

FOI Request - Sustainable Rate from 1.4.24 - 101003541445

1) What will your new Sustainable Rate be from the 01 April 2024 following the funding uplift announced by the Scottish Government, please specify rates for "Eligible 2s" and "3-5 year-olds"?

Moray ELC Hourly Rate and Meal Rate for the period 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025. This was agreed in December 2023, prior to the guidance from Scottish Government.

ELC Providers Hourly Rate	Rates for 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025
3-5 years	£6.90
2 year olds	£8.28
Lunches	£2.35

a. If you have yet to set a new rate, when do you expect this decision to be made?

On 14th May, Education Committee are being asked to agree the straight 7.6% uplift that Scottish Government have recommended.

2) What percentage increase does this represent compared to your Sustainable Rate up to 31 March 2024?

The uplifted rate from 1st April 2024 agreed at Full Council in December 2023 (£6.90 for 3-5s and £8.28 for 2s) represents a 4.2% increase on the 23/24 rate. With the additional funding from Scottish Government, the remaining 3.4% uplift required to meet the straight 7.6% increase could be achieved if approved by Committee.

3) What is your current approach to the Meal Allowance element of funded ELC and will this increase from 01 April 2024?

As noted above lunches are paid at £2.35 to those partner settings that opt out of receiving lunches from Moray Council catering.

4) What evidence did you take into consideration when setting the new Sustainable Rate in terms of ensuring providers can make the £12 per hour pay commitment.

Please see attached step by step guide which outlines the approach taken to set the sustainable rate to ensure payment of the £12 per hour based on a survey of costs approach. Data provided by partner provider nursery settings from the 2022 IPSOS Mori survey was used to calculate the rate approved in December 2023 by Full Council. Partner nurseries expressed a preference for this data to be used with Real Living Wage and inflationary increases applied to determine a sustainable rate.