

Social Affairs Department
Quarterly Statistical Bulletin
Quarter 4 2020

Introduction

This quarterly statistical bulletin aims to present the statistics of the Social Affairs Department for the fourth 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 Q4

Categories	Total Q4
Sexual related cases	
Sexual abuse (confirmed)	42
Alleged sexual abuse(Under investigation)	33
Sexual play	7
Sexual exposure	1
Indecent act	2
Other Abuse	
Physical	40
Alleged physical abuse	4
Neglect	1
Alleged neglect	1
Total Q4	131

Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

- A total of 131 cases was reported at the Child Protection unit during the fourth quarter of 2020. With 42 cases of sexual abuse and 40 cases of physical abuse.

- In comparison to the previous quarter cases reported declined by 67. The primary reason for this reduction is the exclusion of the cases related to the case of R v MI and Ors (CR 38 of 2019 [2020] SCSC 256 which was reported in quarter 3.
- Compared to the same period last year an increase of 30 cases was observed.

Table 2: Number of referral cases in Q4

	Total Q4
Family tribunal referrals	
Custody, access & maintenance	61
Supreme court	
Adoption	5
Attempted reconciliation	1

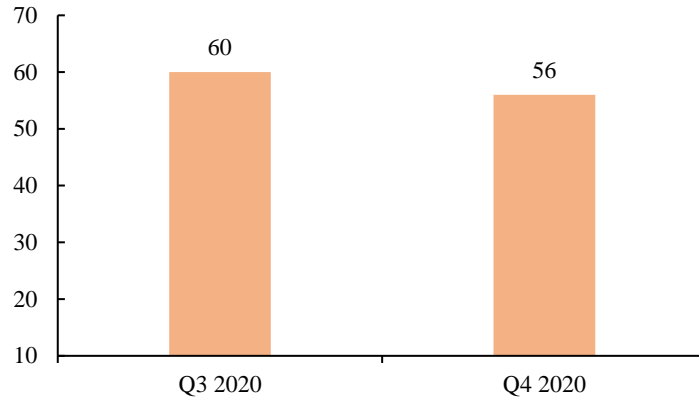
Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

- A total of 61 cases was referred by the Family Tribunal. This shows an increase of 8 in cases referred compared to the previous quarter. Whilst compared to the same period last year referred cases declined by 6.
- Supreme court referrals increased by 2 when compared to the previous quarter, with 5 cases referred for adoption and 1 for attempted reconciliation.

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 Q3 2020 and Q4 2020



Source: *Legal Services & Child Protection section*

- The number of cases referred through the helpline totaled 56, representing a decrease of 4 when compared to the previous quarter. Likewise, when compared to the same period last year a reduction of 7 was observed.

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 Q4

Categories	Total Q4
Neglect	13
Alleged neglect	30
Emotional abuse	2
Delinquency	2
Alleged emotional abuse	2
Deviancy	6
Housing issue	7
Elderly neglect	4
Homeless	10
Access	2
Spousal conflict	33
Family conflict	42
Approved scheme benefit	1
Drug related issues	1
Elderly emotional abuse	3
Elderly housing issue	1

Sexually active	2
Elderly financial abuse	1
Physical Abuse	2
Teenage pregnancy	3
Domestic conflict	9
Absenteeism	1
Sexual Play	1
Total Q4	178

- The number of reported case in quarter 4 increased by 53 compared to quarter 3. The most substantial increase recorded was for spousal conflict followed by alleged neglect.
- On a yearly comparison, cases increased by 74 compared to the same period in 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 (Q4 2020)

Months	Admission
October	6
November	2
December	3
Total admission	11

- A total of 11 new admissions was recorded for the Night Shelter for this quarter. There were 3 third admission during the quarter, with a majority of the service users being in the age range 20-39.