Dear Minister Givan

We are writing in regard to the *Bright Start* School Age Childcare funding which our setting <insert name of group/club> currently receives through the Department of Education. Our current Letter of Offer is in place until 31st March 2024.

In early 2023, as a result of the budgetary challenges facing the Department, the *Bright Start* funding was guaranteed only until June 2023 which caused huge concern for our future. Thankfully, this decision was reversed and a full year’s funding was awarded.

It is widely accepted by all political parties that childcare is essential to enabling parents to work and study and we very much welcome the recent discussions within the Assembly acknowledging the importance of the sector. Settings such as ours also provide quality play opportunities which are vital to children’s healthy development and emotional well-being. The continuation of the *Bright Start* funding in the absence of a childcare strategy is crucial for the survival of our organisation.

We are aware that the budgetary pressures facing departments continue to be significant but services such as ours play an essential role and we believe this needs to be given due consideration. With the reinstatement of the NI Executive and your appointment as Minister of Education, we are calling on you to do all that you can to advocate for the *Bright Start* funding to be extended beyond the current contracted funding period – ideally for a further year.

If you would like further information on our setting, please contact me <insert contact details>.

Yours sincerely

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<Insert position within organisation such as Chairperson>