



Deputy Emer Currie
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29th July 2026

Dear Emer,

Further to Parliamentary Question 44833/26, 44834/26 and 44835/26 of 09 June 2026, namely:

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of childcare providers, by those in and outside of core funding for each of the years 2022 to 2025 and to date in 2026, in tabular form.”

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the number of childcare providers, by those in and outside of core funding, by their service category such as ECCE-only, sessional, part-time and full-time, for each of the years 2022 to 2025 and to date in 2026, in tabular form.”

“To ask the Minister for Children; Disability and Equality the total number of childcare providers, by those in and outside of core funding for each of the years 2022 to 2025 and to date in 2026, by local authority area, in tabular form.”

The introduction of Core Funding in 2022 brought a significant increase in investment for the sector. €259 million of funding was made available for services in year 1 of the scheme, of which €210.8 million was entirely new funding to the sector.

That annual allocation has increased each year since and has exceeded €390 million for year 4 of the Scheme, which started in September. This represents an increase of over 50% in Core Funding in three years.

I was delighted to announce further investment in Core Funding in Budget 2026. The additional funding being made available in 2026 will see the allocation for Core Funding in the next programme year which begins in September 2026 increase to over €480 million. That is an additional €89.3 million on the current full year allocation, or a 23% increase.

While the Department cannot mandate providers to participate in the Scheme, every effort has been made to carefully design Core Funding to meet the policy objectives including to achieve high levels of participation by providers.



The tables below provide detail on childcare providers from 2022 to 2026 by year, category, local authority and engagement with Core Funding.

Please note that the 2022/2023, 2023/2024, 2024/2025, figures are reflective of a full programmatic year running from 1 September to 31 August. Figures included for 2025/2026 are effective from 1 September to June 2026. Core Funding figures reflect all services who have participated in Core Funding and had an active Core Funding Partner Service Funding Agreement at any point in a given programme year.

Non-Core Funding Services noted in these tables include services not participating in Core Funding and services such as Childminders registering for the very first time under the Regulations under the Childcare Act 1991 Regulations 2024 that are ineligible to avail of the Core Funding Scheme.

Table1. The number of childcare providers, by those in and outside of core funding, for each of the years 2022 to 2025 and to date in 2026.

Category	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Non-Core Funding Service	289	255	425	436
Core Funding Partner Service	4347	4497	4546	4689
Grand Total	4636	4752	4971	5125

Table 2. The number of childcare providers, by those in and outside of core funding, by their service category.

Year	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Non-Core Funding Service				
Childminder	3	5	48	108
Drop-in	3	3	3	2
Full Day	54	60	115	130
Part Time	26	20	31	29
SAC	44	57	83	86
Sessional	68	56	82	81
TUSLA reference not found*	91	54	63	0
Subtotal (Non-Core Funding Service)	289	255	425	436



Core Funding Partner Service				
Childminder	42	40	41	39
Full Day	1633	1688	1672	1638
Part Time	567	583	574	560
SAC	472	603	724	1029
Sessional	1633	1582	1473	1423
TUSLA reference not found*		1	62	0
Subtotal (Core Funding Service)	4347	4497	4546	4689
Grand Total	4636	4752	4971	5125

* Pobal does not retain a historic record of TUSLA service types for closed or out-of-contract services. Services without an active TUSLA registration are categorised under "TUSLA reference not found". Please note, all services registered for Core Funding were on the Tusla Register during the time they participated in Core Funding.

Table 3. The total number of childcare providers, by those in and outside of core funding for each of the years 2022 to 2025 and to date in 2026, by local authority area.

	Non- Core Fundi ng Servic e				Core Fundi ng Servic e			
County Division	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024	2024/ 2025	2025/ 2026	2022/ 2023	2023/ 2024	2024/ 2025	2025 / 2026
Cork City	6	6	8	9	162	168	167	171
County Carlow	3	2	5	4	47	50	52	54
County Cavan	3	6	11	5	74	79	77	85
County Clare	3	2	4	9	136	142	151	159
County Cork	18	10	19	24	332	359	379	397



County Donegal	11	10	11	17	157	162	177	186
County Galway	20	20	38	34	285	300	291	299
County Kerry	4	1	7	13	141	153	150	162
County Kildare	9	9	16	13	177	179	182	190
County Kilkenny		1	5	5	96	98	100	102
County Laois	4	3	9	11	90	89	96	93
County Leitrim			1	2	37	39	40	46
County Limerick	9	8	16	16	190	202	225	225
County Longford	3	4	6	4	36	36	35	40
County Louth	2	1	2	2	108	112	108	109
County Mayo	6	7	17	7	130	130	129	141
County Meath	16	10	10	18	183	189	194	198
County Monaghan	1		2		62	66	73	71
County Offaly	5	3	8	5	64	69	72	77
County Roscomm on	2		2	1	62	63	68	79
County Sligo	6	5	6	5	77	83	78	81
County Tipperary	6	5	12	8	178	192	190	199
County Waterford	8	8	10	7	99	94	94	103



County Westmeath	1		4	6	82	83	86	85
County Wexford	17	17	17	16	140	138	147	152
County Wicklow	12	11	13	10	155	159	154	150
Dublin City	37	34	53	64	396	403	391	389
Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown	17	23	38	42	171	166	160	152
Fingal	33	28	49	46	266	281	270	282
South Dublin	27	21	26	33	214	213	210	212
Grand Total	289	255	425	436	4347	4497	4546	4689

Kind regards,

Norma Foley TD

Minister for Children, Disability and Equality