

# Adoption and Special Guardianship Quarterly Data Collection

## Headline Measures: Q3 2022/23

### April 2023

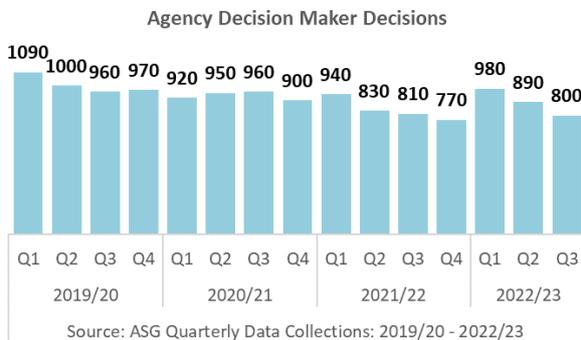
Note: The Department for Education's annual figures on adoptions and timeliness for children who have been adopted are published in the [Children looked after in England including adoption](#) SFR. This is the most robust source of information on adoption.

## CHILDREN

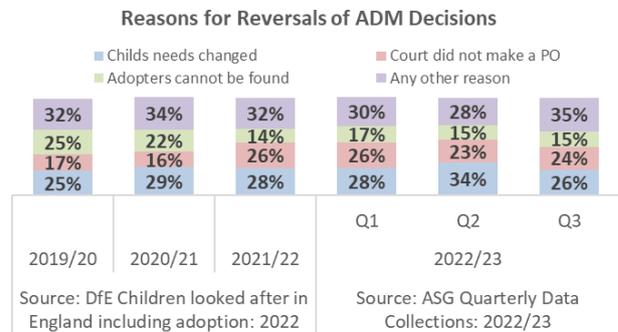
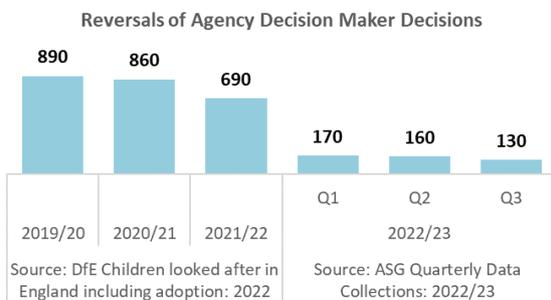
The Q3 2022/23 data indicates that the number of children achieving permanence via an Adoption Order or Special Guardianship order has remained the same when compared to last quarter. The number of Agency Decision Makers decisions, Placement Orders, and children matched and placed with adoptive parents have all declined and there has been an increase in the number of children waiting with a PO across all timeliness measures.

In Q3 2022/23 (31 December) there were:

- **800** Agency Decision Maker decisions, a decrease of **10% (90n)** from Q2 2022/23 and a decrease of **1% (10n)** when compared to Q3 2021/22
- **670** Placement Orders granted, a decrease of **3% (20n)** from Q2 2022/23 and a decrease of **12% (80n)** when compared to Q3 2021/22



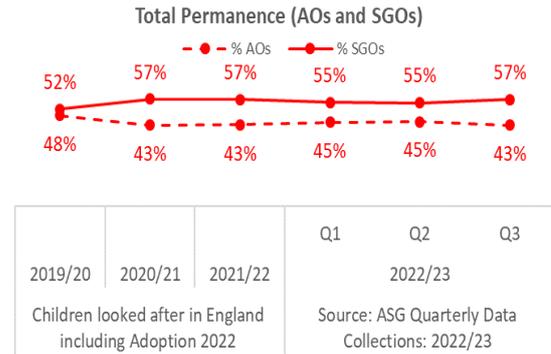
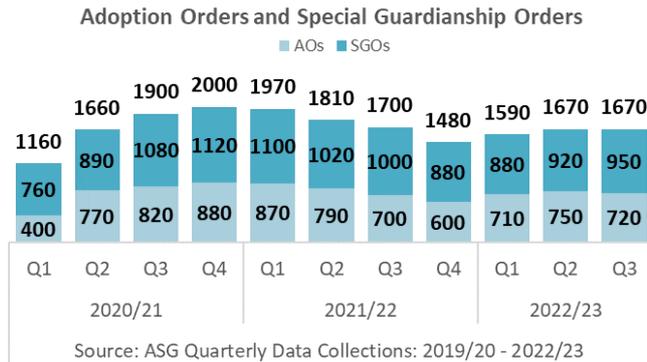
- **130** ADM reversals, a total of **460n** for the first three quarters of 2022/23 and **67%** of the total for 2022/23
- **26%** of reversals were due to 'Child's needs changed', and **15%** were due to 'Adopters cannot be found'



There has been an increase in the number of Adoption Orders and Special Guardianship Orders granted this quarter.

