 (average response rate of 89%). At least 47,260 children referred in 2023 (response rate 86%).
- The highest rate of referrals for 2024 was reported by Dublin North City (11.1%) followed by Donegal (10%) and Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan (7.8%). The lowest rate was reported by Midlands (0.7%) followed by Dublin South East/Wicklow (2.0%) and Dublin North (2.4%).
- The highest number of children referred for 2024 was reported by Dublin North City (5,426) followed by Dublin South Central (4,263) and Donegal (4,224)

Children referred to Family Support Services by area

Area	Total Referrals 2023	Total Referrals H1 2024	Total Referrals H2 2024	Total Referrals 2024	% Total 2024	Population 0-17 years (Census 2016)	% children referred
Dublin South Central	3,945	2,120	2,143	4,263	8.8%	70,259	6.1%
DSE/WW	1,595	966	874	1,840	3.8%	91,047	2.0%
DSW/K/WW	4,170	2,328	930*	3,258	6.7%	108,927	3.0%
Midlands	921	229	340	569	1.2%	80,962	0.7%
Dublin North City	4,264	3,025	2,401	5,426	11.2%	48,909	11.1%
Dublin North	3,937	1,237	1,308	2,545	5.3%	104,281	2.4%
Louth/Meath	1,874	1,185	1,304	2,489	5.1%	96,531	2.6%
Cavan/Monaghan	1,215	998	720	1,718	3.5%	37,336	4.6%
Cork	2,784	1,781	2,084	3,865	8.0%	136,786	2.8%
Kerry	1,947	1,039	1,019	2,058	4.2%	34,994	5.9%
CW/K/ST	3,214	1,652	1,593	3,245	6.7%	62,366	5.2%
Waterford/Wexford	2,225	2,209	1,407	3,616	7.5%	69,239	5.2%
Mid West	2,674	1,472	1,764	3,236	6.7%	96,764	3.3%
Galway/Roscommon	2,927	1,341	1,664	3,005	6.2%	81,799	3.7%
Mayo	1,108	662	529	1,191	2.5%	31,911	3.7%
Donegal	4,327	1,736	2,488	4,224	8.7%	42,144	10.0%
SLWC	4,133	934	961	1,895	3.9%	24,312	7.8%
Total	47,260	24,914	23,529	48,443	100.0%	1,218,567	4.0%

*Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow – incomplete data reported due to staff vacancy

6.1.4 Source of Referrals

- The most common source of referrals for 2024 was parents/guardians, accounting for 31% (14,909) of referrals followed by Tusla social workers (24%; 11,771), schools (11%; 5,364) and HSE Officers (9%; 4,589).

Children referred to Family Support Services by source of referral

Source	Total Referrals 2023	% Total 2023	Total Referrals H1 2024	Total Referrals H2 2024	Total Referrals 2024	% Total 2024
Parent/Guardian	13,657	29%	7,295	7614	14,909	31%
Tusla Social Workers	11,118	24%	5,639	6132	11,771	24%
Schools	5,413	11%	2,997	2367	5,364	11%

HSE Officers	3,695	8%	2,495	2094	4,589	9%
Other	2,005	4%	2,061	1207	3,268	7%
Other Tulsa Officers	2,342	5%	1,437	1535	2,972	6%
Child/Young Person	5,118	11%	1,276	1017	2,293	5%
Voluntary Agency	2,415	5%	1,127	1006	2,133	4%
GP	555	1%	260	248	508	1%
Other Family Member	719	2%	251	217	468	1%
AGS	158	0.3%	76	92	168	0.3%
Anonymous	65	0.1%	0	-	0	0.0%
Total	47,260	100%	24,914	23,529	48,443	100%

6.1.5 Children who received a service

- 73% (17,280) of children referred to family support services during the last six months of 2024 received a service during that period. The percentage who received a service ranged from 53% (Dublin South East/Wicklow) to 91% (Kerry). Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 73%.
- 68% (32,989) of all children referred in 2024 received a service in 2024. The percentage who received a service ranged from 44% (Waterford/Wexford) to 89% (Kerry). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 68%.

Children referred to Family Support Services who received a service during the reporting period, H2 2024

Area	Referrals H2 2024	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service	Total Referrals 2024	Of number referred, number who received a service	% who rec'd a service
Dublin South Central	2,143	1,537	72%	4,263	2,763	65%
DSE/WW	874	463	53%	1,840	881	48%
DSW/K/WW	930	519	56%	3,258	1,665*	51%
Midlands	340	224	66%	569	338	59%
Dublin North City	2,401	1,759	73%	5,426	3,264	60%
Dublin North	1,308	876	67%	2,545	1,822	72%
Louth/Meath	1,304	920	71%	2,489	1,575	63%
Cavan/Monaghan	720	634	88%	1,718	1,278	74%
Cork	2,084	1,447	69%	3,865	2,665	69%
Kerry	1,019	930	91%	2,058	1,823	89%
CW/K/ST	1,593	1,142	72%	3,245	2,345	72%
Waterford/Wexford	1,407	843	60%	3,616	1,582	44%
Mid West	1,764	1,374	78%	3,236	2,527	78%
Galway/Roscommon	1,664	1,347	81%	3,005	2,298	76%
Mayo	529	413	78%	1,191	1,026	86%
Donegal	2,488	2,157	87%	4,224	3,552	84%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	961	695	72%	1,895	1,585	84%
Total	23,529	17,280	73%	48,443	32,989	68%

*Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow - incomplete data reported due to staff vacancy

- Of the 32,989 children referred to family support services in 2024 who received a service,
 - 5% (1,624) were subject of a child in care plan
 - 9% (2,978) were subject of a Tusla Child Protection & Welfare Safety Plan
 - 6% (1,808) were subject of a Meitheal Support Plan
 - 41% (13,413) were subject of a Single Agency Response.

