



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI506723616

Thank you for your request for information relating to Fostering Allowances 2023/24.

You have requested the following information:

1. For your mainstream foster carer population (general/unconnected carers) the basic weekly allowances paid for 2023/24 per age bracket for all age bands. NOT including any fee/reward element for foster carers.

Age of Child	Weekly rate 2023/24
0-4	171.50
5-10	195.45
11-15	243.11
16+	295.74

2. Please detail any other allowances paid for children living in mainstream foster care in addition to their weekly allowance, for example religious festival, holiday, birthday, other. Please detail the amount paid and the frequency foster carers can receive these.

Holiday Allowance

This is paid at the level of two additional week's maintenance allowance for each child.

Christmas/Festival Allowances

An additional one week's maintenance allowance is paid, and this allowance should be included in the first payment in December, or the relevant month if another festival is celebrated. In order to request payment in a different month please speak to your Supervising Social Worker.

Birthday Allowance

An additional one week's maintenance allowance is paid, and this allowance should be made with the payment immediately before the date of the child's birthday.

3. Please detail any additional allowances or fees paid to for children with additional support needs or disabilities.

Our fee structure is based on the skill level of the foster carer rather than on the needs of specific children. Where children have significant additional needs an application can be made to exceptional allowances panel to pay fees at a higher rate than would ordinarily be the case.

4. Your current fee/reward structure for mainstream foster carers (NB this is different to allowances for the child). Please include:

i) Details of the levels/bands for carers and how much you pay per week at each level/band.

Skills Level 1	61.71
Skills Level 2	160.52
Skills Level 3	246.89

The carers are at a particular level and receive these amounts per child.

There are specific carers who get fees of either £326.87 or £407.33 based on the additional needs of children as outlined in question 3.

Parent and child foster carers receive £493.21 as fees and out Next Steps carers receive £629.11 as fees

ii) The number of mainstream foster carers on each level/band, including those that receive no fee on top of the child's allowance.

All approved foster carers receive a fee as well as allowances. The following table provides number of Foster Carers on what fee level as at 03/05/23

Skills Level	No. of Carers on Skills Level (Mainstream)
Skills Level 1	5
Skills Level 2	22
Skills Level 3	105

Specialist Skills Fee (Solo)	9
Legacy specialist skills dual fee	5
Parent & Child Fee	2
Total	148

5. For your kinship foster carer population (connected carers) the basic weekly allowances paid for 2023/24 per age bracket for all age bands. NOT including any fee/reward element for foster carers.

Please refer to Question 1.

6. Please detail any other allowances paid for children living in kinship foster care in addition to their weekly allowance, for example religious festival, holiday, birthday, other. Please detail the amount paid and the frequency foster carers can receive these.

Please refer to Question 2.

7. Your current fee/reward structure for kinship foster carers (NB this is different to allowances for the child). Please include:

i) Details of the levels/bands for carers and how much you pay per week at each level/band.

Once fully approved, Connected carers receive Skills Level 1 fees as detailed above. They receive Skills Level 2 payments once they have undertaken two thirds of the training, support and development induction portfolio. They can progress to Level 3 on completion of the progression criteria. If in need of additional allowances as detailed above this would be progressed in the same way detailed above.

ii) The number of kinship foster carers on each level/band, including those that receive no fee on top of the child's allowance.

Four households are currently in receipt of allowances only. The following table shows the number of different Households in each level as at 03/05/23

Skills Level	No. of Carers on Skills Level (Connected)
Skills Level 1	21
Skills Level 2	37
Skills Level 3	2
Total	60

8. Your 2023-24 weekly allowances for former foster carers looking after young people in 18+ Staying Put arrangements, broken down by year 1, year 2, and year 3 if necessary.

The weekly amount paid to former foster carer by children's services is £118.51, with the housing benefit and young person's contribution former foster carer receiving £251.28.

9. Your 2023-24 weekly fee payments for former foster carers looking after young people in 18+ Staying Put arrangements, broken down by year 1, year 2, and year 3 if necessary.

This request appears to be a repetition of Question 8.

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If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance