



A. Henry
request-550942-4ef8e457@whatdotheyknow.com

15 March 2019

Our Ref: RFI 27260

Dear A Henry

**Freedom of Information Act 2000
Information in Relation to Pocket Money for Cared For Children**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to the above which you requested on 7 February 2019. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Children Services and Social Work Directorate and is attached in Appendix A.

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital (informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Jane McCormick
Information Governance Assistant

I wish to make a formal request regarding pocket monies paid to Children in care.

Q1. How many age groups are there for pocket money?

Q2. How much, on average, per week is given to a kinship carer for pocket money? Please break down into age groups.

A1&2 Please see Table 1 below.

Table 1

Age	0 – 4 yrs	5 – 10 yrs	11 – 15 yrs	16+ yrs
Amount per week	£8.88	£9.81	£11.30	£13.08

Q3. How much, on average, per week is given to a Trust employed carer for pocket money? Please break down into age groups

Q4. How much, on average, per week is given to Foster Care Associates' carers for pocket money? Please break down into age groups.

A3&4 Kinship foster carers get the same amount of pocket money as non kinship foster carers. Please see Table 1 above.

Q5. How much, on average, per week is given to any other "private" agencies for pocket money? Please break down into age groups.

A5. The Trust does not hold this information centrally.

Q6. Is a Trust bonus/top-up given to Trust carers?

A6. Foster care allowances are paid the rates (for April 2018- March 2019) detailed in Table 2.

Table 2

Full Rate Foster Payment every 4 weeks	0 – 4 yrs	5 – 10 yrs	11 – 15 yrs	16+ yrs
Food* 40%	£202.94	£224.24	£258.13	£298.99
Household costs* 25%	£126.84	£140.15	£161.33	£186.87
Clothing & Footwear 18%	£91.33	£100.91	£116.16	£134.55
Pocket Money 10%	£50.74	£56.06	£64.53	£74.75
Travel Costs* 7%	£35.51	£39.24	£45.17	£52.32
Holidays & Outings	£29.27	£32.34	£37.23	£43.13
Total	£536.63	£592.94	£682.55	£790.61

*For a second child in a placement, the Trust pays an additional £8.33 per week and £16.90 per week for each subsequent child in addition to the above.

Q7. Do children with additional needs receive "extra" pocket money? If so, please break down into age groups.

A7. Children with additional needs do not get extra pocket money.