6.1.6 Parenting Support Service

- 13,784 parents/guardians/care givers were referred to a parenting support service during the last six months of 2024; 28,697 referred in 2024
- 61% (8,390) of the parents/guardians/care givers referred during the last six months of 2024 received a service; 73% (20,846) received a service in 2024.
- 5,827 individual (one-to-one) parenting support services were commissioned internally during the last six months of 2024; 9,393 commissioned in 2024.
- 3,134 individual (one-to-one) parenting support services were commissioned externally during the last six months of 2024; 7,355 commissioned in 2024.
- 2,305 parenting support services that are group-based interventions were commissioned internally during the last six months of 2024: 4,469 commissioned in 2024.
- 3,369 parenting support services that are group-based interventions were commissioned externally during the last six months of 2024: 4,678 commissioned in 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

- 1,273 Meitheal processes requested during the last six months of 2024. This brings to 2,687 the number of requests received for 2024, 195 (8%) more than 2023 (2,492).
- The most common pathway for all requests received in 2024 was "Direct Access" accounting for 67% (1,793) of requests. "Social Work Diversion" accounted for a further 25% (665) while "Social Work Step-Down" accounted for 9% (229) of requests.
- Of the requests where the pathway was 'Direct Access' 25% (350/1,378) were previously known to social work (based on data from 14/17 areas for H1 and 16/17 areas for H2).
- 73% (1,974/2,687) of Meitheal requests received during 2024 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- 1,679 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 (Discussion Stage) in 2024.
- 53% (885) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting).
- 2,112 Meitheal processes were closed during 2024.
- 33% (692) of all Meitheal processes were closed following submission of a Meitheal request form (Stage 1); 25% (524) were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage); 11% (241) were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3); 31% (655) were closed post-delivery.
- 114 Child and Family Support Networks (CFSN) operating at the end of 2024 with a further five planned in development.

6.2.1 Meitheal Processes Requested

- 1,273 Meitheal processes requested during the last six months of 2024. This brings to 2,687 the number of requests received for 2024, 195 (8%) more than 2023 (2,492).
- The number of requests reported for the last six months of 2024 ranged from 16 (Mayo) to 312 (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary).
- The number of requests reported for the year 2024 ranged from 44 (Mayo) to 586 (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary).

Meitheal processes requested

Area	Total Requested 2023	Total Requested H1 2024	Total Requested H2 2024	Total Requested 2024	% Total 2024
Dublin South Central	86	29	31	60	2%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	91	61	45	106	4%
DSW/K/WW	167	83	68	151	6%
Midlands	107	54	58	112	4%
Dublin North City	103	26	23	49	2%
Dublin North	259	44	27	71	3%
Louth/Meath	162	61	61	122	5%
Cavan/Monaghan	128	131	109	240	9%
Cork	271	153	90	243	9%
Kerry	174	86	108	194	7%
CW/K/ST	194	274	312	586	22%
Waterford/Wexford	352	216	196	412	15%
Mid West	131	72	33	105	4%
Galway/Roscommon	111	41	41	82	3%
Mayo	38	28	16	44	2%
Donegal	75	33	23	56	2%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	43	22	32	54	2%
National	2,492	1,414	1,273	2,687	100%

- The most common pathway for requests received during the last six months of 2024 was “Direct Access” accounting for 67% (858) of requests. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 25% (320) while “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for 7% (95) of requests.
- Of the requests where the pathway was ‘Direct Access’ 28% (194/702) were previously known to social work (based on data from 16/17 areas).
- A breakdown of request received during the last six months of 2024 by pathway is presented in the table below.

Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests H2 2024

Area	# Requested H2 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	31	24	77%	5	16%	2	6%
DSE/WW	45	36	80%	5	11%	4	9%
DSW/K/WW	68	55	81%	12	18%	1	1%
Midlands	58	56	97%	2	3%	0	0%
Dublin North City	23	22	96%	1	4%	0	0%
Dublin North	27	22	81%	3	11%	2	7%
Louth/Meath	61	28	46%	32	52%	1	2%

Cavan/Monaghan	109	64	59%	13	12%	32	29%
Cork	90	62	69%	8	9%	20	22%
Kerry	108	56	52%	37	34%	15	14%
CW/K/ST	312	156	50%	152	49%	4	1%
Waterford/Wexford	196	147	75%	44	22%	5	3%
Mid West	33	27	82%	1	3%	5	15%
Galway/Roscommon	41	39	95%	1	2%	1	2%
Mayo	16	15	94%	0	0%	1	6%
Donegal	23	20	87%	3	13%	0	0%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	32	29	91%	1	3%	2	6%
Total	1,273	858	67%	320	25%	95	7%

- The most common pathway for all requests received in 2024 was “Direct Access” accounting for 67% (1,793) of requests. “Social Work Diversion” accounted for a further 25% (665) while “Social Work Step-Down” accounted for 9% (229) of requests.
- Of the requests where the pathway was ‘Direct Access’ 25% (350/1,378) were previously known to social work (based on data from 14/17 areas for H1 and 16/17 areas for H2).
- A breakdown of request received during 2024 by pathway is presented in the table below.

