



12 March 2020.

Dear Provider,

An announcement was made this morning by the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD of the closure from Friday, 13 March (COB Thurs 12th) of “Crèches and childcare facilities”, schools and further and higher education settings, for a period until 29 March 2020, to support efforts to contain the spread of Covid-19. This is in line with the advice of the National Public Health Emergency Team.

The closure of childcare facilities is covered by force majeure, and so the Department will continue to pay subvention under all programmes - ECCE, NCS and the legacy schemes (CCS, TEC). There is no need to apply for force majeure in this instance. Services will not be required to make up days for those closed due to force majeure. The subvention will be paid at the same rate as the last full week of service, which will be the week of 2 to 6 March. We will review the deadline for application for the 2020 Capital Programme.

Pobal will be in contact with you next week to confirm the payment process and to provide further details.

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs is meeting with key early years sector stakeholders this afternoon, including members of the Early Years Forum and SIPTU.

The Department will continue to keep you updated on developments which may impact the early years sector.

Thank you for all your ongoing efforts. Very best wishes.

Early Years Division.
DCYA.