In Q3 2022/23, there were:

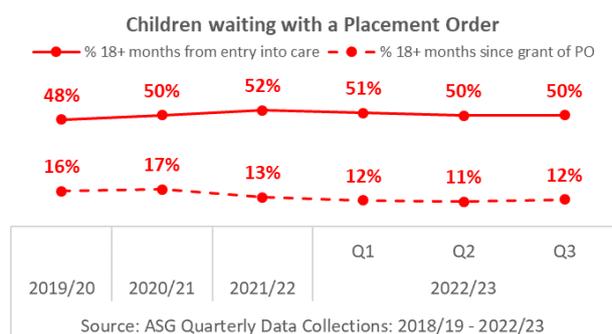
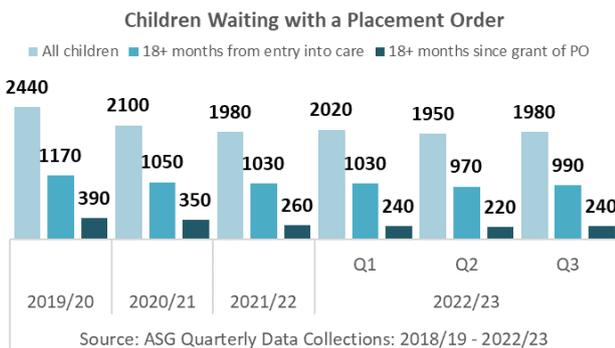
- **720** Adoption Orders granted, a decrease of **4% (30n)** from Q2 2022/23 and an increase of **3% (20n)** when compared to Q3 2021/22
- **950** Special Guardianship Orders granted, an increase of **3% (30n)** from Q2 2022/23 and a decrease of **5% (50n)** when compared to Q3 2021/22



- **1670** total permanence orders granted (AOs & SGOs), the same as Q2 2022/23 and a decrease of **2% (30n)** when compared to Q3 2021/22
- SGOs accounted for **57%** of all permanence the same when compared to Q2 2022/23

In the first three quarters of 2022/23, **390** children were placed in an FFA/CP placement, **78%** of the total for 2021/22.

The numbers of children waiting with a Placement Order, waiting 18+ months since entering care, and waiting 18+ months since grant of Placement Order have all increased.



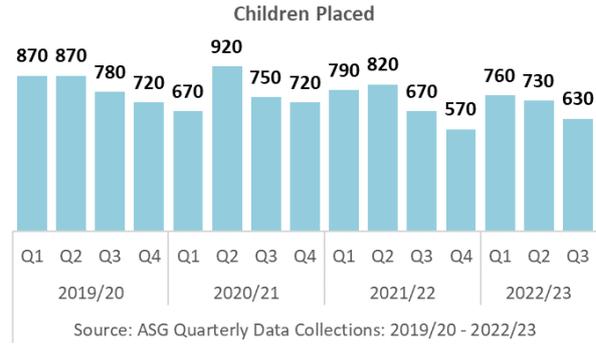
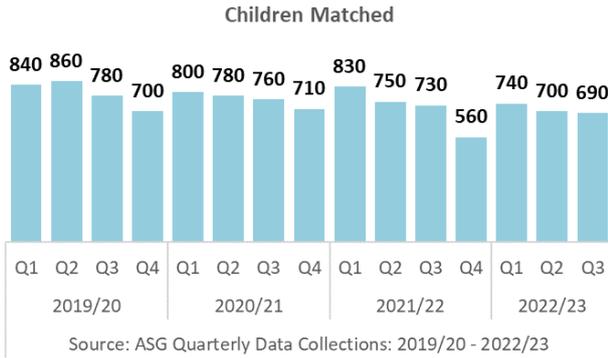
In Q3 2022/23 there were:

- **1980** children with a PO waiting to be matched, an increase of **2% (30n)** from Q2 2022/23
- **990** children with a PO waiting to be matched 18+ months since entering care, an increase of **2% (20n)** from Q2 2022/23
- **50%** of children with a PO have been waiting to be matched 18+ months since entering care
- **240** children with a PO waiting to be matched 18+ months since grant of PO, an increase of **9% (20n)** from Q2 2022/23
- **12%** of children with a PO have been waiting to be matched 18+ months since grant of PO

There has been a decrease in the number of children matched and placed with adoptive parents

In Q3 2022/23 there were:

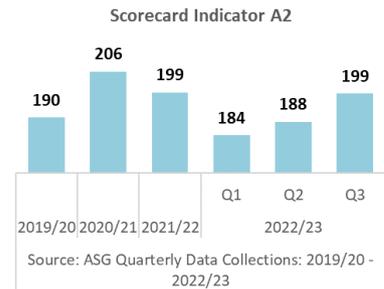
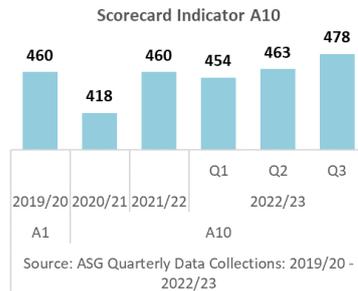
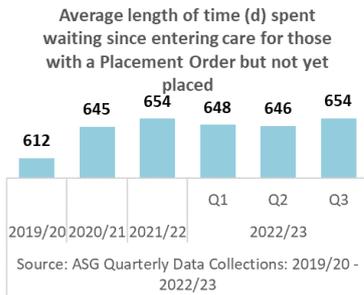
- **690** children matched with an adoptive family, a decrease of **1% (10n)** from Q2 2022/23 and a decrease of **11% (80n)** when compared to Q3 2021/22
- **630** children placed with an adoptive family, a decrease of **14% (100n)** from Q2 2022/23 and a decrease of **6% (40n)** when compared to Q3 2021/22



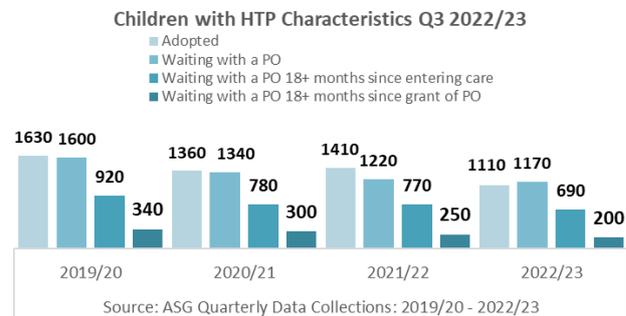
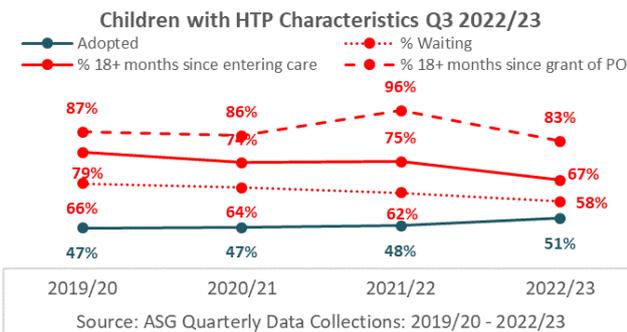
Timeliness is slowing with some children’s journey to permanence taking longer.

In Q3 2022/23:

- The average number of days spent waiting to be placed with Placement Order since entering care was **654 days**, an increase of **8 days** from Q2 2022/23
- Scorecard Indicator A10 (average number of days between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family adjusted for foster care adoptions) was **478 days**, an increase of **15 days** from Q2 2022/23
- Scorecard Indicator A2 (average time between an LA receiving court authority to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family) was **199 days**, an increase of **11 days** from Q2 2022/23



There has been an increase in the proportion of children adopted who have harder to place characteristics and, a decrease in the proportion of children with harder to place characteristics waiting with a PO. waiting.