Access Pathway for Meitheal Requests 2024

Area	# Requested 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	60	48	80%	6	10%	6	10%
DSE/WW	106	92	87%	6	6%	8	8%
DSW/K/WW	151	119	79%	29	19%	3	2%
Midlands	112	104	93%	6	5%	2	2%
Dublin North City	49	43	88%	3	6%	3	6%
Dublin North	71	64	90%	4	6%	3	4%
Louth/Meath	122	67	55%	47	39%	8	7%
Cavan/Monaghan	240	129	54%	54	23%	57	24%
Cork	243	136	56%	43	18%	64	26%
Kerry	194	100	52%	59	30%	35	18%
CW/K/ST	586	285	49%	292	50%	9	2%
Waterford/Wexford	412	311	75%	96	23%	5	1%
Mid West	105	89	85%	6	6%	10	10%
Galway/Roscommon	82	75	91%	5	6%	2	2%
Mayo	44	40	91%	1	2%	3	7%
Donegal	56	46	82%	3	5%	7	13%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	54	45	83%	5	9%	4	7%
Total	2,687	1,793	67%	665	25%	229	9%

6.2.2 Meitheal Processes Proceeding to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage)

- 66% (845/1,273) of Meitheal requests received during the last six months of 2024 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- The percentage of requests proceeding to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage) ranged from 26% (Cavan/Monaghan) to 99% (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow). Thirteen areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 66%.

Meitheal requests received proceeding to Stage Two (Discussion Stage) H2 2024

Area	# Requested H2 2024	# that proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)
Dublin South Central	31	28	90%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	45	44	98%
DSW/K/WW	68	67	99%
Midlands	58	52	90%
Dublin North City	23	20	87%
Dublin North	27	23	85%
Louth/Meath	61	53	87%
Cavan/Monaghan	109	28	26%
Cork	90	82	91%
Kerry	108	80	74%
CW/K/ST	312	179	57%
Waterford/Wexford	196	73	37%
Mid West	33	29	88%
Galway/Roscommon	41	35	85%
Mayo	16	14	88%
Donegal	23	12	52%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	32	26	81%
Total	1,273	845	66%

- 73% (1,974/2,687) of Meitheal requests received during 2024 proceeded to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage).
- The percentage of requests proceeding to Stage 2 (Discussion Stage) ranged from 26% (Cavan/Monaghan) to 99% (Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow). Fourteen areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 73%.

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

Area	# Requested 2024	# that proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)	% that Proceeded to Discussion Stage (Stage 2)
Dublin South Central	60	49	82%
Dublin South East/Wicklow	106	104	98%
DSW/K/WW	151	150	99%
Midlands	112	93	83%
Dublin North City	49	43	88%
Dublin North	71	52	73%
Louth/Meath	122	112	92%

Cavan/Monaghan	240	63	26%
Cork	243	215	88%
Kerry	194	141	73%
CW/K/ST	586	369	63%
Waterford/Wexford	412	276	67%
Mid West	105	99	94%
Galway/Roscommon	82	75	91%
Mayo	44	42	95%
Donegal	56	43	77%
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	54	48	89%
Total	2,687	1,974	73%

6.2.3 Meitheal Processes Reaching Completion of Stage 2 (Discussion Stage)

- 794 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 in the last six months of 2024.
- 52% (409) of processes reaching completion of Stage 2 proceeded to delivery (Stage 3) (Meitheal Support Meeting). The percentage of processes that proceeded to delivery ranged from 100% (31/31) Dublin south West/Kildare/West Wicklow to 14% (12/84) in Waterford/Wexford. Thirteen areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 52%.
- 35% (276) were referred for a single agency response. The percentage of processes referred for a single agency response ranged from 81% (86/106) in Cavan/Monaghan to 0% in four areas. Four areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 35%.
- 3% (25) of processes were referred to social work (stepped – up). The percentage of processes referred to social work ranged from 22% (5/23) in Dublin North City to 0% in six areas. Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 3%.
- 11% (84) of processes were closed. The percentage of processes closed ranged from 27% (22/83) in Cork to none in five areas. Seven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (11%).

Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, H2 2024

Area	# Reaching Completion of Stage 2, H2 2024	Proceeded to Delivery	%	Referred to Social Work	%	Referred to a Single Agency Response	%	Closed	%
DSC	26	20	77%	0	0%	2	8%	4	15%
DSE/WW	38	37	97%	0	0%	0	0%	1	3%
DSW/K/WW	31	31	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Midlands	58	51	88%	1	2%	6	10%	0	0%
DNC	23	15	65%	5	22%	3	13%	0	0%
Dublin North	13	10	77%	1	8%	1	8%	1	8%
LH/MH	28	20	71%	2	7%	4	14%	2	7%
CN/MN	106	19	18%	0	0%	86	81%	1	1%
Cork	83	46	55%	6	7%	9	11%	22	27%
Kerry	59	20	34%	2	3%	25	42%	12	20%

CW/KK/ST	132	36	27%	1	1%	73	55%	22	17%
WD/WX	84	12	14%	3	4%	61	73%	8	10%
MidWest	27	25	93%	1	4%	1	4%	0	0%
GY/RN	36	29	81%	1	3%	0	0%	6	17%
Mayo	16	11	69%	0	0%	2	13%	3	19%
Donegal	15	12	80%	0	0%	3	20%	0	0%
SLWC	19	15	79%	2	11%	0	0%	2	11%
Total	794	409	52%	25	3%	276	35%	84	11%

