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**People Directorate**  
**Childrens Social Care & Safeguarding**  
Mel John-Ross, Service Director

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Chris MacDonald  
What Do They Know  
By email: [request-539365-1a2ac3e2@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-539365-1a2ac3e2@whatdotheyknow.com)

My Ref: FOIA3305  
Your Ref:  
Date: 20 December 2018  
Enquiries to: Cathryn Copley  
Direct Dial: 01226 787743  
E-Mail: [Informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:Informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk)

Reference: FOIA3305

Dear Chris,

**Re: Request for Information – Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I wish to confirm that the People Directorate has now completed its search for the information which you requested by e-mail on 13 December 2018.

Your questions and my findings are below:-

**I would be grateful if you could outline in detail how financial allowances are calculated for those caring for children who are the subject of a Special Guardianship Order, specifically:**

- What is the maximum core allowance and how is this fixed?**
- How is a lesser allowance calculated, i.e. does it decrease as a percentage or is it within bands of disposable income?**
- What income is excluded for the purposes of the assessment?**
- What expenditure is excluded for the purposes of the assessment?**
- What is the threshold above which no allowance is paid?**

The maximum SGO allowance is the equivalent of the age appropriate National Minimum Standard payment for foster carers which can be found on the DofE web-site.

SGO allowances are means-tested using the DofES assessment tool which is attached to the covering email.

The only section which Barnsley does not follow, is the payment of Child Benefit to carers in receipt of Income Support as we believe this disadvantages carers who are employed.

Barnsley does not have an income threshold above which allowances are not paid.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact Cathryn Copley on (01226) 787743. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy with the way the Directorate has handled your request, you may ask for an internal review. Please clearly mark your correspondence 'Complaint' and address it to:

Barnsley MBC  
Customer Feedback & Improvement Team  
PO Box 634

Barnsley  
S70 9GG  
email: [informationrequests@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:informationrequests@barnsley.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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:-

Customer Services Team  
Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
website address: <http://www.ico.org.uk>

Yours sincerely



Mel John-Ross  
Service Director – Childrens Social Care & Safeguarding

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