

Results of Survey carried out by Childminding Ireland 2023

Address: Childminding Ireland
C28 Arklow Business Enterprise Centre
Kilbride Industrial Estate
Arklow
Co. Wicklow
Y14 T440

Phone: (01) 2878466

Email: support@childminding.ie

Contents

Introduction	3
Childminder Demographic Information	4
Childminding Information	8
Childminder Information	12
Government Plans / Funding / Schemes	17
Childminding Ireland.....	21
General Comments	28
Summary and Conclusion.....	29
Appendix 1.....	31
Appendix 2.....	44
Appendix 3.....	55

Introduction

Childminding Ireland is the national representative body for childminding. In order to obtain relevant information about childminders and nannies, a detailed questionnaire was devised. It was not necessary to carry out a pilot study, as similar surveys have been successfully used in previous years. However, some new questions were included to make the survey more relevant, given the proposed changes in the childminding sector. This research was carried out from 12th December 2023 to 1st February 2024 to collect data on the current working conditions of childminders, establish their future needs and to gather their opinions on the proposed changes to the childminding sector.

The questionnaire ([Appendix 1](#)) was uploaded to the software package Survey Monkey and the link to it was sent to all childminders and nannies who are either members or associate members of Childminding Ireland and nannies. The link was also available on the Childminding Ireland website and was widely advertised on social media. All childminders and nannies were encouraged to share this link.

The survey contained both closed and open-ended questions. The data received from the closed questions was exported to Excel and quantitative analysis was carried out on the results using this software package. Descriptive statistics were used to summarise and display this data. The qualitative data was analysed using thematic analysis.

The first question asked if the respondent was a childminder or a nanny. If they answered that they were a nanny, they were redirected to a link to access a survey which had questions specifically designed for nannies. If they answered that they were “none of the above”, they were thanked for their interest but informed that they were not eligible to complete the survey. This explains the apparent large drop off in respondents between the first question and the remainder of the survey. The number of people who responded to each question is displayed in the graph as “n= ” and the results are calculated as a percentage of this number, unless otherwise stated. All quotations used are transcribed exactly as the respondents typed them in the survey. No corrections or amendments were made to them.

1890 people accessed the questionnaire in total. Of those who did, 859 stated that they were childminders and 55 said they were nannies, with 976 stating that they were in neither category. This means that 859 people were eligible to complete the questionnaire. ([Figure 1](#))

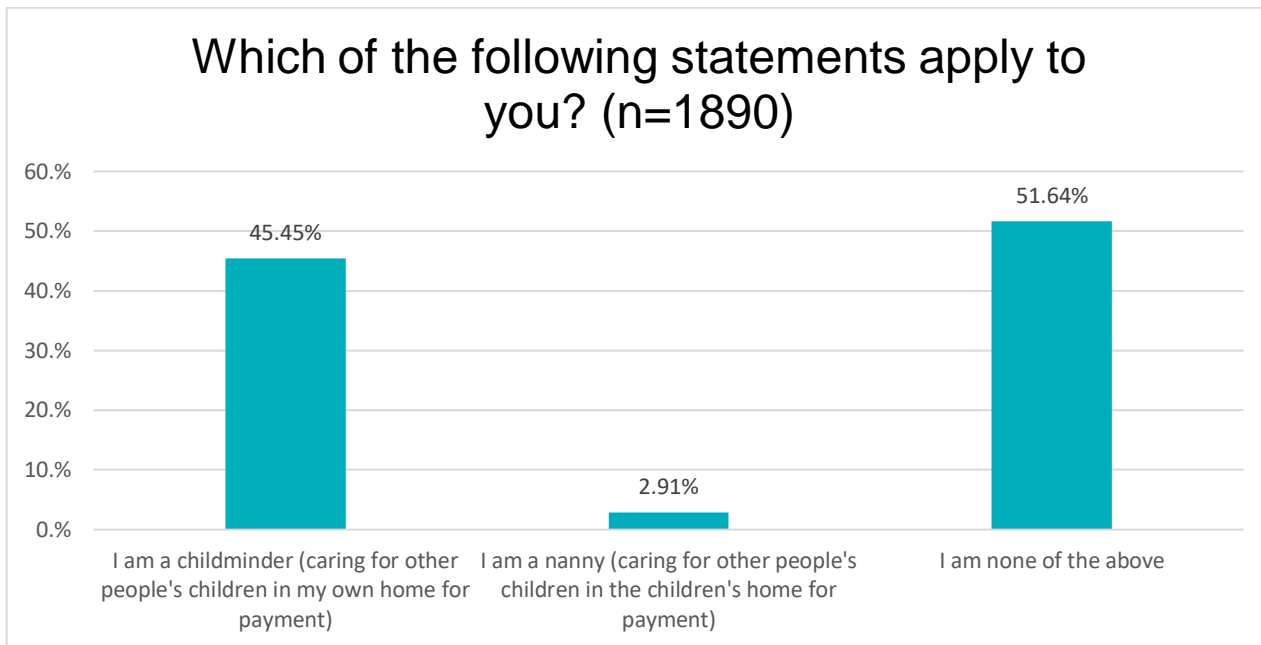


Figure 1: Are you a childminder or a nanny?

Childminder Demographic Information

The vast majority of childminders were aged between 25 and 54, with the highest category being the 45-54 age group. (Figure 2) This is similar to previous surveys, as far back as 2017. The figures for the younger age categories are lower than previous years.

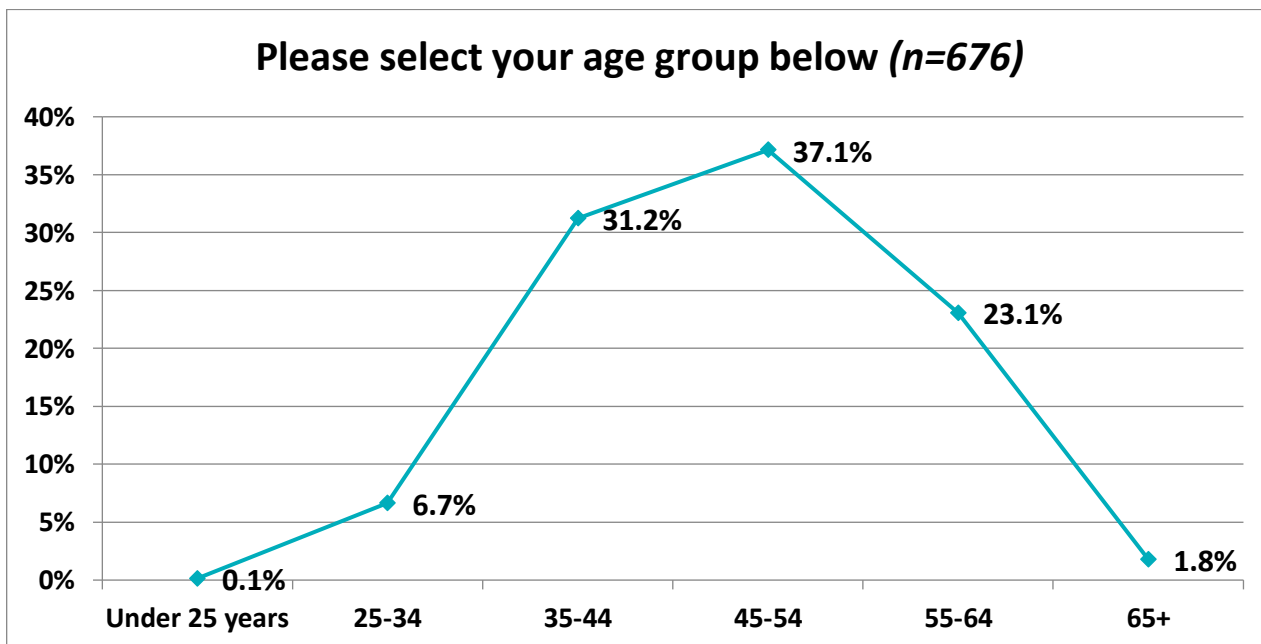


Figure 2: Age Profile of Respondents (%)

There were four options (Rural area, Village, Town or City) given for the question about where a person lived. Childminders predominantly lived in a rural area, with the smallest number living in the city. **(Figure 3)** The percentage of childminders living in rural areas, shows an increase from last year (2022=37.4%). The numbers in the other categories are similar to previous years.

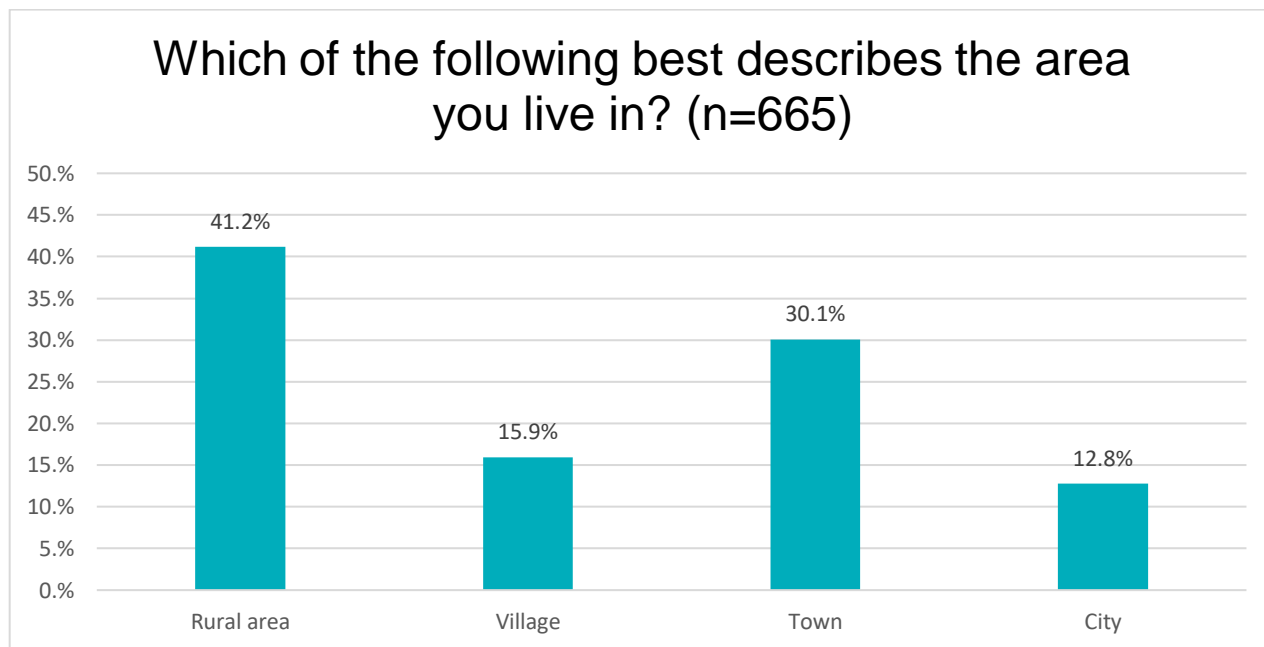


Figure 3: Where do you currently live/work?

The next question asked respondents to select which County they live in **(Figures 4a and 4b)**.

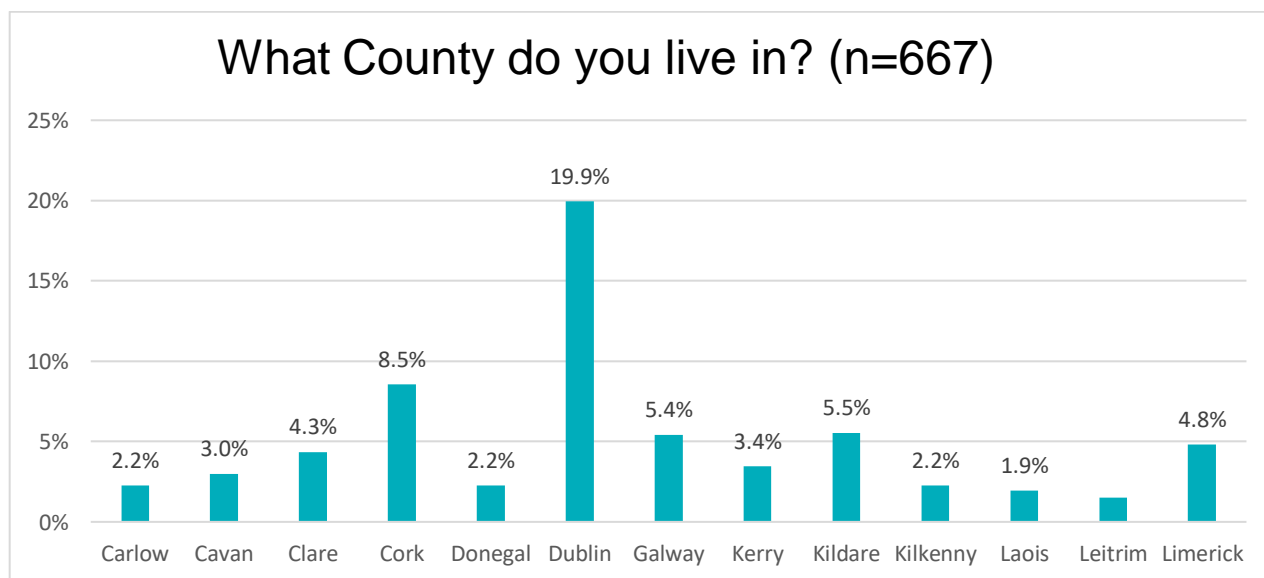


Figure 4a: What County do you live in?

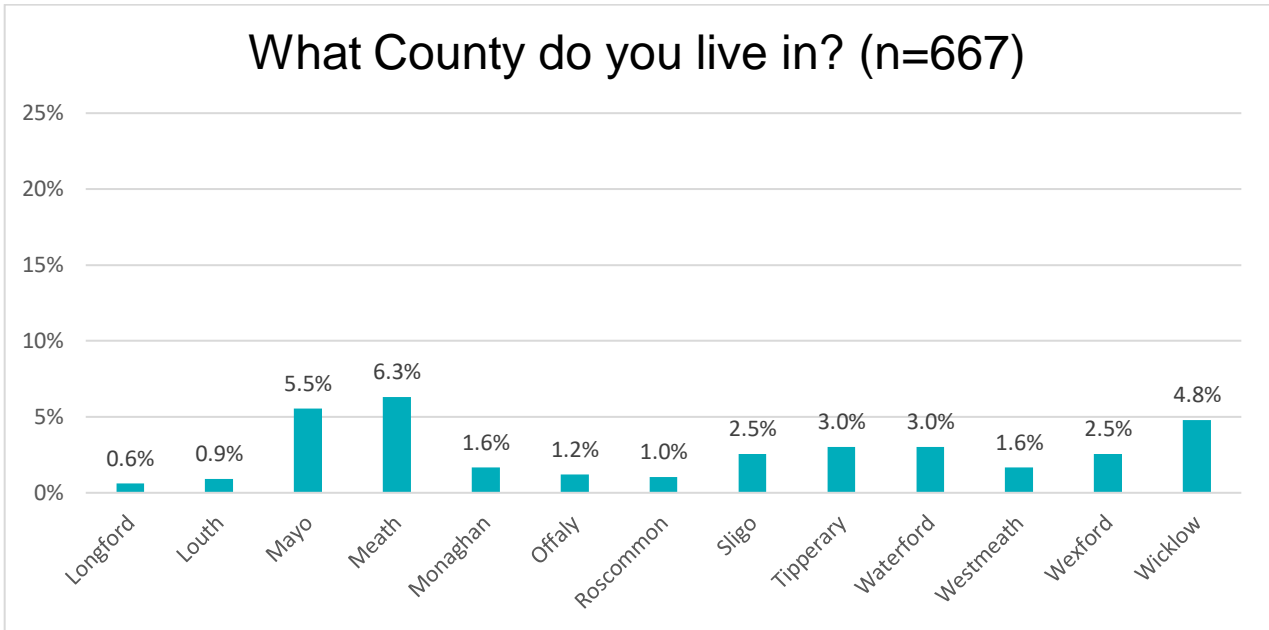


Figure 4b: What County do you live in?

The majority of childminders who responded said they live in Dublin, with Cork, Meath, Kildare, Mayo and Galway also having high numbers. It is worth noting that all 26 counties are represented in this survey.

The approximate annual household income (after taxes) for respondents can be seen in [Figure 5](#) below. The largest category is between €10,000 and €19,999. Over 10% of respondents said that their annual household income was between €1 and €9,999.