- 1,679 Meitheal processes reached completion of Stage 2 (Discission Stage) in 2024.
- 53% (885) 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 95% (84/88) Dublin South West/Kildare/West Wicklow to 15% (35/235) in Cavan/Monaghan. Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 53%.
- 32% (529) were referred for a single agency response. The percentage of processes referred for a single agency response ranged from 75% (111/148) in Waterford/Wexford to 0% in four areas. Three areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 32%.
- 2% (39) of processes were referred to social work (stepped – up). The percentage of processes referred to social work ranged from 12% (5/41) in Dublin North City to 0% in three areas. Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 2%.
- 13% (226) of processes were closed. The percentage of processes closed ranged from 23% (10/43) in Dublin North and Kerry (27/119) to none in one area (Donegal). Nine areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (13%).

Meitheal processes reaching completion of Stage Two, 2024

Area	# Reaching Completion of Stage 2, H2 2024	Proceeded to Delivery	%	Referred to Social Work	%	Referred to a Single Agency Response	%	Closed	%
DSC	55	39	71%	1	2%	3	5%	12	22%
DSE/WW	94	89	95%	0	0%	0	0%	5	5%
DSW/K/WW	88	84	95%	0	0%	0	0%	4	5%
Midlands	109	77	71%	1	1%	11	10%	20	18%
DNC	41	29	71%	5	12%	5	12%	2	5%
Dublin North	43	18	42%	2	5%	13	30%	10	23%
LH/MH	76	54	71%	3	4%	11	14%	8	11%
CN/MN	235	35	15%	4	2%	164	70%	32	14%
Cork	148	85	57%	8	5%	22	15%	33	22%
Kerry	119	60	50%	3	3%	29	24%	27	23%
CW/KK/ST	261	70	27%	1	<1%	153	59%	37	14%
WD/WX	148	26	18%	3	2%	111	75%	8	5%

MidWest	74	65	88%	1	1%	1	1%	7	9%
GY/RN	71	60	85%	4	6%	0	0%	7	10%
Mayo	44	33	75%	0	0%	3	7%	8	18%
Donegal	44	40	91%	1	2%	3	7%	0	0%
SLWC	29	21	72%	2	7%	0	0%	6	21%
Total	1,679	885	53%	39	2%	529	32%	226	13%

6.2.4 Meitheal Processes Closed

- 1,151 Meitheal processes were closed during the last six months of 2024. The number of processes closed ranged from 293 (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary) to 10 (Dublin South Central).
- 35% (402) 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 56% (163/293) in Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary to none in two areas (Dublin North and Cavan/Monaghan). Three areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 35%.
- 23% (264) of Meitheal processes were closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form (Stage 2 Discussion Stage). The percentage closed following completion of the Strengths and Needs Form ranged from 86% (55/64) in Cavan/Monaghan to none in one area (Dublin North). Three areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (23%).
- 10% (116) of Meitheal processes were closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings (Stage 3). The percentage closed following commencement of Meitheal support meetings ranged from 48% (24/50) in Galway/Roscommon to none in two areas (Dublin South Central and Dublin North). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 10%.
- 32% (369) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery. The percentage closed post-delivery ranged from 100% (27/27) in Dublin North area to 6% in Cavan/Monaghan (4/64) and Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary (19/163). Twelve areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 32%.

Number of Meitheals closed H2 2024

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed H2 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	10	3	30%	1	10%	0	0%	6	60%
DSE/WW	51	7	14%	4	8%	6	12%	34	67%
DSW/K/WW	47	9	19%	5	11%	5	11%	28	60%
Midlands	16	5	31%	2	13%	6	38%	3	19%
DNC	47	15	32%	5	11%	6	13%	21	45%
Dublin North	27	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	27	100%
LH/MH	40	9	23%	13	33%	2	5%	16	40%
CN/MN	64	0	0%	55	86%	5	8%	4	6%
Cork	137	75	55%	20	15%	14	10%	28	20%
Kerry	69	29	42%	8	12%	9	13%	23	33%
CW/KK/ST	293	163	56%	105	36%	6	2%	19	6%
WD/WX	166	43	26%	30	18%	2	1%	91	55%
MidWest	39	9	23%	2	5%	7	18%	21	54%
GY/RN	50	7	14%	3	6%	24	48%	16	32%
Mayo	26	8	31%	1	4%	1	4%	16	62%
Donegal	38	11	29%	7	18%	16	42%	4	11%
SLWC	31	9	29%	3	10%	7	23%	12	39%
National	1,151	402	35%	264	23%	116	10%	369	32%

- 2,112 Meitheal processes were closed during 2024. The number of processes closed ranged from 494 (Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary) to 26 (Dublin South Central).
- 33% (692) 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 52% (258/494) in Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary to none in one area (Cavan/Monaghan). Six areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 33%.
- 25% (524) 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 84% (157/188) in Cavan/Monaghan to none in one area (Dublin North). Three areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average (25%).
- 11% (241) 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% (12/32) in Midlands to none in one area (Dublin North). Ten areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 11%.

- 31% (655) of Meitheal processes were closed post-delivery. The percentage closed post-delivery ranged from 67% (60/89) in Dublin South East/Wicklow to 8% (39/494) in Carlow/Kilkenny/South Tipperary. Eleven areas reported a percentage equal to or higher than the national average of 31%.

