



HOUSE OF LORDS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE

Call for Evidence

The House of Lords has established a Select Committee on Affordable Childcare. The terms of reference for the Committee are to “consider issues relating to affordable childcare” and to report by 5 March 2015. **The Committee has decided to focus on childcare for children of pre-school age (0-5 years)**, and witnesses are therefore invited to focus their submissions on issues relating to this group. Childcare is a devolved matter, and the inquiry will therefore focus on England only, while taking note of relevant developments elsewhere, including in the devolved administrations. The Committee will explore the following key issues in detail and would welcome your views on **any or all** of the following questions. Please note that questions are not listed here in any particular order of importance.

Written evidence should arrive no later than 15 August 2014. Details of how to make a submission can be found at the end of this document.

Childcare policy

1. What should be the public policy aims of state intervention in childcare?

Child development

2. Does the provision of early education, currently for all 3 and 4 year-olds and some 2 year-olds, improve outcomes for children?
3. Is the provision of free early education the best way to address inequalities in child development among pre-school age children?

Enabling parents to work

4. Have state subsidies for childcare improved the ability of parents, and especially mothers, to work?
5. Are state subsidies aimed at reducing the cost of childcare the best way to enable parents, and especially mothers, to work while their children are pre-school age?

The cost of childcare

6. What does childcare cost? How affordable is it?

7. What is driving trends in childcare costs?
8. What is the cost to the state of subsidising childcare?
9. Does the current level of subsidy represent value for money when assessed against
a) outcomes for children and b) enabling parents to work?
10. What model of subsidisation – supply side or demand side – is most effective in
meeting policy objectives relating to affordable childcare?

Devolved administrations and international context

11. What lessons can be learnt from international examples, or from the devolved
administrations, of how childcare is provided, funded and evaluated?

ANNEX I: GUIDANCE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Written evidence should be submitted online using the written submission form available at <http://www.parliament.uk/affordable-childcare-written-evidence-form>.

If you have difficulty submitting evidence online, please contact the Committee staff by email to affordablechildcarecttee@parliament.uk or by telephoning 020 7219 4878. Between 4 and 15 August please contact the House of Lords Duty Clerk on 020 7219 3036, or lordsclerk@parliament.uk. The deadline for written evidence is 15 August 2014.

Short submissions are preferred. A submission longer than six pages should include a one-page summary.

Paragraphs should be numbered. All submissions made through the written submission form will be acknowledged automatically by email.

Evidence which is accepted by the Committee may be published online at any stage; when it is so published it becomes subject to parliamentary copyright and is protected by parliamentary privilege. Submissions which have been previously published will not be accepted as evidence. Once your submission has been accepted as evidence, you will receive a further email, and at this point you may publicise or publish your evidence yourself. In doing so you must indicate that it was prepared for the Committee, and you should be aware that your publication or re-publication of your evidence may not be protected by parliamentary privilege.

Personal contact details will be removed from evidence before publication, but will be retained by the Committee Office and used for specific purposes relating to the Committee's work, for instance to seek additional information.

Persons who submit written evidence, and others, may be invited to give oral evidence. Oral evidence is usually given in public at Westminster and broadcast online; transcripts are also taken and published online. Persons invited to give oral evidence will be notified separately of the procedure to be followed and the topics likely to be discussed.

Substantive communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed through the clerk of the Committee (Judith Brooke, brookej@parliament.uk or 020 7219 7516).

This is a public call for evidence. Please bring it to the attention of other groups and individuals who may not have received a copy direct.

You may follow the progress of the inquiry at www.parliament.uk/affordable-childcare.