

Reference Number: FOI-101004466541

Response provided under: Freedom of Information Act 2000

Request and response:

- 1) How many settings were audited for attendance of children on 3 and 4 year funded places (both 15 and 30 hours)? Please specify below**

Type of setting	Summer 2017	Autumn 2017	Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Autumn 2018	Spring 2019
Private and independent	5	44		17		
Maintained / local authority	1	7		0		
Charity/ voluntary	3	11		0		

- 2) Amount clawed back from the settings audited**

Type of setting	Summer 2017	Autumn 2017	Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Autumn 2018	Spring 2019
Private and independent	£1,413.52	£14,558.23		£758.92		
Maintained/ local authority	£299.52	£884.00		0.00		
Charity/ voluntary	0.00	£571.16		0.00		

3) What happens to the money, allocated for children's places, that is taken back from these settings?

Money paid to providers comes from the Early Years Funding Block. Any money that has been claimed inappropriately by providers and is reclaimed by the local authority through the audit process is returned to that funding block. Last year a small amount of funding was left in the Early Years Block after contingency and SEN Inclusion Funding had been deducted. This underspend was then allocated to all children through the addition of a top up of 20p on the hourly rate for each child during the spring term.

4) Are all childcare settings (including childminders) audited?

There is an annual rolling programme in place where providers, including childminders, are randomly selected. This takes into account the size of the provider, location etc, this ensures that a wide variety of settings are audited. In addition audits can take place if there are concerns raised about a particular provider or if a request is made to look at a certain area, for example, there has been a focus on school nurseries countywide and childminders in a particular geographical location. There is a target set to audit 10% of providers annually, however, this target can be exceeded.

5) If not how are the settings that are audited chosen?

Not Applicable

6) What is the cost to the local authority for completing the audit? (eg: staff hours, postal costs, cost of wages for the panel that decides which setting has to pay back their funding).

There is no additional cost- this is part of the normal financial processes within the authority and is key to ensuring there is good financial management of the Early Years block. All processes have been audited by the council internal audit department to ensure they are robust and effective.

Information provided by: Together for Families

Date of response: 4th June 2019