**TEMPORARY RELAXATION OF National Minimum Standards for Regulated Childcare for children up to the age of 12 years (NMS) - WGC 002 22 Circular Letter**

**FAQS**

**Providers**

1. **Who do I contact in my local authority to get approval for any changes?**

You should discuss your intention to make changes with your Local Authority (through Family Information Services or usual contact in the childcare team). Any relaxation will only be agreed on a case by case basis, by your Local Authority, depending on local circumstances and the nature of the setting. The relaxation in standards are designed to allow providers flexibility in exceptional circumstances but will need to be balanced with assurances that the quality and safety of care is not compromised.

Providers **cannot** exceed agreed numbers of registered children.

1. **Do I still need to inform Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)?**

Yes, you should notify CIW of changes by logging into your online account. There is a notification for ‘Local Authority Relaxation of National Minimum Standards’ that you should use to inform CIW of the changes.

1. **How will the relaxation to day care staffing ratios apply in a mixed age range setting?**

In a mixed aged setting the ratio applicable to the youngest child in each group should be used.

1. **When relaxing the requirement to have a minimum of two staff on duty in day care settings what steps should be taken to ensure the safety and well-being of the children?**

Any decision to relax this requirement should be taken in conjunction with the registered childcare provider **and** Person in Charge (PIC) of the setting with a full risk assessment being undertaken, prior to any LA agreement. The Risk assessment should include an on-call support system and contingency measures should the PIC become incapacitated.

1. **How do I apply for an identity (IDV) check as part of my DBS submission?**

From 1 July 2021, you are no longer required to attend a virtual or face-to-face IDV check at a CIW office during your working hours. You will be able to use the IDV service provided at a local Post Office. There is a small administration charge of £12 for this service, payable by the applicant (only once all the correct documentation has been provided).

The post office solution provides:

* IDV check appointments at 191 locations across Wales
* appointments 6 days a week, Monday to Saturday
* appointments times between the hours of 9am and 5.30pm (individual Post Office opening times to be considered before attending)

**Please visit our** [website](https://careinspectorate.wales/disclosure-and-barring-service-dbs-checks) **for the latest DBS changes and requirements in response to** [Coronavirus (COVID-19)](https://careinspectorate.wales/coronavirus-covid-19)**.**

**Local Authorities**

1. **How will local authorities notify CIW? Is there a dedicated mailbox?**

Local Authorities should use the [CIW@gov.Wales](mailto:CIW@gov.Wales) mailbox and put ‘Local Authority notification of relaxation of National Minimum Standards’ in the subject header.