

Dear

## **ATISN 24870: Request for information on nursery registrations and closures**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request dated 26/06/2025. Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to your request as it had not been referred to the relevant team for handling.

You asked for the following information:

- 1. For each of the financial years 2019–20, 2020–21, 2021–22, and 2022–23, please provide:**
  - a) The total number of registered nurseries in Wales at the start and end of each year.**
  - b) The number of nurseries that permanently closed during each year.**
  - c) If available, any recorded reasons for these closures (e.g., financial insolvency, insufficient funding, staffing shortages).**
- 2. Please confirm the source of this data (e.g., CIW, NDNA, Welsh Government internal records).**

### **Our response**

We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The information you requested, where we are able to provide it, is as follows

#### **1a) The total number of registered nurseries in Wales at the start and end of each year.**

In our acknowledgement to your request on 20/08/2025, we provided links to published data on Stats Wales which includes the number of nurseries (Full Day Care services) registered in Wales as at the end of each financial year up to March 2024:

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Services-for-Social-Care-and-Childrens-Day-Care/care-services-and-places-regulated-by-the-care-inspectorate-wales/cssiwservicesandplaces-by-setting-year>

#### **1b) The number of nurseries that permanently closed during each year.**

CIW does not record whether a service permanently closed. The number of nurseries (Full Day Care Services) which cancelled their registration with CIW during each financial year requested is in the table below.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>Total number of Full Day Care services cancelled</b>	60	86	104	79

Some of these nurseries may not however have closed. Some may have changed owner and so were re-registered under a new service provider, or there may have been a change to the legal status of the existing service provider, such as to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), or they may have moved to new premises. In these circumstances the existing registration of the service would have been cancelled, but the service continued to operate under the new provider, legal entity, or premises.

Unfortunately, CIW has not historically captured this information in a way that allows us to report on this. The reasons for cancellation were captured within free-text fields on the individual application forms to cancel the service.

We are therefore unable to give accurate figures indicating how many nurseries closed permanently during the period covered by your request. However, there is some information for 2022-2023 which is included within our response to question **1c** below.

### **1c) Any recorded reasons for these closures.**

As above, CIW has not historically captured this information in a way that allows us to report on this as the reasons for cancellation were captured within free-text fields on the individual application forms to cancel the service.

However, some analysis was done on the applications to cancel made during 2022-2023 onwards. The reasons given within the free-text fields was categorised by CIW as part of this analysis.

We can therefore provide the reasons given by the service providers for cancellation of Full Day Care service for the financial year 2022-2023, taken from this analysis of the free-text fields. This is within the table below. We are unable to provide this for any of the other years covered by your request.

<b>Reason for cancellation – Full Day Care Services – 2022-2023</b>	<b>Number of services</b>
Change of circumstances	3
Change of legal status	10
Change of premises	6
Error in registration	1
Health issues	1
Issues with lease/premises	7
No longer providing a service	2
No longer viable	11
Not re-opened after COVID	1
Service transferring to a new provider	32
Staffing issues	4
Termination of contract	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>

### **2). The source of the data.**

This data is from Care Inspectorate Wales' records. The reasons for cancellation of the services in 2022-2023 is from analysis of information provided by individual service providers.

## **Next steps**

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ

or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely