Minimum ECCE Enrolment Exemptions

DCYA Procedures

In certain circumstances, a service may receive an exemption from the minimum number of ECCE children required per session. As per the ECCE Grant Funding Agreement:

The approved provider shall have a minimum daily enrolment of 8 children in pre-school room sessions who are eligible for the ECCE Programme. Subject to compliance with all other contractual requirements, exceptions will be considered by the Minister (through the CCCs) in the case of:

a) Approved providers who have a daily enrolment of at least 8 children, but for good reason, only 3 or more are in the ECCE Programme and the remainder are between the ages of 2½ and 6 years;

b) Smaller services which are considered appropriate settings for delivery of the pre-school programme, but for good reason, have a daily enrolment of not fewer than 5 ECCE eligible children in pre-school room sessions;

c) A service that has an ECCE room that is full but has children eligible for ECCE in a room that is also delivering the ECCE pre-school programme to a daily enrolment of not fewer than 5 children between 2½ and 6 years – subject to the requirement that ECCE staff qualification criteria are met; and

d) Tusla-registered childminders with a daily enrolment of 5 children between the ages of 2½ and 6 years.

Note: requirement of 8 ECCE children applies to each individual session in multi-session services.

Services must apply to their local CCC for one of the exemptions listed above. Applications will be processed by the DCYA.

Pobal Compliance will check for notification of approval of minimum ECCE enrolment exemptions during the course of a compliance visit prior to issuing of non-compliance based on insufficient enrolment numbers.

Service providers should keep copies of notification of approval to minimum enrolment exemptions on file for Pobal inspection.