

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

<b>Tusla I.D:</b>	TU2015CC425					
<b>Name of Service</b>	Muin Childcare Bandon					
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Kilbrogan, Bandon Cork P72KX97					
<b>Email Address:</b>	muinbandon@gmail.com					
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Kate Gaffney and Clodagh Barrett					
<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	↓	<b>Part-Time</b>		<b>Sessional</b>	↓
	<b>Drop-In</b>		<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>	
<b>Proposed change:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adding an Additional Service Type: from Sessional to FDC and Sessional</li> <li>• Change in Number of children that can be accommodated from 44 children attending a Sessional service to 44 children attending a Full Day Care and Sessional service</li> <li>• Change in Age Profile of children from 2 - 6 years to 1- 6 years</li> <li>• Change in Hours of Operation from 09:00- 12:00 to 08:00 - 18:00 hours</li> <li>• Change in Number of Staff Employed: to 8</li> </ul>					
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	44					
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full day care service catering for children from 1 to 6 years with 8 staff. Opening hours will be from 08:00 to 18:00</li> <li>• Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 44 to 43/44 children attending a Full Day Care and Sessional service. If there is a child receiving (ECCE) sessional in the room catering for the 2- to 3-year-old age group than they can accommodate 44 children.</li> </ul>					
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in Service Type from Sessional to Full Day & Sessional					

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	Change in Hours of Operation from 09:00 – 12:00 to 08:00 – 18:00 Change in Age Profile from 2-6 Years to 1-6 Years Change in Number of Staff from 8 to 9 staff.
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	9	1	0	2	0	2	4
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M.O' Reilly
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector

<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Child & Family Agency Hospital Grounds, Coolnagarrane Skibbereen Co Cork P81 PD78
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### Rationale for Inspection: Proposed Change of Circumstance

**Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office**

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day & Sessional Service for 44(Max 43 Full Day) children
<b>Date of Registration</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024

### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

<b>Description of Service</b>	Muin Childcare Bandon proposes to operate a privately operated full day care service providing care and education for children aged 1 to 6 years of age. It is proposed that the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme will operate between the hours of 9 am to 12 noon, Monday to Friday.
<b>Premises</b>	The service is located in a detached, purpose-built single storey building in a residential area of Bandon town. The premise has an entrance hall, three playrooms, adequate number of adult and children's toilets and nappy changing units, a separate designated sleep room, a staff kitchen, administration room and a rear outdoor area.
<b>Staffing</b>	It is proposed that there will be 8 staff including the person in charge, all of whom will have a childcare qualification and will work directly with the children. The named registered providers will not be serviced based
<b>Methodology</b>	The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.

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	The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity; completeness; and compliance with administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the two registered providers, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

### Part III - Management and Staff

#### Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—

(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met. (1) (a) There is a named designated person in charge and a named person who can deputise as required
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### Part III - Management and Staff

#### Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met. (1) The fit for purpose inspection was carried out in the presence of children. There were 14 children attending a sessional service in Little Monkeys and Little Einsteins Room with three adults in attendance. The service is currently registered to operate a sessional service. It is proposed that eight adults in total will be employed who will work directly with the children when the full day care service is operating to maximum capacity.
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### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—

- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

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- (2) A registered provider—  
 (b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.
- (3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that—  
 (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises or  
 (b) where no such space is provided, the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis to an outdoor service

### Requirement met:

- (1) The requirement has been met.  
 (a) The three care rooms were laid out in clearly defined areas with equipment and toys providing play and learning opportunities to enhance the learning needs of the proposed children across all developmental areas. The equipment and toys were located on low-level shelving providing easy access, choice and independence. There were bookshelves with age and stage appropriate books providing opportunities for language development. A number of resources providing opportunities for gross motor skills were available in the outdoor play area including ride on toys, a climbing frame with a slide. The toys and equipment were in good repair both indoors and outdoors.
- (b)  
 There is a designated separate sleep room for the children under two years that will require a sleep while attending the service. There were five new cots with clean, firm and correct size safety mattresses for cots located in the sleep room. Each of the mattresses was fitted with a waterproof mattress cover. There was adequate space provided between each cot. There were two small circular openable windows at adult height. The glass was covered with a dark contour to reduce the light into the room for sleeping children. For the children aged over two years that require a sleep, there were 20 stacking beds available to accommodate children who may wish to rest or sleep while in attendance in the service.
- (2) (a) A secure outdoor play area was located at the rear side of the service where the proposed children will have access to a bark mulch surface under the swing and climbing frame with slide and a stone surface where there were handheld trucks and lorries and an earth surface for digging. There was a sound bar, playhouse and a wooden bench seat and push toys.

