



**Additional information
for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child
in advance of the constructive dialogue
with Ireland's State Party on 24 and 25 January 2023**

**Ombudsman for Children's Office
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Introduction

The [Ombudsman for Children's Office](#) (OCO) is an independent statutory body, which was established in 2004 under the [Ombudsman for Children Act 2002](#) (2002 Act). The OCO has two overall statutory functions:

- to promote the rights and welfare of children up to 18 years of age; and
- to independently examine and investigate complaints made by or for children about the administrative actions of public bodies, schools and hospitals that have, or may have, adversely affected a child.

We are submitting this document to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (Committee) further to:

- the OCO's [initial report](#) to the Committee in July 2020, to inform its preparation of a list of issues prior to reporting (LOIPR) for Ireland;
- the OCO's [report](#) to the Committee in August 2022, pursuant to the combined fifth and sixth reports submitted by Ireland in February 2022; and
- the OCO's participation in the pre-sessional meeting with the Committee regarding Ireland, which took place in September 2022.

The purpose of this document is to provide the Committee with additional, updated information on a number of matters relating to children's rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Convention) and its optional protocols that we raised in our report to the Committee in August 2022. While the information provided is not exhaustive and is not accompanied by analysis, we hope this additional information may be of assistance to the Committee ahead of its constructive dialogue with Ireland's State Party on 24 and 25 January 2023.

I. New Developments

Protection of children's rights in the context of Covid-19

- On [4 October 2022](#), the Minister for Health stated that a review of Ireland's handling of Covid-19 has been conducted by the [Public Health Reform Expert Advisory Group](#). This advisory group was formed earlier in 2022 to identify lessons from the public health response to the Covid-19 crisis. The advisory group's final review report is expected to be submitted to the Government before the end of 2022.
- On 12 October 2022, the Minister for Health published the Department of Health's [Strategic Approach to the Management of COVID-19: Preparedness for Autumn/Winter 2022/23](#). The Department's strategy places particular emphasis on preparedness and contingency planning.
- As of [26 November 2022](#), there have been 8,197 Covid-19 deaths in Ireland.

Children arriving in Ireland from Ukraine

- As of the end of November 2022, temporary protection had been granted to 64,748 people arriving from Ukraine, 20,428 of whom are children.¹
- As of 13 December 2022, 610 separated children had arrived in Ireland from Ukraine and, as of 7 December 2022, 252 unaccompanied minors had arrived in Ireland from Ukraine.²

¹ Information provided by the Department of Justice to the OCO by e-mail correspondence on 2 December 2022.

² Information provided by Tusla to the OCO by e-mail correspondence in December 2022.

- In a [report](#) published on 5 October 2022, the Irish Refugee Council expressed concern about the deterioration of accommodation standards for beneficiaries of temporary protection and for international protection applicants.
- On 28 October 2022, the Government agreed on a [set of measures](#) regarding accommodation for beneficiaries of temporary protection.
- As of [22 November 2022](#), nearly 46,000 people from Ukraine were being accommodated by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY). Of those, just short of 5,500 people were being accommodated in pledged accommodation across the country and 310 people were in tented accommodation.
- On 24 November 2022, the Government launched a [State-led Vacant Homes Call](#) led by Local Authorities appealing to those who have unoccupied properties to offer them as temporary homes for those fleeing war in Ukraine.
- On 28 November 2022, given the severe accommodation shortage, the Government published a [revised accommodation refusals policy](#).
- As of [1 December 2022](#), 13,323 Ukrainian children had been enrolled in primary and post-primary schools across Ireland.
- As part of measures to support families arriving in Ireland from Ukraine, the Department of Education established Regional Education and Language Teams (REALTs). In response to a letter from the Ombudsman for Children on 18 November 2022, the Minister for Education informed the Ombudsman for Children on 30 November 2022 that the REALT coordinators' role has been extended to include children seeking international protection in Ireland.³

II. Rights under the Convention and its Optional Protocols

A. General measures of implementation (arts. 4, 42 and 44(6))

Allocation of resources

- The Government announced [Budget 2023](#) on 27 September 2022. It includes temporary targeted cost of living expenditure supports for households, including families with children.
- Among other measures, [Budget 2023](#) also includes funding to provide additional primary and secondary school teachers and funding to expand staffing in the health system.