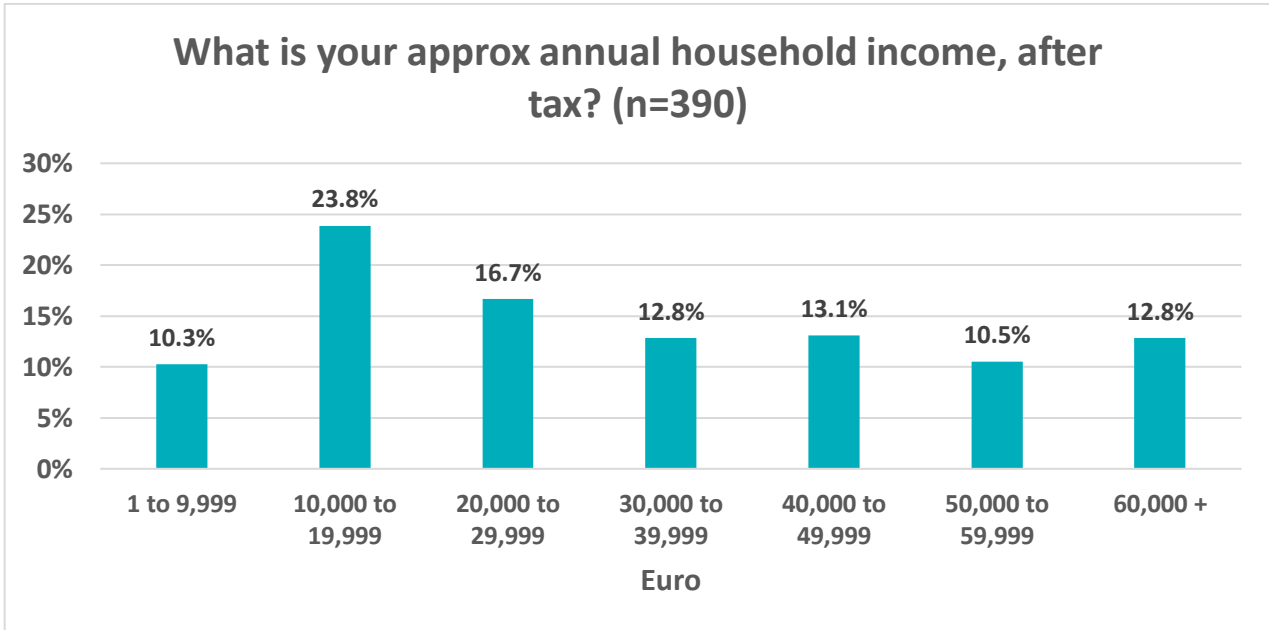


Figure 5: Approximate annual household income, after tax

Respondents were then asked to estimate how much their income from childminding represented, as a proportion of their total income. For 12% of them, it represented 81%+, while for 28.2%, it represented up to 20%. (Figure 6)

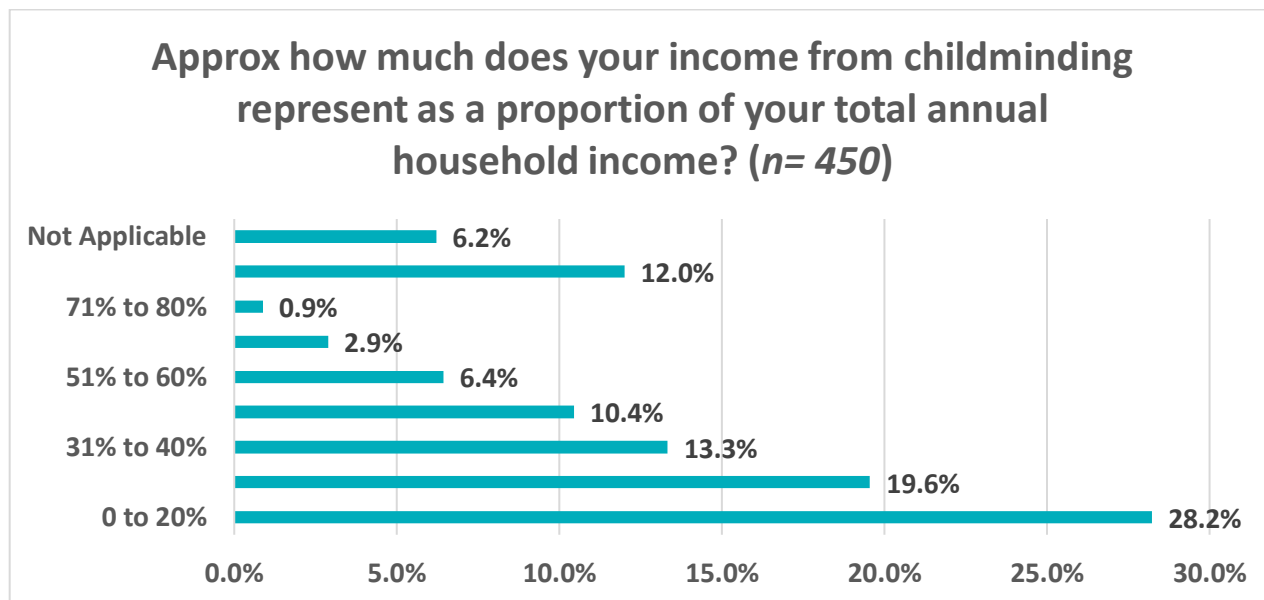


Figure 6: Childminding income as a proportion of your total income

Respondents were then asked how many children, by age, were currently living with them in their house. The results (Table 1) appear to indicate that some people mis understood the question, as it is highly unlikely that a household would have 10 children under 1 year of age, living with them. Other potential peculiarities are highlighted in red. This means that any data collected from this question is suspect.

Age (Years)	Number of Children									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<1	64	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1	68	19	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2	65	38	11	2	1	0	1	0	0	1
3	57	19	9	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
4	47	19	4	4	1	0	1	0	0	1
5	63	5	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
6	53	5	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
7	49	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
8	52	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	41	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	36	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	46	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	31	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	41	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1: Children, by age, currently living with childminder in their home

Childminding Information

Over half of the respondents have been childminding for 10 years or more. The second largest group (9.9%) have been childminding for 1 year. (Figure 7)

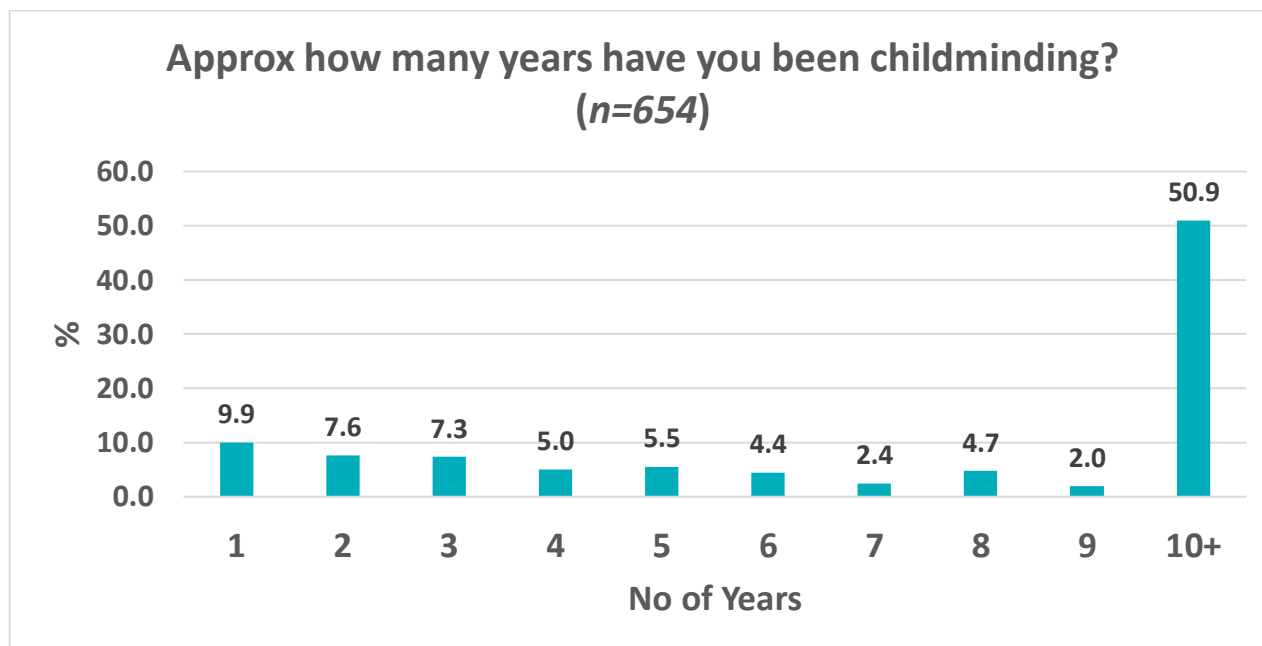


Figure 7: Years Childminding

Participants were asked to record how many families were currently using their services. The results can be seen in Figure 8, where most childminders were minding children for three, two or one family. Less than 1% were childminding for 7 or more families.

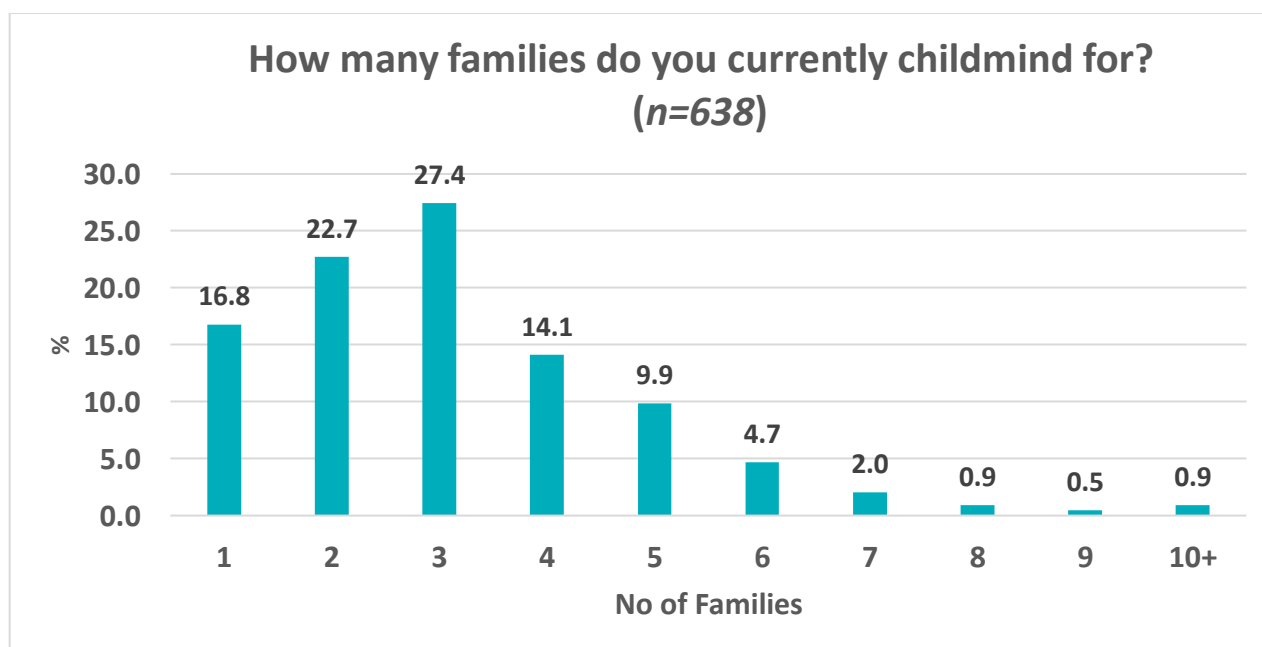


Figure 8: How many families do you currently childmind for?

Table 2 outlines how many children are minded from each family. For example, we can see that the majority of people mind 1 child from family one, 198 people mind 2 children from a family, 48 people mind 3 children and 4 childminders have 4 children from one family.

Family / No of children	1	2	3	4	5
1	377	198	48	4	0
2	258	149	8	1	0
3	270	93	10	0	0
4	155	40	7	2	0
5	89	19	5	0	0
6	38	16	0	1	0
7	20	10	0	0	0
8	15	3	0	1	0
9	7	1	0	0	0
10	5	1	0	0	0

Table 2: Number of children by family

Less than a quarter of respondents stated that they have spaces available for additional children (**Figure 9**)

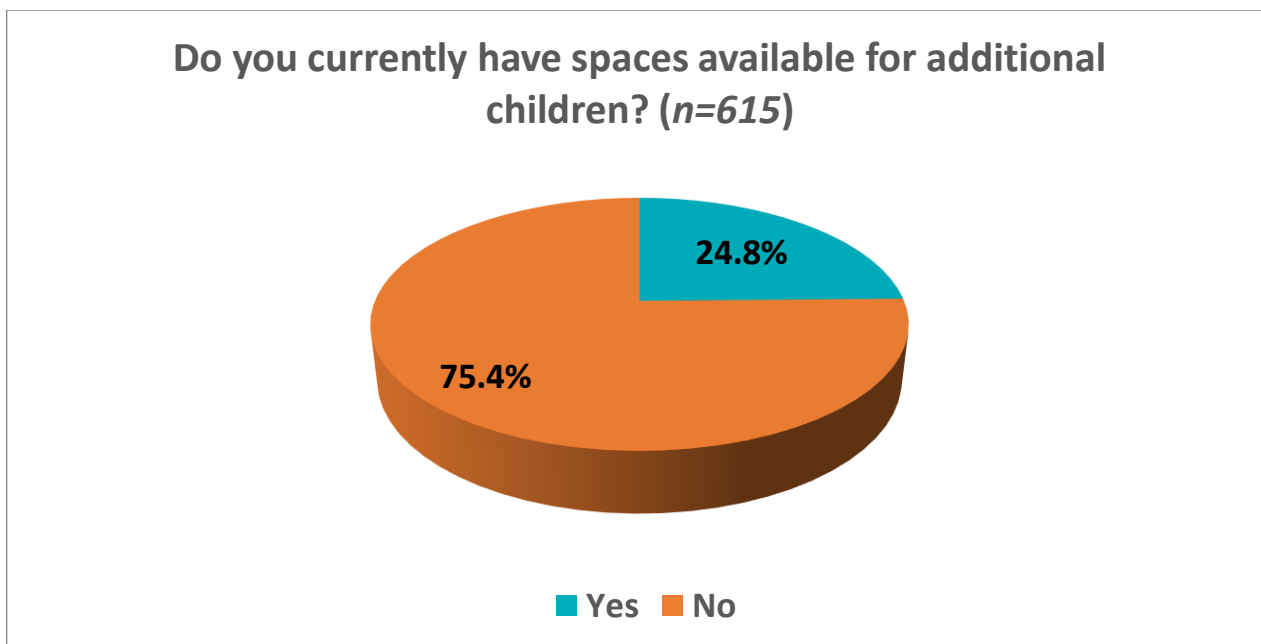


Figure 9: Spaces available for additional children

For a lot of childminders, they are not willing to take more children, regardless of whether they have space or not.

“But I won’t care for more than 3 at a time” “Just want to mind 3 children”

“But no interest in filling them as stressful” “No I only take 4 max”

“Due to personal reasons and commitments I am happy with 3 at the moment”

Some childminders referred to regulations as impacting on availability

“Because we are not allowed to take more children as childminders”

“As im only allowed to mind 3 children under the age of 3yrs of age”

When asked what the maximum number of children they were prepared to mind per day, only 4.9% were willing to mind more than six children. (Figure 10) An overwhelming 86.6% of childminders had had to refuse parents looking for childminding, due to a lack of available spaces. (Figure 11)

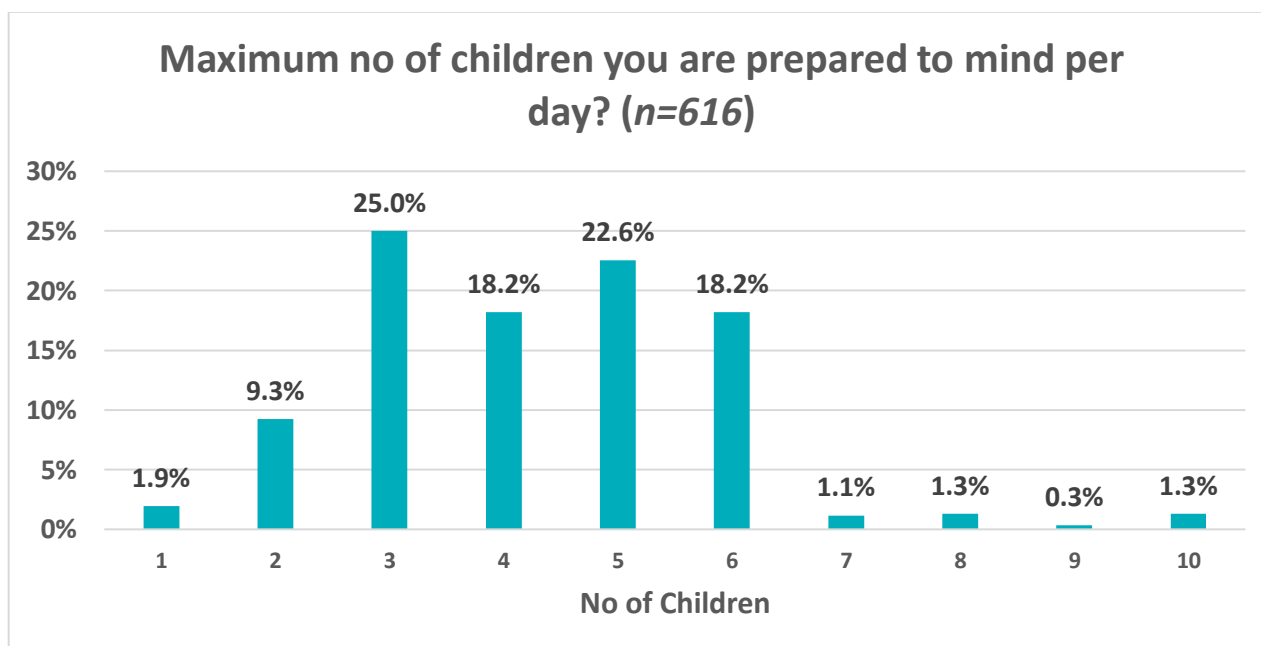


Figure 10: Maximum number of children per day

Some childminders would be willing to mind more children, but they are not eligible to do so.

“My insurance allows me to mind three” “Insurance limitation”

“I know I can only mind 3 at the moment but feel I would be well able to care for 5 if I was allowed”

“I would mind 6 max if I was allowed to.”

Some respondents also cited space issues as the reason they cannot increase their numbers.

“With my own children in the car I only have space for 3 mindies at one time. I need to use the car to get anywhere until my own children are old enough to go to and from school by themselves”

“Only because of car capacity for days out and collections”

**Have you had to refuse any parents looking for
childminding, due to lack of available spaces? (n=614)**

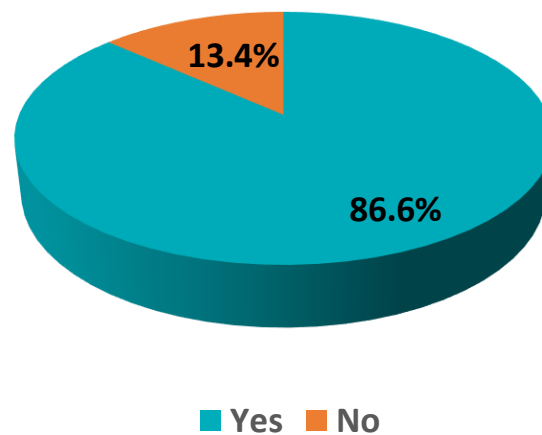


Figure 11: Refuse parents, due to lack of spaces

It appears from the comments that a lack of available spaces is a real problem in the childminding sector. Childminders commented that they are regularly refusing parents.

“Every week now” “All of the time!!” “Nearly on a weekly basis”

“I can truthfully say on a weekly basis” “Happens all the time..”

“I refuse 1 or 2 every week, the situation is chronic”

“Refusing up to 5 children most weeks. No other childminders in my area, and no crech places for under 2 s”

“I have turned down 8 families in one week”

“One particular day I got 5 phone calls and couldn’t accept any of the children”

Nearly 70% of childminders have insurance that specifically covers them for their childminding business. (Figure 12)

Do you have insurance that covers you in your childminding business? (n=712)

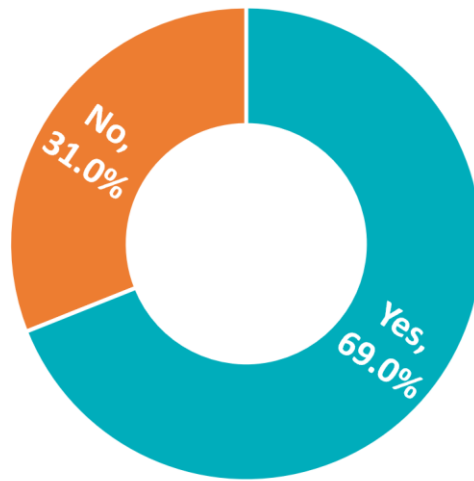


Figure 12: Insurance Cover for Childminding Business

Some of the childminders stated that they are covered under their own house insurance.

