

From: foi <foi@orkney.gov.uk>  
Subject: RE: 2016-1058 FOI request  
Date: 9 January 2017 at 11:56:37 GMT  
To: 'Fair Funding For Our Kids' <fairfundingforourkids@outlook.com>  
Cc: foi <foi@orkney.gov.uk>

Dear Madam

## **Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – Request for Information**

I refer to your email dated 8 December 2016 and received on 9 December 2016, our reference is FOI 2016-1058.

I am pleased to give the information you requested and hope that it meets your requirements.

1. With which of your neighbouring local authorities do you have reciprocal agreements to fund children attending nursery out of their home area?

*None- we are an island authority, so there are no cross border arrangements*

2. Do you fund all eligible children attending nursery in your area whose home address is in a neighbouring council area?

*Not applicable*

3. Do you pay parents of children at partnership nurseries in advance or in arrears?

*We do not pay parents directly. We pay partner providers, and pay them for as many places as parents take up (including split places between Local Authority and partners if parents wish)*

4. What is the total occupancy rate of 3-5 year olds for your council's nurseries?

*This varies from year to year. Our nurseries are registered for a specific number of children. Some nurseries operate part time and others operate full time. In total, we have 179 registered places in our part time settings, and 220 registered places in our full time settings (and these can be used by more than one child). We operate settings depending on parental demand. Last year we had 439 children registered for nursery, and this year we anticipate that we will have 408 by the end of the year.*

*Generally parents choose to use their parish or island nursery (although they can request to use a different one if they wish). Numbers in these areas vary from year to year, and we staff the nurseries accordingly. In some years, part time nurseries may run full time to accommodate demand- and we have one part time nursery doing this. In some nurseries on small islands, we will run a setting with only one child to accommodate the need.*

*Therefore it is very difficult to work out an exact occupancy rate, as across the island context, we will run with spare capacity, as there is no possibility of a family using another setting (which may involve traveling by boat or plane), and in other parishes we will run a setting full time if needed.*

*Please let me know if you need more specific information.*

5. What percentage of children in your council's nurseries come from households where both households are working?

*We do not gather this data at present*

6. What information do you collect about the social and economic profile of children in your council's nurseries?

*We use statistically generated SIMD data but do not gather this directly from parents- we know this by community rather than individually.*

7. What data do you hold on the number of mothers in your council's area who return to work when their child starts nursery?

*We do not gather this data at present*

You have the right to request a review of the decision if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request. Please write to: Head of Legal Services, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NY or email to [foi@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:foi@orkney.gov.uk) to make this request. The law gives you up to 60 working days from when we received your enquiry or 40 working days from when you receive this correspondence, whichever is the later date.

Where the outcome of the review fails to resolve the matter to your complete satisfaction you have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision, within six months of the date of the decision to a request for a review, or within six months from when we should have responded to your request for a review, whichever is the

later date.

Kind regards

George Vickers  
Information Governance Officer  
Corporate Services  
Orkney Islands Council, Council Offices, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NY  
Telephone: 01856 873535 Extension: 2162  
[www.orkney.gov.uk](http://www.orkney.gov.uk)

**From:** Fair Funding For Our Kids  
[mailto:fairfundingforourkids@outlook.com]  
**Sent:** 08 December 2016 22:41  
**To:** foi  
**Subject:** FOI request

**On behalf of the campaign group Fair Funding for our Kids I would like to submit the following questions.**

1. With which of your neighbouring local authorities do you have reciprocal agreements to fund children attending nursery out of their home area?
2. Do you fund all eligible children attending nursery in your area whose home address is in a neighbouring council area?
3. Do you pay parents of children at partnership nurseries in advance or in arrears?
4. What is the total occupancy rate of 3-5 year olds for your council's nurseries?
5. What percentage of children in your council's nurseries come from households where both households are working?
6. What information do you collect about the social and economic profile of children in your council's nurseries?

7. What data do you hold on the number of mothers in your council's area who return to work when their child starts nursery?

Thank you

Carolyn Lochhead

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