



Association of Childhood Professionals
The Professional Body Representing Practitioners in
Early Years and School Age Care & Education

An Taoiseach,

Our members are struggling to deliver early years schemes on behalf of your government. The sustainability of services is compromised as a result of insufficient investment, increased administrative duties, increases in rates valuations, etc.

Early Years Centres are expected to operate under a business model however due to state regulations and government contracts they are not in a position to do so and thus many experience sustainability issues that are compromising the quality of care and education that is afforded to our youngest citizens.

These sustainability issues are added to each and every time that your government does not pay it's bills on time. Many providers experience delays in their payments due to inefficiencies with systems and system administrators.

Providers can no longer be sure of when they will be paid and this is causing great emotional distress and financial difficulties as staff cannot be paid on time; revenue bills cannot be paid on time; mortgages cannot be paid on time, etc.

Many providers have had to take out bank loans and overdrafts as a result of these late payments and will incur bank charges as a result.

These late payments occur every year but this year is particularly bad. This practice is unacceptable and must stop.

Your government has an agenda to increase the quality of provision in early years care and education. I would suggest that first on this agenda should be a review of systems within the various departments to identify which ones are compromising this quality, e.g. Garda Vetting, payment for services delivered, inspections, etc.

We would appreciate a meeting with you, at your earliest convenience, to discuss these issues and to identify solutions that will result in better outcomes for all involved.

Yours sincerely,

Marian Quinn

Chairperson

Association of Childhood Professionals