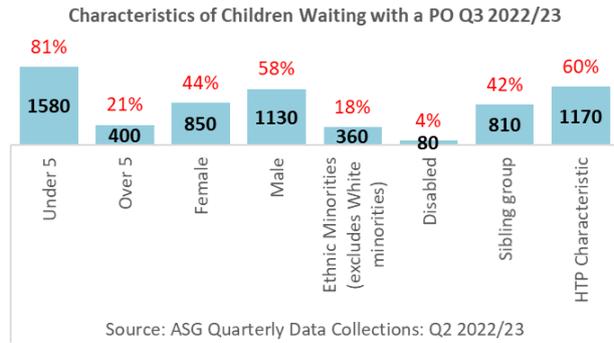
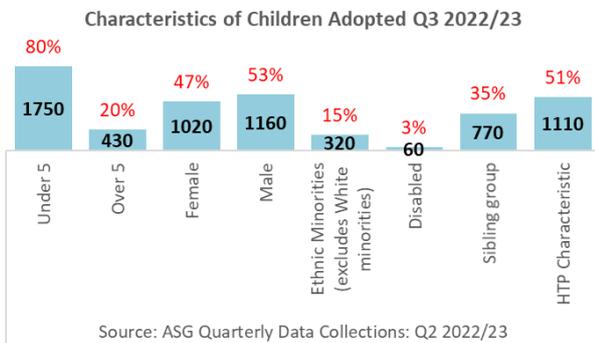


In the first three quarters of 2022/23 there were a total of:

- **1110** children with HTP characteristics adopted, **77%** of the total number of children with HTP characteristics adopted in 2021/22
- **1170** children with HTP characteristics waiting with a PO, a decrease of **4% (50n)** from 2021/22

- **690** children with HTP characteristics waiting with a PO 18+ months since entering care, a decrease of **10% (80n)** from 2021/22
- **200** children with HTP characteristics waiting with a PO 18+ months since grant of PO, a decrease of **20% (50n)** from 2021/22

The charts below give a breakdown of the number of children adopted and waiting with a PO by characteristics.



In Q3 2022/23:

- Children who were aged under 5, female and not from an Ethnic Minority (excludes White minorities) background were more likely to be adopted and less likely to be waiting with a PO
- Children aged over 5, male, from an Ethnic Minority (excludes White minorities) background, with a disability and in a sibling group were more likely to be waiting with a PO and less likely to be adopted

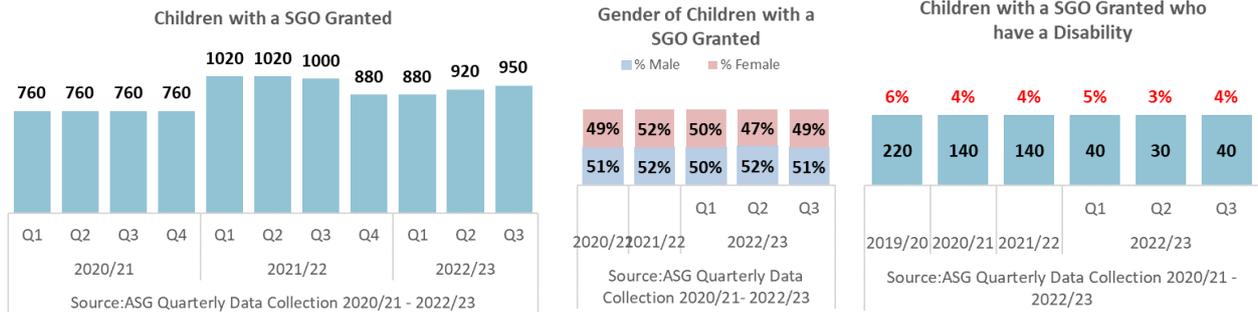
*NB: "Harder to place" is defined as a child who is any of the following: 5 years or over, with an Ethnic Minority (excludes White minorities) background, disabled, or part of a sibling group. Children with more than one harder to place characteristic will be counted in each characteristic.*

### SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP ORDERS

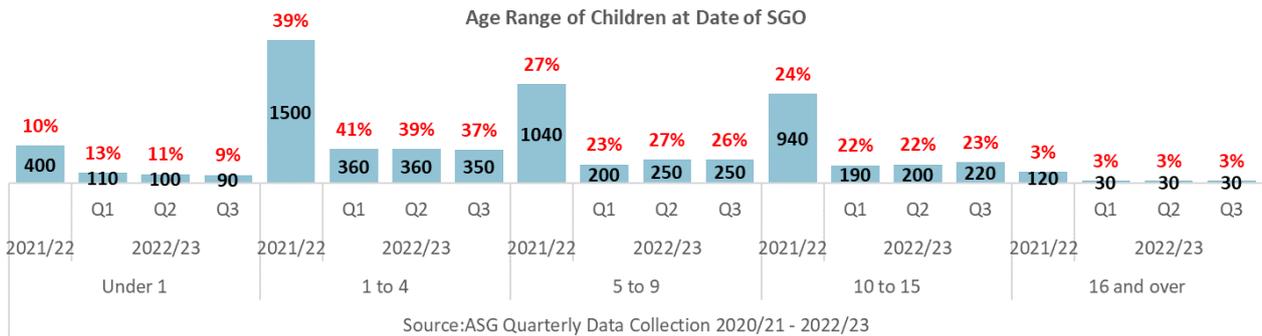
There has been an increase in the number of Special Guardianship orders granted this quarter.

