

Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise
Ministear airson Clann, Daoine Òga is Cumail ris a' Ghealladh
Natalie Don MSP
Natalie Don BPA

Sue Webber MSP
Convener
Education, Children and Young People Committee
Ecyp.committee@parliament.scot

8 June 2022

Dear Convener

Data Pipeline project: data sharing for funded early learning and childcare for 2 year olds

I wrote to you on 18 April following my predecessor's appearance at the Committee on 08 March.

I agreed to write to the Committee once we had received relevant data from DWP and HMRC and we had made this available to Scottish local authorities.

I am pleased to advise that the data has been uploaded and local authorities will be able to access their list once they have signed the relevant data governance documentation.

Currently 15 local authorities have signed the relevant documentation and have access to their files on a secure digital platform, [Data Pipeline](#).

These local authorities can now access data on all the households in their area that have a child of the relevant age, eligible for funded ELC on the basis of a parent's receipt of a qualifying benefit.

The data they receive is the minimum needed for local authorities to fulfil the purpose of making eligible households aware of the local offer. The data cannot be used for any other purpose.

Files will be uploaded three times a year in advance of the termly 'start dates' set out in Regulations ([The Provision of Early Learning and Childcare \(Specified Children\) \(Scotland\) Order 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)).

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This data share is an important milestone towards supporting as many children and families as possible to benefit from high quality early learning and childcare.

This also means we will be able to provide a more accurate estimate of the size and distribution of the eligible population in due course. This requires some further work from Scottish Government analysts and we will provide a further update to the Committee once this is available.

I would like to thank the Committee for their interest in and support for this work.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Don', written in a cursive style.

NATALIE DON

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