

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent appeal re withdrawal of City of Edinburgh Council partnership funding for Wee Mack's Nursery (Leith, Edinburgh)  
**Date:** 21 October 2025 18:14:39  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Hi [REDACTED]

How are you?

Thanks for bringing this to our attention.

The goal posts have certainly shifted since [REDACTED] first email.

I'll chat to [REDACTED] in the margins of [REDACTED] in the margins of CLT tomorrow and come back to you.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 21 October 2025 13:16  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent appeal re withdrawal of City of Edinburgh Council partnership funding for Wee Mack's Nursery (Leith, Edinburgh)

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has advised that I contact you regarding the email thread below. [REDACTED] cc'd for info.

I have agreed to meet with [REDACTED] and parents at this nursery, but as you can see, [REDACTED] has extended the meeting offer to the elected members [REDACTED] copied. This has the potential to turn into a public meeting with elected members.

For context I've attached the briefing elected members on the education children and families committee received as well as the letter sent to the parents at Wee Macks nursery.

Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 October 2025 00:22  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[Redacted text block]

**Subject:** Re: Urgent appeal re withdrawal of City of Edinburgh Council partnership funding for Wee Mack's Nursery (Leith, Edinburgh)

☐ External email ☐

☐ Contains topics of a financial nature ☐

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your response and for agreeing to meet with parents. The invitation also extends to all other stakeholders receiving this email.

Per your stated availability, parents have suggested Tuesday 28th as the preferred date and I have asked Wee Mack's to reserve the space for this meeting from 6-7pm. I note that you mentioned you will be on leave so if you are now out of office until 27th, I would appreciate if your colleagues could confirm acceptance of this meeting in your absence?

Many thanks

[Redacted signature]

On 10 Oct 2025, at 14:03, [Redacted] wrote:

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email and taking the time to outline your concerns.

Funding follows the child and the national standard for early learning and childcare sets out what children and their families should expect from their ELC experience, regardless of whether they access their funded entitlement in local authority, private or third sector settings or through a childminder.

This is to ensure that there is consistency of high-quality provision across all funded provider types. It is also underpinned by the regulations in the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 which applies to all care services across Scotland, including day care of children and childminding settings.

To deliver funded ELC all providers must have Care Inspectorate quality evaluations of good or better across all quality indicators which are.

1. How good is our care, play and learning?
2. How good is our setting?
3. How good is our leadership?
4. How good is our staff team?

The National Standard for ELC provides guidance on the process for managing cases where a setting does not meet the required quality standards of Good or better across all indicators.

This is called the Service Improvement Period (SIP) and is put in place for 12 months to allow the setting time to address issues and put improvements in place.

The table below provide details of the duration of SIP for Wee Mack's Nursery along with their inspection history.

Wee Macks – Into SIP 23 April 2023

<b>Date</b>	<b>How good is our care, play and learning?</b>	<b>How good is our setting?</b>	<b>How good is our leadership?</b>	<b>How good is our staff team?</b>
27 Apr 2023	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
31 Oct 2023	Weak	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
30 May 2024	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Adequate
29 Jul 2025	Adequate	Good	Adequate	Adequate

The Council cannot be perceived to 'endorse' the quality that has been inspected as below 'Good' by remaining in partnership beyond an acceptable period for improvement. Therefore, the Out of Partnership process has been put in place and the partnership agreement with Wee Mack's will end on 31 December 2025.

We appreciate the impact of ending the partnership agreement on parents and children accessing the service and aim to minimize the need for families to move their child due to the disruption this can cause for childcare arrangements and for the child attending a setting they are familiar with. Therefore, if parents choose to remain at Wee Mack's any children who currently receiving a funded place will continue to receive funding for the

duration of their funded entitlement. Given the timeframe, children currently attending Wee Mack's but not eligible for a funded place until 06/01/25 will also be funded by The City of Edinburgh Council.

I note your suggestion for me to meet with parents, and I would be happy to do so to listen to concerns and take questions. Due to annual leave and other commitments my earliest availability is week beginning 27 October when I'm available Monday - Thursday evening.

Kind regards,

**From:**

**Sent:** 09 October 2025 22:22

**To:**

**Subject:** Urgent appeal re withdrawal of City of Edinburgh Council partnership funding for Wee Mack's Nursery (Leith, Edinburgh)

Dear

I am contacting you and your colleagues, as well as copying relevant elected representatives, seeking support for an appeal to reverse City of Edinburgh Councils decision to withdraw Partnership funding from Wee Mack's nursery in Leith.

