

2 June 2020

**Re: Recommencement of fit for purpose inspections**

Dear Provider,

I hope I find you well in these difficult times for all in our community. I am writing to update you on the recommencement of fit for purpose inspections.

The Government's Roadmap for Reopening Society & Business identified Phase 3 (29 June) to allow for the reopening of childcare facilities for children of essential workers with this now being extended to all other workers. The Department of Children and Youth Affairs wrote to you on 27 May to confirm that you and your staff are permitted to travel to your childcare facility to undertake preparatory work required for reopening.

To assist with preparations for reopening, our inspectorate is proposing to recommence fit for purpose inspections of services now. There are significant benefits to these inspections occurring as soon as possible; new services will be registered, and changes in circumstances can be approved prior to the reopening of services in late June. There are minimal public health risks to this activity as there will be no children or staff on-site during the inspection, and there will be minimal contact between the registered provider and the inspector.

As you know, all persons proposing to operate an early years' service in Ireland are legally required to register that service and the regulations set out the requirements for the registration process. Applications are assessed by Tusla in three parts:

- Part 1: Desk assessment and verification of the application information,
- Part 2: On-site inspection of the premises, known as a fit for purpose (FFP) assessment, and
- Part 3: Reporting the outcome of the application and assessment.

A similar application and assessment is required for a service that wishes to make significant changes to its service provision (i.e., increase the number of children or change service type from sessional to full day care).

Tusla has reviewed the way we conduct these inspections to ensure the time spent on-site at your service will be kept to an absolute minimum with strict adherence to social distancing. All paperwork assessments and discussions will be completed remotely prior to the on-site activity. All inspections will be agreed by appointment, and if you cannot attend, you may nominate an alternate in your place, but please advise the inspector beforehand.



*Children's Services Regulation,  
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Henry Street,  
Limerick.  
Tel: 061 461700  
Email: [ey.registration@tusla.ie](mailto:ey.registration@tusla.ie)*

We are currently processing and prioritising areas where there are severe shortages in childcare places. If you have made an application there is no requirement for you to contact us, we will be in touch with you in due course.

If you have any queries, please contact [ey.registration@tusla.ie](mailto:ey.registration@tusla.ie), where a member of the team will be able to advise you further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eibhlin O'Leary', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eibhlin O'Leary

**Head of Inspection and Assessment**

**Children's Service Regulation**