"Just my standard house insurance" "House insurance is free"

"Thro house insurance free"

Childminder Information

Would you recommend a career as a childminder to others? (n=648)

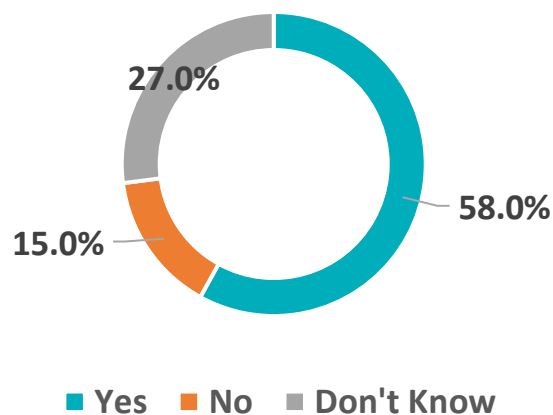


Figure 13: Would you recommend a career as a childminder to others?

The majority of childminders (58%) stated that they would recommend childminding as a career. **(Figure 13)** However, this shows a very large drop from last year's results, where over 78% stated that they would recommend childminding.

Respondents were given the option to add a comment about whether they would recommend childminding as a career to others. While some felt it was a very rewarding career,

"I love it" "I love what I do for a living..." "it is a brilliantly rewarding career.." "...I think it's a great option for some mothers"

they did express concerns about the future of childminding and the incoming changes / regulations

"I would tell them that lots of changes are about to happen and depending on what them changes mean, I might or might not continue working as a childminder myself"

"The uncertainty around new Action Plan and lack of information, the issues currently facing small ECCE and Daycare services make the future very uncertain."

"The uncertainty and lack of information about changes in the sector, make it impossible to know if there is a future for childminding"

"Too much paperwork if TUSLA take control"

Other reasons that the majority of respondents stated that they would not recommend it included loneliness and isolation, income issues and being under valued.

"Very had and lonely work" "It can be a very lonely job...."

"Poor income, income not guaranteed..."

"Tusla regulated is making it more difficult..."

"No benefits. No sick pay. Under valued by parents and society"

"Find parents aren't appreciative and it's all about the money, no respect for the person"

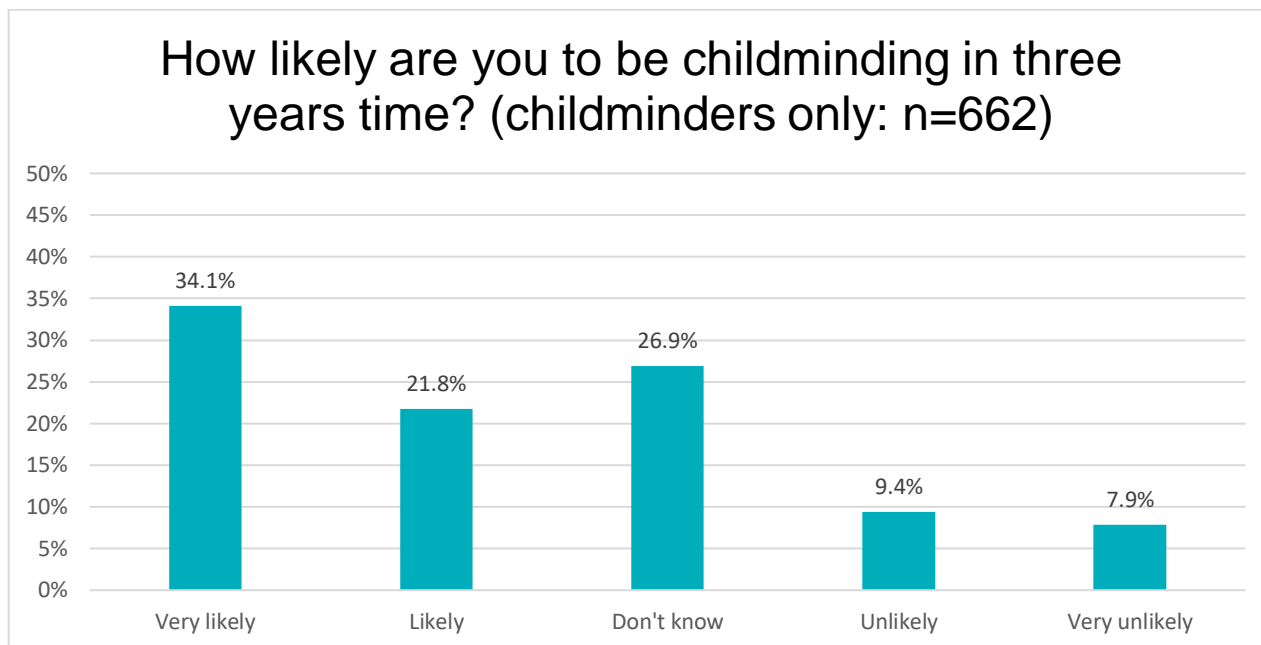


Figure 14: *How likely are you to be childminding in three years' time?*

Respondents were asked how likely was it that they would still be childminding in three years' time (**Figure 14**). Only 34.1% of childminders believed that it was “*very likely*” that they would still be working in this sector in five years' time. 17.2% of childminders said it was “*unlikely*” or “*very unlikely*”, with approximately 27% saying that they “*don't know*”. These figures are similar to previous years.

Childminders were given the option of explaining why they felt they would not continue working in childminding and some of the main reasons given are outlined below.

In contrast to last year, the overwhelming majority of respondents referred to Tusla and the incoming regulations as a reason why they will not continue with it as a career, rather than other factors.

“I am worried about the changes coming” “Depends on new regulations requirements etc”

“If it becomes too regulated that requires a lot of paperwork for regulatory bodies such as hse and inspenctions I will not be continuing as a childminder...”

“Unless Tusla figure out what they from us I'll be finishing up”

“...too many rules regulations and level this and that do not apply to family home childminding, parents want a family setting.....”

“It all depends of how the Action Plan works and what it will mean to me working in my own home”

A minority of respondents (20.7%) said that they had increased their fees this year, which shows a slight increase from last year (15.8%). (**Figure 15**) 21.5% replied that they intended to increase them in the near future (**Figure 16**) Nearly 40% of childminders said they didn't know if they were going to increase them and the same percentage said they do not intend to impose an increase.

Did you increase your childminding fees this year? (n=551)

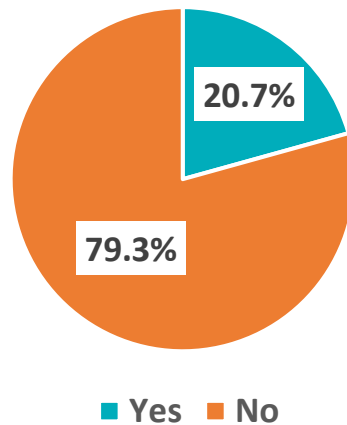


Figure 15: *Did you increase your childminding fees this year?*

For any childminder who did increase their fees, it was by no more than five euro per day.

Some childminders said that while they didn't increase their fees, they felt that they should have. A general theme that emerges when discussing fees, is that the majority of childminders find it difficult to ask parents for more money.

"I should have and didn't. I find this part very hard as I know how expensive childcare is for families."

"I'd like to but it's not right for parents " "But should" "I really need too"

"I feel I cannot raise my fees when all the talk about NCS is going on. The increased cost of living is impacting on my costs delivering the service so I am earning less money than before"

Some Childminders tried to increase their fees, but this resulted in resistance from parents.

"Resistance but will try to again in sept"

"But due to parents pressure reduced them back down . Brought in retention fees due to amount of time kids not present. Still Don't charge for holidays bank holidays or if covid prevents me from opening"

Childminders have been forced to find ways to cut costs, rather than try to increase fees.

"Technically yes, the fees stayed the same but the hours have gone down"

"I gave the option to pay extra for a hot dinner or stay at the same fee without the hot dinner. That is how I offered a "fair" fee increase."

"Asked parents to provide yougarts milk if they drink milk and other snacks"

"Instead of price increase i will stop supplying food from Jan on..."

A lot of childminders have introduced increased fees for new children they are taking on, but not increasing it for existing children. Other childminders said they had actually lowered their fees.

“Yes for a new family and siblings where increase in school runs” “Only for new family”

“I actually lowered that from 55€ a day with meals included to 42€ a day”

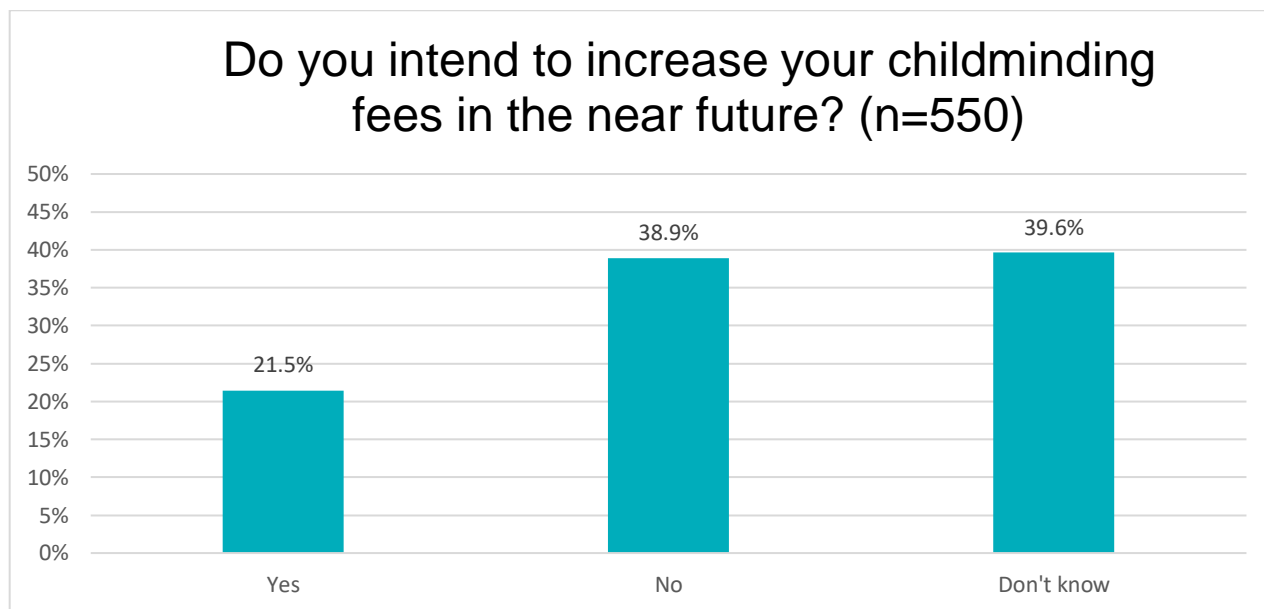


Figure 16: *Do you intend to increase your childminding fees in the near future?*

37.9% of childminders rated the impact of the increased cost of living on their childminding business as “moderate”, with 43.4% stating that it had either a “Significant” or “Severe” impact. (Figure 17)

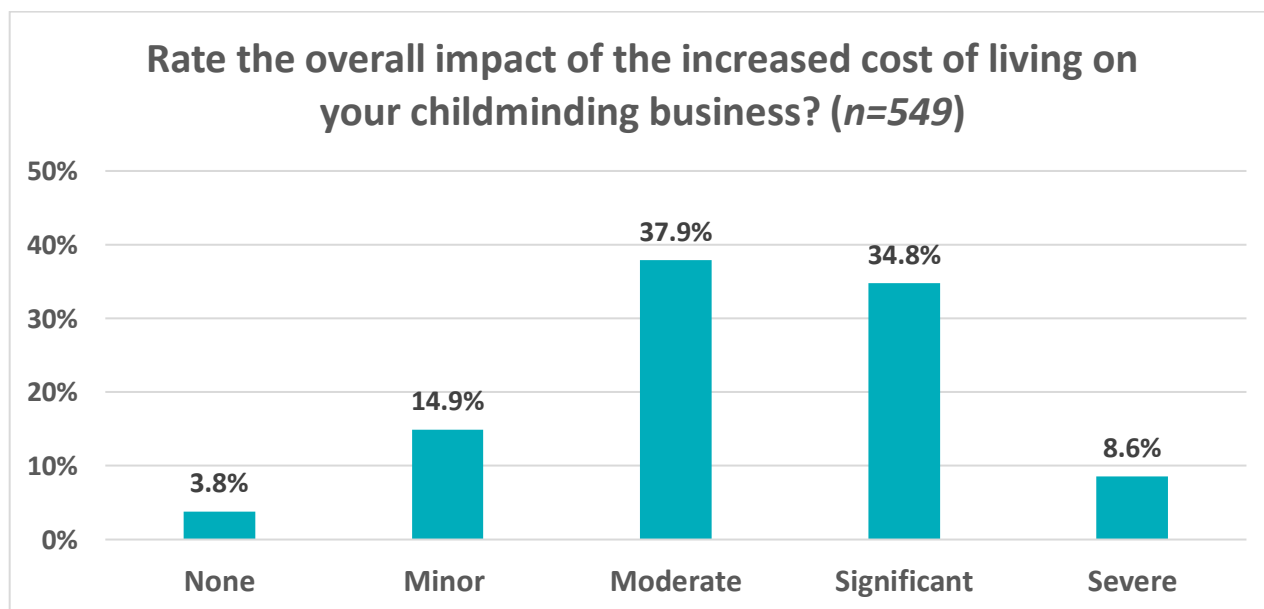


Figure 17: *Impact of the increased cost of living on childminding business*

Government Plans / Funding / Schemes

The vast majority (73.3%) of respondents are aware of the National Action Plan for Childminding.

Only 9.3% of childminders are currently registered with Tusla. (Figure 19) and only 18.2% stated that they intend to register with them when the new regulations come into effect. (Figure 20) Over half of the respondents (51.1%) stated that they did not know whether they would register or not.

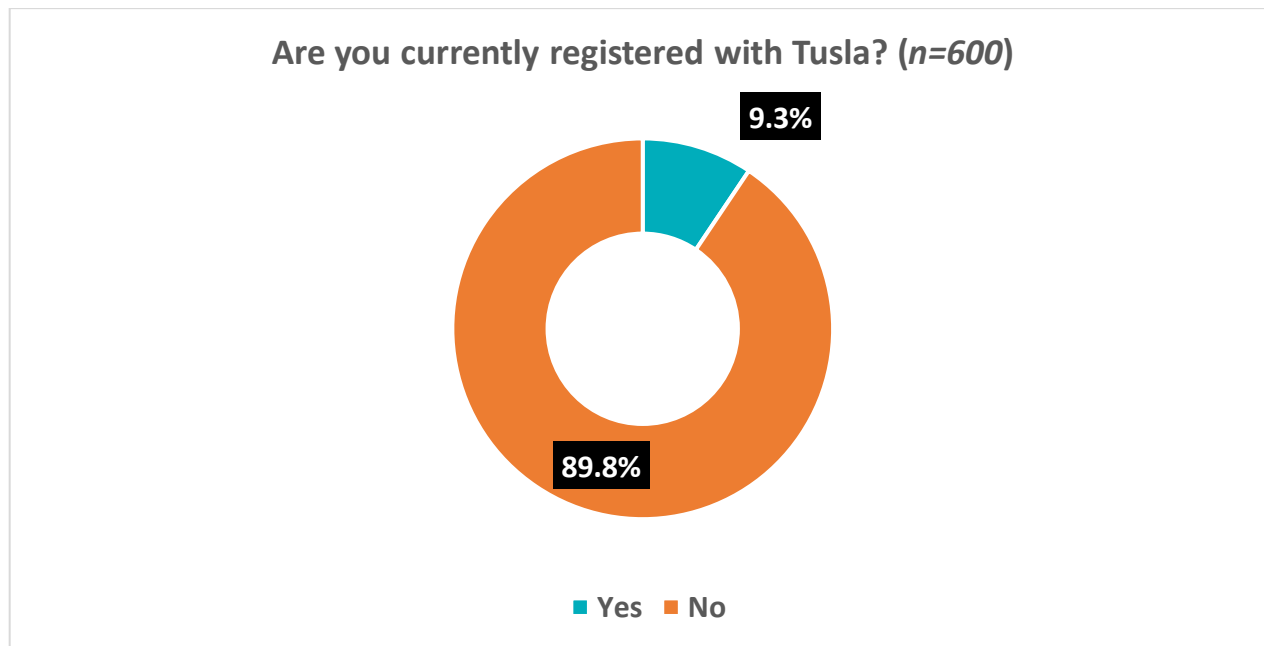


Figure 19: *Childminders currently registered with Tusla*

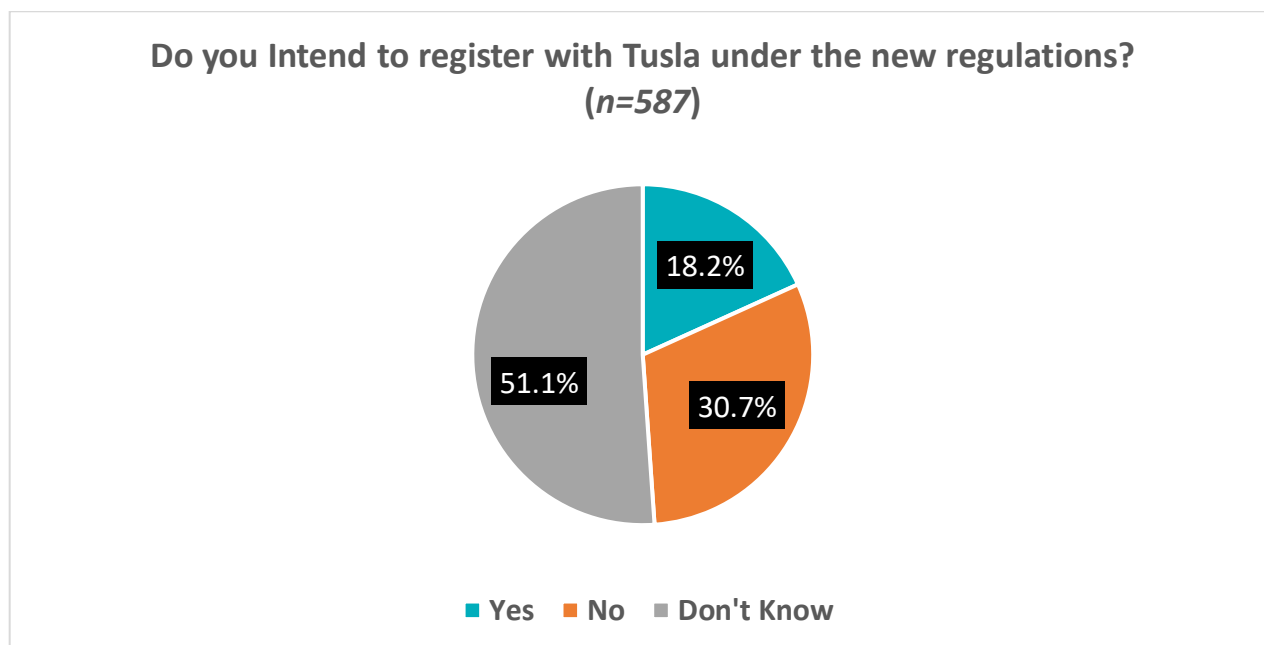


Figure 20: Childminders intending to register with Tusla

When childminders who are registered with Tusla were asked about their experiences with them, 58% replied that they were either “Very Satisfied” or “Satisfied”, with 12% stating that they were either “Dissatisfied” or “Very Dissatisfied”. As very few respondents were registered with Tusla, only 55 childminders were eligible to answer this question. Some respondents included a caveat when saying they were satisfied.

