

## Q&A Report:

## Core Funding Ready Reckoner

Question Asked	Answer Given
Does an ELC graduate premium mean they have to be awarded a Level 7 or higher qualification?	Yes to be eligible for the ELC Graduate Premium a Lead Educator must have a Level 7 or above qualification, as per the DCEDIY list of childcare qualifications. Only lead educators of early years sessions who are ELC graduates are eligible for the graduate premium. They must also have a minimum of three years' experience in the sector.
There are two graduate educators in one room is there only graduate funding provision for one of them?	Yes, the Graduate premium is for the Lead Educator only.
Is the graduate premium available for all ELC ages?	Yes, the graduate premium applies to any Early Years sessions with a lead educator who is an ELC graduate.
Our service is open for 52.5 hrs per week and in the ready reckoner, it automatically rounds the number up to 53 hours. Is this what will happen?	Yes, the Ready Reckoner will round up in this scenario.
So if we don't have a level 7 member of staff, does this not apply for us?	The Core Funding base rate is available to all eligible ELC and SAC services. The ELC Graduate Premium & Graduate Manager premium only applies to graduates with a Level 7 or above who meet the defined requirements.
If there are additional managers who are elc graduates how are they classified?	There is only one ELC Graduate Manager Premium per ELC or ELC/SAC service. The Graduate Manager Premium is attracted by the person identified as the Designated Person in Charge of the setting as defined in the Early Years Regulations 2016 and School Age Childcare Regulations 2018. Other staff whose job title may include 'manager' will not attract a Graduate Manager Premium.
Can a provider who is a service manager and an ELC graduate claim for 2 or 3 ECCE services or is it only 1 service.	The staff member is required to be on the premises for the required time they are the nominated Lead Educator/Manager, therefore cannot claim to be in two services running at the same time. If the staff member is working in separate services at different times/days they can claim the premium in both services.
Can I include extra hours worked by staff above the 15 hours of ECCE	The graduate premium is for the number of hours they are the Lead Educator in the ELC session.
Is there any recognition for managers who are not graduates but who have managed for many years sometimes over 10/12 years?	The ELC Graduate Manager must meet the required criteria to receive the premium.
If you have a graduate manager who is employed for 40 hours per week but also have a deputy manager who is present for the other hours - the other 12.5 hours the service is open - shouldn't the service be able to get the graduate premium rate for the full open hours?	The Core Funding Graduate Manager premium can only be attracted by this designated person in charge, not by any of the other members of staff who may deputise when the manager is not present.
A question on maternity leave. if a graduate lead educator goes on maternity leave, will we lose out in funding for the 6 months	Service Providers will have the facility to update staffing levels throughout the programme year. Further information regarding change in staffing levels and compliance requirements will be available when the application process opens.
How do you get the word section up to print	Select the "Print" option on your browser, or press CTRL+P.

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The psp payment will it be paid this July	A final PSP payment will be made this year. Going forward the Programme Support Payments (PSP) will be incorporated into Core Funding so these are no longer available from September 2022 onwards.
Is LINC officer recognised as a graduate?	Please refer to the Department's Higher Capitation Qualifications list. AIM level 1 funding will be available separate to core funding.
Is this Replacing ECCE payments?	No, Core Funding is not replacing ECCE standard payments. The Graduate Premium is replacing ECCE Higher Capitation. All funding in respect of ELC graduate Lead Educators is contained within Core Funding from the 2022/2023 programme year onwards. This means that services with graduate Lead Educators outside of the ECCE programme will be able to access additional funding for the first time.
I am a manager with a Bachelor of Arts in order to apply on the ready reckoner do I have to be based in a particular room for the session . Also are providers going to be under pressure if you hire level 7 or 8 staff and when they on holidays or sick leave we cannot replace them at their level and will probal or inspections find us incompliant on an inspection day if staff member is absent .	No, a ELC graduate manager is required to be on the premises for the services operational hours. Further information regarding change in staffing levels and compliance requirements will be available when the application process opens.
