

Hi All,

All yesterday was another busy day for Seas Suas and all those in the sector.

Yesterday, we published our strategy and policy document: 'Reopen Safely, Recover Sustainably.'

Following this - and ahead of yesterday's Cabinet meeting which was set to discuss childcare - we were able to put forward our recommendations and highlight the issues facing us, namely the financial considerations in national media.

Yesterday, Seas Suas featured in the following:

<https://www.rte.ie/news/2020/0529/1143277-childcare/>  
<https://www.independent.ie/breaking-news/irish-news/childcare-providers-say-many-will-not-reopen-unless-funding-is-increased-39243717.html>  
<https://www.thejournal.ie/childcare-pods-5111247-May2020/>  
<https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/creche-owners-in-ireland-say-many-will-not-reopen-unless-funding-is-increased-amid-covid-19-1002432.html>  
<https://www.irishmirror.ie/news/childcare-providers-warn-many-crechs-22108017>  
<https://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/creche-owners-in-ireland-say-many-will-not-reopen-unless-funding-is-increased-amid-covid-19-1002432.html>  
<http://www.irishbusinessfocus.ie/2020/05/childcare-body-calls-for-cross-government-package-and-mindset-shift-in-response-to-covid-crisis/>  
<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/republic-of-ireland/childcare-providers-say-many-will-not-reopen-unless-funding-is-increased-39243721.html>  
<https://www.buzz.ie/news/childcare-group-calls-for-government-mindset-shift-to-avoid-third-collapsed-scheme-371100>

In addition:

- **Virgin TV News:** Seas Suas member Gillian Dawson did a great job with an interview that featured on both the 12.30pm and 5.30pm programmes.
- **RTE Radio One Drivetime:** I did an interview Mary Wilson and we'll share a link when it is available online.
- **The Irish Daily Mail:** Seas Suas member Betty Allen was interviewed as part of a feature on ELC provision.

We have also issued a statement, on behalf of Seas Suas, reacting to the announcement by the Minister yesterday evening. While we have welcomed the additional guidance, we have once again expressed our disappointment at the lack of any detail on funding and support for the sector.

Our document was shared with the Minister who acknowledged some of the recommendations we had provided in her own interview on RTE Drivetime when she was questioned on the issues and challenges we have raised.

Most importantly, in her announcement, the Minister openly recognised our calls for the need to engage with the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure on a funding model to support the phased reopening of childcare services

I attended DCYA Advisory Group meeting yesterday where the DCYA provided an overview of what the minister was taking to Cabinet in the afternoon. This provided an opportunity to bring our messaging across further and we are confident that our voice has been heard.