“Don’t know in what area you are asking about”

Depends on what specifically you are are looking at. Registering with TUsla – dissatisfied, inspection – satisfied, funding schemes – fine while running smoothly, disaster if there are any issues”

Although I do find the amount of paperwork very arduous & of course it has to be done after my long working day”

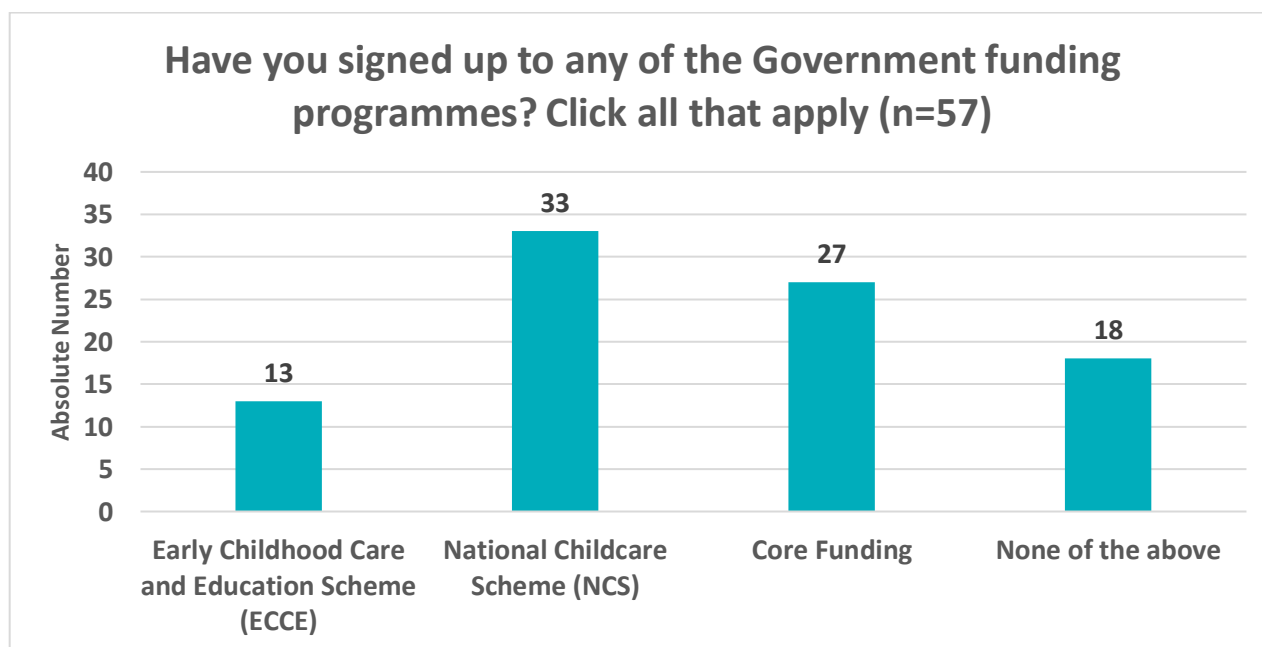


Figure 21: Number who have signed up for a Govt funding programme

Thirty-three childminders have signed up for the NCS, twenty seven for Core Funding and thirteen for the ECCE. (Figure 21) It should be noted that the response rate for this question was very low, as only Tusla registered childminders were eligible to answer it. Only one respondent submitted a comment, “A lot of paperwork involved”

Nearly 71% of respondents said that no parents had asked them about the National Childcare Scheme. (Figure 22) No respondent submitted a comment.

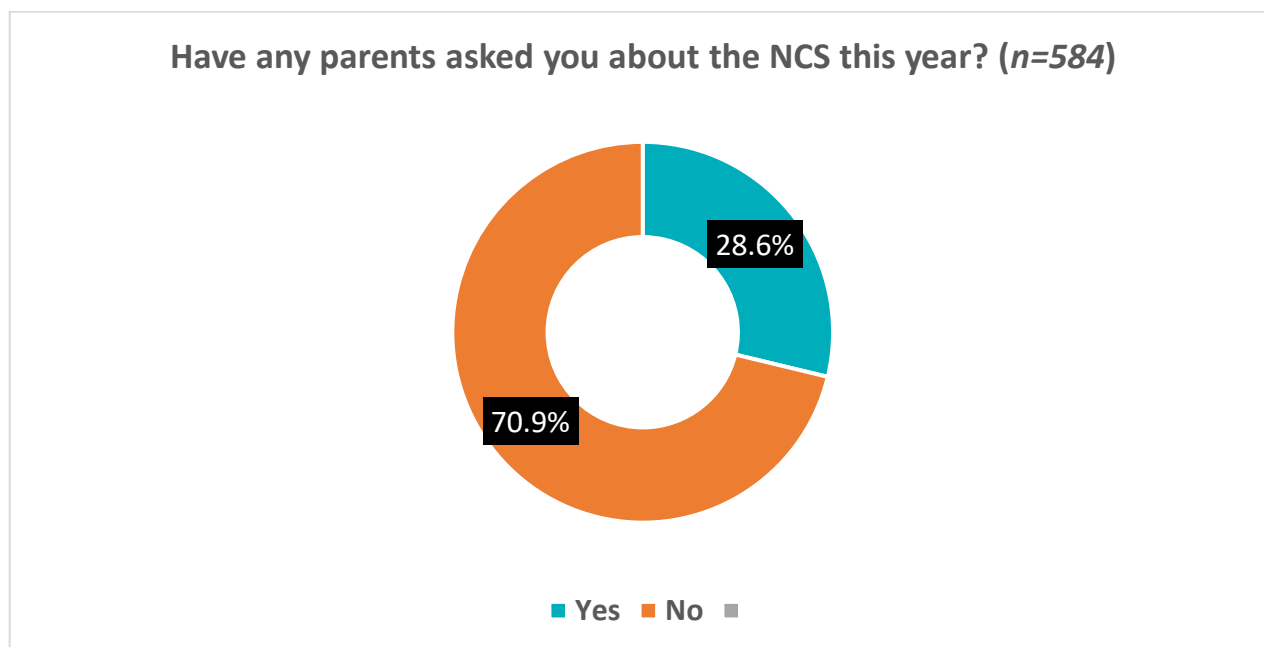


Figure 22: Enquiries about the NCS

Only 18.2% of childminders are intending to offer the National Childcare Scheme when the register opens (Figure 23), with 44.8% unsure whether they will or not.

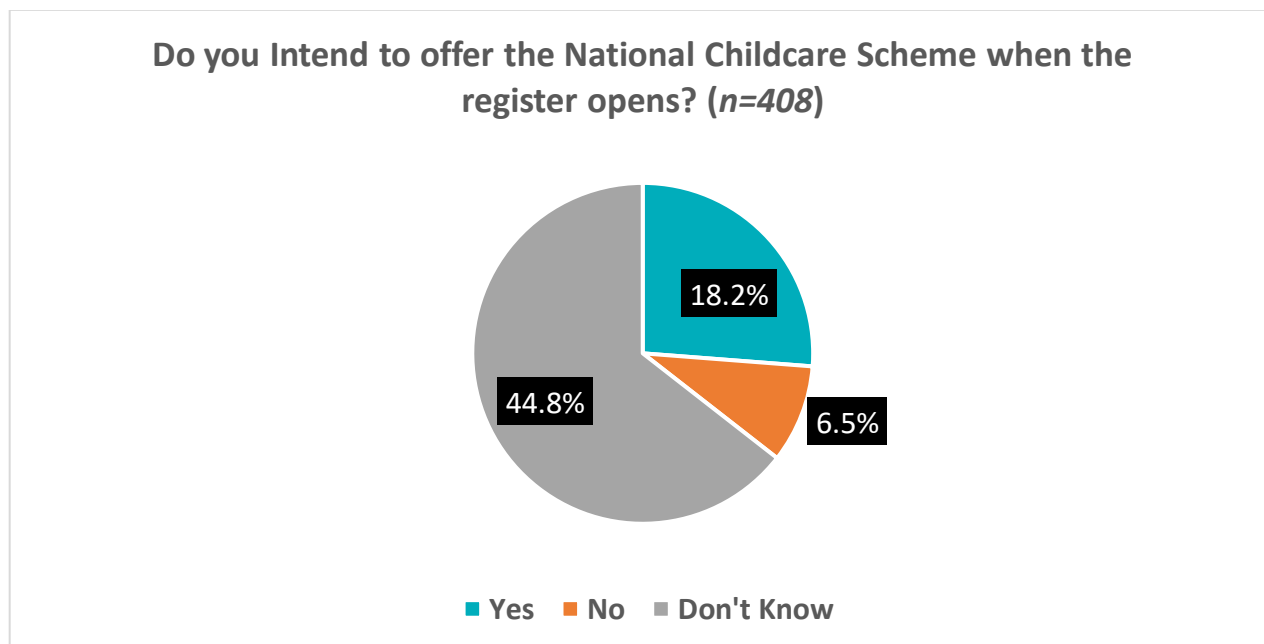


Figure 23: Intent to offer the NCS when register opens

Childminders were asked if they had applied for the Childminding Development Grant in 2023. 39.1% replied that they had applied, which is an increase of 12% from last year. 98.5% of applicants were successful. (Figure 24)

Some respondents were unsure or unclear about the grant and what it involves.

"I don't know enough about the details yet" "Don't know what it involves"

"I would like to but I need to research what it involves" "It depends on the criteria needed and if I qualify"

"As there are no details available, it is impossible to make a decision"

Some respondents felt that the process was too complicated

"I'd love to but again, they're making things very difficult for us"

"Very concerned about the issues being raised by small ECCE and full daycare services in my area. The level of administration required to deliver a government scheme seems to fall on the provider and as a singlehanded childminder, it seems very daunting"

"In an ideal world, yes.....But unfortunately I have no faith that the process will be available to Childminders in the foreseeable future. What will these regulations be? How will they be enforced?.....There is a massive disconnect between what is potentially proposed and the reality of how the industry operates at the moment.....I find it all very very disconcerting...."

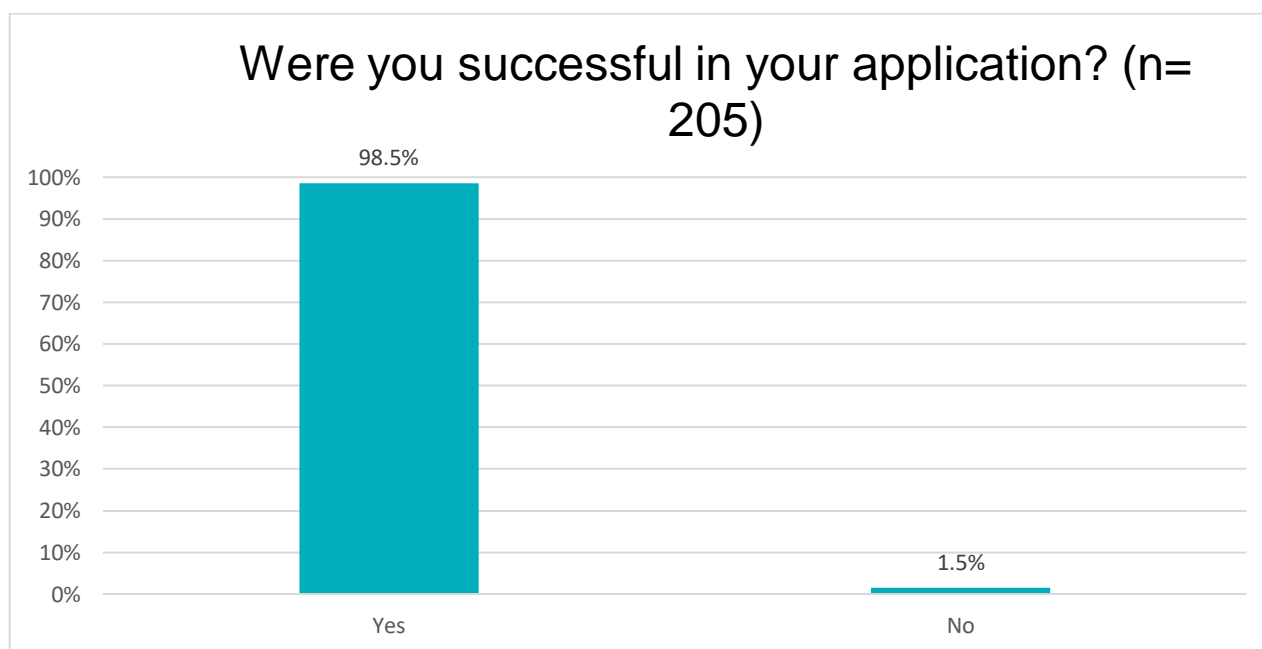


Figure 24: Success rate for Childminding Grant

Childminding Ireland

Figure 25 indicates that the majority of childminders who replied were members of Childminding Ireland. This shows a similar pattern to the results from previous years.

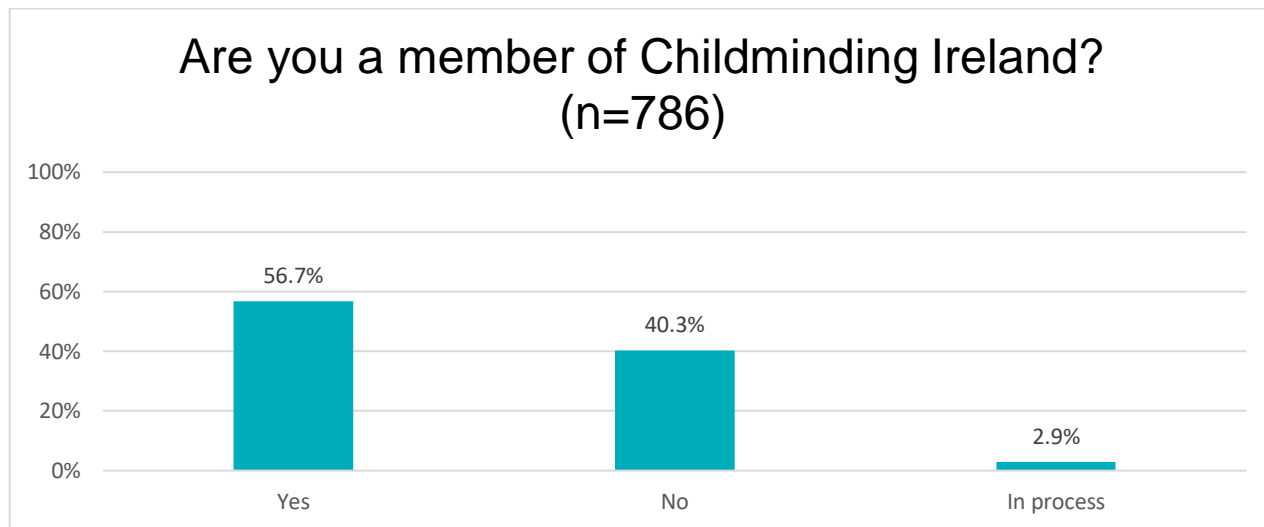


Figure 25: Membership of Childminding Ireland

An overwhelming number of respondents (93.4%) stated that they would like Childminding Ireland to continue their work in supporting and advocating for themselves and for all childminders. (**Figure 26**)

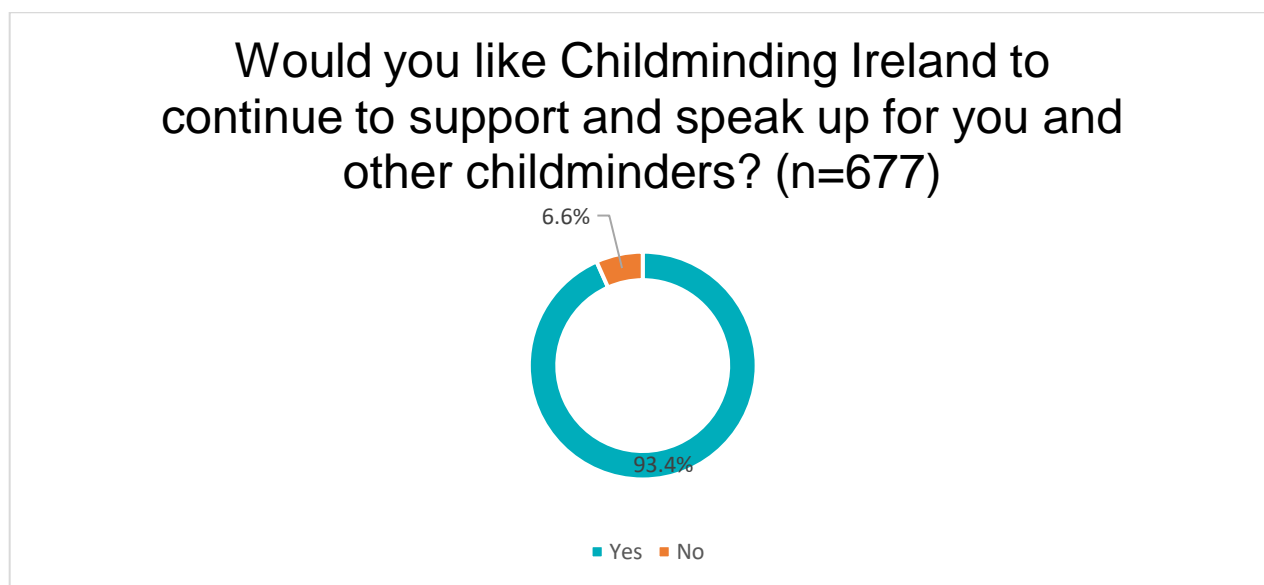


Figure 26: Want Childminding Ireland to support and advocate for childminders

Childminders were given the option of expanding on their answer by adding a comment. These comments indicate that childminders consider Childminding Ireland to be a very important organisation for them,

"They are a great support" "Childminding Ireland support is so valuable"

"I could not imagine without childminding Ireland, I was on the other end of the phone day or night"

"It is very important that childminding Ireland are only organisation that voices my concerns and supports me daily in my role as childminder"

"If you don't we'll be rail roaded into the NAP"

but also suggested that they need to do more to promote childminders.