In Q3 2022/23, there were:

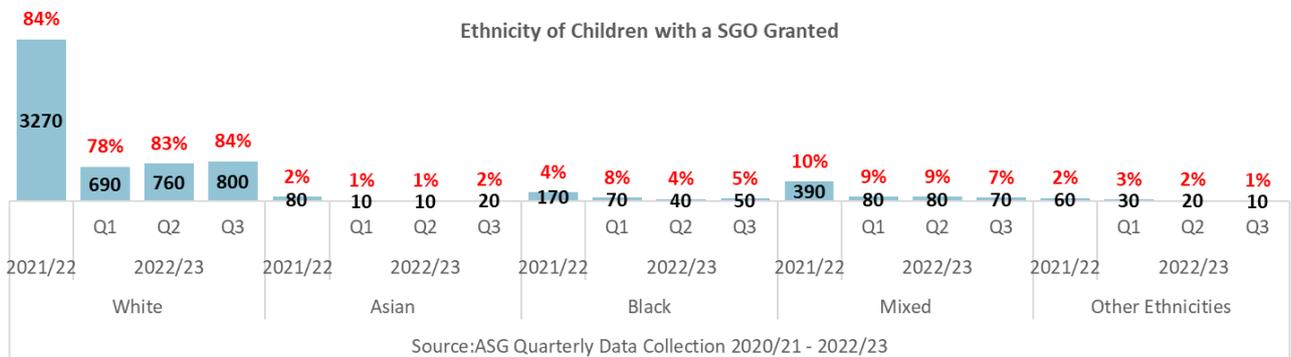
- **950** SGOs granted, an increase of **3% (30n)** from Q2 2022/23, a decrease of **5% (50n)** when compared to Q3 2021/22
- **51%** of the children were male, **49%** female and **4%** had a disability, **16%** were from an Ethnic Minority (excluding White minorities) background and **46%** were in a sibling group



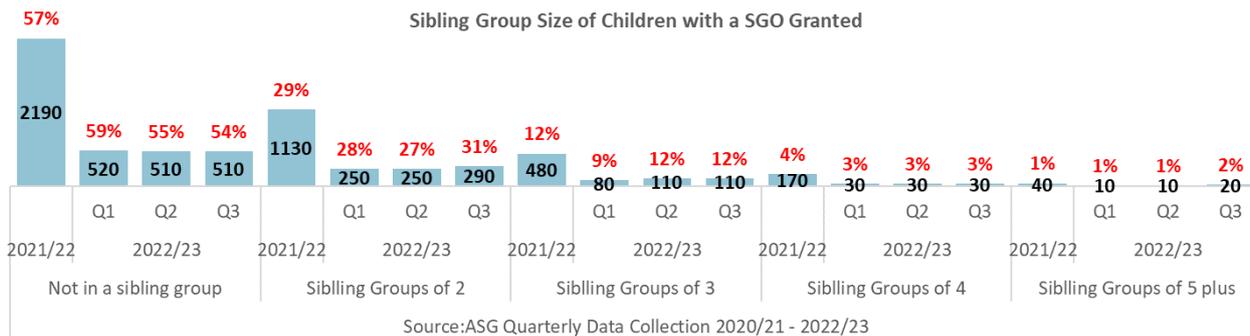
Children aged 1 to 4 continue to be the largest group of children who leave care with a SGO, **37%**, followed by children aged 5 to 9, **26%**.



