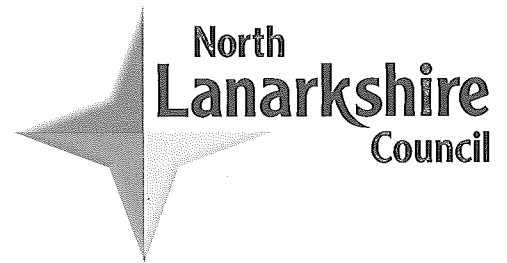


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FAO Stuart Todd  
Petitions  
Scottish Government

### Learning & Leisure Services

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## **Petition to the Scottish Parliament PE1430**

### **What are your views on what the petition seeks?**

Thank you for your recent letter in which you ask for clarification on a few points relating to a petition by Ewan Cameron concerning the competitive advantage experienced by childminders over registered day nurseries. The Petitioner calls for legislation to ensure that childminding businesses of more than six children operate on equal terms when competing with regulated pre school nurseries.

The following information from Scottish Child Minder Association website gives a good background to the enquiry/ petition and shows that although not required to have formal qualifications, childminders must demonstrate adherence to the SSSC code of practice.

### **What is a childminder?**

*"Childminders are professional childcare workers who work from their own homes to provide a childcare service for other people's children in a family setting.*

*Anyone offering a childcare service in their own home for children under the age of 16, for more than two hours a day, for a reward of any kind, must by law be registered by Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS).*

*Childminding is still the most widely used form of paid day care. It is a challenging and rewarding career and to develop the skills needed to provide quality services, childminders must have the opportunity to explore their learning and development needs, and then access training opportunities to meet these needs.*

*The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is responsible for regulating the education and training of people who work in Social Services. Their role is to raise standards of practice to increase public confidence in the Sector. The SSSC publishes Codes of Practice for Social Services Workers and Employers. Childminders although not required to register with the SSSC, fall within the definition of Social Service workers and therefore must adhere to these Codes. One of the statements within*

*Christine Pollock, Executive Director, Learning & Leisure Services, Windmillhill Street, Civic Centre, Motherwell ML1 1AB*



**Service and People First**

*these Codes is workers must "be accountable for the quality of their work and take responsibility for maintaining and improving their knowledge and skills."*

### **Childminding in North Lanarkshire**

North Lanarkshire Council in exercising its childcare planning duties would consider the actual use of domestic property and on what ratio the property is used for domestic and non domestic purposes.

Planning is required to be advised of all changes to the use of property to determine if a non domestic entry would be added to Valuation Roll. If it is part of commercial/ part domestic then it would be shown as such in the Valuation Roll with a corresponding entry on the Council Tax list for domestic element. The difficulty the assessor may have is determining what rooms would solely or predominantly be used for business property.

North Lanarkshire Council values the contribution of childminding to the provision of flexible childcare for working parents. In addition we sometimes commission places with registered childminders as the setting that they can offer for very vulnerable children provides the nurture and support associated with the home environment, often amidst the most extreme family circumstances for that child. In conjunction with the Care Inspectorate, and if they are also a member of SCMA, childminders have access to a range of support and CPD and are offered ongoing business and development support by the authority.

We are aware of only two childminders in North Lanarkshire Council that work with large numbers of children and employ assistants the service provided is registered and inspected as required by Care Inspectorate, as are all childminders.

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Yours sincerely

Jane M. Liddell  
Head of Education Quality Development