

Annex

From: [redacted]@audit-scotland.gov.uk
Sent: 13 February 2018 09:38
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Early Learning and Childcare audit report

As requested.

[redacted]

From: Antony Clark [<mailto:aclark@audit-scotland.gov.uk>]
Sent: 01 February 2018 17:23
To: Johnston P (Paul); DG Education, Communities & Justice
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Early Learning and Childcare audit report

Dear Paul

When we met on the 16th January to discuss the draft audit report on Early learning and childcare we discussed the Scottish Government's recently published 'The expansion of early learning and childcare evaluation report 2017'. As that evaluation report was published after we had issued our factual accuracy clearance draft report we agreed to let you know how intend to reflect its findings in our final audit report.

We have updated our audit report to describe the evaluation overall, which we refer to as including a range of measures of how services have changed and a large-scale survey of parents.

We also make some specific references to more detailed findings, including:

- high parent satisfaction with the quality of ELC
- changes to flexibility in terms of the increase in provision available out with the school day
- parent survey results around lack of awareness as reason for not using funded ELC
- parent survey results on not knowing how to apply for funded ELC and the difficulty of the application process.

In addition, we report that the evaluation does not assess the impact on outcomes for parents and their children as these are anticipated to be longer-term outcomes. We highlight that the evaluation report states that the expansion to 600 hours was a limited increase in the number of hours of ELC that children receive and is not expected to lead to a measurable change in children's outcomes (as discussed at our meeting). We conclude this reflects a lack of planning for the specific outcomes that the change was anticipated to achieve.

We updated one of our key messages to reflect your evaluation report's finding that it is too early to report on longer term outcomes and that the increase to 600 hours is not expected to lead to a measurable change in children's outcomes.

We also highlight that the evaluation report sets out some baseline information for the expansion to 1,140, to help monitor short-term outcomes over time, and you are continuing to work with partners to develop measures of longer-term outcomes.

In addition to these updates, following publication of your evaluation report, we have made a number of edits to the report to be clearer around our presentation of registration statistics. We have also updated other information and timelines for ongoing work, based on the information provided by your team.

I hope this update is helpful. Please feel free to contact me should you have any queries about this.

Best wishes

Antony

Antony Clark
Assistant Director (PABV)

From: [redacted]
Sent: 13 February 2018 08:25
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]Griffin J (Joe)
Subject: RE: ELC report publication

[redacted],

Thank you for sharing the embargoed copy. Would it be possible to see a summary note of the changes made since the clearance draft please?

Kind regards,
[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted] @audit-scotland.gov.uk
Sent: 12 February 2018 09:34
To: [redacted] [redacted]
Cc: Griffin J (Joe); [redacted]
Subject: RE: ELC report publication

Will do [redacted]

Thanks,
[redacted].

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 09 February 2018 17:54
To: [redacted]; [redacted]
Cc: Joe.Griffin@gov.scot; [redacted]
Subject: ELC report publication

[redacted]

I understand that you will send across an embargoed copy of the ELC report at the beginning of next week (as set out in the protocol agreed between the AGS and SG). I'm on

leave Monday to Wednesday, back in the office on Thursday, so could you please ensure that Joe and [redacted], who are copied into this email, receive the embargoed copy in my absence?

Thanks very much

[redacted]

[redacted]



ELC_Clearance_letter.docx



MORI_Parent_experience_report.pdf



ELC_Clearance_draft_report.pdf

From: [redacted] @audit-scotland.gov.uk

Sent: 18 December 2017 15:29

To: DG Education, Communities & Justice; Johnston P (Paul)

Cc: Director for Children and Families; Griffin J (Joe); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Caroline Gardner; Fraser McKinlay; Antony Clark; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: Audit Scotland - Clearance draft of report on Early Learning and Childcare

Dear Mr Johnston,

Please find attached the clearance version of our report 'Early learning and childcare' and the accompanying letter from the Auditor General. I have also attached the report on parent experiences that MORI prepared for us, as we refer to it in the main report.

The team and I are looking forward to meeting you to discuss the draft report on 10th January.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]



Exhibit 5.docx

From: [redacted]

Sent: 24 January 2018 17:35

To: [redacted]@audit-scotland.gov.uk

Cc: [redacted] @audit-scotland.gov.uk

Subject: FW: ELC audit - Copy of settlement and distribution group paper

Hi [redacted]

Thanks very much for sight of the updated exhibit.

Yes, this is an accurate reflection of the governance landscape. Two small points of detail on the ELC Strategic Forum for awareness – the Minister's title is Minister for Childcare and Early Years, and SDS were only recently invited to join the Forum and so have yet to attend a meeting.

Best wishes

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 22 January 2018 09:24

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]; ELC Programme Office

Subject: RE: ELC audit - Copy of settlement and distribution group paper

Hi [redacted]

Apologies – the first meeting of the Monitoring and Evaluation Group was in January 2017 not January 2016. The original intention was for the governance of this group to be provided by the Strategic Evidence Group as set out in the original roles and remit paper.

The Strategic Evidence Group last met in February 2017 and the governance of the Monitoring and Evaluation Group is now discharged via the Project Steering Group (which reports onwards to Programme Board). The roles and remit paper will be updated accordingly.

