

# Childcare Registration Requirements

## Consultation Response Form

The closing date for this consultation is: 4 July  
2007

Your comments must reach us by that date.

department for

**education and skills**

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**THIS FORM IS NOT INTERACTIVE. If you wish to respond electronically please use the online or offline response facility available on the Department for Education and Skills e-consultation website (<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations>).**

The information you provide in your response will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations, which allow public access to information held by the Department. This does not necessarily mean that your response can be made available to the public as there are exemptions relating to information provided in confidence and information to which the Data Protection Act 1998 applies. You may request confidentiality by ticking the box provided, but you should note that neither this, nor an automatically-generated e-mail confidentiality statement, will necessarily exclude the public right of access.

**Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.**

Name	David Hawker
Organisation (if applicable)	Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS)
Address:	Humanities Building Devas Street University of Manchester Oxford Road Manchester. M13 9PL

If your enquiry is related to the policy content of the consultation you can contact Sally Thatcher on:

Telephone: 0207 273 1180

e-mail: [sally.thatcher@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sally.thatcher@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

If you have a query relating to the consultation process you can contact the Consultation Unit on:

Telephone: 01928 794888

Fax: 01928 794 311

e-mail: [consultation.unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.unit@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)

Please tick one of the boxes below that best describes you as a respondent.

<input type="checkbox"/> Creche	<input type="checkbox"/> Childminder	<input type="checkbox"/> National Organisation
<input type="checkbox"/> Other daycare provider	Local Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Before/after school or holiday scheme provider
<input type="checkbox"/> Nanny/Babysitter	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent	x Other (please give details below):

Please Specify: Professional association representing directors of children's services appointed under the provisions of the *Children Act 2004* and other children's services professionals in leadership roles in local authorities in England.

The approach the Government is recommending means that many of the regulations for the new scheme of registration from 2008 will be based broadly on the existing requirements which are working well at present. There would be no significant changes to the regulations covering information to be supplied with applications for registration, the checks that Ofsted can carry out to corroborate the information, the details that would be included on registration certificates and the arrangements for suspension of registration.

1 Do you agree that these regulations form a sound basis for the new arrangements for registration by Ofsted?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
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Comments:

We agree that the existing system works.

The Government proposes that the initial requirements for registration mean that Ofsted has to make an assessment of the applicant's suitability to provide childcare, the suitability of the manager and the suitability of the premises. In the case of early years provision, Ofsted will also need to be satisfied that the applicant will be able to meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

2 Do you agree that the requirements to be met before an applicant is registered by Ofsted and starts to operate as a childcare provider cover the right areas?

<input type="checkbox"/> Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/> Not sure
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Comments:

Will there be requirements to go on the compulsory register specifying the percentage of qualified practitioners required, staff ratios, amount of space per child etc as with the Early Years Register? The proposed requirements are not satisfactory if the compulsory register is operated and checked in a similar way to the voluntary register.

For the Early Years Register will Ofsted take into account how long children will be with the provider – for example an after school club that is not run by the school which takes reception age children who attend part or full time at school.

The Partial Regulatory Impact Assessment which forms part of this consultation sets out an initial view of the costs and benefits of the Government's preferred approach to these regulations. Wherever possible the Government is seeking to minimise the cost to the private and voluntary sector of administration imposed by regulations. For childcare businesses this has to be balanced with the maintenance of necessary safeguards to children's safety and welfare.

3 Are there any aspects of the registration arrangements which could be changed to reduce the administration costs in respect of applicants for registration and registered providers?

Yes

X No

Not Sure

Comments: Cost should not be the main concern – the quality of the registration (and inspection) processes should be the main factor.

Other comments:

1. Concerned if the number of inspections is a token sample, as we have for the voluntary register, where only 10% of the applicants on this register will be inspected.
2. Concerned that crèches offering services for children from birth will not be on the early years register.

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views. We do not intend to acknowledge individual responses unless you place an 'X' in the box below.

**Please acknowledge this reply**

Here at the Department for Education and Skills we carry out our research on many different topics and consultations. As your views are valuable to us, would it be alright if we were to contact you again from time to time either for research or to send through consultation documents?

xYes  No

All UK national public consultations are required to conform to the following standards:

1. Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 12 weeks for written consultation at least once during the development of the policy.
2. Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.
3. Ensure that your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.
4. Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.
5. Monitor your department's effectiveness at consultation, including through the use of a designated consultation co-ordinator.
6. Ensure your consultation follows better regulation best practice, including carrying out a Regulatory Impact Assessment if appropriate.

Further information on the Code of Practice can be accessed through the Cabinet Office Website: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/consultation-guidance/content/introduction/index.asp>

**Thank you for taking time to respond to this consultation.**

Completed questionnaires and other responses should be sent to the address shown below by 4 July 2007

Send by post to: address,

Sally Thatcher  
Quality and Standards Division  
Area 2B Caxton House  
6-12 Tothill Street  
London SW1H 9NA

Send by e-mail to: [eyrocr.consultation@dfes.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:eyrocr.consultation@dfes.gsi.gov.uk)