## **Early Learning and Childcare Data Consultation**

Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) is a service that provides education and care for children who are not yet at school. Services providing ELC can include (but are not limited to) nurseries, playgroups, parent and toddler groups, crèches and childminders. ELC is a key priority area for the Scottish Government, who are committed to developing a high quality, flexible system that is accessible and affordable for all. Further information can be found at: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/early-years/parenting-early-learning/childcare">www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/early-years/parenting-early-learning/childcare</a>.

Recently, ELC services have expanded, with plans for further expansion underway. This has both emphasised the importance of accurate data (such as, the number of children attending ELC) for this sector, and led to a shift in the nature of the data which is required. This consultation seeks views on the **current and anticipated future use and needs of ELC data**. Questions are also asked about the storage and provision of data, as well as the use of published ELC data.

Responses are welcomed from anyone with an interest in the collection and/or use of (ELC) data, including: members of the public; service providers; organisations involved in delivering ELC; local and central government; parents; and academia. You may respond on behalf of an organisation, or as an individual. It is essential that views are gathered from a range of people so as complete an understanding of need as possible is achieved, and recommended changes are practical for all.

Findings from the consultation will be instrumental in the development of more relevant and timely data sources for the ELC sector going forward. A review of the Scottish Government ELC census is currently in progress; consultation responses will feed directly in to this work.

Many thanks for your time and assistance with this important piece of work.

### Additional background information

The Scottish Government is committed to developing a high quality, flexible system of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) that is accessible and affordable for all children and families across Scotland. The purpose is to improve outcomes for children; and, to support parents and carers with work, training or study.

In support of this aim, the Scottish Government:

- Increased the funded places entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds from 475 hours / year to 600 hours / year;
- Extended this entitlement to over a quarter of 2 year olds who are looked after or under a kinship or guardianship order; who have parent in receipt of out of work benefits; or, who have a parent on low income (under Free School Lunch criteria);
- Introduced a duty on local authorities to provide choice and flexibility of how those mandatory hours are accessed, informed by consultation with parents.

In addition, the Scottish Government has also committed to extending the entitlement to ELC further to 1,1,40 hours/year by the end of the next Parliament. This is a transformation in how we design and deliver ELC, integrated with school and out of school care.

It is recognised that changes to data collection are required to reflect policy changes, provide evidence of implementation and outcomes, and evaluate how policy changes are working. This is coupled with the ambition to improve data accuracy and usability, as well as to identify information gaps.

The Scottish Government has established an ELC Strategic Evidence Group, consisting of representation from across the sector, to oversee this work and develop new research activity. In addition, an ELC Census Development Advisory Group has been established (as a sub-group of the strategic evidence group) to look specifically at how to improve the statistical data we collect and publish on ELC.

This consultation is linked to the transformation of the statistical collection, however, there are questions about the wider requirements of data and responses will be considered within this context. There will be further work to establish wider evidence which may be captured more appropriately through quantitative and qualitative research, such as the implementation of consultation with parents; and, flexibility and choice.

<u>To note:</u> there are questions which ask about 'funding' and 'funded ELC places' - in this context of this consultation this relates only to that secured by the local authority for the delivery of the statutory entitlement to 600 hours for 3 and 4 year olds and certain 2 year olds under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014. This does not refer to funding received via other means e.g. from colleges, through childcare vouchers or tax credits; these places should be treated as non-funded for the purposes of this consultation.

# Section One: About you and your responses

The following questions ask for some information about you so we can better understand your interest in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) and data.

