

**Social Affairs Department**  
**Quarterly Statistical Bulletin**  
**Quarter 4 2022**

**Introduction**

This quarterly statistical bulletin aims to present the statistics of the Social Affairs Department for the fourth quarter of 2022. Information is gathered from the Legal Services and Child Protection section, Community Social Work section and the Night shelter.

**Social Services**

**Legal Services & Child Protection Section**

**Child Protection Unit**

The Child protection unit deals with any cases related to children aged between 0-14 years old. As part of the investigating process and intervention plan, the unit undertakes home and school visits as well as counselling sessions.

Table 1: Number of abuse cases reported in Q4

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Total Q4</b>
<b>Sexual related cases</b>	
Sexual abuse (confirmed)	29
Alleged sexual abuse(Under investigation)	23
<b>Other Abuse</b>	
Physical	30
Alleged physical abuse	9
Alleged neglect	2
<b>Total Q4</b>	<b>93</b>

*Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section*

- 93 cases were reported at the child protection unit in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. This shows a reduction of 11 compared to the previous quarter. This is due mostly to a reduction in sexual and physical abuse cases reported.
- In comparison to the same period last year cases declined by 10 with the most significant reduction observed in the number of alleged physical abuse cases reported.
- A total of 67 cases were closed for this quarter.

## Legal Services Unit

The Legal Services Unit's main responsibility is to handle cases referred by the Supreme Court and Family Tribunal for investigation and submission of reports to address children related issues of custody, access, maintenance, adoption, guardianship and mediation for reconciliation in divorce matters.

Table 2: Number of referral cases in Q4

	<b>Total Q4</b>
<b>Family tribunal referrals</b>	
Custody, access & maintenance	72
<b>Supreme court</b>	
Adoption	4
Guardianship	1
Interdiction & Guardianship	1

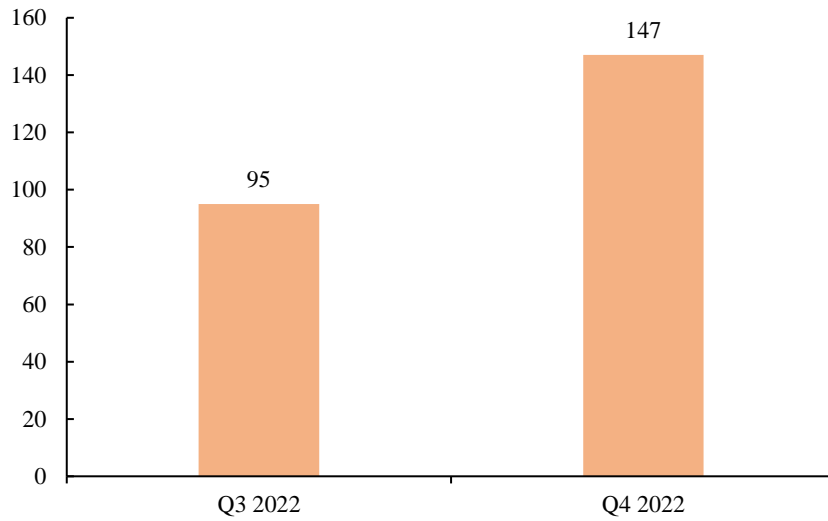
*Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section*

- Cases referred by the Family Tribunal declined by 10 when compared to quarter 3. Whereas the number of cases referred by the Supreme were more or less the same with a slight reduction of 1.
- In comparison to the same period last year cases referred by the Family Tribunal declined significantly by 74, whilst a smaller reduction of 4 was observed in referral cases from the Supreme court.

## Children's Helpline

Social Services introduced the 3-digit helpline operated on a daily basis up to 11.00pm. The helpline is manned on a rotational basis by social workers of the two main sections, Community Social Work Section and Legal and Child Protection Section.

Figure 1: Number of cases referred through helpline in Q3 2022 and Q4 2022



Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

- 147 cases were referred through the helpline, showing an increase of 52 when compared to the previous quarter. Likewise, in comparison to the same period last year cases increased by 47.

### Community Social Work Section

Community social work promotes the wellbeing of the community. It encompasses a variety of components focusing on economic needs, educational concerns, family challenges, collaborative and creative solutions at community level. It further emphasizes on advocacy, analysis planning and implementation of activities to support families and alleviate the difficult situation they are going through.

Table 3: Number of cases reported at the Community Social Work section in Q4

Categories	Total Q4
Neglect	15
Alleged neglect	8
Emotional abuse	2
Deviancy	6
Orphan benefit	1
Housing issue	8
Alleged physical abuse	1

Homeless	18
Access	4
Spousal conflict	63
Family conflict	91
Mental health	3
Drug related issues	1
Elderly hygiene issues	1
Financial issues	14
Alleged sexual abuse	1
Elderly abuse	6
Breach of peace	13
Sexual behavior	2
<b>Total Q4</b>	<b>258</b>

- 258 new cases were reported during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2022. This shows a reduction of 26 compared to the previous quarter.
- In comparison to the same period last year cases reported declined by 59 with the most significant reduction observed in neglect cases reported.
- A total of 194 cases were closed during this quarter.

### **Monitoring and Compliance Section**

#### Suitability Check of Childminders and Assistant Childminders

- The Suitability Check Panel conducted 4 working sessions in the fourth quarter.
- A total of 30 applicants were interviewed consisting of 12 childminders and 18 assistant child minders.
- The panel disbursed a total of 38 suitability check outcome letters during the period. These were issued to 13 childminders and 25 assistant childminders.

## Night Shelter

The mission of the night shelter is to cater for those individuals identified as being homeless due to their dysfunctionalities. The main aim is to provide psychosocial support and skills thus promote reintegration within their families and society.

Table 4: Night shelter admissions (Q4 2022)

<b>Months</b>	<b>Admission</b>
October	3
November	2
December	1
<b>Total admission</b>	<b>6</b>

- A total of 6 service users were admitted to the Night Shelter in the fourth quarter. Three service users were in the age range 50-55 years.
- Compared to the previous quarter admissions declined by 3.
- In terms of reintegration one service user moved in with his mother and one rented an apartment.