Number of Meitheals closed 2024

Area	Total number of Meitheals closed H2 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	26	7	27%	1	4%	2	8%	16	62%
DSE/WW	89	7	8%	10	11%	12	13%	60	67%
DSW/K/WW	122	27	22%	9	7%	17	14%	69	57%
Midlands	32	10	31%	4	13%	12	38%	6	19%
DNC	103	37	36%	11	11%	15	15%	40	39%
Dublin North	41	14	34%	0	0%	0	0%	27	66%
LH/MH	61	20	33%	18	30%	2	3%	21	34%
CN/MN	188	0	0%	157	84%	13	7%	18	10%
Cork	254	124	49%	44	17%	25	10%	61	24%
Kerry	138	52	38%	16	12%	16	12%	54	39%
CW/KK/ST	494	258	52%	164	33%	33	7%	39	8%
WD/WX	208	60	29%	42	20%	3	1%	103	50%
MidWest	96	18	19%	13	14%	15	16%	50	52%
GY/RN	81	13	16%	8	10%	30	37%	30	37%
Mayo	47	13	28%	2	4%	5	11%	27	57%
Donegal	79	17	22%	16	20%	27	34%	19	24%
SLWC	53	15	28%	9	17%	14	26%	15	28%
National	2,112	692	33%	524	25%	241	11%	655	31%

6.2.5 Child and Family Support Networks

- 114 Child and Family Support Networks¹⁶ (CFSN) operating at the end of 2024 with a further five planned in development.

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

Child and Family Support Networks operating and planned

Area	CFSNs Operating H2 2023	CFSNs Operating H2 2024	CFSNs Planned H2 2024
Dublin South Central	8	6	1
Dublin South East/Wicklow	7	7	0
DSW/K/WW	10	10	0
Midlands	4	4	0
Dublin North City	6	6	0
Dublin North	4	4	0
Louth/Meath	5	5	0
Cavan/Monaghan	8	4	0
Cork	12	12	0
Kerry	3	3	0
CW/K/ST	8	8	0
Waterford/Wexford	8	8	0
Mid West	13	13	0
Galway/Roscommon	12	12	0
Mayo	4	4	4
Donegal	5	5	0
Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan	3	3	0
Total	120	114	5

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

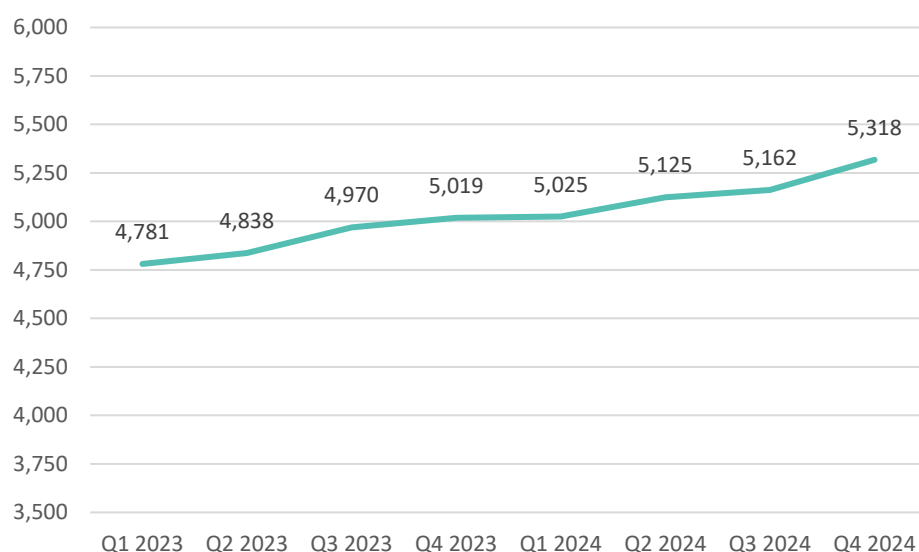
KEY FACTS

- 5,318 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q4 2024, 156 (3%) more than Q3 2024 (5,162) and 299 (6%) more than Q4 2023 (5,019).
- 839 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in 2024, 49 (6%) fewer than 2023 (888).
- 418 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in 2024, 77 (16%) fewer than 2023 (495). A further 116 staff retired in 2024, 15 (15%) more than 2023 (101).
- At the end of Q4 2024, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 7.7%, up from 6.36 at the end of Q3 2024 and up from 7.5% at the end of Q4 2023 (7.5%).
- e-learning training activity: 12,628 completions were achieved in Q4 2024
- Classroom training: 3,327 participants attended in Q4 2024.

