

Your Questions Answered

**Q. Can parents choose to not take tax credits to enable eligibility?
Parents just on the cusp of eligibility?**

A. It is a parent's decision whether they choose to access the free 30 hours of childcare or they continue to use the childcare element of credits received.

Q. How do settings that have children from other Authorities claim?

A. There will be no change to the process currently used, whether children are accessing 15 hours universal only or the extended 15 hours entitlement.

Q. What is the holding email and how long is it held for?

A. The application process can take up to 10 working days to register for a government gateway account

Q. How are we going to receive and how will the interim payment work?

A. The interim payment will be 40% of the summer term claim paid on the 20th September 2017 in the usual method (PVI bacs payment or Journal transfers for schools) with the balance being paid on the 20th October 2017. If a no claim was submitted, you will be contacted for an estimated number of hours claim. For schools they won't get an interim they will just get the FEE funding as part of their school budget. Also need to specify interim will only be paid if they sign the new funding agreement by 8 September 2017. Settings that sign after this will not receive an interim, and will have to wait for full balance on 20 October 2017.

Q. Is there the possibility the October payment could slip back?

A. No the total funding amount will be paid by 20th October 2017 providing you submitted an error free headcount claim within the deadlines specified to you.

Q. Can a balance of hours be carried forward to next term?

A. The maximum number of hours that can be claimed per child over the year is either 570 hours (15 hours universal) or 1140 (extended 30 hours). The number of hours claimed per child per term is a static number of hours as stated in the Funding Agreement) - how a family accesses their funded hours is your decision as a business, we would suggest you have a clear booking and admissions system. The number of hours and how it is accessed should also be clearly reflected in the parental agreement.

Q. Can hours be calculated including holidays weeks?

A. If a parent is stretching, then providing they are taking up their full annual entitlement i.e. 570 universal hours and 570 hours extended per year, providers need to claim the standard maximum hours each term, and agree how the entitlement is stretched with the parent and ensure the parental agreement reflect this.