Citizens Information Services (CIS) — Caller/Query Data

Statistical Summary Quarter 4 2021

The following is a statistical summary of CIS caller and query data for Quarter 4, October 1^{st} – December 31^{st} 2021.

Caller Summary

There were 80, 270 callers to CISs nationally during Q4, 2021. Most callers were female (61.7%). Where age was recorded (n=63.8%), the highest number were in the 26-45 age bracket.

Caller Profile	Number of Callers	% of Callers
Female	49,535	61.71%
Male	29,332	36.54%
Couples	1,302	1.62%
Unknown	101	0.13%

Table 1 - Caller Gender Profile - Q4 Summary

Table 2 – Caller Age Profile – Q4 Summary

Caller Age Range	Number of Callers (n= 63.8%)	% of Callers
26 - 45	21,561	42.10%
46 - 65	19,682	38.43%
66 and Over	8,720	17.03%
25 and Under	1,247	2.44%

Over 70% of people that contacted CISs in Q4 2021 did so by telephone, including the 4.74% of callers who initiated contact through the web-based *Request a Call Back*¹ service, part of CIB's digital response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Table 3 - Caller Mode of Contact - Q4 Summary

Caller Type	Number of Callers	% of Callers
Telephone	59,443	74.05%
Personal	16,916	21.07%
Letter/Email	3,911	4.87%

¹ The *Request a Call Back service* provided to the public through the Citizens Information website and local CISs ceased in Q4 of 2021.

Query Summary

Services dealt with **157,605** queries during Q4, 2021. There were 1.96 queries *per* caller compared with 1.98 in Q3, 2021. Of the 157,605 queries recorded by CISs, most were about Social Welfare rights and entitlements (72,258 queries) followed by Housing (13,086) and Employment (12,170).

The following tables set out the data in relation to the range of queries received from the public. Table 4, below, sets out the number of queries received across high-level category areas. Table 5 provides a breakdown of the single payments and schemes emerging with the highest number of queries.

Table 4 - Query Profile Q4 High-level

Query Category	Number of Queries	% of Queries
Social Welfare	72,258	45.85%
Housing	13,086	8.30%
Employment	12,170	7.72%
Money and Tax	11,469	7.28%
Health	10,836	6.88%
Local	8,449	5.36%
Moving Country	5,611	3.56%
Covid-19	4,953	3.14%
Travel and Recreation	4,145	2.63%
Birth, Family and Relationships	4,008	2.54%
Justice	3,889	2.47%
Consumer Affairs	2,377	1.51%
Education and Training	2,158	1.37%
Death and Bereavement	1,225	0.78%
Government in Ireland	702	0.45%
Environment	269	0.17%
	157,605	100.00%

Table 5 - Top-ten Single Payment or Schemes, Q4 2021

	Top Ten Single F	Payment or Scheme Q4	, 2021	
	Category	Single Payment or Scheme	Number of Queries	% of Total Queries
1	Health - Medical Card	Medical Card	6,702	4.25%
2	Social Welfare - Extra Social Welfare Benefits	Fuel Allowance	6,016	3.82%
3	Social Welfare - Carers	Carer's Allowance	5,241	3.33%
4	Social Welfare - Disability and Illness	Disability Allowance	5,145	3.26%
5	Social Welfare - Older & Retired People	State Pension/Contributory	4,661	2.96%
6	Money and Tax - Property Taxes	Local Property Tax (LPT)	3,762	2.39%
7	Social Welfare - Disability and Illness	Illness Benefit	3,727	2.36%
8	Social Welfare - Extra Social Welfare Benefits	Jobseeker's Allowance	3,500	2.22%
9	Housing - Local Authority and Social Housing	Applying for Local Authority/Social Housing	3,488	2.21%
10	Social Welfare - Families and Children	Household Benefits Package	3,445	2.19%

Table 6 sets out the Social Welfare query dataset for Quarter 4, 2021.

