

## Question on Notice

No. 299

Asked on 20 March 2024

**MR D JANETZKI** asked the Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (HON C MULLEN)—

### QUESTION

Will the Minister advise, between 2019 and 2024 to date in the South West region (reported separately by year) (a) how many full-time equivalent child safety officers were employed, (b) what the caseload numbers were for full-time equivalent child safety officers, (c) the highest number of caseloads assigned to a child safety officer and (d) the number of vacancies for fulltime equivalent child safety officers?

### ANSWER

Child Safety Officers (CSOs) includes CSOs and Senior CSOs employed in the South West Region providing services to families, children and young people at the stated point in time.

In response to part (a) of the question, the number of paid, full time equivalent (FTE) CSOs in the South West Region as at final pay period in June 2019 - 204.65; June 2020 - 205.51; June 2021 - 198.09; June 2022 - 208.49; June 2023 - 190.33; and 209.75 as at pay period ending 22 March 2024.

In response to part (b) of the question, data regarding caseloads is provided for CSOs who provide ongoing support to children and young people. This includes children subject to intervention with parental agreement, children subject to a Child Protection Order and children on Support Service Cases.

Data regarding the average caseload is calculated for each funded FTE CSO providing ongoing support to children and young people as at the reference date. Due to changes in caseload calculation methodology, data prior to September 2022 are not comparable.

The average caseload for CSOs working with children subject to ongoing support for the South West Region as at 30 June 2019 – 17.6; 30 June 2020 – 18.7; 30 June 2021 – 17.1; 30 June 2022 – 17.0; 30 June 2023 – 16.1; and 30 September 2023 – 16.2.

In response to part (c) of the question, to provide specific data about individual CSO caseloads would require the manual extraction of information from individual staff files and would divert significant resources from important frontline service delivery.

In response to part (d) of the question, there were 7.45 FTE vacancies at the end of June 2019; 6.33 vacancies at the end of June 2020; 22.05 vacancies at the end of June 2021; 27.25 vacancies at the end of June 2022; 57.67 vacancies at the end of June 2023; and 55.24 vacancies as at pay period ending 22 March 2024.