If a Manager has no certificates to show qualifications, but has been in the job for a number of years and has on the job experience, do they still qualify for funding	In order to receive the ELC Graduate premiums the relevant qualifications (level 7 or above) are required.
If i have one service manager with ECL graduate qualifications, do I add this person to all the rooms when using the ready reckoner?	If you are using the Ready Reckoner at session level, you will need to work out for yourself which session/sessions are operating for the longest hours per day and the most weeks per year, and include the Graduate Manager when you input the details for those sessions into the Ready Reckoner. This will ensure that you get a good estimate of what Graduate Manager Premium you may be eligible for, without over- or under-estimating the result.
IS THE AGE OF THE CHILDREN EACH ROOM BASED ON REGISTRATION DAY (for example, ecce children may turn 3 by December but 2.8 yrs. at start of academic year	Funding allocations will be based on places, not on child registrations and attendance levels. Therefore if a child changes age range within the year the capacity of the service remains the same.
Why is Graduate level not available to SAC	Currently there is no list of approved qualifications for SAC.
What about ancillary staff?	Core Funding will be allocated to services based on their capacity and qualifications. Staff outside the requirements will not be included.
Will this affect the addition funding currently paid for LINC graduates	Core Funding has no impact on AIM funding.
Is the capacity the amount of children a service can take or the amount of children attending?	Capacity is the number of child places a service can provide while adhering to the requirements under the Regulations for age ranges, session types, space, and ratios. A service's capacity cannot exceed the number of children the service can accommodate (overall service capacity) as stated on the Tusla Register
How do I work out the age range. I can have children ranging from 2 yrs. 8 months to 5 yrs. but don't know how many of age ranges until I reopen each year at the end of august.	Capacity is the number of child places a service can provide while adhering to the requirements under the Regulations for age ranges, session types, space, and ratios. A service's capacity cannot exceed the number of children the service can accommodate (overall service capacity) as stated on the Tusla Register For more information visit Tusla website.

Question Asked	Answer Given
What if the lead ed for sessional is also the manager for the setting for the part time and SAC	An ELC Graduate Manager who also works as a Lead Educator can only attract one premium. Therefore, they should only be included in the Ready Reckoner as a Manager and not as a Lead Educator. SAC only services do not qualify for the premiums.
I have a graduate room manager in each session and a room leader in each session (both are in the same room). It's unclear from the FAQ if there is a payment for both staff in the same room or if you only get paid for the manager.	An ELC Graduate Manager who also works as a Lead Educator can only attract one premium. Therefore, they should only be included in the Ready Reckoner as a Manager and not as a Lead Educator. There is only one ELC Graduate Manager Premium per ELC or ELC/SAC service.
Can an owner manager who is a room leader currently receiving higher capitation also claim the graduate manager and room leader funding with the core funding ? There are graduates employed also but not currently room leaders . Thanks	An ELC Graduate Manager who also works as a Lead Educator can only attract one premium. Therefore, they should only be included in the Ready Reckoner as a Manager and not as a Lead Educator.
If you have three members of staff and only one with level 7 do you only put in the level 7 member of staff	All staff will be included in the service profile prior to completing your application.
For a Service Manage Lead Graduate, holidays/sick leave/time working off-site for admin, on a normal week would be in the setting 40hrs but the odd week it could be less due to any of the above holidays etc. can I still put in the 40 hrs?	A full manager premium is based on the operational hours of the Service. A part time manager premium will be based on the hours the manager is on site.
Can we get a copy of the presentation	A copy of the webinar and PowerPoint will be published on Hive.
Where SAC hours 25 hours term time and 50 hrs per week non term time can this be calculated?	If you would like a general indication of potential funding, you can add the term time and non-term time together, then divide this by 2 in order to get the average weekly operating hours for service-level calculation. For a more accurate indication of potential funding, you can split the term hours and weeks from the non-term hours and weeks, and enter term-time and non-term time information separately, adding both end results together.
