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## **Additional information on Gender Equality: Caring for Children**

### **Current Legislation, Regulation and Inspection**

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# Specific Childcare Legislation

- Child Care Act 1991(Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.
- Since June 2016, it is a legal requirement for all early childhood services to register with Tusla – the Child and Family Agency
- Since February 2019 it is a legal requirement for all SAC services to register with Tusla
- Tusla 2019 figures indicate a total of 4,598 services are registered ... very few childminders are registered

# Regulation

Tusla (Child and Family agency) published the Quality and Regulatory Framework (QRF) in 2018

The QRF details compliance requirement under the headings:

- governance
- health, welfare and development of the child
- safety
- premises and facilities

# Three Inspection systems

Inspections cover:

- financial compliance [Pobal],
- regulatory aspects [Tusla] - statutory
- evaluation of educational provision [DES]

This fragmentation of monitoring and evaluation results in multiple inspection visits ...duplication and inefficiencies ... confusing systems for providers, parents and stakeholders

Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General, '2018 Annual Report. Chapter 16: Delivery of Early Learning and Childcare Programmes' (2019)