



Survey findings in brief

The statistics below accompany the NICMA news release catchlined “Bureaucratic delays ‘put children at risk’” – please note that the news release and these statistics are embargoed until 00.01 hours, Monday, 10th March. NICMA surveyed members who were newly-registered i.e. those who had registered in the twelve months prior to November 2007, when the survey was carried out. The key findings were as follows:

- **respondents waited, on average, seven months** to have their registration processed – more than twice as long as the three-month maximum stipulated by the Department of Health
- **just one in ten prospective childminders had their registration processed within three months**
- **one in ten waited ten months or longer**
- **nearly three-quarters of respondents felt the wait time had been too long**, with one third saying it was much too long
- **half of those who were dissatisfied with the wait time felt like giving up**
- **an apparent lack of sufficient social services staff to deal with registration** was the most commonly cited reason for the delay

Note: 210 newly-registered childminders were sent survey forms. The response rate was 24%.