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**Falkirk Council**  
*Children's Services*

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Fair Funding  
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To whom it may concern,

**Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002**  
**Free Early Years and Childcare Provision**

I am writing in response to your Freedom of Information request on the above matter. I am now in a position to provide you with the following response:

It should be noted that Falkirk Council Children's Services do not refer to the 2 year olds as vulnerable. Not all of the eligible children are vulnerable – they are simply eligible for free early learning and childcare due to their family circumstances and meet the criteria set by the Scottish Government in being in receipt of eligible benefits. The information provided below therefore covers all eligible 2 year olds.

1.
  - a. In the Falkirk Council area, there was an estimated population of 260 eligible 2 year olds in 2015/16 for free early years and childcare provision.
  - b. In the Falkirk Council area, there was an estimated population of 4200 3-5 year olds for early years and childcare provision.
2.
  - a. In the final term of 2015/16, there were 220 places available for eligible 2 year olds.
  - b. In the final term of 2015/16, there were 3871 places available for 3-5 year olds.
3. In the final term of 2015/16, places available for eligible 2 year olds were split between 200 places at Council nurseries and 20 places at partner providers.
4. In the final term of 2015/16, places available for 3-5 year olds were split between 3692 places at Council nurseries and 179 places at partner providers.
5. In the final term of 2015/16, places available for eligible 2 year olds were all half day, term time only.
6. In the final term of 2015/16, places available for 3-5 year olds were as follows:
  - 3260 half day, term time only
  - 179 in partner providers – there is no specification on how this is taken. It is flexible for parental needs.

**Director : Robert Naylor**

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- 432 in Council Extended Day Nurseries – there is no specification on how this is taken. It is flexible for parental needs.

7.

- a. Our database only provides live figures for eligible 2 year olds so we are unable to return to this exact figure, however the figure for the term 1 in 2016/17 is 154 eligible 2 year olds who will take up places across all establishments.
- b. In term 1 of 2015/16, there were 2418 places taken up in nursery classes for 3-5 year olds. We do not hold figures for partner providers or extended day nurseries. These figures would be held by each individual setting.

8.

- a. See 7a.
- b. In the final term of 2015/16, there were 2614 places taken up in nursery classes for 3-5 year olds.

9.

- a. In the final term of 2015/16, there were 110 available Full Time Equivalent (FTE) places for eligible 2 year olds.
- b. In the final term of 2015/16, there were 2492 available FTE places for 3-5 year olds.

10. The full annual value for a funded partnership place in 2015/16 was £2160.

11. All eligible 2 year olds that apply are funded across either council nurseries or partner providers.

12. We do not hold information pertaining to how many eligible children did not receive their early years and childcare funding in partnership settings or in Care Inspectorate registered childcare settings outwith the partnership scheme.

13. In 2015/16, there were 20 commissioned partner provider places for eligible 2 years olds and 179 for 3-5 year olds.

14. Currently, early years staff employed within nursery classes is 145.58 FTE and 8.92FTE for eligible 2 year olds in Council providers. This does not include the staffing in extended day provisions – this information is held within each individual establishment.

I hope that you find the information provided of use to you. I enclose for your information a leaflet detailing your right to complain if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled.

Yours sincerely,

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