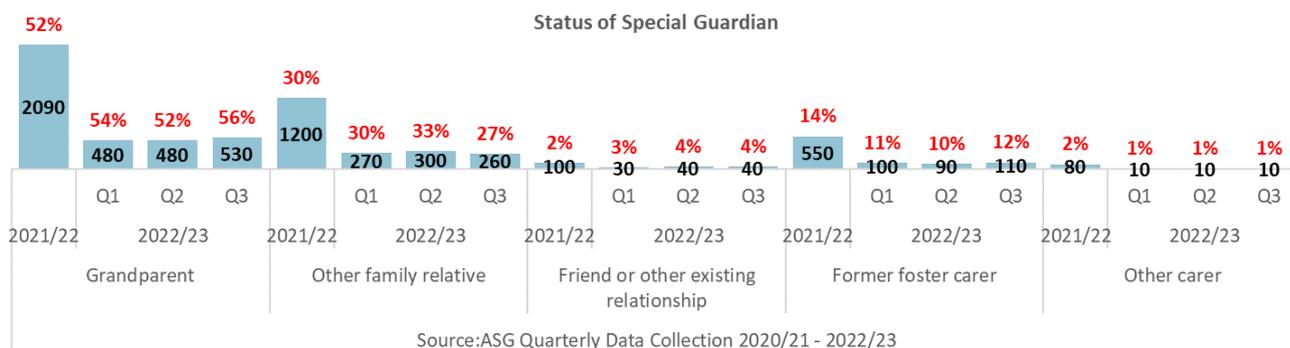
Children with a White ethnic background continued to be the largest ethnic group who leave care with a Special Guardianship Order, **84%**, followed by children with a Mixed ethnic background, **7%**.



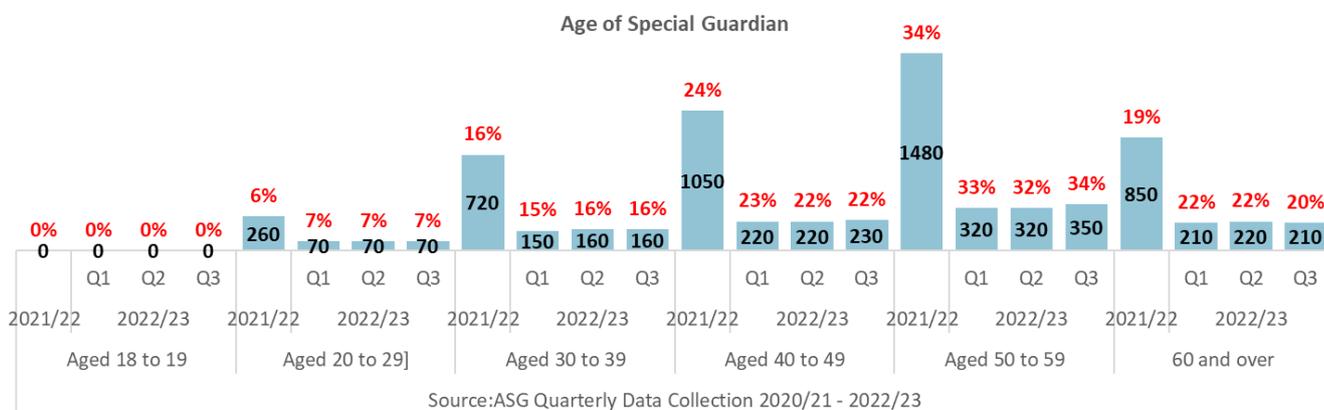
Children not in a sibling group continue to be the largest group of children who leave care with a Special Guardianship Order **54%**, followed by children in a sibling group of 2, **31%**.



Grandparents are the largest represented group of Special Guardians, **56%**, followed by other family relative, **27%**.



Special Guardians are more likely to be older with **76%** of Special Guardians aged over 40, **34%** of which are aged 50 to 59.

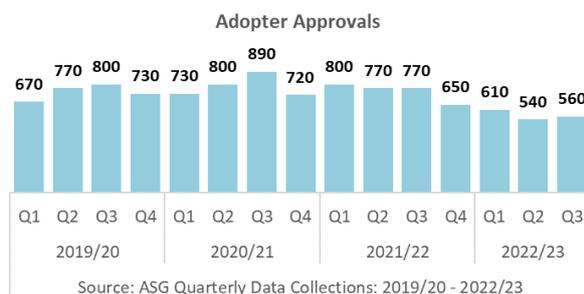
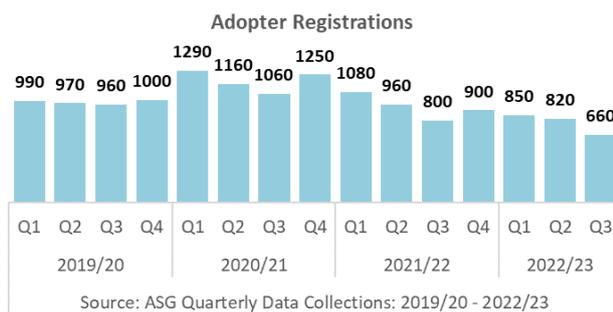


