

Growing Up in Ireland, Cohort '24: Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of relevant service: Growing Up in Ireland Survey, Cohort '24

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm: Growing Up in Ireland is the national longitudinal study of children and young people, a joint project of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) and the Central Statistics Office (CSO). Since 2006 the study has provided Government with an evidence base to make informed policy decisions on a wide range of issues based on data from children and young people living in Ireland.

In 2024, the CSO will collect data from approximately 12,000 families with 9-month-old infants, i.e. Cohort '24. A pilot survey will be conducted in late 2023.

The CSO is committed to safeguarding children who are involved in the survey and has taken the measures outlined below to ensure, as far as practicable, that children are safe from harm. The health, safety and protection of children are of paramount importance in all decisions taken.

3. Risk assessment: An assessment of risk has been carried out to identify any potential harm to a child involved in the survey. Below is a summary of the risks identified and the procedures in place to manage the risks.

Risk Identified	Procedure in Place to Manage Risk
The Office makes an inadequate response to a Child Safeguarding concern.	Relevant field and Office staff complete Children First e-Learning training and attend in-house training in how to respond if a Child Safeguarding concern arises. A Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is in place and is responsible for reporting concerns as appropriate. A deputy DLP is also in place.
A child is harmed by an interviewer in the course of taking part in the survey.	Safe recruitment practices are in place, including Garda vetting and reference checks. Interviewers are instructed never to be alone with a child.

4. Procedures: This Child Safeguarding Statement has been developed in line with requirements under the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, and Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. In addition to the procedures listed in our risk assessment, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children. All procedures listed are available upon request.

- A procedure for reporting child safeguarding concerns to Tusla.
- A procedure for the management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against an employee.
- A procedure to ensure relevant staff are adequately trained to identify an occurrence of harm and know how to raise a concern.
- A procedure for appointing a Relevant Person and Designated Liaison Person.

5. Implementation: It is recognised that implementation is an on-going process. This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed on 31 January 2024, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: 

[Ger Doolan, Senior Statistician, Social Data Collection Division, Central Statistics Office]

For queries, please contact **Aoife Murphy**, aoife.murphy@cso.ie, Relevant Person under the Children First Act 2015.