

CHILD PROTECTION — FOSTER CARERS

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

I refer to foster carers engaged by the Department for Child Protection and Family Support as at 31 May 2023, and I ask:

- (a) How many foster carers were registered with the Department;
- (b) How many foster carers currently with children in their care did not have a valid Working with Children card;
- (c) How many foster carers currently with children in their care had an interim Working with Children card;
- (d) Of those referenced in (c), what was the average length of issue of the interim Working with Children cards; and
- (e) Of those referenced in (c), what is the longest length of issue of an interim Working with Children card?

Ms S.E. Winton replied:

The Department of Communities advises:

Data as of 11 August 2023 has been provided, as it is not possible to provide retrospective data.

As at 11 August 2023:

- (a) 2530.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) There is no provision in the *Working with Children (Screening) Act 2004* for an interim WWC Card.
- (d)–(e) Not applicable.