## ADOPTERS

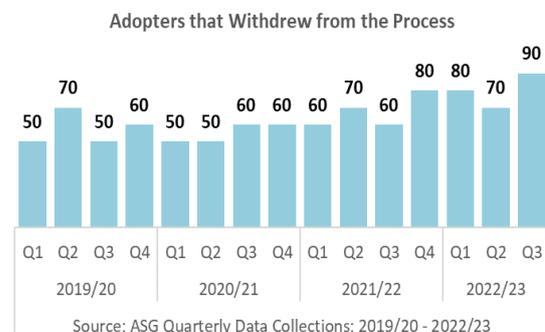
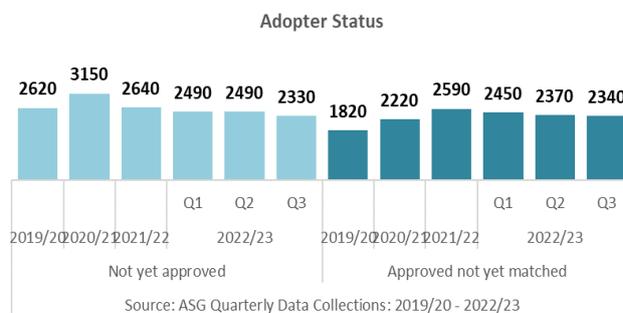
The number of adopter registrations and approvals have continued to decline, together with the numbers of adopters not yet approved, and adopters approved and waiting to be matched. The numbers of adopters who had a child matched and placed with them also declined this quarter.

In Q3 2022/23 there were:

- **660** Registrations, a decrease of **20% (160n)** from Q2 2022/23 and a decrease of **18% (140n)** when compared to Q3 2021/22
- **560** Approvals, an increase of **4% (20n)** from Q2 2022/23 and a decrease of **27% (210n)** when compared to Q3 2021/22



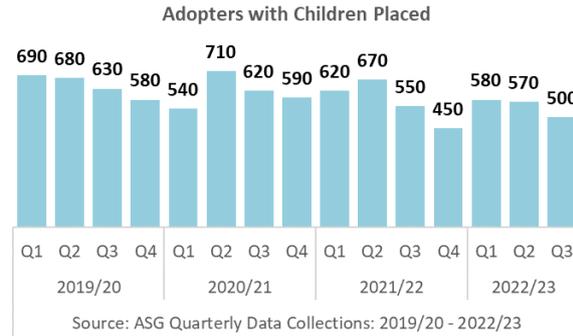
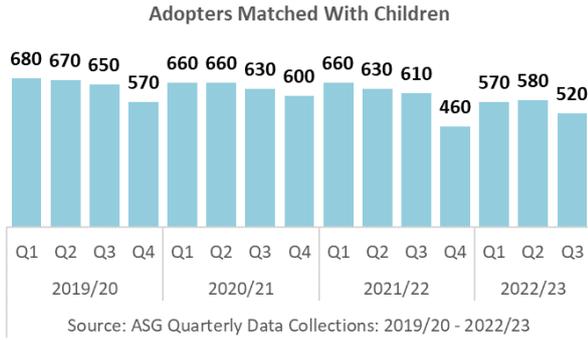
- **2330** Prospective adoptive families not yet approved, a decrease of **6% (160n)** from Q2 2022/23
- **2340** Approved adoptive families waiting to be matched, a decrease of **1% (30n)** from Q2 2022/23
- **90** approved adopters withdrew from the process after approval, a total of **240** for the first three quarters of this year, **89%** of the total for 2021/22.



The number of adopters being matched and having a child placed with them decreased this quarter.

