

Gillian Baranski  
Chief Inspector, Care Inspectorate Wales

06 February 2025

**Formal 'concerns' about children's day care providers**

Dear Gillian,

Thank you for giving evidence to us on 9 January 2025 about your annual report. We found the session useful and informative.

One of the questions we asked was about formal 'concerns' about children's day-care providers. We asked for your comments about the substantial increase in 'concerns' from 324 in 2020-21 to 552 in 2023-24. This data was taken from StatsWales, and is set out in figure 1 below.

**Figure 1. Care Inspectorate Wales concerns about children's day care providers. Source: StatsWales, 'CIW Services and Concerns by Setting, Type and Year.'**

Setting type	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
<b>Children's Day Care (total)</b>	324	528	549	552
Childminders	80	92	83	72
Creches	1	2	-	-
Full Day Care	210	379	385	382
Open Access Play Provision	-	2	-	1
Out of School Care	10	22	14	20
Sessional Day Care	10	32	28	17
Children's Day Care - Not Known	14	-	37	6

In response, you told us:

*"Interestingly, the concerns in 2022-23 were at 591, in 2023-24 they were 526, and this year, to date, we're on 392, compared to 534 and 576. So, we are actually starting to see a decrease in concerns in our childcare and play work, which we found quite encouraging."*

We would be grateful if you could clarify to which setting(s) your figures relate, and why there appears to be a difference between your own internal figures and those published online by StatsWales.

The same data source also indicates that the total number of 'full day care' places specifically has risen from 39,134 in March 2021 to 42,629 in March 2024. The number of concerns about 'full day care' providers over that same period has increased considerably, although it has remained relatively stable since 2021-22. See figure 2 below.

**Figure 2. Care Inspectorate Wales concerns about 'full day care' providers specifically, set against the total number of places provided by 'full day care' providers. Source: StatsWales, 'CIW Services and Concerns by Setting Type and Year'; StatsWales, 'CIW Services and Places by Setting Type and Year'**

<b>'Full day care' settings only</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
<b>Total number of places (as at March)</b>	39,134	39,412	40,510	42,629
<b>Formal 'concerns'</b>	210	379	385	382
<b>Concerns as a percentage of places</b>	0.54%	0.96%	0.95%	0.90%

These new childcare places are very welcome. However, we would appreciate your views on what appears to be a sharp increase in the proportion of concerns relative to total places between 2021 and 2024. Specifically, what is the reason for this and is there any link between the rise in concerns about 'full day care' providers and the demands of expanding the Childcare Offer for Wales and Flying Start Childcare?

If you would like any further information or clarity of the source of the figures above please don't hesitate to contact the Committee clerks at any time. Otherwise, we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Buffy Williams MS  
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.