



Baroness Barran

Minister for the School System and Student Finance
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House of Lords,
Houses of Parliament,
Parliament Square,
London,
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25th April 2024

My Lords,

Thank you for your questions in the Early Years Update Oral Statement yesterday. I am writing to clarify my response on capacity in the early years sector.

In response to questions from Baroness Twycross and Lord Storey, I said that:

“...all types of providers that took part in our pulse survey have increased their capacity in the last year by over 20% for group-based and school-based providers. The figure is rather more for childminders although, as your Lordships know, they represent a smaller part of the market.”

Similarly, in response to a question from Baroness Andrews, I said that:

“...as I pointed out earlier, capacity for all types of provider rose by over 20% last year.”

I would like to clarify that the scale of the increase I referenced only refers to providers who have increased their places, and not the provider market as a whole. To be specific, 10% of group-based providers, 11% of school-based providers and 15% of childminders have increased their places over the past 12 months. Of those providers that did increase their places, group-based providers saw an average increase of 24%, school-based providers increased by 25% and childminders increased by 39%.

More information can be found in the [Pulse Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers Research Report](#), published April 2024.

I will deposit a copy of this letter in the House Library.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana Barran". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BARONESS BARRAN

MINISTER FOR THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AND STUDENT FINANCE