"But they need to promote childminders registering with tusla, so parents can receive National Childcare Scheme. Otherwise its time for them to move aside"

"However, this must be focussed on the needs of the childminders and not on those of the government...."

When asked about the challenges that they are facing, 343 respondent to the open end question. Forty six stated that they did not feel they had any challenges.

"nothing happy the way things are" "nothing really all good at the moment"

The major challenge appears to be the uncertainty over the future and the new regulations that are being proposed, with over 60 referring to this and 46 of these directly referencing Tusla.

"..... The prospect of Childming Ireland being closed down as they already know what challenges we face and have been our voice for many years. To get rid of CMI is an obvious action showing childminders that our voice doesn't matter and is not wanted. I have been a childminder for +10 years but have no "official" education/diploma. I am worried that when the regulations come in, my experience will count for nothing compared to other childminders that have education."

"I'm afraid that I won't be able to continue long term childminding when the new regulations are all in place. My house is small but loved by the children I look after and their parents"

"The uncertainty of my future as a childminder due to the new rules and regulations being railroaded onto us"

"uncertainty about the future, especially changes in regulations."

"The fear of having to register with Tusla or find a new career. At the moment I am learning more towards finding a new career"

"Worried about been forced to register with tusla, inspectors picking apart my home"

"My biggest challenge is what's looming ahead next Autumn 2024 as I won't be registering under tusla so effectively I will be out of a job. I have been approached to mind in 1 of my children's home so I will probably take that position"

“Would like help with Tusla paperwork. Any funding would be great “

Finances and cost was another major challenge to emerge in the responses.

“Poor income. Lack of recognition for the positive contribution that my service provides to the economy”

“Not being able to charge what is relevant to the work I do”

“Cost of living” “Costs and resistance to raising fees” “Financial gain and appreciation of parents”

“I don’t get holiday pay or pay for sick days” “Cost of everything increasing”

“Keeping expenses etc up to date. Accountants want between €500 to €1000 to keep our books. Whilst tax deductible it’s still an outgoing.”

Other issues that arose included lack of appreciation by parents, isolation, and the difficulty of having to refuse parents.

Respondents were asked to specify how they felt Childminding Ireland can support them in this time of change and with the above challenges. Two hundred and forty-four people replied to this open ended question. Full comments can be seen in [Appendix 2](#) but a selection of comments, illustrating the main themes that emerged, have been included below.

A lot of childminders stated that they are very happy with the work that Childminding Ireland is doing for them, as is clear from the number of times the word “continue” appeared.

“Continue to inform and give us up to date news of how thing are going to change, if things are going to change.”

“Continue to provide us with up to date info. Support us in our concerns re the proposed changes”

“Please keep supporting us as you already do” “Please keep us informed and continue to lobby for us.”

“Continue to represent us as a group & keep us updated with any change etc”

“Well childminding ireland have always given support to us and have been great.”

“Continue to keep us updated on the process and how childminders can help during consultation”

“Keep fighting for the child minders”

"Continue to be our voice so that the government recognises that Childminders cannot be put into a neat little box. These are our homes and we offer a hugely valuable service. In most cases we are a "second family" and our concerns about losing that need to be communicated strongly to the government."

There is obvious concern about the imminent proposed changes that are coming and Childminding Ireland is seen as being an important voice for childminders who have these concerns.

"Make sure regulations for the change of a person's home are not untenable, this will push minders out of the job."

"Hopefully childminders won't have the same regulations as crèches or Tusla inspections won't be too rigid on childminders "

"Just continue speaking up for us, helping to make sure that the regulations won't be too tight as to not discourage childminders from doing what they do."

"regulations need to be home friendly so if you could continue to lobby on our behalf"

There is also a strong desire to be kept informed and advised about them.

"Keep me updated please" "Keep me informed about changes"

"Advice on when changes are coming in and what it will mean for me."

"Keep us informed of what changes to expect - Conditions for childminding, regulations, mandatory things, ratios etc"

"As many up dates as possible and from September help with the whole tusla registration process. And helping us have our voice heard regarding the changes and the governments power "

Some respondents included specific concerns regarding having to register with Tusla and some appeared unsure of whether they will have to register or not, highlighting the need for clear information to be disseminated throughout the childminding community.

Will it be compulsory to register with Tusla? "So do we have to sign up to tusla"

"Transiting to registering with Tusla." "Is registering with Tusla a compulsory requirement?"

"Do Tusla require a lot of form filling"

"Tusla registration is unnecessary, our local.childcare committees should have the authority to inspect us, and if we want to sign up to offer NCS, then we can do so"

"I feel there is very little support for Tusla registered Childminder. Us receiving core funding are going through a very difficult time with the financial report that is based on crèche and limit business . Nearly impossible to provide as a sole trader. Some training events that are Childminding specific that's meets Tusla requirements "

"I would like to be able to offer ncs to my parents but I don't believe I should go under the same scrutiny and regulations as a crèche . As I am minding children in my own home and parents are availing of my service , but I don't show the parents around my home and bedrooms , so I shouldn't have to open my home to an inspector who is going tell me how my house should be set up and how to cook my food etc. so I would only sign up to the scheme and register with Tusla if they take into consideration the difference between a childminder and a crèche/ preschool. Thank you ,

"Hopefully childminders won't have the same regulations as crèches or Tusla inspections won't be too rigid on childminders "

"Ask that Tusla is not strict on inspections for new members as this will frighten off new members and return minders to not been registered I believe you can register with Tusla but as a childminder it should be a informal inspection I do feel talking with many childminders not registered they don't like the sound of Tusla having power to inspect at anytime and it will only make childminding more expensive in the long run"

"Simple breakdown of what exactly Tusla regulations are expected of us in our own homes. I run my childminding business as a home from home which all the parents love, if new regulations and strict guidelines stop me being able to do this I would have to consider closing down."

Financial issues and the need for support in this area also emerged as a main theme.

"I struggle without sick pay or holiday pay and children going on frequent holidays and breaks and parents forgetting to pay. The cost of everything in the home has rocketed but pay has not. Wages are decreasing and unpredictable "

"I am well capable of minding more children, I hope the regulations don't put the childminder in a position where they can only mind 3/4 children. I am adapting my house and trying to get more space around but it's expensive to make any extensions, would be nice to have a grand even if was small to help with things like that"

"Childminders don't make a huge amount of money. Lots of overheads insurance/heat/repairs/equipment. If govt introduce further reductions extra courses etc home checks/ Registrations childminders will just give up. We are a valuable piece of a puzzle to parents and children and we love what we do. We are all concerned about what the new guidelines will be as we may have to stop doing what we enjoy doing if overheads increase. "

"I am unsure. I am a registered childcare provider for many years. My operation is small and my annual income is less than €15,000 per annum. I am not registered with TUSLA. I offer parents a

"home from home" childcare service in my own home. I pay all my own costs (membership, insurance, light, heat etc) without any assistance from the state. The €15,000 upper income threshold (and no more than 3 children at any one time) should be increased to the equivalent of the minimum national wage. I pay PRSI of €500 annually when I do my returns to The Revenue Commissioners."

"I struggle without sick pay or holiday pay and children going on frequent holidays and breaks and parents forgetting to pay. The cost of everything in the home has rocketed but pay has not. Wages are decreasing and unpredictable "

"Help with pricing when scheme comes in. Older kids get needs less hrs during school term but needed full hrs in summer holidays etc"

"Grant early in year, ncs to be approved"

"More benefits for childminders, all I see is ypu looking for childminders to register to they have to pay joining fees, pay insurances, pay tax and contribution for nothing in return. Having an average of 5€ per child per hour, providing food, material, equipment, care, no breaks, heating and electricity bills, education material and preparation leaves a very small profit so I don't see any benefits to being registered, my income will be further reduced and Tusla will expect me to comply with what ever rules they deem fit. Not a chance will that make childminding a working wage. "

Another theme that was evident is that Childminders want to be informed, included and consulted about the proposed changes.

"Information at this stage and consultation before final decision are made that will directly affect or change the way we work in our own homes."

"Continue to keep us updated on the process and how childminders can help during consultation"

"I would like to see feedback from the consultations about the action plan. We keep hearing that it's happening but have no proof that actual childminders are being included and listened to. More surveys should be sent to the childminders regarding the new regulations with practical examples of what regs are planned so they can be assessed. Can childminding Ireland push for draft regulations to be published so they can be really checked by the people who they are going to effect before its too late"

"Keeping us informed of changes as you here about them, and consulting with government bodies to ensure our childminding ethos and home from home environment allows to continue under new Regs. "

"As childminding Ireland is the ONLY body that looks after childminders, they have our best interests at heart and as their core value. Previously, workshops and courses were available to ALL services but childminders have been cut from the list unless they are tusla registered. So it's easy to see that we are seen as an inferior form of childcare, our best interests are not at heart. Regulations and

new rules are being made without our/childminding Irelands proper consultation or input. The rule makers are forging ahead and ignoring what childminders want and need. We are told of the new regulations when they are made public and without any real input from childminders/childminding Ireland. This is why we NEED childminding Ireland to continue to be our regulatory body. Separate from tusla/childcare committees/early childhood etc.We need childminding Ireland to fight for us and continue to work for/with us."

Some also stated that they want Childminding Ireland to lobby more vigorously for them.

"Please keep us informed and continue to lobby for us."

"Lobbying, more would join if felt strength in supporting CMI."

"regulations need to be home friendly so if you could continue to lobby on our behalf"

"Lobby for appropriate inspections for home- based minding"

"Lobby more re the plan, lobby more re the grant, desperate the sub division of the 250k was passed and progressed right to the point of allocation."

Organising to meet with other childminders, either online or in person, was also suggested as something that Childminding Ireland could facilitate. This would allow childminders to share information and meet other people in their situation and facing the same problems / difficulties. This links into the issue of childminders feeling isolated in their job.

"Just give us opportunities to meet and discuss such as online as it's difficult to meet in person as childminding is such a demanding role. Childminding Ireland is vital to ensuring that childminders get to have their voice heard in this period of great change"

"More webinar or online meet up" "Simplified doc or info meeting to run through what I need to do to bring my place up to standard without judgement." "Online information course"

The majority of childminders (58.2%) would be more likely to choose online training, rather than in-person training, with 27.8% preferring a blended environment. **(Figure 27)**

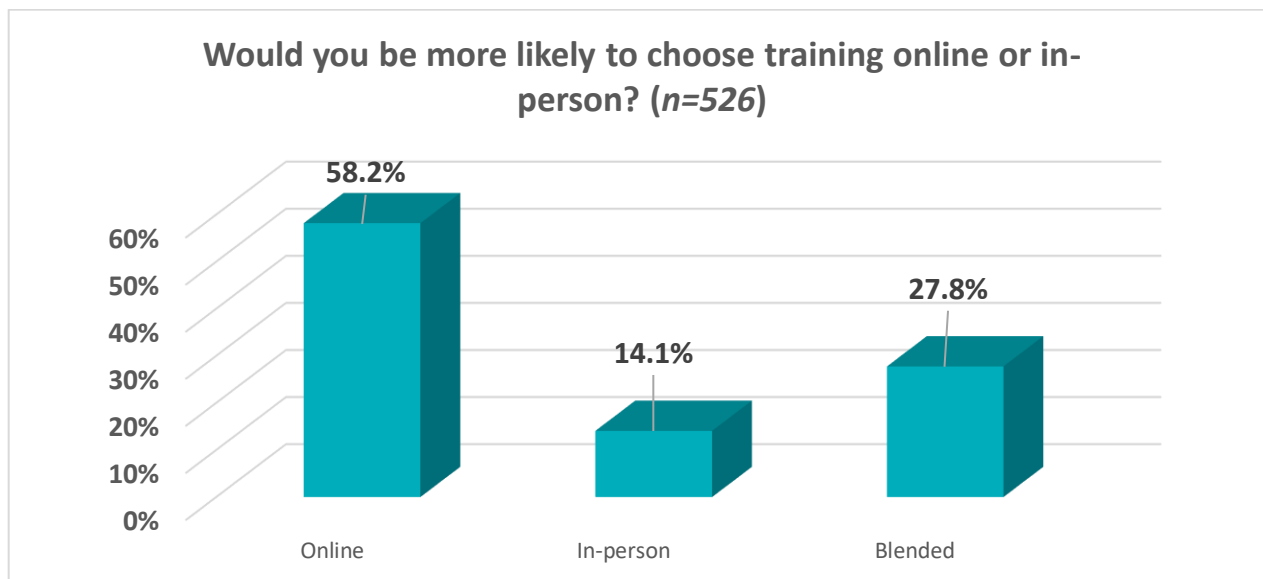


Figure 27: Choice of training

The main reason given for preferring online training was that it did not involve travelling or having to make childminding arrangements.

“Much easier for me to do it online with small kids of my own to mind at the weekend”

“Training in person is always held 45mins away. That's 90mins of driving on top of the duration of the course. Locations should change so everyone has to travel equally.”

“Easier Currently with my own family as partner works shift work and nights so I am the primary care giver for the children.”

However, one childminder choose the option of participating in in person training sessions as a way of networking with other childminders.

“As a childminder, I work alone. The support from other childminders completing training in-person would be invaluable. I would feel very isolated and vulnerable online.”

General Comments

Respondents were given the option of adding any comments or suggestions that they felt were applicable or to raise issues that they felt had not been addressed in the survey. The majority of the comments reinforced themes that had already emerged throughout the survey. A selection of the comments are included below but the full list of comments can be seen in [Appendix 3](#).

“I care for two children whose mother is employed by the HSE. They arrive at my home at 7:30 am and I take them to playschool at 9.30am, picking them up again at noon. They stay with me until 4 pm. During this time, we enjoy a relaxed routine..... There's no schedule once they return from playschool. Both the children and their parents love our home and my family loves the children. Will I be

operating outside the law if I choose not to register with Tusla? Will I need to inform parents that I can no longer care for their children? I am already registered with Revenue. Can't I simply provide them with a receipt so they can claim their childcare expenses on their tax returns?"

"I don't agree with Tusla coming in to inspect my home. We all do things differently and we might not agree with some of their guidelines but at the end of the day the children are looked after like they are our own. "

"Afraid of Tusla and their regulations already, hear from crèches and they say not to get them involved with the business, soomuch red tape....this is why I haven't registered and afraid to register."

"I dont think genuine registered childminders who pay their taxes should be made register with Tusla for parents to benefit from NCS. It should be a payment rolled out to all parents of children in any childcare setting"

"The childcare situation in this country is serious, there are women who are minding too many children, who aren't insured or have done a FAR first aid course, or a food hygiene /cross contamination for food for allergies, and they are getting away with it. Its well past time for childminders to be regiatered with tusla and be accountable and offer ncs"

"Uncertainty for the future of home settings as the action plan is unclear"

"Have a body like Childminding Ireland for minders when we are being inspected as its in our homes and not creches. "

"One thing a lot of childminders are worried about is paperwork. We already work long hours (I myself work between 50-65 hours a week) so we should not have to sit and do admin for hours every week. Also, we need to be paid for the time it takes to do the paperwork and be paid any fees weekly and promptly."

Summary and Conclusion

Overall, these results show that a remarkable number of respondents took the time to include detailed comments and to answer open-ended questions. The majority of childminders surveyed live in rural /village areas and were aged between 45-54 years.

We see from the responses to questions the consistent theme that childminders find bureaucracy frustrating and tiresome. The majority of respondents do not see any benefit to the rules and regulations that, in their words, are being imposed on them.

This survey shows an increase in the number of childminders who are very concerned about registering with TUSLA and the incoming changes and the regulations that may be introduced. There is a sense of insecurity over what the future will bring to this sector, with one of the most common

words used being “uncertainty” – uncertainty about what is going to be implemented, what it means for childminders and a fear of the future. This sense of uncertainty is often manifesting itself in frustration and indeed anger.

From the numerous comments, it is clear that childminders very much want to be a part of the consultation process, as well as having Childminding Ireland negotiating on their behalf. There appears to be a feeling of alienation from the process. This may stem from a perceived lack of information being shared with them. Childminders want to be given more information about the proposed changes. Comments continually stressed the importance of information being not only disseminated, but disseminated in a way that is clear, concise and explains clearly what effects it will have on their sector.

The issues of cost, low pay, lack of support and feeling undervalued remain constant themes throughout this survey, as they did in previous surveys. These issues appear to be making childminding an unattractive career choice for a lot of people. It should be a major source of concern that there is a relatively low number of people who see themselves still being in the childminding sector in three years’ time.

Appendix 1

1. Which of the following statements apply to you?

- ☐ I am a childminder (caring for other people's children in **my own home** for payment)
- ☐ I am a nanny (caring for other people's children in **the children's home** for payment)
- ☐ I am none of the above

A Chara,

It is time for the annual **Childminding in Ireland Survey 2023**.

The purpose of this survey is to gather up-to-date information about the daily reality of working as a childminder in Ireland now and into the future.

The National Action Plan for Childminding is moving towards statutory regulation of childminding in Ireland, with new regulations planned to be **introduced by Autumn 2024**. This survey gives you an opportunity to influence the decision makers on the future of childminding.

As the National Body for Childminding, we genuinely want to support you. Your response to this survey will guide us in meeting your needs and to accurately represent your views. Your input is invaluable in shaping the future of childminding in Ireland. We need to hear directly from you.

The survey will take approximately 6 minutes to complete, and **all responses are anonymous**.

Please email support@childminding.ie or phone **01 2878466** if you have any queries. Many thanks

Mary

Mary Tynan

Head of Training and Development

2. Are you a member of Childminding Ireland?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ In process

To view the many benefits of becoming a member of Childminding Ireland visit www.childminding.ie or email support@childminding.ie for an information pack.

Specific childminding insurance is crucial as it addresses the unique risks associated with caring for children. This is a liability insurance which protects childminders against claims that they may be held legally responsible for in the event of accidents, injuries, or property damage that may occur while caring for children. Childminding Ireland members can avail of discounted insurance of €240 and exclusive discounts for both home and car insurance.