Independent monitoring

- A [Report of the review of the Ombudsman for Children Act 2002](#), which was commissioned by the OCO, was published on 30 November 2022. The report makes a range of recommendations about how the Ombudsman for Children's statutory remit could be strengthened.
- The Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth [stated](#) on 17 November 2022 that the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) intends to carry out a series of pilot inspections of international protection accommodation before the end of 2022, prior to a full roll-out of the programme in all permanent centres in 2023.

³ Correspondence from the Minister for Education to the Ombudsman for Children, dated 30 November 2022.

B. General principles (arts. 2, 3, 6 and 12)

Non-discrimination

- On 27 October 2022, the Minister for Justice published the [Criminal Justice \(Incitement to Violence or Hatred and Hate Offences\) Bill 2022](#), which will criminalise certain behaviour likely to incite violence or hatred towards a person/people associated with a protected characteristic.
- On 27 June 2022, the independent Anti-Racism Committee submitted its National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR) to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. On [17 November 2022](#), the Minister indicated that the DCEDIY is engaged in an inter-departmental process to agree year-one implementation plans and that these will be brought to Government together with the NAPAR by mid-January 2023 at the latest.
- On 17 November 2022, the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth also stated that a [commissioned study](#) to evaluate the implementation of the National Strategy for Women and Girls, the Migrant Integration Strategy and the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy is expected to be published in early 2023.

Right to life, survival and development

- On 3 October 2022, the National Review Panel (NRP) published its [2021 annual report](#). The NRP is an independent entity, which examines deaths of children known to Tusla, the Child and Family Agency (Tusla). The NRP noted that, out of the total 263 deaths of children and young people it has been notified of between 2010 and 2021, 23.57% related to suicide. It further noted that a number of these children had previously been referred to mental health services.
- On 9 November 2022, the National Self-Harm Registry Ireland (NSHRI) published its [2020 annual report](#). It noted that the highest rates of self-harm presentations during 2020 were recorded in females in the 15-19 years age group. It also noted that one in every 128 girls in this age group presented to hospital in 2020 due to self-harm, with these rates being on a par with 2019.

Respect for the views of the child

- On 1 December 2022, the DCEDIY launched a [public consultation](#) on the next Government Policy Framework for the Participation of Children and Young People in Decision Making.
- On 1 November 2022, the DCEDIY published [Indicative Cost Estimates for the Reform of Ireland's Guardian ad litem Service - A Point-in-Time Report](#).

C. Civil rights and freedoms (arts. 7, 8 and 13-17)

Birth registration and nationality

- On 22 November 2022, the Irish Parliament's Committee on Justice gave Committee Stage consideration to the [Courts and Civil Law \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Bill 2022](#). The Department of Justice introduced [amendments](#) to reduce the residence requirements for naturalisation for children born in the State to three years from the current five years, and to improve the clarity of the procedure for applications for certificates of naturalisation for minors.
- In consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Justice is also examining the possibility of [enabling Tusla to apply for naturalisation on behalf of a child who is in care under the Child Care Act 1991](#). It is hoped this matter will be addressed at Report Stage.

- In its [Impact Report 2021](#), published on 29 November 2022, the Immigrant Council of Ireland identified citizenship and residency issues as two of the five top key challenges facing migrants in Ireland.

Right to identity

- On 13 December 2022, the Department of Health [announced](#) that the Government has approved the insertion of provisions concerning international surrogacy and recognition of certain past surrogacy arrangements in the Health (Assisted Human Reproduction) Bill 2022.

Access to appropriate information

- On 10 December 2022, the President of Ireland [signed](#) the [Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill 2022](#) into law. The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltach, Sport and Media amended the Bill in October 2022 to introduce an individual complaints mechanism on a phased basis, with priority for complaints relating to children, on foot of [recommendations](#) made by the Expert Group on an Individual Complaints Mechanism.

D. Violence against children (arts. 19, 24(3), 28(2), 34, 37(a) and 39)

Child abuse and neglect

- [Budget 2023](#) increased the allocation to Tusla to a total of €935 million in 2023. This is an effective overall increase of €37 million or 4.1% over the 2022 allocation (€898 million).
- The Council of Europe is currently implementing the project [Barnahus Ireland: Supporting the implementation of the Barnahus model in Ireland](#).

