



**PUBLIC PETITION NO.**

**PE01648**

**Name of petitioner**

Stephanie Dodds

**Petition title**

Nursery business rates

**Petition summary**

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to abolish or freeze business rates for nurseries.

**Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition**

I have contacted my local MSP and councillors with my concerns. I have also worked alongside the National Day Nurseries Association to try and resolve this issue.

**Petition background information**

Business rates and childcare providers

High-quality childcare makes a significant impact in narrowing gaps for the most disadvantaged children and giving all children the best start in life. Childcare provision is also an essential ingredient for economic growth, supporting parents to work and take up training.

A key issue for nurseries, like all small businesses, is balancing our books so we can deliver high-quality childcare, whilst remaining sustainable and keeping fees affordable for parents. The new rates increases put many of the nurseries in Scotland above the threshold for small business rates relief.

A key highlight for the Government is to invest in the Early Year provision with the new doubling of hours from 600 to 1140 hours due to commence in 2020. So we are really disappointed that the private sector nurseries have been hit with substantial increases in rates when we have been fighting alongside NDNA (National Day Nurseries Association) to have rates for nurseries abolished, and at best substantially reduced, not substantially increased!

**Unique web address**

<http://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01648>

**Related information for petition**

**Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?**

YES

**How many signatures have you collected so far?**

0

**Closing date for collecting signatures online**

09 / 05 / 2017

**Comments to stimulate online discussion**

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