Q 1) Are you responding as an individual or on benalf	or an organisation?
Tick one only  ☐ As an individual	(so to supption 2)
<ul> <li>☐ On behalf of a group or organisation(s)</li> </ul>	(go to question 3) (go to question 2)
□ On benall of a group of organisation(s)	(go to question 2)
Q 2) Please write the name of the group or organisation	on(s) represented
Q 3) Who or which sector are you responding on beha	alf of?
☐ Central government	
☐ Local government	
☐ Public body (non-Government)	
☐ ELC provider – local authority	
☐ ELC provider – private	
☐ ELC provider – third sector	
☐ ELC provider – childminder	
☐ ELC umbrella/network group	
☐ Parent – individual	
☐ Parent – representative group	
☐ Academic	
☐ Other, please specify	
/	
Q 4) Do you or your organisation provide ELC (i.e. ed not yet at school, perhaps as a nursery, playgroup, children Tick one only  \[ \sum \text{Yes}  \text{(go to question 5)} \]	
□ No (go to question 6)	
(go to question o)	
Q 5) Does this include funded ELC (i.e. the statutory f and 4 year olds and certain 2 year olds under the Chil 2014)?  Tick one only  ☐ Yes ☐ No	

# Section Two: How data is held

This section asks questions about how data that you may have for assisting in the delivery, implementation or monitoring of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) is held.

<b>Q 6)</b> Do you or your organisation hold data of ELC?	about the c	delivery, implementation or monitoring
Tick one only		
$\square$ Yes, for funded ELC only		(go to question 7)
$\square$ Yes, for non-funded ELC only		(go to question 7)
$\square$ Yes, for both funded and non-fur	nded ELC	(go to question 7)
☐ No, do not hold ELC data		(go to question 13)
Q 7) Do you hold data on individual childre	n within ELC	C?
Tick one only		
☐ Yes, for all children		
□ No		
Q 8) Do you hold ELC data electronically?		
Tick one only		
☐ Yes, for all children	(go to	question 9)
$\square$ Yes, for some children	(go to	question 9)
☐ No (go to question 10)		
Q 9) If yes, what software do you use?		
Tick all that apply		
☐ Spreadsheets e.g. Excel	(go to ques	stion 11)
☐ Electronic database e.g. Access	(go to ques	stion 11)
☐ SEEMiS	(go to ques	stion 11)
□ NAMS / NAMS 2	(go to ques	stion 11)
☐ Other, please specify		(go to question 11)
Q 10) If no, please give details of how info	rmation is h	neld
Q 11) Can your data collection system (ele	ectronic or o	therwise) be adapted to include new
data items or make changes to existing da	ta items?	
Tick one only		
$\square$ Yes, with little or no difficulty		
<ul> <li>Yes, but with some difficulty</li> </ul>		
□ No		

<b>Q 12)</b> Please provide details of ELC data electronically?	anything which would make it easier for you to hold or store

### Section Three: Data use, collection and gaps

☐ Yes

□No

We are interested to find out what data is available and in use across the sector for the delivery, implementation or monitoring of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC). Information will be held by a variety of people and organisations, including: service providers, e.g. ELC settings, childminders; governing bodies, e.g. local authorities; national organisations e.g. Early Years Scotland, National Day Nurseries Association, Scottish Childminding Association; and overseeing bodies, e.g. Care Inspectorate, Education Scotland.

We are also looking to find out if there is demand for information over and above what is already available.

Please note, if you do not hold or collect ELC data, answer part b) only.

Please note, if you do not hold or collect ELC data, answer part b) only.				
The following questions ask about y <b>ELC settings</b> .	our coll	ection (if applicable) ar	nd use of data items <b>about</b>	
Q 13) Number of settings providing	ng ELC			
a) Do you hold or collect this data	a?			
Total with LA funding Total with no LA funding Total overall  b) Do you/would you use this data	Yes	No, but could	No, and could not	
b) Do you/would you use this data				
Total with LA funding Total with no LA funding Total overall	Yes  □ □ □	No, but could ☐ ☐ ☐		
Q 14) Postcode/local authority of ELC setting				
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could ☐ No, and could not				
b) Do you/would you use this data  ☐ Yes ☐ No	a?			
Q 15) Sector of provision (e.g. local authority, private, not for profit)				
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could ☐ No, and could not				
b) Do you/would you use this data	a?			