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### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 22 – Food and Drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

##### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- The service proposes to offer parents and guardians the option of a hot meal provided by a registered food company and will be reheated and served to the children by the adults in the service.
- There were two microwaves in the service for reheating of food.
- The service will also provide the breakfast. It is proposed that the parents and guardians will provide a selection of nutritional food snacks for the mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack and tea.
- Appropriate crockery and utensils are currently available in the kitchen.
- The children will have their own bottled water, and they will have access to their own individual drinking water bottles at all times.
- The registered providers intend to have alternative food available should a child not like their snack or not have enough food in their lunch box.
- A fridge is provided in all the playrooms and in the staff kitchen to store perishable foods.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

*A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.*

##### Requirement met:

The requirement has been partially met.

##### General Safety:

- All electrical flexes were inaccessible in the care rooms.
- Cleaning agents and materials were stored in a specific cupboard in the staff kitchen, out of the reach of children. Mops, mop buckets and floor brushes are stored in the boiler room. Cleaning agents and materials for the toilets and nappy changing facilities will be stored on a high shelf out of children's reach.
- The staff personal belongings were stored in the administration office.
- Some of the low glazed windows in the service had visibility strips applied.
- The emergency fire exit door in the corridor was unobstructed at time of inspection.
- Some of the internal doors were suitably secured, such as the adult toilet door and kitchen door to the children.

##### Infection Control:

- Wash hand basins in the care rooms, toilet and nappy changing areas were supplied with dispensing soap, dispensing paper towels and pedal operated bins were available for the disposal of paper waste.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a storage unit in the nappy changing area with individual trays for the storage of children’s toiletries.</li> <li>• Pedal operated bins were available for the disposal of rubbish and recycle items.</li> <li>• Wall hooks in each care room were available to store children’s bags and coats.</li> <li>• Windows in the care room and sanitary area were open allowing for the circulation of fresh air.</li> <li>• The children had no access to the refuse bins that were stored at the side of the premise.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Requirement not met:</b></p>	<p><b>Infection Control:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wash hand basins in the three care rooms and the adult and children’s toilets and nappy changing facilities were not supplied with thermostatically controlled hot water at time of inspection.</li> </ol> <p><b>General Safety:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The children had access to an electrical cable in the Adventures Room and Little Monkeys/ Little Einsteins Room</li> </ol>
<p><b>Response from Provider:</b></p>	<p>The following statements and photographic evidence were received from the proposed registered providers:</p> <p><b>Infection Control:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A plumber was called, and the registered providers stated there is thermostatically controlled hot water regulated to no higher than 43°C from each of the wash hand basins in the service. A record of the temperature checks of the thermostatically controlled hot water in the wash hand basins in the service was forwarded as evidence that the thermostatically controlled hot water was operating satisfactorily.</li> </ol> <p><b>General Safety:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The children no longer have access to the electrical cables in the Adventures Room and Little Monkeys/ Little Einsteins Room as the cables are behind the large refrigerators located in each of the rooms.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Summary Comment:</b></p>	<p>The actions taken by the proposed registered providers have addressed the outstanding requirements under Regulation 23.</p>

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### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 25 – First Aid

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—
- (a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
  - (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) The three staff members present at time of inspection each had a valid First Aid Responder (FAR) certificate. The registered provider stated that they will be available at all times while the service is in operation.
- (2) (a) (b) There was one first aid box located in the service. It was well equipped and available in the service

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
  - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1)
- (a) A template was available for recording fire drills in the service. The registered provider was aware that fire drills are carried out on a monthly basis. The last fire drill that took place in the service was dated the 24/09/24
- (b) Records were available which indicated that the wired smoke alarm had been last serviced and tested on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024.
- (4)
- The notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service entrance hall and the fire assembly point signage was visible in the outdoor play area.

#### Requirement not met:

- (1)
- (b) There was no record in place to indicate when the firefighting equipment in the service had been last serviced.

#### Response from Provider:

The following statement and photographic evidence were received from the proposed registered providers:

(1)

(b) A service maintenance invoice stating that the firefighting equipment had been checked by a registered firefighting company in October 24

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<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The actions taken by the proposed registered provider have addressed the outstanding requirement under Regulation 26.
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### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met. Insurance documentation was available to evidence that the service is insured. The certificate stated that the service is insured for 44 children in a full day care service with an expiry date of 03 March 2025.
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### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 – Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—*