I have one sessional Preschool in the am and an Afterschool group in the afternoon, does this count as 2 rooms?	This counts as two separate sessions. You can average out your hours and capacity for a general indication, or you can run the ready reckoner twice with the information from both sessions entered separately and added together.
Does the grad lead worker need to have 3 years work experience or 3 years experience in childcare as in college placements etc.	The Lead Educator must have a minimum of three years experience working in the sector to qualify for the premium.
Can a graduate service manager also be the graduate room leader	An ELC Graduate Manager who also works as a Lead Educator can only attract one premium. Therefore, they should only be included in the Ready Reckoner as a Manager and not as a Lead Educator.
I have two ECCE rooms one ECCE 1 for first year ECCE and Room 2 is Second year ECCE open 38 weeks of year 15 hours per week. We also have a Afterschool in the Afternoon from 1.40 to 5.40 5 days a week. My questions is do we include Afterschool in this Core Funding Thank You	Afterschool care and capacity should be included in your Ready Reckoner, but suggestion is to split up the early years sessions and the afterschool session and run them as separate calculations, for a more accurate calculation of potential funding.

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If I have a SAC service with approx. 70 children per day. Only 11 of these are signed up to NCS. Would I put my capacity in as 70?	Capacity is the number of child places a service can provide while adhering to the requirements under the Regulations for age ranges, session types, space, and ratios. A service's capacity cannot exceed the number of children the service can accommodate (overall service capacity) as stated on the Tusla Register.
if I have a morning preschool session and afternoon preschool session does this only count as 15 hours?	This counts as 30 hours for however many children can be accommodated at any one time, but if both sessions have the same capacity and graduate premium eligibility, you can enter the information for one session, then double the end result.
for sessional 38 weeks is the core funding paid for 12 months?	Core funding will be calculated based on the operating hours and weeks of your service, but the funding will be issued over the course of 12 months.
If a graduate takes a job for 40 hours a week,, the core funding is only paying €4.44 for 15 hours??? what about the other 25 hours they have to be paid for?? what will cover this?	The graduate premium is for the number of hours they are the Lead Educator in the session.
What happens if you get a graduate last minute and you end up with one more graduate, will the contract be changed?	Further information regarding change in staffing levels will be available when the application process opens.
a service who has 2 ELC graduates for 22 ecce children, one is the room leader, the other the assistant and manager (this has been the case for many years). can one claim for both on the ready recknor	If the assistant is an ELC graduate and is the service manager, they can be entered as manager in the Ready Reckoner. If the Lead Educator is also an ELC graduate, they can be included as an ELC Graduate Lead Educator on the Ready Reckoner.
If you have one room and operate ecce scheme only, operate 2 sessions daily, do you consider it as 2 rooms, or do you put in like the earlier example and state that you do two sessions daily. thanks	To get the most accurate result you should calculate based on two sessions.
Hi, I have capacity for 24 in room 1, but the children may come at 2pm or 3pm, do I use the capacity for the full 24 from 2pm even though some children may not come untill 3pm, Thanks	As allocations will be based on places, not on child registrations and attendance levels, input the number of places for that session.
It was answered previously that the reckoner is based on the service capacity at any one time however Tom inputted two separate sessions in one day (Am & Pm) for one room. The age range changed but they attended at different times can you clarify if you have 16 preschool children in the morning (AM)	Yes, for a more accurate figure it is advised to input the information at session level for a more accurate funding amount.
Hi i have 1 Lead Educator in my service who works for 38 weeks a year. We are a 51 week service. How do I apply this on the ready reckoner thanks	If you wish to calculate for the overall service, you can average out your annual weeks by following the formula $(38+51)/2 = 44$ and entering this into your average annual hours, entering the data for all children and the lead educator. For a more accurate calculation, split up the hours and weeks of your sessions and run these values and capacities separately, then add all results.
