

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS — STAFF

914. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Child Protection:

Can the minister please advise, in relation to the working with children check screening unit:

- (a) How many Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) staff were employed, on average, in the unit in each of the following years:
- (i) 2019;
  - (ii) 2020;
  - (iii) 2021;
  - (iv) 2022; and
  - (v) 2023 to date?

**Ms S.E. Winton replied:**

The Department of Communities advises:

- (a) On average the standard FTE allocation in the Working With Children Screening Unit (WWCSU) were as follows:
- (i) 2019 48.8 FTE
  - (ii) 2020 47.3 FTE
  - (iii) 2021 38.5 FTE
  - (iv) 2022 39.0 FTE
  - (v) 2023 38.3 FTE (as at 30 September 2023)

Temporary additional FTE were engaged to implement recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General in 2019. The Working with Children Check Screening Unit (WWCSU) returned to standard allocation once recommendations were implemented.

From 2019 to 2023 the number of Working with Children Check applications and completed applications have increased annually.