

Name: Patricia Anderson

Address:

E-mail: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx

If calling please ask for:

Kenny McKaig 01382
434577

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Request Reference No. 20210827001

I refer to your request of 27/08/2021

Where there were less than five such cases I am not in a position to give you any further details as this might lead to the relevant individuals being identified. I therefore refuse these parts of your request in terms of Section 38(1)(b) and

(2)(A) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

The information which I can provide is contained in the document attached.

Subject: Freedom of Information request - 2021-2022 P1 Deferral Rates & Related Questions - Dundee

Please accept this email as a Freedom of Information request. I am sending this request to all 32 Scottish local authorities.

Please could the Council provide:

1) The total number of requests received to date for the Council to provide discretionary funding for a further year of early learning and childcare (nursery/ childminder etc) for children whose fifth birthdays have will fall between the day after the school start date in August 2021 and 31st Dec 2021.

2) A breakdown of the total number in 1. above by requests for

a) continued funding in private/voluntary settings and

b) continued funding in council run settings and

c) continued funding for split placements where a child attends both a private/voluntary and a council run setting.

3) In relation to question 2, please provide the number of places the Council has agreed to provide continued funding for in

a) private/voluntary settings and

b) council run settings and

c) split placements where a child attends both a private/voluntary and a council run setting.

4. How many of the children applying have a December birthday?

5a. How many appeals (challenges if there is no official appeals process) did the Council receive against the Council's decision not to grant funding?

5b. How many of these appeals/challenges resulted in the initial decision being overturned?

6. How many official complaints has the Council received regarding discretionary deferral funding decisions between Nov 2020 and the date of your response to this Fol request?

7a. How many applications did the Council receive for children to be permitted early entry to primary school to start in Aug 2021 instead of Aug 2022 (for children who will turn five on or after 1st March 2022)?

7b. How many of these early entry applications were approved?

8. Is the Council's discretionary deferral funding policy currently under review or are there any plans to update it for 2022-2023?

9. How many parents/carers are currently financing a further year of nursery for their child's deferral year themselves in a council-run nursery after the Council refused to fund their request for this?

10a. How many requests did the Council receive for older children* to defer their primary one start till Aug2022?

*(by "older children" I mean those who had already reached the age of five by the school commencement date in August 2021).

10b. How many older children* has the Council permitted to defer their primary one start till Aug 2022?

*(by "older children" I mean those who had already reached the age of five by the school commencement date in August 2021)

authorise a discretionary deferral ELC funding application?

Your Right to Appeal

If you are unhappy with this reply you may require the Council to review its actions and decisions in relation to your request.

The requirement for review must:-

- be in writing or other permanent form (please address it to me);
- state your name and give an address for correspondence;
- specify the original request for information and the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction; and
- be made within 40 working days of the date of this response, although the Council may, if it considers it appropriate to do so, consider requirements for review after that time has passed.

Your requirement for review will be dealt with by a Senior Officer who will reply to you in writing promptly and in any event within 20 working days. He/she may:-

- confirm my decision with or without modification;
- substitute a different decision for my decision;

and will give you their reasons for so doing. If you are unhappy with the Senior Officers decision you may then appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. You must submit your appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months of receiving the Senior Officers decision. Further details on the Scottish Information Commissioner's appeal procedure can be found using the direct link www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal or email xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx or telephone (01334) 464610 or write to Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Yours faithfully

Kenneth McKaig

Legal Manager