7.1 Workforce Position

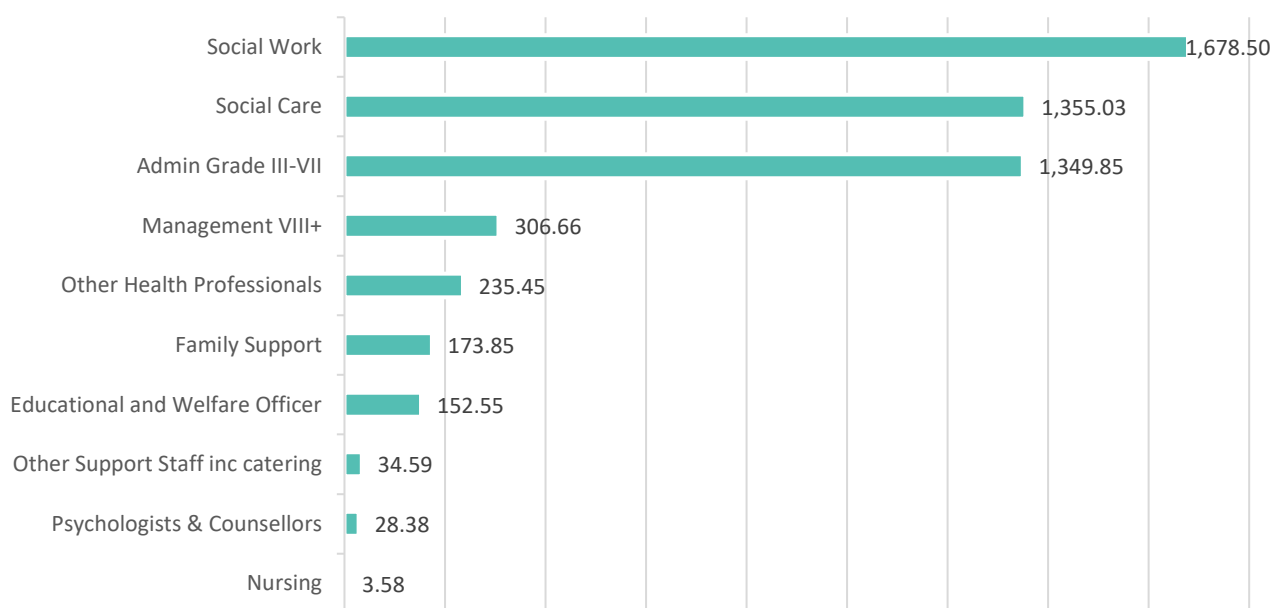
- 5,318 whole time equivalent (WTE) staff (excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q4 2024, 156 (3%) more than Q3 2024 (5,162) and 299 (6%) more than Q4 2023 (5,019).

Total Staff Employed (WTE), by quarter



- Social workers are the largest category of staff employed by the Agency, accounting for 32% (1,678.5) of total staff (WTE) employed at the end of Q4 2024, followed by social care staff

accounting for a further 25% (1,355.03). Management (Grade VIII+) account for 6% (306.66) of the workforce.



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

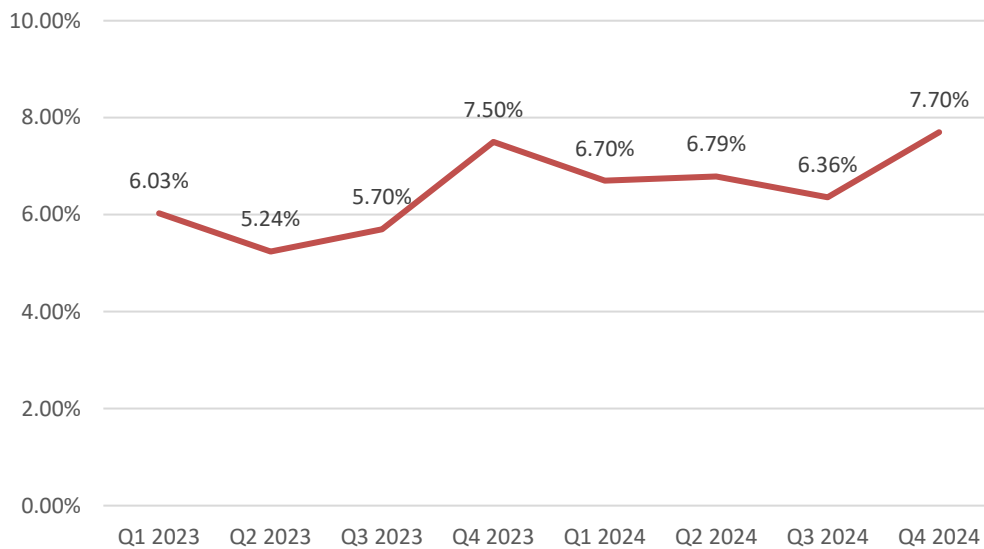
Breakdown of staff (WTE) by category

Staffing by Category	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Q4 2024 v Q3 2024	Q4 2024 v Q4 2023
Social Work	1,611.57	1,595.45	1,588.02	1,593.36	1,678.50	85.14	66.93
Social Care	1,322.68	1,315.23	1,334.16	1,331.37	1,355.03	23.66	32.35
Admin Grade III-VII	1,214.88	1,227.08	1,275.99	1,297.46	1,349.85	52.39	134.97
Family Support	150.48	160.72	194.49	199.51	173.85	-25.66	23.37
Management VIII+	292.39	293.96	298.07	298.27	306.66	8.39	14.27
Educational & Welfare Officer	149.26	150.97	152.84	151.79	152.55	0.76	3.29
Other Support Staff	37.6	37.56	37.46	35.93	34.59	-1.34	-3.01
Nursing	5.38	5.40	3.52	2.95	3.58	0.63	-1.80
Psychologists & Counsellors	23.8	25.92	25.85	28.31	28.38	0.07	4.58
Other Health Professionals	210.73	212.32	214.88	222.55	235.45	12.90	24.72
Total Staffing	5,019	5,025	5,125	5,162	5,318	156.44	299.44

- 839 new staff joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in 2024, 49 (6%) fewer than 2023 (888).
- 418 staff left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks, excluding retirements) in 2024, 77 (16%) fewer than 2023 (495).
- 116 staff retired in 2024, 15 (15%) more than 2023 (101).
- 172 (3%) staff were on maternity leave (paid and unpaid) at the end of Q4 2024.

