

Ms Eve Hatcher

Children's Services - Family Services
Westminster City Council
64 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QP

Our ref: 22843597

Your ref:

Date: 4 November 2021

Dear Ms Hatcher

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your recent Freedom of Information request. You asked to be provided with the following information:

Therefore, please could you tell me your 2021-22 weekly foster care allowances for all age bands, NOT including any fee/reward element for foster carers.

Please detail any allowances that ALL foster carers can claim in addition to their weekly allowance, e.g. holiday allowance or mileage.

Please could you tell me your 2021-22 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.

Response

I can confirm that the information requested is held by Westminster City Council. I have detailed below the information that is being released to you.

Could you tell me your 2021-22 weekly foster care allowances for all age bands, NOT including any fee/reward element for foster carers.

The children's allowance rates are in line with the DoFE recommendations as follows

Age	Allowance (£)
0-2	155
3-4	158
5-10	177
11-15	201
16-17	235

Please detail any allowances that ALL foster carers can claim in addition to their weekly allowance, e.g. holiday allowance or mileage.

Allowances are varied depending on approval type, but generally include:

- Settling in grant of up to £500 to equip the fostering bedroom.
- One week child's allowance for birthday
- One week child's allowance for religious festival
- One week child's allowance for holiday (carers can apply for up to three additional weeks).
- Carers can apply for mileage reimbursement, and travel costs relating to attendance at training and meetings.
- Loyalty Bonus- Years of service bonuses are provided (5, 10, 15 years and so on)
- Carers will receive a retainer of two week Fostering fee for each period of consistent placement of 6 months.
- Carers can sign up for the out of hours duty rota to possibly take placements in the evenings and on weekends
- Carers providing support work will be paid at a rate of £10 per hour.
- Depending what items, the child has upon entering care the carer may be given an additional £100 at the time of placement to purchase essential items.

Please could you tell me your 2021-22 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.

Carers who have progressed with young people in Staying Put arrangements will receive £337 per week.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Information Management Team
64 Victoria Street
London
SW1E 6QP
foi@westminster.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Further information is also available from the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 or 01625 54 57 45
Fax: 01625 524510
Web: www.ico.org.uk

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours sincerely

Children's Services - Family Services
Westminster City Council