

**Name:** Patricia Anderson

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If calling please ask for:  
Kenny McKaig 01382 434577

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Request Reference No. 20200824004**

I refer to your request of 24/08/2020

The answers to your questions are as follows:

**Subject:** Freedom of Information request - Scottish LAs Discretionary Deferral Funding Stats for 2020-2021

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) for children whose fifth birthdays will fall between the day after the school start date in August 2020 and 31st Dec 2020. (64)

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

a) continued funding in private/voluntary settings and (7)

b) continued funding in council run settings and (56)

c) continued funding for split placements where a child attends both a private/voluntary and a council run setting. (0)

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 (7)

b) council run settings and (56)

c) split placements where a child attends both a private/voluntary and a council run setting. (0)

4. How many of the children applying have a December birthday? (41)

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? (0)

5b. How many of these appeals/challenges resulted in the initial decision being overturned? Not applicable.

6. How many official complaints has the Council received regarding discretionary deferral funding decisions between Nov 2019 and the date of your response to this FoI request? (0)

7a. How many applications did the Council receive for children to be permitted early entry to primary school to start in Aug 2020 instead of Aug 2021 (for children who will turn five on or after 1st March 2021)? 0

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

8. Is the Council's discretionary deferral funding policy currently under review or are there any plans to update it in the near future? Awaiting further guidance from Scottish Government

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? 0

10. How many older children\* has the Council permitted to defer their primary one start till 2021? 0

\*(by "older children" I mean those who had already reached the age of five by the school commencement date in August 2020).

### **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 the Chief Executive. He will reply to you in writing promptly and in any event within 20 working days. He may:-

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

and will give you his reasons for so doing. If you are unhappy with the Chief Executive's 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 Chief Executive's decision.

Further details on the Scottish Information Commissioner's appeal procedure can be found using the direct link [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal) or email [xxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.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