7.2 Absence Rate

- At the end of Q4 2024, the overall absence rate for the Agency was 7.7%, up from 6.36 at the end of Q3 2024 and up from 7.5% at the end of Q4 2023 (7.5%).



- The highest absence rate was reported for social care staff at 10.94%. The rate for Residential Services (11.01%) (data not shown), is 3.31 percentage points higher than the overall rate of 7.7%. The overall absence rate excluding Residential Services is 7.0%.

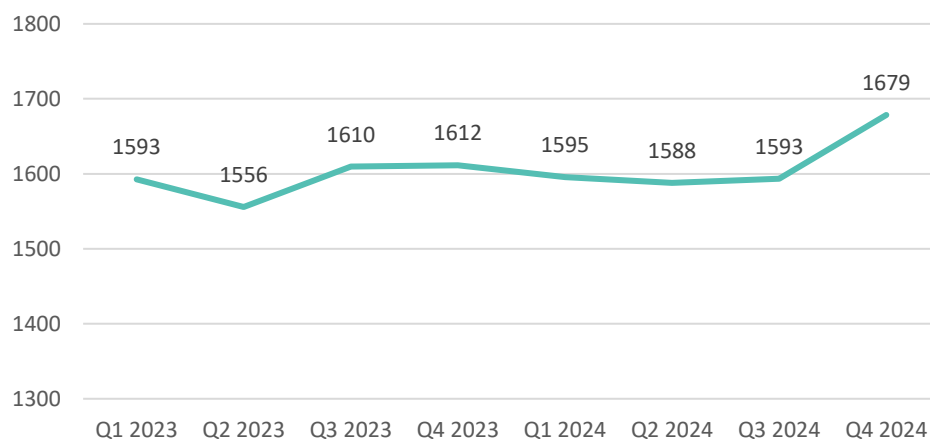
Absence rate by staff grade

Staff Grade	Absence Rate Q4 2023	Absence Rate Q1 2024	Absence Rate Q2 2024	Absence Rate Q3 2024	Absence Rate Q4 2024
Social Work	6.12%	5.84%	6.14%	4.92%	6.64%
Social Care	10.34%	9.68%	9.74%	10.05%	10.94%
All other grades	6.4%	5.18%	5.2%	4.99%	6.15%

7.3 Social Work Staff (WTE)

- 1,678.5 whole time equivalent (WTE) social work staff (all grades and excluding agency staff) employed by Tusla at the end of Q4 2024, 85.14 (5%) more than at the end of Q3 2024 (1,593.36) and 66.93 (4%) more than Q4 2023 (1,611.57)

Number of social workers (WTE) by quarter



- 226 social workers joined Tusla (came onto Tusla's payroll) in 2024, 9 (4%) more than 2023 (217).
- 164 social workers left Tusla (i.e., resigned, career breaks excluding retirements) in 2024, 66 (29%) fewer than 2023 (230).
- 26 social workers retired in 2024, 9 (53%) more 2023 (17).
- 74 (4%) social workers were on maternity leave (paid and unpaid) at the end of Q4 2024.
- A breakdown of the number of social workers (all grades) employed at the end of each quarter Q4 2023 to Q4 2024 by area is presented in the table below.

Breakdown of social work staff (WTE) by area Q4 2023 – Q4 2024

	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)	Social Work (WTE)
Area	Q4 2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024
DSC	72.94	70.5	70.52	76.56	81.51
DSE/WW	85.84	82.65	80.61	74	78.65
DSW/K/WW	100.41	100.16	97.16	100.63	100.23
Midlands	93.2	93.87	91.76	90.28	97.02
Regional Services DML	20.46	20.75	18.77	16.91	17.84
DML Total	372.85	367.93	358.82	358.38	375.25
CN/MN	46.48	48.62	49.02	45.06	50.41
DNC	73.72	76.9	79.75	78.73	81.6
LH/MH	78.84	81.4	85.76	90.47	95.83
Dublin North	94.47	91.56	92.9	89.53	88.19
Regional Services DNE	14.9	13.59	12.42	13.21	14.28
DNE Total	308.41	312.07	319.85	317	330.31
CW/KK/ST	64.12	64.82	62.31	62.28	65.85
Cork	188.12	189.31	187.68	181.17	194.97
Kerry	41.2	40.64	36.79	35.28	37.51
WD/WX	94.21	91.72	89.56	92.56	97.46
Regional Services South	3.94	5.87	6.77	7.47	6.79
South Total	391.59	392.36	383.11	378.56	402.58
Donegal	73.36	71.19	72.19	76.57	81.12
GY/RN	98.48	93.73	93.69	101.75	105.11
Mayo	35.68	36.41	35.04	36.62	39.69
Mid West	104.65	96.42	92.74	91.94	98.89
SLWC	42.18	40.46	44.52	42.03	43.08
Regional Services West	8.91	11.88	11.56	13.07	18.63
West Total	363.26	350.09	349.74	361.98	386.52
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	5
Corporate	170.86	168.4	171.9	172.64	179.24
Corporate	170.86	168.4	171.9	172.64	179.24
Total	1,611.57	1,595.45	1,588.02	1,593.36	1,678.5

7.4 Workforce Learning and Development (WLD)

- Table 1 shows classroom training attendance for Q4 2024
- Table 2 shows E-learning activity for Q4 2024
- The most attended classroom training was ‘Tusla Manual Handling’ with 314 completions followed by ‘Autistic and ADHD Awareness and Inclusion Webinar’ with 265 completions.
- The most popular E-learning module during Q4 2024 was ‘All about claiming Travel, Subsistence and other Staff Costs’ with 3,593 completions followed by ‘Data Protection in Tusla’ with 1,145 completions.

