



**Information Governance Team**

Postal Address:  
Coventry City Council  
PO Box 15  
Council House  
Coventry  
CV1 5RR

[www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk)

E-mail: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

Phone: 024 7697 5408

16 July 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

**Request ID: FOI617919501**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Special Guardianship Allowance.

You have requested the following information:

**I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the financial support provided to special guardians by Coventry City Council. Specifically, I would like to obtain the following information:**

**Maximum Allowance:**

**What is the maximum weekly special guardianship allowance provided by Coventry City Council for a healthy child without special needs?**

£295.74

**Assessment Criteria:**

**What criteria and guidelines are used by Coventry City Council to assess and determine the amount of the special guardianship allowance?**

Following careful consideration, the information you requested falls under the exemption(s) in Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which relates to 'information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.'

The exemption applies as the information is published and publicly available to view by accessing the Council website, please use the following link:

<https://coventrycs.trixonline.co.uk/chapter/applications-for-special-guardianship-orders?search=special+guardianship#special-guardianship-support-services>

This exemption is not subject to the public interest test.

### **Means-Testing:**

**How is the means-testing process conducted, and what factors are considered in the financial assessment of prospective special guardians?**

The means test is based on the fostering allowance. The household income and outgoings are assessed to determine the amount of disposable income the household has to support caring for a child subject to special guardianship.

The calculated allowance is the difference (if any) between the disposable income and the fostering allowance amount. The means test is updated on an annual basis or at the request of special guardians if there has been a change in circumstances.

### **Allowance Adjustments:**

**Are there any circumstances under which the special guardianship allowance can be adjusted or reviewed? If so, please provide details on the process and frequency of such reviews.**

The policy on SGO support details the process for considering exemption from the means test. The frequency is as in means testing.

### **Supporting Documentation:**

**What specific documentation is required from applicants to support their request for the maximum special guardianship allowance?**

The carers are asked to provide evidence of their income and expenditure to support the means test. If requesting a bespoke allowance, there is no specific documentation requested.

### **Comparison with National Rates:**

**How does Coventry City Council's special guardianship allowance compare with the national minimum fostering allowance rates?**

Coventry's fostering allowance is above the national minimum fostering allowance across all age bands. As described above, the special guardianship allowance is based on this.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

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](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk).

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

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**