Query sub-categories are presented in thematic form, as recorded by CISs. The percentages in the right-hand column represent the percentage of queries for that sub-category of data collection i.e., the *Fuel Allowance* percentage represents the queries recorded by CISs as a percentage of the *Extra Social Welfare Benefits* sub-category.

Table 6 – Social Welfare Query Breakdown, Q4 2021

Category	Sub-category	Q4, 2021 Sub-category Breakdown	# of Queries	% of Social Welfare Sub- category
		Extra Social Welfare Benefits		
Social Welfare	Extra Social Welfare Benefits	Fuel Allowance	6016	47.47%
Social Welfare	Extra Social Welfare Benefits	Household Benefits Package	3445	27.18%
Social Welfare	Extra Social Welfare Benefits	Living Alone Increase	1335	10.53%
Social Welfare	Extra Social Welfare Benefits	Free Travel (Travel Card, Companion Card, etc.)	1149	9.07%
Social Welfare	Extra Social Welfare Benefits	Christmas Bonus	382	3.01%
Social Welfare	Extra Social Welfare Benefits	Telephone Support Allowance	255	2.01%
Social Welfare	Extra Social Welfare Benefits	Treatment Benefits	91	0.72%
		Total	12,673	100.00%
		Disability and Illness		
Social Welfare	Disability and illness	Disability Allowance	5145	42.68%
Social Welfare	Disability and illness	Illness Benefit	3727	30.91%
Social Welfare	Disability and illness	Invalidity Pension	2323	19.27%
Social Welfare	Disability and illness	Partial Capacity Benefit	452	3.75%
Social Welfare	Disability and illness	Injury Benefit	185	1.53%
Social Welfare	Disability and illness	Occupational Injuries Benefit Scheme	121	1.00%
Social Welfare	Disability and illness	Other Payment (Blind Pension/Other)	103	0.85%
		Total	12,056	100.00%

		Families and Children		
Social Welfare	Families and Children	Working Family Payment (WFP) formerly FIS	2749	31.78%
Social Welfare	Families and Children	One Parent Family Payment (OFP)	1883	21.77%
Social Welfare	Families and Children	Child Benefit	1027	11.87%
Social Welfare	Families and Children	Maternity/ Adoptive Benefit	794	9.18%
Social Welfare	Families and Children	Increase for a Qualified Adult (IQA)	681	7.87%
Social Welfare	Families and Children	Increase for a Qualified Child (IQC)	456	5.27%
Social Welfare	Families and Children	Parent's Benefit	394	4.56%
Social Welfare	Families and Children	Paternity Benefit	260	3.01%
Social Welfare	Families and Children	Back to Work Family Dividend	199	2.30%
Social Welfare	Families and Children	Back to School Clothing & Footwear Allowance (BTSCFA)	125	1.45%
Social Welfare	Families and Children	Health and Safety Benefit	51	0.59%
Social Welfare	Families and Children	Deserted Wife's Benefit	21	0.24%
Social Welfare	Families and Children	Deserted Wife's Allowance	9	0.10%
		Total	8,649	100.00%
		Older and Retired People		
Social Welfare	Older and Retired People	State Pension/Contributory	4661	58.72%
Social Welfare	Older and Retired People	State Pension/Non-Contributory Pension	2036	25.65%
Social Welfare	Older and Retired People	Payment for people who retire at 65	528	6.65%
Social Welfare	Older and Retired People	Qualified Adults	405	5.10%
Social Welfare	Older and Retired People	UK Pensions/Brexit	208	2.62%
Social Welfare	Older and Retired People	EU/International Pensions	99	1.25%
		Total	7,937	100.00%
		Carers		
Social Welfare	Carers	Carer's Allowance	5241	69.02%
Social Welfare	Carers	Carer's Benefit	940	12.38%
Social Welfare	Carers	Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA)	718	9.45%
Social Welfare	Carers	Carer's Support Grant (Respite Care Grant)	651	8.57%
Social Welfare	Carers	Half-rate Carer's Allowance	44	0.58%

