

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

<b>Tusla I.D.:</b>	TU2015DL082
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<b>Name of Service</b>	Naíonra Ailt a'Chorráin
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Na h-Acraí, Ailt a 'Chorráin, Leitir Ceanainn, Donegal. F94VY97
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<b>Email Address:</b>	ciara@cnng.ie
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ray Mac Pháidín
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<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>	Service proposes to increase the number of children they can accommodate from 16 to 22 at any one time.
<b>Proposed Number of Children:</b>	22
<b>Recommended Change Following Inspection:</b>	Providing that the works are completed, it is recommended to approve the proposed change.
<b>Registered change:</b>	Change in number of children that can be accommodated from 16 to 22.

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	0	5	0	3	2	0	2	5
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L McGlynn
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector

<b>Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:</b>	Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F92TD92
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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 Sessional Service for 22 children.
<b>Date of Registration</b>	02/04/2025

### 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>	Naíonra Ailt a'Chorráin is a sessional pre-school service located in the townland of Na h-Acraí on the west coast of Donegal. The service is registered to provide sessional care for children aged between 2 and 6 years and operates from 9.15am to 12.15pm each weekday.
<b>Premises</b>	The service operates from a designated room in the local national school. The service has its own entrance from the side of the building which leads to small lobby area and on to a moderately sized care room. An enclosed outdoor play area for the children is located to rear of the building and is directly accessible from the playroom.
<b>Staffing</b>	There were four staff members working in the service, two of which were recruited as part of the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM). The registered provider is not in the service on a daily basis. There is a named person in charge and a second person to deputise in their absence.
<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 person in charge, 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.

#### Requirement met:

(1)(a) The requirement has been met.

There is a named adult in charge of operating the service and a second named adult to deputise if required.

### 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.

#### Requirement met:

(1) The requirement has been met. The service is proposing to cater for 22 children attending the service on a sessional basis. Four staff members were employed to be working with the children at all times.

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.*

(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.*

**Requirement met:**

This requirement has been met.

(1) (a) The indoor environment contained a range of developmentally appropriate play materials divided into a range of interest areas for the age of children attending. There was with space for children to move freely between each area and select play items. Play resources included arts and crafts materials, role and pretend play, messy play, construction materials, manipulative toys, small world toys, combined library and rest area, problem solving toys, and imaginary/role play areas.

(c) Adequate and suitable rest facilities, appropriate to the ages of the children and length of time in the service were in place. A corner area of the playroom was set out with a floor mat, cushions and cuddly toys for children to play quietly or relax.

(2) (b) There was a dedicated outdoor play area provided for children to the rear of the building which was directly accessible from the pre-school room through patio doors. The area was fully enclosed by perimeter fencing and consisted of level hard core surfacing. A sheltered section that was roofed with light

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permeable sheeting was located along one side of the play area and a steel garden shed unit stored a range of outdoor play equipment. The person in charge spoke of a second outdoor area known as the 'garden area' which housed a mud kitchen, playhouse and natural play materials. This area was not in use as there had been damage to the perimeter fencing during the previous storm. This was due to be repaired in the coming weeks and children would then have daily access to this area.

### 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:

This requirement has been met.

It is proposed that the children will continue to bring their lunch from home and there was a healthy eating policy in place. A refrigerator was available in the room for the storage of dairy products and other perishable food items. Children bring their drinking bottle from home and potable water was available in the service.

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### 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:

This requirement has been met.

The following safety provisions were noted to be in place on the day of inspection:

- The main entrance into the premises can be safely secured preventing children exiting unsupervised or persons gaining unauthorised entry.
- The perimeter of the outdoor area was secured with fencing which incorporated gates with closing mechanisms.
- The emergency evacuation route from the pre-school room was easily identifiable and was observed to be clear and unobstructed.
- There were adequate provisions in place for the safe storage of cleaning equipment and materials in areas inaccessible to children.
- All toys and play resources available on the day of inspection were noted to be clean, in good repair and appropriate for the age range of children proposed to attend the service.
- Foot pedal operated bins were available in the pre-school room and sanitary facilities. The service's central waste storage facilities were out of reach of children.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were available at the wash hand basins in the service's sanitary accommodation.

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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) Certification of appropriate training in first aid for children was available for two staff members with an expiry date in May 2025.

(2)(a)(b) A first aid box was available on the day of the inspection.

### 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:

This requirement has been met.

(1)(a) Fire drills were recorded monthly in the service.

(b) A record of the maintenance/testing of the smoke alarm system and firefighting equipment was available. The smoke alarm was last serviced in December 2024 and the firefighting equipment in May 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedures to follow in the event of a fire were on display at each exit point in the room.

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### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Requirement met:

The service was adequately insured for up to 22 children attending a sessional service.  
The expiry date on the insurance certificate was 27 November 2025.

### 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.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been partially met

(a) The premises consisted of a single-story block building designed for the provision of a primary school. The Naíonra occupy one end section of the building. On superficial visual inspection, the building appeared of sound structure with no visible defects.

(b) The service was adequately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining entry. There was a separate entrance door into the building for the Naíonra which was secured with a bell system to alert staff to the arrival of visitors or parents.

(c) Adequate natural lighting supplemented by artificial lighting was provided. The playroom contained large glass panelled windows and patio doors providing natural light to all areas of the room. Artificial lighting consisting of fluorescent strip ceiling lights was provided in the playroom, hallway and sanitary accommodation. Lights were fully encased in protective covers.

The playroom, sensory room and sanitary accommodation are provided with radiators which are connected to the oil-fired heating system for the whole school

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	<p>building. The air temperature of each area when checked at inspection was within the recommended range of 18 – 22°C.</p> <p>(d) The premises appeared to be in a good state of repair and was clean on the day of inspection. The building is connected to a mains water supply providing appropriate drinking water for staff and children and running water for cleaning.</p> <p>(e) The premises was equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities. Two toilets and two wash hand basins were provided for children off the playroom. Each toilet cubicle is sufficiently enclosed to ensure adequate privacy. A nappy changing unit and wash hand basin was available for use within the main school should a child require changing while attending the service.</p>
<b>Requirement not met:</b>	(c) There was no ventilation, either natural or mechanical, in the children’s sanitary accommodation.
<b>Response from Provider:</b>	We have contacted a local electrician to fit an extractor fan to circulate air around the children’s toilets. He has observed the building and has suggested two wall mounted extractor fans above each cubicle to allow for adequate ventilation. The work will be carried out when the service is closed for Easter holidays.
<b>Summary Comment:</b>	The assurances submitted by the registered provider are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 29. Evidence of necessary works are to be submitted to the inspectorate on completion.

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### 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.*

*(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.*

#### Requirement met:

This requirement has been met.

(1) Adequate clear floor space was provided for the work, play and movement of children.

(3) The size of the preschool room ensured that the required floor space for a maximum number of 22 preschool children in the proposed age range attending on a sessional basis was met.