Table 1: Classroom Training, Q4 2024

Name of Module	Total Completions
Applied Complaints Officer Review Training	14
Applied Complaints Officer Training	18
Attachment	18
Autism – An introduction to Autism - Tusla	93
Autism Awareness - Inclusive Recruitment, Induction and Onboarding - Tusla	25
Autism Awareness for Leadership - Tusla	71
Autistic and ADHD Awareness and Inclusion Webinar	265
CASP 2 Training	82
CASP 2 Update Training	94
CASP Data Protection Guidance	27
Child & Youth Participation Virtual Classroom	30
Children who have Sexually Harmed	46
Communication Charter for Tusla Staff and Parents of C&YP in care	116
Court Skills in Practice	60
Cumulative Harm	78
Cyber Safety	161
Diversity in Modern Ireland	44
Everyday Personal Effectiveness Programme	86
First Aid Refresher	16
First Aid Response	16
Induction Day Tusla	41
Joint Gardai Siochana/Tusla Training Event	9
LGBTQIA+ Issues in CP	33

Ligature Knife	6
Management: An Introduction for First Time Managers	32
MBTI	32
MECPATHS Child Trafficking	35
Meitheal Tusla Led Early Intervention Model	11
MS Excel Advanced	15
MS Excel Foundation	17
MS Excel Intermediate	26
MS Forms	10
MS Outlook	7
MS PowerPoint Advanced	5
MS Teams/SharePoint/OneNote	13
MS Word Advanced	11
MS Word Foundation	2
NALA Plain English	12
Office for Legal Services, Briefings 2024	18
Policy and Procedures for CRS	40
Presentations and Facilitations Skills	22
Reflective Writing in Practice	31
Resilience and Self Care	57
Resistance – Engaging with Families	40
Safe talk	4
Sexual Abuse and Harmful Sexual Behaviour Part 1	24
Sexual Abuse and Harmful Sexual Behaviour Part 2	11
Sharing Personal Data Safely	135
Supervision Skills for Supervisors	36
Supervision The Art of Constructive Confrontation	10
TCM (Classroom) Training for Child Protection and Alternative Care Staff	167
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Core Programme	70
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention Refresher Programme	189
Tusla Coaching Skills	30
Tusla Manual Handling	314
Understanding Self Harm	8
University of Galway/Tusla Joint Training Event	103
VHA	146
Welltree Module 1	17
Welltree Module 3	39
Welltree Module 5	42
Welltree Module 6	40
Welltree Refresher	34
Young People - loss and Grief	11
Youth Mental Health	12
Total	3,327

Table 2: E-Learning Q4 2024

Name of Module	Total Completions
All about claiming Travel, Subsistence and other Staff Costs	3,593
An Introduction to Parental Participation for all staff	16
An Introduction to Tusla's Approach to Commissioning	12
Attachment in Tusla Practice	32
Barnahaus	35
CASP elearning	5
Child Sexual Exploitation - Tusla	195
Children First in Action	506
Complaint handling in Tusla. (Module 1)	850
Complaint handling in Tusla. Understanding Complaint Investigations (Module2)	69
Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)- Tusla	40
Data Protection in Tusla	1,145
De-escalation Skills for Redeployed Staff to Residential Services - Tusla	6
Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence - An Introduction - Tusla	55
Freedom of Information: An Introduction to the FOI Act	759
Health and Safety Management: Introduction for Line Managers	77
Hidden Harm: The Impact of Parental Alcohol and other Drug use	49
Implementing Children First in Tusla	1,030
Incident Management - Tusla	700
Induction to Children's Residential Services in Tusla	4
Introduction to Children First	1,042
Medication Management in Children's Residential Services - Tusla	108
Meitheal Briefing - Tusla	27
Minute Taking: An Introduction - Tusla	53
Organisational Risk Management - Tusla	46
Parental Participation in Practice	8
TCM for Child Protection, Welfare and Alternative Care (CPAC) - Tusla online	134
Tusla Case Management: Fundamentals of the TCM System	410
Tusla Employee Health and Safety Awareness Training	824
Using NIMS for the Management of Complaints	18
Violence, Harassment and Aggression (VHA) Online - Tusla	780
Total	12,628

8 FINANCE

KEY FACTS

- The outturn for the year to date (December YTD) is an overspend of €75.8 million (7%).
- Net expenditure, including additional income (non-Supplementary Funding related) is €1.168 billion against an initial revenue budget allocation of €1.092 billion (2024 Supplementary Funding has been excluded).
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €11.29 million.
- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €91.87 million.

Financial Performance

- The outturn for the year to date (December YTD) is an overspend of €75.8 million (7%)
- Net expenditure, including additional income (non-Supplementary Funding related) is €1.168 billion against an initial revenue budget allocation of €1.092 billion (2024 Supplementary Funding has been excluded).
- Pay costs are under-spent against budget by €11.29 million.

Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	Dec 2024 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
Pay costs	414.9	426.2	-11.29	(3%)

- Non-pay costs are over-spent against budget year to date by €91.87 million.

Non-Pay Costs

Child and Family Agency	Dec 2024 YTD			% Variance
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Act vs Budget
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€
Non pay costs	779.5	687.6	91.87	13%

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