

The Scottish Women's Convention

CHILDCARE IN SCOTLAND

SURVEY 2024

Alongside our 'What Should Childcare Look Like?' Conference, we ran an online survey which asked women to give their experiences of accessing childcare in Scotland.

Women recounted stories of high costs, as well as poor provision across the country. Provision was highlighted as being particularly poor in rural areas, with women having to drive long distances or rely on shoddy public transport. It was also stated that accessing childcare for children with additional needs was incredibly difficult, increasing mother's stress and unpaid care responsibilities. These issues resulted in women cutting working hours or leaving work completely.

Respondents called for free childcare for below three-year-olds, increased parental leave and improved training/retention of early learning and childcare professionals. In addition, for those who resided in rural areas, an increase in the number of childminders and care providers was seen as essential to improve wellbeing outcomes for both children and mothers.

THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S CONVENTION (SWC)

The SWC is funded to engage with women across Scotland to ensure that their views are represented in policy and decision-making processes. The SWC uses the views of women to respond to a variety of parliamentary, governmental, and organisational consultation papers at Scottish, UK and international levels.

The SWC gathers information using different methods, including roadshows, thematic conferences, surveys, and both in-person and online roundtable events. Working together with many other equalities organisations and community groups, we use our broad network to ensure that women from a range of backgrounds are heard and acknowledged. We are continually reviewing innovative ways of engaging with women and developing our trauma-informed and culturally sensitive practice to support vital contributions from as many women as possible.



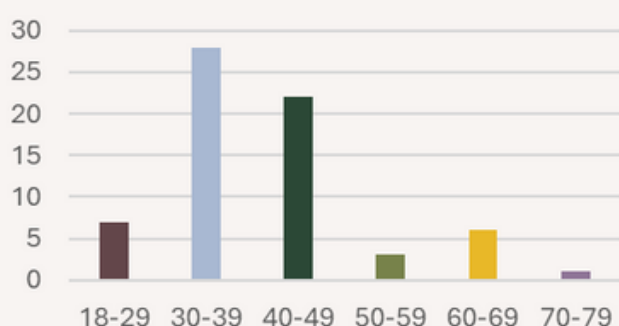
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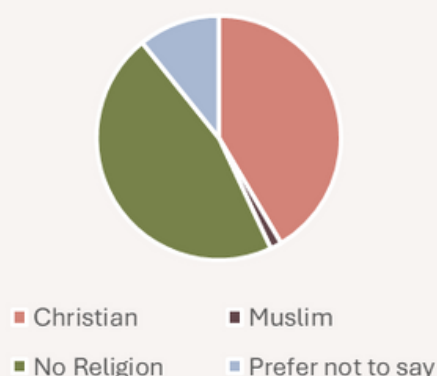
SURVEY 2024

DEMOGRAPHICS

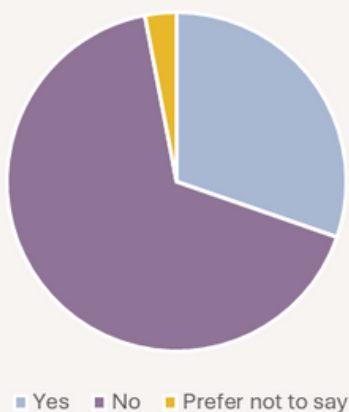
What is your age?



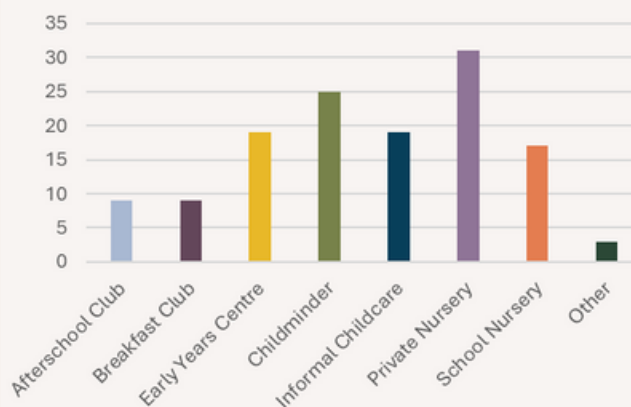
What is your religion or belief?



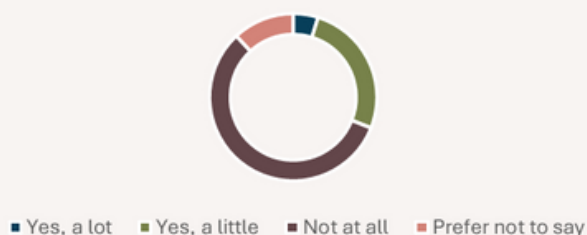
Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expecting to last 12 months or more?



What form does this/did this childcare take?



Does your condition or illness reduce your ability to carry out your day-to-day activities?



90.9% of respondents had accessed childcare provision in Scotland.

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WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES...

“My children are neurodiverse, so I am unable to find suitable childcare for them...As a result I've had to leave my job.”

“Times needed were not available. I had to turn employment down”

51.5%
STATED THAT ORGANISING CHILDCARE HAD NEGATIVELY IMPACTED THEIR MENTAL HEALTH

“I had to reduce my working hours to accommodate looking after my children as if I had them in a full-time nursery it wouldn't be worth working”

“Initially I was travelling an 110 mile round trip to childcare provider until I got one more local. When the local provider decided to reduce the hours, I had not other options.”

“I could only take on jobs where I worked within childcare hours and I needed to watch my finances...I also felt being a single parent...I couldn't advance my career”

47%
FELT THAT THEIR HOUSEHOLD FINANCES HAD BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED BY CHILDCARE COSTS

WOMEN'S SOLUTIONS...

“We need more childcare in rural areas, not just centred in the nearest big village, but within our own communities.”

“They should give us universal childcare up to 16 years old, including school holidays and in-service days.”

“Better provision at local authority level - the 9-3, term-time provision is grossly inadequate.”

“I think workers in this sector should be better remunerated as they are so vital to our country.”

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CHILDCARE IN SCOTLAND SURVEY 2024

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of the women who provided their invaluable insight into their experiences of childcare. We are forever grateful for the sustained engagement women give to our organisation, and we will continue to utilise the information given to inform Scottish policy-making practice.

SWC Contact Details

For further information or to share your views, please contact:

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Facebook, X & Instagram - [@SWCwomen](#)