I have 1 room of mixed age group 2-4 of children attending full time. They would be in different rooms in the morning and then they come together for the afternoon. How do I apply this to the ready reckoner thanks	We would recommend inputting the capacity at session level for a more accurate funding amount.
Why would you run the service level calculation at all? Are you not better going straight to sessional level?	Both options are available for services to use however for a more accurate figure we recommend using session level calculations.
is level 6 a lead educator?	A Level 6 can be a lead educator, but they are not an ELC graduate. An ELC graduate is a level 7 or above, as per the DCEDIY list of childcare qualifications. Only lead educators of early years sessions who are ELC graduates are eligible for the graduate premium.
I have two more staff qualifying in october will tere be a chance to input them after September?	At different intervals throughout the programme year services will have the facility to update information.
Our ECCE room has 11 children in the morning and 8 full time from that 11 children in the evening, how will I calculate it in the ready reckoner?	We would recommend inputting the capacity at session level for a more accurate funding amount.

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Part time graduate staff only working 15 hours in a 45 hour room. Can they be included or how can they be included.	For the most accurate calculation for the Ready Reckoner, split the session into two, one for the 15 hrs during which the ELC graduate is a lead educator, and one for the 30 hrs in which there is no lead educator. Add both final values for a full indication of the 45 hr session.
when calculating the hours per week, is it only the hours children are in or do you include admin hours as well? for example we are sessional so children are only in 6 hours per day, but we pay staff 7 hours per day as they have a paid lunch break and managers are paid 8 hours per day as they to incorporate admin. which hours do I use?	Operating hours refer to hours during which the service is available to deliver childcare, also known as contact hours. Core Funding will facilitate funding for paid non-contact time, but it is calculated based on contact hours only.
In the example you had 11 ecce with 1 elc if you have 22 children in the same room do you put in once as 1 staff to 11 children twice r 1 staff to 22 children.	If you run a session with capacity for 22 children and you have one ELC lead educator, you can enter the capacity as 22. The Ready Reckoner does not ask about Assistant Educator information, but you should only enter a capacity of 22 if it is staffed to facilitate 22 children.
with Sac..do you average the mistertms? ie 38 weeks at 25hours pw and then 13 weeks at 45pw?	If you wish to use the Ready Reckoner at a service level, you can average the hours, weeks and capacity for a full year. If you wish to use the Ready Reckoner at session level, you can split the term and non-term information up and add the results together
SAC doesn't need a graduate as per regs so how do you go about that?	Only ELC sessions can have a Graduate Lead Educator Premium when led by an ELC Graduate.
Is AIM funding still going to be separate?	Yes AIM funding is separate to Core Funding.
Can you have 2 lead educators and 1 ELC graduate managers in a 2 session preschool?	If the Lead Educators are in separate sessions then both can claim the premium. Each ELC room can only have one Lead Educator at any one time; even if the children are organised into groups within the room. An ELC Graduate Manager who also works as a Lead Educator can only attract one premium. Therefore, they should only be included in the Ready Reckoner as a Manager and not as a Lead Educator.
If you do have an ELC graduate service manager, would you put yes everytime you do the room by room calculation or just for 1 room?	Yes, however if you have multiple rooms or run multiple sessions at the same time, please ensure you do not enter the graduate manager information for overlapping hours, as it may over-calculate the value.
I am sessional only so do I enter capacity number in the preschool session only box and nothing in the age 3-6yrs box.	Yes, if your service only offers sessional care, you can enter all capacity information under the "pre-school sessional" option for children between 2.5yrs and 5yrs
For services and sessions that are open for 51 weeks in a year, do we put in 51 or 52 weeks a year, as staff are usually on christmas holidays during this time.	The operating hours and weeks of the service should reflect the hours and weeks during which the service is open and available to provide childcare.
So if all room from babies up is open as a full day care from 8- 6 do we put down 10 hrs per day as I note you are writing 40, 45 etc. Not all children are in on time but your service is open to all children of all ages. Or are you just noting the staff for each room are available from?	The Ready Reckoner accepts weekly hours, so 10 hrs per day for 5 days per week should be entered as 50 hrs. The operating hours should reflect the contact hours of the service.