A significant majority of parents are united in our firm belief that Wee Mack's nursery are providing a childcare service in line with the National Standard – particularly notable is parents praise of the care provided by

the staffing team.

I understand the basis of this decision relates to scores in the latest Care Inspectorate report, however, I note that underlying scores improved since the last inspection; unfortunately this was not reflected in the combined score as one of the 4 indicators used the lowest of 2 scores – however, the qualitative elements of the inspection report also noted improvements in all areas.

I also understand that inspectorate reports are not meant to be the sole measure of a nursery's performance, as copied below from [Section 3: Role For Local Authorities In Delivering The Funding Follows The Child Approach - Funding Follows the Child and the National Standard for Early Learning and Childcare Providers: Operating Guidance - gov.scot:](#)

*With the exception of inspection evaluations from the Care Inspectorate and HMIE, local authorities are responsible for assessing and monitoring compliance with the National Standard in all funded providers, including local authority settings, as part of their contract management arrangements and in their role as guarantors of quality.*

*If settings fail to meet any criteria included in the National Standard, the funded provider will be subject to a 'service improvement period' and may need enhanced improvement support. The local authority needs to be clear about the criteria which are not being met and how the service can improve to ensure children receive high quality ELC.*

*Other information such as soft information from parents, media announcements or evidence from quality support visits can also be used responsively to explore a funded provider's compliance to the National Standard. The local authority will need to gather information about the evidence and make an objective decision about whether a setting is not meeting the National Standard.*

*The type of support provided by local authorities to funded providers could include (but is not limited to):*

- 1. training programme resources;*
- 2. support for workforce planning;*
- 3. marketing and recruitment support;*
- 4. funding for staff to undertake relevant qualifications;*

5. *grant funding for specific resources;*
6. *buildings support; and*
7. *regular contact through local authority ELC meetings.*

*Funded providers will have their own ideas about how they wish to be supported and it would be beneficial for local authorities to engage with funded providers regarding the type of support that would help to improve the quality of ELC in their settings.*

I would like to understand what steps CEC have taken beyond using Care Inspectorate results to come to this decision? How have CEC:

1. executed your responsibility to assess and monitor compliance (beyond use of Care Inspectorate results);
2. been clear with Wee Mack's about how the service needs to improve;
3. gathered additional information such as soft information from parents;
4. gathered additional information such as from your own quality support visits;
5. offered support, such as relevant training

I understand that Wee Mack's were subject to a Service Improvement Period, but do not have any evidence as to how CEC fulfilled its obligations to support Wee Mack's such as via the approaches outlined above (I'm sure there would be many parents willing to provide representations if these have not been sought?). How many CEC quality support visits, or training sessions, have occurred? As far as parents are aware, only a few months ago CEC had reviewed and were content with the improvement plan that Wee Mack's has in place.

I understand that a large group of parents affected by the closure of Victoria Quay nursery, (which itself has affected many local families, some of whom have since moved to Wee Mack's), have very recently gathered detailed information from nurseries in the immediate area and beyond regarding their availability – so know from this pool of evidence that securing good, currently available childcare, in the location families need it, on the days that families need it, is verging on impossible. This is also in the context of another nursery in the local area having closed, and a national cost of living crisis.

The decision to withdraw funding from Wee Mack's benefits no one, if

anything it puts significant pressure on Wee Mack's itself and further pressure on the sector in general, potentially even putting Wee Mack's at risk of closure.

I strongly believe there is sufficient grounds here for you to use available discretion to make a better decision for Wee Mack's, parents, and most importantly, children. This decision could result in parents facing no option but putting their children through the upheaval and disruption of having to move to a new childcare provider, despite being settled and content at Wee Mack's. This is most certainly not in the best interests of those children.

I am aware of further correspondence being issued by parents both as a group and individually – I would be happy to arrange an in-person meeting if you could make the time urgently one weekday evening to meet with Wee Mack's parents and address our questions and concerns – I am confident Wee Mack's would provide us with the meeting space to facilitate this. If you could let me know some options re your availability, I can take those arrangements forward.

Thanks in anticipation,

A solid grey rectangular box used to redact a signature.