		Total	7,594	100.00%
		Unemployed People		
Social Welfare	Unemployed People	Jobseeker's Allowance	3500	51.34%
Social Welfare	Unemployed People	Jobseeker's Benefit	2181	31.99%
Social Welfare	Unemployed People	Social Welfare Payments and Work	622	9.12%
Social Welfare	Unemployed People	Jobseeker's Transitional Payment	403	5.91%
Social Welfare	Unemployed People	Unemployed following self-employment	111	1.63%
		Total	6,817	100.00%
		Supplementary Welfare Schemes		
Social Welfare	Supplementary Welfare Schemes	Basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance	2397	55.35%
Social Welfare	Supplementary Welfare Schemes	Exceptional/urgent needs payment	1087	25.10%
Social Welfare	Supplementary Welfare Schemes	Rent Supplement (RS)	787	18.17%
Social Welfare	Supplementary Welfare Schemes	Diet/Heating Supplement	57	1.32%
Social Welfare	Supplementary Welfare Schemes	Mortgage Interest Supplement (MIS)	3	0.07%
		Total	4,331	100.00%
		Social Welfare Miscellaneous		
Social Welfare	Social Welfare Miscellaneous	Other	1329	32.36%
Social Welfare	Social Welfare Miscellaneous	Means Tests	889	21.65%
Social Welfare	Social Welfare Miscellaneous	Public Services Card	852	20.75%
Social Welfare	Social Welfare Miscellaneous	Habitual Residence Condition	429	10.45%
Social Welfare	Social Welfare Miscellaneous	MyWelfare.ie	247	6.01%
Social Welfare	Social Welfare Miscellaneous	Overpayments	220	5.36%
Social Welfare	Social Welfare Miscellaneous	UK Entitlements/Brexit	66	1.61%
Social Welfare	Social Welfare Miscellaneous	EU Contributions and Entitlements	51	1.24%
Social Welfare	Social Welfare Miscellaneous	Late Claims	24	0.58%
		Total	4,107	100.00%
		Social Insurance (PRSI)		
Social Welfare	Social Insurance (PRSI)	PRSI Records/Paid Contributions	1613	41.41%
Social Welfare	Social Insurance (PRSI)	PPS Number	868	22.28%

Social Welfare	Social Insurance (PRSI)	Credited Contributions	443	11.37%
Social Welfare	Social Insurance (PRSI)	PRSI Classes	309	7.93%
Social Welfare	Social Insurance (PRSI)	Voluntary Contributions	266	6.83%
Social Welfare	Social Insurance (PRSI)	Homemakers Scheme	183	4.70%
Social Welfare	Social Insurance (PRSI)	Other	167	4.29%
Social Welfare	Social Insurance (PRSI)	Employer's PRSI	46	1.18%
		Total	3,895	100.00%
	Activation	n Schemes, Education and Training		
Social Welfare	Activation Schemes, Education and Training	Back to Education Allowance (BTEA)	494	37.68%
Social Welfare	Activation Schemes, Education and Training	Community Employment (CE)	291	22.20%
Social Welfare	Activation Schemes, Education and Training	Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA)	284	21.66%
Social Welfare	Activation Schemes, Education and Training	JobPath - Seetec/Turas Nua	44	3.36%
Social Welfare	Activation Schemes, Education and Training	Tús	40	3.05%
Social Welfare	Activation Schemes, Education and Training	Part-time Education Option (PTEO)	39	2.97%
Social Welfare	Activation Schemes, Education and Training	Part-Time Job Incentive Scheme (PTJI)	38	2.90%
Social Welfare	Activation Schemes, Education and Training	JobsPlus	33	2.52%
Social Welfare	Activation Schemes, Education and Training	Short-Term Enterprise Allowance	30	2.29%
Social Welfare	Activation Schemes, Education and Training	Rural Social Scheme	15	1.14%
Social Welfare	Activation Schemes, Education and Training	JobBridge/ First Steps - Youth Internship	3	
		Total	1,311	99.77%
		Death Related Benefits		
Social Welfare	Death Related Benefits	Widow/Widower/Surviving Civil Partner's Pension (Contrib./Non- Contributory).	753	73.04%
Social Welfare	Death Related Benefits	Widow/Widower/Surviving Civil Partner Grant	126	12.22%
Social Welfare	Death Related Benefits	Guardian's Payment	77	7.47%
Social Welfare	Death Related Benefits	Help with Funeral Costs	69	6.69%
Social Welfare	Death Related Benefits	Special Funeral Grant (Occ. Injuries Scheme only)	6	0.58%
		Total	1,031	100.00%
		Social Welfare Appeals		

