

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000691
Date 13 December 2016

Business Rates – Childcare Providers

Request:

On 15th January 2016 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the following guidance to Chief Finance Officers:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/395333/BRIL_1_-_2015_-_General_-_14_Jan.pdf

This guidance states:

- A. Ministers would like to encourage local authorities to consider using their business rates local discounts powers to support access to local high quality childcare provision.
- B. The Government believes the provision of high quality childcare is crucial to stopping development gaps emerging and ensuring all children get the best start in life ... We would therefore encourage authorities to consider using their powers to provide relief to childcare providers where there is a clear community benefit, such as where it would help with narrowing the gap, school readiness, or maternal employment. We would also like to remind authorities that central government funds 50% of the cost of any local discount granted.

Please can you let me know:

- 1. How many childcare providers in your Authority area are currently liable to pay business rates?
[32 childcare providers are liable for business rates.](#)
- 2. How many childcare providers in your Authority area currently pay business rates?
[27 childcare providers have a liability to pay.](#)
- 3. How many childcare providers in your Authority are currently receiving business rates discounts or relief?
[13 childcare providers are receiving discounts or relief.](#)
- 4. How many childcare providers have requested local discounts on their business rates, but have been declined by your Authority?
[In the past 12 months we have not declined any applications for discretionary relief.](#)

Please could you also forward me the minutes of any meetings at which these decisions were taken.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Decisions to extend or enhance the Councils discretionary relief scheme(s) are taken by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel. Reports and minutes are available on the council website at:

<http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=143>.