Q 16) Type of provision (e.g. nursery, playgroup, childminder)				
a) Do you hold or collect this da  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but o		□No, and could not	t	
b) Do you/would you use this d □ Yes □No	ata?			
Q 17) Registered capacity (i.e. r time)	naximum	number of children w	ho can attend at any one	
a) Do you hold or collect this da ☐ Yes ☐ No, but o		□No, and could not	t	
<b>b) Do you/would you use this d</b> □ Yes □ No	ata?			
Q 18) Sessions offered by setting	ng			
a) Do you hold or collect this da ☐ Yes ☐ No, but o		□No, and could not	t	
b) Do you/would you use this d ☐ Yes ☐ No	ata?			
Q 19) Number of children enrol	led to att	end		
a) Do you hold or collect this da	ata?			
Total with LA funding Total with no LA funding Total overall	Yes  □ □ □	No, but could	No, and could not	
b) Do you/would you use this d	ata?			
Total with LA funding Total with no LA funding Total overall	Yes	No, but could		
Q 20) Number of free lunches service is providing				
a) Do you hold or collect this da ☐ Yes ☐ No, but o		□No, and could not	t	
<b>b) Do you/would you use this d</b> □ Yes □ No	ata?			

The following questions relate specifically to **teacher access within ELC settings**. Teachers in this context are those registered with the GTCS only.

Q 21) Arrangements for access to (a GTCS registered) teacher (e.g. centre base)

visiting on a timetabled basis, ad hoc)	registered) teacher (e.g. centre based,
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Q 22) Frequency of (GTCS registered) ac	cess (e.g. daily, weekly, fortnightly)
a) Do you hold or collect this data?	
☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Q 23) Number of hours of (GTCS register	red) teacher access
a) Do you hold or collect this data?	
☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Q 24) Number of children with access to	a (GTCS registered) teacher
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No	
The following questions ask about your colle individual children.	ection (if applicable) and use of data items about
Q 25) Gender	
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No	

<ul> <li>Q 26) Age / date of birth</li> <li>a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could</li> <li>b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No</li> </ul>	□No, and could not
Q 27) Home local authority	
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Q 28) Home language	
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Q 29) Ethnicity	
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Q 30) If have disability	
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data? ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Q 31) If require additional support for lea	arning (ASL)
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No	

<b>Q 32) If have co-ordinated support plan</b> (this is required for children who have additional support needs arising from complex or multiple factors which require a high degree of co-ordination of support from education authorities and other agencies)				
a) Do you hold or collect ☐ Yes ☐ No	this data? o, but could	□No, and o	could not	
b) Do you/would you use ☐ Yes ☐ No				
The following questions as	k more spec	ifically about <b>chil</b>	dren's enrolment at ELC setti	ngs.
Q 33) Number settings en	rolled to at	tend		
a) Do you hold or collect	this data?			
Funded by LA Not funded by LA Total	Yes	No, but could	No, and could not	
b) Do you/would you use	this data?			
Funded by LA Not funded by LA Total	Yes  □ □	No, but could		
Q 34) Sessions/days enro	olled to atte	nd		
a) Do you hold or collect	this data?			
Funded by LA Not funded by LA Total	Yes	No, but could	No, and could not	
b) Do you/would you use	this data?			
Funded by LA Not funded by LA Total	Yes  □ □ □	No, but could		
Q 35) Sector of provision	enrolled to	attend (i.e. local	authority, private, not for profit)	
a) Do you hold or collect  ☐ Yes ☐ No	this data?	□No, and o	could not	

b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No
□ 163 □140
Q 36) Type of provision enrolled to attend (i.e. nursery, playgroup, childminder)
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could ☐ No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No
Q 37) If received 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> choice placement
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could ☐ No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No
Q 38) If enrolled in ELC setting outwith home LA (i.e. cross border placement)
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could ☐ No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No
Q 39) Reason for those aged 2 receiving funded ELC (e.g. looked after, parents on benefits)
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could ☐ No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No
The following questions ask about your collection (if applicable) and use of data items about members of <b>ELC staff (including yourself,</b> if applicable).
Q 40) Total number of staff
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could ☐ No, and could not

