



Education Resources
Executive Director **Tony McDaid**
Head of Education

Ms Patricia Anderson
request-911214-7a26ee5b@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: EDU/FOI/2022/205
Your ref:
If calling ask for: Molly Magee
Phone: 01698 454512
Date: 21 November 2022

Dear Ms Anderson

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information, received on 25 October 2022. Your request has been dealt with in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Please find listed below your request for information and our response:

1. The total number of requests received to date for a further year of early learning and childcare (nursery/ childminder etc) for children whose fifth birthdays fell/ will fall between the day after the school start date in August 2022 and 31st Dec 2022.

I can confirm that the Council has received 135 applications for deferred entry to date for children whose birthdays fell/will fall between the August school start date and 21 December 2022.

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

a. continued funding in private/voluntary settings;

I can confirm of the 135 applications above, 38 children will continue in a private/voluntary setting.

b. continued funding in council run settings;

I can confirm of the 135 applications above, 95 will continue in a Council-run setting.

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

I can confirm of the 135 applications above, 2 will continue in a split placement.

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;

b. council run settings;

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

I can advise you that the Council has agreed to provide continued funding for all 135 deferred entry applications identified in our response to Question 1.

Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton ML3 0AE Phone: 01698 455620
Text Phone: 01698 454039 Email: education@southlanarkshire.gov.uk



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

I can confirm of the 135 applications above, 68 children have a December birthday.

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

Please refer to our response to Question 3.

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

Please refer to our response to Question 3.

6. How many official complaints has the Council received regarding discretionary deferral funding decisions between Nov 2021 and the date of your response to this FoI request?

I can confirm the Council have received no formal complaints in response to discretionary deferral funding decisions.

7. 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?

Please refer to our response to Question 3.

8. a. How many applications did the Council receive for children to be permitted early entry to primary school to start in Aug 2022 instead of Aug 2023 (for children who will turn five on or after 1st March 2023)?

I can confirm that the Council has received 6 applications for early entry to school.

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

I can confirm that 2 of the 6 applications for early entry to school were approved.

9. a. How many requests did the Council receive for older children* to defer their primary one start till Aug 2023? *(by "older children" I mean those who had already reached the age of five by the school commencement date in August 2022).

I can confirm that the Council received 18 applications for children over the age of 5 at school commencement date to defer their primary 1 start. All of these applications were granted.

b. How many older children* has the Council permitted to defer their primary one start till Aug 2023? *(by "older children" I mean those who had already reached the age of five by the school commencement date in August 2022).

Please refer to our response to Question 8.

Request for Review

The Council has an internal panel (the review panel) to deal with complaints from people who are not happy about the way that their request has been dealt with. Staff not involved in the original decision will handle any review. If you want to complain about how we have handled your request for information, you can ask the review panel to reassess our actions. Please note that if you wish to complain, you must do so by 22 January 2023. In requesting a review, it would be helpful if you could quote the reference number found at the top of this letter and state the matter which has given rise to your dissatisfaction.

You should send your request for a review to:

- Mr. W. Dunn, Information Compliance Manager, Finance and Corporate Resources, Floor 11, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0AA.

Alternatively, you can request a review at foi.reviews@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

Please note that the review panel can only assess the way we have handled requests for information.

It cannot consider complaints about delivery of a service or any decisions made by the Council or its authorised employees. If your complaint relates to one of these matters, you should contact the Resource responsible.

Should you not be satisfied with the outcome of our review, you will then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

The Commissioner will decide whether your request has been dealt with properly, in accordance with the Act. The Commissioner's contact details are as follows:

- Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9DS; Telephone: 01334 464610; Fax: 01334 464611; e-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

For further details, please see the Commissioner's website at www.itspublicknowledge.info.

Yours sincerely

Stewart Nicolson
Head of Education (Senior Phase)