



25 May 2020

Temporary Wage Subsidy Childcare Scheme – Verification Checks

Dear Provider,

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented situation and has had a particular impact on Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School Age Childcare (SAC) providers. The Department of Children and Youth Affairs are responsible for safeguarding and promoting policy that is in the best interests of everyone involved in the Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School Age Care (SAC) sector.

This is why the Department continues to support ELC and SAC settings, despite the unfortunate but necessary closure of ELC and SAC settings on public health grounds. The Department has launched the Temporary Wage Subsidy Childcare Scheme (TWSCS) in partnership with the Revenue Covid-19 Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme to alleviate some of the financial pressures facing both ELC/SAC workers and providers whilst also maintaining direct links between employer and employee. Maintaining relationships and protecting both providers' and employees' livelihoods is the best way to ensure ELC/SAC settings can resume their vital work when this crisis passes.

Having continued to provide support to services with the launch of the TWSCS on 15 April, as with any Government scheme, the Department is required to account for such monies expended. This means that we need to ensure that those claiming it are doing so fairly and in accordance with scheme rules. It is important the Department obtains assurance on the proper administration of the scheme.

For this reason the Department and Pobal will soon be undertaking verification checks against the scheme requirements. These checks will verify the level of compliance of each participating service with the TWSCS. We would ask you to read all of the materials carefully to ensure that you are meeting the scheme's financial and operational requirements. The checks will be carried out remotely, in line with HSE guidelines on social distancing.

Finally, we want to take this time to thank you for your ongoing work and cooperation during this difficult time. For the time being please continue to follow the HSE guidelines and only follow trusted sources for information concerning COVID-19.

Yours faithfully,

Early Years Finance Governance & Reform Compliance Team.