

60160 Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Places

I am requesting the following information relating to the City of Edinburgh Council's decision to restrict funded early learning and childcare (ELC) places at private partner provider nurseries to 35%, with 65% allocated to council-run settings.

Decision-Making Process

All meeting minutes, briefing papers, and agendas where this allocation policy was discussed or decided.

The final decision document(s) and sign-off authorisation(s), including the role(s) of the decision-maker(s).

Any options appraisals or alternative allocation models that were considered.

Supporting Analysis

All analysis, reports, or assessments used to determine that a 35%/65% split was appropriate.

Any analysis of the capacity, geographic distribution, and accessibility of council-run nurseries for Edinburgh families.

Any assessment of how the operating models of council nurseries (including term-time-only provision, school-day hours, and fixed drop-off/collection times) meet the needs of working parents.

Review and Monitoring

Documentation setting out how and when this policy will be reviewed.

Any criteria or key performance indicators established to assess whether the allocation remains suitable.

Parental Consultation

Details of any consultation with parents or carers undertaken before this decision was made, including methodology, questions asked, responses received, and how feedback influenced the final policy.

Alignment with Government Policy Objectives

Any assessment of how this allocation policy aligns with the Scottish Government's stated aims and principles for funded ELC.

Specifically, the policy objectives of increasing flexibility, parental choice, and supporting parents into work or training.

Please note that 35% of funded children attended partner provider provision when the Council submitted the estimated cost for the expansion of funded ELC from 600 hours to 1140 hours to the Scottish Government in 2018 and we have sought to maintain this. Part 7.2 of the [October 2019 report to the Education, Children and Families Committee](#) outlines this.