In Q3 2022/23 there were:

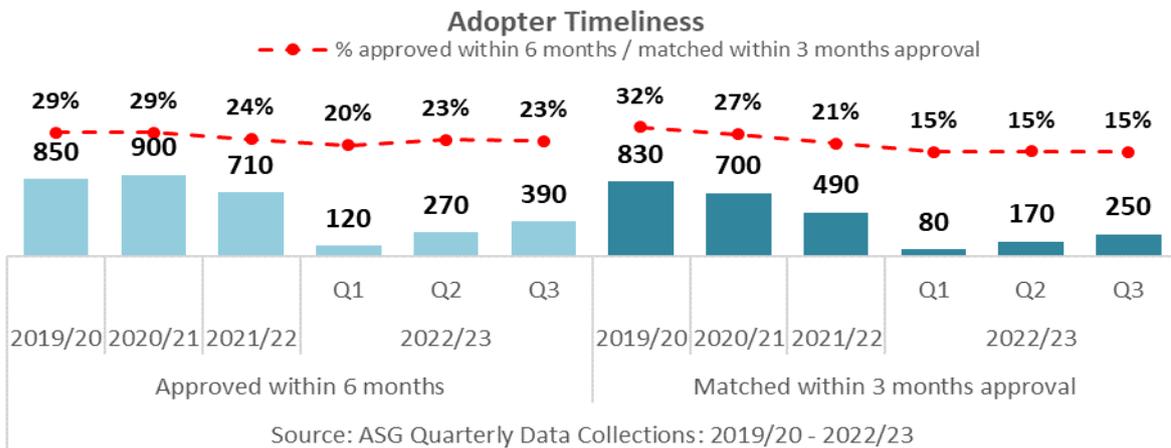
- **520** Adoptive families matched to children, a decrease of **10% (60n)** from Q2 2022/23 and a decrease of **15% (90n)** when compared to Q3 2021/22
- **500** Adoptive families with a child placed, a decrease of **12% (70n)** from Q2 2022/23 and a decrease of **9% (50n)** when compared to Q3 2021/22



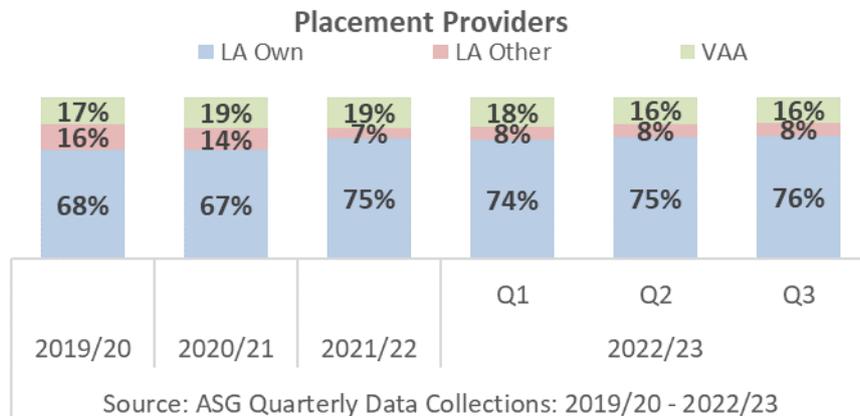
Timeliness for adoptive family approvals and for adoptive families being matched has remained the same as last quarter.

In Q3 2022/23:

- **23%** of adoptive families were approved within 6 months of registration
- **15%** of approved adoptive families had a child matched with them within 3 months of approval



The proportion of placement providers has remained similar to last quarter with a **1%** increase in the proportion of placement providers being the LA's own provision.



NB: Percentages may not add due to rounding of numbers

## DATA SOURCES

### ASG Quarterly Data Collection

In quarter 3 2022/23 the response rate from local authorities for the child level section was 100% and the adopter level sections was 100%. The response rate for the adopter level section from Voluntary Adoption Agencies was 100%. Therefore, national and regional figures on adoptions and adopters do not include estimates made for non-responses.

### SSDA 903 Data Collection

Local authorities provide data on their looked after children using the SSDA903 collection. Data are collected from all local authorities. The information is collected at child level and includes information about the child's characteristics and their dates for each stage of the care process, including adoption. The data goes through thorough quality assurance and local authorities are able to update their historic data annually. We therefore view this as the most robust source of information on adoption. It is used to produce the [Children looked after in England including adoption](#) (SFR) and the [Adoption Scorecards](#). The most recent data covers the year ending 31 March 2022.

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication was produced by The ASG Data Collection Team, delivered by Coram-i on behalf of the Department for Education.

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