Domestic violence

- On [11 November 2022](#), the Government announced that Wexford is the first of 13 priority locations nationwide to begin construction of a new domestic violence refuge.
- On [21 November 2022](#), the Minister for Justice announced that an additional €9 million for combatting domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV), which represents a 22% increase. According to the Minister, the additional €6.8 million for Tusla will be used to maintain existing services, address existing acute demand, and for the enhancement and development of new services. In total, Tusla has been allocated €37 million for funding DSGBV services in 2023.
- On [30 November 2022](#), Barnardos reported that approximately 1 in 3 children it supports have experienced domestic violence and abuse and called for more investment in supporting children living with domestic violence and recovering from trauma.
- The application of an approach along the lines of [Operation Encompass](#) in Ireland is still not confirmed.

Bullying among children in school

- On 1 December 2022, the Minister for Education launched a new [Action Plan on Bullying](#). The [Department of Education](#) has stated that the new Action Plan is dedicated to the prevention and addressing of bullying, cyber bullying, racism, gender identity bullying or sexual harassment, among other areas, in schools. €1 million has been [allocated](#) by the Department to undertake actions to tackle bullying in schools.

E. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 9-11, 18(1) and (2), 20, 21, 25 and 27(4))

Family courts

- On 16 November 2022, the Department of Justice published the first national [Family Justice Strategy](#), which covers the period 2022 to 2025.
- On 1 December 2022, the [Family Courts Bill 2022](#) was published. The Bill provides for the establishment of a Family High Court, Family Circuit Court and Family District Court as divisions within existing court structures.

Childcare

- Following Budget 2023, the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth [announced](#) €1.025 billion in funding for early learning and care and school aged childcare. Some changes that are to come from this additional funding are:
 - an increase in the universal subsidy for childcare fees from 50c to €1.40 per hour;
 - continued and increased investment in the new Core Funding scheme, which was established earlier in 2022 to support the early learning and childcare sector.
- On [11 November 2022](#), the Federation of Early Childhood Providers highlighted concerns that smaller childcare providers are losing funding under the terms of the Core Funding scheme, which will result in the closure of some childcare facilities. On 4 December 2022, it was [reported](#) that an independent review will be conducted by the DCEDIY to determine if any targeted measures to support smaller childcare providers are needed.

Children in alternative care

- According to Tusla,⁴ 5,810 children were in care at the end of September 2022. 858 (14.8%) children in care were in placements with private providers, a 10% increase on the number of children in such placements at the end of September 2021. 59% of these children were in foster care and 29% were in residential care.
- On 28 September 2022, the DCEDIY [announced](#) that the increased funding package for Tusla as part of Budget 2023 will:
 - address increasing demand for Tusla services and the increasing complexity of cases;
 - continue to address the provision of statutory residential care, thereby reducing reliance on private residential care providers.
- Tusla has published its [Strategic Plan for Residential Care Services for Children and Young People 2022-2025](#) and its [Strategic Plan for Foster Care Services for Children and Young People 2022-2025](#). As regards foster care, the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth [stated](#) on 17 November 2022 that Tusla is committed to reviewing the use of private foster care providers and developing a clear scope for the use of such agencies as part of this plan.
- On 17 November 2022, the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth also [stated](#) that the review of the Child Care Act 1991, which commenced in 2017, is nearing conclusion. In this regard, the Minister indicated that he hopes to bring the heads of Bill to revise and update the 1991 Act to Government early in 2023 and that this will provide “another opportunity for us to make sure that the best interests principle is ingrained in all elements of childcare proceedings in the country.”

⁴ Tusla, [Q3 2022 Service Performance and Activity Report](#), at pp. 30-35.

Children in care outside the State

- According to Tusla,⁵ 11 children were in out of State placements at the end of Quarter 3 2022.

Aftercare

- According to Tusla,⁶ 2,999 young people were in receipt of aftercare services at the end of Quarter 3 2022.
- On 11 October 2022, the Chief Executive Officer of Tusla [stated](#) that a consultation period for improvement plans for aftercare is in progress and that this is due to be finalised by January 2023.