The Skills Investment Plan Steering Group met for the first time on 26 October 2016.

The PMO is collating the other items discussed with [redacted] and I'll chase these up today.

Best wishes

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@audit-scotland.gov.uk

Sent: 18 January 2018 14:47

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: ELC audit - Copy of settlement and distribution group paper

Hi [redacted]

Many thanks for sending this through. Could I also ask for help in clarifying something else?

One of the clearance comments we received suggests that the strategic evidence group 'was replaced by the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group - first meeting was in Jan 2016'. The papers we have indicate that the first meeting of the monitoring and evaluation group was in January 2017, so I just wanted to check whether this was a typo? We also have papers for a Strategic Evidence Group meeting in Feb 17. Also in the papers we have, the initial role and remit of the monitoring and evaluation group suggests it will report into the Strategic Evidence Group.

I'm just wondering if you could confirm that the Monitoring and Evaluation Group did replace the Strategic Evidence Group and, if so, when did the Strategic Evidence Group stop and the Monitoring and Evaluation Group start?

Could you also let me know when the Skills Investment Plan Steering Group started?

If you could confirm these then I can make sure the exhibit in our report is updated accordingly.

Many thanks in advance for your help with this.

Best wishes

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 18 January 2018 13:21
To: [redacted]]@audit-scotland.gov.uk; [redacted]@audit-scotland.gov.uk
Cc: ELCProgrammeOffice@gov.scot
Subject: ELC audit - Copy of settlement and distribution group paper



Paper 25 ELC
2018-19 funding...

[redacted]

Please find attached a copy of the paper on ELC funding which was considered by the settlement and distribution group on Tuesday 16 January. As discussed with [redacted], local authority directors of finance on the group were content to recommend the revenue distribution proposals to Leaders, but have deferred making a recommendation on distribution of capital funding for 2018-19 pending agreement of the quantum of the multi-year funding package.

Please let me know if you need any further information on this. I will arrange for the other information you requested to be sent on to you as soon as possible.

Best wishes

[redacted]

[redacted]_____

From: [redacted]]@audit-scotland.gov.uk
Sent: 25 January 2018 14:50
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: ELC audit - Copy of settlement and distribution group paper

Hi [redacted]

Many thanks for this confirmation and for the points of detail – much appreciated.

Best wishes

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 16 January 2018 09:32
To: [redacted]]@audit-scotland.gov.uk; [redacted]]@audit-scotland.gov.uk
Cc: ELC Programme Office
Subject: ELC audit - Follow up information

[redacted], [redacted]

Sorry to miss the meeting with Paul last week, which I hear went well.

Paul will formally respond to the Auditor General's letter today, confirming our comments on factual accuracy which mainly refer to presentation of statistics (in particular, the number of registrations rather than the number of children), updates to timelines and clarification on qualification requirements for the additional graduate commitment.

You have hopefully received a copy of the evaluation report now, but if not here's a link to the full publication. We'd be happy to provide any supporting information that you may find helpful, including any further information on the findings of our parent survey.
<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/expansion-early-learning-childcare-evaluation-report-2017/>

You may also be aware that Skills Development Scotland published the Skills Investment Plan for the sector last week.

On funding, I've attached a copy of the letter which we issued to local authorities in December (with apologies if we did not forward this to you before Christmas). The Settlement and Distribution Group will consider distribution proposals for revenue and capital funding for ELC this afternoon. I can forward on that paper and update you on the outcome of the meeting if helpful.



UNRECORDED_14-01-18...

I'm conscious that many elements of policy and delivery will keep moving between now and publication of the audit report (and beyond). Please let me know if it would be helpful for us to catch up, either before or after publication, and we'll continue to ensure that you're copied into key documents. I'd also be happy to set up regular catch up meetings, maybe quarterly, if that would be helpful in anticipation of future audit activity.

Best wishes

[redacted]

[redacted]



From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** DG Education, Communities & Justice

Sent: 16 January 2018 14:25

To: [redacted]@audit-scotland.gov.uk; Caroline Gardner

Cc: DG Education, Communities & Justice; Director for Children and Families; Griffin J (Joe); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; DG Scottish Exchequer Mailbox; Chief Financial Officer; Fraser McKinlay; Antony Clark; [redacted]; [redacted]; Johnstone P (Paul)

Subject: RE: Audit Scotland - Clearance draft of report on Early Learning and Childcare

Dear [redacted],

Please find attached a letter from Paul Johnston for the attention of the Auditor General.

Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]



From: [redacted]@audit-scotland.gov.uk

Sent: 18 December 2017 15:29

To: DG Education, Communities & Justice; Johnstone P (Paul)

Cc: Director for Children and Families; Griffin J (Joe); [redacted]; [redacted]; DG Scottish Exchequer Mailbox; Chief Financial Officer; Caroline Gardner; Fraser McKinlay; Antony Clark; [redacted]; [redacted]

Subject: Audit Scotland - Clearance draft of report on Early Learning and Childcare

Dear Mr Johnston,

Please find attached the clearance version of our report 'Early learning and childcare' and the accompanying letter from the Auditor General. I have also attached the report on parent experiences that MORI prepared for us, as we refer to it in the main report.

The team and I are looking forward to meeting you to discuss the draft report on 10th January.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

[redacted]