3. Do you have insurance that covers you in your childminding business?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Additional comments

4. Would you like Childminding Ireland to continue to support and speak up for you and other childminders?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Additional comments

5. Please select your age group below

- ☐ Under25
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65+

6. What County do you live in?

7. Where do you currently live?

☐ Rural area

☐ Village

☐ Town

☐ City

8. Approximately how many years have you been childminding?

9. How likely are you to be childminding in three years' time?

☐ Very likely

☐ Likely

☐ Don't know

☐ Unlikely

☐ Very unlikely

10. Would you recommend becoming a childminder to others?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know Additional

Additional comments

Responses to the following questions will highlight the valuable role childminders play in supporting families and the capacity of childminding places available in Ireland.

11. How many families do you currently childmind for?

12. How many children do you currently care for in each family?

	1	2	3	4	5
Family 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family 4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family 5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family 6	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family 7	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family 8	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family 9	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family 10	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. What is the maximum number of children you are prepared to mind in a typical childminding day?

Additional comments

14. Have you had to refuse any parents looking for childminding due to not having any spaces available?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Additional comments

15. Do you currently have spaces available for additional children?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Additional comments

16. How many children in each of the following age groups currently live with you at home, if any?

Under 1

	<input type="text"/>
2	<input type="text"/>
3	<input type="text"/>
4	<input type="text"/>
5	<input type="text"/>
6	<input type="text"/>
7	<input type="text"/>
8	<input type="text"/>
9	<input type="text"/>
10	<input type="text"/>
11	<input type="text"/>
12	<input type="text"/>
13	<input type="text"/>
14	<input type="text"/>
15	<input type="text"/>
16	<input type="text"/>

The National Action Plan for Childminding (NAPC) is now in its 2nd phase. It is anticipated a consultation process will begin in the near future.

17. Are you aware of the National Action Plan for Childminding?

☐ Yes

☐ No

18. Are you currently registered with Tusla?

☐ Yes

☐ No

19. Have you signed up to any of the Government funding programmes? (please click all that apply)

☐ Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE)

☐ National Childcare Scheme (NCS)

☐ Core Funding

☐ None of the above

Additional comments

20. As a Tusla registered childminder, what has been your overall experience?



Please comment

In line with phase 2 of the National Action Plan for Childminding (NAPC), it is anticipated childminders who meet registration requirements will be invited to register with Tusla from Autumn 2024. This will permit childminders to take part in the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) and enable parents access to Government subsidies towards their childcare.

21. Do you intend to register with Tusla under the new regulations once the register is open?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

22. Do you intend to offer the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) when the register opens?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

Please comment

23. Have any parents asked you about the National Childcare Scheme (NCS) this year?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please comment

24. Please tell us how we can support you in this time of change?

We are asking the following questions to support us in our lobbying for childminding. All responses are anonymous and confidential.

25. What challenges are you currently facing in your childminding business?

26. Did you increase your childminding fees this year?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Additional comments

27. Do you intend to increase your childminding fees in the near future?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

28. How would you rate the overall impact of the increased cost of living on your childminding business

No impact	Minor impact	Moderate impact	Significant impact	Severe impact
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

We understand this is a personal question. We would like to reassure you that this survey is anonymous, and the responses are used for lobbying around the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

29. What is your approximate annual household income after taxes are deducted? (please include all sources of income e.g., employment, social welfare etc.)

30. Approximately how much does your income from your childminding represent as a proportion of the total annual household income?

31. Did you apply for the Childminding Development Grant in 2023?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If "No" please comment

32. Were you successful in your application?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If "No" please comment

33. If you have a choice to complete training online or in person, which method are you most likely to choose?

☐ Online

☐ In-Person

☐ Blended Additional

comments

If you are not already on our mailing list and would like access to our valuable resources and also to be kept informed of important developments for childminding, please email support@childminding.ie.

34. Please share any advice, comments, or concerns you may have that have not been covered in this survey

As this survey aims to capture the views of Childminders and Nannies who are currently providing a homebased childcare service, you do not need to complete any further questions.

At Childminding Ireland, we offer support to childminders and nannies so that they can provide best quality childcare for the benefit of children, their families and their communities. Please visit our website www.childminding.ie for further information.

Please feel free to share the link to this survey with any childminders you may know. Link to survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N9L2NZ8>

Thank you for your interest in our survey.

We want to hear from as many childminders as possible and therefore we encourage you to share this survey with your fellow childminders in order to give them the opportunity to take part.

Copy and paste the survey link and share it in the following ways:

- Send a text with the survey link to your childminding family and friends.
- Share the survey link on your social media platforms.
- Share the survey link by email.
- If you are part of community groups or online forums, promote the survey there if possible.
- And of course, the old-fashioned way, word of mouth!

Link to survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N9L2NZ8>

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

Appendix 2

Q24 Please tell us how we can support you in this time of change?

Answered: 244 Skipped: 1,646

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Childminding Ireland must inform those in power the potential consequences of over-regulating childminders.	2/1/2024 9:30 PM
2	Please keep us informed and continue to lobby for us.	2/1/2024 8:54 PM
3	I already am Tusla registered and offer the NCS for my parents. Getting to this point was very difficult and thank you for supporting me along the way! Never would have made it with out you!	2/1/2024 5:38 PM
4	Just updates and information about new things	2/1/2024 10:30 AM
5	Plenty of information on change. Thank you.	2/1/2024 9:11 AM
6	Clear information and ease of doing paper	2/1/2024 8:42 AM
7	I find it quite stressful the plans for future and childminding having childminding Ireland to give the relevant information as they have been doing is a great support.	2/1/2024 6:25 AM
8	I think we should have our own regulated body specifically for childminders	1/31/2024 11:26 PM
9	Just when the new law come in for childminders, what they will require. Thanks so much.	1/31/2024 9:14 PM
10	Just to give guidance through the national action plan	1/31/2024 8:53 PM
11	By keeping us updated on any new information	1/31/2024 8:26 PM
12	Just to continue to update CM on the new regulations and for continued support.	1/31/2024 7:53 PM
13	Listen to our concerns	1/31/2024 7:52 PM
14	Reassurance that there won't be excessive red tape associated with being registered with Tulsa	1/31/2024 7:40 PM
15	Just by being informed of changes	1/31/2024 7:36 PM
16	Help create practical guidelines for us to work within	1/31/2024 7:35 PM
17	I am not sure weather I will continue minding children in future ,so far I am happy with all the information and support provided by childminding Ireland. Thank you!	1/31/2024 7:32 PM
18	The childminding scheme and child minding support is a great help thank you.	1/31/2024 7:26 PM
19	Let us charge what we need to charge.	1/31/2024 7:22 PM
20	Nothing	1/31/2024 7:15 PM
21	Keep doing what you are doing.	1/31/2024 7:09 PM
22	I feel that the childminding is being grouped with creches and is becoming over regulated, and that I think that this is government led and not sought by parents	1/31/2024 7:05 PM
23	The information and support you give is great	1/31/2024 6:56 PM
24	Keep fighting for the child minders	1/31/2024 6:29 PM
25	So do we have to sign up to tusla	1/31/2024 5:52 PM
26	Lots of information	1/31/2024 5:35 PM
27	Ye are doing a fantastic job, thank you for the support and information. Couldn't do without you.	1/31/2024 12:58 PM
28	Keep speaking up for us	1/30/2024 10:11 PM

Childminding in Ireland Survey 2023

29	Keep me updated please	1/30/2024 6:25 PM
30	Keep me informed about changes	1/30/2024 3:28 PM
31	I will not be Childminding with the proposed changes and I also feel that Childminding ireland are battling for us every day as they 100% no know what parents need as they deal with the childminders on a daily basis cannot understand why people are not listening the bottom line is there will be no childminders left in the country and it's going to be a disaster for parents going forward	1/30/2024 12:58 PM
32	Advice on when changes are coming in and what it will mean for me.	1/30/2024 10:51 AM
33	Information on the new changes	1/29/2024 8:11 PM
34	No idea	1/29/2024 8:08 PM
35	As much gov information as possible. How it will effect me?	1/29/2024 7:55 PM
36	Continue to provide us with up to date info. Support us in our concerns re the proposed changes	1/29/2024 7:52 PM
37	Keep doing what you are doing.	1/29/2024 7:15 PM
38	Info but not pages and pages	1/23/2024 7:38 PM
39	Keep me informed on changes going forward	1/23/2024 7:13 PM
40	Keep us informed.	1/23/2024 7:13 PM
41	. I will be leaving childminding soon. But wanted to share my previous experience	1/23/2024 6:26 PM
42	Just nervous of the changes that I will have to make to my home n how I will be able to fit in the paperwork into my daily routine also	1/23/2024 6:17 PM
43	Make sure the new regulations are suitable for childminder and family HOME.	1/23/2024 6:09 PM
44	I'm not too sure of changes yet	1/23/2024 5:59 PM
45	Brief information email underlining requirements and change ahead	1/23/2024 2:05 PM
46	I'm not sure how to register and what implications registering will have on finance	1/20/2024 7:08 PM
47	By making it easy for childminders to register with tusla I work in a preschool also and there are lots of regulations regulations should be made for childminders for their home not as strict it should still be there home qualifitions I agree on for childminders but their home should still be a home	1/20/2024 1:26 PM
48	Childminders don't make a huge amount of money. Lots of overheads insurance/heat/repairs/equipment. If govt introduce further reductions extra courses etc home checks/ Registrations childminders will just give up. We are a valuable piece of a puzzle to parents and children and we love what we do. We are all concerned about what the new guidelines will be as we may have to stop doing what we enjoy doing if overheads increase.	1/19/2024 11:39 PM
49	Tusla registration is unnecessary, our local.childcare committees should have the authority to inspect us, and if we want to sign up to offer NCS, then we can do so	1/19/2024 9:46 PM
50	Don't need support as only looking after my own grandchildren now	1/19/2024 5:28 PM
51	Be childminders voice and help us get regulations that suits childminders.	1/19/2024 4:45 PM
52	Provide more general information about who will need to register. I currently only mind 1 toddler and 3 school age.	1/18/2024 8:24 PM
53	Lobbying, more would join if felt strength in supporting CMI.	1/18/2024 10:11 AM
54	As I have just started with my service and have very gradually grown, I have found that I have had to put up quite a bit of capital in order to be compliant. The insurance for example was only available at a discounted rate if I held membership with yourselves and all needed to be paid up front which was in the December period where I would not receive an income for two weeks with more that normal expenses.	1/18/2024 10:09 AM
55	Get the department to reccognise the importance of childminding and put an appropriate value on it.	1/18/2024 10:04 AM

Childminding in Ireland Survey 2023

56	I am unsure. I am a registered childcare provider for many years. My operation is small and my annual income is less than €15,000 per annum. I am not registered with TUSLA. I offer parents a "home from home" childcare service in my own home. I pay all my own costs (membership, insurance, light, heat etc) without any assistance from the state. The €15,000 upper income threshold (and no more than 3 children at any one time) should be increased to the equivalent of the minimum national wage. I pay PRSI of €500 annually when I do my returns to The Revenue Commissioners. As a childcare provider who is operating from her own home, I feel that I am giving the children in my care a service that cannot be obtained in a larger operation. The parents of the children that I care for contribute to the economy and society because of people like me who allow them to work in the knowledge that their child is in a safe place that is a "home from home"....	1/18/2024 9:40 AM
57	Just give us opportunities to meet and discuss such as online as it's difficult to meet in person as childminding is such a demanding role. Childminding Ireland is vital to ensuring that childminders get to have their voice heard in this period of great change	1/17/2024 11:51 PM
58	Continue to inform and give us up to date news of how things are going to change, if things are going to change.	1/17/2024 10:50 PM
59	Keep us updated	1/17/2024 10:27 PM
60	Transiting to registering with Tusla.	1/17/2024 9:36 PM
61	Keep advocating 4 us - in a broader context	1/17/2024 8:39 PM
62	Online information course	1/17/2024 8:17 PM
63	Keeping me informed	1/17/2024 8:04 PM
64	By providing me with as much information as possible to enable me to be aware and ready for whatever is to come.	1/17/2024 7:48 PM
65	I really don't know. I'm unsure if I will be able to register as I have no Fetac qualification. I'm a mother of 3 and have been childminding for over 20 years but I'm not sure any of this will be taken into account	1/17/2024 7:18 PM
66	I am a. Childminder in my own home I have a 18 year old and a 21 year old and thankfully they love children but this is their home and to be honest I'm blessed that they allow cots and camera into their bedrooms and to be honest after working in a creche I don't want bring inspections into my home as it's my family space and I'm very aware what inspections are like so I'm very weary about it all	1/17/2024 7:12 PM
67	Keep us informed	1/17/2024 6:56 PM
68	Please keep supporting us as you already do	1/17/2024 6:09 PM
69	I feel there is very little support for Tusla registered Childminder. Us receiving core funding are going through a very difficult time with the financial report that is based on crèche and limit business . Nearly impossible to provide as a sole trader. Some training events that are Childminding specific that's meets Tusla requirements	1/17/2024 5:21 PM
70	I went in to childminding as a way to fund my family. I have two young kids and could not afford to pay for a full time childminder for them and there is no crèches in my area so I would not have been able to avail of ncs.	1/17/2024 5:10 PM
71	Cut out the paperwork we don't have time to pee never mind keep writing everything up!!	1/17/2024 1:33 PM
72	I prefer in person training, courses, rather than online. Would love to hear of any in person upcoming courses, please.	1/16/2024 11:55 PM
73	Continue to represent us as a group & keep us updated with any change etc	1/16/2024 7:23 PM
74	Information at this stage and consultation before final decision are made that will directly affect or change the way we work in our own homes.	1/16/2024 6:40 PM

Childminding in Ireland Survey 2023

75	Don't allow the paperwork to get in the way of our focus of childminding. Many Childminders are experienced and qualified but the bureaucracy gets in the way. I look after children of a family who couldn't find a afterschool place locally for their children. Plus One of the kids requires additional support which would be difficult to support in a typical afterschool environment. The family are entitled to ncs but can't avail of it because it's not applicable to Childminders.	
76	An anonymous reporting facility for those childminders that have too many kids in their care and not registered, taking kids in when they gave covid themselves and not informing parents of said scenario	1/15/2024 5:02 PM
77	Have a better rate payment i believe we deserve at least the minimum wage por hour	1/15/2024 1:37 PM
78	I find childminding Ireland very supportive always there to answer any questions i might have ha e to help me with my business so by continuing doing so thank you .	1/15/2024 1:17 PM
79	Clear instructions on policies, breaking down areas in this action plan as it can b overwhelming	1/12/2024 8:18 PM
80	More benefits for childminders, all I see is ypu looking for childminders to register to they have to pay joining fees, pay insurances, pay tax and contribution for nothing in return. Having an average of 5€ per child per hour, providing food, material, equipment, care, no breaks, heating and electricity bills, education material and preparation leaves a very small profit so I don't see any benefits to being registered, my income will be further reduced and Tusla will expect me to comply with what ever rules they deem fit. Not a chance will that make childminding a working wage.	1/12/2024 7:54 PM
81	I fell into childminding 8 yrs ago when I had my 3 rd child and couldn't afford childcare. I earned €450 a week childcare for my 2 youngest at the time was €310 a week. I now care for 1 full time child and 3 part timers. People won't pay more than €35 per day.so I earn sometimes up to €280 per week. 7.45 till 5.30 is well below min wage . I charge €5 hourly then €35 for a full day and only increased this Jan 24 it used to be €30 a day. I mind teachers children so don't get paid holidays. I'm planning on going back to work in sept as an SNA as I have no one to mind my 9 yr old so have to work around him. I previously worked for a multinational so my older 2 were in Creche from 8-6 which is such a long day. Family life is so important and I've learnt that over the years. Childcare workers do a fantastic job but are not paid enough.	1/11/2024 3:55 PM
82	Dont feel I need support	1/11/2024 1:38 PM
83	Keep sending lots of information	1/11/2024 1:07 PM
84	Doing what you are doing, training to get realistic home requirements to register with Tusla so we can all , parents and childminders, use the National children scheme. But they need to remember, we use our homes for work, they do not need to be safer than already it is for our own children. Freedom of choosing what kind of care each childminder wants to provide. Some families will be happy with a free play childminder while others will prefer a curriculum crèche style. But that should be up to families and childminders to choose. Same example with needing to mind 4 toddlers Mon + your owns to be able to register. Some families may prefer a crèche style while others prefer reduced groups = more attention to each child, a different quality service.	1/10/2024 2:36 PM
85	I would like to know the going rate charges for full / part time places etc - Holiday pay .	1/10/2024 1:50 PM
86	I don't think I will continue childminding once I am finished looking after the child I am minding.	1/10/2024 1:30 PM
87	You do very well,keep up the good work 😊	1/10/2024 12:52 PM
88	You are not allowed to run a business from a social housing house therefore many cannot register as they risk losing the house	1/10/2024 11:53 AM
89	Clear, concise information and being childminders voice especially regarding regulations and how a childminder cannot possibly have the same regulations as a nursery.	1/10/2024 9:21 AM
90	The requirements for registration should be based on a home setting and not a crèche setting is my main concern	1/10/2024 12:12 AM
91	Make allowances for grandparents childminding	1/9/2024 9:36 PM
92	At the moment, I can't find any child to mind. I don't know what else I can do. I send emails to many local creches with a long waiting list and to Dublin Childminder Comitee. I advertised my availability on facebook groups. I am unemployed since September 2023. I am open to any suggestion	1/9/2024 8:18 PM
93	Keep us informed of what changes to expect - Conditions for childminding, regulations, mandatory things, ratios etc	1/9/2024 3:08 PM