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Total Social Welfare Queries72,258100.00%			Total	149	100.00%	
			Total Social Welfare Queries	72,258	100.00%	

Table 7 sets out the Housing query dataset for Quarter 4, 2021. Query sub-categories are presented in thematic form, as recorded by CISs. The percentages in the right-hand column represent the percentage of queries for that sub-category of data collection i.e., the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) percentage represents the number of HAP queries recorded as a percentage of the *Local Authority and Social Housing* sub-category.

Category	Sub-category	Q4, 2021 Sub-category Breakdown	# of Queries	% of Housing Sub- category
	La	ocal Authority and Social Housing		
Housing	Local Authority and Social Housing	Applying for Local Authority/Social Housing	3488	47.91%
Housing	Local Authority and Social Housing	Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	2403	33.00%
Housing	Local Authority and Social Housing	Other	530	7.28%
Housing	Local Authority and Social Housing	Differential Rent	332	4.56%
Housing	Local Authority and Social Housing	Standards/Repairs	150	2.06%
Housing	Local Authority and Social Housing	LA Transfers	142	1.95%
Housing	Local Authority and Social Housing	Notice/Eviction/Disputes	74	1.02%
Housing	Local Authority and Social Housing	Rent Arrears/Rent Problems	71	0.98%
Housing	Local Authority and Social Housing	Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	67	0.92%
Housing	Local Authority and Social Housing	Tenant Purchase (Incremental Scheme)	24	0.33%
		Total	7,281	100.00%
		Renting a Home		
Housing	Renting a Home (Private Rental Accommodation)	Notice/Eviction/Disputes	528	25.90%
Housing	Renting a Home (Private Rental Accommodation)	Tenant's Rights and Obligations	362	17.75%
Housing	Renting a Home (Private Rental Accommodation)	Landlords Rights & Obligations	311	15.25%
Housing	Renting a Home (Private Rental Accommodation)	RTB (Residential Tenancies Board)	253	12.41%
Housing	Renting a Home (Private Rental Accommodation)	Rent Review	213	10.45%
Housing	Renting a Home (Private Rental Accommodation)	Standards/Repairs	164	8.04%
Housing	Renting a Home (Private Rental Accommodation)	Deposit Retention	104	5.10%
Housing	Renting a Home (Private Rental Accommodation)	Rent Arrears/Rent Problems	104	5.10%
		Total	2,039	100.00%

Table 7 – Housing Query Breakdown, Q4 2021

Category	Sub-category	Q4, 2021 Sub-category Breakdown	# of Queries	% of Housing Sub- category
		Housing Grants and Schemes		
Housing	Housing Grants and Schemes	Housing Grants and Schemes	1979	100.00%
		Total	1,979	100.00%
		Other		
Housing	Other	Other	713	100.00%
		Total	713	100.00%
		Homelessness		
Housing	Homelessness	Homelessness	504	100.00%
		Total	504	100.00%
		Buying a Home		
Housing	Buying a Home	Buying a Home	284	100.00%
		Total	284	100.00%
		Planning Permission		
Housing	Planning Permission	Planning Permission	91	100.00%
		Total	91	100.00%
		Losing Your Home		
Housing	Losing your Home	Losing your Home	77	100.00%
		Total	77	100.00%
		Emergency Accommodation		
Housing	Emergency Accommodation	Emergency Accommodation	58	100.00%
		Total	58	100.00%
		Building or Altering a Home		
Housing	Building or Altering a Home	Building or Altering a Home	43	100.00%
		Total	43	100.00%
		Equality/Housing Discrimination		
Housing	Equality/Housing Discrimination	Equality/Housing Discrimination	17	100.00%
		Total	17	100.00%
		Total Housing Queries	13,086	100.00%