b) Do you/would you ☐ Yes	u <b>se this data?</b> □No	
Q 41) Full time equiv	ralent / number of l	hours worked
a) Do you hold or co ☐ Yes	llect this data? □No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you ☐ Yes	use this data? □No	
Q 42) Age		
a) Do you hold or co	llect this data?	
☐ Yes	$\square$ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you	use this data?	
☐ Yes	□No	
Q 43) Gender		
a) Do you hold or co	llect this data?	
☐ Yes	$\square$ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you	use this data?	
☐ Yes	□No	
Q 44) Ethnicity		
a) Do you hold or co	llect this data?	
□ Yes	$\square$ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you	use this data?	
□ Yes	□No	
Q 45) If have disabili	ty	
a) Do you hold or co	llect this data?	
☐ Yes	□No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you	use this data?	
□ Yes		

The following questions ask more specifically about the **work undertaken by staff, their qualifications and experience**.

Q 46) Job type/function	
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Q 47) SSSC registration category (if app	plicable)
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Q 48) GTCS registration number	
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Q 49) Qualifications held	
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Q 50) Length of time in current post	
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Q 51) Previous ELC experience	
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not

b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Q 52) Functions undertaken in ELC setting	
a) Do you hold or collect this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No, but could	□No, and could not
b) Do you/would you use this data?  ☐ Yes ☐ No	
Q 53) Please provide details of any other dat currently hold or use to assist with the deliver	•
	ELC at an aggregate level. Double census, which collects information on
<b>Q 54)</b> How important is it for your purposes to double counting has been removed) is able to registrations?	•
Tick one only  ☐ 1 (Very) ☐ 2 ☐ 3	
☐ 4 (Not at all)	
Q 55) Please provide details of any other EL0 like gathered on ELC, stating the reasons wh	C data, not already mentioned, that you would y this is required.

# **Q 56)** Do you use ELC data to assist with any of the following:

Select appropriate option for each type of use

	Yes, and only need information updated yearly	Yes, and need information updated more frequently than yearly	No
Day to day management			
Service planning			
Improving services			
Funding allocations and/or reporting			
Policy development and evaluation			
Reporting at Scotland level			
Reporting at local authority level			
Benchmarging/ reporting against			
targets or key indicators			
Research or analysis			
General awareness of issues/trends			

# Section Four: Providing data

This section asks about Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) data that you are asked to provide.

Q 57) Do you provide data for any of the following purposes?		
Tick all that apply  ☐ Not required to provide ELC data for any purpose	(go to question 60)	
☐ To local authority	(go to question 58)	
☐ Scottish Government ELC census	(go to question 58)	
☐ Care Inspectorate Annual returns and/or inspections	(go to question 58)	
☐ Education Scotland inspections	(go to question 58)	
☐ Other	(go to question 58)	
Q 58) Is there overlap in data requested for different purposes?		
Tick one only		
☐ Yes (go to question 59) ☐ No (go to question 60)		
(go to question oo)		
Q 59) If yes, please provide details of any overlap		
Q 60) How frequently could you provide up to date ELC data (ple	ease answer, even if you do	
not have to provide ELC data currently for any purpose)?  Tick all that apply		
□ Daily		
□ Weekly		
☐ Monthly		
□ Every term		
☐ Yearly		
☐ Other, please specify		
Q 61) Please provide details of anything that would make it more	helpful for you to provide	
ELC data.	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	

# Section Five: Use of published Early Learning and Childcare Data

This section asks about your use of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) data, from a range of published sources.

The Scottish Government ELC data is published, alongside schools data each December, and provides information relating to services delivering funded ELC. There is high level information available in the 'Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland' publication, with more detailed information available in the 'Additional Early Learning and Childcare Tables'. The most recent data relates to September 2014 and can be accessed via the links below.

