

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Foster Care Allowance



Ref No: FOI-2324-053954

We are seeking to understand the way in which your foster carers are being paid in your service. The department which would know this information would be within social services in your fostering team.

The information we require is:

- 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.**

Response:

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not currently held by Southampton City Council.

This is because we will not know the 2023/24 allowances until the council has agreed them for the new financial year.

- 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.**

Response

I can confirm the Council holds the requested information. Please find the requested information **below**:

Summer holiday allowance:	2x weekly maintenance allowance
Birthday allowance:	1 x weekly maintenance allowance
Christmas or other religious festival allowance:	1 x weekly maintenance allowance

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

Response:

I can confirm the Council holds the requested information. Please find the requested information **below**:

Solo Placement

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.

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

Response:

I can confirm the Council holds the requested information. Please find the requested information **below**:

i)

Level 1 Household Fee	£35.34
Level 2 Household Fee	£70.69

Level 1 Placement Fee	£78.52
Level 2 Placement Fee	£157.04
Level 3 Placement Fee	£396.95

ii)

2022/23:

Mainstream - 52
Level 1 - 8
Level 2 - 72
Level 3/Solo - 2

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.

Response:

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not currently held by Southampton City Council.

This is because we will not know the 2023/24 allowances until the council has agreed them for the new financial year.

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.

Response:

I can confirm the Council holds the requested information. Please find the requested information **below**:

Summer holiday allowance:	2x weekly maintenance allowance
Birthday allowance:	1 x weekly maintenance allowance
Christmas or other religious festival allowance:	1 x weekly maintenance allowance

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.

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

Response:

I can confirm the Council holds the requested information. Please find the requested information **below**:

- i) current fee/reward structure

Level 1 Household Fee	£35.34
Level 2 Household Fee	£70.69
Level 1 Placement Fee	£78.52
Level 2 Placement Fee	£157.04

- ii)

Mainstream - 33
Level 1 - 8
Level 2 - 1
Level 3 / Solo - 0

- 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.**

Response:

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not currently held by Southampton City Council.

This is because we will not know the 2023/24 allowances until the council has agreed them for the new financial year.

- 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.**

Response:

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is not currently held by Southampton City Council.

This is because we will not know the 2023/24 allowances until the council has agreed them for the new financial year.

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Service Director – Legal and Business Services
Southampton City Council
Civic Centre
SOUTHAMPTON
SO14 7LT

Email: legal@southampton.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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The Information commissioner can be contacted by using the details available at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/> or by post at:

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