F. Children with disabilities (art. 23)

Implementing the rights of children with disabilities

- On 28 September 2022, the Minister for State with responsibility for Disability [announced](#) that the overall budget for disability services in 2023 will be €2.4 billion, including a significant level of funding for specialist disability services. While this funding is not specific to children, it includes:
 - additional funding for specialist disability services for children and young people in, or transitioning out of, Tusla care services;
 - additional once-off funding of €39 million to reduce the assessment of need (AON) waiting list.

Assessments and services for children with disabilities

- During a [meeting](#) with the Irish parliament's Joint Committee on Autism on 18 October 2022, representatives from the Health Service Executive (HSE) indicated:
 - The HSE receives approximately 6,000 applications per year for an AON. In addition, further to a High Court ruling on 11 March 2022, it is revisiting an additional 8,000 cases that had been dealt with under the revised Standard Operating Procedure, which the court concluded did not comply with what is required under Part 2 of the Disability Act 2005.
 - The HSE has developed, and is trialling, a protocol that involves a tiered approach to AON and is awaiting legal advice and working through the Workplace Relations Commission in relation to interim clinical guidance for clinicians on undertaking AONs.
 - The HSE and the Department of Health are developing a roadmap to progress the implementation of Progressing Disability Services for Children and Young People (PDS). Among the areas that this plan will address are the HSE's proposals to address the ongoing requirements for AON and associated waiting lists.
 - The current vacancy rate in children's disability services is 28%, with in the region of 830 to 850 funded posts vacant.

Access to early childhood education and inclusive education

- On 21 October 2022, the Minister for Education announced the [National Nursing Pilot for Children with Complex Healthcare Needs Pilot Scheme](#). The purpose of the pilot is to put nursing supports in place to allow children with complex healthcare needs attend school.

⁵ Tusla, [Q3 2022 Service Performance and Activity Report](#), at p.32

⁶ Tusla, [Q3 2022 Service Performance and Activity Report](#), at p.39

- On 10 November 2022, the Minister for Education and the Minister for Special Education and Inclusion [announced](#) a pilot programme to support the transition for young people with disabilities to improve access to, and opportunities for, post-school options.
- On 10 November 2022, the Minister for Special Education and Inclusion [announced](#) an expansion of the National Council for Special Education (NCSE). According to the Minister, the purpose of this expansion is to ensure that the NCSE is fit for purpose and able to deliver real and meaningful supports for children, families and schools that support children with special educational needs.
- On 30 November 2022, the Minister for Special Education and Inclusion announced the opening of a [public consultation](#) relating to the review of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 (EPSEN Act). The EPSEN Act provides for the education of children aged under 18 years with special educational needs and the public consultation will run until Spring 2023.

G. Basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18(3), 24, 26, 27(1)-(3) and 33)

Health and health services

- As of [26 September 2022](#), 918 permanent hospital consultant posts were yet to be filled. This is a 19% increase in the number of unfilled hospital consultant posts since 2020.
- As of [27 October 2022](#), 98,000 children were on some form of hospital waiting list, with more than 1 in 4 children waiting longer than a year.
- As of [4 November 2022](#), 266 children with spina bifida or scoliosis were on waiting lists for surgery, a 9% increase since the beginning of 2022. 117 of these children were waiting for one year or more. On [9 November 2022](#), the Minister for Health stated that the State will not reach its targets for surgery for children with spinal problems by the end of 2022.

Adolescent health

- On 5 December 2022, Healthy Ireland published a [summary of the Healthy Ireland Survey 2022](#). While this study did not disaggregate children's data, it showed that 71% of 15-24 year olds consumed alcohol during the previous 6 months, and drinkers aged under 25 remain more likely than other drinkers to binge drink. 13% of respondents who binge drink on a typical drinking occasion reported that children aged under 16 are present on at least some of these occasions.