Learning and Childcare (ELC) census?  Tick one only  Yes  No, but intend to in the future  No			(go to question (go to question (go to question	64)		
Q 63) In general, how oft data through the publicat Select appropriate option	-	-		ish Gover	nment El	₋C censu
	Weekly	Monthly	Three or four times a year	Twice a year	Once a year	Less often
Summary information available in publication			tilles a year	ycai	a year	Official
Additional ELC tables						
<b>Q 64)</b> Please provide any	•	k you have	on the Scottish	Governme	ent ELC o	census

Care Inspectorate undertake an annual data return from all day care of children and childminding services, which they publish in Autumn each year. The most recent Childcare Statistics were published in October 2015 and can be accessed via the link below:

## Care Inspectorate Statistics

<b>Q 65)</b> Do you currently use the Childcare Statistics data collected by the Care Inspectorate? Tick one only
□ Yes
$\square$ No, but intend to in the future $\square$ No
Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) publish information on the number of services registered (with SSSC) and the social services workforce in Scotland. This presents information for childcare agencies, day care of children services and childminding services. Data is published in their Scottish Social Services Sector: Report on Workforce data; the most recent publication relates to 2014 and can be found at the following link:
SSSC Workforce report
Q 66) Do you currently use the Workforce Statistics collected by SSSC?
Tick one only
☐ Yes
<ul><li>□ No, but intend to in the future</li><li>□ No</li></ul>
Q 67) Do you use published ELC data from elsewhere?
Tick one only
☐ No ☐ Yes, please specify

# Section Six: Timing of the Scottish Government Early Learning and Childcare Census

Currently, the Scottish Government Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) census takes place over a named week in September to coincide with the collection of pupil and teacher data from schools. The results are published together in the Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland publication to provide a comprehensive overview of publicly funded education services from ages 3 to 18 (to note: this includes certain 2 year olds who are also eligible for funded ELC). Having the data collections at the same time specifically allows consistent and comparable data to be gathered on teachers to monitor the total number, which local authorities have a commitment to maintain.

However, as entry to ELC is phased across the year based on a child's birthday (this applies to 2 and 3 year olds only), undertaking the ELC census in September means information is only gathered for those eligible to attend at term 1. This means there is no national data gathered on the total number of children in ELC over the whole year (i.e. from terms 1,2 and 3).

The following questions gather views on the timing of the ELC census collection and the importance of the issues outlined above.

Q 68) How important is it that the ELC census information is presented alongside (i.e. in the same place/publication as) that for schools? Tick one only □ 1 (Very) □ 2 □ 3 ☐ 4 (Not at all) Q 69) How important is it that the ELC census information relates to the same time period as that for schools? Tick one only ☐ 1 (Very) □ 2  $\square$  3 ☐ 4 (Not at all) Q 70) How important is it that the total number of children (i.e. from terms 1, 2 and 3, as opposed to those at term 1 only), in ELC is able to be reported? Tick one only

□ 1 (Verv)

☐ 4 (Not at all)

□ 2 □ 3

<b>Q 71)</b> What would be the most useful time to collect ELC census data for you? Tick one only			
☐ Term 1 (Aug-Dec)			
<ul><li>□ Term 2 (Jan-Mar)</li><li>□ Term 3 (Apr-Jun)</li></ul>			
☐ No preference			
Q 72) What impact would moving the time of the ELC census collection, to a different time from the school census collection, have on you or your organisation?			
Q 73) How frequently would you like up to date ELC data gathered and published?			
Tick one only			
☐ Every two years			
□ Every year			
☐ Once a term			
☐ Other, please specify			

# Q 74) Please provide any further feedback related to Early Learning and Childcare data.

Section Seven: Further feedback

# Section Eight: Your details

Many thanks for taking the time to complete the consultation. Your response is very much appreciated and will be used to help inform decisions about the future of the collection of early learning and childcare data.

Please now let us know how you wish for your responses to be handled.

Q 75) As recommended by the UK statistics Authority, a summary of the results of this consultation will be made publically available. Do you agree to your text responses being included in this document?  Tick one only  Yes – attributed to myself or my organisation  Yes – anonymously  No					
Q 76) Would you be happy for the Scottish Government to contact you if we need to clarify					
your re	esponse?				
	☐ Yes	(go to question 77)			
	□ No	(end of survey)			
Q 77)	Name				
Q 78) Telephone Number					
Q 79) Email address					