Childminding in Ireland Survey 2023

94	Help with inspection in the home	1/9/2024 3:00 PM
95	More webinar or online meet up	1/9/2024 2:29 PM
96	I find childminding Ireland great for support and courses. Just keep doing what you are already doing.	1/9/2024 2:26 PM
97	To be there for questions when needed. The support is fab. To be the voice of the childminder with tusla	1/9/2024 2:17 PM
98	Is registering with Tusla a compulsory requirement?	1/9/2024 2:16 PM
99	Be prepared for inspections	1/9/2024 2:03 PM
100	sharing the knowledge	1/9/2024 12:51 PM
101	Continue to keep us updated on the process and how childminders can help during consultation	1/9/2024 12:48 PM
102	Pobal and the government are not childminder friendly in every aspect of the funding, reporting etc	1/9/2024 12:47 PM
103	Keep it home from home, that's what my parents want for their children and that is the setting I want to provide from my home.	1/9/2024 12:27 PM
104	Increased funding for childcare	1/9/2024 11:58 AM
105	Understanding of declaring income for tax purposes and not being penalised for previous years of non declaration	1/9/2024 11:51 AM
106	None	1/9/2024 11:45 AM
107	Bring in appropriate and doable regulations aimed at childminders	1/9/2024 11:44 AM
108	Childminding Ireland needs to be heard by all childminders. There is no one speaking for our sector currently. ECI always seems to have something to say about childminding and give the impression that they speak for childminders, yet I do not identify with that organisation. We need a body to speak collectively for us, ask the questions that individual childminders are afraid to voice.	1/9/2024 11:31 AM
109	Make sure regulations for the change of a person's home are not untenable, this will push minders out of the job.	1/9/2024 11:23 AM
110	I would like to be able to offer ncs to my parents but I don't believe I should go under the same scrutiny and regulations as a crèche . As I am minding children in my own home and parents are availing of my service , but I don't show the parents around my home and bedrooms , so I shouldn't have to open my home to an inspector who is going to tell me how my house should be set up and how to cook my food etc. so I would only sign up to the scheme and register with Tusla if they take into consideration the difference between a childminder and a crèche/ preschool. Thank you , Veronica Conaty	1/9/2024 11:18 AM
111	Maybe a seminar about what offering ncs scheme involves	1/9/2024 11:17 AM
112	Being there when we have questions or worries	1/9/2024 11:16 AM
113	Hopefully childminders won't have the same regulations as crèches or Tusla inspections won't be too rigid on childminders	1/9/2024 11:13 AM
114	Stop childminders from getting registered with tusla...	1/9/2024 11:09 AM
115	If regulations become very strict I think most childminders will stop offering services.	1/9/2024 11:09 AM
116	N/A	1/8/2024 9:35 PM
117	Simple breakdown of what exactly Tusla regulations are expected of us in our own homes. I run my childminding business as a home from home which all the parents love, if new regulations and strict guidelines stop me being able to do this I would have to consider closing down.	1/8/2024 8:32 PM
118	I'm worried that I won't qualify to register because I don't have college qualifications. I don't want to be forced out of doing something that I love because of that.	1/8/2024 2:31 PM
119	More information	1/8/2024 12:22 PM

Childminding in Ireland Survey 2023

120	Na	1/8/2024 12:16 PM
121	Just keep us up to date with any details of how things might change	1/8/2024 11:01 AM
122	Better childcare optional, support and options are required for parents. Places in crèche are non existent.. parents just don't have the option and now rely on family or childcare support in an informal setting. The giver needs to do more. Ireland is behind many other countries in the EU.	1/5/2024 11:58 PM
123	Stop encouraging fellow childminders to charge astronomical rates to families. I was forced to resign from my career as my childminder was charging €7.5ph/pc (€15ph x 40hrs),when I questioned it I was told the going rate is €10ph/pc so she said she was doing me a deal for two. This was not feasible long term. When I turned to social media childminding pages I got bombarded with vicious messages questioning how much I valued my children. Our country has strived to move away from the oppression of women yet this predominantly female group are forcing women out of the workforce. I now mind 3 children from one family and they pay me €90 pd. When my children are older I hope to return to my chosen profession but I refuse to go out to work all week to get a return less than social welfare.	1/5/2024 7:45 PM
124	I ok thanks	1/4/2024 6:41 PM
125	It is just such a help k owing you are there for any help needed	1/1/2024 11:07 PM
126	With up to date information about the changes ahead	12/28/2023 9:57 PM
127	What support do you offer in general ?	12/21/2023 4:10 AM
128	Keep the requirements based on what family life is like and on a family home environment	12/20/2023 10:53 PM
129	I believe parents choose childminders as it's home from home care. Be involved in their own community. If they wanted rules and regs they would choose an institution like a crèche. I hope you can fight for things to remain as they are. I love spending time with the kids not writing observations or documenting every move in day. Also this is my home I am not willing to change it Or for to be told it's not good enough. All my parents inspect the house where their children are cared for they are more than happy with my set up. That's what's important. That they are happy and confident in me and my experience my approach.	12/20/2023 10:53 AM
130	Keeping us updated on changes	12/20/2023 6:19 AM
131	Keep Me informed	12/19/2023 5:44 PM
132	Keep us informed. Keep offering online training. Thank you.	12/18/2023 7:03 PM
133	I'm finding it very stressful. I'm strongly thinking about leaving the sector.	12/18/2023 2:19 PM
134	Don't know	12/18/2023 7:08 AM
135	Keep us informed of any changes/upcoming developments	12/17/2023 4:10 AM
136	Keep us informed of any changes and how they will affect us and what we need to do	12/16/2023 11:00 PM
137	I don't know how it works but I think help would be needed with administration side of things	12/15/2023 9:45 PM
138	Just continue speaking up for us, helping to make sure that the regulations won't be too tight as to not discourage childminders from doing what they do.	12/15/2023 8:18 PM
139	To keep childminding as a family home, not a childcare based institution. Parents look for a second home not a sterile and paper overloaded place. Each of us is trying hard to fit the families needs together with our own. Each has a different situation which simply can't be placed in a one way system. Besides we are an one person staff business only.	12/15/2023 1:48 PM
140	Keep us as informed as possible.	12/15/2023 11:04 AM
141	Update your website with rates as 5e per hour is a thing of the past	12/15/2023 9:44 AM
142	As I will be retired, this will not affect me, but I think it's important all childminders are registered	12/14/2023 11:41 PM
143	Don't let them shut you down. Cmi is an invaluable voice and resource for us	12/14/2023 11:28 PM

Childminding in Ireland Survey 2023

144	Better pay	12/14/2023 10:22 PM
145	Will it be compulsory to register with Tusla?	12/14/2023 8:22 PM
146	As someone who just wants to mind kids while been at home for my own kids and make a little money. I don't see why we should have to register with tesla. If I wanted to do that I would have opened up in a purpose built setting.	12/14/2023 7:53 PM
147	regulations need to be home friendly so if you could continue to lobby on our behalf	12/14/2023 7:45 PM
148	Look for Realistic guidelines for minding in our homes and constant updates to what is being planned.	12/14/2023 7:34 PM
149	Information and support	12/14/2023 4:47 PM
150	I struggle without sick pay or holiday pay and children going on frequent holidays and breaks and parents forgetting to pay. The cost of everything in the home has rocketed but pay has not. Wages are decreasing and unpredictable	12/14/2023 4:44 PM
151	As many up dates as possible and from September help with the whole tusla registration process. And helping us have our voice heard regarding the changes and the governments power	12/14/2023 3:50 PM
152	Well, find out all the people who are minding childrens and they are not registered and they don't have any school or First aid training. It's not professional and is to risky for children.	12/14/2023 3:10 PM
153	Information and guidance	12/14/2023 3:02 PM
154	Keep childminders as childminders not just puppets for government. In my opinion children in a childminders home with all different age children seem to get on alot better eg speech play fine gross motor skills crawling walking and eating and drinking spoon feeding using cups toilet training homework local schools and preschools have praised the children in my setting and how well ready they are for school and how their speech is amazing. Children in a 2year preschool setting do not get the same experience I know as I was a preschool teacher and worked in a preschool full day care setting. Not good children can't learn anything if all the children are the same age in group setting their all at the same learning stage????? Children that mix with all ages development better ask anyone the government 2year preschool is a joke the preschool providers are not truthfully and pretend to be broke!!! The forget to tell tusla or pobal about the Halloween and Easter and summer camps cash in hand plus the offering of only 3mornings for the pre pre or preschool year so the take another child for cash happening all over the country and they on strike outside the Dail. Maybe they would fix that mess b4 the get their hands on our proper care and loved childcare services. I think we do not need a national childcare service it will end in a mess.	12/14/2023 2:55 PM
155	By giving as much information as is possible about the National Action Plan. I feel that there is very little mention of it.	12/14/2023 2:15 PM
156	Information events or on line	12/14/2023 2:04 PM
157	I fully support,where there's loads of parents are struggling to find a cheaper minder to take care of their children.	12/14/2023 2:04 PM
158	By not increasing fees by 25e smaller increase at thease difficult times. As i have said before i want to be left as i am insured registered guarda vetted girst aid training.. I will probably give up this when tulsia registered is required	12/14/2023 1:46 PM
159	At the moment everything is going good for me	12/14/2023 1:45 PM
160	Scared of all the policies, inspections that I hear about,	12/14/2023 1:39 PM
161	Give good advice for easy transition	12/14/2023 1:35 PM
162	There is alot of worry with regard Tusla regulations with requirements to the Home. If the NCS grant is given to parents then why does it feel like the childminder is gona loose out in money. There has to be some kind of incentive for childminders to apply with Tusla . Why cant we be given sick pay for days off when we need them instead of closing	12/14/2023 1:30 PM
163	Please keep childminders informed of how these changes will affect us Using all forms of communication as childminders hav have a very busy days, and therefore extremely hard to keep on top of all change plus look after Care for the children will you mind and do all the	12/14/2023 1:25 PM

Childminding in Ireland Survey 2023

	paperwork required. I keep on top and keep on top of our finances are use is a very difficult role with lots of demands	
164	As I am getting on in years, it is my intention to finish up in the next couple of years.	12/14/2023 1:15 PM
165	Simplified doc or info meeting to run through what I need to do to bring my place up to standard without judgement. Bearing in mind I'm doing my degree in Early yrs finial yr	12/14/2023 1:12 PM
166	We need our own realistic regulations separate for centre based childcare.	12/14/2023 1:06 PM
167	I hope that it would be discussed that something that wasn't broken and working well with childminders should be allowed stay. Bringing Tusla into this is scaring childminders and the likes of good childminders helping parents out will leave the system. Leave everything the way it was and we are not changing half as much as childcare facilities. Thee we government are ruining childminders in the home and at the end of the day there isn't enough childcare places that's why Parents approach us to mind their kids and they know us. Garda vetting should be enough for childminders.	12/14/2023 1:02 PM
168	Inspections going forward must have a childminding background to understand the dynamics and ethos of childminders offering a home from home setting.	12/14/2023 12:44 PM
169	I am well capable of minding more children, I hope the regulations don't put the childminder in a position where they can only mind 3/4 children. I am adapting my house and trying to get more space around but it's expensive to make any extensions, would be nice to have a grand even if was small to help with things like that or an outdoor maintenance service like a fence or artificial grass because my house is nearly impossible to kids to play with the toys I have because or mud and it has happened many times kids fall because of muddy soil, unfortunately, I can't fix that because of high cost. Childminders work many more hours than creches and would be nice to be able to get at least 4 hours daily with the NCS, we work 10/11 hours daily. Sometimes 6 days a week.	12/14/2023 10:49 AM
170	By continuing to be supportive and representing us all	12/14/2023 10:38 AM
171	You're doing an amazing job as it is . I know your support is always there .	12/14/2023 10:23 AM
172	I shave been child minding for over 20yrs and I plan to retire when it's compulsory to register with Tulsa.	12/14/2023 9:25 AM
173	I do not want my home invaded by my work. I do not want someone coming in my home telling me things I have to change (and pay for it myself) to turn my home into a creche. My house is our home. I work from home and everyone is safe and happy. I'd rather give up minding than have someone who sits in an office tell me what I have to do to keep my mindees safe. They're already safe or they wouldn't be with me.	12/14/2023 9:21 AM
174	No longer applicable	12/13/2023 8:18 PM
175	Don't know	12/13/2023 8:04 PM
176	I find your emails very informative & everything is explained so just keep doing what you're doing, it's very much appreciated, thank you 😊	12/13/2023 3:35 PM
177	I am happy to continue as i am for another year or two.	12/13/2023 2:48 PM
178	By continuing to advise us of the changes as they are happening. You are a most helpful service	12/13/2023 2:06 PM
179	Make Government listen to providers and actually hear what they are saying. Everyone welcomes support for parents but childcare providers cannot be sacrificed on the altar of NCS	12/13/2023 1:35 PM
180	I am a childminder who offer's the ECCE scheme. I run 2 sessions daily with 5 children in the morning and 4 children in the afternoon which I enjoy doing. But the demands and paper work from the DCYA and Pobal are getting harder and harder every year.	12/13/2023 1:22 PM
181	Just be there for any information or help we need.	12/13/2023 1:11 PM
182	I would like to see feedback from the consultations about the action plan. We keep hearing that it's happening but have no proof that actual childminders are being included and listened to. More surveys should be sent to the childminders regarding the new regulations with practical examples of what regs are planned so they can be assessed. Can childminding	12/13/2023 12:30 PM

Childminding in Ireland Survey 2023

Ireland push for draft regulations to be published so they can be really checked by the people who they are going to effect before its too late

183	I already tried to register with Tusla it was far too complicated I hope the new system is more user friendly and we will be supported	12/13/2023 11:49 AM
184	Accept tge reality of the industry as it stands. Ask serious questions about how can introduce regulations without any concrete plan on the logistics of how it will actually work. Its time for some concrete answers to questions that were asked years ago.	12/13/2023 11:05 AM
185	More information regarding Tusla inspections to allow plenty of time to prepare	12/13/2023 10:52 AM
186	Realastic level of experience to be accepted , with first aid and garda vetting for childminders	12/13/2023 9:52 AM
187	Keeping us informed of changes as you here about them, and consulting with government bodies to ensure our childminding ethos and home from home environment allows to continue under new Regs.	12/13/2023 9:23 AM
188	It all seems very complicated. Steps on how to register and what to be prepared for would be great	12/13/2023 8:41 AM
189	Telling as soon as possible if we must prepare an exam to be Tulsa registered	12/13/2023 8:35 AM
190	I have very little idea of what is going on. It feels like we will be presented with rules that nobody wants, but that we will be forced to implement anyway if we want to continue childminding. I fear that in the end, rule-obeying childminders like me will be pushed out of the market and the (then) illegal ones will keep going. I think that even an intense media campaign to raise awareness levels in the population will not persuade parents or black market childminders to change their ways.	12/13/2023 8:16 AM
191	Well childminding ireland have always given support to us and have been great.	12/13/2023 8:01 AM
192	To ensure the childminding regulations are home focused and not like the centre based regulations. I will not have my home regulated like a creche.	12/13/2023 7:54 AM
193	Do Tusla require a lot of form filling	12/12/2023 10:56 PM
194	Like always keeping me updated on the national Action Plan and supporting me going forward	12/12/2023 10:37 PM
195	As childminding Ireland is the ONLY body that looks after childminders, they have our best interests at heart and as their core value. Previously (13+ ish years ago), childcare committees were wonderful for childminders AND sessional/creche services but their involvement in voluntary registered minders is now non existent. Previously, workshops and courses were available to ALL services but childminders have been cut from the list unless they are tusla registered. So it's easy to see that we are seen as an inferior form of childcare, our best interests are not at heart. Regulations and new rules are being made without our/childminding Irelands proper consultation or input. The rule makers are forging ahead and ignoring what childminders want and need. We are told of the new regulations when they are made public and without any real input from childminders/childminding Ireland. This is why we NEED childminding Ireland to continue to be our regulatory body. Separate from tusla/childcare committees/early childhood etc. Its obvious that childminding is trying to be forced into 'early education' or early childhood or whatever term they want to use so that we are all under the same umbrella. We will have no hope if that happens, we will have nobody to speak up for us. We will be railroaded into complying with rules that are made for creche type services and not for childminding in family homes. We need childminding Ireland to fight for us and continue to work for/with us.	12/12/2023 10:37 PM
196	Lobby for appropriate inspections for home- based minding	12/12/2023 10:32 PM
197	I am not sure about what will be the requirements to be TUSLA registered; I guess they'll give us some facilities (I'm not qualified for childcare and I know this is one of the conditions) I would like to know if the requirements for us will be same as for a Crèche, I don't think it would be a realistic expectation because we are in our home without help... I understand the need for our trade to be regulated, but I think it should be done in a realistic and easy way for all.	12/12/2023 10:29 PM
198	Keep updating with relevant information and training when approaching registration when the time comes	12/12/2023 10:10 PM
199	If the registration in 2024 is anything like the process for services the in will simply drive childminders into the black economy.	

Childminding in Ireland Survey 2023

200	Please make the system less paper Wark.	12/12/2023 9:28 PM
201	By keeping us informed as the changes happen	12/12/2023 9:26 PM
202	continue to be there for the childminders in Ireland as the only consistent voice for information and reason for a sector that is about to be turned on its head. I believe Childminding Ireland is invaluable and it would be a national disgrace for the government if the ONLY childminding advocate body folded in one of the biggest changes in childminding history.	12/12/2023 9:26 PM
203	Support and information on what to charge if I was to join the childminding Ireland insurance and register with tusla. I'm charging minimum when with qualifications and experience in Early Years.	12/12/2023 9:13 PM
204	Keep me informed of necessary requirements, such as compulsory Tusla registration. Thank you.	12/12/2023 9:12 PM
205	Explain what Tusla expect from childminders when they inspect their homes. Do they take into consideration that this is the childminders home and not a purpose built crèche?	12/12/2023 9:10 PM
206	Higher wages	12/12/2023 8:58 PM
207	Promote the positives, encourage childminders to be accountable and help parents	12/12/2023 8:55 PM
208	As lone workers ., it would be great if we could have simplification of the requirements for the Core Funding	12/12/2023 8:54 PM
209	The reason I'm not registering with Tusla is I have level 6 in business and I was a higher needs Foster Carer with Tusla for 5 years, I don't have time to do a full year of a level 5 course. I feel this is unfair as I was accepted to take the most vulnerable children and i did wonderful work and now I must complete another course.	12/12/2023 8:54 PM
210	By speaking on our behalf, and continuing to do the excellent work you currently do.	12/12/2023 8:53 PM
211	I'd like to think that in the future things could be kept very similar to what they are now as in children coming to my home in a relaxed environment minus all the paperwork & strict regulations. From talking to other childminders it's going be very time consuming & as I've my own family to think about too I don't think I can commit to paperwork or any hassle.	12/12/2023 8:52 PM
212	No comment	12/12/2023 8:18 PM
213	Keep me informed about the changes as their happening	12/12/2023 7:08 PM
214	Speak up for us and help make the new regulations not strict on childminders in their own home. If too strict and expect us to change our home into a creche I'd be giving up childminding.	12/12/2023 6:54 PM
215	Don't fancy random spot checks from Tusla.	12/12/2023 6:49 PM
216	Ensure our voices are heard in regards to the new regulations	12/12/2023 6:37 PM
217	Keeping us informed as you are thank you.	12/12/2023 6:36 PM
218	Just keep us informed of developments	12/12/2023 6:36 PM
219	Lobby more re the plan, lobby more re the grant, desperate the sub division of the 250k was passed and progressed right to the point of allocation. We need vocal posting to fb, not crap stuff that is posted as usual. More members would join or indeed rejoin if CMI were seen as worthwhile.	12/12/2023 6:25 PM
220	N/a	12/12/2023 6:17 PM
221	I would like to know when the focus groups are on that will be discussing the new regulations.	12/12/2023 6:10 PM
222	Grant early in year, ncs to be approved	12/12/2023 6:10 PM
223	Continue to provide information to keep us up to date with changes	12/12/2023 6:08 PM
224	Continue to be our voice so that the government recognises that Childminders cannot be put into a neat little box. These are our homes and we offer a hugely valuable service. In most cases we are a "second family" and our concerns about losing that need to be communicated strongly to the government.	12/12/2023 6:00 PM