Mental health

- As part of [Budget 2023](#), the State allocated an additional €72.8 million for mental health, bringing its total allocation to €1.2 billion. However, the overall budget allocated to mental health in Budget 2023 represents a decrease from 5.6% to 5.1% of the overall health budget.
- As of [August 2022](#), 3,957 children were on a waiting list for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). This is a 65% increase from [August 2021](#).
- According to provisional data released by the HSE, as of the [end of September 2022](#), there were 17 admissions of children to adult mental health facilities so far in 2022. This is compared to 22 child admissions to adult facilities during the same period in 2021.
- On [4 October 2022](#), the National Psychiatric Inpatient Reporting System published its activity report for 2021. The report noted that 480 children were admitted to CAMHS inpatient units in 2021.
- On [4 November 2022](#), the HSE opened the new National Forensic Mental Health Service in Portrane, Co Dublin. This new facility, which will replace the 172-year-old Central Mental

Hospital, includes a 10-bed Forensic Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service unit, which is due to open on a phased basis during the period 2023 to 2024.

- As of [24 November 2022](#), 11 of the 24 beds in Linn Dara, Ireland's largest inpatient facility for children experiencing severe mental health difficulties, remained closed due to staff shortages. These temporary closures have been in place since May 2022.
- On 12 October 2022, the Irish parliament's Sub-Committee on Mental Health published its [report](#) on its pre-legislative scrutiny of the [General Scheme of the Mental Health \(Amendment\) Bill 2021](#). On [17 November 2022](#), the Minister of State for Mental Health stated that the bill to amend the Mental Health Act will be put forward as priority legislation during the Spring 2023 legislative session.

Child poverty

- In October 2022, the second [Progress Report of the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2020-2025](#) was published. The report showed that the target to lift over 70,000 children out of consistent poverty by 2020 has not been met, with the most recent figures showing 62,000 children living in consistent poverty, well over the target of 37,000.
- On 18 November 2022, the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth announced a [new scheme](#) to pilot the provision of hot meals to children in early learning and childcare settings.
- On 22 November 2022, the Minister for Social Protection [published the Social Welfare Bill 2022](#). The Bill will enact a range of increases in weekly social welfare payments, including to lone parents, and measures to expand the Working Family Payment.

Housing and homelessness

- As of [October 2022](#), 3,480 children were being accommodated in State-funded emergency accommodation. This is a 38.4% increase from [October 2021](#).
- On 29 October 2022, the President of Ireland signed the [Residential Tenancies \(Deferment of Termination Dates of Certain Tenancies\) Act 2022](#) into law. This emergency legislation was enacted by the Government to provide for a temporary ban on tenancy terminations due to occur during the coming winter months from taking effect until after 31 March 2023.
- On 2 November 2022, the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage published the first [annual update of Housing for All](#), the Government's housing strategy, as well as an [updated action plan](#) for the strategy. This updated action plan includes a commitment by the Department of Housing to carry out a review in Quarter 4 of 2022 of relevant sections of the [Housing Act 1988](#), to address issues arising in the implementation of the Act to better address homelessness.

H. Education, leisure and cultural activities (arts. 28-31)

Education

- As part of Budget 2023, the Minister for Education [announced](#) new funding of €47 million to bring total investment in free school books at primary school level to over €50 million. It is anticipated that this will result in [540,000 primary students](#) receiving free school books.
- Funding to reduce class sizes for all primary schools to 23:1 in mainstream schools was also announced as part of Budget 2023.
- Section 64 of the Education (Admissions to Schools) Act 2018 explicitly prohibits the charging of admission and enrolment fees for admission to or continued enrolment in a school. On 11 October 2022, the Minister for Education [stated](#) the following in relation to the existing rules on voluntary contributions: "Voluntary contributions are permissible once it is made clear

that there is no requirement to pay and that if making a contribution, a parent is doing so of their own volition. The manner in which voluntary contributions are requested and collected is a matter for school management but should not be done in such a way where it could be inferred that these contributions are compulsory.”

- On 12 October 2022, and following a review of alternative education published earlier this year, the Minister for Education [indicated](#) that the Department of Education has established an implementation group to work with stakeholders to develop a sustainable pathway for the alternative education sector.
- With regard to the use of reduced timetables, the Minister for Education [stated](#) on 8 November 2022 that it is her intention to publish data on the use of reduced school days in the near future.
- On 8 November 2022, the Minister for Education [announced](#) details of the €3.8 million in funding the Department of Education will receive from the 2023 Dormant Accounts Action Plan. Two of the many measures receiving funding are:
 - a pilot programme in a number of primary schools in Dublin’s North East Inner City, focussing on the impact of poverty and educational attainment; and
 - a range of measures to support greater participation and inclusion of Traveller and Roma students in post-primary education.

