

## **PE1648/Q**

Argyll and Bute Council Submission of 2 August 2017

Argyll and Bute Council have 21 properties with description of “Day Nursery” and 1 with the description “Playgroup”. They have a gross rates payable of £94,609.65:

- 11 are in receipt of small business bonus scheme
- 1 is in receipt of small business bonus scheme & Mandatory relief
- 1 is in receipt of Mandatory and Discretionary relief
- 1 is in receipt of Mandatory relief only
- 2 are on council schedules for payment of rates.

Total relief awarded is £39,670.58, leaving net rates payable of £54,939.07.

The figures do not include any group which occupies a property that is not described on the rates database as a registered nursery. This will include many facilities that operate from community owned halls, such as village halls. However, if such halls were multi use, and not used exclusively as registered nurseries, then the rates position might not change.

Council early learning and childcare provision is operated from school sites which are included in the overall school entry on the valuation roll. In the future, if rates are deemed to not be payable for such facilities the council might choose to separate early learning and childcare areas from the main school site.

The Scottish Government’s “A blueprint for 2020 the expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland” proposes to almost double early learning and childcare hourly provision from 600 to 1,140 per year by 2020. It is therefore important to sustain the current provision ahead of any expansion and any reduction in costs for providers would be welcomed and would possibly encourage more providers or social enterprises to deliver early learning and childcare.