

## **Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) and AIM Level 7 FAQs**

Q. I have been approved for AIM level 7 support funding and plan to use the AIM Funding to employ an additional person to support a child's participation in the ECCE room. Can I also claim EWSS for this staff member?

A. No, you should not claim EWSS for a staff member hired as an additional assistant for which AIM funding has been awarded.

Q. I have been approved for AIM level 7 support funding and plan to use the AIM Funding to increase the hours of an existing employee to support a child's participation in the ECCE room. Can I also claim EWSS for this staff member?

A. No, you should not claim EWSS for a staff member for whom AIM funding has been awarded.

Q. I was approved/am in receipt of AIM level 7 funding for 20/21 ECCE year but have decided to change and claim EWSS for that employee, can I do this?

A. Yes, but you must complete the 'Notification of Change (NOC)' form and submit it to [aimteam@pobal.ie](mailto:aimteam@pobal.ie). The AIM funding will be withdrawn for the period during which you receive EWSS funding for that employee.

Q. If I've been approved for AIM level 7 support funding and have hired a new employee to provide additional assistance in the room with the child with a disability, can I also hire a new employee for other duties in my service outside on the AIM supported room (e.g. additional cleaning, to maintain consistent Play Pod cover), and claim EWSS for this staff member.

A. Yes, EWSS can be claimed for new staff carrying out duties other than AIM L7 support for which AIM funding is being provided. Under EWSS rules, there are no restrictions on taking on new employees or movement of employees under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) legislation, provided such recruitments/movements are undertaken for bona fide business purposes and not with the intention to maximise subsidy claims.

Q. If I have an employee who is working in the ECCE room as an AIM additional staff during ECCE hours and working for the rest of the day in another part of the service, can I claim AIM funding for ECCE hours and EWSS for additional hours?

A. No, the wages of an employee may be supported through either the EWSS or AIM Level 7 capitation, but not both.

Q. If I'm claiming AIM Level 7 funding to maintain a reduced number of children in the room for AIM purposes, can I claim EWSS funding for current staff or additional staff working in other rooms in the setting?

A. Yes, if the AIM level 7 funding is not contributing to an additional staff member's wages and the reduced ratio as indicated on application is maintained in the ECCE room, EWSS can be claimed for existing staff members in all rooms and additional staff members in rooms other than the room associated with the AIM funding.

Q. If EWSS ceases during the programme year can I apply for AIM Level 7 funding or if I was already approved can I get the AIM Level 7 funding reinstated?

A. Yes, if you wish to make a new application you can do this at any time during the ECCE year. If you were previously approved for Level 7 support in this ECCE year, you must advise Pobal of your intention to reinstate AIM Level 7 supports through the Notification of Change (NOC) form. Based on the NOC and review with the EYS, where there are no significant changes to the child or children's circumstances, the approved AIM L7 funding can be reinstated for the remainder of the programme year.

Q. Is there a benefit to applying for AIM supports (submitting an Access and Inclusion Profile through PIP) if I am claiming EWSS and not AIM L7 funding?

A. Yes, to ensure that all children have the required supports to participate fully in the ECCE programme, service providers are encouraged to continue to apply for AIM supports by completing an Access and Inclusion Profile on PIP. A service provider in receipt of EWSS can still apply to avail of the various other supports on behalf of a child under the AIM programme including Level 4 and 6, once a completed AIM application has been submitted.

Q. I have been approved for AIM Level 7 additional assistance funding and I want to move a staff member (who I'm claiming EWSS funding for) from another room to the ECCE room where the child with a disability is attending. Can I also claim AIM Level 7 funding for this staff member?

A. No. If you wish to continue claiming EWSS for the staff member transferring to an ECCE room where a child with a disability is attending you can no longer claim AIM funding. You must notify Pobal of this change via the Notification of Change form.

Q. I have been approved for AIM Level 7 additional assistance funding and I want to move a staff member (who I will no longer claim EWSS funding for) from another room to the ECCE room where the child with a disability is attending. Can I claim EWSS funding for a new staff member to replace the staff that I moved?

A. Yes. As you will no longer claim EWSS funds for the staff member transferring to the room where the child with a disability is attending (as you will receive AIM funding for this staff member) you can therefore claim EWSS to support activity in other rooms.

Q. Where can I find the AIM rules in relation to EWSS and AIM funding?

The AIM rules for the 2020/2021 programme rules can be found at:

<https://aim.gov.ie/key-documents/>. The updated rules related to EWSS and AIM level 7 funding are rules: 3, 3.3, 3.31, and 9.15.

Q. I have been approved for AIM Level 7 additional assistance funding and I want to change my application and use the funding to maintain a reduced child:staff ratio, can I do this?

A. You can request this change through the Notification of Change form. Your EYS will contact you to discuss this change and undertake a review based on the new circumstances/environment within the pre-school room. Please note, previously approved AIM Level 7 funding may be withdrawn if it is established that the circumstances/environment changes outlined mitigate the need for AIM additional assistance in the pre-school room as the changes made will support the child to meaningfully participate in the ECCE room.