I. Special protection measures (arts. 22, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37(b)–(d), and 38–40)

Accommodation and supports for asylum-seeking and refugee children

- Up to the [end of October 2022](#), over 13,000 people have sought international protection in Ireland, with a prediction of over 14,000 people doing so by the end of the year.
- On [1 November 2022](#), the DCEDIY announced the 67 projects set to receive €1,621,467 in funding under the International Protection Integration Fund 2022.
- On [22 November 2022](#), the DCEDIY acknowledged that it is much harder to get accommodation for international protection applicants when it engages with the private sector, than it is for Ukrainian arrivals.
- As of [23 November 2022](#), 4,500 people who have received permission to stay in Ireland remain in direct provision because they cannot find accommodation.
- As of 28 November 2022, 17,648 people were living in International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) accommodation, including 3,684 children.⁷
- [Budget 2023](#) allocates €213 million to cover costs in relation to international protection accommodation and assigns €16 million to support increased demand faced by the International Protection Office.
- According to minutes of a meeting published in November 2022, the White Paper Programme Board Risk Committee [stated](#) that the project to transition to the new International Protection Support Service will over-run the December 2024 deadline.
- On [1 December 2022](#), the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth confirmed that an overall review of the projected timelines and deliverables in the White Paper to End Direct Provision is underway. The review will consider prioritising the implementation of certain aspects of the White Paper reforms over others. An [initial paper](#) with some options and recommendations has been brought to the White Paper Programme Board for their input and feedback. This paper has not been published.

⁷ Information provided by Tusla during a Conference on the White Paper to End Direct Provision organised by the Children’s Rights Alliance, on 7 December 2022.

Vulnerability assessments

- On 27 September 2022, IPAS recognised its limited capacity to conduct vulnerability assessments and published its [Vulnerability Assessment Pilot Programme Policy](#).
- In its October 2022 report [Accommodation Crisis 2022](#), the Irish Refugee Council expressed concerns that changes announced by IPAS on 27 September are retrograde and will put inappropriate responsibility on the protection applicants and supporting organisations to complete the assessment questionnaire.
- As of the end of October 2022, IPAS has completed 2,114 assessments, of which 1,124 are vulnerable. It is unclear how many of these are children.⁸

Legal framework for migrant children

- The Department of Justice recorded 6,548 applications in respect of 8,311 people under the General Scheme for the Regularisation of Long Term Undocumented Migrants. As of [28 November 2022](#), 4,794 decisions have been issued to applicants, of which 4,654 (97%) are positive, 94 (2%) are negative, and 46 (1%) have been withdrawn by the applicants.
- Up to [25 November 2022](#), the international protection strand of the Regularisation scheme has recorded 3,193 applications, with 1,296 successful decisions issued and an additional 1,007 granting an equivalent permission by the IPO. A further 396 applications were ineligible and 260 applications withdrawn.

Traveller and Roma children

- On 28 November 2022, a new [National Traveller Health Action Plan](#) was launched. This includes some measures for children, including a primary childhood immunisation programme and an action to develop programmes to address mental health issues amongst children in the Traveller and Roma communities.
- On 7 December 2022, the OCO published an [update](#) on its investigation into children's living conditions in a local authority halting site. Noting improvements, the OCO made a number of follow-up recommendations, including improving inter-agency coordination between the Local Authority and other agencies with specific responsibilities for the health and welfare of children living in the halting site, such as the HSE and Tusla.

Administration of child justice

- In a step to achieve the Youth Justice Strategy's commitment to having Youth Diversion Project services available in all areas of the country, on 30 November 2022 the Minister of State with responsibility for Youth Justice issued an [invite for proposals to establish new Youth Diversion Projects](#).

⁸ Information provided by the DCEDIY during a conference on the White Paper to End Direct Provision organised by the Children's Rights Alliance, on 7 December 2022. No data was provided as regards how many of those deemed vulnerable are children.