

Social Affairs Department
Quarterly Statistical Bulletin
Quarter 3 2020

Introduction

This quarterly statistical bulletin aims to present the statistics of the Social Affairs Department for the third quarter of 2020. 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

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.

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 1: Number of abuse cases reported in Q3

Categories	Total Q3
Sexual related cases	
Sexual abuse (confirmed)	68
Alleged sexual abuse(Under investigation)	21
Sexual exposure	1
Other Abuse	
Physical	50
Alleged physical abuse	14
Threatening violence	1
Neglect	2
Special case	41
Total Q3	198

Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

- A total 198 cases were reported at the Child Protection Unit in the third quarter of 2020. Most cases reported were that of sexual abuse and physical abuse.
- In the same quarter 41 “special cases” were recorded related to the case of R v MI and Ors (CR 38 of 2019 [2020] SCSC 256.

- When compared to the previous quarter an increase of 101 was observed in the number of cases reported. The Most substantial increase was observed in the number of sexual abuse cases reported.
- In comparison to the same period last year cases reported increased substantially by 99.

Table 2: Number of referral cases in Q3

	Total Q3
Family tribunal referrals	
Custody, access & maintenance	53
Supreme court	
Guardianship	1
Adoption	2
Attempted reconciliation	1

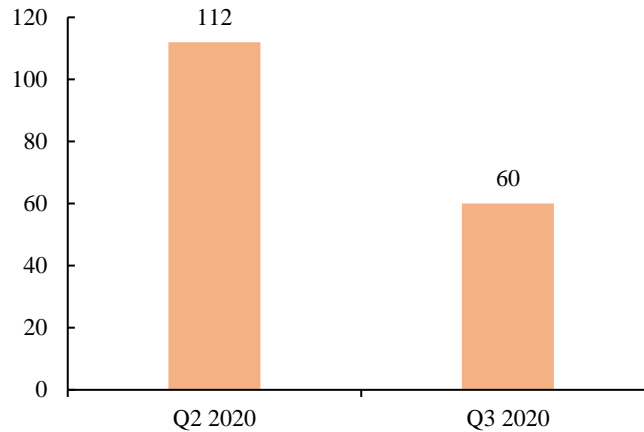
Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

- Cases referred by the Family Tribunal increased by 18 in the third quarter when compared to quarter 2. On the other hand, compared to the same period last year, a reduction of 11 was observed in the number of referred cases from the Family Tribunal.
- A total of 4 cases was referred from the Supreme Court as can be observed in the table above. The same number of cases were recorded for the same period last year.

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 Q2 2020 and Q3 2020



Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

- 60 cases were referred through the helpline in the third quarter. This shows a decrease of 52 compared to the previous quarter. In comparison to the same period last year cases declined by 17.

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 Q3

Categories	Total Q3
Neglect	14
Delinquency	2
Alleged neglect	8
Emotional abuse	1
Orphan benefit	1
Deviancy	6
Semi orphan benefit	3
Housing issue	6
Alcohol related issue	1
Elderly neglect	1
Homeless	13
Access	1
Family conflict	27
Family Violence	1
Domestic Violence	1
Approved scheme benefit	2
Maintenance	1

Elderly housing	1
Elderly emotional abuse	2
Elderly financial abuse	1
Financial issues	1
Teenage pregnancy	2
Domestic conflict	28
Attempted self-harm	1
Total Q3	125

Source: Community Social Work Section

- A total of 125 cases were reported during the third quarter of 2020. Compared to the previous quarter this shows a reduction of 57 in the number of cases reported.
- Compared to the same period last year the number of cases reported were more or less the same with 124 cases reported in quarter 3 2019.

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 (Q3 2020)

Months	Admission
July	2
August	4
September	5
Total admission	11

Source: Night Shelter

- A reduction of 5 was observed in the number of admissions to the Night shelter in the third quarter compared to the second quarter. Most of the service users admitted were between the age range 20-39.