When will this be emailed and can inputs be erased if submitted accidently	A copy of the webinar and powerpoint will be published on Hive. The Ready Reckoner is a calculator therefore you can edit inputs as it wont be submitted.
Hi if you have Lead Eduator who works 37.5 hours a week but the room is actually open for 50 hours, how do you work out that calculation. Is it 2 sessions you work on the first 37.5 hours with Lead Educator and the balance of hours with no lead educator.	The Lead Educator will be allocated the premium for the number of hours they are a Lead Educator in a session.

Question Asked	Answer Given
my service has 3 rooms which change their use each year depending on demand from the different age levels, do i change my service capacity with tusla each year to reflect this.	The service capacity of your service as per your Túsla registration is the maximum amount of children your service can accommodate at any one time. If your actual registrations are lower than the service capacity for periods of the year, there is no issue, but the actual attendance cannot be higher than the max no. of children as per your Túsla registration. For Core Funding, staff ratio capacity is also taken into consideration when calculating capacity.
Can the results of the Ready Reckoner be downloaded to excel as a report?	No. Because the data on the Ready Reckoner is not linked to a service account and is anonymous, it cannot be saved as an Excel report. The browser printing function should allow you to save a copy of results as a pdf, see technical guidelines for more information.
Where a sessional service has 2 rooms both with a graduate and also has a separate person with a degree as a manager. Can they get 3 uplifts?	If the graduates are in separate rooms/sessions and is meeting the criteria for the Lead Educator premium then the premium can be claimed twice. The graduate manager premium can also be claimed once it meets the required criteria however an ELC Graduate Manager who also works as a Lead Educator can only attract one premium. Therefore, they should only be included in the Ready Reckoner as a Manager and not as a Lead Educator.
What if as a sessional you run 3.5hrs a day?	For the Ready Reckoner, you can add your daily hours together for 17.5 weekly hours, however the Ready Reckoner accepts whole values only, and will round weekly hours up to 18 if 17.5hrs is entered.
If a graduate works full time in 1 session and part time in a second session i.e. 21/30 hours can you only claim for 1 session. 2 sessions per day - 15 hours per session at our service??	The ELC Graduate premium is calculated based on how many hours an ELC Graduate is a Lead Educator in an Early Years session. Each session can only have one Lead Educator. If the ELC graduate is a Lead Educator in multiple sessions, the premium applied to both sessions. If the Lead Educator changes mid-session, it is best to split the session into two in order to calculate the hours during which the ELC Graduate is a Lead Educator, and the hours during which they are not.
How do I find out what the potential capacity for my rooms are?	Capacity is the number of child places a service can provide while adhering to the requirements under the Regulations for age ranges, session types, space, and ratios. . A service's capacity cannot exceed the number of children the service can accommodate (overall service capacity) as stated on the Tusla Register.
we have two preschool rooms who join up at 12:00pm after the session, for the afternoon session of 35 hours do I just input 1 room? or do I input the potential for two rooms to be opened?	You can run the Ready Reckoner to calculate the actual information of your service, or to check what kind of funding you may be entitled to if your service were to increase capacity through opening a room or hiring new staff. Please note that opening a new room is not sufficient for increasing capacity, as the regular room size and staff ratio requirements apply.
If you are a registered childminder who only does NCS are you eligible for the graduate uplift even though there is no requirement for min qualifications?	Settings that provide School Age Childcare only will not be entitled to the ELC Graduate Lead Educator premium or the ELC Graduate Manager premium
Please clarify if values shown in FAQ's examples are monthly or annual?	The values in the examples are annual calculations.
Is the capacity the amount on the tusla cert of registration or the capacity each room can hold?	The capacity for Core Funding is dependant is the amount of places per age range the service can accommodate whilst remaining compliant with all room size, care type, insurance and adult-to-child ratio requirements.