Childminding in Ireland Survey 2023

225	Ask that Tusla is not strict on inspections for new members as this will frighten off new members and return minders to not been registered I believe you can register with Tusla but as a childminder it should be a informal inspection I do feel talking with many childminders not registered they don't like the sound of Tusla having power to inspect at anytime and it will only make childminding more expensive in the long run and in grand scheme of things Government will lose revenue as childminders will not want to register	12/12/2023 5:54 PM
226	Please let us know what will be expected in the National Childminding Scheme next year as childminders regarding Tusla expectations, education expectations etc.	12/12/2023 5:53 PM
227	I don't want to register with Tusla and I hate that I'm being forced to do it or close my doors.	12/12/2023 5:49 PM
228	Supply propr information about what childminders have to do	12/12/2023 5:44 PM
229	Help getting better insurance for part time childminders	12/12/2023 5:43 PM
230	Giving us any relevant new information as soon as you get it so we can prepare for any changes that are coming.	12/12/2023 5:43 PM
231	Help with pricing when scheme comes in. Older kids get needs less hrs during school term but needed full hrs in summer holidays etc	12/12/2023 5:43 PM
232	Setting out and explaining each key point in Bulley points , continuing to update us regarding new information etc	12/12/2023 5:41 PM
233	Keep us updated on information and tell us what we need to do to be able to register with tusla	12/12/2023 5:39 PM
234	Advice and support with fees. Advice about dealing with parent's Paperwork that will be involved Regulations relating to tusla that I will need to make in my home	12/12/2023 5:38 PM
235	I think CMI need to be more vocal re the amount of childminders not with CMI & minding multiple children & have no insurance etc	12/12/2023 5:36 PM
236	Childminders need regulations that are specifically for them , the current regulations for crèches are not suitable , childminding Ireland is childminders voice in this change	12/12/2023 5:31 PM
237	Keeping us informed at all times about changes, dates of changes, what we need to do to be compliant etc..	12/12/2023 5:30 PM
238	Keep us up to date with the changes & what will be required of us please	12/12/2023 5:25 PM
239	Updates as often as possible	12/12/2023 5:24 PM
240	I don't believe we should be registered with tesla, we are home environmental childcare. And tulsas is unable to take care of any children in there care, they employ pedophiles and they have been proven to lie under oath and ruin peoples lives. Tusla will drive me out of my much loved job and I will not take any recommendations off them	12/12/2023 5:22 PM
241	Hopefully the ratio for childminders won't go less. That would be a nightmare if it changes for financial reasons	12/12/2023 5:20 PM
242	Ensure that the transition is smooth	12/12/2023 5:18 PM
243	Im very worried about what changes will happen in my own home and the home from home atmosphere will be lost	12/12/2023 5:17 PM
244	Advice, guidance, information	12/12/2023

Appendix 3

Q34 Please share any advice, comments or concerns you may have that have not been covered in this survey

Answered: 73 Skipped: 1,817

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I care for two children whose mother is employed by the HSE. They arrive at my home at 7:30 am and I take them to playschool at 9.30am, picking them up again at noon. They stay with me until 4 pm. During this time, we enjoy a relaxed routine - having lunch, engaging in play with toys, taking breaks, watching TV, reading books, and sometimes going for walks to the park or visiting my nearby mother. There's no schedule once they return from playschool. Both the children and their parents love our home and my family loves the children. Will I be operating outside the law if I choose not to register with Tusla? Will I need to inform parents that I can no longer care for their children? I am already registered with Revenue. Can't I simply provide them with a receipt so they can claim their childcare expenses on their tax returns?	2/1/2024 9:35 PM
2	I am very worried that I will have to stop childminding once these new regulations come in. I mind 2 children and 1 is autistic. My parents are worried I will have no choice but to stop because I refuse to register with Tusla. I make so little money, it would be pointless.	2/1/2024 9:00 PM
3	Childminders should not be expected to have the same amount of paperwork as creches if they are signed up to the NCS and core funding. We will not have the capacity to earn the amount of money they have	2/1/2024 4:23 PM
4	Notting really	2/1/2024 10:34 AM
5	N/A	2/1/2024 6:30 AM
6	N/a	1/31/2024 7:50 PM
7	I think it's unfair that I worked with Tusla as a Foster carer and now for NCS I would have to have childcare course. I have level 6 secretarial and numerous fostering courses, I can't face into another course at 58	1/31/2024 7:41 PM
8	All good	1/31/2024 6:34 PM
9	I am retired. I just mind a friend's three children (two are in school) to cover the costs of my son's Playschool fees which were brought in this year. I needed to find a very informal arrangement that would suit both myself and the children's parents. I mind them 1-2 days a week and this covers the Playschool costs, which is all I can ask for.	1/31/2024 5:18 PM
10	There is a massive shortage of childminders in our area and I appeal to the government to please address this people want their kids minders in a home from home which is what I have for my kids are very happy and my parents are even happier Jp know that I am Garda versus I have a Childminding Sherance for the house insurance to carry the kids in my car I am registered member of Childminding Ireland and I have paediatric first-aid I am everything that they need	1/30/2024 1:05 PM
11	My worry is that, in order to justify giving grants to parents using childminders, (not to the childminder), we will be bent into a shape that is not helpful to childminders or beneficial to the children we mind. We have all seen what has happened to Playschools (five closed in our area in the last year). I do not want to spend my time filling in forms, I want to spend it looking after, and having fun with, the children I mind.	1/29/2024 8:08 PM
12	To give an idea of daily rate .. half day or per hour	1/23/2024 10:12 PM
13	Help with accounts and tax returns	1/23/2024 7:42 PM
14	Lack of information on where things lie or will lie in how we will be regulated, I'm minding 18 years, the way I work, works fine for me.	1/23/2024 5:58 PM

Childminding in Ireland Survey 2023

15	Fees are very varied according to county to county am in the west they seem very low compared to the rest of Ireland	1/20/2024 1:29PM
16	Questions re current qualifications and training.....needs to be a priority. If we are to be viewed as professionals we need the education and training.	1/19/2024 10:40 PM
17	Increase the maximum number of children to be minded back up to 6, I've lost children as the mammy has had another baby and I'm unable to mind as already have 5. This happens too often and parents then find it so difficult to find alternative care for both children	1/19/2024 9:50 PM
18	I am very worried about the future of childminding. I totally welcome regulations but it has to be done on childminders terms. I am involved in the process but very much feel that so far, the plan is set and they only consult us because they have to be seen to. It will be easy to get childminders who already are voluntary notified or Tusla notified but how will they bring in the thousands of others "underground" childminders?? At some stage I will have to take the decision if it is worth while me continuing as a childminder, if to go "underground" or quit it all together . All three is an option as far as I am concerned.	1/19/2024 4:57 PM
19	More funding needs to be available for it to be registered	1/18/2024 10:06 AM
20	Tax free income threshold should be increased to €24,000 per annum for up to 5 children at any one time to cover the huge increase in costs and the cost of living over the past few years.	1/18/2024 9:50 AM
21	Please keep childminding Ireland funded and secure for all childminders and minded familys'	1/18/2024 12:01 AM
22	I hope that the inpection process is appropriate for childminding sessions. I have heard a worrying story about a childminding inspection already. The inspector didn't seem to have an understanding of childminding settings. This is exactly the situation childminders were worried about and it seems unfortunately that it is coming to pass. The inspectorate need to have experienced childminders on their staff to gain the trust of childminders. It needs to be a nurturing and encouraging visit from someone who has lived and understands childminding rather than a frightening critical inspection. Childminders will leave in their droves if this is not handled properly from the beginning. This would be such a sad outcome for so many families. Please please suggest that they employ ex childminders who have an understanding of and love for the profession. This in my opinion will be the key to the success of the new regulations and the survival and growth of what every childhood expert knows is by far the best quality of care for children's wellbeing and indeed that of their families.	1/17/2024 10:50 PM
23	None	1/17/2024 9:39 PM
24	I really feel strongly that 2 people should be allowed to work together to childmind in a home. It provides safety continuity and support	1/17/2024 6:39 PM
25	Find parents taking more advantage of me	1/15/2024 3:36 PM
26	We need long term financial support, pension support and benefits in order for it to be worthwhile signing up. If the government makes it compulsory for childminders to register, I imagine most childminders like myself will seek other better paid employment and benefits thus making the situation for working families even more difficult.	1/12/2024 8:01 PM
27	I am relatively new to childminding and haven't had time to form an opinion on most categories here in the survey. But hope this helps	1/11/2024 1:12 PM
28	I don't agree with Tusla coming in to inspect my home. We all do things differently and we might not agree with some of their guidelines but at the end of the day the children are looked after like they are our own.	1/11/2024 9:43 AM
29	Thank you	1/9/2024 3:04 PM
30	If I had to register with tusla I'm afraid it would force me out of business as it would mean too many changes to the home	1/9/2024 2:20 PM
31	Childminding grant was great but could be an increase since the value of everything has increased and I thought I could have changed and put so much value on my business with the grant but wasnteven close to what I wanted to for the kids, very frustrating	1/9/2024 2:07 PM
32	If this new action plan changes my home I will be leaving the sector	1/9/2024 12:33 PM

Childminding in Ireland Survey 2023

33	Afraid of Tusla and their regulations already, hear from crèches and they say not to get them involved with the business, soomuch red tape.....this is why I haven't registered and afraid to register.	1/9/2024 11:28 AM
34	Hope the government don't put pressure on childminders with the national childminding scheme as regards to regulations, training and inspections.	1/9/2024 11:23 AM
35	I dont think genuine registered childminders who pay their taxes should be made register with Tusla for parents to benefit from NCS. It should be a payment rolled out to all parents of children in any childcare setting	1/8/2024 8:41 PM
36	Grandparents supporting to keep childcare costs for their children low and manageable	1/8/2024 12:20 PM
37	Very important that childminding in the home is seen very much as this. I do not believe that childminders should be seen as "educators" or even as "the sector" we offer unique childcare in our homes and parents are free to choose the best fit for their family and their needs. We cannot be regulated in that sense in our homes or what we provide.	12/21/2023 7:50 AM
38	Thank you for your on-going help/support/training offers.	12/18/2023 7:06 PM
39	I would like clarity on all the changes happening for child minders.	12/18/2023 2:26 PM
40	Concerns over the new legislation and how that will impact my day to day work life. Concerned the changes may not be in line with childminders and that I may have to close and find alternate work	12/17/2023 4:19 AM
41	Don't know how the new scheme will impact earnings. If cost tax and administrative cost are too high it might make it infeasible to continue childminding	12/15/2023 10:08 PM
42	Our afterschool could benefit huge by upgrading our space inside and outdoor space needs upgrading, I need to upgrade but it would take years to save to have works done. Can childminders apply for any grant for this ? Or is it SAC only	12/15/2023 10:40 AM
43	Unregistered and uninsured childminders around me have a huge amount of children because they do not have to abide by ratio numbers . Its much harder to be honest and stick by all the guidelines but as a nurse I would stictly follow rules and Be insured . However I can see why people arent	12/15/2023 9:00 AM
44	Uncertainty for the future of home settings as the action plan is unclear	12/14/2023 7:49 PM
45	I hope guideline's will be fit for purpose for our homes. There is going to be an awful shortage of minders in the future with ones like myself maybe having served their time but ones that never registered/notified/joined childminding ireland will just stop when regulations come in.	12/14/2023 7:44 PM
46	No question on previous experience before childminding or reason for starting. Its interesting to know who started because they had a baby, who started and had o experience, who started after years of stressful crèche work etc. Can help to adapt support to suit people who are completely inexperienced and need a little extra guidance. I have 9yrs nan ny experience and afew years of Montessori teaching and started because I plan to have kids and want affordable childcare while rasing my own kids and having an income.	12/14/2023 4:02 PM
47	I think childminding ireland need to keep they eyes opened in government talks they don't really care about the children or their development if they did then service should be alot better long ago as a past worker in a government sceam preschool fullday care center I would have deep deep concerns the management is shoking Tusla did not want to here or check any complaint if childminding gone this root I'm out do not trust this mix. Look at what primie time exposed and its still going one. Not a good move bye childminding ireland children need to be nourished onto put on convarbelts every day same room same friends same age same teacher all get boarded	12/14/2023 3:11 PM
48	Keep supporting and working with the parents who are looking for a childminder from home and it also helps us stay in mams to work and earn a bit of money.	12/14/2023 2:08 PM

Childminding in Ireland Survey 2023

49	<p>In the UK 2 Childminders can work together , maybe this could be an idea for working together in Ireland ? Helps with the paperwork burden, and on the spot support , especially in terms of inclusion. A lot of my parents seem to prefer the smaller sized service , but the percentage of children attending with additional needs is much higher than the 2:22 preschool ecce sessions. This brings extra pressure to a lone worker throughout the year . , especially when a child does not meet the criteria for aim support but still presents with challenging behaviours .</p> <p>In my morning cohort of 5 children , 2 need S&Lsupport, 1 child has English as a 2nd language and 1child needs supports for behaviours but not enough for aim hours . This is 4 out of 5 children needing extra support, which can be intense some days and leaves zero time for paperwork. If Childminders were allowed to have the 6 children allowed under planning (Tusla only allow 5 preschool age) and work together even 2 days per week , children would benefit from another adults experience too.</p>	
50	Have a body like Childminding Ireland for minders when we are being inspected as its in our homes and not creches.	12/14/2023 1:38 PM
51	Just say I'm at work that is required as in regards to the accounts for core funding which is quite a mess at present	12/14/2023 1:28 PM
52	Non registered children minders can't apply for funding for CPD this is a disgrace pure discrimination and I'd say illegal if looked into.. the benefits outweigh the few quid the government would have to pay out.. early years quality of service pay back for every euro pays back €7. Time for equality between early years and Teachers	12/14/2023 1:20 PM
53	None	12/14/2023 1:19 PM
54	The main issue for me is that with childminding the pare Approach us not the other way around. They know us and I feel Tusla coming in to my own home is wrong Garda vetting should brr we more than adequate for us. Leave us tge little bit of money that we get for this important job.	12/14/2023 1:09 PM
55	In the context of NCS, Will the issues CB services currently have with uploading info to the hive, having hours of pay reduced, or if a child is picked up early or out sick etc, be the same for childminders who could be out of pocket if similar cases arose?	12/14/2023 12:52 PM
56	One thing a lot of childminders are worried about is paperwork. We already work long hours (I myself work between 50-65 hours a week) so we should not have to sit and do admin for hours every week. Also, we need to be paid for the time it takes to do the paperwork and be paid any fees weekly and promptly.	12/14/2023 9:43 AM
57	need to get childminding policies that are workable for childminders and stop going around in circles saying and doing the same thing over and over with no decisions...	12/13/2023 8:30 PM
58	Thanks for everything during the year, wishing you all a very Merry - & restful - Christmas & continued success in 2024!	12/13/2023 3:45 PM
59	Can Childminding Ireland speak for us, we are not comfortable with CCC s who dont seem to understand our type of service	12/13/2023 1:41 PM
60	<p>While there is a lot of uncertainty surrounding the Action Plan there are a few things we do know. You will have to register with Tusla, Revenue and be Garda Vetted. At present less than 5% of Childminders are ticking any of those boxes let alone all 3. The narrative needs to change in my opinion to work directly with those who are willing to at least engage with the potential changes the action plan may introduce in the future. If your not registered with Revenue your not going to sign up for the Action Plan. No one working cash in hand will sign up. If you don't follow the present rules regulations and guidelines you are not going to sign up for the action plan. The statistics are there. Thats the reality of the situation. People who do follow the rules regulations and guidelines as they presently stand should be given the option to be fast tracked through the whole process. How long will it take to register? No one knows? But those who are following all the rules regulations and guidelines as they stand should be engaged with in a meaningful manner rather them just being lumped in with the significant majority who will not engage with the present rules regulations and guidelines let alone the increased level of regulations that the Action Plan will entail. I have no faith in the whole process and as mentioned before am making plans to change my business model in the very foreseeable future and possibly cease childminding altogether in the future.</p>	12/13/2023 11:44 AM

Childminding in Ireland Survey 2023

61	The grant spend time was in the month of September, I had to do a lot of my shopping in Aug in preparation for the new afterschool year. Being approved mid aug would have made a big difference to me.	12/13/2023 10:57 AM
62	Worried childminding going to be ruined by plan as they don't seem to be listening to childminders.	12/13/2023 10:46 AM
63	I would like better co-operation among the childminders in this area. Childminding is a very isolated profession and even with attending Parent & Toddler meetings, the library, etc. local CM groups could be so helpful. However, I find that the desire to stay anonymous is so strong among CMs that even offers by the local CCC of free trainings without keeping attendance lists are not taken up. In my experience, most childminders don't want any attention. They don't see themselves as professionals or as self-employed. They don't want to attend any trainings and see no benefit in doing so since they don't think CM requires any particular skill or knowledge. They just want to make a few bob for themselves on the side and most certainly have no interest in keeping books. I think this attitude is likely to prevail no matter what the legislation says.	12/13/2023 8:54 AM
64	I am very much concerned that the realities of working as a childminder in my own home will be required to fit into a model only fit for a creche setting	12/12/2023 10:45 PM
65	Just say thank you for all your amazing work!	12/12/2023 10:36 PM
66	Tax exemption for childminding should be under €25,000, not €15,000.	12/12/2023 9:40 PM
67	My concerns are that the personal touch with parents and children is altered and that there will be too much paperwork involved	12/12/2023 9:32 PM
68	The childcare situation in this country is serious, there are women who are minding too many children, who aren't insured or have done a FAR first aid course, or a food hygiene /cross contamination for food for allergies, and they are getting away with it. Its well past time for childminders to be registered with tusla and be accountable and offer ncs	12/12/2023 9:05 PM
69	Worried about losing the home from home environment I have with the children I care for. That all the extra regulations and time consuming paperwork will take the fun and enjoyments out of childcare for me in the future and make my workload bigger and more stressful, that I am going to have to make more changes to my family home and the business takes over my home completely that my own children can't switch off and relax and I will reluctantly have to leave the childcare sector because I will no longer love it or enjoy it.	12/12/2023 7:16 PM
70	Low rates, why is the rates question gone?	12/12/2023 6:29 PM
71	None	12/12/2023 6:19 PM
72	Great support from childminding Ireland always thank you	12/12/2023 6:00 PM
73	scope for wages too big I ticked 10000 to 190000 but I'm at lower scale earning 11000	12/12/2023 5:40 PM