

Children Referred to the Reporter

Focused on children most at risk, our fundamental purpose is to:

- make effective decisions about a need to refer a child to a Children's Hearing
- enable children and families to participate in Hearings
- provide suitable accommodation for Children's Hearings
- disseminate information and data to inform and influence improved outcomes for children and young people

Key trends

Referrals to SCRA have declined in recent years, from 56,199 children being referred in 2006/07 to 47,178 children in 2008/09. However, the numbers of children subject to compulsory measures of supervision have increased. In addition, there are growing numbers of complex cases where children are considered to be at such risk as to require compulsory measures.

Children	2006/07	2008/09
referred on offence grounds	16,490	11,805
referred on care and protection grounds	44,629	39,105
made subject to Supervision Requirements	12,644	13,523

Over the past three years, children referred for offending has fallen by 28%, whilst those referred on care and protection grounds has fallen by 12%.

Emergency measures

SCRA figures show there is a growing number of children - particularly very young children - who require emergency action to protect them from risk of significant harm in the form of Child Protection Orders and/or Place of Safety Warrants.

Children of all ages	2008/09
made subject to place of Safety Warrants	3,064
made subject to Child Protection Orders	683

Sources or referral

Any person or any agency can refer a child to SCRA if they consider that the child may require compulsory measures of supervision to protect them or address their behaviour. However, most referrals continue to come from the police.

Most common sources of referral	2008/09 % referrals
Police	88%
Social Work	6%
Education	4%
Health	0.5%
Parents and relatives	0.3%

Grounds for referral

The most common ground for referral in 2008/09 is for being a victim of a Schedule 1 offence (18,621 children) where cruelty is the most common offence. 15,320 children were referred because of lack of parental care. The third most common ground for referral was for offending (11,805 children).

Ages of children referred

The most common ages of children to be referred to the Reporter on care and protection and offence grounds, continues to be 14 and 15 years.

Numbers of Children's Hearings held

Despite the decreases seen in the number of children referred in the last two years, the numbers of Children's Hearings continues to rise. In 2008/09, 42,866 Children's Hearings were held - a 1.3% increase compared to 2007/08.

