

DE/2023-0125

Request

Please treat the below as a request made under the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

1. Could you please provide the quantum of funding allocated to early education and childcare by the Department of Education, broken down per year for each of the last ten years?

DE Response

I wish to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information which you requested on 08 December 2023 (as outlined below).

Could you please provide the quantum of funding allocated to early education and childcare by the Department of Education, broken down per year for each of the last ten years?

Due to NICS Retention and Disposals policies, the Department only holds the financial information you have requested for the last seven financial years.

The table below sets out a summary of the recurrent funding made available by the Department of Education for Early Years and Childcare (ELC) for the period 2016/17 to 2022/23.

Recurrent Funding for Early Learning and Childcare	
Financial Year	£m
2016/17	92
2017/18	90
2018/19	91
2019/20	92
2020/20	96
2021/22	102
2022/23	104

Notes:

1. *The figures include the main recurrent funding for ELC. Additional wider areas of funding may benefit ELC however this cannot be separately identified and thereby provided by DE.*
2. *Funding for 2023/24 has not yet been finalised and has therefore not been included.*
3. *Figures exclude £57m COVID-19 funding for ELC allocated in the financial years 2020/21 to 2021/22.*
4. *The figures have been compiled from a combination of centrally held Departmental final budget information, the Letters of Offer to individual organisations and identifiable allocations related to nursery schools and nursery units from the Common Funding Formula.*

The table below sets out a summary of the capital funding made available by the Department of Education for Early Years and Childcare (ELC) for the period 2016/17 to 2022/23.

Capital Funding for Early Learning and Childcare	
Financial Year	£000
2016/17	500
2017/18	500
2018/19	30
2019/20	200
2020/20	500
2021/22	387
2022/23	111

Notes:

1. *The figures in the table refer to the initial allocation made available for capital funding. Actual spend in each year was different.*