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	The requirement has been met. (a) From a visual assessment, the premises appears to be of sound and stable structure. No mould or cracks are visible. The walls in the playrooms were recently painted. (b) The main entrance door to the service had a push button release system in place. The staff had a digital key code pad system to enter the service. These measures ensured that no unauthorised adults could gain access to the service, or no child could leave the service unsupervised. The proposed outdoor play perimeter was secured with walls and fences. There were two high metal gates with sliding bolts which were secured with a keylock. (c) The care rooms, sleep room and nappy changing areas were supplied with natural light from windows and artificial light from fluorescent lights on the ceilings. Artificial light from fluorescent lights were present on the ceilings in the children and adult toilets. The care rooms, sleep room and nappy changing areas have natural ventilation from the openable windows. Mechanical ventilation present in the children and adult toilets. Heating is supplied from under floor heating. (d) The care rooms had recently been repainted which gave the rooms a bright clean look. There was a laminated floor covering throughout the service. (e) There were four children’s toilets, four wash hand basins located in one room located near the older children’s playrooms. The adult toilet and wash hand basin was available further along the corridor. The nappy changing room was located in a
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	<p>separate room across the corridor from the children's toilet. There were two wall mounted nappy changing tables and one wash hand basin. Running water is provided from a public supply. Wastewater and sewage are removed from the premises by means of a public sewage system.</p>
<p><b>Requirement not met:</b></p>	<p>(c)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At time of inspection all air temperatures in the care rooms, toilets and nappy changing areas recorded temperatures of between 15 and 16°C. Accepted air temperature range is between 18°C and 22°C for rooms in early years services.</li> </ol> <p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. There is no skirting board flush with wall, in one small area behind one of the doors in one of the playrooms.</li> <li>3. One area in the outdoor play area was cornered off because of the steep gradient of the ground surface. The wooden fence recently erected to corner off this area was considered too low and needs to be raised. The open spaces on the new wooden fence need to be closed off as the spaces are large enough to allow a child to currently climb into this hazardous area located at the other side of the fence.</li> </ol> <p>(e)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. The water pressure in the taps in the wash hand basins in the children's and adult toilet areas at times was poor during the inspection process.</li> <li>5. There was no splash back behind one of the wash hand basins in the children's toilet.</li> <li>6. A larger splash back is required on the splash back area behind the wash hand basin in the nappy changing area.</li> <li>7. One of the taps (hot tap) in one of the wash hand basins in the children's toilet was in poor repair at time of inspection.</li> <li>8. The children had access to several different sized pipes under the wash hand basins in the children's toilets and nappy changing area.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Response from Provider:</b></p>	<p>The following statements and photographic evidence were received from the proposed registered provider:</p> <p>(c)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A plumber was called and advised the registered providers how to operate the under-floor heating. The registered providers and staff have been monitoring the temperature of the rooms in the service at different times of the day to ensure the air temperatures are between 18 and 22 C. A record of the air temperatures in the service was forwarded as evidence that the heating was operating properly.</li> </ol> <p>(d)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The wall, behind one of the doors in one of the playrooms has now a skirt in grill in place.</li> </ol>

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	<p>3. The wooden fence has been raised and the space between the timber planks is less ensuring the children have no access to the area cornered off in the outdoor play area.</p> <p>(e)</p> <p>4. The water pressure in the taps in the wash hand basins in the children's and adult toilet areas has been checked and there is normal water pressure in the water taps in the service.</p> <p>5. A splash back is now behind all the wash hand basins in the children's toilet facility.</p> <p>6. There is adequately sized splash backs behind the wash hand basin in the nappy changing area.</p> <p>7. The tap in poor repair was replaced with a new tap (hot tap) in one of the wash hand basins in the children's toilet.</p> <p>8. The children no longer have access to the different sized piping under the wash hand basins in the children's toilets and nappy changing area as they have all been completely boxed in.</p>
<p><b>Summary Comment:</b></p>	<p>The actions taken by the proposed registered provider have now addressed the outstanding requirements under Regulation 29.</p>

### Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*
- (3) *A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.*

<p><b>Requirement met:</b></p>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1) The proposed registered provider has ensured that there will be adequate floor space available for the work, play and movement of the proposed 44 children who will be attending the full day care and sessional service. The maximum number of children in attendance each day will depend on the number of children from each of the age groups and the type of service they are attending daily.</p> <p>(2) <u>Happy Room</u> The room measured 27.70m<sup>2</sup>. The room has space to accommodate a maximum of 10 children aged between one and two years at 2.80 square meters per child.</p> <p><u>Adventures Room</u></p>
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The room measured 27.75 m<sup>2</sup>. The room has space to accommodate a maximum of 11 children aged between two and three years at 2.35 square meters per child attending the full day care service. If some of the children in this room will be attending the (ECCE) sessional than a minimum of 1.818 m<sup>2</sup> of clear floor space is available for each child in attendance.

Little Monkeys and Little Einsteins Room

The room measured 50m<sup>2</sup>. The playroom is spacious and adequate floor space is available in the proposed playroom for the work, play and movement of a maximum of 22 children aged between three and six years attending the sessional service (ECCE). The room has space to accommodate 22 children at 2.30m<sup>2</sup> per child attending full day care service.

(3)

While the floor space of Little Monkeys and Little Einsteins room allows for 22 sessional children with a minimum of 1.818 m<sup>2</sup> of clear floor space available for each child attending the proposed sessional service. The total floor space allows for only 43 children attending full day care service only. If the Adventures Room accommodates children in a sessional service attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme than the service can accommodate the proposed total number of 44 children as planned.