Table 8 sets out the Employment query dataset for Quarter 4, 2021. Query sub-categories are presented in thematic form, as recorded by CISs. The percentages in the right-hand column represent the percentage of queries for that sub-category of data collection i.e., the *Leave and Holidays* percentage represents the number of queries recorded as a percentage of the *Employment Rights and Conditions* sub-category.

Category	Sub-category	Q4, 2021 Sub -category Breakdown	# of Queries	% of Employment Sub-category			
Employment Rights and Conditions							
Employment	Employment Rights and Conditions	Leave and Holidays	3263	40.36%			
Employment	Employment Rights and Conditions	Contracts of Employment	1391	17.21%			
Employment	Employment Rights and Conditions	Other	968	11.97%			
Employment	Employment Rights and Conditions	Pay/Wages	912	11.28%			
Employment	Employment Rights and Conditions	Dismissal (unfair, constructive etc)	476	5.89%			
Employment	Employment Rights and Conditions	Notice Period	432	5.34%			
Employment	Employment Rights and Conditions	Hours of Work	389	4.81%			
Employment	Employment Rights and Conditions	Health and Safety	232	2.87%			
Employment	Employment Rights and Conditions	Garda Vetting	21	0.26%			
		Total	8,084	100.00%			
Unemployment and Redundancy							
Employment	Unemployment and Redundancy	Unemployment and Redundancy	1195	100.00%			
		Total	1195	100.00%			
		Enforcement and Redress					
Employment	Enforcement and Redress	WRC (Workplace Relations Commission)	720	100.00%			
		Total	720	100.00%			
		Self-Employment					
Employment	Self-employment	Self-employment	632	100.00%			
		Total	632	100.00%			
Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures							
Employment	Grievance and Discipline Procedures	Grievance and Discipline Procedures	394	100.00%			

Table 8 - Employment Query Breakdown, Q4 2021

		Total	394	100.00%			
Starting Work and Changing Job							
Employment	Starting Work and Changing Job	Starting Work and Changing Job	318	100.00%			
		Total	318	100.00%			
Equality in Work							
Employment	Equality in Work	Bullying and Harassment	94	31.54%			
Employment	Equality in Work	Discrimination	98	32.89%			
Employment	Equality in Work	Other	67	22.48%			
Employment	Equality in Work	Pay and Conditions	22	7.38%			
Employment	Equality in Work	Victimisation	17	5.70%			
		Total	298	100.00%			
Part-time Employment							
Employment	Part-time Employment	Part-time Employment	209	100.00%			
		Total	209	100.00%			
		Retirement					
Employment	Retirement	Retirement	114	100.00%			
		Total	114	100.00%			
Employment and Disability							
Employment	Employment and Disability	Employment and Disability	86	100.00%			
		Total	86	100.00%			
Employment Schemes/Placements							
Employment	Employment Schemes/Placements	Employment Schemes/Placements	69	100.00%			
		Total	69	100.00%			
Migrant Workers							
Employment	Migrant Workers	Migrant Workers	45	100.00%			
		Total	45	100.00%			
Employment Appeals (Enforcement)							
Employment	Appeals (Enforcement)	Appeals (Enforcement)	6	100.00%			
Employment	Appeals (Enforcement)	Total	6	100.00%			
		Total Employment	12,170	100.00%			