



# The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Purnima Tanuku OBE  
Chief Executive  
National Day Nurseries Association

By email only

**Public Audit Committee**  
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24 October 2023

Dear Ms Tanuku,

## **Early learning and childcare: Progress on delivery of the 1,140 hours expansion**

The Public Audit Committee took evidence from the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) at its meeting on [5 October 2023](#) on the joint Auditor General for Scotland and Accounts Commission report, [Early learning and childcare: Progress on delivery of the 1,140 hours expansion](#).

During the meeting, the Committee sought to establish further information in relation to concerns recently raised by the National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) and reported in the media, regarding the uncertainty and sustainability of funding rates for Scottish nurseries. Indeed, the Committee noted that childcare businesses in around a third of council areas began the 2023/24 academic year without knowing how much they were being paid for funded places. The Committee further noted that from the information that was available, 18 councils intended to increase their funding rates, however the uplift ranged from 1.35% to 15.48%.


The Deputy Director for Early Learning and Childcare explained during the meeting that this information was based on a freedom of information (FOI) return from August 2023 and that several local authorities will now have set its rates for the 2023/24 academic year.

**The Committee would be interested to know whether the NDNA has undertaken any further work to review the funding rates for councils not originally included in the FOI return. If so, does this information indicate any improvement to the rate of funding for early learning and childcare for the 2023/24 academic year.**

**The NDNA is also invited to provide any other comments in response to the evidence session held with the Scottish Government and COSLA, should it wish to do so.**

I would be grateful if you could provide a response to this letter by **22 November 2023**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Leonard". The script is cursive and somewhat informal.

**Richard Leonard MSP  
Convener**